



ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY

Dear Parent/Carer,

Extra-curricular opportunities and enrichment visits are an important and memorable part of education. They enhance learning, enable students to grow in self-confidence and independence and allow them the chance to show leadership and teamwork skills. At Ilkley Grammar School we aim to provide our students with a variety of experiences throughout their time with us.

In light of this, we are delighted to launch the school's annual **Challenge and Celebration Week** which will take place between **Monday 12th and Thursday 15th July 2027**. All students will be off timetable during this week following a programme of either school based or off-site activities bespoke to their year group, returning to school for the morning of Friday 16th July for celebration assemblies. Activities build on each other from year to year, allowing students to experience a range of opportunities throughout their school life. It is hoped that tutors will accompany their forms, if possible, during the week, enabling them to further deepen the bond they have with their tutees.

Students in Year 8 will have a choice of one of four options:

Option 1: The Big Trip to London

This four-day, trip takes in some of the capital's most famous landmarks and attractions. Students will be accommodated at Thameside Youth Hostel on the banks of the River Thames and will visit a range of locations on a carousel basis potentially including, **the Tower of London, the London Dungeon, the London Eye, the Globe Theatre, London Zoo and experience a river boat cruise along the Thames. In the evening students will have the opportunity to attend a major West End theatre production and go ten-pin bowling.**

The trip provisionally departs 7:30am on the Monday and returns around 7:30pm on the Thursday.

Option 2: Year 8 Carousel of Day Trips

Students will participate in a carousel of 4 day-based activities which typically include Ingleton Waterfalls & White Scar Caves, a visit to Blackpool Pleasure Beach, a day in York (itinerary to be confirmed) and a day at 'Go Ape' Temple Newsham.

Option 3: (KS3 Local Carousel)

Students will participate in a carousel of 4 day-based local activities.

Day 1: A Day of activity-based challenges at **Nell Bank** in the Wharfe Valley

Day 2: The Practical Challenge – get hands on with practical tasks in the Design and Technology department at IGS

Day 3: Be creative in the project-day run by the **Photography** Department

Day 4: Walk the Wharfe – enjoy some of the finest scenery in the country walking the Dales Way footpath with an ice cream/lolly at the end!

All days depart and return within the normal school hours each day.

NEW - Option 4: Theatre Week

Students choosing this option will work as a team to devise, rehearse and perform a theatre production under the guidance of the drama team. No previous experience is required, and students will take on a range of roles including set design, backstage support (including sound and lighting) as well as those who prefer acting and potentially singing and dancing. On the last day the show will be performed to parents/carers. The venue will



Moorlands
Learning Trust

Ilkley Grammar School

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Headteacher: Ms Gemma Cloughton

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be the new school theatre in the Tolson Building which will open in Easter 2027. Please note that this activity will run subject to sufficient numbers opting for Theatre Week.

Costings:

The total costs will be dependent on numbers which is inclusive of all transport, activities and insurance. The anticipated costs are:

Option 1 (The Big Trip to London): £555 (Students in receipt of Pupil Premium are eligible for a 50% discount)

Option 2 (Year 8 Carousel of Day Trips): £190 (Students in receipt of Pupil Premium are eligible for a 50% discount)

Option 3 (KS3 Local Carousel): £55 (free for students in receipt of Pupil Premium)

Option 4 (Theatre Week): £55 (free for students in receipt of Pupil Premium)

Payment details:

As a school we are very aware of the additional cost of school trips. As a result, we devise a payment system that we hope will spread the cost over a period of time in line with the payment deadlines the school itself has to meet with the organisations and companies that will be involved in the week. It is vital that parents do meet the payment deadlines outlined below as failure to do so may well result in both the loss of non-refundable deposits and the place a student may have on a trip. Having said this, if you do have any issues with the payment dates, please speak to Mrs Heyworth in the Finance Department joy.heyworth@igs.mlt.co.uk

In addition to the use of Pupil Premium to subsidise the cost of these opportunities for some, the school is delighted to announce that the Ilkley Grammar School PTA is kindly continuing the school travel bursary to further widen student participation and access. **Please log onto the school website should you wish to find out more about this form of financial support.** Please note the closing date for the first round of applications for the PTA Bursary is **1st November 2026**.

