

PARENT/CARER BULLETIN

26th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

The positive start to the year has continued, with excellent attendance, enthusiastic participation in extra-curricular clubs, and an impressive number of achievement points awarded for living our school values. Since the beginning of term, students have now earned over 65,000 achievement points, with an outstanding achievement-to-behaviour point ratio of 22:1. Of these, more than 15,000 points have been awarded for Courage, nearly 14,000 for Resilience, and almost 13,000 for Pride.



COURAGE

15415 achievement
points



PRIDE

13860 achievement
points



RESILIENCE

12721 achievement
points



Following our Leadership and Enrichment Fayre, it has been wonderful to see so many students engaging in the wide range of opportunities available. This term there are over 80 clubs on offer, covering 50 different activities so there really is something for everyone. With applications for iLeader roles closing earlier this week, it has also been inspiring to see such enthusiasm from students across the school, with 646 new applications, including 155 year 7 and 228 year 12 students who have applied for positions of responsibility.

We are also pleased that 42 year 7 students successfully auditioned for the chorus for *Billy Elliot*. The full cast list is published in today's bulletin, and it will be fantastic to see our youngest students working alongside older year groups to create what promises to be another memorable production.



Next week, we look forward to welcoming families of children in year 6 to our Open Day and Open Evening as we showcase all that IGS has to offer. Our students remain our greatest ambassadors, and it is a privilege to watch them volunteer as tour guides and subject helpers with such pride. Last year, over 900 families preferred IGS, and demand for places continues to exceed availability. We will share photos of this year's event in the next edition of the bulletin.



Ilkley Grammar School

A Moorlands Learning Trust Academy








Y6 Open Day/Evening

Wednesday 1st October 2025
9:10am – 10:40am & 5:15pm – 8pm

Headteacher's presentation at **17:15**, then repeated at **18:00**, **18:45** and **19:30**
Subject displays and demonstrations around school from **18:00-20:00**

For more details please contact: tel: 01943 608424 **or visit** www.ilkleygrammarschool.com



I hope you all enjoy a restful weekend, and I look forward to sharing more highlights with you in the weeks ahead.

Best wishes,

Carly Purnell

Headteacher's Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Headteacher Award over the last fortnight: Willow Bulmer 7REB; Tim Carr 7AAC; Simrah Awan 8CSJ; Harriet Carter 8AC; Amelia Lydon 8RF; Charlotte Pedley 8ACU; Sid Clay 9IGD; Bill Docherty 9HMM; Immy White 9IGD; Freya Pretty 10SP; Nina Ensink 10IFL; Con Dennis 11NRP; Ben Papworth 11JLF; Suki Hutchinson 12DJJ; Bethan Kernot 12JMP; Maddie Mulholland 12LCM; Sophie Norton 12PKP; George Bayne 13RAJ; Simran Kaur 13LDS

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



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

Building a Dream Team at Year 7 Teambuilding Day!



The new year 7 green tie cohort enjoyed a full day of teambuilding and sports at Ben Rhydding Sports club in their band, I, G or S, to further cement a meaningful transition for them at Ilkley Grammar School. It afforded them a great chance to network and forge some new friendships within their band whilst challenging their communication, resilience, teamwork and planning skills. The year 7 pastoral team and form tutors thoroughly enjoyed seeing the students flourish and enjoyed taking part in some activities over the three days. Who knew Mrs Varley could throw a nerf vortex that far, who knew Mrs Hessey was so fast and who knew Miss Etheridge was so agile and so hard to catch in 'Capture the Flag'?



Form tutors were able to really get to know their students and see them in a different setting. Mr Chevalley, form tutor of 7AAC said *"Personally, as it is my first year at IGS, I really enjoyed this teambuilding day. It was an amazing opportunity to know more about the pupils in my form group, and to create a real team spirit. It was also nice to meet*

and discuss with colleagues. The highlight of the day was to play dodgeball with my form group and see how competitive they were and what a team spirit they displayed!"

Miss Etheridge, form tutor of 7CJE said "CJE all had a great time at the teambuilding day, and students said they particularly enjoyed getting to know people, using teamworking skills to work out the puzzles and capture the flag!" The



green ties will go down in history as the first year group to enjoy the inaugural IGS Year 7 Teambuilding and Sports Day. All 320 students were photographed from above in three pictures by the aerial drone and are of the fabric of the class of 2030. They provided incredible energy!



