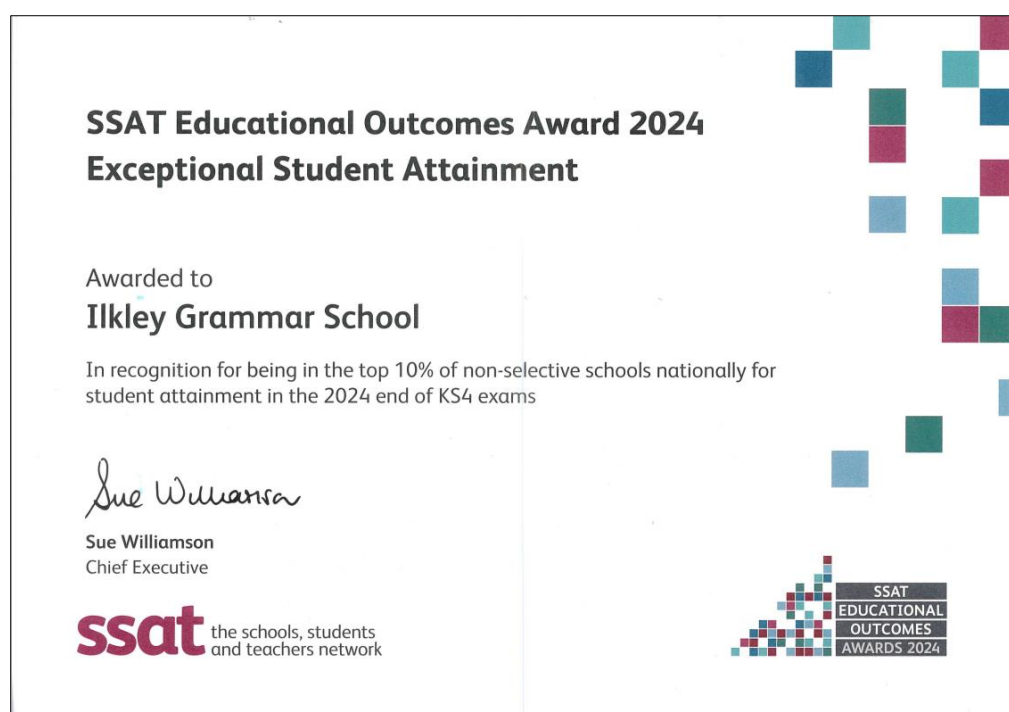


Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that families had a restful and enjoyable break and that those celebrating Easter were able to find joy and meaning in this special time in the Christian calendar. This week we have been delighted to welcome everyone back to school for the start of the summer term. With two bank holidays, this is our shortest half-term of the academic year at just 23 school days! However, it's also one of the most action-packed - our transition programme for students joining us in September gets into full swing with a series of IGS Roadshows at local primary schools, GCSE, AS, and A level students begin their external exams, and our year 10 students complete their mocks. We're incredibly proud of the effort and commitment our students have shown so far and, as the exam season fast approaches, we're confident that they will all continue to focus and strive towards achieving their Personal Best.

Before the Easter break, we also received two SSAT Educational Outcomes Awards, recognising outstanding performance in both progress and attainment in 2024. Last year's 'Red Ties' placed IGS in the top 10% of non-selective schools nationally for attainment, and the top 20% of all schools for progress from key stage 2 to key stage 4. These accolades are another positive testament to the hard work and dedication of IGS students and the unwavering support of our committed staff.



This national recognition is another proud moment we can all celebrate together as a school community. As we begin this busy and exciting term, we're inspired by everything that has already been accomplished at IGS and even more energised by what lies ahead. The summer term is packed with opportunities for our students to shine, including several sports finals, the Lexus Ilkley Tennis Tournament where IGS students once again take on the prestigious role of ball crew, and the much-anticipated Next Steps Week for year 12 students.

