

A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY

PARENT/CARER BULLETIN 28 June 2024

FORTNIGHTLY HIGHLIGHTS

Dear Parent/Carers,

Last week, marked the conclusion of this season's examination series. Over the past few weeks, a total of 11,624 exam papers were administered, encompassing 4100 entries and over 120 GCSE, Level 1/2 technical examinations, as well as AS and A-Level exams. These figures highlight the immense scale of the operation, a scale which gets bigger each year. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our Exams Manager, Jan Stewart, the exams team, and everyone who supported the process to ensure it ran incredibly smoothly, as well as congratulate our students for their exemplary conduct, hard work and resilience. The invigilators once again commented that they were a credit to the school.

We are thrilled to continue our involvement with the Lexus Ilkley Trophy, a world-class tennis tournament, which features both ATP Challenger and ITF women's events and is considered a highlight of the summer grass court season. This year, 84 IGS students had the opportunity to serve as members of the ball crew at this prestigious event. They represented themselves and our school exceptionally well, demonstrating impressive commitment, resilience, and dedication. We are incredibly proud of the hours they invested in supporting one of the largest local events of the year. A huge thank you and congratulations to the entire crew, and our appreciation again goes to the tennis club for providing this amazing opportunity.

By this time next week, we will know the outcome of the General Election. We fully recognise that our community is diverse, with a broad spectrum of political views, and that various issues will influence your voting decisions. However, we urge all voters, regardless of political preference, to consider the state of education when making your choice. Please inquire with your local candidates about their plans to support schools, addressing key challenges which have been exacerbated since the pandemic such as school funding, provision for students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), capacity within the child and adolescent mental health support system (CAMHS), and the national teacher recruitment and retention crisis. If you meet with your candidates, please ask about their solutions to these pressing issues.

Finally, a reminder that there is a non-uniform day on Monday Ist July to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Students are encouraged to wear green although there is no obligation to do so. Please make donations via ParentPay. There is also a planned training day on Friday 5th July and school is closed to all students. Best wishes,

Carly Purnell

Headteacher's Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Headteacher Award over the last fortnight: Alfie Gardner 7BLS; Evan Ward 8ILF; Zachary Green 8BET, Elodie Hateley 9ERE; Thomas Nailer 10AE; Jack Winterbottom 10ELN; Dan Nicoll 10SRZ; Louis Herring 12RTS; Emily Cotterill 7BLS; Richard Ginns 8CCM; Niamh Brewis 10VEC; Holly Rampling 12DAS

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.















Next Steps Week: 17-21 June

At IGS we want to help all our students to grow in wisdom and stature. For students in post-16 this includes finding out about all the options available to them after they leave IGS and helping them to choose which pathway is best for them. It also includes much work in helping them to prepare for applications, writing CVs and personal statements, and preparing for possible interviews and admissions tests. This is a busy and exciting time for students! To help them with this we organised Next Steps Week.

"Very well organised and comprehensive week of activities tailored to each student's aspirations and abilities. Kept parents well informed along the way so we in turn could support our son with his decisions regarding his next step in education." - Parent of student in year 12

Next Steps Week is a special week of events designed to help year 12 students to prepare for their lives after IGS. Timetables were collapsed and students could select from 79 various seminars, lectures, and workshops from 10 different employers/apprenticeship providers, 16 different education providers (universities and colleges), and multiple sessions with IGS staff and IGS alumni. We also visited the UCAS Discovery Day at Leeds Beckett University where students could listen to multiple seminars and lectures and talk to representatives from many employers and apprenticeship providers, as well as most of the universities in the country. Students also took the opportunity to spend time enjoying the sunshine in the beautiful Leeds Beckett campus.

"It's a very good and holistic approach to all things that I was previously anxious about and unsure on how to face. It's a really useful tool that I don't think exists in many other schools and has been a very positive experience, lots of effort goes into this and you can see it. I also enjoyed the willingness of staff and visitors involved to answer questions and give honest and knowledgeable opinions on what things are like in higher education, etc. All bases were covered that I was worried about, and I feel a lot more confident in what I want to do and how to do it." – Jackson, student in year 12

The full suite of sessions can be seen on our website here. This is the biggest programme we have ever offered to students, and we have specifically expanded our provision of non-university opportunities to reflect the interests of the year group and the increasing options in this area.

