



MILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY

Challenge & Celebration Week 2026

Parent, Carer Bulletin 17th July 2026



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

Parent, Carer Bulletin 17th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic Challenge and Celebration Week it has been. Throughout the week, our students have embraced opportunities with enthusiasm, courage and determination, taking part in a rich programme of activities designed to broaden horizons, develop new skills and create lasting memories. These experiences are a vital part of our ambitious curriculum and personal development offer, bringing to life our key strand of Discovery and Adventure. Across every year group, students have shown the values that make Ilkley Grammar School such a special community.

Year 7 have been immersed in *The Big Mix*, tackling team-building challenges, exploring the Moors and adventures at Flamingo Land and camping overnight. Year 8 students on *The Big Trip* have enjoyed an unforgettable residential to London, enjoying a West End Show; while others taking part in the Year 8 carousel have braved the high ropes of Go Ape, explored the natural wonders of White Scar Caves and Ingleton Waterfalls and discovered history and culture in York. For these year groups, experiences have encouraged independence, curiosity and a deeper understanding of the world around them, either locally or further afield.

Our year 9 students have demonstrated outstanding resilience through *The Big Outdoors* residential in the Lakes, participating in outdoor adventure, team-building and communication activities. Other students across the year group have developed strategic thinking and confidence through activities such as Mega Laser and Mission Out among many more.

Across Key Stage 3 as a whole, students have enjoyed a varied carousel programme including outdoor learning at Nell Bank, creativity skills in art, photography and DT and a memorable Walk the Wharfe- a regular favourite each year!

We are immensely proud of our year 10 and 12 students gaining valuable insight into the world of work, developing skills such as professionalism, responsibility and wider knowledge of career pathways and the qualities these careers require.

Year 12 have exemplified the true spirit of discovery and adventure in their international visits ranging from Switzerland, to Poland, Germany, Italy and France. Whether engaging with science in Geneva, exploring the history of Krakow and Rome, or the culture in Berlin and Paris, students have certainly broadened their horizons, been immersed in culture and new experiences, which is what C&C Week is all about!

I have been incredibly proud to see students grasp opportunities, step outside their comfort zones and make the most of every experience on offer. They have shown resilience when things have been challenging, kindness in supporting one another, respect for different people and places, responsibility in representing the school so positively, courage in trying new things and pride in their achievements. Challenge and Celebration Week reminds us that some of the most powerful learning takes place beyond the classroom, and I know the memories, friendships and skills developed this week will stay with our students for many years to come.

Best wishes,
Carly Purnell
Headteacher



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One week. Hundreds of opportunities. Thousands of memories.



5 European destinations



330+ work experience placements



51 coach journeys



25+ enrichment pathways



25 nights away across 9 residentials



1800 students



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Year 7: The Big Mix



Year 7 Walk the Moors



Year 7 Camping on the School Field



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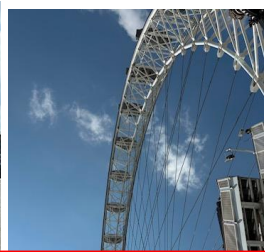
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Year 8: The Big Trip to London



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Year 8: The Big Trip to London



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Year 8: The Big Trip to London



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Year 8: Carousel

York

Go Ape

Whitescar Caves & Ingleton Falls



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Year 9: The Big Outdoors - Lakeside



