

## PARENT/CARER BULLETIN

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the May half-term break.

As we enter the final half-term of the academic year, I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on both national developments and our own school community at IGS.

The increase in funding for education announced in this week's Spending Review is a welcome step in the right direction. However, as highlighted in a recent report by [SecEd](#), schools continue to operate in a challenging and uncertain financial climate and the additional investment still falls short of reversing the sustained pressures school budgets have faced in recent years. Many schools, locally and across the country, are facing budgetary pressures and are being forced to make difficult decisions. These include cutting back staffing, removing GCSE and A-Level subject options, reducing extra-curricular and enrichment activities, and scaling back trips and visits as highlighted by research conducted by the NFER which surveyed over 1000 schools in the state sector in England:

### NFER RESEARCH: MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY SCHOOLS TO ADDRESS BUDGETARY PRESSURES

33% of secondaries reducing their GCSE offer

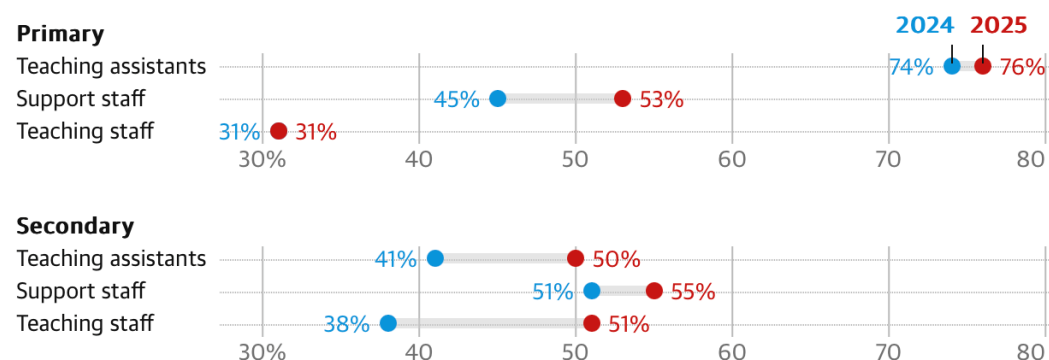
29% reducing their A-level offer

53% of all schools cutting spending on trips and visits

33% cutting sport/extra-curricular activities

48% cutting spending on IT equipment

Percentage of senior leaders who have had to cut back on staff for financial reasons (more than half of secondary schools in England)



Guardian graphic. Source: National Foundation for Educational Research. Note: survey of 1,208 practising teachers from 1,044 schools in the publicly funded sector in England

At IGS, we strongly believe that education is about more than exam results – it's also about creating lasting memories and developing well-rounded individuals who have the opportunity to "grow in wisdom and stature" in line with our Latin motto. That's why we are doing everything we can to protect and maintain our broad and rich offer, from sports and music clubs to school visits and our outstanding Personal Development programme. After all, students only get one chance at their school education.

Students at Ilkley Grammar School are funded on the minimum level of per-pupil funding nationally and to help us continue offering these valuable experiences and opportunities, we are asking for your support. Here are some practical ways families could help:

- **Sign up to Easy Fundraising:** this is a simple and free way to support the school when shopping online. Every purchase you make via the platform raises funds for us. Please sign up and support either Ilkley Grammar School or Ilkley Grammar School PTA – <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>
- **Make a parental donation** – contributions, however small, make a significant difference in supporting extra-curricular activities and covering any associated transport costs. If your child has taken part in extra-curricular opportunities this year, please donate on ParentPay if you are able to do so.
- **Connect us with potential sponsors** – we are launching exciting opportunities for local businesses to sponsor our successful sports teams, whole school events, Post-16 pathways and our unique Personal Development programme. If your workplace or company would be interested, we'd love to hear from you via this [Microsoft Form](#)
- **Support specific fundraising events** e.g. the Art Auction which is being held later this month
- **Support PTA fund-raising events**

One of the reasons Ilkley was recently named the best place to live in the North (2025) was in recognition of its strong sense of community. We are proud to be part of that community and are committed to harnessing this spirit to ensure that our school continues to thrive for the benefit of every young person we serve. As today's edition of the bulletin shows, we have amazing students at IGS and offer a range of enrichment and competitive opportunities which we are committed to continuing and developing further.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