A huge thank you to the year 7 tutors who accompanied the students over the three days, and especially Mrs Hessey, Mrs Varley, Mr Hooper and Mr Carr from the year 7 pastoral team supporting Mr Ewbank run a hugely successful three days!

Curriculum Overviews

To find out more about what your child is studying, please refer to our Curriculum Overviews, available on the IGS website. Subject leaders have summarised their curriculum content into a digestible ‘[Curriculum Overview](#)’. On the Curriculum Overviews, you will find the following:

- What is being taught;
- The sequence it is being taught in;
- The ‘powerful’ knowledge in the curriculum for that subject- this is the most important knowledge that students need to know to be successful in the subject (e.g. key concepts and skills);
- What is being assessed;
- How you can support their learning further at home.

In addition to the Curriculum Overviews, please note there are age-appropriate ‘wider reading lists’ available by Key Stage [here](#) on our website; these reading lists are aimed at providing students with novels and interesting age-appropriate books and materials to read for pleasure.

Post 16

You can find the [Curriculum Overviews for Post-16 students here](#) on the Sixth Form area of the IGS website. You will find all relevant Subject Information on the appropriate subject page [here](#).

CURRICULUM INTENT

A World-Class Curriculum and a Knowledge-Rich Environment for All

Aligned through Common Practice & Common Assessments

Informed by Cognitive Science

Inspired by thought provoking discussions

A balanced & challenging World Class Curriculum

Underpinned by powerful Knowledge

Driven by increasingly Complex Tasks

ECO ILEADERS

Sustainable Uniform Sale July 2025

Last July the Eco i-Leaders held their fourth annual sustainable uniform sale. The event is becoming increasingly popular year-on-year as word of the sale spreads. Whilst the main purpose of the event is to get as much pre-loved uniform and school items

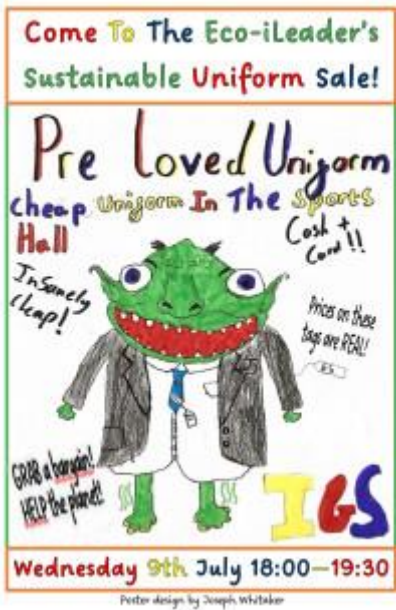


back into circulation as possible, it also has the added benefit of allowing families to buy essentials, and spares, at a much-reduced cost compared to that of buying new.

As usual the school blazers, were our best sellers at only £5.00 each. Closely followed by the sports hoodies which, with names



removed by one of our lovely science technicians, are even more of a bargain at also £5.00 each.



This year the Eco i-Leaders introduced a better labelling system, with the addition of colour coded hanger-markers so that shoppers could find sizes more easily and, with extra clothes hangers, more items were sorted onto rails and available within easy reach. All items were priced at no more than £5 each and we had so many white shirts donated that we were able to give away the first 5 to every student for free!

Altogether the sale raised an impressive total of £2,508!

That's placing well over 500 individual items back into use and creating a sustainable circular economy.

Thank you to everyone who has dropped off donations of uniform and books at reception. Please continue to donate throughout the year all your good quality, but no longer needed, school items from blazers and ties, to water bottles and ski salopettes! We will accept anything you have previously used for school at IGS but no longer need. All proceeds from the event will be spent on future Eco-iLeader environmental activities at IGS.

Need something before the next sale? No problem! This year we are pleased to announce the opening of our 'online shop' whereby you can purchase uniform throughout the school year. Simply email eco@igs.mlt.co.uk with your enquiry, including sizes, and the Eco i-Leaders will check to see if the items are available. Please note that this will be done on a weekly, not daily, basis. We will respond to your enquiry and place a payment item on ParentPay should we have your requested items in stock.



Mathematics Success at IGS!

The 2024-25 academic year was another one to celebrate for mathematics students at Ilkley Grammar School, with our year 11 and year 13 students achieving a fantastic set of results in their GCSEs and A Levels respectively. Outside of the main exam year groups, we have also been very impressed with the hard work and the dedication to both improving and succeeding that has been showcased by every single year group.

