

**It is non-uniform day today! Please make your donation on Parent Pay if you haven't already done so.**  
**All money raised will go to Children in Need. Thank you!**



Dear Parent/Carers,

This week, we hosted our Post-16 Open Evening, welcoming prospective students and their families from both our current year 11 cohort and schools across the region. We take great pride in our sixth-form provision, which combines rigorous academic study and support with dedicated pastoral care, personal growth, and the development of independence. Our wider Personal Development curriculum is designed to broaden and deepen students' knowledge, skills, character, and confidence, providing them with valuable experiences to enrich their learning and prepare for their future.

It was wonderful to welcome over 430 families and give students the opportunity to find out more about our extensive curriculum offer. We teach 27 A Level courses, alongside a wide range of level 3 nationally recognised enrichment qualifications and well-respected applied qualifications which, from 2025, will include 4 of the new Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs). With 40 courses in total, this does represent one of the widest offers of level 3 provision across the region and ensures that we can provide highly personalised programmes of study which give each individual the very best chances of success. Further subject information and specific entry criteria are available on our school website [HERE](#)

Next week marks the beginning of the year 11 mock examinations. These assessments play a crucial role in helping students hone their exam techniques through practising answering exam questions and applying their knowledge and understanding under timed conditions, similar to those they will face in the summer. Unlike the actual exams, however, students will receive valuable feedback from their subject teachers after the mock results day which has been scheduled for Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. This feedback will highlight any gaps in understanding, misconceptions, or errors, giving students the opportunity to refine their skills and strengthen their knowledge in the weeks and months ahead. We wish all our 'Green Ties' the very best of luck!

Other key events this half-term include: GCSE Presentation Evening at the King's Hall; the annual Creative Arts residential for students in all years who are involved in this year's school production, Les Misérables; the Countdown to Christmas Concert; the 'Future Fest' Careers Fayre which will give all students the opportunity to engage with a range of employers; and Charities Week which provides students with the opportunity to actively make a positive difference to the lives of others in line with our school vision.

A reminder that there is a Training Day on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November when school is closed to all students.

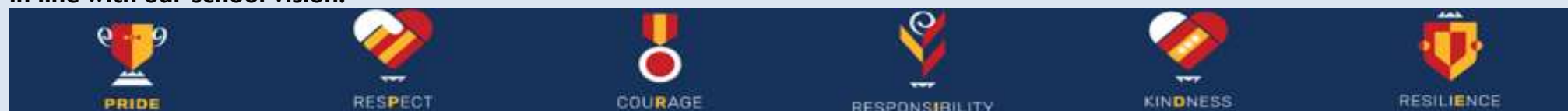
Carly Purnell  
Headteacher

## Headteacher's Awards

**Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Headteacher Award over the last fortnight:**

Evie Brown 7BGR; Isabelle Nolan 8JCX; Bea Ritson 9PDH; Teddy Newton Collinge 10AJM; Annabelle Forster 11SB; Matthew Disney 12LR; Archie Budding 13AJK; Jack Ponder 7BGR; Lois Hemming 8FPW; Shay Cousins 8FPW; Sullivan Lowry 9PDH; Patrick Ke 10PC; Halina Baliko 11LR

**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.**



## On behalf of Ms. Cloughton Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum Overviews

Please find your half termly link to the Curriculum Overviews. For information relating to the Key Stage 3 or 4 curriculum and subject specific information, please follow this [link](#). For all Post 16 Curriculum Overviews, please follow this [link](#) and for further information about each subject, please follow the subject information [link](#).

## Students' Remembrance Day: Last Post Tribute

We were very proud of the following students: Milena Morgan, Alex Hickabottom, Nell Morgan and Eva Joyce – who played the 'Last Post' so beautifully in commemoration of those who have died in service since the First World War. This is the first year where year 8 students have performed the 'Last Post' as it is typically post-16 students who do so. Our year 8s not only gave a moving and accomplished performance, but they demonstrated respect, courage and responsibility, embodying our Personal Best Values. Well done and thank you!





## IGS Belgium Battlefields Visit



A team of eleven staff led 103 students through the World War I battlefields and cemeteries of France and Belgium during the October half term break this year. The trip marks over 20 visits to the area by IGS and the fourth in partnership with our MAT-school, The Skipton Academy. The trip included the Belgian and French Sectors of the Somme, the Belgian town of Ypres and a stay at the Peace Village in Mesen, just outside Ypres.

