



## ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY

Dear Parent/Carer,

Extra-curricular opportunities and enrichment visits are an important and memorable part of education. They enhance learning, enable students to grow in self-confidence and independence and allow them the chance to show leadership and teamwork skills. At Ilkley Grammar School we aim to provide our students with a variety of experiences throughout their time with us.

In light of this, the annual **Challenge and Celebration Week** will take place between **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026**. (Exact details of departures will be confirmed once flights are booked. Please note that some years the trips have departed on the Sunday lunch time). All students will be off timetable during this week following a programme of either school based, off site or residential activities bespoke to their year group.

### For Year 12: The Big Choice

Students are able to choose from one of the options outlined below:

**Subject and cultural enrichment:** This is a chance for students to explore subject enrichment in an international setting.

- **Science in Switzerland** (5 days & 4 nights, half board) - a chance to visit the world-famous Hadron Collider in Cern, the Geneva Science Museum, the headquarters of the United Nations and Red Cross and experience a factory tour and boat trip on Lake Geneva. **The cost of this option will be approximately £999\*.**
- **Humanities in Krakow** (5 days & 4 nights half board) – Students will tour this incredible medieval city taking in its historical houses, palaces and churches with their magnificent interiors. One day will be spent visiting the Auschwitz concentration camp. Other options over the next few days will be to take in things like Schindler's factory, the Jewish Quarter, the Galicia Museum and the Salt Mine in Wieliczka.) **The cost of this option will be approximately £945\*.**
- **Culture in Berlin** (3 nights & 4 days, half board) Students will explore the City of Berlin and visit Sachsenhausen, Olympic Stadium, Wansee, Alexanderplatz, Brandenburg Gate, Berlin TV Tower, 1hr River Spree, Berlin War Memorial and the DDR museum. **The cost of this option will be approximately £915\*.**
- **Culture in Rome** (3 nights & 4 days, half board) - A walking tour of Rome. Students will explore the Italian capital and visit Roman Forum, Palatine Hill and the Colosseum amongst other excursions. **The cost of this option will be approximately £895\*.**
- **Culture in Paris** (3 nights & 4 days, half board) - Students will travel by air and explore the French capital and go to museums including venues such as the Chateau de Versailles, the Musee d'Orsay, the Atelier des Lumières and a Street Art tour. Other excursions are planned like boat trips and a visit to the Eiffel Tower. **The cost of this option will be approximately £730\***



Headteacher: Mrs Carly Purnell – Ilkley Grammar School

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- **The Big Outdoors** (3 nights & 4 days, full board) - Students will be supporting Yr9 and will participate in a 4 day 'activities residential' in the Lake District. They will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of individual and team-based challenges on both land and water. All activities will be led by the qualified outdoor education staff. While some activities will take place in forested grounds of the outdoor centre, others will be on the surrounding higher terrain or Lake Windermere. Activities include canoeing, rowing, high-wire ropes, raft building, orienteering, mountain walking, gorge scrambling, high and low level forest challenges and team problem- solving. A range of other less strenuous and more sociable activities is also planned for some evenings. Students will be accommodated at YMCA Lakeside. **The cost of this option will be £495**
- **The Big Trip** (3 nights and 4 days, full board) - Students will travel by coach supporting Yr8's and take in some of the capital's most famous landmarks and attractions. Students will be accommodated at Thameside Youth Hostel on the banks of the River Thames and will visit a range of locations on a carousel basis including potentially the Olympic Park, the Tower of London, the London Eye, the Globe Theatre, London Zoo and experience a river boat cruise along the Thames. In the evening students will have the opportunity to attend a major West End theatre production and go ten-pin bowling. **The cost of this option will be £510**
- **The Big Camp** Students will support Yr7 and participate in a carousel of 4 day-based activities with the option of camping out for 1 night. **Activity 1 & 2:** The Big Camp Out, 2 days of team building activities on the school field, provided by an outdoor education company, with an option to camp out for 1 night (Evening meal, breakfast & lunch on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day is included). **Activity 3:** A visit to Flamingo Land - experience the fun and thrills of the rides. **Activity 4:** The Big Walk - An action-packed day full of problem solving and tasks. **The cost of this option will be £175**
- **Yr9 Carousel** - Students will support Yr9 by participating in a carousel of 4 day-based activities which typically includes a visit to Blackpool Pleasure Beach, a day at Mission Out, Bowling/Laser Tag and North Yorkshire Water Park. **The cost of this option will be £195**
- **Yr 8 Carousel** - Students will support Yr8 by participating in a carousel of 4 day-based activities which includes Ingleton Waterfalls & White Scar Caves, a visit to Blackpool Pleasure Beach, a day in York and a day at 'Go Ape' Temple Newsham. **The cost of this option will be £195**
- **Work Experience:** This is a chance for students to ring fence some valuable time to complete a week of **work experience** organised with the support of school; this should be linked to future pathways. Please note that although staff will assist students with finding a placement and will be required to formally sign it off, the onus is on the students to put this in place before **7<sup>th</sup> November 2025** and return all necessary paperwork.
- **Art Project:** As part of this option, students will design and make the props for 2026 school production. There will be a trip to a local theatre, including tour of backstage and chance to discuss with professionals how props, costumes and stage set is created and sourced in the industry (subject to availability).
- **In School:** an in-school programme which could include one or more of: Next Steps research / academic catch-up / academic enrichment (e.g. MOOC) / volunteering / in-school WEX

