

## PARENT/CARER BULLETIN

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

It has been an exciting last couple of weeks, as we welcome new faces and celebrate milestone moments in preparation for the year ahead.

Last week, we were delighted to welcome our future year 7 students, currently in year 6, for their induction day. It was the first opportunity for our new cohort of “Green Ties” to come together as a full year group of 320, and they made a fantastic first impression. Staff and current students alike were struck by their enthusiasm, excellent manners, and positive attitudes, as well as demonstrable displays of key IGS values including kindness, resilience, and courage. We are excited to officially welcome our “Green Ties” into the IGS community when they join us on Tuesday 2nd September.

We were also pleased to welcome parents/carers of our new year 7 cohort for their welcome evening on Monday 7th July. While 128 families already have a child at IGS, for many this is their first child to start the school and marks the beginning of their journey with us. We recognise that strong partnerships between school and home are vital to student success, and we are committed to building a collaborative, respectful, and supportive relationship with every family. We look forward to working closely together over what we hope will be a rewarding and enriching seven years at Ilkley Grammar School.

Today, we were equally pleased to greet new teaching staff as part of their induction process, ahead of their September start. At a time when the national teacher recruitment and retention crisis continues to pose challenges across the educational sector, we are proud to again have filled all our vacancies with subject specialists following a rigorous and competitive process. We are confident that our new colleagues will bring a wealth of knowledge, energy and fresh perspectives to our school, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact they will have on our students and wider community.

While we prepare to welcome new staff, we also say farewell to a number of valued colleagues. In particular, we extend our sincere thanks and very best wishes to Anne Halliwell who is retiring after 23 years of exceptional service at IGS. As Lead Teacher for Government and Politics, and formerly joint Head of Business and Economics, Anne has taught three A-level subjects over the years, inspiring countless students with her passion, expertise and deep subject knowledge. Her commitment to enriching the curriculum through MP visits and Q&A sessions has offered students unique insight into public life and political engagement. We thank Anne for everything she has done for IGS, and we wish her a long, healthy, and fulfilling retirement.

Looking ahead, next week marks the return of one of the most distinctive and enriching elements of the IGS calendar: Challenge and Celebration Week. This much-anticipated week is a cornerstone of our Discovery and Adventure strand, reflecting our commitment to students’ personal development beyond the classroom. Through a diverse programme of in-school workshops, creative projects, local visits, and residential trips across the UK and Europe – including Paris, Berlin, Rome, Geneva and Krakow - students are given opportunities to explore, reflect, and grow. These experiences are designed to broaden horizons, develop independence, nurture new friendships, and build essential life skills in unfamiliar and stimulating environments. Meanwhile, our year 10 students and a number of sixth formers will be undertaking work experience placements, providing them with invaluable opportunities to explore potential career paths, develop key employability skills, and gain confidence in real-world professional settings.

A reminder that school closes for the summer holidays next Friday 18th July at 12.30pm, with school buses departing at 12.40pm. We will publish a final bulletin celebrating Challenge and Celebration activities at the end of next week, alongside some key reminders for the new year ahead.

Best wishes,

Carly Purnell

### Headteacher’s Awards

**Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Headteacher Award over the last fortnight:** Stephanie Andrews 9CCM; Isabelle Atkinson 11AC; Elsa Baldwin 10AHF; Freya Brown 7MTH; Harriet Carter 7WJ; Reece Carter 8JCX; Isla Cousins 11LIR; Annabelle Crawford 10HGW; Bill Docherty 8HMM; Jade Gough 10NRP; Xanthe Gutch 12KF; Kyrylo Ilchenko 7FEN; Jackson Kelly 12LDS; Aleena Khan 9PDH; Imaamah Khan 7MTH; Menaal Mahmood 7MTH; Amelia McGloughlin 12SKR; Tom Moffatt 9IFL; Izzy Mulvaney 7RF; Georgie Sedlak 7GET; Katie Souyave 7KL

**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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### Ilkley Grammar School Ranks Among Top UK Schools for Oxbridge Success

IGS is celebrating a remarkable achievement after being named one of the top-performing schools in the UK for Oxbridge admissions success in a recent *Sunday Times* article titled “How to get into Oxbridge – by the state schools that do it best.”