A big factor in our mathematics success has been Sparx Maths. We have been very proud of how well the vast majority of students have embraced this platform, not only as a homework system but as a key resource in independent learning and revision. At the end of last year, students at IGS had answered 1,294,930 questions correctly. This equates to 24,260 hours of personalised maths practice completed by IGS students, with 211,798 occasions where Sparx videos have been used to support improvement!

Best Tutor Group in Each Year (non-exam)

Tutor Group (24/25)	Average XP
7FEN	16,736
8AJC	17,416
9SP	16,671
10ERE	13,762

Year Group Rankings (non-exam)

Year Group (24/25)	Average XP
Year 8	15,227
Year 7	15,203
Year 9	14,660
Year 10	11,188

At an individual level, we can now announce our Sparx Maths 'Star Pupils' for 2024-25. These are the students in each year group who earned the most XP points in the last twelve months. A massive well done to Isla Freestone (Y7 - now 8FEN), James Rurup (Y8 - now 9IGD), Alice Gardner (Y9 - now 10SP), Elsa Baldwin (Y10 - now 11AHF) and Isabelle Atkinson (Y11 - now 12CEM)!

Finally, a massive thank you to every parent/carer for their support and encouragement of the students with their weekly 'compulsory' Sparx homework tasks. Across the last academic year, 53,676 emails were sent to parent/carers to provide regular updates on progress, and we want to take this opportunity to thank you all in advance for the continued support of Sparx Maths throughout the 2025-26 academic year.

Year 7 (24/25)	
Student	Total XP
Isla Freestone	40,605
Kyrylo Ilchenko	38,460
Freya Brown	32,121
Isla Moffatt	31,833
Keaton Bradshaw	28,866

Year 8 (24/25)	
Student	Total XP
James Rurup	37,078
Bill Docherty	35,127
Elsa Williams	24,520
Olivia Rix	23,365
Thomas Jebb	22,400

Year 9 (24/25)	
Student	Total XP
Alice Gardner	39,458
Tom Moffatt	38,315
Jasmine Bearpark	33,896
Bella Paraschiv	33,834
Lola Hall	33,714

Year 10 (24/25)	
Student	Total XP
Elsa Baldwin	37,443
Helena Parr	31,336
Arsalaan Shaukat	25,441
Abigail Baird	21,480
Shahzavb Shaukat	21,388

Year 11 (24/25)	
Student	Total XP
Isabelle Atkinson	93,569
Grace Darlington	47,545
Jessica Lee	38,069
William Campbell	37,163
Lily Singleton	36,246

Thank you so much for your Ilkley Food Bank Donations!

ilkley foodbank



By Isabel H and Isla H, 7LIR

Why did we help the food bank?

We helped the food bank because we wanted to give the families of Ilkley a fair share of all food and help them through tough times. We were delighted to have been asked to help with the food collecting and organising. It also links with our school values of kindness and responsibility.



7LIR working as a team to sort donations



7LIR with Mr Taylor from the SRP and a very long and full table of donations!

Some of the items that were collected:

Some of the items we collected were chocolate, sweets, tinned tomatoes and sweetcorn, microwave rice, flour, sugar, UHT milk, laundry detergent, shampoo and conditioner. The foodbank were running low on these items.

How much was donated?

We filled TWO cars! They were practically bursting with donations! They got delivered to the Armitage Café. We got a lot of donations and we are incredibly proud and grateful that we had the chance help.

How we helped to organise donations:

Donations were brought into school after Mr Revell sent an email with a list of suggestions. He helped us to organise it by putting boxes around the room and labelled each one with a type of food. This helps the foodbank stock shelves quicker. 7LIR helped by thanking donors then putting all the food into the labelled boxes and then carefully carrying all of them to the cars. Teamwork made it a speedy process!

Thank you to everyone that donated!

The foodbank were so overwhelmed by IGS’ support that we received a letter of thanks from Alex Gibson on behalf of the Trustees of Ilkley Foodbank:

May I thank you, your staff and your pupils (and their parents of course!) for your School’s generous donation to Ilkley Foodbank which we received yesterday. We are most grateful and it will help us reach out to individuals and families in Ilkley, Addingham, Burley in Wharfedale and Menston who are struggling to make ends meet at this time. We are also grateful that your staff took the time to sort the donations into categories making it so much easier to stack the donations in our store!