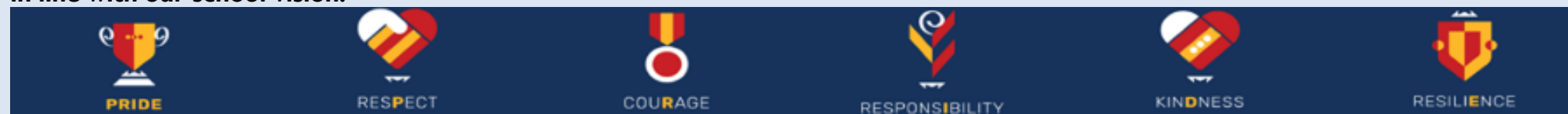
Best wishes,

Carly Purnell

## Headteacher's Awards

**Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Headteacher Award over the last fortnight:** Ted Atkinson 10PC; Jack Austwick 8ARJ; Thomas Edwards 12NDH; Oscar Garnett Dey 9ALN; Daniel Gowon 9SP; Ben Gray 9IFL; Will Howard 7GET; Holly Joyner 8SFQ; Isaac Keith 9LJD; Heidi Kernahan 10CS; Ben Lloyd 7JEF; Harry Noyes 9BET; Lily Palmer 9LJD; Dexter Reape 9IFL; Ali Wood 9IFL; Mustafa Zulfiqar 9IFL

**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.**





# FOOTBALL'S COMING HOME!!

More photos and the Leeds Beckett Football Finals promo video can be accessed via these links:

[Promo video](#)

[Photo Gallery](#)

## Year 11 Girls' Football Finals



Girls' football is booming in the local area and that is reflected in all our school teams. The current U16 football girls have been the pioneers for Ilkley Grammar School. They are the first full team of club players, demonstrating their excellent football ability in school competitions.

**The team captain Annabelle Forster** has been the driving force behind this team from the start. Annabelle is going to Sunderland Academy in September to pursue her football career, we wish her all the best. This team has won the U14 cup and league, U16 cup and league in Y10 and again in Y11. No IGS team has ever won the cup and the league, three years in a row. This is a unique performance and a phenomenal achievement!

**The route to the Leeds Merit League and Leeds cup final 2025:** This year has been challenging. When two key players sustained serious injuries earlier in the season, the rest of the squad successfully stepped up to keep the 'triple-double' dream alive. We finished first in the Merit League and to get to the final of the Leeds Cup, we beat Corpus Christi Catholic College, St Mary's Menston and Roundhay School.





**The finals:** With all players back to full fitness for the two finals, we were unbeatable. On Tuesday 6th May we won the Leeds Cup Final against Morley Academy 11-3. A week later we returned to Leeds Beckett University to play in the Leeds Merit League Final. The girls from Prince Henry's Grammar School had no answer for the great teamwork of our experienced squad and we beat them 11-3 as well!

**The IGS dream team:** Matilda Tricklebank; Isla Tate; Evie Till; Abi Yeaman; Nancy Bunney; Esther Grealley; Lara Stevens; Eliza Browne; Iona Judd; Jaz Potts; Lily Singleton; Eva Hodgson; Rosie Scott; Annabelle Forster; Evelyn Kennedy; Millie Porteous; Sophie Swann; India Webster and Sophie White.



Year 11 Boys' Football Final



**The IGS year 11 boys beat Morley Academy 4-3 in the Leeds Champions of Champions Cup on Tuesday 13th May!**

The goal scorers on the night were Noah Taylor-Smith (x2), Alex Pollard and Tom Goodall. It was an incredible battle and every player should be proud of their performance. IGS played some fantastic fluid



football and were well organised across the whole pitch.

Noah opened the IGS scoring account inside the first 15 minutes, gaining possession after his tenacious press. Alex Pollard calmly slotted the ball in the bottom right corner to level it 2-2 before half time after IGS had sadly conceded two goals against the run of play, with Morley players managing to find themselves free from an otherwise impeccably organised and drilled defensive set up.