The trip departed from IGS on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October, journeying through the night via coach and Eurotunnel, to arrive in Ypres town on Friday morning for a walking tour. This included the Grote Marke, St Maarten's church, the Menin Gate and the India monument, where Mrs Goodyear introduced the group to the Commonwealth war effort. We then moved on to Essex Farm Cemetery, a former advanced field dressing station and site of a memorial to the men of the West Yorkshire division. The site has been made famous by Captain John McCrae who, after working here as a field doctor, wrote the poem 'In Flanders Fields' in memory of his friend. The cemetery resonated deeply with the students as they talked quietly amongst the rows of stately white crosses, and in listening respectfully to TSA student Layla Houghton, who recited McCrae's poem.

In contrast, the group later visited Langemark German Cemetery, the final resting place of over 44,000 German soldiers, where over-hanging trees shade the cemetery from public view. In passing, we saw St Julian's Canadian Memorial at Vancouver Corner, resting place to 2,000 soldiers who were lost in the first gas attack of the war.

The group reached the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 in Zonnebeke, Belgium late afternoon and enjoyed a tour of the museum, the trenches and the 'Dugout Experience', a series of interactive bunkers designed to show the students what living underground meant for those who fought in one of the most horrific battles in history, where 600,000 casualties were recorded to capture just 8 kilometres of land.

The trip also included battlefields, cemeteries and memorials in France and Belgium, with the group following the frontline route of The Battles of the Somme. In particular, the group visited the trenches and monument at Vimy Ridge, the scene of the harrowing loss of British and French lives prior to the arrival of the Canadian forces at Easter 1917, who took the Ridge at severe cost over a 4-day period of intense fighting which saw them deploy the new tactic of the 'Creeping Barrage' to great effect.

After the customary whole-group photo opportunity at the Vimy monument, the group moved on to the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme at Thiepval, 'home' to 72,000 missing soldiers on the Somme. Here TSA student Henry Gill recited Rupert Brooke's poem 'The Soldier' to commemorate Mr Rignall's great-uncle, Harold Rignall, who was lost on the Somme, and Sam Till, also of TSA, recited Wilfred Owen's poem 'Dulce et Decorum Est' in honour of L/Cpl John 'Jack' Abbot King, a farmer from Burley-in-Wharfedale who went on to play rugby at number 8 for England no fewer than 12 times before the war. He was killed on 9 August 1916, the same day as another fellow England international was killed in the same battle, fighting with the Liverpool Scottish: Second Lieutenant Lancelot Slocock, aged 29 years old. Jack has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial on Pier and Face 1D, 8B and 8C.

The trip then moved to the impressive 'Lochnagar Crater', caused by an explosion so loud it was said to have been heard in London, to the perfectly still and silent resting place of the Devonshire regiment after a solemn journey through the village of Mametz. To reflect the solemnity of the occasion Eva Cross read out the poem 'In Mametz Wood' by Owen Sheers, written in dedication to the regiment who are buried in the trench they fought in.

Our day on the Somme ended with six students; Kristian Kowal, Pippa Eames and Jack Sedgwick for TSA and Ella Morris, Elsie Pegington and Ethan Battye for IGS, laying wreaths on behalf of their respective schools, staff and students, at the daily Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing of the British Empire at the 'Last Post' ceremony. Our students behaved impeccably at this solemn and deeply moving place and staff were delighted to receive several comments from English, Flemish and French members of the public pointing this out. These were not the only positive comments IGS and TSA students received throughout the trip; Thiepval museum were thrilled to see students back and welcomed us with open arms, as did the Peace Village, the Banquet Hall in Ypres and the Leonidas chocolate shop!

On the final morning, we visited the largest British military cemetery anywhere in the world, The Tyne Cot Cemetery, with 34,000 names engraved upon walls on the back of the cemetery. Students visited the panel bearing the name of former IGS student and master, Eric Fitzwater Wilkinson M.C. a celebrated war poet, who was killed in action aged 26, leading his men into No Man's Land at Passchendaele Ridge, Western Flanders, on the night of the 9th October 1917. A poem in response to the news of Eric's death written by the then-Headmaster, Norman Lewis Frazer (IGS 1916-1933) and simply titled 'E.F.W.' was read out by IGS student Josie Archer while Tom Moffatt, also of IGS, laid a wreath. A quiet moment was given over to Eric while the last line of the poem '...The School upon her heart shall carve your name.' rang in our ears. One student commented, 'It had a very solemn feeling to it' and was deeply moved by the visit.