**\*Once final numbers are agreed the final cost will be confirmed to you and reflected in the service on ParentPay.**

**Please note that all students not selecting an option above will follow the in-school programme.**

**Payment details:**

As a school we are very aware of the additional cost of school trips and particularly in the current climate. The cost of the trips detailed above are slightly higher than last year however we still believe they offer great value and experience to the students. The flights have not been released for Rome, Krakow and Geneva and the tour operator has included a small contingency in the event the prices are higher than anticipated. It is hoped that this not needed and therefore can be reflected in the final instalment being lower.

We have devised a payment system that we hope will spread the cost over a period in line with the payment deadlines the school itself has to meet with the organisations and companies that will be involved in the week. It is vital that parents/carers do meet the payment deadlines outlined below as failure to do so may well result in both the loss of non-refundable deposits and the place a student may have on a trip. Having said this, if you do have any issues with the payment dates please do not hesitate to phone or email Mrs Joy Heyworth in the school Finance Department to arrange a personal payment plan.

	<b>Non Refundable Deposit 10/10/25</b>	<b>Non Refundable 2<sup>nd</sup> Deposit 30/11/25</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Instalment 30/01/26</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Instalment 28/02/26</b>	<b>Final Instalment 28/03/26</b>	<b>Full Cost</b>
<b>Science in Switzerland</b>	£250	£200	£200	£200	£199	<b>£999*</b>
<b>Humanities in Krakow</b>	£250	£175	£175	£175	£170	<b>£945*</b>
<b>Cultural trip to Berlin</b>	£250	£170	£165	£165	£165	<b>£915*</b>
<b>Cultural trip to Rome</b>	£250	£150	£165	£165	£165	<b>£895*</b>
<b>Cultural trip to Paris</b>	£250	£120	£120	£120	£120	<b>£730*</b>
<b>The Big Outdoors</b>	£150	£115	£115	£115	N/A	<b>£495</b>
<b>The Big Trip - London</b>	£150	£100	£130	130	N/A	<b>£510</b>
<b>The Big Camp Out</b>	£50	£60	N/A	£65	N/A	<b>£175</b>
<b>Yr9 Carousel</b>	£50	£50	£45	£50	N/A	<b>£195</b>
<b>Yr8 Carousel</b>	£50	£50	£45	£50	N/A	<b>£195</b>

\*Approximate price- based on minimum numbers being met. All excursions are subject to availability.

The school is delighted to announce that the Ilkley Grammar School PTA is kindly continuing to offer the PTA bursary to further widen student participation and access. Please log onto the school website should you wish to find out more about this form of financial support.

