ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY

POST-16



WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in Ilkley Grammar School's outstanding post-16 provision, where we pride ourselves on the quality of education and care that we provide to our students. Whether you are currently studying at IGS or are a student looking to join us for the first time at Post-16, we hope that this prospectus gives you a clear insight into all we have to offer and that you will choose to make IGS your next step after your GCSEs.

We appreciate that this is an exciting and important stage in your education and the decisions, plans and choices you make will help shape the bright future ahead of you. Therefore, our personalised application and enrolment process is carefully designed to help you select the right combination of subjects to ensure maximum success and to support successful progression onto your chosen destination beyond Post-16. We offer a wide variety of courses and the range of qualifications, alongside the excellent quality of teaching and support that our students experience at this level, means IGS students consistently go on to achieve above national average results in line with the top 25% of providers in the country.

In addition to our exceptionally strong academic provision, we also have an incredible range of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities that enable our students to further develop a range of wider personal skills and to have enjoyable, life-enhancing experiences, whilst also acting as role models and leaders to the rest of our school community.

Day to day, as a post-16 student at IGS you will have increased levels of responsibility and independence, and our highly-skilled and experienced academic and support staff will ensure that your time with us is both enjoyable and successful. We very much hope that you choose Ilkley Grammar School for your post-16 studies and look forward to welcoming you to year 12 next September.



Carly Purnell
Executive Headteacher



Gemma Claughton
Headteacher



Jamie Gutch
Deputy Headteacher: Post 16 and Personal Development



Alex Fox
Assistant Headteacher: Post-16



WHY ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL?

Being a post-16 student at Ilkley Grammar School will not only be an exciting, academically challenging, and rewarding period in your life, it will also be a gateway to exciting opportunities for you after graduation.

Here are just 5 of the many reasons why students choose IGS:



1 EXPANSIVE CURRICULUM

With over 42 subject options to choose from, with countless combinations, you can specialise in one pathway or pick subjects from a broad range of curriculums.





2 UNRIVALLED TEACHING AND SUPPORT

As a student at Ilkley Grammar School, you will be supported throughout your post-16 journey, including academic support, pastoral care, and dedicated guidance when applying to next steps - whether that is university, degree apprenticeship, conservatoire or other routes.





3 UNBEATABLE ENRICHMENT

There are over 100 enrichment and leadership opportunities to enhance your skills, explore new interests, and expand your friendship groups, ultimately ensuring you are ready to pursue your next steps as a confident and well-rounded young adult.





4 EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS

We consistently rank in the top 25% of schools in the country for progress and in the top10% in the UK for attainment, so you know that your education will set you up for success.





5 EXCITING DESTINATIONS

Our students go on to exceptional and diverse pathways. From Oxbridge to training contracts at top professional firms and future Norland nannies, our students make waves! Whatever your goal, we will support you to achieve your potential.



'The sixth-form provision is a shining light within the school.'

Ofsted 2024/25

PERSONAL BEST

Our vision at Ilkley Grammar School is to provide a world-class, inclusive education and exceptional opportunities which will enrich us both individually and collectively as a community. We will inspire, support and challenge each other to achieve our Personal Best so that we all grow in wisdom and stature. By modelling our Personal Best values and championing equality and diversity, we will make a positive difference to our own lives and the lives of others and will be empowered to lead and influence positive change on a local, regional, national and global scale.

As well as academic success in the form of qualifications, we also want IGS students to leave Post-16 as successful global citizens with the leadership skills, confidence and personal qualities to make a valuable contribution to society. Our commitment to Personal Best drives the work that we do, emphasising the importance of the individual and setting the highest expectations with regards to personal and intellectual growth so students achieve their full potential.

Underpinning Personal Best and our whole school vision are our six values which we aim to develop in all students through both the curriculum and exposure to a vast range of opportunities: pride, respect, courage, responsibility, kindness, and resilience. These values permeate everything we do, build character, support students to achieve their Personal Best and empower them to make a positive difference through the lives they lead.







PRIDE RESPECT COURAGE RESPONSIBILITY KINDNESS RESILIENCE



'IGS has high ambitions and expectations of everyone: students and staff. For some, Personal Best is straight A* grades and a successful application to Oxbridge, but for other individuals excellence may look different and involve a range of destinations. At the heart of Personal Best is the individual and this is why it drives us to succeed.'

Year 13 student

'Both my daughters have many wonderful memories of their time at Ilkley Grammar School, and that is all down to the amazing staff team. They both talk about the school with warmth and affection, and I know they have made connections that will last a lifetime.'