IGS was ranked 13th nationally for its offer-to-application conversion rate in 2024, with 13 offers made from 32 applications – an impressive 41% success rate. This figure places IGS above renowned independent schools such as Eton, Harrow and St Paul’s, and makes it **the highest-ranking non-selective state comprehensive school in the country for Oxbridge offers**, when grammar and private schools are excluded.

The *Sunday Times* analysis was based on exclusive admissions data provided by the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, covering all offers made to students starting their courses in October 2024, including those with deferred entry to October 2025. The data includes all UK state and independent schools that received at least six offers from both Oxford and Cambridge - a benchmark reached by only 90 schools nationally. Ilkley Grammar School’s inclusion in this elite group means that, even by raw numbers of offers, it ranks in the top 90 schools in the country. This recognition highlights the growing impact of comprehensive state schools in



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supporting high-achieving students. IGS is also the only school across Leeds, Bradford and Calderdale to appear in these recent national rankings.

Schools with most Oxbridge offers

State schools and private schools which received at least six Oxford and at least six Cambridge offers in 2024

Search in table

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School	Applied	Offers	%
St Paul's Girls' School, London	88	48	55
Westminster School, London	179	96	54
The Skinners' School, Kent	36	19	53
John Hampden Grammar School, Buckinghamshire	26	13	50
Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet	127	62	49
King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford, Essex	67	32	48
King's College London Mathematics School	63	28	44
Royal Grammar School Guildford, Surrey	66	29	44
Pate's Grammar School, Gloucestershire	96	42	44
Colyton Grammar School, Devon	45	19	42
Henrietta Barnett School, London	74	31	42
Kendrick School, Berkshire	41	17	41
Ilkley Grammar School, West Yorkshire	32	13	41

programme is underpinned by a strong team, including senior leaders with first-hand experience of studying at Oxford and Cambridge and, alongside high-quality teaching, ensures Ilkley Grammar School continues to offer an aspirational and inclusive sixth form experience.

Alex Fox, Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Post-16 added: “With record numbers expected to join the school’s thriving sixth form in September 2025, Ilkley Grammar School continues to demonstrate that a comprehensive education can open doors, including to some of the most competitive destinations in the world. Our post-16 team works hard to ensure that students are given the tailored guidance and support they need to access the most selective courses and pathways, while also developing the confidence to stand on their own two feet. As our school motto states, we help students to grow in wisdom and stature”

“This national recognition not only celebrates the success of those progressing to Oxford and Cambridge but also reinforces the school’s wider mission: to empower every student with the knowledge, support and confidence to achieve their Personal Best and realise their full potential - wherever their next step may take them.”

A-level chemistry trip to Bradford University



Year 12 chemistry students recently visited Bradford University, where they were able to use the University labs to synthesise the painkiller Benzocaine. They then used infra-red spectroscopy to confirm its identity. This was an amazing opportunity to use some specialised equipment for a very specific task.

Headteacher, Carly Purnell, commented:

“We are incredibly proud to see Ilkley Grammar School featured in this national table and recognised for our success in securing Oxbridge offers. The achievement is a testament to the hard work and ambition of our students, the dedication of our expert staff, and the strength of our post-16 provision, including our excellent Next Steps programme and alumni network. While Oxbridge is only one of many excellent destinations our students pursue, and just one measure of success, this ranking is a powerful endorsement of what students in non-selective state schools can achieve with the right support and ambition.”

As a truly comprehensive school, IGS takes pride in offering outstanding opportunities for all students, regardless of their destination. This includes a rigorous and inclusive Next Steps programme, designed to support students in navigating a wide range of future pathways, including university, apprenticeships, and employment. The programme provides personalised guidance for every post-16 student, with those applying to the most competitive universities and courses benefiting from specialist support for admissions tests, interviews and personal statements. The





**On 25<sup>th</sup> June our 'Green Ties' celebrated their prom. The evening started with majestic arrivals in a range of fabulous vehicles – from classic cars and Lamborghinis, to tractors and juggernauts! Students shone in sharp suits and stunning dresses. 'Bonkers Bingo' was a particular highlight of the evening, with coveted prizes including an inflatable dinosaur costume, a 6-foot inflatable pizza and a space hopper! Everyone had a wonderful time celebrating the end of exams, and for some, their time at IGS.**















**Thank you so much to everyone involved who helped to make the evening such a success.**





## SCHOOL REBUILDING PROGRAMME UPDATE:

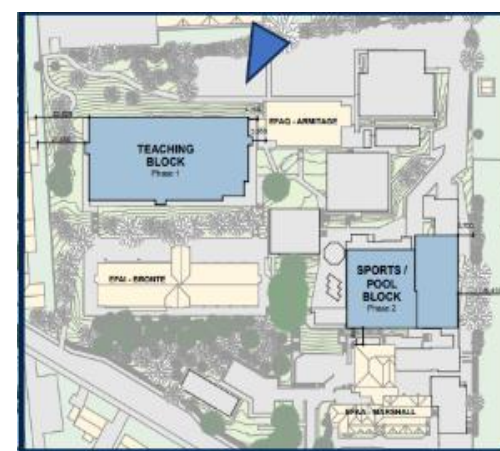
Following the granting of planning approval, work on the School Rebuilding Programme is about to commence. Contracts between the DfE and their appointed contractor, Bowmer and Kirkland, have been finalised and signed, with preliminary works starting during Challenge and Celebration week, ahead of the main construction phase starting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 2025.

Due to delays in the planning approval process, the overall project timeline has been revised as follows:

### Phase 1: Approximately 19 months from August 2025 – March 2027

#### The main teaching block will be built on the existing tennis courts

- Teaching will continue in the existing buildings throughout this period –no temporary buildings will be required.
- There will be some disruption to outdoor PE facilities during the construction period; we will make full use of our off-site facilities at Ben Rhydding to maintain our PE provision.
- The existing sports hall, the pool and gym will remain in use throughout phase 1 until Easter 2027.
- During this period, at break and lunch, outdoor space will be zoned for different year groups. This will include utilising the main entrance and front lawn to ensure all students have access to sufficient outdoor space. As a result, parents/carers will not be able to access the school site during social times as the gates will be closed.
- The school will decant from existing buildings around Easter 2027 into the brand-new teaching block.



### Phase 2 – Approximately 22 months from Easter 2027-February 2029

This phase will involve 3 major components, some of which will run concurrently:

#### Element 1: April 2027 until February 2028 (approximately 10 months)

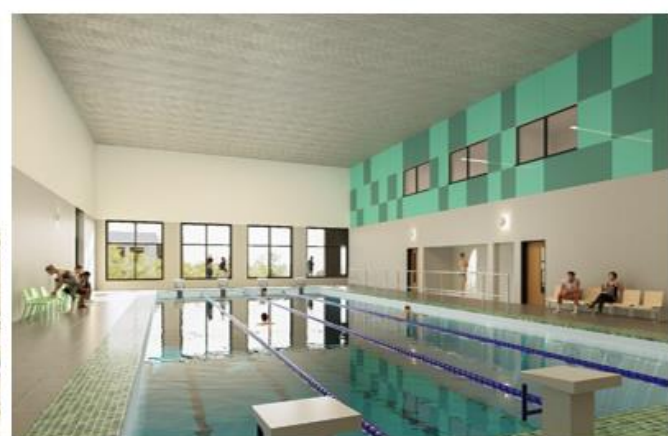
- Reroofing and refurbishment of the Victorian part of the Marshall Building
- During this time, art classrooms will temporarily move to the current technology classrooms, which will have been re-purposed as technology will have been relocated in the new teaching block.
- There will be no disruption to the art curriculum.