Mrs Lister, the trip leader, stressed the importance of the trip. 'This trip is full of images and stories of the battlefields and the thousands who died during the Great War on all sides and corners of the globe. We're very proud to take our students to Belgium as it is a thought-provoking trip and helps them to understand the scale of the war, the sacrifices given and the meaning of remembrance at a time when once again, there is war in Europe'. The planning for next year's trip is now underway.







# Attendance Matters



'Attendance Matters' is a phrase that is used in school to ensure the young people in our care are aware of the importance of attending school regularly. Our 97% target for attendance underpins the school's position, however, we also recognise that getting into school can be difficult at times, and therefore as a school, we support our students and their families when required. There is no doubt, the Covid pandemic affected young people currently in our care, and the legacy of the successive lockdowns affected some students more than others. Nationally, there has also a change in the social contract between some families and school and it is important we, as educators, help to rebalance this position.

Therefore, I offer the unconditional support of the pastoral, attendance, SEND and safeguarding teams, who will work tirelessly with our students and their families to break down any barriers there are to attending school as regularly as possible. We have recently expanded our team, and our new Student and Families Outreach Specialist (Ms Ruth Sturgess) is already supporting families where there are significant barriers to a young person getting into school. Our message is clear: we can help, and we have a range of reasonable adjustments we can utilise to support young people to get into school. The easiest way to access this support is to contact your child's Head of Year or a member of the attendance team, and they will do everything they can to help.

Alongside the obvious improvement in educational outcomes, attending school regularly allows a young person:

1. To see their friends and interact with other people their age
2. Develop social skills, that are essential for a successful future
3. To experience real life interactions with others and reduce screen time on phones
4. Tangible opportunities outside the classroom such as sports teams and trips and visits
5. Improves a young person's cultural capital
6. Provides ready access to professionals who can help them with challenges they face

**Mr Calvert: Assistant Headteacher**



## Music News!

**Congratulations to talented siblings Elsa and Anstice Williams Years 8 & 10 who competed in the Ripon Young Musician of the Year Competition.** Elsa, Y8, is a member of the IGS Jazz Band, and won her section in the **Ripon Young Musician of the Year Competition**. She also recently successfully auditioned on French Horn for the **National Children's Orchestra**. Anstice, Y10, came second in her section of the Ripon Young Musician of the Year competitions. **Well done, these are fantastic achievements!**





## The IGS Music Showcase took place on Wednesday 6 November 2024 at the King's Hall



This amazing opportunity was first put to me by Rachel Dennison (from the Friends of King's Hall and Winter Gardens) in February 2023 with her wish of giving IGS pupils the experience of performing at this prestigious venue. This was music to my ears and subsequently led to the first IGS Music Showcase in November later that year, which was a great success. Off the back of that we returned to the King's Hall for the second year running last week. The audience were treated to a fantastic showcase of supreme musical talent featuring over 120 IGS pupils across the range of musical acts, which included rock bands, Jazz Band, Music Theatre Club, Pop Choir, Drumline and Y12 Chamber Group. Toby (y12) was the wonderful host for the evening this year. It turned out to be an incredibly special evening with every single pupil rising to the challenge to deliver phenomenal performances!

The centrepiece for the concert was the IGS Battle of the Bands, now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year. 11 bands were competing to be crowned the winners, and the bands were: Okumay (y13 & y8); Distortion (y9); Suspended (y8); Deadline (y10 & y12); Hyperfixation (y7); The Argument (y10 & y11); Ayrborne (y9); J.T.M.S (y12); DukTape (y11 & y13); Big C.A.T.S (y8) and The unnamed (y12 & y13). The judges were Toby (from Futuresound, Leeds) and Andy (from Ilkley Round Table). The standard was incredibly high with the judges commenting on how incredibly difficult it was to choose a top 3, let alone the winner! In 3<sup>rd</sup> place came The Argument with a great cover version full of beautiful vocal harmonies of Creep by Radiohead. In 2<sup>nd</sup> place was Ayrborne with a commanding performance of Sweet Child 'O' Mine by Guns 'n' Roses. In 1<sup>st</sup> place and this year's winners of the IGS Battle of the Bands was DukTape with their scintillating performance of their own original song, Morbid. DukTape will now go forward to represent IGS at the Red Kite Battle of the Bands on Thursday 23 January 2025 at the Wardrobe, Leeds.