Parent of former post-16 students

EXCEPTIONAL TEACHING

We are proud to have a team of talented and well-qualified teachers whose infectious enthusiasm for their subject fosters a culture of achievement and aspiration. As specialists in their field, they impart their expertise skilfully, harnessing modern technologies to deepen understanding and to inspire a lifelong love of learning which goes beyond the scope of the syllabus.

Students not only recognise the high quality of teaching on offer, but also the commitment of staff to go the extra mile to help them realise their full potential. As a result, student and teacher partnerships are built on trust and shared goals, underpinned by high expectations and mutual respect, and this creates an exceptionally positive learning environment.

Whilst post-16 students will develop deep and durable subject knowledge in their chosen areas of study, they will also be challenged and supported to think deeply, analyse and evaluate independently, engage in reasoned debate, take intellectual risks, challenge assumptions and find creative solutions to problems. IGS prepares students to achieve the very highest academic standards of which they are capable – their Personal Best.





Whatever the outcome on Results Day, we know he has been afforded the best possible opportunity to succeed at IGS. He has walked into each exam confident; he has walked out of each exam happy. Across the board, he has been thoroughly prepared by his dedicated teachers. As parents, we couldn't have asked for anything more.'

Parents of a former post-16 student

'Staff are passionate about their subjects... there is expert knowledge with teachers skilfully facilitating the learning.'

'Pupils ask thoughtful questions and work together with complete focus.'

'Pupils enjoy their lessons and behave in a way that enables deep, meaningful classroom learning.'

'The school is fully inclusive – every student matters.'

Ofsted 2024/25

WORLD CLASS CURRICULUM

With 40 courses available and countless combinations, Ilkley Grammar School offers one of the widest ranges of high-quality Level 3 provision in the region. Our post-16 curriculum includes 27 A Levels alongside 13 additional academic or vocational Level 3 qualifications, all carrying equivalent academic weighting to traditional A Levels. These subjects can be combined in a variety of ways to create highly personalised pathways tailored to students' academic strengths, learning preferences, interests and career aspirations. In line with our high expectations, all students study at least three core A Level or equivalent qualifications over two years, together with a fourth academic or enrichment element in year 12. With so many possible pathways, we provide ongoing guidance to help students make informed choices and maximise their opportunities for success in higher education, apprenticeships and future careers.

<table>
<tr><th>A Level/Level 3 BTEC/Level 3 Cambridge Technical Qualifications</th><th>Plus, an additional 4th element from the section below:</th></tr>
<tr><td>Choice 1</td><td rowspan="3">Additional AS Level
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
Core Maths
Level 3 Sports Leadership Qualification
Online University Short Courses (MOOCs)
Extended Work Experience
Ilkley Golf College</td></tr>
<tr><td>Choice 2</td></tr>
<tr><td>Choice 3</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">NB: The opportunity to study a 4th A Level/Level 3 qualification is available for students with a very high average GCSE points score (7.5 or higher)</td></tr>
</table>

Our curriculum encourages intellectual growth alongside personal development, and is built on very strong academic foundations which promote the highest standards and aspirations and offer rigour, depth and breadth.





'The curriculum is a real strength of the school... It combines academic excellence with a strong focus on pupils becoming effective and well-rounded individuals.'

Ofsted

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND OUTSTANDING PROGRESS

Our post-16 provision was graded Outstanding in all areas in Ofsted inspections in both 2017 and 2024 and, in the most recent inspection, was highlighted by Ofsted as 'A shining light within the school.' Building on these outstanding judgements, our broad curriculum, exceptional academic outcomes, and ambitious student destinations continue to drive significant year-on-year growth. Last year, students from 36 different schools across the region - including many private and selective schools – joined our Post-16, helping further expand our diverse, ambitious and driven school community.

All students at Ilkley Grammar School are encouraged and challenged to fulfil their potential and achieve the best grades of which they are capable. The grades our students achieve are consistently significantly higher than national figures. In 2026, 34.1% of all grades were A/A*, 62.2% were A*-B and over 84.2% were grades A*-C, with a pass rate of 99%. This makes us one of the strongest A Level centres for academic standards in the region across both the public and private sector.

Our commitment to achievement for all can also be seen in our positive Level 3 value added score of 0.2 in both 2024 and 2025, placing us in the top 12% of providers in the country on validated results. While the 2026 Level 3 value added score has not yet been published, our 2026 ALPS score again places us in the highest 25% of all schools for progress.