"The range and quality of seminars available from other schools as well as from our own was stellar, especially the medicine sessions."- Justin, student in year 12

We also are looking forward to our follow-up Next Steps Day on Tuesday 9 July, in which students will be getting feedback on their CVs from employers (including Amazon and the Cabinet Office), and on their personal statements from Lancaster University.

We are very grateful to the support from the local community in providing many of the sessions for our Next Steps provision. If anyone reading this would like to offer to deliver a session for our students, please reach out to us by emailing Joshua.sykes@igs.mlt.co.uk We would be happy to discuss what we could offer to our students.

Josh Sykes: Associate Assistant Headteacher - P16





The Careers Team are incredibly grateful to the team of 20 volunteer interviewers, representing a range of sectors, some of whom offered interviews on multiple days. The organisations offering this valuable experience to students were drawn from highly respected local, regional, national and multi-national employers including: Deloitte; WM Morrisons PLC; Winston Solicitors; Switch2; RAF; Nationwide; Matthew Snow Advisory Ltd; Lloyds Banking Group; Learning Inclusion Service-Leeds City Council; KPMG; Health Education England; Halliday Clark Architects; Clip n Climb; RH Fulwood; Red Kite Alliance; Ashlands Vets; Peter Shelley Financial Planning as well as other independent interviewers.

With interviews increasingly taking place online nowadays, these virtual interviews complement the universal year 10 Work Experience offer in July and provide all students with the opportunity to be interviewed by someone they have never met before. To prepare for this, students prepared a mock application (including a covering letter and CV) and practised different types of questions in Personal Best Time in the weeks running up to the interview.

While strong exam results and a well-written CV may get you an interview, we know that it is those softer skills - a warm smile and the ability to make eye contact, respond to unpredictable questions and to read a situation which can often make the difference between success and failure at interview and this opportunity provided students with a valuable opportunity to do that.

Students will receive personalised feedback from their interviewer, but the overall feedback has been extremely positive and year 10 showed very high levels of punctuality and positivity (in spite of a few nerves), taking the whole experience in their stride.

A huge thank you to Mrs Marshall (Careers Lead), Mrs Crewe (Careers Administrator), and Mrs Lowe (Careers Advisor) for organising the event which ran seamlessly.

The IGS Careers Team would also like to publicly thank all the interviewers for giving up their valuable time to conduct 300 interviews across the three days, and to give every student in year 10 the opportunity to gain the experience of a mock interview.

Mr Gutch - Deputy Headteacher: Post-16 & Personal Development

Alumni news!



We are delighted to report that Ben Radick (Red Tie, 2014-2021) recently gained a 1st in Physics from Cambridge University. Ben will continue at Cambridge next year and will be working towards a Masters Degree in Physics. Congratulations to Ben and thank you to all his teachers – in particular to the Physics Team!

In other alumni news we were delighted to welcome back Ellie Wilson and Harvey Devenish-Meares (Silver Ties, 2016-2023) back to IGS during Post-16 Next Steps Week. Ellie is just finishing her first year on a Level 7 Degree Apprenticeship with Deloitte based in Leeds and Harvey is currently living in Birmingham and finishing his first year as a Level 6 Aerospace Engineer apprentice with Rolls-Royce. Both spoke very powerfully to current students about the benefits of the Degree Apprenticeship route and were clearly doing very well. **Mr Gutch: Post-16 & Personal Development**















Year 9 Diversity Day: Thursday 27th June 2024 The Aims of IGS Diversity Day:

"To celebrate diversity, demonstrate respect and champion equality to ensure that it lies at the heart of the school's vision and ethos."

"Diversity Day is a step on our journey towards ensuring that we foster a respectful and inclusive culture at school, reflecting our rich and cohesive community where there are no 'by-standers' and everyone can be proud of who they are."

Diversity Day promoted equality and embraced many forms of diversity through a carousel of different workshops covering a rich range of different themes and introduced students to a wide range of experiences. This year students in year 9 experienced activities in workshops ranging from:

HINDUISM SIKHISM CHRISTIANITY ISLAM BUDDHISM JUDAISM

SIGN LANGUAGE WORLD DANCE NEURODIVERSITY

LGBTQIA+ ANTI-BULLYING

GENDER EQUALITY JAPANAESE ORIGAMI

ART WORKSHOPS AFRICAN DRUMMING GUIDE DOGS

WELLBEING & MINDFULNESS



WOW!!! What a spectacular Diversity Day year 9 have had, one of the best ever! IGS was incredibly lucky to welcome people from all walks of life for this special day and to also celebrate the rich diversity that exists within our own community.