[Ilkley Grammar School - PTA Enrichment Bursary](#)

Finally, as Challenge & Celebration Week involves taking students into the wider community where they may be involved in activities that carry some risk as well as interacting with members of the public, trip leaders must be confident that known risks associated with the behaviour of an individual can be reasonably and safely managed. Please therefore be aware that in cases where there are significant concerns around the behaviour and decision-making of an individual a risk assessment will be made and any necessary mitigations put in place. Parents/carers and the student may be required to agree and sign this risk assessment before further payments will be accepted and before the student will be allowed to participate. Please note that, with regret, the school may not be able to fully refund all payments made for students assessed as posing significant risk to self or others prior to, or during C&C Week or who have to be withdrawn from activities for reasons other than those supported by a doctor's note.

	Non-refundable Deposit 9/10/2026	Second non- refundable Deposit 30/11/2026	Third Payment 30/01/2027	Final Payment 26/02/2027
Year 8 Option 1: The Big Trip to London	£150 (PPI £75)	£135 (PPI £67.50)	£135 (PPI £67.50)	£135 (PPI £67.50)
Year 8 Option 2: Carousel of Day Trips	£50 (PPI £25)	£50 (PPI £25)	£40 (PPI £20)	£50 (PPI £25)
Year 8 Option 3: KS3 Local Carousel	£55 (PPI free)			
Year 8 Option 4: Theatre Week	£55 (PPI free)			

Please note the cost of the trip at this time is an approximate figure and may vary, if this is the case we will notify you as soon as possible. The final instalment will be adjusted when the final figure is confirmed.

Trips and visits are fully covered by our school insurance which covers losses due to accident or illness provided any claim is supported by the appropriate paperwork. Please be advised it can take a number of months before any claim can be settled and a refund issued; we ask you for your patience in this matter.

Important Next Steps:

I would be most grateful if parents/carers of students could complete the [\(Yr8 Form\)](#) no later than **9am on Friday 26th September**; please only complete the form once. In addition to this, it is also vital that a non-refundable deposit is uploaded to ParentPay no later than **Friday 9th October 2026** the service for this will be available by **4pm Friday 2nd October**. It is with regret that failure to do this may result in your child not being able to gain a place on your preferred option.

If you have any other questions about the week, please email admin@igs.mlt.co.uk ensuring that you put your child's name, year group and the nature of your query (e.g. financial) clearly in the email. Further information will follow once your child's place has been allocated on the trip.

I hope your child will look forward to participating in these exciting opportunities.

Yours sincerely,
Mr J. A. Gutch

Deputy Headteacher: Post-16 & Personal Development
Educational Visits Co-ordinator

Insurance

The trip is fully covered by the school travel insurance policy, and any claims would need to be supported by medical evidence. Any claim may be subject to an excess.

By completing the online survey above for your child, you agree to the following:

- ✓ I give consent for my child to participate in the school C&C Week activities 12th – 15th July 2027, returning to school for Friday 16th July
- ✓ I understand that if there are any significant behaviour concerns, participation will be dependent on an ongoing assessment of risk. Parents/carers and students will be kept aware at each stage, and during the trip, if the school has any concerns in this regard. While every effort will be made to minimise any financial implications, parents/carers and students should be aware that it is the safety risk assessment that will dictate decision-making and that, with regret, the school may not be able to fully refund any/all payments made for students that have been barred or have withdrawn from activities for reasons other than those supported by a doctor's note.
- ✓ I understand I am making a **commitment** to the trip and that if successful I will follow the payment schedule as listed, with the deposit being non-refundable and other payments refundable if covered by the trip's travel insurance.

Liability for Trip Costs on Booking:

An initial, non-refundable, deposit is required for the trip, and the remaining balance is to be paid by instalments. Failure to make payments on time may mean we cannot guarantee your child's place on the trip.

In the event that your child has to withdraw from the trip on medical grounds a full refund may be possible providing the claim is supported by a doctor's note and is accepted by our insurers. All insurance claims must be processed via school.

If your child withdraws from the trip for non-medical reasons and a replacement cannot be found, any refund will be limited depending on the costs already incurred by school in booking your child's place on the trip. Please note these costs will include any late cancellation charges that the tour operators may make. As the departure date approaches and the final balances have been settled by school