These outcomes create exceptional opportunities for our students, who progress to varied and exciting destinations. These include Oxbridge - 8 students in 2026 and over 50 students in total since 2021. Indeed, our Oxbridge success was featured in The Times (June 2025) in an article titled 'How to get into Oxbridge by the state schools that do it best', with IGS the top comprehensive school in the country for the percentage of applicants to successful offers. In 2026, over 74% of students progressed to university, almost three quarters of whom secured places at Russell Group institutions, including on competitive courses such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, law, and engineering. In addition, our students also secure higher-level apprenticeships at some of the country's most reputable companies including, for example, PwC, Deloitte, Rolls Royce, Ernst & Young, Alvarez and Marsal, Forvis Mazars, Channel 4 and HMRC.





"I am proud to be in Post-16 at IGS. It is an outstanding school where students thrive as well as achieve excellent results."

Year 13 student

A SUPPORTIVE, SAFE AND CARING ENVIRONMENT

Underpinning the academic excellence and culture of high expectations which pervade the school is a strong and personalised pastoral system. At Post-16 we provide highly effective pastoral support, advice and guidance, as well as a commitment to maximising the potential of all students not only as learners, but also as citizens, leaders and team players. Whilst we are a large community, we know all the young people in our care and we are careful to support, as well as offer challenge and build resilience. We encourage independence, leadership and responsibility, and treat students with respect, care and consideration for their wellbeing through a range of carefully designed support networks.

All students in Post-16 are assigned a personal tutor who supports and monitors their academic and personal development. We take great pride in the quality of the tutor-student relationships we foster through academic mentoring, pastoral support as well as through delivery of our bespoke Personal Best programme which focuses on the development of the whole person. Great care is taken to support students joining IGS for the first time and the programme is informed by feedback from students who have gone through the process.

We recognise that the two years of education at Post-16 are a critical time both academically and emotionally, as students plan their next steps and make decisions about their future. For some this pathway is relatively smooth, but others require more specialist support and intervention from our trained Pastoral Leaders and/or our dedicated Student Achievement Managers. This support can take many forms and includes access to a full-time in-house counselling service as well as external agencies. We have prioritised Mental Health First Aid training for staff and the Student Leadership Team so that there is high quality tiered support for all students. This network ensures that the support, care and guidance of our students are given the attention they rightfully deserve.





'After moving to Ilkley Grammar School in year 12, I was immediately made to feel welcome and comfortable by both students and staff. Within days I had formed connections with my peers and teachers, and my new classmates made an active effort to include me and other new students both in and outside of lessons. The warm, friendly atmosphere, motivating teachers and highly positive learning environment reassured me that moving to IGS was definitely the right choice.'

Former post 16 student

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENRICHMENT

Being an IGS student is about more than academics, it is about becoming young adults who are active citizens, supportive peers and ambitious leaders. Our Personal Development "web of experiences" is split into unique strands which, when combined with values, enables students to "grow in wisdom and stature".

'From the core offer to extra-curricular opportunities the "web of experiences" couldn't have been better thought out.'
Ofsted 2024/25.

Our Personal Development strands are reflected in the diagram below and include:







ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP & COMMUNITY: Each year our post-16 students support charities through a wide range of initiatives, in partnership with organisations such as Ilkley Food Bank and Ilkley Good Neighbours. Alongside volunteering, students raise around £15,000 for local, regional, national and international charities.

'Personal Development is intrinsically linked to the community's needs and the school values.'
Ofsted 2024/25

SCHOLARSHIP AND CURIOSITY: From interviewing renowned authors as part of the Ilkley Literature Festival, to hosting lively Question Time debates with local MPs Robbie Moore and Naz Shah, our super-curricular opportunities, alongside the EPQ and wider reading lists, help to inspire intellectual growth and ignite a passion for scholarship and curiosity.

'The school draws on various expertise, for example welcoming guest speakers who engage and support pupils to make well-informed decisions about topical issues.'
Ofsted 2024/25

SPORT, INTERESTS & CULTURE: We have a broad range of extra-curricular activities, catering for all talents and interests. Many of our clubs are student-led and provide sporting, creative, musical and STEM opportunities, both competitive and social. Clubs include football, netball, rugby, Model United Nations, coding, maths problem-solving, young farmers, crochet, creative writing, chess and many more....

'The wealth of the Personal Development offer is astounding.'
Ofsted 2024/25

LEADERSHIP AND INFLUENCE

The IGS iLeader programme draws together all leadership opportunities available in school. In 2026, there have been over 300 applications by year 12 students for over 50 different iLeader roles including Subject Ambassadors, Sports iLeaders (accredited role), LGBTQ+ iLeaders, Paired Reading iLeaders, Eco-iLeaders, Wellbeing iLeaders (including the Mental Health First Aid qualification) and Community iLeaders.