Whilst Ilkley is seen as being an affluent area, we currently have over 60 clients on our books of which 27 are families and include 40 children. Many of the parents are in employment but with rising rents, low-paid zero hours contracts, and with food prices and energy costs having risen by over 30% in the last three years, they are still struggling to put food on the table.

Ilkley Foodbank is staffed solely by unpaid volunteers. We do not receive either Council or Government support but instead we rely on the generosity of our supporters who contribute either financially, by standing order, or in kind by leaving donations in our baskets at Booths, Tesco and Ilkley Co-op. For this generous support we are very grateful.

Once again thank you all for choosing Ilkley Foodbank as the beneficiary of your harvest festival. I can assure you that everything that you donated will be put to good use amongst the most vulnerable in our community.



Flu vaccine consent

We have received the following information from NHS Bradford District Care:

The School Immunisation team will be in school soon to vaccinate children from Reception to Year 11 against flu. Your child will not receive the vaccine if you have not given your consent so, "Yes" or "No", the School Immunisation team needs you to please fill in the consent form which will be sent to you from school.



The flu vaccine is slightly different each year due to different strains of flu, so even if your child was vaccinated last year, they need the vaccine again this year and your consent is required.

Flu is not "just a bad cold", it is a nasty illness that can be very unpleasant for children and can also cause serious problems, such as pneumonia. Symptoms can come on quickly. They can include a sudden high temperature, an aching body, cough, sore throat, loss of appetite, pain in the ear, diarrhoea or tummy pain, feeling and being sick and difficulty sleeping. Children will also appear less active.

Each winter thousands of children who do not have a health condition need hospital care because of flu. Because children catch and spread flu easily, they can also pass it to people in your family or community who are at higher risk of getting seriously ill from flu, such as babies, anyone who's pregnant and older people.

Most children are offered the nasal spray flu vaccine. It contains a small amount of gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine). A flu vaccine injection is available that does not contain gelatine. If you do not want your child to have the nasal spray vaccine, please ask for the flu vaccine injection on the school consent form.

[Find out more about the children's flu vaccine and giving your consent](#) on Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust's Family Health Services website. Read what the [British Islamic Medical Association](#) and [British Fatwa Council](#) say about the flu vaccine.



All consent forms returned by Thursday 30 October will be entered into a draw to win one of 30 shopping vouchers worth £30 or two worth £100.

Throughout flu we offer clinics in various locations over the school holidays and some Saturdays. If we missed your child in school or you prefer a clinic appointment you can contact the team on **01274 221269** to book an appointment. Depending on the number outstanding in schools we will try and offer a catch-up session within school.

Sport Updates

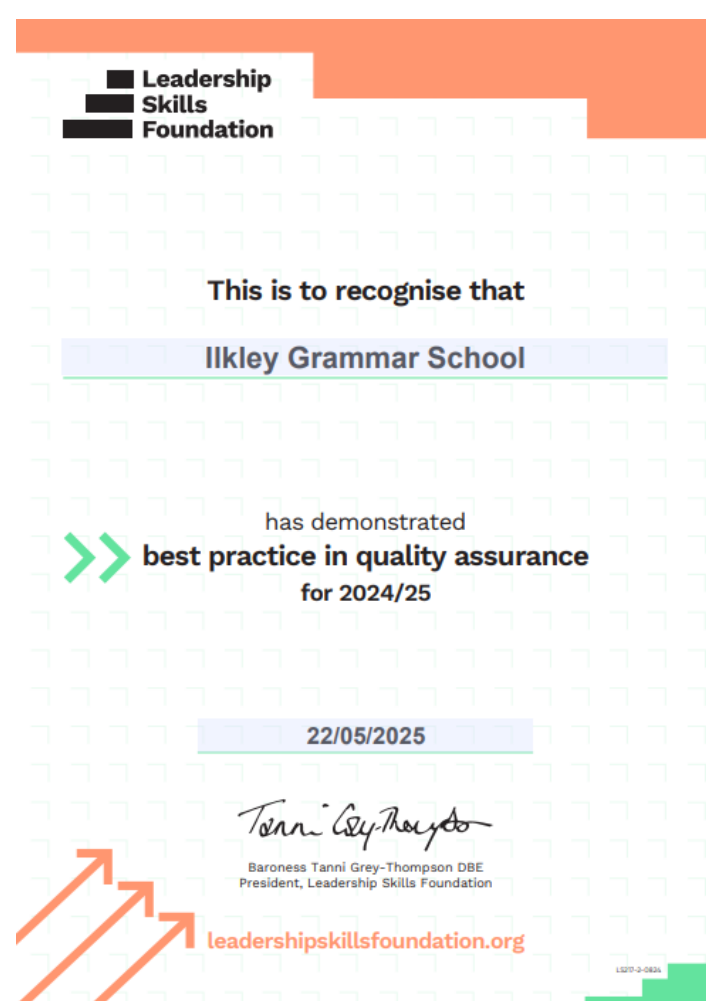
IGS PE Team awarded for QA Best Practice!