The second half saw Morley approach the game with a bit more bite, but the IGS players worked extremely hard for each other on and off the ball. IGS managed to make it 3-2 through another Noah Taylor-Smith goal, scoring after the ball fell to him after being spilled by the keeper, and later 4-2 from a fantastic solo run from Tom Goodall. Every single goal was celebrated as a full team! Morley kept digging deep and did claw back one goal to leave the game in the balance at 4-3, but the organisation and tenacity of the Ilkley side guided them through as 4-3 winners!

**Pathway to the final:**  
Ilkley finished top of the NW Leeds league and their knockout pathway to the final involved facing Cardinal Heenan in the quarter final and Farnley Academy in the semi-final.

This final marked the 4th consecutive year the 'Green Ties' have reached the Champions Cup Final, winning 3 out of the 4 finals. They have been crowned Leeds Champions of Champions in year 8, 9 and 11. An incredible feat!



**Year 7 Boys' Football Final**



**The IGS year 7 boys' football team beat Horsforth 3-2 in the Leeds League final on Wednesday 14th May!**

IGS started strong and were attacking fiercely, however, it was Horsforth who scored first against the run of play. A superb response and continued



attacking football allowed Ben Marsh to score next making it 1-1. This was followed by an exceptional run down the wing from Ted Airey who cut inside and scored in the bottom corner. A fantastic first half display was then topped off by an unbelievable half volley from outside the box which flew into the top corner from Ben Marsh for his second and Ilkley's third, making it 3-1 at half time.

During the second half it was Horsforth who started strong, securing their second goal. IGS once again showed resilience and determination as they continued to play outstanding football, managing to see the game out and were deserving 3-2 winners!

**Route to the final:**  
Ilkley's season began back in October, winning their first two NW Leeds League games against Lawnswood and Menston. Seven months later they are champions and can now say they are the best team in Leeds! In the NW League Ilkley finished top however only on goal difference as Horsforth finished on the same points. We didn't know it at the time, but we would come to play Horsforth again in the final. The knockout pathway included wins against Allerton High School in the quarter final and Pudsey Grammar School in the semi-final.

**Year 7 Girls' Football Finals**

**Leeds Cup Final: 2nd (4-1 to Cardinal Heenan)**

A spirited performance from the IGS year 7 girls ultimately wasn't enough as they fell to a 4-1 defeat against Cardinal Heenan in a well-contested encounter on Wednesday 7th May at Leeds Beckett University. The scoreline did not reflect the intensity of the match, with Ilkley battling hard throughout. It was Cardinal Heenan who struck first, capitalising on a defensive lapse to open the scoring early through the first half. Despite pushing to find a way back into the game in the second half, Ilkley struggled to convert their chances, while Cardinal Heenan remained dangerous on the break. Despite the defeat, the effort and energy shown by Ilkley showed promise for their second finals a week later.



**Pathway to the final:**  
Last 16 – IGS v Allerton Grange 2-1  
Quarter finals – Ralph Thoresby 6-2  
  
Semi-finals – Roundhay 6-0

**Leeds Merit League Final: 2nd (4-1 to Cardinal Heenan)**

Ilkley return to Leeds Beckett University a week later facing Cardinal Heenan again, this time for the Merit League Finals. A change in formation was introduced to help breakdown Heenan's rapid attack. Ilkley showed greater strength and determination. The game was well contested with great attacking opportunities from both teams. Unfortunately for Ilkley, shots on target did not convert to goals, leading to a 4-1 defeat once again. A fantastic effort for the girls, showing lots of potential for the future.



**Pathway to the final:**  
Topped the Merit League table with 67 points. Played 28 games with W17, D5, L6  
Beat Ralph Thoresby 2-1 in the Semi-Finals





## 6th Form Boys' Football Finals

The 6th form team did themselves proud in the Leeds Cup Final against a very strong Ralph Thorsby team. They were underdogs going into the game but put up a real fight. Well done to the year 13's who played their last game for school. With a large number of year 12's in the team, we are looking strong for next season.



## Year 7 Boys' English Schools FA

Year 7 B team's record-breaking run!