<https://www.ilkleygrammarschool.com/parents/pta-enrichment-bursary/>

It needs to be reiterated that Challenge and Celebration Week is very much linked to the school's Personal Best rewards and sanctions policy. Students who have been in *Reflection*, or who have been excluded, may not be eligible to participate in the week. Please note that, with regret, the school also may not be able to fully refund all payments made for students that have been barred from C&C week.

### **Coronavirus Travel Restrictions and Insurance**

For overseas travel there are still some entry and local restrictions in place that have to be followed (see <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice> for up-to-date guidance). In addition to those country specific requirements the UK guidance may require a NHS Covid Pass for Overseas Travel to show fully vaccinated status. Our travel insurance and/or travel companies' specific 'covid promise' will allow for claims to be made if restrictions and guidance are subsequently put in place preventing or hindering travel on the date of departure and a full refund would be received. If restrictions and/or vaccination guidance however allowed travel, then the 'covid promise' element would be invalid and normal travel insurance would be in place e.g. for health related, covid positive or non-covid reasons preventing travel and a claim for a full refund could be made.

Please note - if the relevant travel guidance requires 16–17-year-olds to be fully vaccinated (as defined at the time of departure) as an entry requirement or local restriction for the destination, a refund would not be provided if it is a personal choice not to be fully vaccinated.

Please be aware that signing up to an overseas trip comes with a financial risk if you are not willing to be classed as fully vaccinated at least 14 days before the departure date as no refund can be issued in this respect.

### **Next steps:**

Please complete **this form** no later than **9am on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September**; please only complete the form once. In addition to this, it is also vital that a non-refundable deposit is uploaded to ParentPay no later than **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025** the service for this will be available by **4pm 1<sup>st</sup> October**. It is with regret that failure to do this may result in your child not being able to gain a place on your preferred option.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Carr.

I hope your child will look forward to participating in these exciting opportunities.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Carr  
Assistant Headteacher  
Educational Visits Co-ordinator  
[matt.carr@igs.mlt.co.uk](mailto:matt.carr@igs.mlt.co.uk)

## **Please Note**

### **Passport validity**

To travel to an EU country, you must follow the [Schengen area passport requirements](#).

Your passport must be:

- Issued less than 10 years before the date you enter the country (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

You must check your passport meets these requirements before you travel. If your passport was issued before 1 October 2018, extra months may have been added to its expiry date.

### **Insurance**

The trip is fully covered by the school travel insurance policy and any claims would need to be supported by medical evidence. Any claim may be subject to an excess.

By completing the online survey for your child to be considered for the trips you agree to the following:

- ✓ I give consent for my child to participate in Challenge and Celebration Week 2025
- ✓ I understand that if there are any significant behaviour concerns, participation will be dependent on an ongoing assessment of risk. Parents/carers and students will be kept aware at each stage, and during the trip, if the school has any concerns in this regard. While every effort will be made to minimise any financial implications, parents/carers and students should be aware that it is the safety risk assessment that will dictate decision-making and that, with regret, the school may not be able to fully refund any/all payments made for students that have been barred or have withdrawn from activities for reasons other than those supported by a doctor's note.
- ✓ I understand I am making a **commitment** to the trip and that if successful I will follow the payment schedule as listed, with the deposit being non-refundable and other payments refundable if covered by the trip's travel insurance.

### **Liability for Trip Costs on Booking:**

An initial, non-refundable, deposit is required for the trip and the remaining balance is to be paid by instalments. Failure to make payments on time may mean we cannot guarantee your child's place on the trip.

In the event that your child has to withdraw from the trip on medical grounds a full refund may be possible providing the claim is supported by a doctor's note and is accepted by our insurers. All insurance claims must be processed via school.

If your child withdraws from the trip for non-medical reasons and a replacement cannot be found, any refund will be limited depending on the costs already incurred by school in booking your child's place on the trip. Please note these costs will include any late cancellation charges that the tour operators may make. As the departure date approaches, and the final balances have been settled by school no refunds will be possible.