



PARENT/CARER BULLETIN 12th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a real pleasure to welcome our students back to school for the start of the new academic year. The energy across the school has genuinely been uplifting, with students quickly settling into routines and engaging so positively with lessons, enrichment opportunities and each other.

Alongside this excellent start, we are entering a particularly exciting chapter in the life of the school as the School Rebuilding Programme gathers pace. With over £50 million of investment, the project will have a transformative impact on the learning environment at IGS, providing world-class facilities that reflect the exceptional quality and ambition of our school. While the works mean some adjustments to our current site - including the temporary loss of the tennis courts - our students have shown great adaptability. They have embraced their new social spaces with patience and positivity, setting an excellent example of resilience during this period of change.

Our new year 7 "Green Ties" deserve a special mention. They have impressed staff with their infectious enthusiasm, kindness and exemplary manners, and have already become a valued part of our community. Students who have joined us in other year groups are also settling in exceptionally well, and we are delighted to welcome them to IGS and to see them making such a positive start.

There is already much to celebrate from the first few days:

Achievement points: 29,450 achievement points have already been awarded – a testament to the hard work and positive attitudes of our students.

Post-16: We have welcomed 315 students into year 12 including many joining us from a range of comprehensive, selective and independent schools across the region. This brings our vibrant school community to over 2,200 students and 268 staff, including 144 specialist teachers.

Attendance: Whole-school attendance is currently above 96%, with year 7 achieving an outstanding 99% in their first week.

Student leadership and enrichment: Every student has explored opportunities at our Leadership and Enrichment Fayre, with more than 80 extra-curricular clubs on offer this term (with more to be added in the spring and summer terms) and 42 leadership roles available – 12 more than last year.

Year 7 team building: Students have enjoyed a day of activities in their I, G or S bands at Ben Rhydding fields, creating new friendships and strengthening teamwork.

Performing arts: Chorus auditions for our next school production, Billy Elliot, have taken place for our new year 7 students. The full cast will be announced very soon, and we are already looking forward to what promises to be another memorable and spectacular showcase of students' talent.

With so many achievements in such a short time, it is clear that we are beginning the year on a strong footing. I am confident that, working together, our students, staff and families will make 2025-26 another year of success and pride for our entire IGS school community.

Best wishes, **Carly Purnell**

Platinum School Games Mark Award:

We are delighted to announce that IGS has been awarded the Platinum School Games Mark following four consecutive years of achieving Gold. This prestigious national award recognises schools that excel in providing opportunities for young people to take part in sport and physical activity, celebrating both provision and participation. It is a fantastic achievement and reflects our ongoing commitment to keeping students active and engaged through a wide range of sporting opportunities.

The award comes on the back of another outstanding year of sport at IGS, with students achieving success across many disciplines. Highlights of 2024-25 include:

- Football: Boys' U12s crowned Leeds League Champions; U16s won the Leeds Champions of Champions Cup; Post-16 team finished runners-up in the Leeds Cup Final.
- Girls' teams excelled with U16s winning both the Leeds Cup Final and Leeds Merit League for the 4th consecutive year, the U15s were crowned West Yorkshire County Cup Champions, and the U12s finished as runners-up in both league and cup competitions.
- **Golf:** Yorkshire Schools Championship winners in the girls' overall competition, with 2nd place in the boys' tournament.
- **Netball**: U13s Bradford Schools District Tournament winners; U12 A team runners-up; Senior A team runners up in the Bradford District League.
- **Gymnastics**: National champions at the British Schools Gymnastics Association Finals, with 1st place for the U14 Women's Pair and the U19 Mixed Pair.
- Cross Country: Regional success at the ESAA Finals with junior and senior boys' teams both finishing 1st, and junior girls' team 3rd. At the National Finals, junior boys came 5th nationally and senior boys placed 3rd in the country. In the Keighley and Craven League, Yr 7/8 airls, Yr 7/8 boys and Yr 9/10 airls all claimed 1st place.
- **Fell Running**: 2nd place at the English Fell Running Championship.
- **Rugby**: Boys' teams in years 8–11 all reached finals, securing runners-up places in the Yorkshire Cup or Plate competitions.
- **Cricket**: Year 10 girls crowned Yorkshire Cup Winners.
- Tennis: Y9/10 Boys 2nd place and Y7/8 Girls, Y7/8 Boys and Y9/10 Girls 3rd place in the Harrogate Division 1 league; 90 IGS students formed the ball crew for the Lexus Ilkley Open, an LTA event
- **Rounders:** U13 Bradford District League Champions















This is an extraordinary set of accomplishments which highlights the depth of talent, commitment and teamwork across Ilkley Grammar School. We are incredibly proud of all our students and staff who contribute to making sport at IGS so successful. Well done to everyone involved!