IGS PE are proud to report that we have received the **QA 'Best Practice' award** for our Level 3 Community Sports Leaders award from the Leadership Foundation for the second year running! This opportunity is open to sixth form students at IGS. The Leadership Skills Foundation award a select few schools in each region for the prestigious award, recognising **fair and accurate assessment** and the **diverse offering of leadership** and **extra-curricular opportunities** for leaders in IGS and in the community.

We are proud to have extremely strong relationships with the IGS Wharfe Valley Primary Sports League, Burley Oaks Primary School, Green Meadows Academy SRP, IGS SRP, Ben Rhydding Walking Football club, ITAFC, WGA and IRUFC.

IGS U13 Boys' Football Team Storm to Victory vs Bradford Forster Academy!

On the 16th September the U13 boys' football team started their English Schools cup run with an **11-2 win over Bradford Forster Academy**. A strong team performance with brilliant football being played meant goals were scored by **Ted Airey (5)**, **Max Brett (2)**, **Sam Chalmers (1)**, **Thomas Greenwood (1)**, **Ben Marsh (1)** and **Seb Ford (1)** making the final result 11-2. A great start to what will hopefully be a long and successful cup run!



IGS Netball teams blaze into 2025!

U13s Netball vs Silcoats School

The U13 girls played Silcoates School in the first round of the Sisters n Sport National shield. The girls played exceptionally well and convincingly won 18-6. The Under 13's will face either Wolfreton or South Hunsley School in the next round.



U19 Netball vs Woodhouse Grove

Well done to our U19 Netball team who beat Woodhouse Grove 34-29 on Wednesday 24th September in the first round of the Sisters n Sport National Shield competition. The whole team played brilliantly and worked the ball down court well. Opposition player of the match was given to **Isabelle Saunders (Y12)**. They will now play Cardinal Newman College in the second round on Wednesday 1st October at IGS.

IGS alumnus to represent at World Triathlon Championship Finals!

On the 18th September British Triathlon announced the line-up for the **World Triathlon Championship Finals** taking place in Wollongong, Australia from 15 to 19 October. We are proud to report that recent IGS alumni **Helena Coy (IGS 2018-25)** has just been selected as a member of the British junior team.

The event marks not just a world-stage showdown, but the first step on the road to the LA 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Junior team was confirmed after the qualification race at Mallory Park last weekend. Helena was selected for the women alongside Lauren Mitchell and Patience Lamb.

Mike Cavendish, Performance Director for British Triathlon, said: “I’m incredibly proud to be leading such a talented British team to the World Championships in Wollongong. These Championships are a vital platform for our youngest athletes – from juniors to Under 23s – to test themselves and gain invaluable experience on the world stage. I’m excited for the final preparations to begin and can’t wait to see our athletes be competitive right across the team.”

Good luck Helena! IGS is very proud of you!



★★★★★ 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

Billy Elliot cast list released!

A huge thank you and well done to every student who auditioned for our next school show – Billy Elliot. We saw so much incredible talent. Congratulations to everyone who has made the cast list!

