

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please see attached the term dates for 2026/27 which have now been finalised. We have also attached the term dates for 2025/26, as these have been reissued with a slight update to the start of term dates for Post-16.

As we enter the final few weeks of the summer term, it's a perfect time to reflect on the achievements, opportunities and experiences that have already made this half-term so memorable.

Firstly, I want to offer my congratulations to all students who have taken part in this summer's examination series. Their conduct, resilience and determination have been exemplary throughout and are a testament to their character and hard work. Once again, they have been a credit to themselves, their families and to the school. I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to our examinations team and wider staff who have delivered this vast and complex operation with calm efficiency and professionalism. To give you a sense of the scale, over the past five weeks they have supervised 830 candidates, sitting 119 different exams and have overseen the organisation and completion of 8552 exam papers – each one representing years of learning, hours of preparation and revision and countless moments of perseverance. These figures give just a snapshot of the immense logistical effort behind the scenes – all delivered with a shared sense of purpose and met with focus and commitment from our students.

At the same time, students have also continued to engage in wider enrichment activities that allow them to grow in confidence, understanding and ambition – fulfilling our school motto: **Sapientia et statura proficiamus**.

One standout example is our continued involvement in the Lexus Ilkley Open, held at the Ilkley Lawn Tennis and Squash Club. This year marked a historic milestone, as the women's competition joined the WTA Tour for the first time, sitting alongside the men's ATP 125 Challenger tournament and making the event an even more prestigious fixture in the British grass court season. Almost 90 of our students received specialist training and served as members of the ball crew, showing exceptional professionalism, energy and teamwork. While I had the pleasure and privilege of watching those selected for finals day, my congratulations go to every student who contributed to making the event such a success. Unfazed by the record crowds, they were all such positive ambassadors for IGS and for tennis throughout the week!

Equally impressive, has been our biggest and most ambitious Year 12 Next Steps Week to date: a week packed with inspiration, insight and practical preparation for life beyond school. In total, students engaged in over 100 sessions, including presentations from 14 employers, 8 apprenticeship providers, 11 IGS alumni and 15 universities, alongside opportunities to visit Leeds Art University and Leeds Beckett University. This was an outstanding week of learning beyond the classroom, equipping students with the confidence and knowledge to make informed decisions about their future.

This week, we've also had the joy of celebrating the Year 11 Prom, a special and emotional moment for many. Held at the Craiglands Hotel, the evening was a wonderful celebration of all that this year group has accomplished. For some, it marked the end of the exam season; for others, the end of their 5-year journey with us at IGS. We look forward to sharing a full feature in the next bulletin, but for now I want to thank staff and students for making the event such a warm, inclusive and memorable occasion.

Just as powerful, though in a different way, was our 5th annual Diversity Day, which saw year 9 students step away from their normal timetable to engage in a rich programme of workshops, exploring different aspects of identity, inclusion and equality. With sessions led by guest speakers, staff and our exceptional year 12 iLeaders, students enjoyed a range of specialist workshops including anti-racism, British Sign Language, African drumming, neurodiversity, gender equality and LGBTQ+ inclusion. It is a day that embodies our values, celebrating difference, developing understanding and broadening perspectives. Again, there will be a full feature in the next parent/carer bulletin.

There is still much to come before the end of term, including our 3-day Creative Arts Festival and inaugural art auction, year 6 Transition Day for our new "Green Ties" and, of course, Challenge and Celebration week. I hope this bulletin gives a sense of the richness of school life here at IGS and our continued commitment to students "growing in wisdom and stature".

Best wishes,

Carly Purnell

Headteacher's Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Headteacher Award over the last fortnight: Charlie Chearman 9JNB; Edward Entwistle 7MTH; Scarlett Glover 10AHF; Thomas Jenkinson 8JCX; Halle Kirkbride 10AJM; Eliza Phillips 7KL; Fletcher Rutherford 8IGD; Bella Ware 9JDA

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.



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

IGS Art Auction 2025 – bidding now open!

The IGS Art Auction is now open online following articles in the Ilkley Gazette and on Ilkley Chat. The current amount raised as of this morning is over £1700 and there are just over 100 items to bid for. Thank you to all those who have made donations of artwork or who have made bids for work so far.