In addition, year 12 students can put themselves forward to become a member of the Post- 16 Student Leadership Team (SLT), which offers the opportunity to influence decision making across the school. Once appointed, our Post-16 Student Leadership Team receives 'Leadership in Action' training in the summer term.

'The school's 6th form students help set the positive tone for the whole school. They interact with younger pupils daily through leadership roles and at social times.'

Ofsted 2024/25

DISCOVERY AND ADVENTURE

Extra-curricular trips and visits enhance learning beyond the classroom and are a very important part of the post-16 experience, creating lasting memories and forging strong friendships. As well as experiences within the UK, including supporting lower school residentials as post-16 iLeaders, we offer students a range of opportunities to explore the world around them.

Alongside exchanges to Coutances and Madrid and a geography trip to Iceland, there are a range of trips offered during the annual Challenge and Celebration week in July. These include long-established trips to Switzerland where students visit the world-famous Hadron Collider in Cern, to Krakow in Poland which involves a visit to Auschwitz concentration camp and Schindler's factory, as well as cultural visits to Barcelona and Rome. In July 2026, over 230 year 12 students enjoyed these cultural and enrichment opportunities in cities across Europe.

In addition, we work in partnership with World Challenge to provide once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. In 2026, students supported conservation work and community initiatives in Malaysia, and, in 2027, they will complete a two-week expedition featuring mountain trekking, community living and safari experiences in Eswatini. These opportunities, financed by student fundraising, provide powerful life changing experiences.









'The school offers extensive trips both locally and internationally. These opportunities help pupils understand and be prepared for the real world.'

Ofsted 2024/25

NEXT STEPS & CAREERS

As the founding school of Moorlands Learning Trust, Ilkley Grammar School is very proud of its record of supporting students to achieve success in an ever-changing and increasingly competitive environment, and prospective students can be confident of the quality of the guidance they will receive.

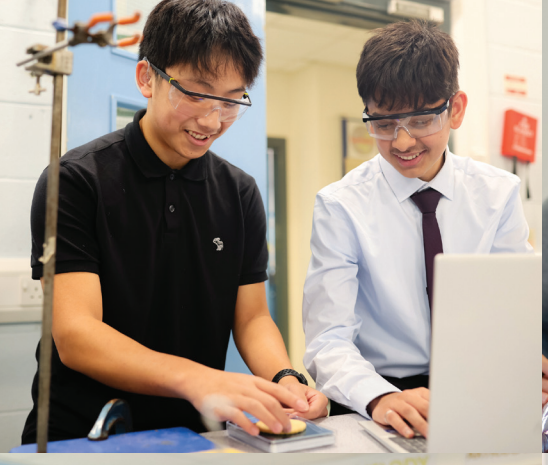
Many students leave with grades which support progression to the UK's top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, and access to highly competitive courses such as medicine, law, dentistry, engineering and veterinary science, as well as apprenticeship programmes with strong links to industry. In June 2025, Ilkley Grammar School was named in The Times as the 13th best school in the UK for application success rate for Oxbridge, the highest comprehensive school in the country. Following this, in both 2025 and 2026 8 students secured places, with over 50 Oxbridge places since 2021. While it is right not to be fixated by just two university destinations, with many students now actively choosing apprenticeships, work, or competitive courses at other universities, this is an important achievement for a non-selective state school which is committed to inclusivity as well as excellence.

The vast majority of IGS students progress directly to Higher Education, and they benefit from an extensive Next Steps programme to help make informed decisions about the future beyond IGS. This includes several events which are embedded into the post-16 calendar: the UCAS Convention; Next Steps Week; Oxbridge Convention; opportunities to attend university open days and residentials; and visits from guest speakers. However, it is also recognised that increasingly students are accessing alternative routes into employment, including highly competitive higher-level apprenticeships at some of the world's most reputable companies or taking a Gap Year. In 2025 and 2026, IGS students secured apprenticeships with KPMG, Accenture, Jet2 and Morrisons.



'The range and success of destinations is incredible.'

Ofsted 2024/25















ILKLEY
GRAMMAR SCHOOL


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We hope that this prospectus reinforces our belief in the power of a well-rounded education and demonstrates the numerous opportunities for leadership, responsibility and enrichment at IGS. Over the next two years, we will develop your knowledge, understanding, personal attributes, interests and talents so that you leave us independent, confident and equipped to thrive and lead in the world. All of you will be supported in making that next step, whether it be to a traditional university, degree apprenticeship, music conservatoire, art college, or the world of work. Ultimately, we aim to make a positive difference to your lives and give you the skills and confidence to make a positive difference to the lives of others.



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