Welcome to our new Green Ties!

What a great start the year 7's have had! From meeting them on the first morning with pristine uniform and huge smiles, to working with them at the field on their team building days it has been a privilege getting to know them over the past nine days.









The Green Tie cohort have settled into life at IGS very well and their enthusiasm is infectious; the commitment shown to learning their new subjects, the resilience of overcoming challenges, navigating their way around the school, and getting to know new staff and peers have been very impressive.











On Wednesday they were busy signing up to all sorts of opportunities at the Leadership and Enrichment Fayre and it was no surprise to see many of them joining in extracurricular clubs this week including dodgeball, cross country and production rehearsals!





















Enjoy a restful weekend, year 7, and please keep this energy up for the rest of the year \bigcirc Mr Carr

P.S. Look out for pictures from the Green Ties' teambuilding and sports day trips in the next issue!

Tales from C&C week trips 2025

Year 7 (current year 8) activities

Mabel (year 8): "C&C week was full of fun and excitement and is a great thing to end your year with. I started with camping. We got our tent groups and our tents, we had to put them up by ourselves!!! Then we stared on activities; we got into groups and the camp leaders instructed us to start our adventures. There were many activities to do with team building and friendships. We had loads of free time to play around with friends. There were the football nets, Twister, archery and other ball games. Then night was approaching....and more FREE TIME, more football games but in pyjamas! Eventually it was time for us to get in our tents. I don't think it actually went quiet for a good few hours!! Sorry to all the teachers we kept up that night!

FLAMINGO LAND!

My favourite part, I went on all the rides I could get on, including Kumali one of the biggest roller coasters there! You could bring your own money; I got a blue tango ice blast but I had to be careful I wasn't sick! There was also the arcade and lots of other great things to do!

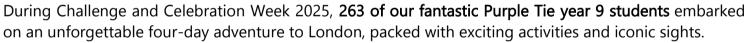
SAILING

I went on a huge paddle board, wind sailing, kayaking and I even made my boat tip over and I jumped off a lot! You could bring money and go to the cafe. There was also biking and some little ramps to go on.

Overall I really enjoyed C&C week and it was a really great way to end the year."

Year 8 (current year 9) trips:





Day One kicked off with a visit to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, where students explored the legacy of the 2012 Games, including the Olympic Stadium and Aquatics Centre. After settling into their accommodation, the group headed to the Millennium Dome for a lively evening of ten-pin bowling, a great way to unwind and bond.

The rest of the week was a whirlwind of cultural and historical experiences. Highlights included:

- A scenic Thames River boat trip
- A hands-on Shakespeare workshop at the Globe Theatre
- A fascinating tour of the Tower of London
- A ride on the iconic **London Eye**
- A thrilling visit to the London Dungeons



















On **Thursday evening**, students and staff made their way to the **West End** to enjoy a spectacular performance of *The Lion King* at the **Lyceum Theatre**, a definite highlight of the trip.

The adventure concluded with a visit to **London Zoo**, where students explored the wonders of the animal kingdom before heading back to Ilkley for a well-earned rest.

Throughout the trip, our students were a credit to themselves and to **Ilkley Grammar School**. Their enthusiasm, behaviour, and engagement made the experience truly memorable, and we're sure that it's a week they'll never forget. Students shared their experiences:

Darcy Brabiner 9KHA

"My time at London was wonderful. Everyone was in a good mood, positive mindset and kind hearts. The energy that everyone had including the staff members and the bus driver was radiating and made every day exciting. The trips to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and the Tower of London were interesting, giving us knowledge and facts. The boat ride and the West End show were touristy and fabulous. The London dungeons and London Eye pushed us to face our fears and enjoy the fright. London day trips covered every aspect of a good trip to suit multiple people as well. All staff members were kind, warm hearted and helpful. They always took care of us and made sure we were okay like good teachers. All catering, cleaning, and other staff members at the hostel made sure we knew what to do. I have big thanks to the bus and coach drivers who drove the coaches full of loud, not disruptive though, students round a very busy city everyday for a week. I am forever grateful for my time at London with amazing people, trips and staff. I will cherish the memories I made in London. Thank you."

