

## PARENT/CARER BULLETIN

9 May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

In this week of commemoration, we've said goodbye to our year 11 and 13 students as they begin their study leave and prepare for their upcoming GCSE, BTEC, A-Level and Level 3 Applied examinations.

As is tradition at IGS, our year 13 students returned to B:Hall for one final gathering, dressed in their old year 11 uniforms, now a little shorter but a lot more nostalgic. The morning was filled with laughter, heartfelt speeches and brilliant performances from some of our most talented students, including renditions of "That's Life", "Northern Attitude", "Tequila" and "Married with Children". It was a positive celebration of the journey they've taken at Post-16 as they leave us as confident, capable and compassionate young adults. We could not be prouder. Whatever path they take next - university, apprenticeship, conservatoire, work or travel - we wish them every success and happiness for the future.

For Year 11, their final day carried extra emotional weight - their chance to have the proper goodbyes which they never got at primary school. Back then, Covid took away their rites of passage: their residential, their leavers' plays, their celebrations, their last hugs and goodbyes. On Wednesday, they finally got to put that right.

Head of Year 11, Ben Leeming, had arranged for their final form time and PBT to take place back in Armitage - the very space where the year group had been zoned during the pandemic - bringing the "Green Ties" bubble full circle for one last time. This time, there were no masks or social distancing, just a wonderful buzz of celebration as students proudly wore their customised shirts, covered in colourful signatures, farewell messages and inside jokes. The shirt-signing tradition had returned in full force, a simple but meaningful ritual that marked the end of an extraordinary, shared journey. Their leavers' assembly rounded off their day - a moving, funny and uplifting celebration of their journey at IGS filled with photo montages, trips down memory lane and a wide range of student awards from the light-hearted Mr Men and Little Miss awards to attendance awards, special recognitions (Saul Hateley, Niamh Brewis and Rebecca Haestier) and the outstanding contribution awards which went to the richly deserving Isabelle Atkinson and Annabelle Forster. With confident musical performances from Amelia Merrifield, Imogen Oliver, Isabelle Atkinson and Alice Walsh, it was an event which perfectly captured the spirit and individuality of this exceptional year group and was enjoyed by all.

The "Green Ties" began their journey at IGS just as I began mine as Headteacher, and they hold a very special place in my heart. I hope they look back on their time here with fondness and pride - not just in their academic efforts, but in the friendships they've formed, the challenges they've overcome, and the young people they've become. As they move on to the next chapter, whether at IGS or elsewhere, I hope they carry with them strong results which reflect their Personal Best, as well as the confidence, qualities and values that will help them shape their own futures and make a meaningful impact on the world.

We wish all our students the very best of luck in their upcoming examinations and thank our fantastic staff and families for the support, encouragement and commitment along the way.

Best wishes,

**Carly Purnell**

### Headteacher's Awards

**Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Headteacher Award over the last fortnight: Amelia Lydon 7RF; Dotty Tear 7WJ; Emily Tyson 8ARJ; Jacob Barton 9BET; Beau Fisher 9IFL; Darius Cizmas 10JLF; Mia Fisher 10JLF; Sofi Bender 10ERE; Tholi Ghale 10AHF; Robby Waite 11SB; Thomas Goodall 11LIR; George Hannam 11AE; Rhys Riley 11DJJ; Otis Brooks 12JPC; Mack Hall 12JPC; Adam Garside 13PSN; Shay Roberts 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.**



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### School Rebuilding Programme Update: Planning Approval Granted for New Teaching Block and Sports Complex



We are pleased to confirm that planning approval has been granted for the redevelopment of Ilkley Grammar School, including the construction of a new teaching block and state-of-the-art sports complex. This major investment forms part of the Department for Education's national School Rebuilding Programme, through which Ilkley Grammar was selected in 2022 as one of the schools most in need of significant rebuild and refurbishment.

The new facilities will be truly transformational, replacing buildings that are nearing the end of their lifespan with

modern, inspiring spaces that support high-quality teaching and learning. The development will also include a new sports hall, two activity studios and swimming pool, promoting physical health and wellbeing, and providing a valuable resource for the wider community. Designed with sustainability in mind, the new teaching block will be net-zero in operation, reflecting a strong commitment to environmental responsibility.



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Construction is due to begin after the exam period in July 2025. Ahead of this, several slit trenches will be excavated and made good again over the May half-term break to allow further investigation of existing services.



We will continue to keep parents and carers updated as this exciting project progresses. Thank you for your continued support.



