



ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY

POST-16

PERSONAL
BEST



WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in Ilkley Grammar School's outstanding post-16 provision, where we pride ourselves on the quality of education and care that we provide to our students. Whether you are currently studying at IGS or are a student looking to join us for the first time at Post-16, we hope that this prospectus gives you a clear insight into all we have to offer and that you will choose to make IGS your next step after your GCSEs.

We appreciate that this is an exciting and important stage in your education and the decisions, plans and choices you make will help shape the bright future ahead of you. Therefore, our personalised application and enrolment process is carefully designed to help you select the right combination of subjects to ensure maximum success and to support successful progression onto your chosen destination beyond Post-16. We offer a wide variety of courses and the range of qualifications, alongside the excellent quality of teaching and support that our students experience at this level, means IGS students consistently go on to achieve above national average results in line with the top 25% of providers in the country.

In addition to our exceptionally strong academic provision, we also have an incredible range of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities that enable our students to further develop a range of wider personal skills and to have enjoyable, life-enhancing experiences, whilst also acting as role models and leaders to the rest of our school community.

Day to day, as a post-16 student at IGS you will have increased levels of responsibility and independence, and our highly-skilled and experienced academic and support staff will ensure that your time with us is both enjoyable and successful. We very much hope that you choose Ilkley Grammar School for your post-16 studies and look forward to welcoming you to year 12 next September.



Carly Purnell
Headteacher



Jamie Gutch
Deputy Headteacher: Post 16
and Personal Development



Alex Fox
Assistant
Headteacher: Post-16



WHY ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL?

Being a post-16 student at Ilkley Grammar School will not only be an exciting, academically challenging, and rewarding period in your life, it will also be a gateway to exciting opportunities for you after graduation.

Here are just 5 of the many reasons why students choose IGS:

1

EXPANSIVE CURRICULUM

With over 42 subject options to choose from, with countless combinations, you can specialise in one pathway or pick subjects from a broad range of curriculums.



2

UNBEATABLE ENRICHMENT

There are over 100 enrichment and leadership opportunities to enhance your skills, explore new interests, and expand your friendship groups, ultimately ensuring you are ready to pursue your next steps as a confident and well-rounded young adult.



3

UNRIVALLED TEACHING AND SUPPORT

As a student at Ilkley Grammar School, you will be supported throughout your post-16 journey, including academic support, pastoral care, and dedicated guidance when applying to next steps - whether that is university, degree apprenticeship, conservatoire or other routes.



4

EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS

We consistently rank in the top 25% of schools in the country for progress and in the top 10% in the UK for attainment, so you know that your education will set you up for success.



5

EXCITING DESTINATIONS

Our students go on to exceptional and diverse pathways. From Oxbridge to training contracts at top professional firms and future Norland nannies, our students make waves! Whatever your goal, we will support you to achieve your potential.



‘The sixth-form provision is a shining light within the school.’

Ofsted 2024/25

PERSONAL BEST

Our vision at Ilkley Grammar School is to provide a world-class, inclusive education and exceptional opportunities which will enrich us both individually and collectively as a community. We will inspire, support and challenge each other to achieve our Personal Best so that we all grow in wisdom and stature. By modelling our Personal Best values and championing equality and diversity, we will make a positive difference to our own lives and the lives of others and will be empowered to lead and influence positive change on a local, regional, national and global scale.

As well as academic success in the form of qualifications, we also want IGS students to leave Post-16 as successful global citizens with the leadership skills, confidence and personal qualities to make a valuable contribution to society. Our commitment to Personal Best drives the work that we do, emphasising the importance of the individual and setting the highest expectations with regards to personal and intellectual growth so students achieve their full potential.

Underpinning Personal Best and our whole school vision are our six values which we aim to develop in all students through both the curriculum and exposure to a vast range of opportunities: pride, respect, courage, responsibility, kindness, and resilience. These values permeate everything we do, build character, support students to achieve their Personal Best and empower them to make a positive difference through the lives they lead.



