PARENT/CARER BULLETIN
FORTNIGHTLY HIGHLIGHTS
13 DECEMBER 2024



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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the autumn term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredibly busy penultimate week for the IGS school community.

RESPONSIBILITY

Ofsted Inspection:

The week started with notification on Monday that we would have a 2-day graded Ofsted inspection on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th December. This involved a team of five inspectors who carried out a thorough review of the quality of education, student behaviour and attitudes, personal development, the sixth form, and leadership and management in line with the Ofsted framework. This included deep dives focusing on maths, English, science, geography, history, business and economics, as well as lesson visits to a variety of post-16 lessons, discussions with a range of students, staff and leaders, a visit to the School Resource Provision (SRP), observations of students in lessons, as well as at break and lunch, analysis of documentation and feedback from staff, student and parent surveys. While we are unable to share the full details just yet, I am pleased to say that it was a positive experience for everyone involved and we look forward to sharing the final report in due course. In the meantime, I would like to thank all the parents and carers who positively completed the Ofsted survey by the end of the first day and offered their valuable feedback and support to the school.

Countdown to Christmas Concert:

Prior to the inspection, on Monday evening we held our annual Countdown to Christmas concert at St Margaret's Church – a beautiful and meaningful setting for our evening. Our talented students delighted everyone with their musical, vocal and drama performances and truly captured the festive spirit. It was a heartwarming reminder of the creativity and enthusiasm that make our school community so special, and I felt proud and privileged to be amongst the audience.

I would again like to acknowledge the staff who worked so hard to bring the event to life and who continue to provide our students with these incredible opportunities for live performance. A special thanks go to the Creative Arts Team, especially Jess Pymar, Vic Chapman, Nick Peters, Rebecca Clift, Lara Ramrattan, David Hulme and Adam Grayson, as well as our peripatetic teachers especially John Wells and Mark Lewalski. In addition, thanks go to the staff from our Trust and other local primary schools who supported and nurtured the fabulous primary choir and to the IGS PTA who continue to go above and beyond for the school, providing festive refreshments for the evening.

KS4 Performance Tables 2024

Last week, saw the publication of the national performance tables for 2024 key stage 4 results and I am delighted to confirm that, once again, Ilkley Grammar School is in the top 16% of all state-funded schools nationally for both progress and attainment. With a Progress 8 score of +.53, students at IGS made over half a grade more progress in each of their qualifications (or to put it a different way, on average, one in every two qualifications was over a grade higher) than students of a similar ability nationally. This places IGS in the very highest "well above average" category as the following information confirms:

| The academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage to the end of key stage 4. This is based on 8 qualifications. | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | l or college is 'well above average' er than or equal to 0.5, and the entire | | | | | |
| confidence interval is abov | ve 0. | | | | | |
| confidence interval is above | WELL ABOVE AVERAGE | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

| Banding | Percentage of state-funded mainstream schools |
|--------------------|--|
| WELL ABOVE AVERAGI | E 16% |
| ABOVE AVERAGE | 18% |
| AVERAGE | 33% |
| BELOW AVERAGE | 17% |
| WELL BELOW AVERAG | E 16% |
| | |

Congratulations and well done to the students in last year's year 11. This result is testament to their resilience, determination, hard work and positive engagement with their learning, as well as the support and dedication from staff and families.

The Times Parent Power Guide:

Ilkley Grammar School also features again in The Sunday Times Parent Power league tables with IGS ranked 7th across the north of England based on A level and GCSE results for comprehensive schools and Ist across Leeds, Bradford and North Yorkshire. Whilst these rankings are based on attainment only, they are another fantastic acknowledgment of the hard work and dedication of our fantastic students, staff and families.

End of Term:

Term finishes next Friday 20th December at 12.30pm, with school buses departing at 12:45 and we return after the holiday on Monday 6th January 2025 which is a week B. Please note, that reception is not manned over the holiday period; the admin@igs.mlt.co.uk email will be checked periodically but emails will not be forward to staff until the start of the new term. If there is an urgent safeguarding issue, please contact school via the website, clicking on the safeguarding link.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this busy term. We wish you a peaceful and restful Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming students back in January for another exciting term.