Joseph Mutton 9NA

"In London I had a really good time, I mostly enjoyed the dungeons. The teachers were really helpful with the dorms and all the groups and let us have fun around London and in the hostel. It was probably the best school trip I had in my life. We did a lot of stuff and really made the most of the time we had there. It also had really good sleeping arrangements and if there was a problem the staff were always there to help. The coaches were useful to get where we wanted. Overall, I had a really good trip."

Year 9 (current year 10) trips:



Year 12 C&C week Paris trip

It was incredible to go back to Paris again with 38 year 12 students after a 'year off' due to a clash with the Olympics. Undoubtedly one of the greatest cities in the world, Paris offers so much for the tourist — whatever their interests. While the Paris C&C itinerary has a focus on art it offers students much more than that and also introduces students to practical aspects of foreign

































travel such as travelling on the metro, the food and of course shopping! On the first day a delay en-route to the Generator Hostel in Paris meant that our planned evening activity became a night-time walk along the bustling canal (it was Bastille Day) with an ice cream at the famous chain Amorino's.

The first taste of art in Paris came on the first morning with a Street Art Tour (https://www.streetarttourparis.com/) led by a couple of Parisian hipsters which was followed by a visit to the astounding Chateau de Versailles, with its epic Hall of Mirrors with time in the garden in the afternoon to see the fountain show. It was a day of exciting contrasts with the urban art scene clashing vibrantly with a building which symbolises more than any other the excesses of the CI7th ruling elites in France.





In the evening, we went to the Eiffel Tower at dusk, walked up to the Trocadero steps and stayed there until it was illuminated



in the darkness. The next morning, we went to the Musée D'Orsay with a focus on the Impressionists — Monet, Manet and Matisse and Van Gogh. A boat trip on the Seine at lunchtime was followed by a visit to the immersive Atelier des Lumières — an animated contemporary sound and light show in a warehouse which used Van Gogh and Japanese art as inspiration. This was followed by

some retail therapy on the Rue de Rivoli and surrounding streets and a trip by Metro to Montmartre in the evening and a tour around the church of Sacre Coeur.















On our final morning, having packed and checked the rooms it was off to see the newly transformed Notre Dame which had only reopened its doors in December 2024 following the devastating fire in 2019. Trips like these are so much more than just the places you visit — it is about sharing time together in a new context, about the stories, new connections and new ideas that it generates. There are always a few challenges of course but what is left after the dust settles are fond memories and wonderful photos. Thank you to Mrs Pickard, Mrs Hessey and Mr Hefferin for co-leading the trip and to all the students for making it such a positive experience. Mr Gutch

















A selection of quotes from students on Paris 2025

"I was shocked to see how beautiful the places that we visited were." Amy (year I2)

"At school I don't take any creative subjects, but I still have a strong interest in art as well as loving Paris itself so going on this trip was a really fun way to immerse myself in those interests that I don't often do." Maiya (year I2)

"Many people go to Paris in their life (including myself) however C&C week allowed me to visit places I'd never been to before and I probably wouldn't have had the opportunity to go to these places at any other time." Eirlysiane (year I2)

"Paris was amazing. We saw all the best bits and will be a trip I remember for the rest of my life. My favourite bit was seeing the Monet paintings in person." Ruby (year IZ)

"It was honestly really good, the trip was fun, and we did a lot for what we paid for. It allowed us as students to feel independent and get comfortable in a crowd where we didn't know anyone properly. Overall, it was a great experience, and I would 100% recommend it." Saud (year 12)

Year 12 C&C week Rome trip

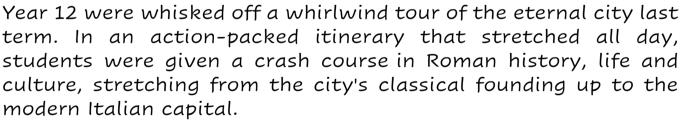




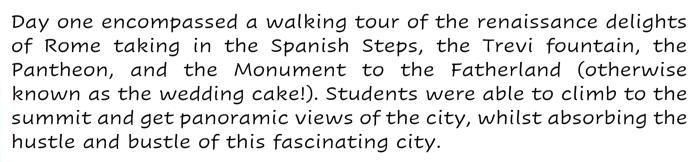














On Day two students plunged into the ancient history of the city, exploring the Colosseum, the Roman Forum and the wonderful Palatine museum, before spending a relaxing afternoon enjoying the delights of Villa Borghese, including the boating lake, the palazzo and the cool and shady woodland parks.

























