



Dear Parent/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you and your families had a restful and enjoyable break over the festive period. As we welcome 2025, I want to thank you for your continued support and understanding as we begin the new term, particularly in light of the very challenging weather conditions we have faced this week.



As you are aware, the heavy snowfall, followed by sub-zero temperatures across the region, have created significant difficulties, with temperatures dropping as low as -11°C and widespread black ice affecting side roads, pavements, and school sites. Monday's full closure and the delayed starts for the rest of the week were not decisions which were taken lightly but, as always in these circumstances, were made in the interests of the health and safety of the IGS school community.



In making these decisions, we carefully assess a range of factors. The safety of travel routes for both students and staff is a primary concern. This includes not only the condition of side roads but also the traffic congestion on main roads as people avoid more hazardous routes, as well as the state of the pavements, many of which were untreated and dangerously icy. A delayed start provides students who walk to school with extra time to take necessary precautions and travel in daylight, while also allowing families driving to school additional time to do so safely. Additionally, it makes allowances for the disruptions to public transport services during severe weather conditions where buses and trains have been delayed or, in some cases, cancelled.

On-site safety is also a critical consideration. Our site is complex, built on a hillside, with a 29-metre elevation difference between the top and bottom of the site, and includes multiple buildings that require students to transition outdoors throughout the day. Given these challenges, the site team require ample time each morning to grit and re-grit pathways and the stairs. The persistently low temperatures caused any melted ice and snow from gritting to refreeze rapidly, creating hazardous conditions. Thanks to the team's diligent and ongoing efforts to reapply grit, these risks were mitigated, ensuring the site remained as safe as possible for everyone once we were open.

Staffing levels also play an essential role in our decision-making. Many members of staff travel longer distances to school, often along untreated or secondary roads before they can access main roads, and they require additional time to navigate these conditions safely. Furthermore, with numerous primary schools and nurseries needing to close, delay opening, or cancel breakfast clubs, many IGS staff members with childcare responsibilities have needed additional time to make alternative childcare arrangements before travelling to school.



Despite these challenges, I am proud that we were able to open on four out of the five days this week, albeit with a later start. Indeed, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our Site Team, led by Site Manager Mark Clough, for their Herculean efforts this week. They worked additional hours on Sunday, the whole of Monday, and came in early each morning this week to ensure the school could open safely. Their commitment and hard work behind the scenes have been essential in enabling us to provide some continuity of education despite the challenges we have faced.

I would also like to commend our students for their excellent response to this unusual start to the term. Their sensible behaviour, resilience, and positive attitude throughout this difficult period have been incredibly impressive. Even in the face of disruption, they have shown a strong commitment to their learning and have continued to remind us how amazing they are!

As we move forward, we are determined to ensure that the remainder of this term is as productive and successful as possible. There is certainly a lot to look forward to with highlights this half-term including:

- 23rd January – Post-16 Taster Day for students in year 11
- 23rd January – Red Kite Battle of the Bands
- 10th-13th February – School production of Les Misérables

We are also looking forward to the publication of our Ofsted report following the inspection in December and we expect that this will be available later this month.

Here's very much hoping we are back to normality on Monday!

Best wishes,

Carly Purnell
Headteacher



We are delighted to announce that IGS has been awarded the Red Kite Alliance RED Award in recognition of our work to embed a culture of mutual respect, to champion equality and to celebrate diversity.

This is a fantastic achievement and a huge thanks to, Kevin Kehoe (Associate Assistant Headteacher: Respect, Equality and Diversity & MFL), for leading on the submission, for leading and evaluating the impact of our work on respect, equality and diversity, and for pulling together all the evidence, as well as to colleagues across the school who actively promote and support our RED agenda in many different ways. The assessor was very impressed by the evidence submitted and passed on the following comment: "Thank you for letting me review this one - it has been a pleasure! There is so much I could have said I found it really difficult to trim down and keep within space. I hope the comments reflect just how fantastic I think this is."

We will collect our official certificate and wall plaque at the end of January and a more detailed write-up will follow.

Headteacher's Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Headteacher Award:

Carmen Donnelly 7GET; Thomas Jebb 8AJC; Florence Isherwood 9ALN; Jack Wheeler 10PC; Emily Moore 11SB; Dylan Hurst 12LR; Lottie Johnson 13CEM

Students have received the award for demonstrating school values, being positive role models and making a positive difference to others in line with our school vision.



On behalf of Ms. Claughton Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum Overviews

Please find your half termly link to the Curriculum Overviews. For information relating to the Key Stage 3 or 4 curriculum and subject specific information, please follow this [link](#). For all Post 16 Curriculum Overviews, please follow this [link](#) and for further information about each subject, please follow the subject information [link](#).

P-16 Presentation Evening: 17 December 2024



Ilkley Grammar School celebrates the exceptional Class of 2024 with gala Presentation Evening at the King's Hall

It was with great pride that Ilkley Grammar School welcomed back the exceptional Year 13 'Class of 2024' for an evening at the King's Hall in Ilkley to celebrate their outstanding A level, BTEC and wider successes.

The excited buzz of results day last summer was repeated at the King's Hall the week before Christmas as IGS staff, students and their families gathered one last time, in person, to reflect on what had been achieved by the year group. The evening began with a beautiful performance on piano of Debussy's First Arabesque by current Year 13 student Genna Pickett and Headteacher, Carly Purnell, continued the evening by welcoming back former students (many having just finished their first term at university) and their parents/carers.

Mrs Purnell went on to celebrate the fact that as a year group they had achieved a fantastic set of A-Level and BTEC results, with 35% of all grades at the highest level of A/A*, almost 2 in every 3 grades A*-B, 85% at grades A*-C and a pass rate of over 99% with



IGS ranking, once again, as one of the highest performing comprehensive 6th Forms in the north of England and, according to the Sunday Times Parent Power Guide 2025, as the top comprehensive school across Bradford, Leeds and North Yorkshire.

Mrs Purnell spoke of how, as well as celebrating the academic achievements of the year group, she also wanted to shine a light on the values, character and contributions that make a school truly exceptional and of how a successful school is the sum of its people, their actions, their compassion and the positive impact they have on one another. She spoke of how, together, the year group have created a legacy of which they can be truly proud. Students then collected their A-level and BTEC certificates to the warm applause and congratulations of friends, family, IGS staff and special guests including the Guest of Honour, Ruth Pitt, the Deputy Mayor of Ilkley, Jane Gibson, Sean Crannigan, presenting the Elizabeth Crannigan Arts Award, Samantha Hill, President of the Ilkley Playhouse and Peter Shelley, Chair of Governors.

Many superb individual achievements were recognised in the 34 subject awards, as well as through nearly 70 additional prizes for outstanding individual progress and attainment across the curriculum. This year in total nine students had achieved three or more grades at A*/Dist* in every one of their full A Level/Level 3 courses and a further 35 students had achieved straight As or above with a record 12 students taking up places at Oxbridge last term, as well as many other individual successes – every student with their own, unique story to tell.

Students have gone on to progress to over 50 different universities onto courses ranging from Accountancy to Wildlife Conservation and as diverse as Celtic and Anglo Saxon Studies; Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering, Live Sound Engineering & Music Production; Fashion Design & Marketing; Midwifery; Interior Architecture & Design; and everything else in between! Other highly prized destinations in 2024 have included Degree Level Apprenticeships with companies such as Blackrock London, Jet2 and Mazars as well as employment with local company Pendle Sports and it was very special to hear students talking excitedly about their first few months at university, on Gap Years, in apprenticeships or work.

In his speech Mr Fox, Assistant Headteacher (Post-16) welcomed back this very special year group and spoke of what a privilege it had been to work with them and to see them grow into young adults, of their many and diverse talents – of students who were *quietly inspirational*, of *brehtaking* drama performances, and of how much he will miss them. He went on to thank all the members of the post-16 team and teachers at the school.

The school was delighted to welcome Ruth Pitt, an award-winning journalist, broadcaster and chair of the organisation working to deliver the National Poetry Centre in Leeds in partnership with the Poet Laureate Simon Armitage, as the guest of honour. In her speech she drew upon her extensive experience of working in the Creative Industries and spoke about the importance of stories, of how young people are *'stories waiting to be written'* and of how, whether as a participant or a consumer, creativity is not only profoundly good for the heart and the soul but also for the country with the creative industries currently growing twice as fast as the rest of the UK economy. She finished by encouraging the guests to *'Tell YOUR story, YOUR way'* and to remember that it is culture and the arts that makes life worth living.

Special awards recognising wider achievements beyond academic success and celebrating each of the school values of Responsibility, Respect, Kindness, Resilience, Courage and Pride and contributions in the Creative Arts, Design Technology, Sport and outstanding student leadership were also celebrated.

Guests were treated to further excellent musical performances from current and former students including performances of *Santa Fe* from *Newsies* the musical by Head Student Justin Derla, *It's Beginning To Look a Lot Like Christmas* by Matthew Disney and Dylan Hurst, and a finale from Charlotte Dear who delivered a superb rendition of Mozart's *Ridete La Calma*, accompanied by Mrs Chapman on the piano.

Jamie Gutch, Deputy Headteacher, who compered the evening said *"Presentation Evening represents the end of one journey but the beginning of many new ones with students on the threshold of the next stage of their lives. It was a privilege to be able to welcome students and parents/carers to the King's Hall to celebrate their many and diverse achievements. I would like to publicly thank all those who taught this cohort as they made their way up the school and while in the 6th Form. Special thanks must also go to Mr Fox (Assistant Headteacher for Post-16), Mr Sykes (Associate Assistant Headteacher ilc year 13), Mrs Pickard (ilc year 12), Mr Boyd (Senior Tutor, year 12), Mrs Boyd (Senior Tutor, year 13), Mrs Walsh (Head of Post-16 Pastoral), Mrs Simkiss (Student Achievement Manager), the dedicated team of form tutors and all those who tirelessly provided both academic and pastoral support to these students over their time in Post-16."*

Mr Gutch continued *"This event is one of the highlights of our annual calendar and we were delighted that so many of our former students and parents/carers were able to join us for the evening and to celebrate with us. Well done the class of 2024! Your school and your families are very proud of you, and we wish you all the very best for the future!"*



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

Subject Awards	Student
ART (FINE ART)	Scarlett Smith
ART (PHOTOGRAPHY)	Niamh O'Hearne
BIOLOGY	Emily Jowett
BUSINESS STUDIES	Abigail Rutter
CHEMISTRY	Maisie O'Connor
COMPUTER SCIENCE	Matthew Rodriguez
CORE MATHS	Emma Townsend
CRIMINOLOGY	Charlotte Cole
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY: FASHION & TEXTILES	Hannah Worthington
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN	Barnaby Kirk
ECONOMICS	Julius McDougal
ENGLISH LANG/LIT	Frazey Welsh
ENGLISH LIT	Olivia Walsh
EPQ	Alice Auger
FRENCH	Grace Widdup
FURTHER MATHS	Leah Turner
GEOGRAPHY	Ned Gilroy
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	Hermione Bayntun
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE EXT. CERT	Sasha Crabtree
HEALTH& SOCIAL CARE DIPLOMA	Ayman Ahmed
HISTORY	William Haywood
IT BTEC	Callum Nettleton
MATHS	Daniel Fazackerley
MEDIA STUDIES	Ebony Gonzalez
MUSIC	Adam Leather
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Anna Heierman-Rix
PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS	Lottie Curry
PHYSICS	Alexander Wood
PSYCHOLOGY	Summer Smith
RUSSIAN	Artur Korol
SOCIOLOGY	Alex Ashman Hogan
SPANISH	Joshua Beevers
SPORT BTEC	Kamara Thompson
THEATRE STUDIES	Tizzy Burrows

Attainment			
Grace	Atkinson	Maisie	O'Connor
Ben	Ballard	Theo	Prowse
Josh	Beevers	Matthew	Rodriguez
Lucy	Bentley	Beth	Rogers
Molly	Brooks	Abigail	Rutter
Lottie	Curry	Joe	Scott
Emma	Docherty	Ted	Shaw
Erin	Doyle	Scarlett	Smith
Daniel	Fazackerley	Summer	Smith
Simon	Firth	Emma	Townsend
Rory	Gazeley	Evelyn	Truluck
Max	Gibson	Leah	Turner
Ebony	Gonzalez	Holly	Vasey
Jasper	Horn	Harriet	Vaughan
Jack	Ibbertson	Olivia	Walsh
Emily	Jowett	Frazey	Welsh
Esther	Killan	Alexander	Wood

Progress			
Max	Ashelford	William	Haywood
Alex	Ashman Hogan	Dominic	Hyde
Sophie	Breen	Macy	Johnson
Freya	Bryden	Divya	Jossy
Thomas	Campbell	Jamie	Lee
Kierat	Cheema	Aimee	Lightowler
Louis-Marcel	Clough	Thomas	Mason
Sam	Cockayne	Julius	McDougal
Charlotte	Cole	Jack	Moore
Caitlin	Connolly	Stanley	Morton
Olivia	Cox	Gilbert	Muirhead
Liam	Cressey	Gabriel	Rogers
Ellie	Dawson	Lucie	Shelton
Jacob	Dawson-Watts	Toby	Smith
Fitz	Fenwick	Charles	Taylor
Sonny	Gibbons	Ahmad	Walker
Noah	Hansen		



Special Awards	Student
The IGS Award for Sporting Excellence	Freya Whiteside
The Elizabeth Crannigan Arts Award	Lucy Bentley
The Young Musician of the Year Award	Charlotte Dear
The Ilkley Playhouse Award	Millie Trevett
The Kathleen Hewitt Edwards Award For Outstanding Contribution to the Performing Arts	Grace Chadwick
The Ilkley Town Council Citizenship Award	George Buckley
The Olicana Historical Society (OHS)	Simon Firth
The Year 13 Community Service Award	Valentino Dale
The IGS Innovation Award	Emma Docherty
The Christopher Youhill Literary Award	Matthew Lambe
The IGS Respect Award: Care for the Community and Environment	Charlie Macina Isabel Macina
The IGS Courage Award	Fitz Fenwick
The IGS Responsibility Award	Jacob Dawson-Watts
The IGS Kindness Award	Ben Ballard
The IGS Resilience Award	Ellie Dawson
The IGS Pride Award	Max Gibson
The Brathay Award for Outstanding Student Leadership	Maisie O'Connor



Music News



Kingswood Production Rehearsal Residential- December 2024

The cast and crew of this year's school production *Les Misérables*, worked incredibly hard at their rehearsal residential. Students arrived at the new venue, Kingswood, Dearne Valley, following the closure of Ingleborough Hall where our residential is usually held, on Thursday 12th December and departed on Saturday 14th December.

During this time, students worked relentlessly on learning and rehearsing sections of the performance: learning new songs, rehearsing the music, choreographing and blocking songs and working on characterisation. Students worked through the whole show with the orchestra on the second day and as always, it was a joy to see students of all ages working together. Students then performed 'One Day More' to all students as part of their celebration assemblies, showing **pride, courage** and **resilience**, on the final day of term.

Tickets to see the school production will be available to purchase on Parent Pay from Monday 13th January.

Music Grade 8 Distinctions

Huge congratulations to Emelyn McCann (piano) Caitlin Robson (drums) Emma Chapman (voice) for gaining distinctions in their grade 8 music exams!



This is the highest grade possible before performance diplomas and are worth 30 UCAS points. All 3 students are part of February's *Les Misérables* school production.



PRIDE



RESPECT



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RED KITE

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

THURSDAY | 23 JANUARY | 2025

DOORS AT 6:30 MUSIC AT 7PM	TICKETS £7 EACH (+ BOOKING FEE)	THE WARDROBE 6 ST PETER'S SQUARE, LEEDS LS9 8AH
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Launchpad

DukTape pictured above: Finlay Craggs, James Nice and Sam Woodward, will be representing IGS at the Red Kite **Battle of the Bands on Thursday 23 January at The Wardrobe, Leeds**. They will be competing with bands from 11 other schools from the Red Kite Alliance. Please come and support them! Doors open at 6:30pm and music starts at 7pm. One band will be crowned the champion by a judging panel formed by Launchpad. Tickets £7 each (+booking fee) available via the following link: <https://shorturl.at/wW0yB>

The first **IGS ROCKS** gig at the end of last term was a fantastic success! It was a great opportunity for a couple of new bands (Electric and Clinical Chaos) to get their first taste of performing live in front of an audience alongside some of our more established bands (Hyperfixation, Deadline, Okumay, Ayrborne, The Argument, Shaded and DukTape). Pupils went particularly wild with cheering and dancing for headliners Shaded and DukTape. Sullivan and Sienna won the coveted chocolate brownie prize for best dancing during Shaded's set! Well done to all of the musicians involved - we're very proud of you!