Best wishes,

Carly Purnell

Headteacher

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The Sunday Times Parent Power Guide 2025

| Rank | | School | Location | A-level A*, A and B | GCSE 9, 8 and 7 |
|------|---|---|-----------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | • | St Mary's College | Hull | 78.1% | 33.0% |
| 2 | • | Fulford School | York | 70.6% | 39.6% |
| 3 | • | Silverdale School | Sheffield | 69.3% | 41.7% |
| 4 | • | High Storrs School | Sheffield | 67.1% | 45.3% |
| 5 | • | Archbishop Holgate's School | York | 74.8% | 25.9% |
| 6 | • | Tapton School | Sheffield | 62.7% | 40.1% |
| 7 | • | Ilkley Grammar School | Ilkley | 64.5% | 36.0% |
| 8 | • | All Saints Roman Catholic School, York | York | 65.7% | 32.2% |
| 9 | • | Sherburn High School | Leeds | 66.0% | 30.7% |
| 10 | • | Horsforth School | Leeds | 66.7% | 28.7% |

Headteacher's Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Headteacher Award over the last fortnight:
Simrah Awan 7KMH; Gabe Tosetti 8SFQ; Charlie Chearman 9JNB; Hollie Begbie 10AHF; Isla Swann 11DJJ; Isabella Wormald 11SB; Jake Diggle 12AWD;
Olivia Rix 8IGD; Heather Crolla 9NJB; Merryn Simpson 10CSJ; Jessie Duckworth 13PKP

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.













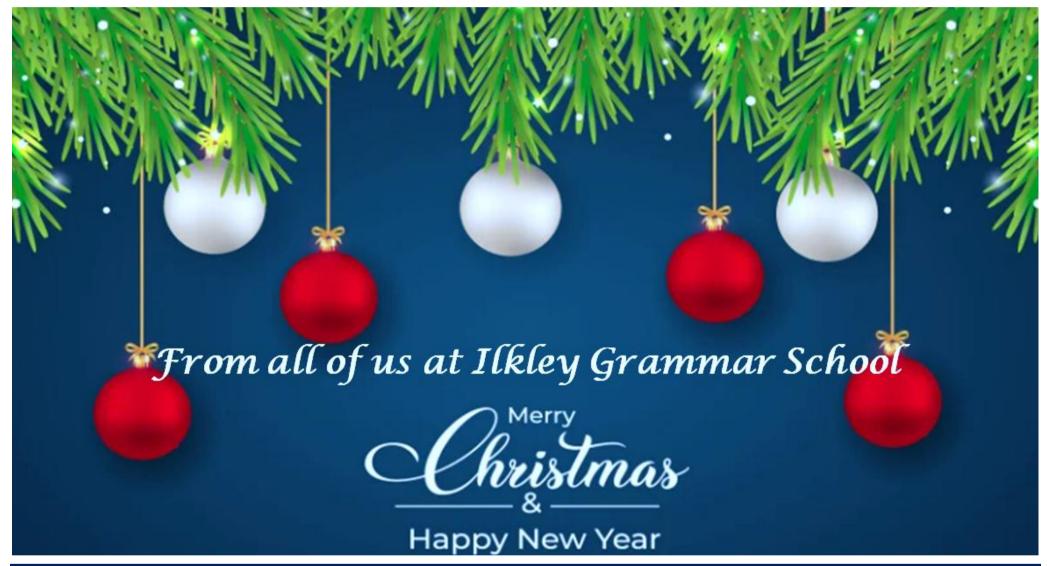
On behalf of Mr Gutch Deputy Headteacher: The Moral Maze

The Moral Maze – the results so far: In September we launched the Moral Maze in tutor time for students in years 9-13. The Moral Maze is a short-form debating activity which encourages students to explore the different sides of an argument, to play 'devil's advocate' and to 'disagree agreeably'. At the end of each debate there is the opportunity for students to give their vote on what they actually think on a given topic. **Please find attached, the results so far.**