On Day three, students explored the Vatican with memorable visits to St Peters, including a once in a 25-year opportunity to go through the jubilee door, the voluminous artistic collections of the Vatican museum and the fascinating medieval history of the papacy at Castel St Angelo. All of this was topped off with a wonderful visit to a real Roman pizzeria, including live musical accompaniment! Students then spent a relaxing evening exploring the entertainers and street performers around Piazza Navona.

Students were superb ambassadors and took every opportunity to explore and experience this wonderful city in their whirlwind stay!















World Challenge 2025 - Eswatini and Kruger

Over the summer, 14 intrepid IGS students (and two very lucky IGS staff members) took part in the trip of a lifetime to Eswatini and South Africa through World Challenge.

After 13 hours of flying and a 6-hour bus journey, the group arrived at a campsite in Lobamba, just South of the Swazi capital Mbabane. The first day involved a quick briefing followed by a fascinating tour of a traditional Swazi village, including a fantastic dance performance in which our students and other audience members were invited to participate.









The next day, the volunteering phase of the trip began, and the group travelled to a remote NCP (neighbourhood care point) where they were greeted by the children who would benefit from their work over the next few days.

It was difficult work, but the group managed to build a large section of what would become a kitchen for the staff to provide meals for the young children who, without the NCP, would have very little food and nowhere to go. Despite camping in cramped tents on hard ground and having no running water or proper toilet facilities, the group remained buoyant, with the students taking it in turns to build while others entertained and cared for the children.













After saying goodbye to the children, the group had a day of sightseeing before departing on the three-day hike, the first leg of which involved a night at the breath-taking Rock Lodge overlooking the Ngwempisi valley.









The trek was arduous, but students' spirits remained high and by the end everyone had a new-found appreciation for the showers and toilet facilities that greeted them at the campsite, for one final night in Eswatini before departing for Kruger national park.

Despite only being in Kruger for a few days, the group were treated to an astounding safari trip, seeing all the "Big Five" in one day, including multiple leopard sightings despite their usual reclusive nature. This once in a lifetime experience was a fitting reward for the hard work that every student put in over the two weeks, concluding a trip that will stay with the students forever.

For more photos and videos from the trip, go to @pearce.mr on Instagram. If your child is interested in World Challenge then they will receive information about the available trips in year 10. For any World Challenge questions, please email Mrs Robson on nicola.robson@igs.mlt.co.uk.













School Re-Building Project – What's Been Done So Far

We've made great progress over the summer as part of the School's Rebuilding Programme and works are now well underway on this fantastic project. Here's a quick rundown of what's been completed:

- The west path has been reworked to improve access and flow during the works
- Hoardings have gone up around the construction zone to keep student facing areas safe and secure
 - Drainage systems have been upgraded to support the building of the new teaching block
 - The Springs Lane entrance has been widened to make getting in and out safer and easier
 - Groundworks are now in progress for the new teaching block ready for the next phase
 - A brand new fire safety system has been installed to keep everyone safe.







Thanks to everyone for their patience and support while these improvements are carried out! We will continue to keep you updated on progress.













IGS Enrichment Programme

This week marks the launch of Ilkley Grammar School's Student Leadership and Enrichment Programme for the academic year.

On Wednesday 10th September, students in every year group visited the Leadership and Enrichment Fayre, held in the school's Sports Hall and had the chance to visit stalls and speak to students about joining clubs and/or applying for iLeader (leadership) roles, to enrich their school experience and gain a sense of belonging at Ilkley Grammar School.



Staff members from across the school have once again risen to the challenge and helped to create a vast and exciting menu of options that should encourage all students to get involved. With an extensive range of clubs and over 40 different leadership opportunities on offer, and 12 brand new leadership roles this year, there really is something for every student.