We are also looking forward to RED Day (Respect, Equality and Diversity), the Year 11 Prom, Year 11–12 Transition Day, the Creative Arts Festival, Languages Festival, Year 10 Mock Interviews, and a host of important transition events for our incoming year 7 students, including Discovery Days and Transition Day. We will also be welcoming new staff through our induction programme and rounding off the summer term with the ever-popular Challenge and Celebration Week.

In addition, I hope to provide an exciting update on the School Rebuilding Programme in the next edition of the bulletin. A planning decision is expected by the end of this month, and if all goes to plan, building work will commence later this term.

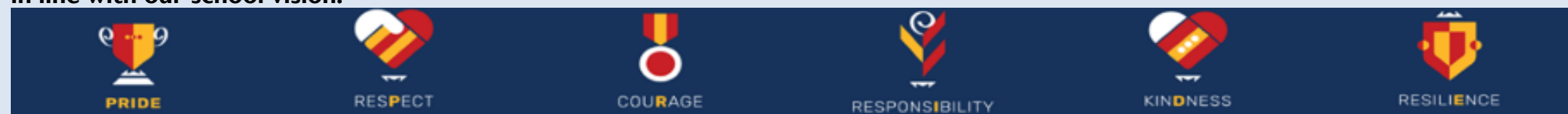
Best wishes,

Carly Purnell

Headteacher's Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Headteacher Award over the last fortnight: Zac Johnstone 7ACU; George Miles 8SFQ; Ryan Mullen 9JDA; Olivia Lepelley 10EAL; Imogen Hibbitt 11MFP

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.



Post-16 Student Leadership 2025-26

We are very pleased to announce our new Student Leadership Team for 25-26. After the most competitive process we have ever run, with over 40 students applying to be Head or Deputy Head student, we managed to whittle down to a fantastic team of 12 students. Our new leadership team is as follows:

HEAD STUDENTS

POST-16
STUDENT
LEADERSHIP TEAM
2025-26



Maiya Gowon
12KF
Head Student:
Leadership, Active
Citizenship/ RED



Daisy Button
12JH
Head Student:
Scholarship and
Curiosity, Mental
Health



Will Fellows
12MO
Head Student:
Sports Culture and
Interests, Operations



DEPUTY HEAD STUDENTS



Xanthe Gutch
12KF
Deputy Head:
Sports, Culture and
Interests: iLeader
Officer
Y7



Orla Murray
12KF
Deputy Head:
Active Citizenship-
RED and Eco
Officer
Y8



Ethan Protheroe
12HB
Deputy Head:
Active Citizenship-
Eco and
Sustainability
Officer
Y9



Aoife Hughes
12JM
Deputy Head:
Mental Health and
Wellbeing Officer
Y10



Eve Morgan
12AWD
Deputy Head:
Mental Health and
Wellbeing Officer
Y11



Alex Wolfenden
12HB
Deputy Head:
Scholarship and
Curiosity Officer
Y11



Macy Greene
12JM
Deputy Head:
Operations and
Events Officer
Y12



Jasper Russell
12GND
Deputy Head:
Operations and
Events Officer
Y12



John Morgan
12KF
Deputy Head:
Sports Interests
and Culture:
Enrichment Officer
Y13

Our student ambassadors for 25-26 will be:

Active Citizenship	Mental Health & Wellbeing	Operations, Extracurricular and Social Events	Respect, Equality and Diversity (R.E.D)	Scholarship & Curiosity - Academic Mentoring	Sport, Interests & Culture
Orla Murray	James Cumberland	Annabelle Kilner	Sumiya Rahman	Lexie Thorpe	Matilda Irvine
John Morgan	Kirsty Brown	Tayibah Abdul	Phoebe Curtis	Poppy Dyson	Xanthe Gutch
Will Fellows	Will Naylor	Benji Kirk	Joel Jose	Tom Lee	Eisa Adris
Will McCutcheon	Aoife Hughes	Emma Fox	Amelia McLoughlin	Megan Robinson	Maha Khan
Poppy Graham	Isabel Nelson	Toby Lucas	Karmjeet Kaur	Lilja Benedikz	
Gwenn Edmonds	Eve Morgan	Juliet Freegard	Maiya Gowon	Amelie Hunt	
Ethan Protheroe	Amber Frew	Jasper Russell	Daisy Nelson	Hussein Walker	
	Heidi Dickinson		Martha Allison	Emelyn McCann	
	Duke Garon		Simran Kaur	Phoebe Harker	
	Matthew Disney			Alex Wolfenden	
	Hafsa Abdus Sami			Taida Czwaczka	
	Sophie Andelin			Harriet Williams	
	Caitlin Robson			Daisy Button	
	Saud Khayer			Rayyan Awan	
	Aaminah Iqbal			Sufyan Zahir	
				Zara Whittaker	
				Alfie Barker	
				Macy Greene	

We are proud of all students who submitted applications this year and want to thank everyone who took part in the process. Congratulations to the Student Leadership Team and ambassadors for 25-26!

"SPEAK OUT" Challenge! with Speakers Trust

IGS ASSEMBLY FINAL 2025

On Wednesday 23rd April, five year 10 students took to the BHall stage to deliver a 3-minute speech on a topic of their choice to an audience of over 300.

Darius Cizmas, Sophie Mydlowski, Tholi Ghale, Mia Fisher and Sofi Bender were the five students who had been chosen as finalists in the event following a day of training delivered to 60 year 10 students by the Speakers Trust in February.

For the assembly final, the students had to prepare and learn a 1.5 - 3 minute speech, on a topic dear to their heart, with a positive message. A team of six judges; Ms Cloughton, Ms Booth, Mrs Pymar, Mrs Griffiths and two newly appointed members of the new Post-16 Student Leadership Team, Head Student Maiya Gowon and Deputy Head Student Xanthe Gutch (who had previously participated in the competition) made notes during each speech, scoring each one out of 80 across four different categories: content, delivery, structure and positive impact.

Darius began by giving a thought-provoking speech on the topic of technology, speaking of its benefits to civilisation as well as its risks and using the image of a wheel to illustrate brilliantly how this simple device can both bring food to our doors, yet also roll tanks to the front line in a war.

Sophie asked the audience to imagine what a dancer would look like in our mind's eye and asked us to challenge stereotypes but also to consider all the hard work and practice that goes on in the background to prepare for a performance.

Mia spoke directly to her audience of year 7 students encouraging them to make the most of their time at school and not to be drawn into arguments and issues. The most powerful moment of her speech was when she told everyone to write their own story and to remember that their time at school will go past in a flash.

Tholi made the audience laugh out loud by telling a very personal story of how he had been disturbed by a tiger

when living in Nepal while going to the toilet outside! He captured everyone's attention with this powerful image and then moved on to talk about the serious issue of Human/Wildlife Conflict which leads to the injury and death of many humans and animals each year.

The last speaker of the morning was Sofi who spoke incredibly powerfully of her experience of being woken up on the morning she had to flee Ukraine on the first day of the war. In a deeply thought-provoking and personal speech about resilience she spoke, quoting the writer Haruki Murakami, of how all storms will pass in the end.

This was a fitting speech on which to end an impressive set of performances from a group of students who several weeks ago, had never spoken in public to a large audience before.



It was a privilege for the staff and students in the audience of over 320 people to listen to these five thought-provoking and hugely varied speeches. All students will receive certificates as the five assembly finalists, with the **winner and runner up being Sofi Bender and Tholi Ghale**. Sofi (with Tholi as the reserve) will now be put forward to represent IGS, and will hopefully be selected to deliver her speech at the regional final in Leeds in July, receiving an afternoon of specialist public speaking training to compete in the final stage of the competition.

A special thank you to our judging panel, to Mr Willet our timekeeper and Miss Clift who helped students prepare for the assembly final.

Mr Gutch
Deputy Headteacher: Post-16 & Personal Development

Designed and delivered by

Speakers Trust 
Speak and Be Heard



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

Year 10 French and Year 11 Spanish Exchanges come to a close...



The end of the Spring Term marked the close of another successful year of French and Spanish exchanges. With around 70 students participating in these exchanges each year, the programmes remain very healthy which is a really positive sign for languages at IGS.

Mr Kehoe and other members of the MFL department welcomed the Spanish contingent to Ilkley. Over the course of the week, they visited York and the Minster, Fountain's Abbey, Howarth and Saltaire and Mr Kehoe hosted his annual quiz night with lots of raffle prizes being won. The week was topped off with a farewell meal enjoying some typical English food in a local restaurant.



In the last week of term, Mr Gutch and the French team, students and their families welcomed their exchange partners over from Coutances which is twinned with Ilkley. Over the course of the week, the French visitors went to Liverpool and toured the Beatles Story and the Tate Gallery, the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Bradford Media and Science Museum and York Castle.

Both the Spanish and the French groups also got a taste of what a day in school is like with students joining their partners for a day of lessons. This year, perhaps more than any other, there was much to reflect on regarding these long-standing partnerships with our European friends, when our students and their families are able to both celebrate and enjoy differences, whilst being reminded of how much our countries and cultures have in common and of the values that we share.



Thank you to all our families who have hosted and welcomed their French and Spanish guests over the last few weeks.

Mr Gutch & Mr Kehoe



IGS Y9 Livigno Ski trip 5th-12th April 2025

In the first week of the Easter holidays, 52 Year 9 students and 5 staff departed for Livigno, in the Italian Alps in Lombardy. The base of the resort sat at 1,816 metres above sea level (the highest point at 2,950m) with the altitude giving promise of good snow late in the ski season. Livigno will be one of the host ski regions for the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics!

The group was made up of a mix of seasoned skiers, intermediates, and many beginners. It was incredibly rewarding to see so many beginners being afforded their first taste of skiing and make excellent progress throughout the week, tackling red runs by the end of the week. The ski bug certainly spread quickly! The IGS Ski squad enjoyed three ski regions in the Livigno resort over their 6 days skiing with their instructors from 'New Ski School Livigno'. We visited San Rocco, Val Andrea and Mottolino. Each beautiful ski region was enjoyed with beautiful bluebird sky backdrops and we were extremely lucky to have such favourable weather.



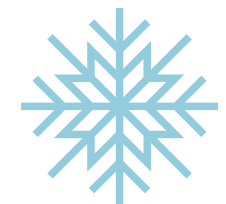
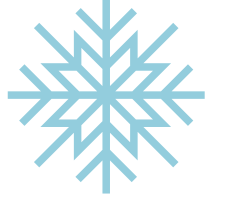


In the evenings, we enjoyed a varied Après ski entertainment programme after carbo-loading at the exceptional Hotel Margherita. Our hospitality and catering there was fantastic. Our evening activities included an interactive quiz in Livigno, the Gameshow Challenge, bowling and an awards night!

The 52 year 9 students on the trip were a true delight, their behaviour was exemplary, and they represented IGS with Pride. The group received praise from the hotel, ski school and tour reps. The

skiing progress and personal development was truly remarkable on many levels.

A huge thank you goes to the staff on the trip (Mr Ewbank, Mrs Pymar, Mr Pearce, Mrs Knowles and Mrs Vangenechten), Mr Carr and Mrs Heyworth for all the work behind the scenes on the trip launch, our tour operator (Max Ski), our in-resort rep (Gareth) and parents and carers who supported students to have such an amazing experience.



Sport Updates

Success at the English Schools National Cross-Country Finals!



On Saturday 15th March, five year 7 runners from Ilkley Grammar School made the long journey down to Coventry to compete in the **English Schools National Cross-Country Finals**. Having gone through several qualifying events to be able to represent West Yorkshire against the best runners from other counties, all five of our students gave a fantastic account of themselves and, in representing IGS and West Yorkshire.

Harriet Carter ran first in the year 7 girls race. Despite getting caught in the mid-pack of runners at the start, Harriet bravely made her way through the field and closed the race with her trademark



sprint finish. Harriet finished 7th out of 135 of some of England's best cross-country runners. A well-deserved and magnificent achievement.

Next to race was the year 7 boys. Of the six runners in the West Yorkshire team, four were made up of Ilkley Grammar School boys, a testament to the strength of the running teams at IGS.

In another tough field of 124 runners and, some of the best runners in the country, our IGS runners ran an incredible race. Max Brett finished 13th, Seb Ford 29th, Thomas Greenwood 56th, and Robert Brooks 106th. All boys contributed to West Yorkshire finishing as the 4th placed county at the National Cross-Country Finals.



For our older runners, the **English Schools Cross-Country Championships** took place all the way down in West Sussex at Ardingly Showground on Saturday 15th March. Eight IGS pupils qualified to represent West Yorkshire schools, which is a great achievement in itself. Charlie Porteous and Robert Carter ran for the Junior Boys, Matilda Irvine and Jake Norris for the Senior teams.



The Senior Boys' team were the last race of the day, and they certainly made it worth the wait! There were 28 starting teams, over a fast and brutal course and our boys rose to the challenge with Archie Budding managing to get a great start. Archie held on for an individual 7th place with his teammates (Otis Brooks, Owen Ashdown and Alex Wolfenden) not far behind, cumulating in a 3rd position team finish. What a phenomenal achievement for these boys - making the

podium at a national event amongst some of the strongest independent schools in the country. Well done to all our amazing runners and thank you to all the parents and staff who came to support us on the day.

Ilkley Grammar School and the local running clubs are incredibly proud of their achievement and look forward to seeing them run for IGS and West Yorkshire in years to come!

Upcoming events: London mini marathon Saturday 26 April 2025

Year 7 Boys' Football



The year 7 A team won the quarter final of the Leeds Merit League 5-0 against Allerton High School. There were strong performances all round and a great team display. Goals were from Ted Airey (2), Seb Ford (2) and Ben Marsh, with Seb scoring one of his goals from just inside the opposition's half with a fantastic lob over the keeper. The team were due to move on to play a home fixture against Pudsey Grammar School in the semi-final, but Pudsey Grammar conceded the match prior to the game. This means the year 7 A team are now through to the final. Good luck boys!



IGS Gymnastics: Yorkshire Acro schools' competition

Before Easter, eight gymnasts took part in the Yorkshire Acro schools competition representing IGS!



All 8 gymnasts walked away with at least one medal and multiple for those that entered more than one category! Incredible results from the IGS students!

Rugby 7's

On Wednesday 2nd April – IGS hosted an annual 7s rugby tournament. It was a fantastic day of rugby as teams came together for an action-packed tournament. Although IGS U14s and U15s lost in the Plate Semi Finals, all students displayed non-stop energy on the pitch and showcased impressive skill, determination, and team spirit throughout the day.

After some intense matches, we celebrated our Plate Winners and Cup Winners in both age categories. Every team brought their best, making for a competitive and memorable tournament. From powerful runs to solid teamwork, it was a great display of youth rugby at its best.

A huge well done to all players, coaches, and supporters who helped make the day such a success! A big thank you goes to all the sports leaders for their help, and special thanks to three IGS students who spent the whole day taking photos: Kathryn Picken, Alice Wheeler and Katy Hindmarsh. Last but by no means least, huge thanks to Mr Falkner for organising the event.



Plate winners –

Under 14s – Brayton Academy
Under 15s – Bingley Grammar

Cup winners –

Under 14s – Harrogate
Under 15s – BBG Academy



KS3 and KS4 Dance Teams Shine at The Great Bug Dance Competition

On Tuesday, 1st April, our talented KS3 and KS4 dance teams took to the stage at the Halifax Victoria Theatre to compete in The Great Bug Dance Competition. Representing our school with energy, creativity, and confidence, the students delivered captivating performances that lit up the historic venue and impressed the audience.



Third annual staff and student golf championship

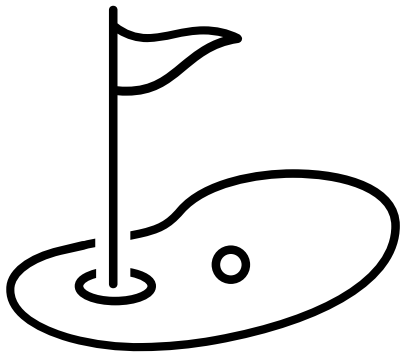


On Wednesday 23rd April, we held the third annual staff and student golf championship at Bracken Ghyll Golf Club. This event has been growing every year, with this year's including 12 staff and 27 students. People of all abilities and experiences participated, and we had some great laughs. We held the annual *Team Crisp vs Team Walton* competition, with Mr Crisp's team getting back the trophy from Mr Walton. It is already proudly on display in Mr Crisp's classroom. We also enjoyed the more important *Johnstone vs Mould showdown*.

Everyone had a brilliant time and we are looking forward to next year's event.

Prize winners:

- Overall winner- Finn Newberry
- Nearest the pins- Corey Canning, Josh Austin and Jack Winterbottom
- Longest drive- Zac Ayre



Music News – IGS Rocks and Live @ Lunch!

IGS ROCKS!

On Tuesday 1 April IGS bands showcased the latest songs that they have been learning at IGS ROCKS! It was another magnificent evening that showcased the vast array of talented band musicians we have here at IGS. Students involved were from year 7 to year 13 and the bands that performed were: DukTape; Suspended; Big C.A.T.S; Eclectic; Distortion; Ayrborne; Deadline; The Argument and Okumay. The gig featured some exciting new student songs by DukTape, Ayrborne and Deadline as well as 4 dance tracks by Y12 A-Level Music composer Edward Shelley. We are incredibly pleased and proud to showcase new student compositions in gigs like these as it further reflects the talent and creativity of pupils here at IGS. Okumay headlined the gig with superb performances of Helicopter by Bloc Party and A Certain Romance by the Arctic Monkeys that left the crowd wanting more. It was fitting that Okumay ended the night as it was the last performance at IGS by year 13 pupils Ted Pearce, Jackson Bleazard and Edward Bleazard.



The music department would like to thank these three amazing musicians for adding so much to the band community at IGS over the past year since they formed Okumay. We have loved having them around the department and thoroughly enjoyed their performances. We wish them all the very best for the future. Well done to all of the bands involved; they are already busy preparing for more gigs later this summer and beyond.

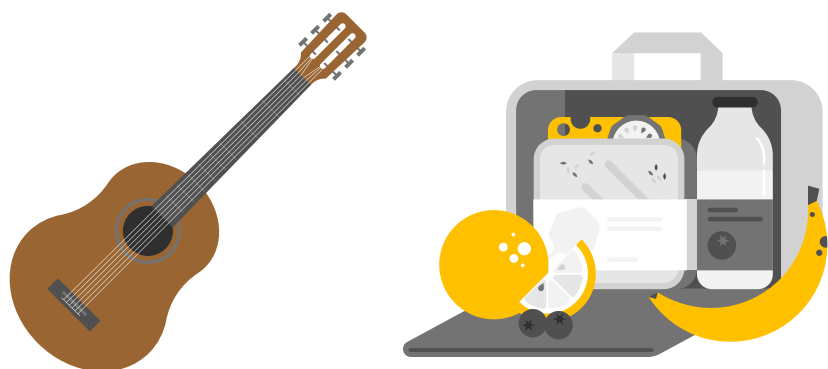
Band performance dates for your diary:

Thursday 3 July - IGS ROCKS as part of the Creative Arts Festival

Friday 7 November - IGS Music Showcase at the King's Hall

LIVE @ Lunch

Live @ Lunch continues to go from strength to strength with capacity audiences every week.



This half term, pupils have been treated to the year 13 A-Level music students performing their exam recital pieces in preparation for their real exam. Thank you to Emma Chapman (voice), Finlay Craggs (bass guitar), Genna Pickett (piano), Emily Wormald (flute) and Ted Pearce (electric guitar) for delivering a set of stunning performances for pupils to enjoy!

The summer term sees Live @ Lunch return with two performers per week and pupils from any year group are welcome to book themselves in. They just need to email Dr Peters.



PRIDE



RESPECT



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RESPONSIBILITY

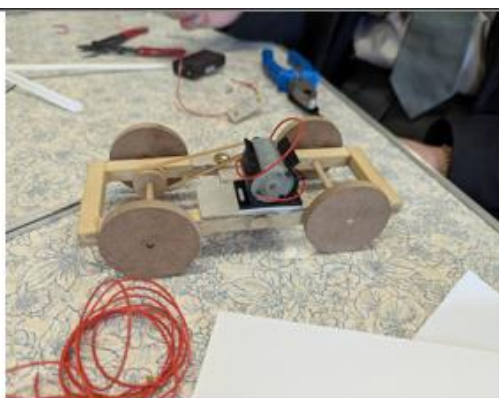


KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

2025 Rotary Technology Competition!



D&T Pupils enjoy problem solving & success at the 2025 Rotary Technology Competition!

Teams; 1 x KS3, 2 x KS4 and 1 x KS5. All D&T pupils worked incredibly hard as a team for the full day!

Challenge; to manufacture a motor vehicle to push and/or pull blocks along a concave track.

Materials; all team were given electronic components, timber, MDF wheels, gray-board and various tools to manufacture their vehicle – the design and use of the materials was their decision!

Testing; live prototype testing along the track was encouraged, leading to instant review, improvement and overall success.

Success; The two Year 10 teams were awarded 2nd & 3rd place! See the 2nd & 3rd teams' videos!

Coming soon to Twitter and the IGS website!



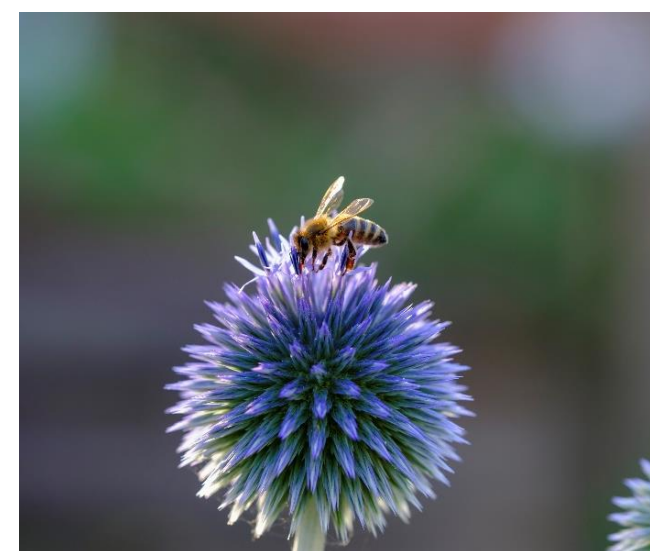
Eco-iLeaders: No Mow May Photo Competition

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.



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 by Sunday 1st June

- 1st Prize - £30 voucher
- 2nd Prize - £20 voucher
- 3rd Prize - £10 voucher