Upcoming Events in 2025

- Thursday 16th January: Yr 11 Parents' Evening (in school)
- Thursday 30th January: Yr 9 Parents' Evening (remote)
- Tuesday IIth Thursday I3th February: School Production Les Misérables
- Tuesday 25th February: Yr 8 Parents' Evening (remote)
- Wednesday 12th March: Year 8 and 9 Options Evening
- Thursday 13th March: Spring Concert
- Thursday 27th March:Yr 12 Parents' Evening (remote)
- Tuesday 6th May:Yr 7 Parents' Evening (in school)



Creative Arts News

Gold Artsmark Award for IGS Creative Arts

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded Gold Artsmark by Arts Council England, in recognition of our high-quality arts provision and 'championing' arts and culture:

- "Ilkley Grammar School provides students an arts rich education and a wide range of opportunities to perform and take part in the arts"
- "There is a rich arts and cultural offer, students work with a wide range of arts organisations and artists... [linking] to local creative practitioners and organisations and provide arts opportunities and performances for local schools."
- "Students contribute actively to the planning and delivery of authentic arts, cultural and creative experiences"

















Our annual Countdown to Christmas event took place on Monday 9th December with over 230 students from years 4-13 involved in the performances, and compēred by our wonderful student hosts, Dylan Hurst and Toby Lucas in year 12.

This is the highlight of the winter calendar and once again, we were treated to an exceptional display of talent with beautiful readings and high-quality performances from our choirs, bands, instrumental groups, chamber groups and orchestra, in addition to our year 7 drama group performing different Christmas characters throughout the evening.

We were joined by our local primary schools to perform 'Step into Christmas', accompanied by our Jazz band, to make this a truly special, festive community concert and another 'standing room only' event in the church which accommodates several hundred people.

A special thank you to St Margaret's church for their hospitality and support.



School Production Residential: Les Misérables

Students in this year's school production Les Misérables set off on their three-day performance rehearsal residential on Thursday 12th December and will return on Saturday 14th December. On the final day of term, students will showcase a number from the musical to all IGS students as part of their annual Christmas celebration assemblies.

Full articles of our recent Creative Arts events will be published on the school website in due course.















IGS Charities Week: 16-20th December

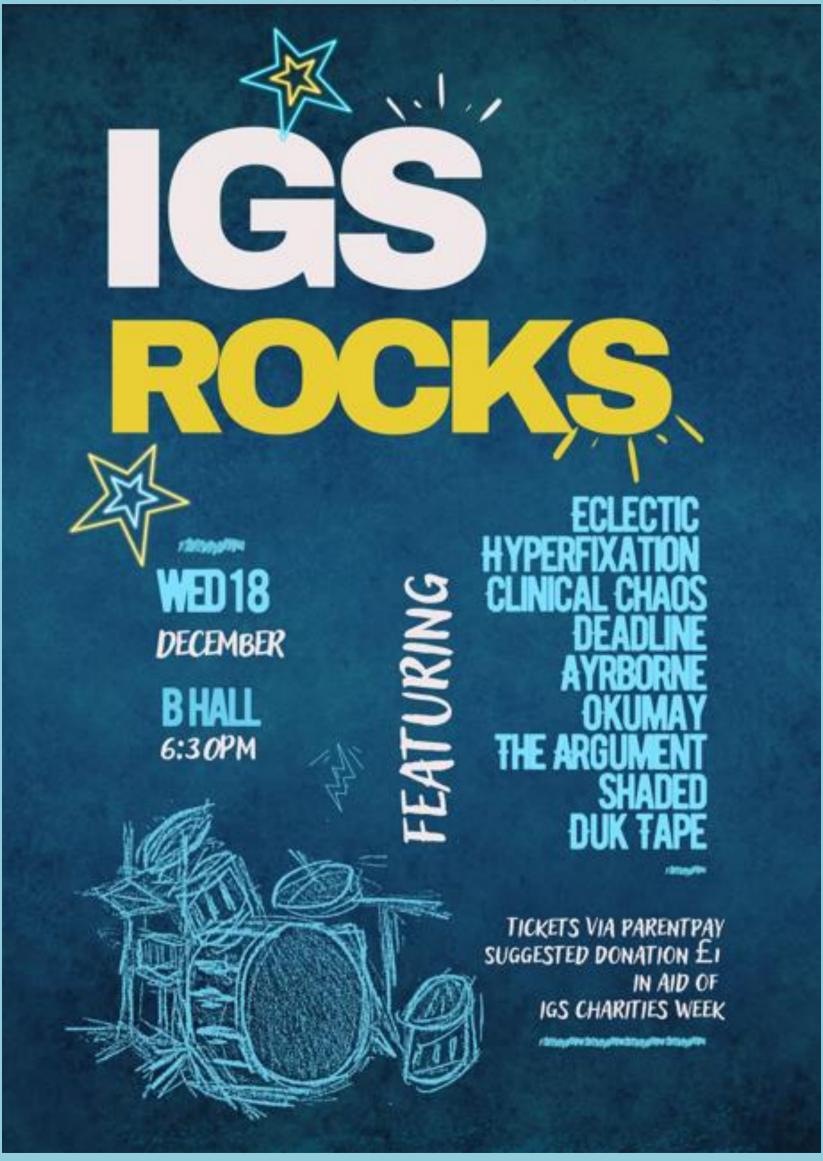
Our annual charities week is taking place during the final week of term. All key stages will be taking part in this week but there are further events planned throughout the year.