Over the next two weeks, students will also receive an assembly and tutor time session to explain the importance of joining a club, the importance of developing leadership skills and how these can benefit you when looking ahead to future career paths, university positions and possible apprenticeship roles. Students will learn more about the application process for our iLeader programme and have the opportunity to apply to one or more of our various leadership roles on offer.

We hope that students are excited to look into their bespoke year group leadership menus and get involved with at least one of the many opportunities on offer this year.

Please find a list of all the clubs on offer this term attached. These, alongside the bespoke iLeader menus can be found on our website here: https://www.ilkleygrammarschool.com/years-7-11- students/enrichment-extra-curricular/

Key Stage 3 Shared Reading Curriculum in Tutor Time

The benefits of reading are well established: it increases empathy and kindness, builds vocabulary, increases academic achievement, and broadens students' horizons (Quigley + Coleman, 2019, Francis + McArthur, 2020). Therefore, at IGS we dedicate time to reading during tutor time to offer exposure to, and foster a love for, reading. In Key Stage Three this takes the form of shared reading, where the tutor reads aloud to the class and the students follow along on their iPads. This then graduates to independent reading at the end of Key Stage 3 and into Key Stage 4, where students are given the autonomy to choose the book that they read silently during tutor time. This year we have some exciting texts that years 7, 8 and 9 are reading, see below for more details.

What you can do support your child:

- **Ask them about the book** they are reading in tutor time. Questions such as: 'what has happened in the book this week?', 'what do you predict will happen next?', and 'what are you enjoying about the book?' will encourage them to think and reflect on the texts beyond tutor time.
- **Promote a love of reading!** Take them to a library or bookshop, talk to them about the importance of reading, have a comfy space where they can read, and encourage them to spend time reading at home.













- **Encourage them to watch the film or TV series** that is related to the book they are reading. 'A kind of Spark' has been adapted into a TV series available on BBC iPlayer, and the Irish film 'A Quiet Girl' is based on Foster, the year 9 text.
- **Encourage them to use the school library.** Each year our librarian Mrs Harrison creates displays around the tutor time books with plenty of suggestions of books to read if they enjoyed the book in form time.

Year 7 Reading Curriculum







	BESTING The state of the state	MAHTAB NARSIMHAN
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
A Kind of Spark Elle McNicoll	Example: Cloud Busting Malorie Blackman	The Tiffin Mahtab Narsimhan
This is the story of 11-year-old Addie as she campaigns for a memorial in memory of the witch trials that took place in her Scottish hometown. Addie knows there's more to the story of these 'witches', just like there is more to hers. Can Addie challenge how the people in her town see her, and her autism, and make her voice heard?	Davey is the new boy in class and Sam can't stand him. He thinks Davey is a Grade A moron. But when the two are thrown together Sam discovers that Davey's eccentric way of looking at the world makes life a lot more fun. Until the day something terrible happens A funny and sad story, told completely in verse.	When a note placed in a tiffin (lunchtime delivery box) is lost, a newborn Kunal is separated from his mother. Twelve years later, Kunal lives under the thumb of his foster father, Seth. When it impossible to stay where he is, Kunal asks his friend, Vinayak to help him find his birth mother. Vinayak introduces Kunal to the tiffin carriers, and a plan is hatched.



Year 8 Reading Curriculum





Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Roll Call	Rat	Example: Seven Ghosts
Malcolm Rose	Patrice Lawrence	Chris Priestley
Luke Harding is a young forensic	When his mum is sent back to prison, Al	Jake and the other finalists in a writing
investigator who works with his robot	knows exactly who's to blame. Mr Brayker	competition have been invited to a
side-kick Malc. This case involves a	from downstairs has been making	stately house for a tour like no other.
series of murders in which the victims	trouble for Al's mum ever since they	They hear the stories of seven ghosts
seem to have one thing in common: they	moved in. Al is determined to get his	who haunt the halls as they are taken on
are all named Emily Wonder, and the	revenge with a plan that involves the only	a tour. But strange shadows follow Jake
murderer is not leaving much by way of	two creatures he can rely on: his pet rats,	as he journeys through the house and
physical evidence to help. Can Luke and	Venom and Vulture. But things don't turn	with each tale Jake hears, he begins to
Malc work out the motive and solve the	out exactly as he'd imagined	feel more uneasy. All is not as it seems
case before another Emily Wonder is		and soon Jake will discover that
murdered?		something is very wrong

