



PARENT/CARER BULLETIN

28 March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

With spring now upon us, we welcome the longer days, brighter mornings and a fresh sense of optimism and positivity. The clocks also change this weekend, bringing lighter evenings and the promise of warmer days ahead—something to which we can all look forward.

Last week, we were also delighted to celebrate the news that Ilkley has been named the best place to live in the north and northeast of England by The Sunday Times, following its national title in 2022. The Sunday Times judges said: *“Our national winner in 2022 is back and proof that you can’t keep a good town down. It’s not just the fresh air, fantastic scenery, excellent schools and direct trains to Leeds that make Ilkley this year’s pick of the north and northeast. It’s the get-up and go of a community that tackles every challenge with gusto.”*



This recognition is a testament to the wonderful community of which we are proud to be part, and we feel incredibly lucky to belong to a town that values education, sport, culture and enrichment, and has a strong sense of togetherness. IGS was specifically mentioned in the article, with the quality of local schools one of the factors which are assessed by The Sunday Times’s expert judges:

“The non-selective co-educational Ilkley Grammar School is Ofsted-rated outstanding (2024) and one of the top 250 state secondary schools nationally in the Sunday Times Parent Power guide. Nine students gained Oxbridge places in the last year.”



As we approach the Easter holidays, I want to take this opportunity to thank our students, staff, and families for their continued hard work and support throughout the term. I hope everyone enjoys a restful and enjoyable Easter break. To those celebrating Eid next week, we also send our warmest wishes—Eid Mubarak!

A reminder that school closes on **Friday 4th April at 3pm** and re-opens on **Tuesday 22nd April 2025**. Please note that while the school admin mailbox will be checked periodically over this period, emails will not be forward to staff until the start of the new term.

Best wishes,

Carly Purnell

Headteacher’s Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Headteacher Award over the last fortnight: Dotty Tear 7WJ; Evie Cummings 8HMM; Hannah Miles 10NRP; Olivia Rutter 11CSJ; Rory Thacker 12MO; Antony O’Connor 7JEF; Emma Dowson 8JOW; Autumn Bulmer 8JOW; Ted Kennington 9BET; Helena Parr 10ERE; Will Birkett 11DJJ; Sadie Sykes 12GND

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.



PRIDE

RESPECT

COURAGE

RESPONSIBILITY

KINDNESS

RESILIENCE



Ofsted, the body responsible for inspecting educational institutions in England, has proposed significant changes to how schools are evaluated and reported on. These proposals aim to provide parents and carers with more detailed and nuanced information about their child's school. A public consultation is underway, and Ofsted is inviting feedback from all stakeholders to help shape these potential reforms.

Key Proposed Changes:

1. **Introduction of Detailed Report Cards:** Schools will receive evaluations across multiple specific areas, with schools judged on up to 11 areas including safeguarding. The proposed inspection areas are as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership and governance Curriculum Developing teaching Achievement Behaviour and attitudes Attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal development and well-being Inclusion Safeguarding Early years in schools (where applicable) Sixth form in schools (where applicable)
--	---

Ofsted have said that this approach seeks to offer a clearer picture of a school's strengths and areas for improvement.

- Five-Point Grading Scale:** Each area will be assessed using a five-point, traffic light scale ranging from 'causing concern' (red) to 'exemplary' (dark green). It is proposed that a school will be put in a category – special measures or requires significant improvement – if they get one red 'causing concern' rating. An example of what a report card inspection might look like is captured below.
- Emphasis on Inclusion and Support for Vulnerable Students:** There's a heightened focus on how schools support disadvantaged and vulnerable children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
- Consideration of Local Context:** Evaluations will take into account the unique circumstances and challenges of the school's local community.
- Enhanced Transparency:** Ofsted aims to provide clear toolkits outlining evaluation criteria, ensuring schools and parents/carers understand the inspection process.