**The year 7 B team made it all the way to the semi-finals of the English Schools Football tournament.**

This is a national competition and, as such, being one of the last eight teams in the whole competition is a huge achievement! This is further than any IGS team has ever got before in this competition. Our semi-final opponent was drawn live on 'TheESFA' YouTube challenge at the West Bromwich Albion's stadium – The Hawthornes. The route to the final consisted of a 3-1 win vs St Aiden's, 4-0 win vs Horizon CC, 3-1 penalty win vs Ribblesdale, 3-2 win vs Poynton HS in the quarter final before eventually losing in the semi-final vs Sandwell Academy. A remarkable run for a remarkable team!



We are looking for sponsors for our incredible sports teams! With some of our teams attending multiple high-profile events, there are excellent opportunities for business exposure and advertising. If you, or someone you know would be interested, please complete the following [Microsoft Form](#) to provide us with your details. We will then reach out to you with additional information.

Thank you for your continued support of our immense extra-curricular offering at IGS. It is one of the many aspects of our school that sets us apart, and we are so proud that we can enable our students to play competitive sports at such a high level. Please [get in touch](#) if you would like to know more!





## Ralph celebrates diving success!



Ralph Airey (9ALN) was invited to travel to Italy in June to represent England in this year's Swim England - Rome Junior International competition. He did an amazing job, winning a gold medal on the 3m springboard, and a bronze on the 1m springboard. Congratulations Ralph, we are really proud of you!

## Yorkshire U15s Girls' Discus Champion!



We are very pleased to announce that Heather Crolla (9JNB) has successfully defended her Yorkshire U15s girls Discus Champion title at the Yorkshire Track and Field Championships on Saturday 10th May, and made the Yorkshire team. Huge congratulations to Heather, this is an outstanding achievement!



## Rising Star award goes to IGS alumnus

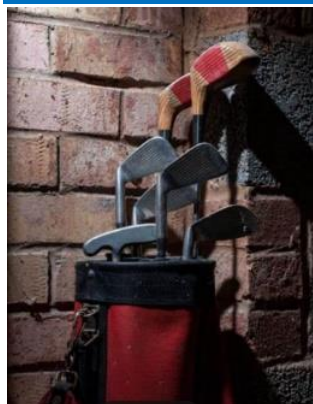
Following his nomination, Harmanpreet Sandhu has won the Rising Star award at the England Hockey Awards 2025! Harmanpreet has made some incredible contributions to the community, alongside his fantastic skills as a hockey player. The awards website highlights in particular:

- Founding Yorkshire Sikh Sports, providing young and older sporting talent with opportunities to compete across five different sports.
- Founding a community project named Saath, designed to ensure that elderly individuals are not isolated at home. The initiative includes weekly activities such as stretching, meditation, and social sessions.
- Launching the Harman Sandhu Hockey Centre, a coaching programme that provides free training to local youth and adults in the Bradford and Leeds areas, aiming to support young and senior Asian talent in overcoming barriers in hockey.



Congratulations to Harmanpreet for everything he has achieved, we can't wait to see what the future holds!