Year 9 Reading Curriculum

Half Term 1	Half Term 2 onwards
Short Story: Foster by Claire Keegan	Independent Reading
Foster is a coming-of-age story set in rural Southeast Ireland and narrated by an unnamed girl who is sent to live with her mother's relatives on a farm while her mother gives birth. She has no notion of when she will return home. In the strangers' house she finds affection she has not known before, and slowly she begins to blossom in their care.	Students will start independent reading after the October half term holidays. They will be expected to bring a physical fiction book that they read silently for the duration of tutor time. They can borrow books from the library or bring their own book into school. All Year 9 students will have a tutor session in the library over the coming weeks, so they are confident in the process of borrowing a book. Independent reading will follow a graduated approach: Book 1: Physical fiction text Book 2: Physical fiction text or E-Book Book 3: Fiction or non-fiction text or reading around their

Catering Cards:

This year each year 7 - 11 student has been issued with a catering card; this will enable students to access catering outlets and will allow ParentPay accounts to be debited.

The decision was made to move away from fingerprints to cards in order to make service more efficient (the reliability and speed of fingerprints was hindering how quickly students could move through the food queues).















It is important that students bring their cards when they are using catering outlets. We would suggest that students keep their card safe - please be assured no student will be refused service if they forget their card, however a discussion will be had should the card not be brought on a regular basis.

Should a student lose their card they need to let their Head of Year/Assistant Head of Year, or form tutor know immediately. There will be a replacement charge of £5 applied to ParentPay for any lost card.

School Photographs

For any students that did not have their photos taken last week, Arts Photography will be back in school on Wednesday 17th
September to complete a mop up session.

Extra-Curricular transport - voluntary contribution

We are proud to offer a range of extra-curricular activities for our students here at IGS. Some of these activities take place at our school field at Ben Rhydding. Previously, transport to and from these activities has been provided to students and we have done our best to shield participants from passing this cost on. Unfortunately, costs of this have continued to rise and ultimately is making this position unsustainable. For students who are participating in these activities, Parents/Carers are able to make a voluntary donation of £15 per term via Parent Pay to support covering transport costs to and from the school field for extracurricular activities. If you are able to make a contribution, please visit ParentPay.

A polite reminder about pick up and drop off protocols



- ❖ Springs Lane Health Centre Car Park: This is private parking. Please will parents/carers refrain from picking up/dropping off in the Springs Lane Health Centre Car Park as these spaces are for users of the Health Centre only
- Alan Reception area driveway: Please note that parents/carers should avoid picking up and dropping off outside the main entrance to school at the start or the end of the school day unless a child is in the SRP or has physical needs requiring a pick-up/drop-off at the main entrance. We have seen an increase in the number of cars using this area. This does pose a greater risk to pedestrians.
- * Bus Laybys: Parents/Carers must not park in the bus laybys on Cowpasture Road
- ❖ Considerate and Legal Parking: 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 at permitted parking points to ensure that everybody remains safe and to pay due courtesy and respect to our neighbours
- ❖ Social times: please note as per our communication at the start of term, there is no access to school during social times.

Neve charts her course with Leeds United!

Huge congratulations to Neve Curtin (9NA), who will be playing for Leeds United u14s from this September, alongside the county team.

This is an incredible achievement, with hundreds of players competing for each spot on the team. Well done Neve, we are really proud of you!



PTA Board Games Night - don't miss out!

We would love to see as many parents and students as possible at this year's parent and student board games evening which will be held on **Friday 10**th **October 2025**. Bring your favourite games and enjoy the opportunity to try out others you may have wanted to try, or perhaps have never heard of before! This is the perfect moment to step away from screens as a family and get swept up in the fun and competitive world of board-gaming! You could be one step away from starting a brand-new family gaming tradition – don't miss out! Please see the flyer below and link to purchase your tickets.

















Come and join us for a night of Board Games at Ilkley Grammar, hosted by Ilkley Board Gamers. Open to all. (one adult to 4 under 18's please)

6.30pm - 10.00pm - Friday 10th October 2025

Bring your own games or join in with others who bring plenty of games to share.

BOARD

GAME night



Tickets are £5.00 per Adult / £3.00 under 18's and includes a free drink of your choice on arrival.

Click below to sign up and buy tickets

https://www.pta-events.co.uk/ilkleygrammarschool/index.cfm