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

Specific events during Creative Arts Week (such as the drama and music events in BHall) are ticketed, however the Art Auction exhibition, which will be held near the entrance to school in B8, will be free to enter from 5pm on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd July. It would be lovely to see you there if you would like to pop by but if you are not able to do that the exhibition is also online and can be easily accessed via the QR code and link below.



Please spread the word about the auction to your friends, families and contacts – our notional fundraising target is between £5,000 and £10,000 and all the money raised will go towards the IGS Enrichment Fund which will support the provision of enrichment activities for students at school over the coming year.



The easiest way to get connected is via the QR code or the link: www.galabid.com/igs_art

Hope you enjoy it and are inspired by the creativity of staff, students and members of the wider community.

Mr J. A Gutch
Deputy Headteacher, Post-16 & Personal Development



Attendance Update

We have long understood the importance of good attendance at school: every moment matters. Over the past few months, new [research](#) has been published by the DfE which shows just how much every day at school counts.

At IGS we want every student to attend school regularly, and this year we have seen significant improvement in all our headline attendance figures. We want to continue to improve every individual's attendance through our sensitive and supportive approach, that recognises the difficulty some students have attending school regularly.



At IGS, alongside the usual support from year teams, we have a Families and Outreach Specialist, Miss Ruth Sturgess (pictured left) who in partnership with the attendance team is willing and able to support families and students to improve their attendance. There are a substantial number of additional interventions and adjustments we can make in school to

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

allow a student to attend more regularly, so please don't hesitate to contact school for support.

Summary of DfE's research:

The link between attendance and attainment is at its strongest in secondary school. Year 11 students with near-perfect attendance are almost twice as likely to achieve grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE, compared to similar students attending 90-95% of the time. In other words, missing just 10 extra days a year reduces the likelihood of achieving these grades by around half.



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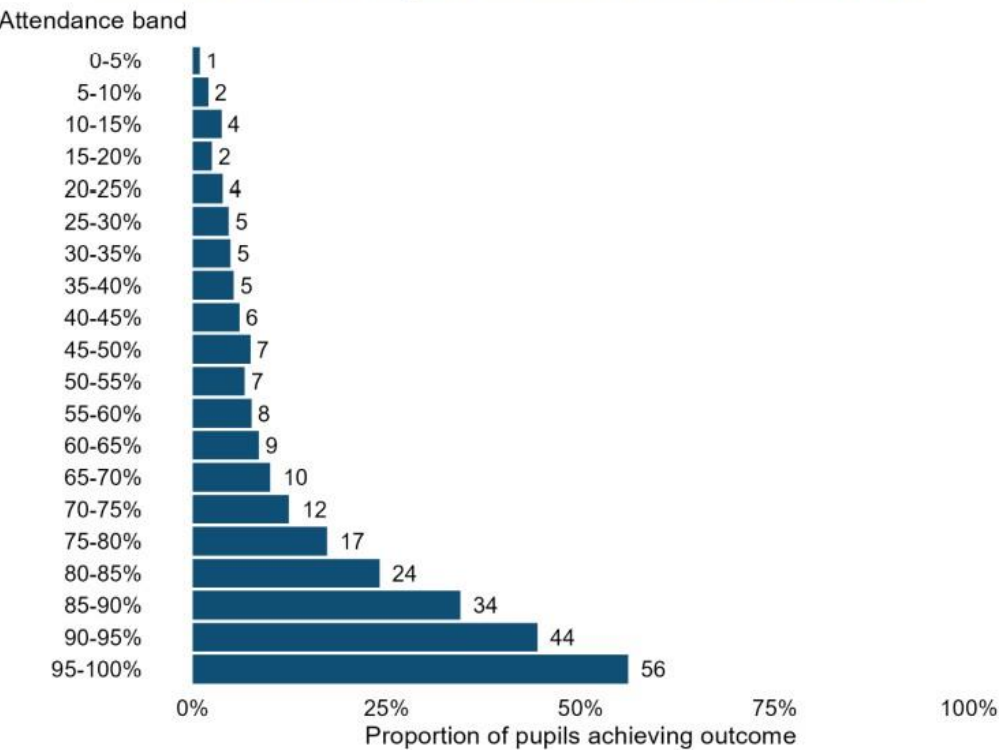


RESILIENCE

At lower attendance levels, students who only attend between 50 and 55% of the time are 1.6 times more likely to achieve 9-5 in Maths and English GCSE than students who are severely absent and attend less than 50% of sessions. Increased attendance from severely absent to 60-65% (equating to approximately an extra 4-6 weeks in school) is associated with double the likelihood of the expected outcome compared with students who attend less than 50% of the time.