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

'IGS has high ambitions and expectations of everyone: students and staff. For some, Personal Best is straight A* grades and a successful application to Oxbridge, but for other individuals excellence may look different and involve a range of destinations. At the heart of Personal Best is the individual and this is why it drives us to succeed.'

Year 13 student

'Both of our children moved schools to join IGS Sixth Form and have flourished both academically and personally. Teachers are passionate subject experts who challenge students to think, and inspire them to learn and achieve their Personal Best.'

The level of support and enrichment outside of lessons has also been exceptional. We would highly recommend IGS to any student who wants outstanding post-16 provision.'

Parents of a year 12 student



EXCEPTIONAL TEACHING

We are proud to have a team of talented and well-qualified teachers whose infectious enthusiasm for their subject fosters a culture of achievement and aspiration. As specialists in their field, they impart their expertise skilfully, harnessing modern technologies to deepen understanding and to inspire a lifelong love of learning which goes beyond the scope of the syllabus.

Students not only recognise the high quality of teaching on offer, but also the commitment of staff to go the extra mile to help them realise their full potential. As a result, student and teacher partnerships are built on trust and shared goals, underpinned by high expectations and mutual respect, and this creates an exceptionally positive learning environment.

Whilst post-16 students will develop deep and durable subject knowledge in their chosen areas of study, they will also be challenged and supported to think deeply, analyse and evaluate independently, engage in reasoned debate, take intellectual risks, challenge assumptions and find creative solutions to problems. IGS prepares students to achieve the very highest academic standards of which they are capable – their Personal Best.



‘Staff are passionate about their subjects... there is expert knowledge with teachers skilfully facilitating the learning.’

‘Pupils ask thoughtful questions and work together with complete focus.’

‘Pupils enjoy their lessons and behave in a way that enables deep, meaningful classroom learning.’

‘The school is fully inclusive – every student matters.’

Ofsted 2024/25

‘Whatever the outcome on Results Day, we know he has been afforded the best possible opportunity to succeed at IGS. He has walked into each exam confident; he has walked out of each exam happy. Across the board, he has been thoroughly prepared by his dedicated teachers. As parents, we couldn’t have asked for anything more.’

Parents of a former post-16 student

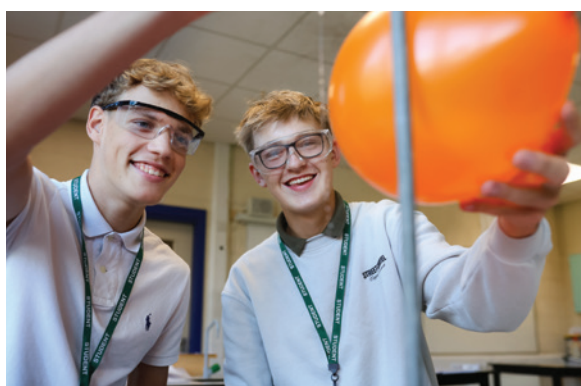


WORLD CLASS CURRICULUM

Our post-16 curriculum offers an extensive range of academic courses including 28 A Levels alongside 14 well-respected level 3 additional academic or vocational qualifications which offer equivalent academic weighting to traditional A Levels. These subjects can be combined in a number of ways to provide highly personalised programmes of study that are tailored to meet an individual's academic needs, interests and career aspirations. Indeed, with 42 courses available in total, this represents one of the widest offers of high-quality level 3 provision in the region. With so much choice, we are committed to guiding and supporting students to make decisions which will give them the very best chances of success. In line with our high expectations, all students are expected to take at least three A Level or equivalent courses which are studied across the two years, as well as a fourth academic or enrichment element in year 12:

A Level/Level 3 BTEC/Level 3 Cambridge Technical Qualifications	Plus, an additional 4th element from the section below:
Choice 1	Additional AS Level
	Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
Choice 2	Core Maths
	Level 3 Sports Leadership Qualification
Choice 3	Online University Short Courses (MOOCs)
	Extended Work Experience
NB: The opportunity to study a 4th A Level/Level 3 qualification is available for students with a very high average GCSE points score (7.5 or higher)	

Our curriculum encourages intellectual growth alongside personal development, and is built on very strong academic foundations which promote the highest standards and aspirations and offer rigour, depth and breadth.



‘The curriculum is a real strength of the school... It combines academic excellence with a strong focus on pupils becoming effective and well-rounded individuals.’

Ofsted

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND OUTSTANDING PROGRESS

Students and staff have a proven track record of working together to achieve great success. Our post-16 provision was officially graded Outstanding in all areas in Ofsted inspections in both 2017 and 2024 and, in the most recent inspection, was highlighted by Ofsted as 'A shining light within the school.' Building on these outstanding judgements, our broad curriculum, exceptional academic outcomes, and ambitious student destinations continue to drive significant year-on-year growth. We now attract students from across the region - including those transferring from private and selective schools, as well as The Skipton Academy, one of our partner schools within Moorlands Learning Trust.

The grades our students achieve are consistently significantly higher than national figures. In 2024 35.2% of grades were A/A*, 65.4% were grades A*-B and 84.8% were A*-C, whilst in 2025 12.5% of all grades were A* and our pass rate was 98.8%. This makes us one of the strongest A Level centres for academic standards in the region across both the public and private sector.

These outcomes create exceptional opportunities for our students, many of whom progress to varied and exciting destinations. These include Oxbridge - 8 students in 2025, a record 12 in 2024, following 10 in 2023, and 8 students in both 2022 and 2021. Indeed, our Oxbridge success was featured earlier this year in The Times (June 2025) in an article titled 'How to get into Oxbridge by the state schools that do it best.' In 2025, over 73% of students progressed to university, 48% of whom secured places at Russell Group institutions, including on competitive courses such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, law, and engineering. In addition, our students also secure higher-level apprenticeships at some of the country's most reputable companies including, for example, Accenture, HMRC, Forvis Mazars, Channel 4, PwC, Deloitte, Rolls Royce and Morrisons.

Whilst we celebrate and promote this level of success, what is also important to us is the strong progress that students make from their GCSE starting points. All students are encouraged and challenged to fulfil their potential and achieve the best grades of which they are capable. Our commitment to achievement for all can be seen in our positive Level 3 value added score of 0.21 in 2024, placing us in the top 12% of providers in the country on validated results. While the 2025 Level 3 value added score has not yet been published, our 2025 ALPS score again places us in the highest 25% of schools for progress. As a result, we have an excellent reputation, not only within our local community, but also across the wider region. With direct trains to both Leeds and Bradford, each year many students choose to join our Post-16 from other schools to benefit from the high standard of education which is on offer.



"I am proud to be in Post-16 at IGS. It is an outstanding school where students thrive as well as achieve excellent results."

Year 13 student

A SUPPORTIVE, SAFE AND CARING ENVIRONMENT

Underpinning the academic excellence and culture of high expectations which pervade the school is a strong and personalised pastoral system. At Post-16 we provide highly effective pastoral support, advice and guidance, as well as a commitment to maximising the potential of all students not only as learners, but also as citizens, leaders and team players. Whilst we are a large community, we know all the young people in our care and we are careful to support, as well as offer challenge and build resilience. We encourage independence, leadership and responsibility, and treat students with respect, care and consideration for their wellbeing through a range of carefully designed support networks.

All students in Post-16 are assigned a personal tutor who supports and monitors their academic and personal development. We take great pride in the quality of the tutor-student relationships we foster through academic mentoring, pastoral support as well as through delivery of our bespoke Personal Best programme which focuses on the development of the whole person. Great care is taken to support students joining IGS for the first time and the programme is informed by feedback from students who have gone through the process.

We recognise that the two years of education at Post-16 are a critical time both academically and emotionally, as students plan their next steps and make decisions about their future. For some this pathway is relatively smooth, but others require more specialist support and intervention from our trained Pastoral Leaders and/or our dedicated Student Achievement Managers. This support can take many forms and includes access to a full-time in-house counselling service as well as external agencies. We have prioritised Mental Health First Aid training for staff and the Student Leadership Team so that there is high quality tiered support for all students. This network ensures that the support, care and guidance of our students are given the attention they rightfully deserve.



‘After moving to Ilkley Grammar School in year 12, I was immediately made to feel welcome and comfortable by both students and staff. Within days I had formed connections with my peers and teachers, and my new classmates made an active effort to include me and other new students both in and outside of lessons. The warm, friendly atmosphere, motivating teachers and highly positive learning environment reassured me that moving to IGS was definitely the right choice.’

Former post 16 student

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENRICHMENT

At IGS we have developed a unique approach to Personal Development as a “web of experiences” which, when combined with values, enables students to “grow in wisdom and stature”. At Post-16, Personal Development is a curriculum delivered through a combination of subject lessons, tutor time, PBT (Personal Best Time), PSHE lessons, 35 leadership opportunities and the extensive range of extra-curricular activities on offer, many of which are student-initiated.

**‘From the core offer to extra-curricular opportunities the “web of experiences” couldn’t have been better thought out.
’ Ofsted 2024/25.**

The 8 strands are summarised below:



ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP & COMMUNITY: The vast majority of post-16 students participate in voluntary work during their time in the Sixth Form. Each year post-16 students support many charities through a wide range of initiatives, in partnership with organisations such as Ilkley Food Bank and Ilkley Good Neighbours. Each year, students raise around £15,000 for local, regional, national and international charities.

**‘Personal Development is intrinsically linked to the community’s needs and the school values.’
Ofsted 2024/25**

SCHOLARSHIP AND CURIOSITY: The range and quality of academic enrichment opportunities at Post-16 are exceptional. Each year, IGS hosts a series of Ilkley Literature Festival events which provide additional leadership opportunities for students including the opportunity to interview visiting authors. Recently, politics students held a lively Question Time debate attended by MPs Robbie Moore and Naz Shah. Such super-curricular opportunities, alongside the EPQ and wider reading lists, help to inspire intellectual growth and ignite a passion for scholarship and curiosity.

**‘The school draws on various expertise, for example welcoming guest speakers who engage and support pupils to make well-informed decisions about topical issues.’
Ofsted 2024/25**

SPORT, INTERESTS & CULTURE: We place great value on the role of enrichment activities to provide challenge, shape character, develop independence and build leadership skills. There is an exceptional range of wider opportunities on offer, catering for all talents and interests, with many of the clubs being set up and led by students themselves. In addition to numerous sporting, creative, musical and STEM opportunities, our post-16 enrichment offer also includes a Model United Nations, a range of competitive and social sports, and more niche activities such as coding club, maths problem-solving, script club, young farmers, crochet, creative writing, chess and many more....

**‘The wealth of the Personal Development offer is astounding.’
Ofsted 2024/25**

LEADERSHIP AND INFLUENCE

Our commitment to developing well-rounded, as well as well-qualified, young people is illustrated through the IGS iLeader programme. This is a unique whole-school initiative which draws together all leadership opportunities available in school.

In 2025, over 230 year 12 students have signed up for iLeader roles so far, taking advantage of the opportunity to take on one or more of the 35 roles on offer which include: Subject Ambassadors; Sports iLeaders (accredited role); LGBTQ+ iLeaders; Paired Reading iLeaders; Eco-iLeaders; Wellbeing iLeaders (including the MHFA qualification) and Community iLeaders.



In addition, during year 12, students can put themselves forward to become a member of the Post-16 Student Leadership Team (SLT), which has over 60 members, one of 7 Deputy Head students, or apply for the prestigious and influential role of Head Student. Once appointed, our Post-16 Student Leadership Team receives 'Leadership in Action' training in the summer term. These positions carry significant responsibility but also offer considerable rewards and the opportunity to influence decision-making across the school.

'The school's 6th form students help set the positive tone for the whole school. They interact with younger pupils daily through leadership roles and at social times.'

Ofsted 2024/25

DISCOVERY AND ADVENTURE

Extra-curricular trips and visits enhance learning beyond the classroom and are a very important part of the post-16 experience, creating lasting memories and forging strong friendships. As well as experiences within the UK, including supporting lower school residentials as post-16 iLeaders, we offer students a range of opportunities to explore the world around them.

Alongside sporting and cultural visits such as ski-trips to the USA and Europe, exchanges to Coutances and Madrid and a geography trip to Iceland, there are a range of trips offered during the annual Challenge and Celebration week in July. These include long-established trips to Switzerland where students visit the world-famous Hadron Collider in Cern, to Krakow in Poland which involves a visit to Auschwitz concentration camp and Schindler's factory, as well as cultural visits to Paris, Berlin and Rome. In July 2025, over 230 year 12 students enjoyed these cultural and enrichment opportunities across Europe.

In addition, we work in partnership with World Challenge to provide once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. In 2025, students engaged in meaningful conservation and community projects in Eswatini and Kruger and, in 2024, there were two expeditions to Borneo. These opportunities, financed by student fundraising, provide powerful life-changing experiences.



‘The school offers extensive trips both locally and internationally. These opportunities help pupils understand and be prepared for the real world.’

Ofsted 2024/25

NEXT STEPS & CAREERS

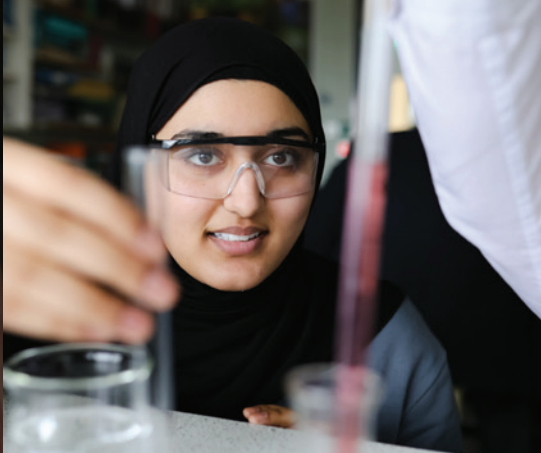
As the founding school of Moorlands Learning Trust, Ilkley Grammar School is very proud of its record of supporting students to achieve success in an ever-changing and increasingly competitive environment, and prospective students can be confident of the quality of the guidance they will receive. Many students leave with grades which support progression to the UK's top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, and access to highly competitive courses such as medicine, law, dentistry, engineering and veterinary science, as well as apprenticeship programmes with strong links to industry. In June 2025, Ilkley Grammar School was named in The Times as the 13th best school in the UK for application success rate for Oxbridge, the highest comprehensive school in the country. Following this, in 2025 8 students secured places, with a total of 46 Oxbridge places since 2021. While it is right not to be fixated by just two university destinations, with many students now actively choosing apprenticeships, work, or competitive courses at other universities, this is an important achievement for a non-selective state school which is committed to inclusivity as well as excellence.

The vast majority of IGS students progress directly to Higher Education and they benefit from an extensive Next Steps programme to help make informed decisions about the future beyond IGS. This includes a number of events which are embedded into the post-16 calendar: the UCAS Convention; Next Steps Week; Oxbridge Convention; opportunities to attend university open days and residentials; and visits from guest speakers. However, it is also recognised that increasingly students are accessing alternative routes into employment, including highly competitive higher-level apprenticeships at some of the world's most reputable companies, or taking a Gap Year. In 2025, students secured apprenticeships with Accenture, Walker Morris and Jet2.



‘The range and success of destinations is incredible.’

Ofsted 2024/25



We hope that this prospectus reinforces our belief in the power of a well-rounded education and demonstrates the numerous opportunities for leadership, responsibility and enrichment at IGS.

Over the next two years, we will develop your knowledge, understanding, personal attributes, interests and talents so that you leave us independent, confident and equipped to thrive and lead in the world. All of you will be supported in making that next step, whether it be to a traditional university, degree apprenticeship, music conservatoire, art college, or the world of work. Ultimately, we aim to make a positive difference to your lives and give you the skills and confidence to make a positive difference to the lives of others.

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