There was a real buzz from Year 9 who were treated to a huge range of experiences over the course of the day - from a 'Guide Dog' puppy called Jenny, who wanted to join in with everything, to the wonderful Judge Cousins who raised awareness of racism in her thought-provoking workshop. Students jumped into the world dance workshop and then body popped their way to the Japanese Art workshop to create their very own paper cranes before hitting some African beats and vibes in the drumming workshop. Students immersed themselves in discussions about faith with representatives from 7 different world religions, and then had the opportunity to converse in British sign language. Students learnt about the importance of Pride for the LGBTQ+ community and busted stereotypes in the gender equality workshop whilst also channelling some zen via during the Mindfulness and Mental Health workshop before checking out how to stamp out bullying in our 'RESPECT – anti-bullying' workshop. Groups also celebrated and explored neurodiversity in a session run by our specialist autism team and then created a beautiful collage mural by building stencils of 'who we are' in the Art workshop.

13 workshops and only one day!

A huge thank you to our 12 external visitors on the day, to the 55 IGS staff who either led or supported one of the sessions, and to the 20+ incredible student leaders who supported the day and co-ran many of the sessions.

Mr Gutch Deputy Headteacher i/c of Personal Development said: "I had the privilege of helping out with the World Religions session today which were run by a mixture of IGS staff and visitors to the school and year 9 were an absolute credit to the school in every way — thoughtful, open-minded, respectful and curious. It can sometimes feel nowadays that there are forces trying to push people apart, but it is days like this that give us all hope for a future in which everyone can be recognised and celebrated for who they are."

Ilkley Grammar School certainly had an explosion of diversity on this special day of celebration and respect. We can't wait to do it all again! Mr Kehoe: Associate Assistant Headteacher















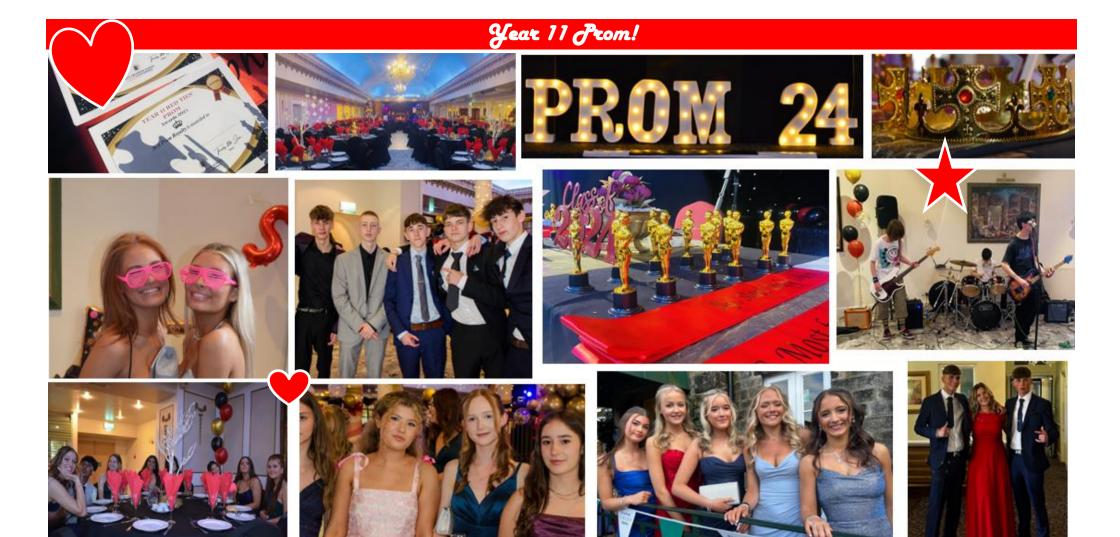












On Thursday 20th June we saw the end of Year 11 exams and the celebration of the year with the Red Tie Leavers Prom. The Craiglands Hotel provided a beautiful backdrop with the ballroom adorned in a black and gold colour theme, chosen by our prom committee with accents of red - our tie colour running through.

Friends and family, staff, and even hotel guests watched on admiringly as students arrived in their chosen transport ranging from vintage cars to tractors! Everyone looked amazing, and excitedly made their way up the red carpet for a photo call.

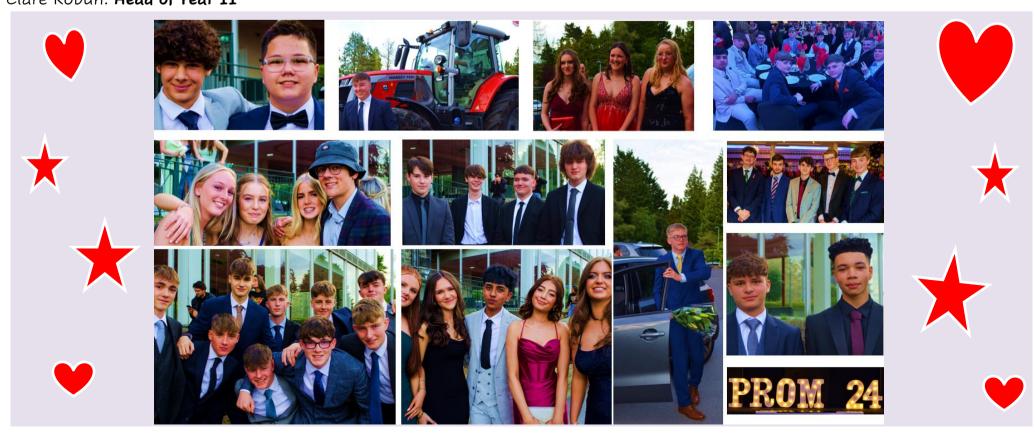
The IGS Leadership team greeted the VIP guests who were served a welcome mocktail, with Mrs Robun, Miss Clift and Mrs McKenzie looking on proudly as their year group assembled. Our wonderfully talented in school live band **DukTape played a fantastic set**, getting students in the celebratory mood by playing a mix of classic pop/rock songs as well as their very own pieces! Professional photographers captured memorable moments throughout the evening and students enjoyed the selfie station, having the use of an array of fun props and signing the memory mirror.

Students had the chance to take in the atmosphere whilst voting for their "Best Dressed" and "Prom Royalty" before taking their seats for dinner. Beautifully decorated tables set the scene for the arrival of various platters serving a selection of delicious hot food and sweet treats.

After a glorious meal, it was time for the all-important fun and humorous awards, nominated by the students themselves! We celebrated the winners who were each given a small trophy, a personalised sash, and certificate accompanied by the DJ playing upbeat songs as they walked to centre stage to celebrate their moment of fame! The celebrations didn't stop there, as we had a special birthday in the house, so we had to mark the occasion with a cake and some sparklers! With a short closing speech by Mrs Robun and Miss Clift (who also won awards), the disco got into full swing.

Students paid a visit to the candy cart, served by our very own Mr Hulme and Miss Martini, before making their way to the dance floor showcasing their best moves and dancing the night away! A fabulous night was enjoyed by all, and it was a wonderful way to celebrate our Remarkable Red Ties - Class of 2024!

Clare Robun: **Head of Year 11**

















Friday 14th June saw over fifty IGS students welcome YouTube sensation SB737 to speak to us about content creation, gaming and all things Minecraft

Daniel is best known for creating videos on Minecraft and formerly various speedruns of Sonic the Hedgehog. SB737 has over four million YouTube followers including avid Minecraft fans that watch him complete hardcore challenges such as twenty-four hours continuous play and his one hundred days in a hardcore world.

He fielded twenty expertly worded questions from the group of year 7 to 10 students, about his education, background, greatest achievements, favourite aspects of the game and what the future holds. These were eloquently asked by the two group leaders, Joseph Tomblin and Sam Renshaw. Unfortunately, Kian Foster, the group's founder was in a Physics exam at the time! Ted Atack was the lucky student to receive an individual shoutout and birthday well wish.