Example of a Report Card:

Our evaluation of this provider

Causing concern	Attention needed	Secure	Strong	Exemplary
	Achievement	Leadership and governance	Attendance	
		Curriculum	Behaviour and attitudes	
		Developing teaching	Inclusion	
		Personal development and well-being		
		Sixth form		

Safeguarding evaluation

Safeguarding	Met	Show
--------------	-----	------

Sector Concerns and Criticism

While these proposals aim to offer a more detailed picture of school performance, there are concerns which have been raised by school and college leaders, teachers and other representatives from the educational sector. For example, there are concerns that the plans to grade schools on up to 11 areas (there are currently up to 6 areas inspected as part of the framework) will make judgements less reliable.

It is also argued that the tragic case of Ruth Perry highlighted the pressures which are faced by the current, high-stakes approach to school inspections, and this has intensified calls for a more supportive and less punitive approach. There are also concerns that the proposals will exacerbate an already serious recruitment and retention crisis in education where high-pressure accountability and the Ofsted framework are often reasons for teachers and leaders leaving the profession. Critics argue that unless these new proposals genuinely reduce the burden and pressure on teachers and leaders, they could fail to address some of the causes of staff shortages and well-being concerns.

Why The Consultation Matters for Parents/Carers

Ofsted's aim is to provide a more comprehensive and transparent evaluation of schools, offering parents and carers detailed insights into various aspects of school performance. Your participation in the consultation is crucial to ensure that these changes effectively address the needs and concerns of families and genuinely serves the best interests of children and their education.

How Can You Have Your Say?

The consultation is open until **April 28, 2025**. To share your views and learn more about the proposals, please visit the official consultation page: [Ofsted Consultation](#)

There is also a YouTube video where Ofsted's Chief Inspector, Martin Oliver, explains Ofsted's proposals which is available [HERE](#)



CREATIVE ARTS

TEACHER TALENT SHOW IN AID OF COMIC RELIEF

On Thursday 20th March, the Student Council ran a 'Teacher Talent Show' in aid of Comic Relief. A huge thank you goes to the teachers who took part and performed- and all were of an exceptional quality!

After a lot of deliberating, in the end it was Mr Hulme who was crowned the winner by the Student Leadership Team judges, with his rendition of 'You'll Be Back' from Hamilton, closely followed by Mr Hughes, who delighted the audience on guitar and vocals with a Harry Styles song.

From the Teacher Talent Show, and Non-Uniform day on Friday, students raised a total of £2256.50 for Comic Relief!



SAVE THE DATE (S)! *The Creative Arts Festival* - SEE FOLLOWING POSTER

The Creative Arts Festival is returning in 2025 with over three days of themed arts evenings and events for students throughout the week. Tickets will be available nearer the time from ParentPay - more information to follow in the summer term.



Huge congratulations to Olivia Rix (8IGD) who recently participated in the Skipton Music Festival, achieving a special commendation for stage presence in the final celebration concert. Olivia also received 1st place trophies for the Year 10 piano, Open Piano duet, Year 9 Songs from the Shows, and 2nd place for her performance on the saxophone in the year 9 and year 11 Woodwind classes.

These are phenomenal achievements – **well done Olivia, we are really proud of you!**



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

IGS Annual Spring Showcase

The annual Spring Showcase took place on Thursday 13th March. The audience were treated to group performances from year 10 and 11 GCSE music students and solo items from year 12 and Y13 A Level musicians. With repertoire ranging from Green Day to Grieg and ABBA to Mozart, it certainly was an evening of incredible quality!



Music Exam Successes!

- **Kate Devane** Grade 7 singing (merit)
- **Isabella Hall** Grade 3 singing (merit)
- **Lizzie Whittington** Grade 3 singing (pass)
- **Erin Jones** Grade 2 singing (pass)
- **Annabel Easter** Grade 2 singing (pass)
- **Oliver Davidson** Debut Drums (distinction)
- **Charlotte Graham** Grade 3 Musical Theatre (distinction)
- **Ella Hiley** Grade 3 Musical Theatre (distinction)
- **Julietta Spotto** Grade 5 Musical Theatre (distinction)
- **Niamh Brewis** Grade 3 piano (pass)



Netflix: ADOLESCENCE

In the last summer holidays Meghan Pickering (10CLL) and Oscar Pickering (7KMH) filmed for episode 2 of the new Netflix drama - Adolescence. Adolescence has quickly become the most talked-about show of the year so far after it launched on 13 March and has sparked a national conversation about the malign impact of social media and “manosphere” influencers.