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Year 9: Carousel



North Yorkshire Water Park

Mission Out



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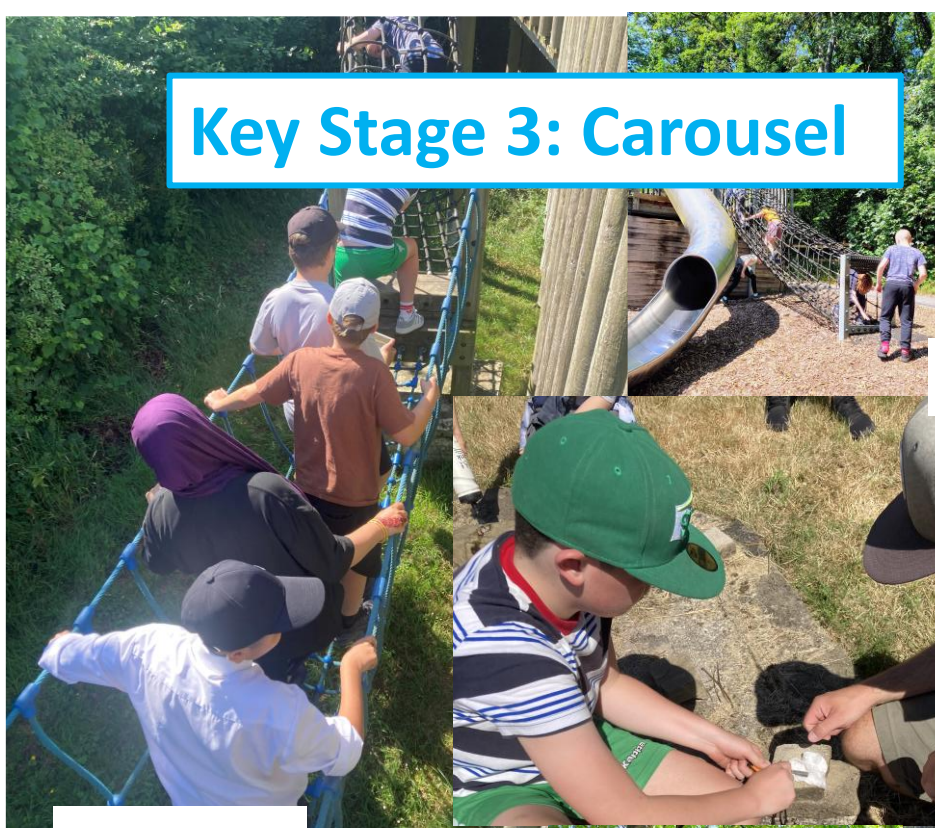


KINDNESS

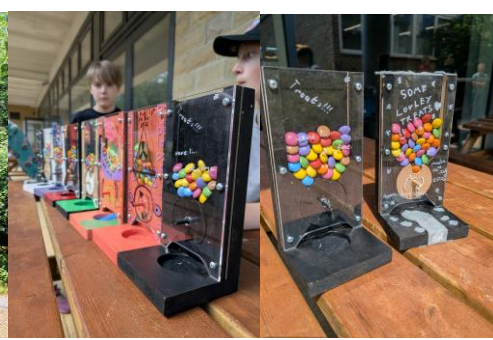


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Key Stage 3: Carousel



Nell Bank



D&T Sweet Dispensers



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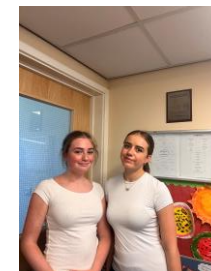
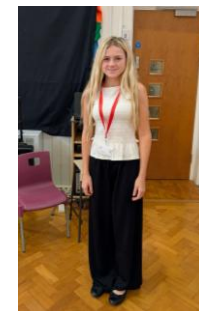


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Year 10: The World of Work



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Year 12: Geneva



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Year 12: Krakow



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Year 12: Berlin



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Year 12: Berlin



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Year 12: Rome



Year 12: Rome



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Year 12: Paris



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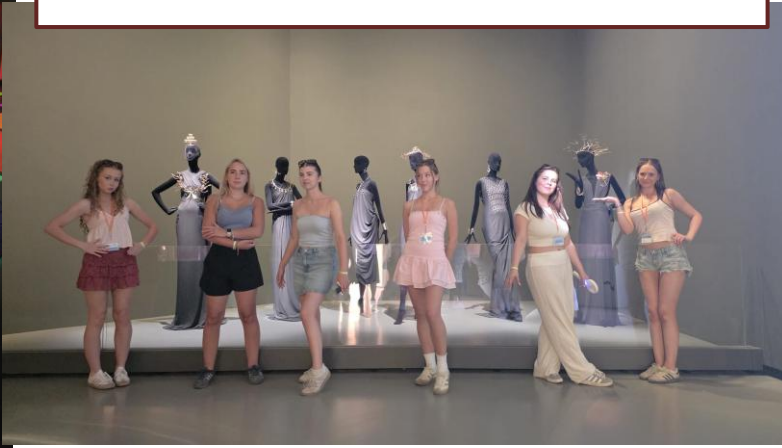
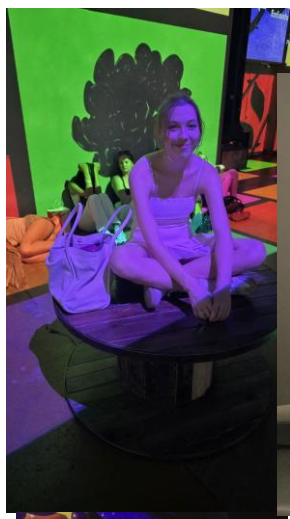


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Year 12: Paris



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Wishing you a wonderful
summer; see you in
September!



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