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE



Thanks must go to all of the performers, the pupil backstage team (led by Dylan), the photographers (Rory & Alfie), the host (Toby), the judges (Toby and Andy), the King's Hall Tech team (Andy, Joe and Nick), King's Hall Front of House team and the wonderful audience for making this event a massive success. Last but not least our thanks go to Rachel and the rest of the Friends of King's Hall and Winter Gardens for providing this amazing opportunity for IGS pupils to experience performing in such a wonderful venue supported by wonderful, professional staff. We hope to be back next year for the 3<sup>rd</sup> IGS Music Showcase!

### Student Feedback!

*"Being part of the concert at the King's Hall last night was such a special experience. The evening had such a great atmosphere, and I loved listening to the incredible other IGS musicians play, in such a wonderful venue. I'm really grateful to have had the opportunity to play as part of a chamber group to a large audience and feel part of the supportive IGS music community. Thank you to everyone who made it possible!"* (Xanthe Y12)

*"I found it really heartwarming to see everyone coming together to perform music and how it didn't matter if you were in a band or any other event, everyone was so supportive to everyone else."* (Finlay Y13)

*"It was a fun experience for lots of creative people to show off what they do best to a supportive set of peers and a great audience. Especially nice to see the younger groups get out there in front of such an audience and seize the unique opportunity. The diversity of talent on display was really great."* (Edward Y13)

*"The atmosphere was incredible with everyone supporting absolutely everyone regardless of year group or the competition. All crew were extremely helpful making sure everything ran smoothly and almost completely flawlessly. The opportunity to play in a professional venue was a unique and incredible chance."* (Rose Y11)

*"I loved going backstage and seeing the entirety of The Kings Hall. Performing in front of hundreds of people was epic to say the least and overall, that night was magnificent! Definitely going back next year."* (Max Y7)

*"When I first stepped into the King's Hall for the soundchecks and a few rehearsals, I was quite nervous but, when the concert eventually came around, it looked amazing. Everyone was so excited and happy to be there, everything looked amazing and when I performed and watched everyone else perform, it was nothing but brilliant."* (Saskia Y8)

*"I really enjoyed taking part in the event at The Kings Hall because it gave me the opportunity to experience the buzz of performing live in such an iconic venue. It is amazing to think that I have performed on the same stage as other great musicians! I also loved the supportive atmosphere backstage."* (Astrid Y8)

*"I enjoyed singing in the choir on stage, and watching the battle of the bands contestants perform. For me the best part of school is getting to perform and I'm so glad I'm in the choir."* (Lola Y9)

*"I loved the adrenaline that performing on that stage gave me, as well as the confidence it gave me."* (Sam Y11)

*"What I really enjoyed about the concert at the King's Hall last night was seeing all of the different bands competing on the King's Hall stage. I also enjoyed having the opportunity to go up onto the stage and to see how all of the audience enjoyed the whole night. I will hope to be able to participate next year!"* (Kiki Y7)

*"I enjoyed all of the preparation and rehearsals for the concert. I also massively enjoyed being on stage with all the fun lights and music on whilst we sang. Furthermore, I loved taking part in the show because I found it really fun doing it with everyone from choir and how the band was playing behind us. Overall, I loved taking part in the concert at King's Hall and would love to do it again!"* (Amelia Y7)

*"It was such a great opportunity that I will definitely remember. The Kings Hall is such a beautiful place to perform, and I am so honoured and proud that we got to perform on it. It was an amazing experience performing in front of such a big audience. I am so grateful that we were able to perform at King's Hall."* (Layla-Rae Y8)

*"I enjoyed performing on stage with my band when everyone was cheering us on. I loved the atmosphere! I really enjoyed cheering on all the different bands and chatting to the others band members both in our year and in other years! I also really enjoyed singing We Will Rock You and playing for drumline/samba band."* (Sophie Y8)

*"I really liked how professional it was. I also really love performing to a bigger audience as well. It was very organised and such a fun environment."* (Amelia Y9)





## Senior Netball

Our senior netball teams are well underway with their 2024-25 season. On Wednesday 23rd October both teams travelled to South Craven to play against their A&B teams. Well done to all involved.