Although we are having a focus on students being generous through giving their time, items will appear on ParentPay for you to give donations if you are able to.



As part of this week, we are holding a new charity concert 'IGS Rocks' on Wednesday 18th December in B Hall, featuring a number of our school bands and the IGS Christmas Jumper Day will take place on Friday 20th December; this is also a non-uniform day.

Students have been voting on their chosen charities (one per year group); these will be published shortly.















Sport Updates

Year 8 Boys' Football



The year 8 boys' football team won 4-1 against St Mary's in the league on Monday 9th December. It was a fantastic performance from the entire team, and the best performance so far this season. They played great, passing the football throughout and scored one team goal that any team would have been proud of! We had a goal from Will Smith and an amazing Hatrick from Joe (Erling Haarland) Mutton. Well done lads!

U12 Girls' Football Team



The UI2 girls' football team secured a place in the Leeds Cup semi-final after a 2-1 win against Allerton Grange. The team were dominant throughout the game showing great potential. Well done team!

YII Boys' Football

Sadly, the YII boys' football Leeds City Cup run has come to an end after losing to Boston Spa academy on penalties. The weather conditions were extremely wild as storm Darragh was brewing, meaning the game was suspended 5 minutes into the second half due to flooding on one half of the pitch. The game was tied 3-3 at that point after a fantastic performance from IGS late in the first half to level the game. The tie needed to be decided on the night, so penalties were taken but sadly Boston took the win 5-3. The boys should be very proud of their resilience in the poor conditions, they showed incredible character to come back to level the game before half time.













Year 9 Netball

On Wednesday 27th November our year 9 netball teams travelled to Bradford Grammar School for the U14 Bradford District Netball Tournament. It was a bitterly cold night for all teams involved, however, despite this, both our A and B teams played some lovely netball. Our U14A team finished 3rd overall and our U14B team finished 7th overall. Well done to all involved!

Senior Netball

Year II and I2 netballers were involved in their final league fixture of the year against Bradford Grammar School on Thursday 5th December at Bradford Grammar School. Both teams played some excellent netball, turning the ball over, and taking it to goal convincingly. Well done to all involved! Results and players of the matches below:

- IGS A 21-6 Bradford Grammar B Player of the match Lois Nevison
- IGS B 14-8 Bradford Grammar B Player of the match Isla Slade





Many IGS students already attend the Ilkley Youth Choir.
If your child is interested, they can go along for a FREE TRIAL!