## Golf clubs wanted!



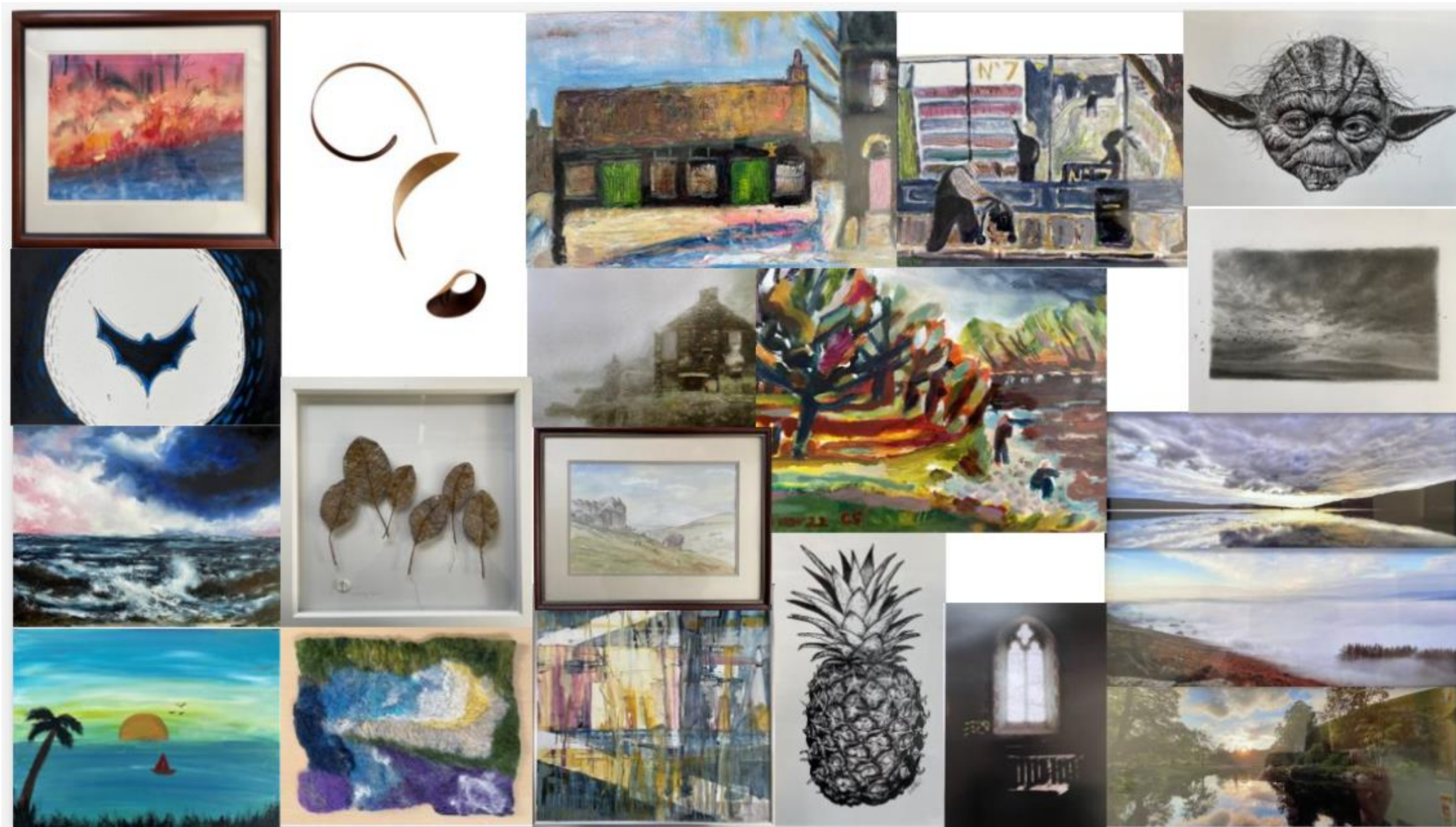
We have recently created a new and exciting school-club partnership with Ilkley Golf Club. We are now offering our students an opportunity to join an **after school club at Ilkley Golf Club** and we need your help, if possible! We have close to 60 students new to golf wanting to join our afterschool club which is phenomenal. Our request is for **golf club donations** for our students to use. If you have any old and unused golf clubs lying around, and you wouldn't mind donating them to the PE department, please could you bring them in? Ilkley Golf Club are really keen to develop our partnership and hosted our school golf team before half term. We had a great win over Ermysted's Grammar school. Thank you in advance.





## IGS Art Auction 2025 – raising money with the PTA for the IGS Enrichment Fund

We are hugely grateful to the 45 parents, carers, staff and students who have donated work so far. Here is just a selection of the pieces that have been donated – more pictures will follow. Online and in-person bidding details via the Galabid website will be circulated over the coming weeks. The exhibition will open on the first evening of the Creative Arts week in July. Thank you for your support.  
Mr Gutch & The Creative Arts Team



## Duke of Edinburgh certificate awarded to IGS



# Thank you

to  
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants

from

Ilkley Grammar School

who spent

**1456 Hours**

volunteering between  
1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025.

We are immensely proud of the dedication, effort and achievement  
of young people making an impact in their community.

The social value of these hours is

**£9318**

Ruth Marvel OBE, Chief Executive

June 2025

This June, IGS has been awarded a Social Value Certificate from the DofE celebrating our school's volunteering and impact for 2024/25! The Social Value Certificate recognises the fantastic work DofE participants do, both in and for their communities. It gives a monetary value to participants' efforts towards the Volunteering section of their DofE. We are so proud that our students have dedicated 1456 hours to voluntary work over the past 12 months, totalling a monetary value of £9318! We are extremely grateful to all of the staff at IGS who facilitate our incredibly successful DofE programme, including those who volunteer their evening and weekend time for the sometimes soggy, but always brilliant expeditions!