Improving attendance by just 5% makes a significant difference to academic attainment, as you can see in the chart below:

Figure 6 Proportion of pupils in each 5% attendance band for Year 11 achieving Grade 5 or above in English and Maths GCSE at the end of KS4



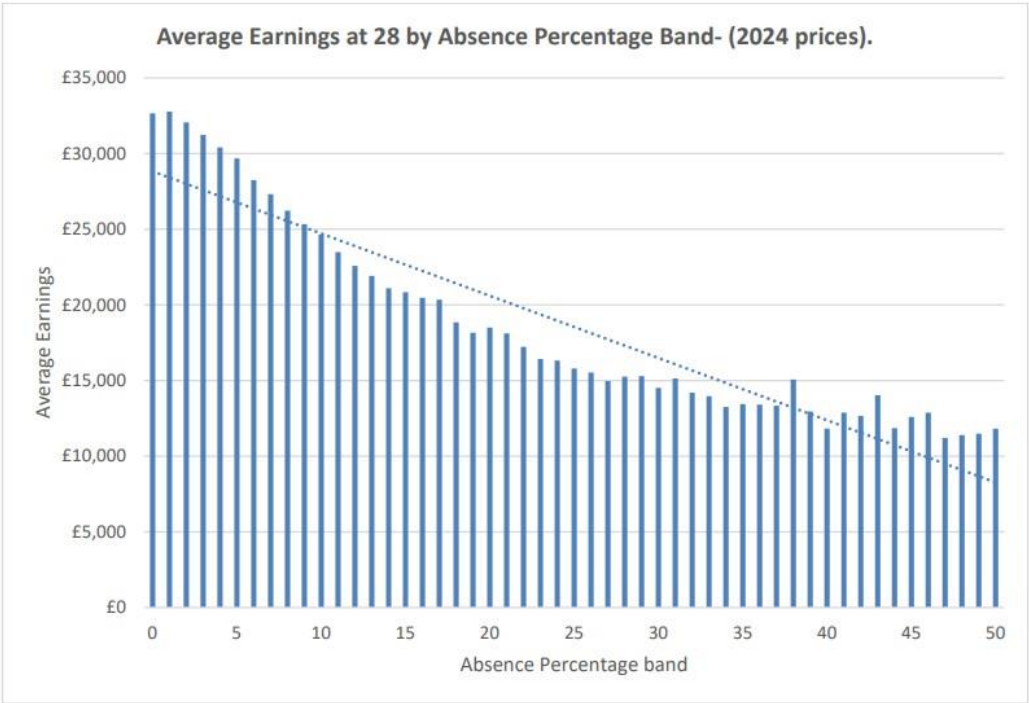
You can view the full research report [here](#).

The link between school attendance and lifetime earnings

Missing school doesn't just affect exam results and a child's time in education. The impact of poor attendance has an impact on future earnings too. Related research has found that, for every day of absence between Years 7 to 11, the typical pupil could miss out on an average of £750 in future lifetime earnings. That's £750 less for every single day missed.

The research also found that a one day increase in absence in Years 10 and 11 alone is associated with a 0.8% decrease in total yearly pay-as-you-earn earnings and declared self-employed earnings at age 28.

Persistently absent students in secondary school could earn £10,000 less at age 28 compared to students with near-perfect attendance.



Source: Longitudinal Educational Outcomes (LEO)

As with attainment, it is clear to see the direct relationship between good attendance at school and higher earnings at the age of 28. You can see the DfE's full research report [here](#).

Everyday matters

We need to make sure that good attendance at school remains a high priority. We already ask that families only keep children off school when they are too ill to attend. We have produced a document using NHS guidance that will help with this decision making [here](#).

Every day at school gives you a better chance of good attainment, and greater earning power in adulthood therefore good attendance is an investment in the future.