Billy Elliot Company				
Billy Elliot	Megan Hibbett	Mrs Wilkinson	Evelyn Kennedy Millie Shepherd	
Jackie Elliot	Jeff Cook	Michael	Jessica Dawson	
Tony Elliot	Toby Lucas	Debbie	Flo Goldstein	
Grandma	Anya Smith	Mr Braithwaite	Ash MacIntosh Dixon	
George	Alex Luscombe	Mother	Isabelle Atkinson Olivia Rix	
Older Billy in Swan Lake	TBC	Posh Boy and Father	Francis McCann and Harris Barker	
Ensemble				
Ballerina's/Miner's children				
Katie Still	Bea McClean	Iris Doherty	Anna Griffin	Isla Moffatt
Pippa Singleton	Sophie Leijssen	Violet Povey	Olive McCallion	Ruby Nash
Isabella Hall	Darcy Brabiner	Sienna Lowry	Rosie James	Jess Jowett
Tess Wilson	Isabella Frobisher	Cloe Visentini	Isabelle Keith	Charlotte Wilson
Thea Witham	Grace Darlington	Clara Smeaton	Erin Jones	Emily Ginger
Isla Barker	Sophie Bell	Lily Singleton	Ella Morris	Ivy Kendall
Amy Swithenbank	Ida Caseley	Meghan Pickering	Alice Murphy	Holly Gair
Iona Burgess	Jessica Murphy	Isabelle Wells	Chloe Sowden	Ella Hiley
Ella Snow				
Miners/Police				
Alex Luscombe	Anya Smith	Gabriel McLaughlin	Harris Barker	James Kennedy
Thomas Longfield Nokes	Francis McCann	Ash McIntosh Dixon	Lizzie Whittington	Chloe Sturman
Leah Fleming				
Year 7 Chorus:				
Seb Chambers	Ella Roberts	Saffron Somers	Georgie Greveson	
Harriet Joyner	Matilda Nelms	Claudia Ballester	Matilda Hitchcock	
Kitty Hewitt	Sophie Shuttleworth	Abi Sullivan	Connie Parker	
Isla Hurst	Esme Hurst	Eva Snell	Stanley Freston-Davy	
Sienna Harris Dickinson	Lucia Pearson	Matilda Wagstaff	George Lycett	
Issy Helm	Ella Kirkpatrick	Dasha Gorbatykh	Georgina Foster	
Sophia Krempie	Cara Cousins	Charlotte Swinney	Elsa Coulson	
Elsie Wood	Isla Bramley	Chloe Bentham	Edie Brown	
Anna Di Mambro	Bea Eaton	Poppy Simpson	Savannah Wood	
Lily Bui	Emily Ward	Isla Georghiou	Hannah Armitage	
Ellie Waddington				
Band				
Flute	Sophia Whitton	Trumpet 1	Alex Hickabottom	
Clarinet	Bethany Harrison	Cornet 2	Will Greenall	
Clarinet	Cora Levy	Cornet 3	Milena Morgan	
Clarinet 2/Bass Clarinet	Arthur Roberts	Trombone 1	Prue Griffiths	
Clarinet 3	Alice Gardner	Electric Guitar	John James Aynsley	
Tenor Saxophone	Thomas Mays	Keyboard 1	Rachel Dow	
Drums and Percussion	Sidney Clay	Keyboard 2	Stephen Orbeladze	
Drums and Percussion	Ben Ward	Keyboard 2	Isabel Fellows	

Rehearsals are underway and we are already getting excited about the performances next February.





Events and Personal Development sponsorship opportunity!



We are looking for sponsors for our outstanding events and personal development programme at IGS.

We aim to provide our students with first class opportunities to develop skills outside of the classroom and surprise themselves with their own capabilities. Our events recognise and celebrate the progress and achievements of our students, and offer excellent opportunities for business exposure and advertising. As the only secondary school in Ilkley and the surrounding locality, we are very keen to work closely with the business community and other local groups and individuals in a mutually beneficial partnership. 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.

Please get in touch if you would like to know more!



Alumni – news from the other side!

In this section we share news from IGS alumni and what they have been up to since leaving IGS!



This week's news from the other side comes from **Red Tie Edward Riley** (class of 2021). Edward is in his fifth and final year of an Integrated Masters in Physics at the University of Edinburgh. In his fourth year, he lived in Vancouver and worked at TRIUMF, Canada's national particle accelerator lab, contributing to the 'Radioactive Molecules' group. His research supported potential future experiments in CP-violation. He received funding from the Royal Scottish Society of Arts Bicentenary Scholarship. In addition to his academic work, he enjoyed skiing, climbing, and other mountain activities in Vancouver. He also served as President of the Edinburgh University Cycling Club in his third year (2023/24).



Need help with finding support for additional needs?
Visit [the SEND Local Offer website](#), [sign up](#) to receive a monthly SEND Newsletter and follow on [Facebook @LocalOfferBd](#)





ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL
A HODDLE VALLEY LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY

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>



PRIDE

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