Department  
for Education



## Year 13's final day Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May

More photos to follow in the next Parent Carer Bulletin on 23<sup>rd</sup> May!



## Ilkley fountain opening

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, members of the Student Council, and a number of our post-16 art students walked down to Brook Street to watch and celebrate the official opening of the new Ilkley Fountain, with keynote speaker Alan Titchmarsh. The competition to design the new fountain was won in 2023 by IGS parent Juliet Gutch and the project was developed by local charity Improving Ilkley, of which, IGS parent Louise Hepworth-Wood is also a trustee. One student commented:

*"Having grown up in Ilkley, it has been so amazing to see the progress, and then the launch, of Ilkley's new fountain. Attending the event and witnessing the community come together to celebrate a new addition to our town was inspiring and it was an honour to be able to represent Ilkley Grammar School at the launch; I'm certainly looking forward to Phase 2!" - Dylan H*






## First place at Cambridge Fitzwilliam College Translation Competition!



Orla Murray entered the Cambridge Fitzwilliam College Translation Competition for year 12 students. She had to translate a literary extract, and her translation was nuanced and sophisticated. The judges thought so too; she won first prize! Her prize is £200 and a trip down to Cambridge for her and her family. Orla hopes to read French and Russian at Cambridge so this is an incredible achievement for her. Well done, Orla.

### Parking on Wheatley Road

Please can we remind all parents and carers not to park on the double yellow lines on Wheatley Road. Residents have contacted the school regarding their driveways being blocked, or being unable to enter/exit their property due to restricted vision around parked cars.



We would greatly appreciate if students could be dropped off at permitted parking points to ensure that everybody remains safe, and to pay due courtesy and respect to our neighbours. Many thanks in advance.

### Ilkley Foodbank Donation Drive



Once again, the IGS community blew us away with their generosity and kindness. An entire car was filled to the brim with essentials to support vital work by the volunteers at the Ilkley Foodbank. On behalf of the foodbank, a huge thank you!

Mr Revell and Mrs McManus

## National Mental Health Awareness Week - 12-18th May 2025

This week at IGS, we're celebrating National Mental Health Awareness Week, focusing on the theme of "Community." Across the school, students will be exploring the power of community in their PBT lessons, reflecting on how belonging, connection, and kindness support our mental health and wellbeing.



Through creative activities and discussions, students will reflect on the communities they feel part of – from friendship groups and sports teams to online spaces and local neighbourhoods – and think about how they can help others feel included and valued.

At IGS, we're proud to foster a school community where everyone feels seen, supported, and connected. Thank you to all students and staff for the ways you build belonging every day.

## YEAR 11'S LAST DAY: WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

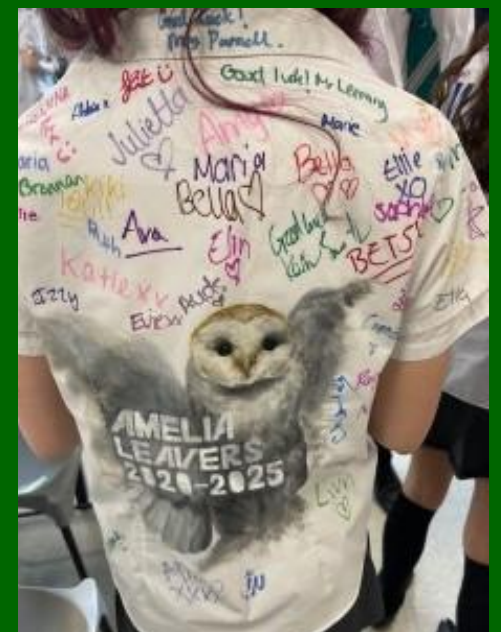
Please enjoy our special feature including some wonderful photos from our 'Green Ties' last day of school on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, and highlights of the incredible sporting achievements this year group have enjoyed during their time at IGS. They have been an outstanding group of students who should be proud of everything they have accomplished.











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# "GREEN TIES" SPORTING EXCELLENCE OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS!

Over the past five years, our year 11 students have demonstrated outstanding commitment and achievement in sport. With consistently high levels of participation across a range of sports, they've represented the school with pride at both regional and national levels, earning impressive successes along the way. Their commitment, teamwork, and competitive spirit have been outstanding across their 5 years at IGS. A huge well done to all our Green Ties with our girls' football team deserving a special mention. As their results show, they have been dominant across the region since year 8!

## BOYS' FOOTBALL TEAM



Year 8 Champions of Leeds winners  
Year 9 Champions of Leeds winners  
Year 10 Champions of Leeds runners up  
Year 10 Leeds City Cup runners up  
ESFA National cup last 64  
ESFA National 'B Team' cup last 32

**Hot off the press!** The y11 boys' football team have booked a place in the Y11 Champions of Leeds cup final at Leeds Beckett University next Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May, after beating Farnley Academy 6-2 on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May! This marks their fourth consecutive year reaching the final; an incredible feat. Mr Ewbank reported that Thursday's match was *"without a doubt their best football performance this season, one of their best ever!"* The team were incredibly positive on the pitch and played with pride. Our goal scorers were Noah Taylor-Smith x 3, Alex Pollard, Nawaz Isma-Il and Kai Myers. Huge congratulations boys!





GIRLS' FOOTBALL TEAM



Year 8 Bradford City tournament winners  
Year 9 Champions of Leeds winners  
Year 9 Leeds Schools Cup winners  
Year 10 Champions of Leeds winners  
Year 10 Leeds Schools Cup winners  
Year 11 Leeds Cup winners  
Year 11 Champions of Leeds finalists – game still to play



BOYS' CRICKET TEAM



Year 7 Semi-finalists Yorkshire Cup  
Year 8 Winners Yorkshire Cup  
Year 9 Runners-up Yorkshire Cup  
Year 10 Semi-finalists Yorkshire Cup



NETBALL TEAM



Year 8 - 1st place in Bradford District Netball league  
Year 9 - 1st place in Bradford District Netball league  
Year 10 - 2024 Sisters n Sport National Bowl Finals Day at  
Loughborough University 4th place  
Year 10 - 3rd place in the Bradford District Netball league  
Year 11 - 5th place in the Bradford District Netball league





GIRLS' CRICKET TEAM



Winners - Yorkshire Cup Under 14s 7s Tournament

RUGBY TEAM



Y11 Yorkshire Plate runners-up

TENNIS TEAM



Y8 and Y9 LTA Regional Boys' finals  
Y8, Y9, Y10 Y9 LTA Harrogate Girls' division winners  
Y9 and Y10 LTA National U18 Boys National cup finalists (last 16) 2023 and 2024  
LTA Harrogate Boys division winners



CROSS COUNTRY



English schools team Fell champions 2024 (Jake Norris)  
  
English schools' cross country cup national finals 2025  
3rd place (Jake Norris)





**HOCKEY TEAM**



Yorkshire finalists Y8 -11  
2023 National Finalists 11-a-side runners-up  
2022 National Finalists 7-a-side runners-up

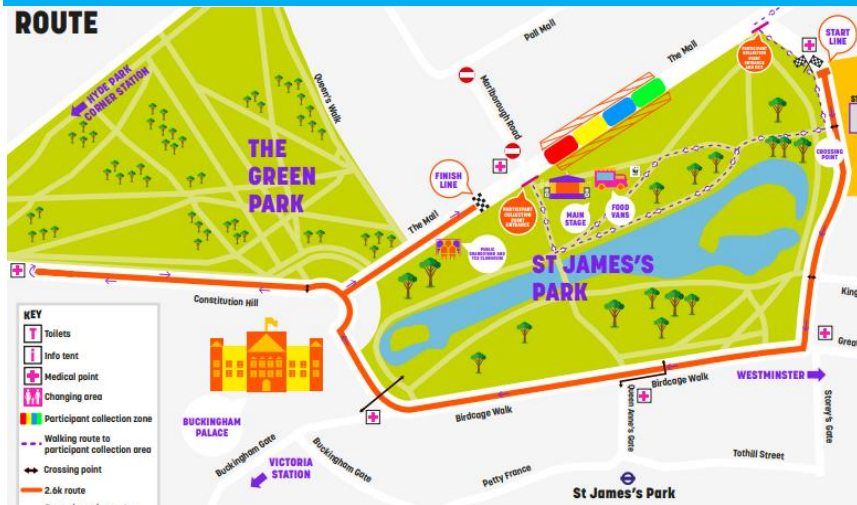
**ROUNDERS AND BALL CREW!**





# Sport Updates

## London Mini Marathon



On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April, four IGS pupils travelled down to London to represent Yorkshire and Humberside at the London Mini Marathon.

This prestigious event takes place the day before the London Marathon using the final part of the iconic

course, running down the side of Buckingham Palace and finishing on The Mall. Harriet Carter, Charlie Porteous, Jake Norris and Otis Brooks took part in the British Athletics Road Championships and helped the Yorkshire Team to 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Under 13 Girls and 5<sup>th</sup> in the Under 17 Boys in what was a really fun weekend.