### Results below:

- IGS A 14-15 South Craven A – POM: Jessica Begbie
- IGS B 9-11 South Craven B – POM: Isla Slade
- IGS A 11-8 South Craven B – POM: Edie Smith
- IGS B 9-11 South Craven A – POM: Isla Slade

Our Senior A team competed in the Senior Bradford District Netball Tournament on Tuesday 5th November. The girls played 7 matches against other schools and competed well, finishing 3rd place in the tournament. Well done to all those involved.

## U14 Netball

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November our U14A Netball team competed in the West Yorkshire round of the England Netball National Schools Competition held at Bradford Grammar School. The girls faced some tough competition all morning, playing against 5 other schools in the U14 age group. Unfortunately, IGS didn't progress to the next round on this occasion, but the girls learnt a lot from the experience and competed well, putting out some strong performances, particularly in our matches against Prince Henrys and Wakefield Girls High School. Well done to all those involved.

Top row L-R: Minnie Garwell, Henrietta Morton, Nieve Brown, Beatrice Ritson, Isla Allen, Orla Bowman  
Bottom row L-R: Evie Wood, Sophia Couling, Bella Paraschiv, Amelia Nichols



## Football

### Year 7 Girls' Football – Leeds Merit league

- IGS v Garforth 0-0
- IGS v Horsforth 0-0
- IGS v Allerton High 1-0
- IGS v John Smeaton 3-0
- IGS v St Marys 3-0
- IGS v Guiseley 3-0



### Year 7 Boys' Football - Leeds NW League

- IGS v Menston 3-0
- IGS v Lawnswood 6-0

### Year 8 Boys' football - Leeds Cup Second Round

Ilkley 2- Corpus Christi 1. This included a fantastic winning goal by Leo Raven. Player of the match was Eddie Overend.

### Year 9 Football - Leeds Cup

- IGS 1- Temple Moor 2

### Year 9 Girls' Football – Leeds Merit League.

- IGS Vs Coop Academy 2-0
- IGS Vs Guiseley 0-0
- IGS Vs Horsforth 1-0
- IGS Vs Leeds West Academy 0-0
- IGS Vs Prince Henry's 0-1
- IGS Vs Cardinal Heenan 0-1
- IGS Vs John Smeaton 5-0



**Our U13 girls' football** team has won the U13 Utilita Girls' Cup organised by Bradford City AFC Community Foundation. They won every game in the tournament and will now progress to represent Bradford City in 1 of 8 area finals in the country.



### Year 10 (Under 15) Girls' Football

The Under 15 (year 10) girls have had an exceptional start to the school season, maintaining a 100% record across two competitions. In the English Schools FA Cup, the girls beat King James School 2-1 to progress to the third round, with Sophie Swann scoring both goals. In the West Yorkshire County Cup, the girls beat Honley High School 5-3 to progress to the second round, with goals from Chloe Clarke, Sophie Swann and a hat-trick from Kate Foley. Well done girls!



### Leeds Cup - 6th Form Football

- IGS 4 - Abbey Grange 1





Rugby Fixtures

Year 8s beat South Craven 25-0 and Ermysted's 20-5 in a central venue competition at Keighley RFC.

NOV 7	Horsforth Sch	14
	Blue Ties rugby	20
Ilkley Grammar School Rugby T... • Blue Ties ru...		
FULL TIME		
Away		

NOV 7	Horsforth Sch	25
	Red Ties rugby	20
Ilkley Grammar School Rugby T... • Red Ties ru...		
FULL TIME		
Away		

Cross Country  
ESAA Cross Country Cup Regional Finals at GSAL Saturday 8th November 2024



Pos	School	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Points
1	William Farr Ce School, Lincolnshire	2	4	5	18	29
2	Silverdale School, South Yorkshire	1	8	9	19	37
3	The Grammar School At Leeds, West Yorkshire	7	12	17	25	61
3	Ilkley Grammar School, West Yorkshire	6	13	16	26	61
5	Bourne Grammar School, Lincolnshire	3	15	23	24	65
6	Ratcliffe College, Leicestershire	21	30	31	39	121
7	Leicester Grammar School Trust, Leicestershire	10	11	51	59	131
8	Woodhouse Grove School, West Yorkshire	14	38	41	42	135
9	Nottingham High School, Nottinghamshire	27	29	37	46	139
10	Pocklington School, Humberside	28	40	48	50	166
11	St George's Academy, Lincolnshire	20	49	57	58	184

Team Results		4	Scoring Athletes				Distance 2440m	
Pos	Name	School, County	Time	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Points
1	Ilkley Grammar School, West Yorkshire			1	8	12	15	36
2	William Farr Ce School, Lincolnshire			4	9	19	26	58
3	Prince Henry's Grammar School, West Yorkshire			7	14	17	23	61
4	Silverdale School, South Yorkshire			5	10	22	25	62
5	Wiltshire School, Derbyshire			11	13	18	25	71
6	The Grammar School At Leeds, West Yorkshire			3	24	27	31	89
7	High Starns School, South Yorkshire			6	20	33	39	98
8	Ratcliffe College, Leicestershire			16	28	31	38	113
9	Stamford Endowed Schools, Lincolnshire			2	34	54	55	145
10	Pocklington School, Humberside			36	41	46	52	175
11	Bourne Grammar School, Lincolnshire			21	51	57	58	187
Pos	School	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Points		
1	Ilkley Grammar School, West Yorkshire	2	3	4	5	14		
2	Woodhouse Grove School, West Yorkshire	8	12	16	21	57		
3	William Farr Ce School, Lincolnshire	14	15	22	25	76		
4	High Starns School, South Yorkshire	6	13	28	31	78		
5	Prince Henry's Grammar School, West Yorkshire	18	19	23	27	87		
6	Bourne Grammar School, Lincolnshire	1	24	30	39	94		
7	Uppingham School, Leicestershire	10	17	35	47	109		
8	Wiltshire School, Derbyshire	32	34	49	56	171		
9	Pocklington School, Humberside	38	44	50	54	186		
10	St George's Academy, Lincolnshire	42	51	52	60	205		
11	The Grammar School At Leeds, West Yorkshire	40	55	57	59	211		

Well done to all our runners who raced at GSAL at the weekend. There were some amazing team and individual performances cumulating in all three of our teams qualifying for ESAA National Finals on Saturday 7th December 2024 at GSAL.

Harriet Carter finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall in the Junior Girls race and it was a victory for Charlie Porteous in the Junior Boys race as well as a convincing win for the team. The Senior Boys team were dominant from the gun with our 4 counters finishing 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th respectively to finish on a team score of just 14!!



# Bay of Naples

After a later than planned arrival at our accommodation in Sorrento, we awoke on the Saturday morning to a rather damp morning. Despite the weather, we drove to Mount Vesuvius to see the view from near the summit of the volcano. Unfortunately, however, due to the weather the Park was closed, and we were unable to walk up to the crater rim and see the volcano in all its glory. We were however treated to some spectacular views across Naples and the wider bay area.

Fortunately, the weather cleared that afternoon, where we were guided around the ancient, ruined settlement of Pompeii, taking in the wonderfully preserved remains from the eruption in 79CE. We were treated to glorious late summer sunshine on the second day, which was ideal for a boat tour around the lovely island of Capri to marvel at the coastal features and landscapes and had a leisurely afternoon exploring the island with an ice cream, with some students even taking the 13-minute chairlift to the highest point on the island, Mount Solaro. On the final morning, we explored the picturesque town of Sorrento, filled with traditional shops selling local Italian products from the area such as very large lemons and leather goods. Before our flight home that evening, we visited a local farm and made pizza, where all the ingredients were grown and made on the farm!



## Ilkley Gazette Article: Refugee Action

Please see below the link to Ilkley Gazette's press coverage highlighting the valuable work Sue Staton (IGS parent) and Felicity Tomblin (IGS parent/staff) do to support the families.

[Kindness shown to asylum seekers and refugees by the Ilkley community | Ilkley Gazette](#)



## Born in Bradford (Age of Wonder)



Many of you will know already that as a school students in Y8,9 and 10 are involved in the Born In Bradford (Age of Wonder) which is one of the largest research projects focused on teenagers in the world.

Below are a range of opportunities that come to students in participating schools and we would recommend that students in any year group (unless an age range is specified) who are interested in any of the projects below to get involved.

Mr J. A. Gutch  
**DHT (Personal Development)**

### ■ BiB: Age of Wonder Podcast Series

Due to the success of last year's BiB: Age of Wonder podcast, we are excited to offer this opportunity to schools again this year! [Leeds Trinity University](#) students are looking to work with a group of students to produce a series of podcasts. This includes a series of planning workshops and a trip to Leeds Trinity University to record the podcast in the University's professional studio.

This is a brilliant opportunity for students to learn all about podcast creation, develop confidence and explore potential career options.

For more information email [laura.jackson@bthft.nhs.uk](mailto:laura.jackson@bthft.nhs.uk)

### ■ Age of Wonder: Teenage Stories

We are looking for 13- and 14-year-olds to take part in interviews and group discussions about what it's like to grow up in Bradford. Watch [this video](#) to learn more about the project. To get involved, please email: [teenage.stories@bthft.nhs.uk](mailto:teenage.stories@bthft.nhs.uk)

### ■ Bradford Digital Creatives

Bradford Digital Creatives is a pilot project empowering young people to share stories about themselves, their pasts and their futures through a range of digital artforms, working with professional artists from Bradford and beyond. The new artworks will be showcased in communities, schools, online and in a festival of young culture as part of the Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture. Participating students and teachers will partake in surveys and feedback sessions to feed into the BiB: Age of Wonder evaluation, which aims to measure the impact of the project. For more information email [laura.jackson@bthft.nhs.uk](mailto:laura.jackson@bthft.nhs.uk)

### ■ CELEBRATE: Co-producing a framework of guiding principles for engaging representative and diverse cohorts of young people in biological research in mental health

The CELEBRATE project involves young people and researchers working together to figure out how to do biological mental health research with young people. To do this, the project is gathering views and perspectives from young people across Bradford, London and Birmingham through focus groups and online workshops

For more information, visit <https://www.celebrateproject.co.uk/> or contact David Ryan ([david.ryan@bthft.nhs.uk](mailto:david.ryan@bthft.nhs.uk))





## STUDENT CORNER

# Perception: The Subtle Influence of the Unseen

Perception is often regarded as a simple concept. It's how we view the world - how we observe, and form judgements based on what we see, hear and touch. We rely on these senses to navigate us through life. We trust them to provide us with an understanding of how to function within society.

But what if the reality we live in isn't quite as 'real' as we thought?

In our world today, 63.7% of the population uses social media. That's 5.17 billion people. (DataReportal, 2023). Most of these individuals would likely claim that they have a solid grasp on their reality, believing it is unaffected by social media. Yet, in the US alone, 32% of adolescents, the prime consumer of these platforms, say that social media has a mostly negative effect on people their age, with 9% saying it has negatively affected them personally (Vogels and Gelles-Watnick, 2023). So, what is it that makes social media adversely affect people's mental health?

At first glance, social media appears to be a wonder - a collection of apps that let individuals create and share videos, browse content, comment on and like posts and upload snapshots of their lives to a global audience. However, a closer examination of these platforms reveals a more unsettling reality. By understanding how the algorithms of these apps work through their manipulation of an individual user's pages, it is possible to begin to realise how social media subtly alters our perception of everyday life.

Algorithms are designed to capture the attention of users by displaying personalised content that aligns with the

individuals existing interests and beliefs. Apps such as Instagram® and TikTok® have a main page where people can access photos and videos that pique their interest which is fittingly named the 'For You' page (Bhandari and Bimo, 2022). Research has found that the algorithm creates a 'feedback loop' where users are repeatedly exposed to similar content, thus illustrating that social media distorts their perception of reality by reducing their exposure to more diverse perspectives (Bail et al, 2018). Consequently, this distortion can lead users to develop emotional attachments to these platforms, which can negatively impact self-esteem, and further contribute to an increase in anxiety and symptoms of depression, particularly amongst adolescents (Woods and Scott, 2016). This creates a dilemma for the social media tool that is often celebrated for its global connection, as its narrowing of perspectives can, in actuality, foster division and close-mindedness.

In order to further demonstrate the influence of social media on individuals' everyday lives, recent research by Kalogeropoulos (2019) found that 57% of Generation Z individuals (1997-2012) turn to social media as their primary source of news, compared to 43% of Generation Y (1982-1994). This highlights how the younger generation, having grown up with social media at their fingertips, allow it to have a greater influence on their worldviews compared to that of those who had limited access to technology during their youth. Subsequently, this constant exposure to social media indeed shapes their beliefs and attitudes, but many believe it is not entirely beneficial. Hence, statistically, 38% of teenagers in the US are overwhelmed by the drama on social media with 23% saying it makes them feel worse about their own lives (Vogels and Gelles-Watnick, 2023). As a result, the line between reality and fantasy becomes increasingly blurred by the falsehoods circulating around social media. This reality blurring diminishes self-confidence and increases mental distress. Research indicates that one factor of this mental distress manifests through many individuals exhibiting symptoms of body dysmorphia that intensifies with

prolonged exposure to social media platforms (Fardouly and Vartanian, 2016). Subsequently, it becomes more difficult for younger generations to navigate the world and define their own personal reality.