Mr Calvert

National STEM with Wings: Quantum event

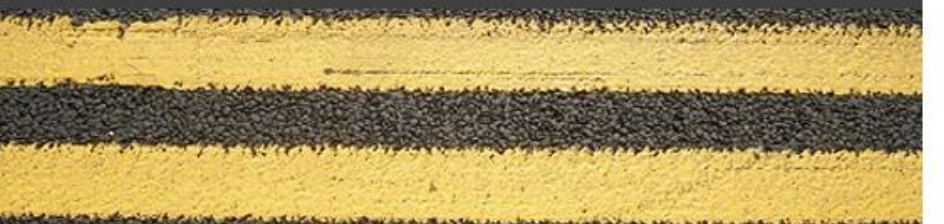
Last week, two of our year 7 classes took part in the national STEM with Wings: Quantum event – a live digital session exploring how quantum science underpins technologies we use every day, from mobile phones to LED lights. Students had the chance to learn from leading scientists, including Dr Jess Wade, and took part in interactive activities and Q&A with the expert panel.



Thank you to everyone who helped facilitate the sessions – it was a brilliant opportunity for students to engage with cutting-edge science and celebrate the International Year of Quantum.

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.

Sustainable Uniform Sale

It's almost time for our main Eco iLeaders annual event - the Sustainable Uniform Sale! Last year we raised £1,800 and this year is going to be even bigger and better.

The sale is being held on Wednesday 9th July from 18:00 - 19:30 in the sports hall. All sale information is on the website here: <https://www.ilkleygrammarschool.com/pre-loved-school-stuff-sale/>

Our sale's main purpose is to:

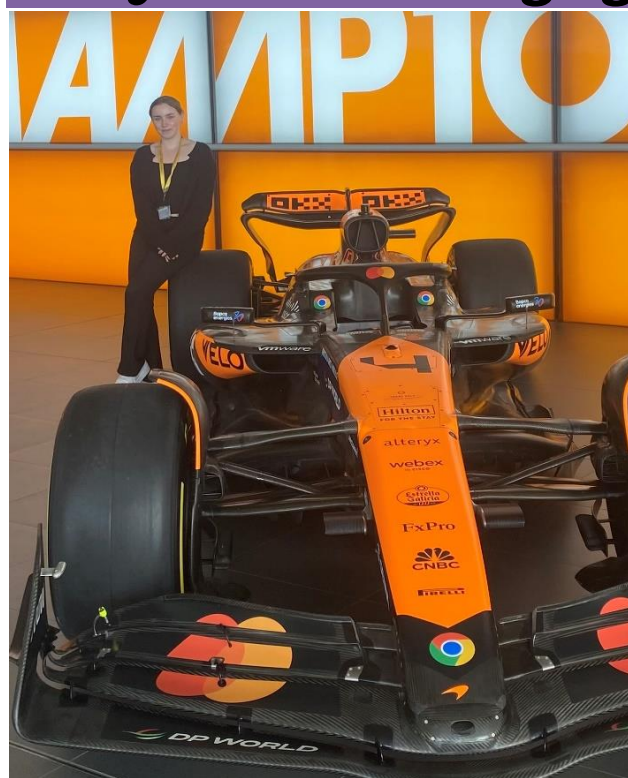
- Put items back into use by creating a sustainable, circular economy benefiting the IGS community and the planet!
- Inspire Green Students as a part of #TeamIGS!

And as such, to encourage as many people as possible to participate, the Eco-iLeaders have intentionally kept prices low with no item priced above £5.00 - including blazers!

We look forward to seeing you there - having a positive impact on the environment whilst saving money!



Daisy shifts into high gear with racing team placements!



We are so proud of Daisy Nelson (12JM) who successfully secured work experience placements with Alpine and McLaren racing teams. Daisy's determination and professionalism opened doors that typically remain closed - securing placements with racing teams that rarely accept candidates from outside their local area or without family connections. Her achievement blazes a trail for other female students pursuing careers in motorsport engineering.



Animal rescue!

Whilst everyday at IGS brings its own surprises, two of our year 11 students had no idea that on 11th June they would become heroes! Francis McCann and Douglas Cook were walking into Ilkley whilst on study leave, and came across a policeman trying to reunite a lost lamb with its mother. Our students' behaviour was so exemplary that the police officer involved sent us this message following the incident:



This afternoon an ewe and its lamb have somehow ended up at the bottom of Cowpasture Road. As I arrived the lamb made a break for it and ran into town in a distressed state.

Two of your pupils were passing and assisted with trying to safely locate the lamb which was captured up on Wells Rd. The animals were reunited and your pupils went to acquire some water for the animals which improved the health of the ewe.



The pupils then assisted with moving the animals to a better location away from dogs. The students are both on study leave for their GCSE's and stayed with me for 2 hours to ensure we kept the animals in a safe place. Without the assistance of your pupils it is unlikely that we would have located the lamb again. This was a top effort by the students and with their efforts ensured the best outcome for the animals.

Well done to Francis and Douglas, 'ewe' saved the day!

Sport Updates

Amazing performance from this year's Ilkley Open tennis tournament ball crew

We recently had the pleasure of being a part of the ever-growing Ilkley Open tennis tournament, where many IGS alumni were working and we had the opportunity for current y8 and 9 students to be part of our 90 strong ball crew!



We were all incredibly proud of the group for their efforts last week at the 10th iteration of the tournament! Having received feedback from many of the students, hearing anecdotes from Colin Campbell (ILTSC ball crew manager), teachers and parents and seeing the students on court shoulder to shoulder with some world class tennis players, we are certain that they had a great time! There were some tough moments in the week with the showery conditions, long days and the physically demanding nature of the ball crew responsibilities, but they did themselves proud and demonstrated incredible commitment and resilience. Thank you to parents, carers and staff for helping support us providing the students with such an amazing unique opportunity, in which they surpassed all expectations and represented IGS and ILTSC with such pride! Congratulations to the tournament singles winners: Iva Jovic and Tristan Schoolkate; the men's doubles winners: Diego Hidalgo and Patrik Trhac; and the women's doubles winners: Waltert and Isabelle Haverlag.



A message from Colin Campbell - ILTSC Ball crew manager:

I just wanted to say a few words about my experience with the Ball Crew at this year's Lexus Ilkley Open. As always, the standard achieved by the kids from IGS keeps getting higher year on year. The behaviour, both on and off court, was exemplary. I am constantly surprised by the ingenuity the



kids show in finding ways to entertain themselves during the down time. I am no longer surprised at how mature they are when doing the job. Each day saw improvements as they settled into their role. It was increasingly difficult, and heartbreaking, to choose who to release as the number of matches were reduced. By the time we reached the finals day, I would stack our ball crew against any of the major tournaments, which train their teams for over six months. Our teams did it in five sessions. They are a credit to the school, the parents, and themselves. If they display this attitude going forward, the world truly is their oyster. Thanks, and goodbye until next year.
Colin Campbell

★★★★★ Team sponsorship opportunity!! ★★★★★



We are looking for sponsors for our incredible sports teams! With some of our teams attending multiple high-profile events, there are excellent opportunities for business exposure and advertising. If you, or someone you know would be interested, please complete the following [Microsoft Form](#) to provide us with your details. We will then reach out to you with additional information.

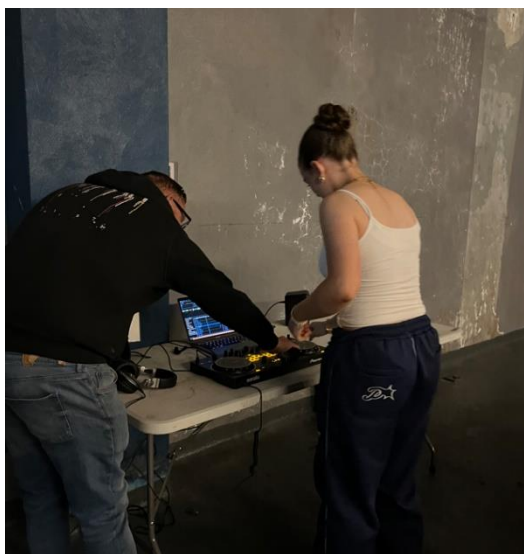
Thank you for your continued support of our immense extra-curricular offering at IGS. It is one of the many aspects of our school that sets us apart, and we are so proud that we can enable our students to play competitive sports at such a high level. Please [get in touch](#) if you would like to know more!