## Yorkshire U18 Academy Squad selection!



Huge congratulations to Mack Hall (12JPC) who has been selected to play cricket for the Yorkshire U18 Academy Squad. This is a significant achievement in a highly competitive field and IGS are so proud of him. Mack will be taking part in fixtures throughout the summer term and we wish him all the greatest success!



## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Football Final



Well done to our 6<sup>th</sup> form football team who played in the Leeds Cup 6<sup>th</sup> form football final this week. The final score was Ilkley 2 - Ralph Thorseby 4, but it was a fantastic achievement getting all the way to the Leeds Cup final.





# BRITISH SCHOOLS GYMNASTICS FINALS SUCCESS!



On Saturday 3rd May, seven gymnasts from Ilkley Grammar School travelled to Stoke-on-Trent to compete at the British Schools Finals, proudly representing Yorkshire after qualifying in 1st place earlier this year. Competing against schools from across the UK, all of the students performed with confidence, putting Ilkley on the national map once again!

Results:

Emily Ginger and Alyssa Bakker

**Under 14 Women's Pair, 1st place – National Champions!**

Alex Stewart and Heidi Pearce

**Under 19 Mixed Pair, 1st place - National Champions!**

Eliza Button, Alyssa Bakker, Emily Ginger, Zoe Featherstone, Imogen Miller & Heidi Peace

**Under 14 Group, 6th place**, a strong performance in a highly competitive category.

Emily and Alyssa achieved the highest score of all of the Acrobatic gymnasts who competed over the weekend with Alex and Heidi achieving the 2nd highest. This is an incredible achievement, from all of the schools competing in the UK, IGS had the highest scores awarded.

What a phenomenal weekend for the gymnasts and for Team IGS!

## Eco-iLeaders: No Mow May Photo Competition

**IGS is participating in No Mow May again this year**

We are letting all the grass around school grow by not mowing for a whole month!

**Why are we doing this?**

- The UK has lost approximately 97% of flower-rich meadows, including vital food needed by pollinators, since the 1930's.
- Our school (and your lawn at home) can help! A healthy lawn with some long grass and wildflowers benefits wildlife, tackles pollution and can even **lock away carbon below ground**. With over 20 million gardens in the UK, even the smallest grassy patches add up to a significant proportion of land.

**Power to the Flowers**

**NO MOW MAY**

Search 'No Mow May' & register your lawn or green space too!

**PHOTO COMPETITION!**

This year the Eco-iLeaders will award **PRIZES TO THE BEST 3 PHOTOS** of the school's wild flowers during No Mow May.

Send your entries to [eco@igs.mlt.co.uk](mailto:eco@igs.mlt.co.uk) by Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize - £30 voucher**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - £20 voucher**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - £10 voucher**