In May, the DofE announced that a record-breaking 342,000 young people had started a DofE programme in 2024-25 – the highest since the charity was founded almost 70 years ago. During the same period, participants have contributed an astonishing 5.2 million hours of volunteering in communities all over the UK – with an estimated total value of £33.4 million. Participation can begin in year 9 once your child turns 14. For year 8 students interested in taking part next year, look out for an assembly coming soon. Parents will also receive a notification in year 9 once we open applications to students.







## THE SPEAKERS TRUST YORKSHIRE SPEAK OUT CHALLENGE 2025

We are incredibly proud to announce that Sofi Bender from year 10 has reached the last 16 of the Speakers Trust Yorkshire Speak Out Challenge 2025!

Our year 10 students began their journey in February with professional training to enhance their public speaking skills. After a school assembly final, Sofi's moving speech on *resilience* stood out, earning her the title of IGS Speakers Trust Champion. She then submitted a video of her speech to the Speakers Trust, and Sofi has just been selected as one of the **top 16 finalists** in the Yorkshire competition!

Sofi will go on to represent IGS at the **Yorkshire Speak Out Challenge Final 2025**, held at *The Carriageworks Theatre, Leeds*, on **Wednesday, 9th July**. She will once again deliver her inspiring speech on *resilience*, this time showcasing her talent on a prestigious platform.

We would also like to extend our thanks to Miss Clift and Mr. Gutch for their support with preparing Sofi for this competition.

We couldn't be prouder of Sofi's incredible achievement and the hard work that has brought her to this point.

Mr Willet

Progress and Experience Leader, Year 10



## Thank a Teacher Day: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June

The UK-wide celebration of all teaching and support staff is back on Wednesday 18th June! We will be celebrating all the amazing staff in our schools (not just teachers!) - they deserve the spotlight for everything they do to keep things running smoothly.

Want to make someone's day? If you would like to share your appreciation for an IGS member of staff, you can get involved by:



- Sending a [Thank You card](#) (you can send a free ecard using the link, or email your thank you message directly to [admin@igs.mlt.co.uk](mailto:admin@igs.mlt.co.uk))
- Sharing your stories, messages, and videos of thanks on social media, using #ThankATeacherDay and tagging @UKThankATeacher



In the lead up to National Thank a Teacher Day, keep your eyes peeled for [celebrity judged writing and baking competitions](#) with prizes on offer! Please visit the link for details on how to enter, and your entry could be read out by celebrity judges!

A simple thank you message can make someone's day. Help us celebrate the school staff who shape our future.

## Ilkley fire station open day

Ilkley fire station is holding an open day this Saturday (14th June) from 10am - 3pm.

Entertainment will include:



- Live demonstrations from West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, such as RTC (Road Traffic Collision) and Ariel Ladder
- The opportunity to take a look around the fire engines and the station
- Food and drinks provided by local vendors such as Ilkley Brewery, Oakley's (food truck), ice cream van, and MnM treat stall
- Arts and craft stall
- Alpkit stall
- Meet colleagues from West Yorkshire Police and Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

Come and support our local emergency services this Saturday 14th June from 10am - 3pm. Additional details can be found here:

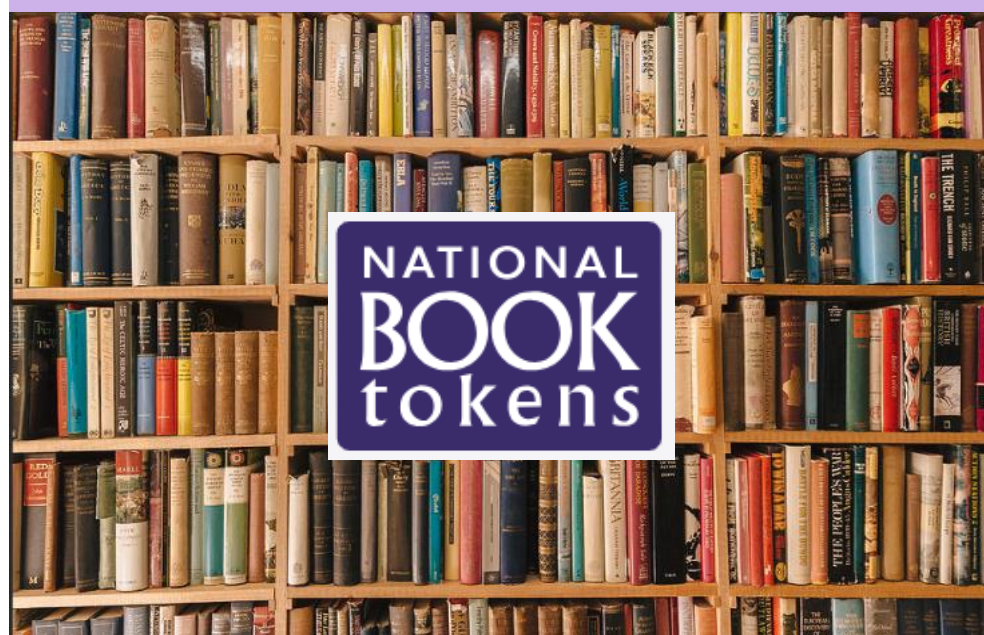
<https://www.westyorksfire.gov.uk/news/ilkley-fire-station-open-day>

## Win £1,000 for the school's library!

If you would like to nominate IGS via the following link, we have a chance to win £1000 for our school library, £300 in cash for the school and a £100 National Book Token for yourself! The more nominations we have, the higher the chance to win.

<https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools-prize>

The closing date is 11:59pm, **Thursday 31st July 2025**.





# Music News

## IGS School Production 2026

**This week, we launched the IGS School Production 2026! We are excited to announce that next year's show is Billy Elliot.**

Please note the language in our school edition is school age appropriate and we have asked students to use our clips on Showbie to help them with their auditions, rather than any clips on YouTube.

**Auditions for the school production 2026 will be held on:**  
**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025 (current y7, y8, y9 students)**  
**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 (current y10 and y12 students)**



**Call backs if required will be held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025.**

**New year 7 (current y6) students will be auditioned for the ensemble during the first week in September.**

**Auditions for current year 11 students and new year 12 students will be held on the year 12 induction day OR students can send in an audition tape. Further details will be emailed to students.**

**The production will take place the week before February half term.**

## Creative Arts (and Technology) Festival: Tuesday 1st- Thursday 3rd July

We are delighted to invite you to this year's Creative Arts Festival featuring Drama, Dance, Music, Art, Photography and Design and Technology. This is an exciting event, celebrating the wonderful, creative talents of our students. Each evening is themed as follows:

### Tuesday 1st July - Drama performances

*Featuring performances from our Year 7, 8 and 10 drama groups, and scenes from plays written by our KS5 students.*

### Wednesday 2nd – IGS 'Night at the Musicals'

*Ensemble, duet and solo performances from our Musical Theatre Group and Dance group with some numbers accompanied by Orchestra, Jazz band and Choir.*

### Thursday 3rd – Bands

*Performances from our IGS bands, of all ages, including the school jazz band, Junior Orchestra and 'Drumline' samba group.*

The performances begin at 6:30pm each evening, with an Art and Photography exhibition opening at 5pm- 8pm on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd July, a D&T/Engineering exhibition opening at 5pm- 8pm on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July and Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July and the IGS Art Auction taking place in the Art Cafe each evening.

Tickets for each evening cost £5 for adults and £3 concessions and are available to purchase on ParentPay. The exhibitions are free of charge and no ticket is required although donations can be made on ParentPay, or on entry.

**If your child is involved in the event, a reminder to complete the Microsoft Form here <https://forms.office.com/e/EGNqnsV2sr> by Friday 13th June to give consent for your child to participate in the festival. Letters have been sent to participants.**





IGS PRESENTS

# CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

2025

£5 ADULTS  
£3 CONCESSIONS

EACH EVENING TICKETED

JUL  
01-  
03

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

**B HALL, 6:30PM**

**FREE LIVE@ LUNCH** SESSIONS ALL WEEK FOR STUDENTS