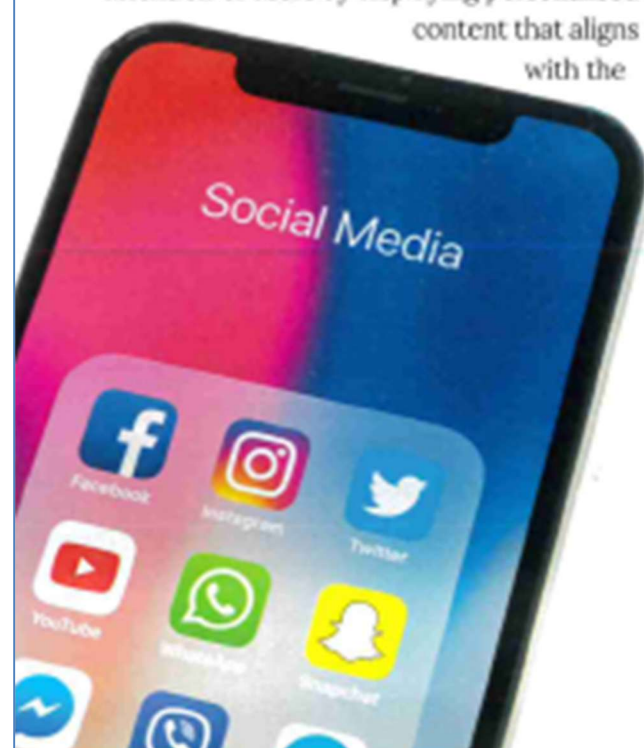
From this research, it can be concluded that social media usage is altering individuals' ability to perceive the world around them. The bombardment of curated content shapes both their sense of self and their well-being, thus highlighting the need for greater awareness and understanding of social media's impact on perception and mental health.

Considering this, it is crucial to remember that perception sculpts our reality and serves as the foundation for life's unique experiences. Yet, fully understanding perception and distinguishing between what is real and what is mere illusion remains a challenge we have yet to conquer. Perhaps, in the end, seeing isn't always believing.

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**Millie Smith**  
Ikley Grammar School  
Year 13 Student



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE



## A polite reminder about pick up and drop off protocols



❖ **Springs Lane Health Centre Car Park:** This is private parking. Please will parents/carers refrain from picking up/dropping off in the Springs Lane Health Centre Car Park as these spaces are for users of the Health Centre only.

❖ **Main Reception area driveway:** Please note that parents/carers should avoid picking up and dropping off outside the main entrance to school at the start or the end of the school day unless a child is in the SRP or has physical needs requiring a pick-up/drop-off at the main entrance.

❖ **Bus Laybys:** Parents/Carers must not park in the bus laybys on Cowpasture Road or Wheatley Road.

❖ **Considerate and Legal Parking:** Please be considerate to our local neighbours and wider community. Please do not block local residents' driveways and remember to park legally and adhere to local parking restrictions (e.g do not park on the double yellow lines, even if only staying for a short time)

## IGS PTA



ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY



The IGS PTA warmly invites you to attend the annual Call My Bluff Wine Tasting event at IGS which is run by **Martinez Wines** our local, independent wine merchant. The event will take place in B: Hall at IGS on Friday 6th December at 7.30pm.

This is a very popular event so make sure you get your tickets early!

The link to the tickets can be found [here](#)



MARTINEZ  
WINES  
*Famously Independent*  
Est. 1979

Call my Bluff  
Wine Tasting Evening

Hosted by Martinez Wines

with a selection of Cheeses procured from Booths supermarket.

Jonathan will give you 3 descriptions and you have to guess / decide which are the bluffs.



Friday 6th December 2024 7:30pm  
ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, B HALL

Tickets cost £22.50 per person  
Includes welcome fizz, 5 wines to taste and cheese to nibble.



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