Meghan and Oscar spent 3 weeks on set in Pontefract, experiencing what it’s like to be on camera, the work that goes in to create a TV show and meeting the directors and other crew. This was a fantastic experience, and we are very proud of their commitment, hard work and their contributions to this hard-hitting, highly acclaimed drama. Well done!



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

A reminder that Ilkley Grammar School is a nut free school

This means that we should not be bringing in any food items that contain nuts because this could potentially cause a risk for anyone that suffers for air born nut allergies or be at risk if these nuts are ingested. A message has gone out to tutors to share this with students.



Catering price increases

As a school, we endeavour daily to provide the best quality nutritious meals for our students. Due to increased costs from our suppliers, as well as the increase to National Insurance employer contributions which has raised staffing costs, we have taken the difficult decision to increase prices in order for us to maintain the use of high-quality local produce and high standards set in our catering outlets.

With effect from 22nd April prices will be:

- Main meal £2.75
- 2 item meal deal £3.40
- 3 item meal deal £4.05

*All other prices are remaining the same.



IGS PTA Quiz & Curry Night

On Friday 21st March, The IGS PTA hosted their much-anticipated Quiz & Curry Night, bringing together parents, staff, and friends for an evening of fun, friendly competition, and delicious food. With around 110 attendees, the event was a great success, filled with laughter and lively debate over some challenging quiz questions.

Our fantastic quizmaster, Mr. Hefferin, still full of energy after a day in the classroom, did a brilliant job of preparing and hosting the quiz. His engaging style and at times quirky questions kept everyone entertained throughout the night. A huge thank you goes to him for his time and effort.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the hardworking PTA team for organising such a wonderful event, to the IGS catering team, who prepared a delicious meal that was enjoyed by all and to Bev Gale, Josh Hutchinson and the site team for their help with setting everything up. The combination of great food, good company and a lively quiz made for a fantastic evening.

In an entirely unexpected, and unprecedented turn of events, the Senior Leadership Team quiz team claimed victory after a dramatic tie-break—an occurrence as rare as Halley's Comet or a total solar eclipse and unlikely to ever happen again! The winning team's ability to identify scarecrows dressed up as celebrities was a skill they didn't even know they possessed and one which sadly is unlikely to ever be required again!

While the final total is still being confirmed, the funds raised will in line with previous years and will allow us to continue investing in resources and opportunities that directly benefit our students.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event—we look forward to welcoming you again next year!

Jamie Gutch: Deputy Headteacher



Read for Good Readathon



Year 7 Readathon - 7 - 21 April 2025

Every year, the IGS library runs a Readathon for year 7 and this year we are running it over the Easter holidays. Although sponsorship is voluntary, this is a sponsored event and the main aim is to get everyone reading for pleasure - literally anything you want to read, just for fun! To find out all about it, students/parents just need to watch the short video at www.readforgood/films and select 'secondary'.

There are lots of other short, informative videos to watch too, some of which tell you about the good work any sponsorship money



raised will go towards. When the Easter holidays are over, please pay any money online as per the guidelines. Thank you!



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

SPORT UPDATES

Hockey



On Thursday 20th March, the IGS hockey team took a trip out to compete in a Yorkshire Hockey Tournament. Although it was a tough tournament for team IGS, they gave everything, putting together some fantastic moments in the 3 games against Ashville, QEGS, and St Peters. This tournament was a U15 (year 10) however our team consisted of 11 year 9s who all stepped up for the occasion!

Following the tournament and topping off a good afternoon of hockey, team IGS were lucky enough to meet an international hockey player from Pakistan who has scored over 200 goals on an international stage!

A big well done to Freddy Hird; Zack Beever; Charlie Chearman; Ben Harper; Ethan Griffin; Julian Cork; Arthur Wallace; Alex Gardner; Arthur Roberts; Louis Wilson; George Taylor and Joel Cork!