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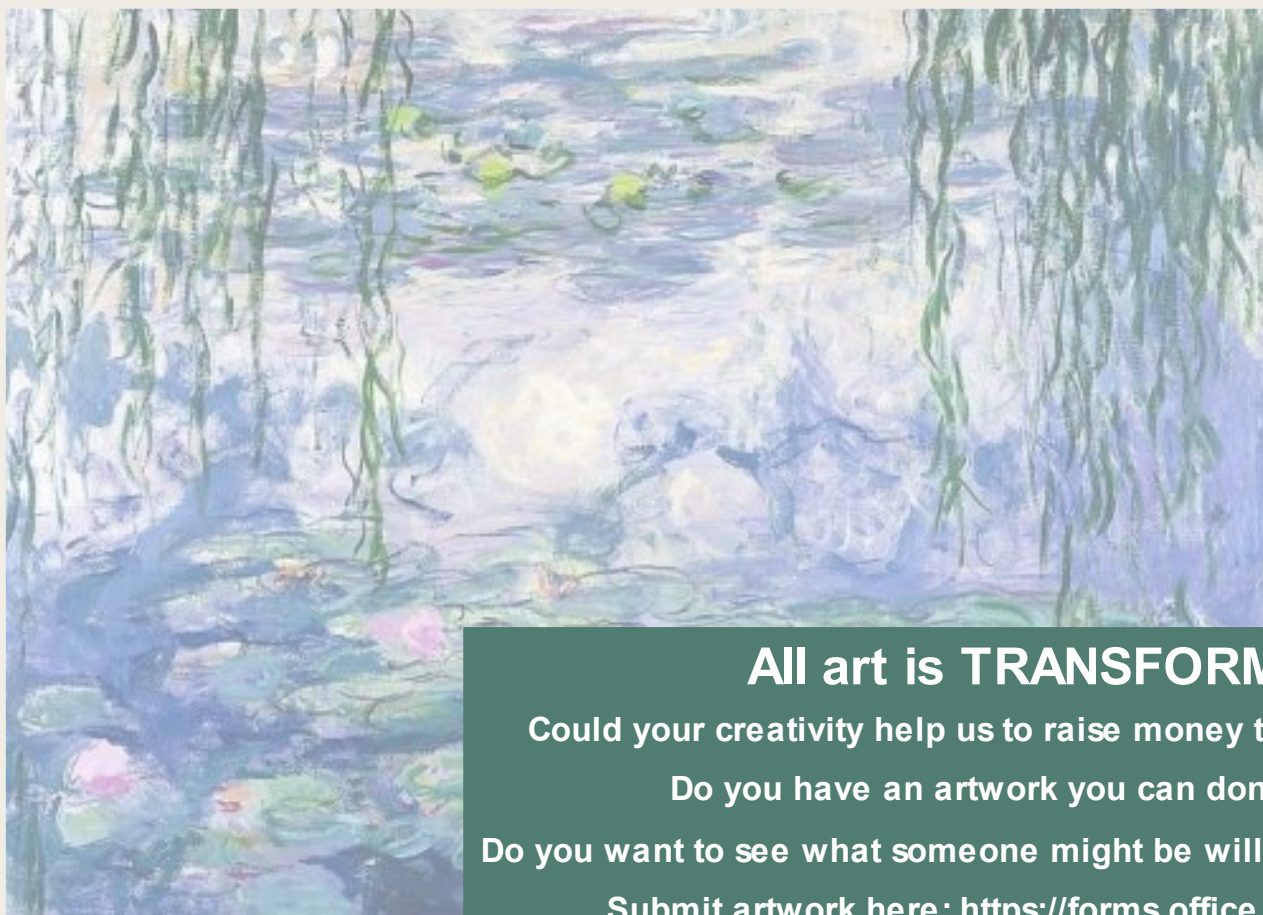
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Calling all artists  
parents/carers/students/staff



IGS Creative Arts  
Festival 2025

Use this form to  
donate artwork:



Submit by the 6<sup>th</sup> June!

## All art is TRANSFORMATION

Could your creativity help us to raise money to transform our school?

Do you have an artwork you can donate for auction?

Do you want to see what someone might be willing to pay for your artwork?

Submit artwork here: <https://forms.office.com/e/uC8fNxxk7bu>

*Delivered by the IGS PTA - Supporting the IGS Enrichment Fund*

## How will the auction work?

### 1. Fill out an artwork submission form <https://forms.office.com/e/uC8fNxxk7bu>

- Name, title, medium, size and guide price and confirming (if required) that you have permission to donate.
- All artwork donated must be suitable for a school environment.

### 2. Deliver artwork by Friday 6 June

- **Students/staff** Deliver the artwork to Mrs Harris in her Art room on A Floor
- **Parents/carers** Deliver the artwork to IGS reception

### 3. Exhibition and cataloguing of work

- Work will be exhibited in B8 during each of the Creative Arts Evenings (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> July) and will then be available online via Galabid
- Work will be catalogued on the Galabid website, and each artwork will have its own unique QR code to make bidding easy.

### 4. Bidding for artworks

- This will be a 'silent auction' using the online bidding platform Galabid.
- Parents/carers will need to sign up to the online platform to participate – full instructions will be provided
- Students can only bid via a parent/carer
- Parents/carers can make a bid in person at the launch event on the evening of the 1<sup>st</sup> July and online bidding will remain open until the 10<sup>th</sup> July.
- A bid will be a commitment to buy the artwork at that price if yours is the highest bid
- The online portal will always show the latest bid.
- The auction will close on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July after which time successful bidders will be informed, and payment requested.

### 5. Payment and pick up

- You will be notified if your bid is successful, and an invoice will be generated automatically
- There will be a small 1.2% charge payable to Stripe which will be automatically included in your bid.
- There will also be the option to 'tip' Galabid to support the running of the platform.
- There will be the usual payment options available on the Galabid platform (e.g. Visa, Mastercard etc.)
- Artworks will be available for collection from Reception from the 10<sup>th</sup> July once payment has been made.

Use this form to  
donate artwork:



Art form submission: <https://forms.office.com/e/uC8fNxxk7bu>



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