Music News

Launchpad Music Industry Careers Day

On Wednesday 25 June a small group of 23 musicians from year 9 and 10 attended the Launchpad Music Industry Careers Day at the Loading Bay, Bradford. The event was delivered by Launchpad in partnership with BBC Introducing, Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture, Bradford Music and Bradford Producing Hub. The day included panel discussion sessions with a wide variety of music industry professionals ranging from BBC Introducing presenters, producers, sound engineers, apprentices to composers, singer/songwriters, artist managers and more! The pupils asked really thoughtful and mature questions in these sessions that drew some very interesting and insightful responses from the panel of professionals. Pupils also took part in a fantastic

music tech and DJ skills workshop (pictured left) with All Star and a few had the chance to do their own 'off-air' broadcast (pictured right) from the BBC outside broadcasting van that the BBC use at festivals.



Anyone wishing to find out more about Launchpad's opportunities for young people can visit their website, which is regularly updated: <https://www.launchpad-music.com/>

"It was an educational and inspirational experience that helped me about how to take my first steps in the music industry." - Mahalia Y10

"I loved it - it showed me how people's passion, love and creativity can finally get Bradford the recognition it deserves. It opened my eyes to the hidden creativity and hope in the music industry in Bradford, and it made me proud to be a part of its future." - Cora Y9



SLAM DUNK & LAUNCHPAD AT THE WARDROBE

On Saturday 21st June, Ayrborne (John James A, Anya S, Amelia N, Sam N, Sulli L, Tom M and Arthur R - all y9) and DukTape (Sam W, James N and Finlay C) performed a 20 minute set of original material and covers at the Slam Dunk & Launchpad event at The Wardrobe. This event was the first in a partnership between Slam Dunk & Launchpad to provide band performance opportunities for young people. The event included bands from other schools and was a great showcase of up and coming musical talent in the area.

Both bands performed incredibly well and impressed the crowd with their excellent song writing and performance skills! Well done Ayrborne and DukTape!
Remember you can catch IGS bands performing on Thursday 3 July in B Hall as part of the Creative Arts Festival 2025.

Creative Arts (and Technology) Festival: Tuesday 1st- Thursday 3rd July

We are delighted to invite you to this year's Creative Arts Festival featuring Drama, Dance, Music, Art, Photography and Design and Technology. Each evening is themed as follows:

Tuesday 1st July - Drama performances

Featuring performances from our Year 7, 8 and 10 drama groups, and scenes from plays written by our KS5 students.

Wednesday 2nd – IGS 'Night at the Musicals'

Ensemble, duet and solo performances from our Musical Theatre Group and Dance group with some numbers accompanied by Orchestra, Jazz band and Choir.

Thursday 3rd – Bands

Performances from our IGS bands, of all ages, including the school Jazz band, Junior Orchestra and 'Drumline' samba group.

The performances begin at 6:30pm each evening, with an Art and Photography exhibition opening at 5pm-8pm on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd July, a D&T/Engineering exhibition opening at 5pm-8pm on Wednesday 2nd July and Thursday 3rd July and the IGS Art Auction taking place in the Art Cafe each evening.

Tickets for each evening cost £5 for adults and £3 concessions and are available to purchase on ParentPay. The exhibitions are free of charge and no ticket is required although donations can be made on ParentPay, or on entry.

We look forward to seeing you there! **The Creative Team**

IGS School Production 2026

Auditions for the school production 2026 will be held on:

Monday 7th July 2025 (current y7, y8, y9 students)

Tuesday 8th July 2025 (current y10 and y12 students)

Call backs if required will be held on Thursday 10th July 2025.



IGS PRESENTS

CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

2025

£5 ADULTS
£3 CONCESSIONS
EACH EVENING TICKETED

JUL
01-
03

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY
EXHIBITIONS **JUL 01- JUL 02**
A FLOOR FROM 5PM

FREE ENTRY TO A FLOOR

JUL 01- DRAMA
JUL 02- NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS
JUL 03- BAND NIGHT

B HALL, 6:30PM

FREE LIVE@ LUNCH SESSIONS ALL WEEK FOR STUDENTS