Golf Team Success

A huge well done to all the golfers who competed at the Yorkshire Schools' Golf Championship at Howley Hall on Monday, 17th March. Special congratulations go to Zac Ayre, pictured left, who finished as second runner-up in the boys' competition, and Ava Chaplain, pictured left, who won the overall girls' title!

As a result of their fantastic performances, team Ilkley qualified for the next round in Darlington. Well done to everyone involved, and best of luck in the next stage!

Football

Etihad Stadium: Manchester City Women vs Chelsea Women



On Sunday, we took 44 girls from across years 7 - 11 down to the Etihad Stadium to watch Manchester City Women vs Chelsea Women. It was a fantastic occasion and experience for all the girls, and the injury time winner made it even more exciting!

When asked about the trip, Bella Atwell-Skevington (9SP) said "On the bus ride there everyone was excited to see the game and wondering what it was going to be like. When we got there everyone had a look around the stadium to see all the things they had to offer like free clap bangers, foam fingers and face paint. I was really excited to watch the match as football is one of my favourite things and it did not disappoint. The match was amazing, and the atmosphere was excellent".



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

The year 7 A team have finished top of the N/W Leeds Football League for the 2024/25 Season! They have progressed onto the knockout stages and are waiting to see who they will face.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
Ilkley G	8	6	1	1	28	9	21	19
Horsforth	8	6	1	1	21	6	15	19
Abbey Grange	8	4	3	1	9	5	4	15
Guiseley	8	4	2	2	13	6	7	14
Prince Henry's	8	4	0	4	13	10	3	12
Ralph Thoresby	5	1	0	4	2	15	13	3
Benton Park	3	1	0	2	5	8	-3	3
St Mary's	4	0	2	2	1	7	-6	2
Lawnswood	7	0	1	6	0	19	-19	0



The year 7 B team pictured left, were unfortunately knocked out of the English Schools Football Association (ESFA) in the quarter final against a strong Sandwell Academy. Reaching the last 8 teams in the competition is a huge achievement and further than any IGS team before. **A huge well done to the team on their record-breaking run!**

IGS under 13s girls' team into the last 16 of the ESFA!

On Friday 14th March, the IGS under 13 girls' football team took on De La Salle's School from St Helens in a thrilling encounter!

The game began with both teams looking to make an impression at a tremendously fast pace as both teams settled down. After around 15 minutes of the first half, IGS took the lead through **Neve Curtin**, who magically avoided tackles from opposing places and tucked it into the bottom corner. Neve then went on to do the exact same 5 minutes later making it 2-0 to Ilkley! With around 5 minutes left in the Half De La Salle were able to grab 2 quick goals to make it 2-2 going into the break!

De La Salle Continued to push and through some brilliant footwork and fantastic striking they made it 4-2. At this point, it looked like Ilkley were out and defeated, however, once again Neve Curtin stepped up to make it 4-3 before **Olivia Harrison** hit a thunderbolt from halfway to beat the keeper, making it 4-4! With just 5 minutes left on the clock, both teams pushed for a winner but to no avail.

Extra time it is! IGS had been in a physical game and looked tired going into extra time – again the game was back and forth with attacks – and as the game progressed deep into extra time the IGS girls came alive – tackles were flying in – some expectational skills on the ball – and some game winning saves.

Neve Curtin asked how long was left to which my reply was '2 minutes'. She then went onto to say 'that isn't enough time to score a goal' – the next thing you know she is dribbling past the whole of De La Salles players, going from left and right, whilst they give everything they had to try and tackle her! Neve then struck the ball from 10 yards out into the top corner to seal the victory – what an incredible show of grit and determination from the girls, who now progress through to the **last 16 of the English Schools Cup with a trip to Greenbank High School (Southport) on the horizon.**

Team from left to right: Olivia Harrison; Sophie Clegg; Sophie Leijssen; Pippa Singleton; Evie Cummings; Rose Hoskin; Anna Clegg; Alyssa Ye; Jessica Rhea; Lois Hemming; Neve Curtin; Elizabeth Webb; Imogen White.