#### Element 2: April 2027 – February 2029

- Demolition of the 60s/70s extensions to the main part of the Marshall Building (and other buildings – K, L and T blocks - once the Marshall roof refurbishment is finished)
- The current pool and gym will also be demolished during this phase.
- Construction of the new sports complex and swimming pool (approximately 22 months) from April 2027 to February 2029
- The existing sports hall will remain fully in operation during this stage.
- Additional temporary changing facilities will be provided as needed.



Throughout phase 2, outdoor space zoning for year groups will continue. This will include use of the bottom courts and areas to the north of the site, which will become available after phase 1 is completed.



#### Element 3: February 2029

- Demolition of the current sports hall once the new sports complex is completed

### Phase 3: February-June 2029

- Installation of the Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs)
- Completion of all final landscaping works across the site







## IGS Art Auction raises over £4000!



We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support of our inaugural IGS Art Auction, which proved to be a fantastic addition to Creative Arts Week. This initiative has exceeded all expectations, successfully raising over £4000 for the IGS Enrichment Fund, which will allow us to enhance and expand our student enrichment activities throughout the coming year.



Artworks will continue to be available for pickup during school hours from 8am-3pm, until midday on Friday 18th July when we close for the summer break. To expedite your collection, please email [admin@igs.mlt.co.uk](mailto:admin@igs.mlt.co.uk) in advance, and we may be able to retrieve your artwork from storage before your arrival. When you come to collect, simply present your invoice copy to reception staff. Each piece is clearly labelled with the artwork title, catalogue number, and your name. Students may also collect purchases on behalf of their families if preferred. Just email [admin@igs.mlt.co.uk](mailto:admin@igs.mlt.co.uk) with the artwork title, catalogue number, and the name of the student who will be collecting.



We would like to sincerely thank all our donating artists, as well as those who wish to remain anonymous:



A Barker; Kris Brewster; Penny Burgoyne; Paul Clarke; Isla Cousins; Laura Cox; Annabelle Crawford; Emma Draper; Valerie Eyles-Owen; Jen Fielding; John Giles; Gillian Gilroy; Xanthe Gutch; Juliet and Jamie Gutch; Rachel Harding; Claire Harris; Joanne Henderson; Louise Hepworth-Wood; Mark Hinchcliffe; Ben Horner; Ilkley Flower Club; Andrew Lambert; Menaal Mahmood; Henry Makin; Damian Marsh; Joe McDermott; Ross McGibbon; Amelia McLoughlin; Louise Mortimer; Mary North; Rebecca O'Hooey; Susan Oliver; Charley Raybould; Betsy Reid; Mike Revell; Nicola Robson; Scarlett Smith; Caroline Smith; Rachael Sugden; Siobhan Tear; Felicity Tomblin; Wendy Uchimura; Karl Vickers; Hannah Whitley; Ben Whittington; Rebecca Whittington; Ben Williams and Jen Yeardeley.



We would also like to thank the 100 people who bid on artwork. Your support of this new venture has been truly remarkable and has far surpassed our initial hopes.



If you have any questions, please contact [admin@igs.mlt.co.uk](mailto:admin@igs.mlt.co.uk).

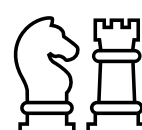
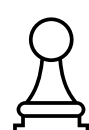
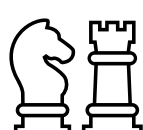
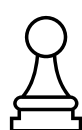
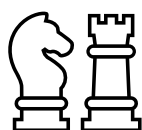


## IGS hosts chess match!

IGS recently hosted 12 students from Ermysted's school for a chess match with 3 teams of 4 students. IGS A team drew on points with Ermysted's A team, but had fewer overall wins so Ermysted's A team won overall. It was great to see students representing their school in a different way and we will make this an annual fixture against them: Airewharfe Chess Ashes.



The students involved were:  
 Ted Attack; Jacob Barton; Ethan Battye; Nattachai Dontree; Charlie Eccles; James Kennedy; David Martins; Alex Pasat; Sam Proudlove; Alex Rawse; Reece Thompson; Dan Yoshino Bunting.





Duke of Edinburgh expeditions

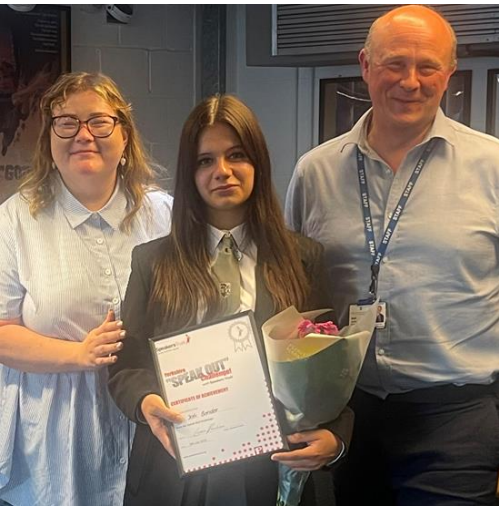


Please enjoy some photos of our recent Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, including some spectacular views (and spectacularly heavy backpacks!). Huge congratulations to all students involved; the expeditions are a real test of determination, endurance, map reading skills and teamwork, and each group of students did such an impressive job.

Sofi's sensational Speak Out success!

On Wednesday 9th July year 10 student Sofi Bender took part in the Grand Final of the Yorkshire Speak out Challenge 2025. Sofi's speech on resilience was selected to be in the final from 100s of submissions from winning students from across the whole of Yorkshire. In her powerful and moving speech Sofi spoke of her personal experience in recent years as a Ukrainian national and she delivered her speech in flawless English to an audience of several hundred people and a judging panel. You could have heard a pin drop during her speech, part of which is quoted below:

*There were days when I wondered if things would ever feel normal again. When everything feels broken, how do you find the strength to keep going? There's one quote by Haruki Murakami that stayed with me through my hardest days: "Once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain: when you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what the storm is all about."*



*And I am still in that storm. But I have learned that even in the darkest moments, we have a choice. We can give up, or we can keep moving forward-one step at a time. I choose to keep going. You will face your own storms in life. Maybe it won't be war, but it will be something that tests you. Maybe you will lose something, or feel like you don't belong, or struggle with things no one else sees. But no matter how hopeless it can feel. Trust me that one day, you will look back and see how far you've come. You will realize that even when you felt broken, you were still growing. And that strength? That will stay by your side forever.*

Congratulations on your wonderful speech Sofi – we are all so proud of you.

TONIGHT'S PROGRAMME	TONIGHT'S CONTESTANTS
Wednesday 9th July 2025 The Carriageworks, Leeds Yorkshire Speak Out Challenge Final	<b>Sofi Bender</b>
6.30pm Welcome and Introductions	Outwood Academy Shafton Ilkley Grammar School Maltby Academy Astrea Academy Woodfields Bishop Young Church of England Academy Harrogate High School Barnsley Academy Tadcaster Grammar School P... Hall, A Share Academy Witherwood Academy Chaunder School Holy Trinity Catholic Church of England Outwood Acad... Ryedale School Guisley School Belle Vue Girls' Academy
Tonight's Judges Dr Pete Olusoga - Senior Lecturer in Psychology at Sheffield Hallam University and host of The EightyPercentMental Podcast Clare Granger - Artist, former High Sheriff of North Yorkshire Angela Sandhal - Solicitor and Director, Duncan Lewis Solicitors Jude Callaghan - 2024 Speak Out Challenge Finalist & Third Place Abbas Khan - Managing Associate, Addleshaw Goddard Hugh Norton - Retired Lecturer in Business Studies, Hull College	
6.50pm Pariza Bin T Faisal, Runner-Up of the Yorkshire Speak Out Challenge Final 2024, opens the competition Speeches from our Finalists Awards Ceremony Announcement of Yorkshire Speak Out Challenge Champion 2025	
8.25pm Closing Address	
Thank you to all volunteers who have given their time to make this evening so special. Thank you to our sponsor Pwidge for making this programme possible.	

Classics, Politics and Economics Trip to London- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Mr O'Brien led a fantastic cross-faculty trip dedicated for year 12 students of classics, politics and economics, alongside Ms Claughton and Mr Fox. This trip was an extra-curricular trip and relevant for the year 12 students that came, who are currently exploring their next steps, UCAS process for





university applications and are on the brink of their final year of studying their Level 3/ A Level qualifications.

On the trip, students were invited to visit London to visit Imperial College London for a lecture and Q&A session, take part in Mr Fox's 'Walking Tour of Political Landmarks', visit the Bank of England and gain an introduction to the 'prescribed sources' for year 13 Classicists' study of the Achaemenid, neo-Persian Empire and 5<sup>th</sup> century BC Greece, which took students to The British Museum.

**Aaminah Ahmed and Amelie Hunt (Year 12):**

"We really enjoyed the London trip because it helped with learning about our next steps and gaining deeper knowledge in our subject particularly as Classics students.



We started by visiting Imperial College London where we had a lecture on studying economics, but this was not only helpful to economics students as it also gave us some great top tips for our personal statements. It was helpful to those who want to go to university in London as we gained insight from students on what living in London is like, as well as seeing the city and experiencing the tube (it was very hot!!). We were given complimentary tote bags from Imperial College which will definitely help with our year 13 folders!



Mr Fox's walking tour was insightful as we learnt more about parliamentary structure and the layout of parliament across London. We saw the House of Lords and House of Commons as well as learning about the chaotic division bell, which is something we didn't know before.

The Bank of England was a great experience as we got to hold a gold bar and learn more about the history of the economy and function of the Bank. The building was beautiful but had some very heavy doors!

Our favourite part however was visiting the British Museum which, as classics students, helped us gain a deeper understanding into our Greco- Persian sources for year 13. Seeing artefacts in person enabled us to analyse and connect with them rather than just seeing them on paper.

This was particularly helpful for me (Amelie) as I want to study archaeology at university and seeing artefacts in real life really inspired me further into wanting to pursue archaeology for higher education. We also visited the amazing book shop and bought a book on hieroglyphics (Amelie) and The Silence of the Girls (Aamina) which is The Iliad from Briseis' perspective, and it directly correlates with our classics A-level studies.

Overall, this was an amazing and insightful experience which deepened our understanding of our subjects, and we also had a lot of fun."





Golf club thank you



Music News

Emma wows audience at recital performance



**Emma Chapman year 13, performed her final recital at the Howard Opera Centre, Opera North on 7th July. In addition to studying for her A Levels, Emma has taken part in masterclasses and workshops and been successful in gaining a place to study for a music degree at the Royal Northern College of Music, specialising in Classical singing and opera.**

Morgan leads band to victory!

We are very proud to announce that Morgan Griffiths, our brass teacher, was recently successful in leading the Hammonds Band to victory in a recent, prestigious competition... the Dr Martin Winston's Cup Contest. In addition to inspiring and teaching IGS brass players, Morgan is a professional conductor and euphonium player and is a Senior Lecturer at Leeds Conservatoire!!



Live @ Lunch 2024/25 season

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July pupils once again gathered with their lunch in a packed C8 to watch the final Live @ Lunch performances of the 2024/25 season. This concert series started for the first time in September 2024 and has featured outstanding performances by young musicians from every year group in the school. The young musicians have shown tremendous courage to perform as part of this new concert series in front of their peers. The success of Live @ Lunch 2024/25 is equally thanks to the absolutely amazing audience that turns up to listen respectfully and cheer enthusiastically for every single performer. The positive and supportive atmosphere that the audience have consistently created is testament to how highly the pupils in the audience uphold the school values. Thank you to everyone that has contributed to the success of this concert series and Live @ Lunch will return in September!



Music Exam Success!

**A huge congratulations to the following Year 9 students who have recently passed their ABRSM Music exams:**

**Amelia N- Grade 5 Clarinet  
Sophie B- Grade 4 Violin**



**Bella W- Grade 1 Cello passed with Distinction  
Thomas L- Grade 1 Violin passed with Distinction**





# Creative Arts Festival 2025

This year's Creative Arts Festival was a wonderful three-day celebration of students' creative work across a range of different departments. Over 200 students were involved in the performances, and a further 200+ students had their work exhibited, making this our biggest festival yet!



The first evening contained drama performances from our extra-curricular KS3 and KS5 drama groups, devised by the students themselves, a showcase of year 10 exam work and extracts from plays written by two of our post-16 students.



On Wednesday, we had a 'Night at the Musicals', with extracts from a variety of different musicals, performed by our musical theatre group, choir, orchestra and dance group.

The 'band night' on Thursday started with a bang, as our talented samba group 'Drumline' took the stage and the evening continued to showcase a range of different ensembles such as our junior orchestra, jazz band and student led bands from year 7 up to year 10.



Our wonderful backstage group ran the sound, lighting and projections throughout all three evenings which truly brought the students' performances to life.

On each evening, there was an exhibition of students' art, photography, design and technology work across two floors, accompanied by acoustic music, and a DJ set provided by more of our talented students. In addition, this year's festival featured the first ever IGS Art Action which raised over £4000 to support the school with administering its enrichment offer. Refreshments were served by the PTA throughout the festival, who we are always very grateful to for raising money, supporting and investing in these opportunities for students.



A huge well done to all of the students involved, and thank you to everyone who came to support them.

IGS PRESENTS

# CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

FEATURING ART, PHOTOGRAPHY, DRAMA, DANCE, MUSIC AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

# 2025



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## Ilkley Grammar School Celebrates a Year of Outstanding Sporting Success

Ilkley Grammar School (IGS) is proudly celebrating an extraordinary year of sporting success, with teams and individuals alike achieving regional and national glory across a range of sports - a true testament to the school's commitment to excellence, opportunity, and team spirit.

### Football's Coming Home!

Football has undoubtedly been the jewel in the sporting crown this year as IGS teams have reached an incredible eight finals, taking home five titles in what has been one of the school's most successful seasons on the pitch.



The year 11 girls' team has written themselves into the school's sporting history, completing a remarkable league and cup double for the third consecutive year - an unprecedented feat at IGS. Led by inspirational captain Annabelle Forster, who is heading to Sunderland Academy to pursue a professional football career, the team overcame mid-season injuries and stormed to victory in both the Leeds Cup Final and Leeds Merit League Final, each by an emphatic 11-3 scoreline. This team of trailblazers - the first at IGS made up entirely of club-level players - has paved the way for future generations of girls' football at the school.

Not to be outdone, the year 11 boys' team lifted the Leeds Champions of Champions Cup after a thrilling 4-3 win over Morley Academy, their third title in four years at this level. Goals from Noah Taylor-Smith, Alex Pollard, and Tom Goodall highlighted the team's attacking prowess and unity.

The year 7 boys' team also showed exceptional resilience and skill, beating Horsforth 3-2 with goals from Ben Marsh (x2) and Ted Airey, to become Leeds League champions in their debut season. Meanwhile, the year 7 girls demonstrated grit and growth, finishing runners-up in both the Leeds Cup and Leeds Merit League finals — both times against a formidable Cardinal Heenan side.



Elsewhere, the post-16 football team gave a spirited performance in their Leeds Cup final, narrowly missing out on silverware, but showing immense promise for next season with a core of talented year 12 players.



The school's rising star status in football was also confirmed with the U15 girls' team being crowned West Yorkshire County Cup Champions. After three months of weather disruptions and postponed fixtures, the team held their nerve in the rescheduled final, clinching a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Colne Valley thanks to a stunning goal from Bella Atwell-Skevington.

### Regional and National Glory in Cross Country

Beyond the football pitch, IGS athletes have made their mark nationally. At the ESAA Cross Country Cup National Finals, Charlie Porteous delivered a breathtaking performance to finish 2nd in the country, while the Senior Boys' team rose to the occasion with a 3rd place national team finish, competing against the best schools in the country — many of them elite private and grammar schools.

IGS also enjoyed success in the Keighley and Craven Cross Country League, with three teams crowned champions: the year 7/8 girls' team, year 7/8 boys' team and the year 9/10 girls' team.



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### Tennis Talent and National Exposure

IGS tennis teams enjoyed a successful season in the Harrogate Division 1 League, with several teams securing top-three finishes, including 2nd place for the year 9/10 boys and 3rd for the year 7/8 and 9/10 girls' teams.



A standout moment came with the school's continued involvement in the prestigious Lexus Ilkley Open. Nearly 90 IGS students received specialist training and formed the ball crew, supporting world-class players with professionalism and poise. Their contribution during finals day and throughout the tournament was a proud reminder of IGS's commitment to enrichment, ambition, and real-world opportunity.



### Netball Teams Shine Across All Age Groups

It's also been a stellar season for IGS netball, with success spanning every age group. The U14A and U13A teams were crowned Bradford District League champions, while the Senior A team secured a strong runner-up finish. Tournament success followed, with the U13s winning the Bradford Schools District Tournament, and the U12A team finishing 2nd both in the league and tournament. The U15A team also earned a tournament runners-up spot, rounding off a year of impressive consistency and competitive spirit from all squads.



### A Year to Remember

While football and cross country have led the headlines, excellence has resonated across every area of sport. IGS gymnasts have brought home national gold, and golfers, dancers, rugby and rounders players all achieved recognition at district and regional levels. Headlines include:



- IGS gymnasts claimed double gold at the British Schools Gymnastics Association Finals, with Emily Ginger and Alyssa Barker winning the U14 Women’s Pair and Alex Stewart and Heidi Pearce crowned as national champions in the U19 Mixed Pair category. In the Yorkshire Acrobatics schools’ competition, all 8 IGS gymnasts walked away with at least one medal.
- Boys’ rugby teams in years 8, 9, 10 and 11 all reached the finals of the Yorkshire Cup or Plate, finishing as runners-up in highly competitive fixtures. The year 8s made their first ever Yorkshire Cup final after standout wins against schools like Giggleswick, Ermysted’s and Wolfreton, while the year 9s secured a Plate final spot with consistent performances. Across all age groups, the season showcased growing depth, resilience, and real promise for future success.



- Golfers represented the school with flair at the Yorkshire Schools’ Championships, with Ava Chaplin securing the overall girls’ title and Zac Ayre coming runner up in the boys’ competition
- Our rounders U13 team were crowned Bradford District League Champions.

As the final whistle blows on the 2024–25 season, Ilkley Grammar School stands not just as a centre of academic excellence, but as a powerhouse of sporting talent - with our students continuing to grow in both wisdom and stature.

These successes would not be possible without the dedication and passion of IGS staff, who give so generously of their time to coach, mentor, and inspire our students. Their commitment ensures that sport at IGS continues to thrive, offering young people the chance to grow, compete, and achieve their Personal Best - both on and off the field. We thank them sincerely for everything they do.

## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 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!