Daniel's aka SB737, key messages included the importance of practice. The best advice that he received when he was younger, was that if you make a hundred videos and improve one aspect each time, by the end of your journey, you will have made significant progress from your starting point and be a whole lot better. This was backed up by his YouTube following which increased from 1,000 to 10,000 from January 2015 to the same month in 2016, by January 2017 he had a following of 100,000 people. He attributed his YouTube fame and success to being entertaining, likeable and having a good sense of humour as well as the importance of graphic editing, video editing and strong IT skills. There was a shameless plug that he felt digital IT was the most significant and contributing subject from his school years! He spoke about the importance of unique and creative ideas, taking the best of what currently exists and putting your own spin on things as well as the importance of teamwork and how integral his thumbnail editors in the USA are, his merchandise distributors and editing and publishing team, he couldn't do it without them.

A huge thankyou to SB737 for taking time out his busy week to speak to our students. It was safe to say there was a lot of excitement in the room! Particular thanks for all of the merchandise that he kindly gifted to us and will be distributed to his avid fans.

Vicky Brides: Curriculum Leader: Computing

Performance Exchange









On the afternoon of Wednesday 26th June Creative Arts were delighted to welcome a group of 50 students from Haberdasher's South School, based in Borough, London who had come to Middleton Lodge in Ilkley with their teachers for a residential to prepare for their own school production of Hamilton next week. Billed as a 'Performance Exchange' this exciting and talented group of young people performed three numbers from Hamilton followed by a series of incredible numbers ranging from 'Isn't She Lovely' by Stevie Wonder to 'Money' by Pink Floyd. Following a massive round of applause for our guests, and not to be outdone, our IGS performers leapt on stage and performed a sequence of pieces currently being prepared for Creative Arts Festival next week and it was an excellent chance to fit in an extra rehearsal (not that they actually need it!). The IGS Jazz band kicked things off in style playing a lively 'It Must Be Love' by Madness, arranged by our year 9 student Thomas Mays, followed by a virtuoso vocal and instrumental performance of 'Sweet Child of Mine' by Guns N Roses by year 8 band 'Ayrborne' with phenomenal vocals and exceptional guitar solos. IGS band Duktape then went on to hugely impress the visiting audience with their own original material and a moody and charismatic performance.

To round things off, the KS3 groups then gave two hugely energetic and dynamic performances of 'Stick it to the Man' from School of Rock and a sassy rendition of 'You Can't Stop the Beat' from Hairspray.

This was a great opportunity for our students to perform to a new audience and for young people to inspire each other. Thank you to Ms Womack and the Creative Arts team for making it happen (and making it all seem so effortless), to the Backstage crew who set up the show, to our IGS performers and to our link partner from Haberdasher's, Emily Segal for suggesting the idea and for bringing her wonderful students to perform and to be our guests for the afternoon. Mr Gutch: **Deputy Headteacher**













Sport Updates

Lexus Ilkley Tennis Trophy















Once again Ilkley Grammar school were invited to afford students the opportunity to train up to be a part of the annual **Lexus Ilkley Trophy** grass tennis tournament ball crew. The tournament took place from Saturday 15th- 22nd June at ILTSC. Training began for the year 8 and 9 students back in early May and their progress, under the influence of the ILTSC coaches was amazing. They developed teamwork, communication and concentration skills. For the 84 students involved, it all came together on tournament week, with some fantastically efficient and professional ball crewing for the elite tennis players. The students had the privilege of working alongside some big names on the tennis circuit, including previous **world number 7, Richard Gasquet,** and an **Ilkley trophy favourite Sonnay Kartal**.

The students were incredibly patient, adaptable and resilient throughout the week, with frustrating rain delays for the first few days and then some long hot days, with a **record 36 games crammed into Wednesday!**

On finals day, the last 15 ball crew were simply sublime. They seamlessly kept the balls moving for both of the finals. Congratulations to the winners Rebecca Marino and David Goffin and thank you to the players for spending time with our ball crew after their wins.

Well done to all students involved and thank you to ILTSC for such an amazing opportunity, and to the ball crew staff, especially Colin Campbell who put so much time and effort into making such a successful ball crew team!



























Cricket - Bradford MCC Hub Victory

Annabelle represented Bradford MCC Hub in the national cricket semi-final against Darwen MCC. After defeating York in an earlier game, Annabelle shared the crease for the winning runs in the deciding game, securing a place for Bradford in the final. This victory means Annabelle and her team will now compete in the final at the historic Lord's Cricket Ground in July against Guildford MCC.

Football – TGK North vs. South u19 Championship Game

Annabelle represented the North in the annual U19 North vs. South championship final of This Girl Kicks, an invitational team composed of girls from all over the country. The match was held at the prestigious St George's Park, home of England's national teams. Annabelle scored a hat trick and lead the North to a 4-1 victory. Annabelle's efforts on the field earned her the All-Star Trophy for the game.

Congratulations Annabelle – these are amazing sporting achievements!

Fantastically, 3 pupils from IGS: Robert Carter, Alexander Wolfenden and Oscar Shinn ran for Yorkshire at the 2024 British Inter County U15, U17 & U19 Fell Running Championships. The boys did incredibly well representing both Yorkshire and IGS. They finished overall in the inter county championship (incorporated into the race) with Robert 6th, Alexander 8th and Oscar 15th. Congratulations boys!









Congratulations to Tom Sugden 8PDH, who attended the U13 **Boys Regional Hockey** Championships last weekend

Tom was selected to play for the UK Lions. This is an amazing achievement - well done Tom!















IGS Girls Cricket

The Year 7 Girls Cricket Team progress through to the quarter finals of the Patsy Akroyd Trophy after beating Wakefield Girls School!

It was a close game as IGS were only leading by 5 runs into the last over. Grace Ramsden and Holly Joyner were able to keep the ball out to ensure IGS won. Everyone played their part during the win!

Well done girls!



Congratulations to Grace
Ramsden 7ARJ, Josie Ramsden
7HMM and Scarlett Ramsden
7SFQ who have all been selected
to play for West Yorkshire Under
13s Cricket team





- 6 off their allocated 16 overs. The pick of the bowlers was Ben Winterbottom who bowled 3 overs for 10 wickets, whilst picking up 3 wickets. Seb Smith also picked up 2 wickets off his 3 overs, and George Healey picked up the other one.

IGS chased the score 6 wickets down, after Ben Winterbottom got them off to a great start scoring 36. However, wickets kept falling, meaning the new batters were finding it difficult to settle. After a few tight overs from the Erymsted's bowlers, Craig Summer took it upon himself to hit out and score quickly. Even though wickets at the other end were still falling, Craig hit a match winning 21 in a difficult period and finished the game with 4.

Under 15s Boys Cricket are off to the seaside!!

The team beat Abby Grange by 8 wickets in the rain on the sand-based hockey pitch. The boys did incredibly well to adapt to the conditions and have now secured a good away day in the next round of the cup. Good luck team!















On Tuesday 25th of June the Girls travelled to Pocklington to take part in a 7s tournament against Pocklington School, The Grammar School at Leeds, and Barnard Castle School.

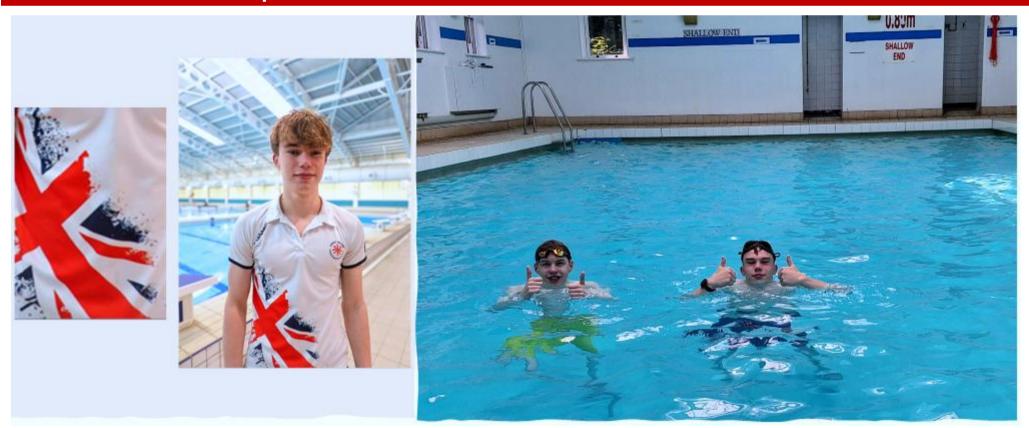
The girls started off the day by beating GSAL in a tight game. The girls restricted them to 61 off their 60 balls. IGS then managed to breeze past this total with only losing I wicket making it I win from I game.

The best game of the day then followed, when IGS played Pocklington School. IGS batted first – the opening partnership was unbeaten until the last ball of them game where Annabelle Forster got out going for an extra run knowing there was no consequences of losing a wicket. Annabelle finished on 52 off just 31 deliveries including a massive shot that went for 6. She was then backed up by Sophie Parkin who scored 30 off 32 balls, meaning IGS scored an impressive 97off 60 balls.

This was too much for Pocklington as they could only reply with 72 runs as one of their batters played with aggression and kept the IGS girls honest but the last two overs were bowled brilliantly by Lily Singleton and Izzy Atkinson. In the last game IGS needed to beat Barnard Castle to become champions, the IGS girls bowled first and battled as it was hard to take wickets.

They were able to keep Barnard to only 63 off their 60 balls. All girls bowled and fielded brilliantly, A brilliant run out from Sophie Parkin really halted the run rate and got control of the run rates. **Well done to all the players involved!**

Daniel and Sam create a splash to raise funds!



On Thursday 27th June, Daniel Tomblin (I IMTH) and Sam Roberts (I IIJH) swum 4,500m each of the IGS pool to ensure they met the distance Daniel will be swimming when he takes part in the GB U I 9M team at the Underwater Hockey Age World Championships in Kuala Lumpur in 3 weeks' time. They swam to raise funds for Daniel's trip. Underwater Hockey is a small sport which carries no centralised funding, being picked to represent your country is an amazing opportunity and with it comes the drive to raise the funds to get you there.

Huge thanks go to Mr Ewbank for helping organise the swim as well as Mrs Vangenechten and Mr Burton who rotated in their roles as official lifeguard while the swim was taking place. If you are interested in sponsoring Daniel, the **Justgiving page is still open here**















The Creative Arts Festival Tickets are now on sale, on Parent Pay for the Creative Arts Festival 2024.

We have over 300 students involved in this two-day event! Visit our extracurricular page here to view a skeleton programme and see what's happening on each day.



Blind Date with a Book!

Fundraising for



For just a £2 donation via ParentPay, we will match you to your perfect book!



Useful Links & Email Addresses

- Years 7-11 notifications of absence: attendance@igs.mlt.co.uk or, extension 2 if phoning school on the morning of an unforeseen absence
- P-16 notifications of absence: p16attendance@igs.mlt.co.uk
- Lettings and venue hire: venuehire@igs.mlt.co.uk
- General enquiries: admin@igs.mlt.co.uk
- Parents' evenings: parentsevenings@igs.mlt.co.uk
- PTA: PTA@igs.mlt.co.uk

IGS Website

For more information on what's going on in and around Ilkley Grammar School, don't forget to keep a check on the IGS website in 'News' HERE 'Community' HERE 'IGS Vacancies' HERE and PTA Events















IGS bands are busy preparing for a series of exciting performances to end the school year in style! We have 10 bands performing on Wednesday 3rd July as part of the IGS Creative Arts festival and a great selection of songs to entertain you so please do come along to support them. The IGS Battle of the Bands winners, Shaded, will be performing for Ilkley Pride at the King's Hall on Saturday 29th June in the afternoon as well as at the Ilkley Half Marathon on Sunday 14th July so please do go along to support them! Fresh off the back of performing at the Y11 prom on Thursday 20th and Pat's Party on Saturday 22nd June, **DukTape** will be headlining at the student night at Otley Social Club as part of Otley Live on Friday 5 July (details on the poster in attached bulletin). If you can't make it to Otley, then you can also catch DukTape playing at the bandstand on Friday 12th July at 6pm as part of Ilkley Live. Finally, please save the date of the next IGS Music Showcase, which will take place at the King's Hall on Wednesday 6th November 2024 and will feature the IGS Battle of the Bands 2024 (the bands have already started preparing for this hotly anticipated event!)



Any old SLRs?

Do you have an OLD 35mm SLR film camera in a drawer at home? Would you be prepared to donate it to the Photography Department at IGS?

The Photography department has a small darkroom and we teach all sixth form students traditional darkroom skills, however at present we have just 3 film cameras. Can you help us resource this?

Clothes Hangers Appeal: Eco-iLeaders The are making preparations for their third Pre-Loved School Stuff Sale on Wednesday 10th July and are in need of clothes hangers. If you have any spare clothes hangers at home, please could you donate them to the sale and drop them off in the storage box in the main school entrance. Many thanks!