Both IGS year 7 and year 8 A & B netball teams were successful against Skipton Girls High School in their recent netball fixtures – more details will follow in the next edition! Congratulations to both teams!



IGS PRESENTS

CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

2025

JUL
01-
03

£5 ADULTS
£3 CONCESSIONS

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY
EXHIBITIONS **JUL 01- JUL 02**
A FLOOR FROM 5PM

FREE ENTRY TO A FLOOR

JUL 01- DRAMA
JUL 02- NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS
JUL 03- BAND NIGHT

EACH EVENING TICKETED
B HALL, 6:30PM

FREE LIVE @ LUNCH SESSIONS ALL WEEK FOR STUDENTS



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

+

+

+



ILKLEY

5K



PROUDLY ORGANISED BY
ILKLEY ROUND TABLE

+ NEW FOR 2025 +

SIGN UP NOW

www.ilkleyhalfmarathon.co.uk

+

SUNDAY 13th JULY

+

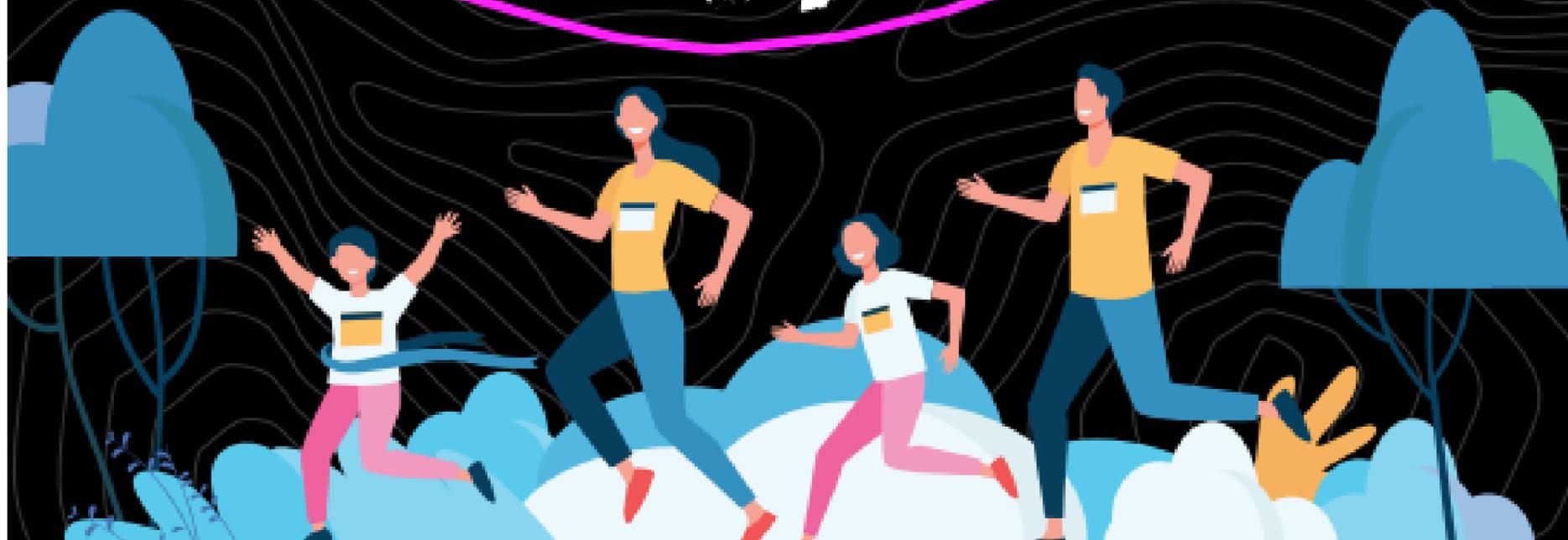
SUPPORTING LOCAL CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

RUN AND CHANGE LIVES

ILKLEY

5K

BEN
RHYDDING



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE