



Moorlands
Learning Trust



ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY

**FURTHER
PARTICULARS FOR
THE POST OF:**

**TEACHER OF
ENGLISH AND
DRAMA**

SEPTEMBER 2026

TEACHER OF ENGLISH AND DRAMA

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for requesting details for the position of Teacher of English and Drama. The post is full time, suitable for ECTs and offers an exciting opportunity to teach and make a positive difference in our outstanding school, a converter Academy and the founding school of Moorlands Learning Trust (MLT). We very much welcome your interest and hope the accompanying information will encourage you to apply.

The successful candidate will join two very popular and ambitious curriculum areas where standards and levels of student engagement are high. They will have high expectations, expert subject knowledge, a strong and positive work ethic and an unwavering commitment to all students achieving their full potential in English and drama. Working collaboratively as part of a dedicated and talented team, they will be inspirational to both students and colleagues and will be committed to sharing best practice and contributing to enrichment, intervention and the development of the department. The role is required from September 2026.

This is an exciting time in the school's development. In July 2022, it was announced that IGS had been selected for the next phase of the national Schools Rebuilding Programme, and we will receive substantial capital investment to rebuild and refurbish parts of the school. Work commenced in the summer term 2025 and, on completion, will have a transformative impact on the learning environment at IGS, as well as substantially reducing our carbon footprint. In addition, following further capital investment from BMDC, we have recently expanded our specialist School Resource Provision (SRP), providing 24 places for students with autism. This is in line with our commitment to inclusive education and to meeting the needs of all young people within our community.

We are very proud of our excellent reputation in the local community, as well as the wider Leeds and Bradford areas, and pride ourselves on the quality of education we provide to our students. Our graded Ofsted inspection in December 2024 again confirmed us as an 'Outstanding' school in all areas of inspection with inspectors concluding that "Ilkley Grammar School is an amazing school" where "every pupil gets a chance to shine". The school was praised for its exceptional quality of education, "fully inclusive" ethos, "and delivery of a "sophisticated" and "rich curriculum" where students achieve "excellent, sustained outcomes over time". The sixth form was equally celebrated as a "shining light," with an "exemplary extracurricular offer," "countless opportunities," and "extensive links to industry and higher education". Highlighting the "calm environment" which fosters "exceptional behaviour," where students "enjoy lessons," and "show care and respect for each other," the Inspection Team also noted the "bespoke, individualised pastoral care" and the "exemplary" and "extensive personal development offer" which enables "pupils to flourish".

Academic standards at our school are consistently outstanding, placing us among the highest performing schools nationally. Student attainment is in the top 10% of all schools at both GCSE and A level, with progress measures consistently in the top 10–20%. At A level, outcomes in both 2024 and 2025 were exceptional: over 12% of all entries achieved the highest-grade A*, a third were graded A*/A, and 60-65% achieved A*–B. At GCSE, performance is equally impressive, with more than 35% of entries at grade 7 or above over the past two years, including around 20% at the very top grades 9/8.

Progress at Key Stage 4 is significantly above national averages, with a Progress 8 score of +0.53 in 2024, placing the school in the top 15% of all state-funded schools nationally, including selective schools. Post-16 results also demonstrate sustained excellence: our Level 3 Value Added score in 2024 was +0.21 and +0.19 in 2025, alongside an ALPS grade of 3 in both 2024 and 2025.

(Note: no national progress scores were issued at GCSE for this year as year 11 students did not sit SATs due to the pandemic.)

Our success is also consistently featured in The Sunday Times Parent Power Guide. The latest publication in 2025, ranks IGS 7th across the north of England based on A-level and GCSE results for comprehensive schools and 1st 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 remarkable students, staff and families.

As a comprehensive academy, our overriding aim at IGS is to ensure that our students achieve everything that they are capable of – their ‘Personal Best’ - from year 7 through to Sixth Form and beyond. We recognise every student as an individual, with different needs and talents, and we work hard together to make sure we support and nurture successful, happy and confident learners who achieve in the widest sense of the word, and not just academically.

We deeply care for our staff as well as our students and take their wellbeing seriously, engaging regularly and meaningfully with colleagues at all levels. We are sensitive about the importance of managing workload, and the school’s commitment to evidence-informed practices and ‘best bets’ enables teachers and leaders to invest time and effort in practices proven to have the most impact on student learning. In addition, all staff have access to an employee benefits package through Vivup, and we have an embedded programme of extra-curricular, voluntary ‘Wellbeing Wednesday’ sessions for staff to access across the school year. The school closes earlier for students on Wednesdays in order to accommodate these sessions as well as to facilitate whole school and departmental staff CPD.

Despite our considerable success, we are not complacent and our commitment to Personal Best means that we continue to drive school improvement in order to further raise standards and support our journey to being an exceptional school. We can guarantee high-quality support in the role, committed and effective colleagues, well-motivated and aspirational students, opportunities for partnership working and a very supportive community. In return, we will expect a positive and enthusiastic approach, an unwavering commitment to Personal Best, consistent high quality, responsive teaching, and a passion for working with young people to make a positive difference to their lives.

If you are inspired by this opportunity and have the qualities to contribute to our high-quality provision, then we would be delighted to hear from you.

How to Apply

As part of your online application in the Personal Statement section (no more than 2 sides of A4) please explain:

How your skills, qualities and experiences make you a suitable candidate for this post.

The closing date for this post is: Monday 9th March 2026
Provisional interview is scheduled for Thursday 12th March 2026

If you do not receive an invite to interview by Monday 16th March 2026 we regret your application will have been unsuccessful on this occasion, but we wish you every success in your future career.

Thank you again for your interest in our school.



Carly Purnell
Headteacher

Subject Teacher Role Profile – Ilkley Grammar School

Responsible to: Head of Department: English

Overall responsibilities: To promote effective learning and excellent student progress through high quality and interesting teaching that engages and meets individual needs.

Summary of core duties:

□ Planning

- To have deep and fluent subject knowledge and understanding of the curriculum and sequencing to allow for confident teaching
- To plan for opportunities to model excellence in your subject through analogies, explanations and demonstrations
- To plan tasks that embed and reinforce learning, allowing opportunities to practice until learning is fluent and secure
- To personalise planning to meet the needs of all students, as individuals and as particular student cohorts (SEND, PP etc) through responsive and adaptive teaching
- To know and implement the information for students on the SEND Register
- To actively plan for the teaching of vocabulary, literacy, numeracy and oracy when structuring learning sequences
- To support the development and revision of curriculum design and schemes of work
- To contribute to the Curriculum Area Improvement Plan, and its implementation

□ Teaching and Learning

- To set appropriate sequence of learning tasks including learning objectives and rationale that are well-matched to students' needs
- To present and explain new ideas clearly, making connections to previous learning to support memory for learning
- To employ a variety of strategies to motivate, support and engage students
- To use questioning and dialogue to promote deep thinking amongst learners
- To develop and use the iPad to facilitate independent learning and support learning in lessons
- To set high-quality homework that encourages independent learning and consolidates prior learning
 - To support students with how to learn, using the best bets from cognitive science
- To work closely with Inclusive Learning Support Assistants to challenge and support students by scaffolding learning in a variety of ways

□ Assessment for Learning/ Responsive Teaching

- To employ a range of responsive teaching strategies to elicit evidence of understanding and progress
 - To ensure regular, high-quality and diagnostic assessment to evidence learning
 - To give students actionable verbal and written feedback to guide their learning
- To monitor the progress of students, set targets for improvement based on prior attainment and ensure they know these and what they have to do to reach them
- To help students plan, regulate and monitor their own learning

- To use data for future planning, support and intervention
- To maintain appropriate records to demonstrate student progress
- To contribute to requests for progress updates and written annual reports and references

❑ **Personal Best**

- To promote and manage learning behaviours consistently and effectively, developing learner motivation so students display a thirst for knowledge and a love of learning
- To promote and support student progress and wellbeing, knowing your students as individuals with specific needs
- To establish fair, respectful, trusting, supportive and constructive relationships
- To promote a positive climate of student-student relationships based on cooperation, respect and care so that all can learn effectively
- To have high expectations for all
- To implement the Personal Best system consistently and fairly
- To fulfil the role of Form Tutor where necessary and attend assemblies
- To be familiar with health and safety requirements
- To know and follow the school Child Protection and Safeguarding guidelines
- To register students in form periods and every taught lesson
- To communicate and consult with parents as required

❑ **Enrichment**

- To commit to the department/curriculum area programme of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities and visits
- To contribute to other enrichment opportunities across school – within year groups, in other visits at home and abroad and support the school's whole-school Challenge and Celebration week

❑ **Continuing Professional Development**

- To fulfil the statutory Appraisal expectations
- To participate fully in CPD opportunities to develop practice further, share best practice and be creative
- To reflect on your practice and constantly strive to improve, using research, pedagogy and your knowledge of the students
- To commit to the school's CPD programme
- To contribute, as appropriate, to the selection, appointment and induction of new staff, including ITT students and ECTs

❑ **Quality Assurance**

- To contribute to the school's self-evaluation procedures, including lesson observations and learning walks, work scrutiny, student voice and other QA activities

❑ **Professional Standards**

- To meet the DfE National Teachers' and Personal and Professional Standards
- To contribute actively to the ethos, values and aspirations of the school
- To attend relevant school and parent meetings, and appropriate school events
- To ensure high standards of written and spoken English
- To meet deadlines and model the highest professional standards in all aspects of school work

- To cover for absent colleagues as necessary in an emergency and within the workforce agreement

VARIATION IN ROLE

Due to the structure of Ilkley Grammar School as an Academy, it must be accepted that, as the Academy's work develops and changes, there may be a need for adjustments to the role and responsibilities of the post. The duties specified above are, therefore, not to be regarded as either exclusive or exhaustive. They may change from time to time commensurate with the grading level of the post and following consultation with the post holder.

Recruitment and Selection Policy Statement

The Academy's Board of Governors is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL ENGLISH SUBJECT PROFILE

We live and breathe the importance of literature for our students' understanding of the world around them. An understanding of literature teaches us who we are. It is "an exploration of human themes and experiences that show us we are not alone; this is universal." An understanding of literature opens up a vast world of cultural capital for our students, allowing them a "seat at the table" to participate and lead in our communities as future leaders and innovators. Reading about different societies, cultures and eras enables our students to develop a keen sense of morality and empathy whilst opening up knowledge and understanding of the wider world around us, and our responsibility to that world. Our aim in English is to develop confident readers who will have a life-long love of literature but also have the ability to evaluate and question texts in an increasingly digital age.

The ability to communicate with impact and influence opens doors – we strive to give our students the opportunity and skill to communicate using the written and spoken word with fluency, originality and flair. Language is power – not only does it help shape what we want to say, it also plays a key role in shaping our independence and identity.

The English Curriculum Area currently comprises of a mixture of seventeen full time and part time English teachers, including Lead Teachers for each Key Stage. Five years ago, we relocated to a brand-new building with each classroom having Promethean interactive boards, alongside traditional whiteboards. We strongly believe that the consistently high standards we have achieved are as a direct result both of teamwork and individual responsibility.

At Key Stage 3, Year 7 and 8 are taught in mixed ability form groups with Year 9 being set according to ability. Students arrive in Year 7 having achieved well at primary school; we strive to continue their high level of achievement and challenge into KS3 and GCSE. We are four years into our exciting journey implementing a brand new KS3 curriculum, with emphasis on a cohesive curriculum in which students gain powerful knowledge and are encouraged to make links and connections between wide range of literary texts. We are truly excited about this development and evaluating its impact.

At Key Stage 4, achievement is well above the national average. In 2025, 89% of students attained grades 4-9 in English Literature with 84% achieving 4-9 in English Language. In 2025, 31% of our students achieve at grades 7-9 for Language and 34% achieved between grades 7-9 in Literature. Our impressive progress over the last several years was acknowledged in the December 2024 Ofsted report. An ongoing priority for us is to improve the progress of boys so it is in line with girls, and to close the gap between our disadvantaged cohort and the rest of the cohort. Curriculum development is ongoing at Key Stage 4, with our implementation of a concept-based curriculum driven by the 'big ideas' behind our studied texts, and the implementation of a 'Study Skills' curriculum, designed to equip students with strategies to support their recall and retention.

We deliver two A-Level courses at Post-16: AQA English Literature (Specification B) and AQA English Language. Both current courses are extremely popular with students. At A-Level we usually achieve a 100% pass rate, with high numbers of students achieving A*/A or B grades.

Our pedagogical practice is underpinned by our five key strands of effective English teaching: High expectations and challenge for all; effective instruction; oracy and questioning; knowledge and recall; and responsive teaching. We offer a responsive and dynamic CPD programme in English, wherein our staff develop their expertise in these areas through high-quality CPD,

shared planning and engaging with research. We are a highly collaborative department with a strong focus on pedagogy; our vision is to develop this further through effective application of the latest pedagogical research in the classroom.

We like to enhance learning in the classroom with the opportunity to offer extra-curricular activities to our students. Over recent years these have included: running theatre trips; hosting Ilkley Literature Festival events; organising inter-class public speaking competitions and running a creative writing club and 'banned' book club. We even find time to dress up as fictional characters on World Book Day!

Throughout English we believe that good and outstanding lessons result from positive relationships with students. High quality teaching is at the heart of our discussions, and we strive to make each classroom an excellent learning environment. We are proud of our team and its achievements. By sharing ideas and resources we support each other in our aim to maintain consistently high standards. Hard work, a sense of humour and a genuine love of language and literature ensure that our work, although demanding, is always rewarding and never dull.

Alison Lowes: Curriculum Leader for English
February 2026

ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES SUBJECT PROFILE

At Ilkley Grammar School (IGS), drama is taught as a discrete subject within the faculty of Creative Arts. The philosophy of drama at IGS is that every student has an entitlement to learn through, and about, drama. Drama at IGS is inclusive, practical and challenging. Our students enjoy working collaboratively with their peers to explore stories, characters and issues through the art form.

The aim of the Drama and Theatre Studies curriculum is to develop young people with a thirst for knowledge who are creative, resilient and empathetic. Our students develop their analytical and evaluation skills working alongside others to refine and improve their work, leading their learning by setting goals and applying theory to practice. They have vision and confidence, knowing how to present themselves and meet challenges beyond the classroom.

Acting Skills, Dramatic Techniques and Design Elements are the powerful knowledge that we teach through exploring text, devised work and responding to the work of others. Once mastered, students apply this powerful knowledge to unlock the big threshold concepts of Style and Practitioner. Within these concepts, we explore different social, historical and cultural contexts in order to widen perspectives and encourage diverse thought and understanding of the world.

At KS4 students can study either GCSE Drama (AQA) or BTEC Performing Arts (Edexcel).

At KS5 students can study A Level Theatre Studies (Edexcel).

We organise theatre visits throughout the year as well as bringing in different theatre companies such as Frantic Assembly, Splendid Productions and The Paper Birds to work with our students.

We run a number of extra-curricular opportunities from dedicated Drama Clubs for Years 7-9, Yr10 Theatre Group, Script Club, Musical Theatre Club and a Theatre Group for KS5. We also offer a Backstagers group, who organise and operate the technical elements for all events and productions, i.e: sound, lighting & stage management. The drama department work closely with the other creative arts subjects to develop students' talents through involvement in school productions and arts evenings. Our students have performed both at the school and in a range of venues from: The King's Hall in Ilkley; Leeds Playhouse and The Carriageworks in Leeds and Cast in Doncaster.

We aim to involve as many students as possible in our extra-curricular activities. We collaborate with the rest of the Creative Arts Team to produce the school production which this year was 'Billy Elliot'. This production involves over 100 students as actors, singers, musicians, backstagers and designers.

**Lara Ramrattan Head of Drama
February 2026**

ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Personnel Specification
Teacher of English and Drama

Qualification and Training	Essential/ Desirable E/D	How Identified
<input type="checkbox"/> Qualified teacher status recognised by the DfE	E	Application form and selection process
<input type="checkbox"/> Honours Degree in related specialism	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Good A-level qualifications	D	
<input type="checkbox"/> Recent appropriate CPD	D	
<input type="checkbox"/> Willingness to participate in CPD	E	
Experience	Essential/ Desirable E/D	How Identified
<input type="checkbox"/> Successful experience of teaching English	E	Application and selection process
<input type="checkbox"/> Successful experience of teaching English and drama (drama to KS3)	D	
<input type="checkbox"/> Successful experience of delivering a responsive curriculum to students with a wide range of needs	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Successful experience of managing an effective classroom environment to support student learning and positive behaviour	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Understanding and use of effective teaching practices	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of the ability to work cooperatively with multi-disciplinary professionals, governors and other agencies	D	
<input type="checkbox"/> Experience of e-learning including mobile technologies	D	
<input type="checkbox"/> Previous teaching experience	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Previous pastoral experience	D	
Knowledge, Skills and Abilities	Essential/ Desirable E/D	How Identified
<input type="checkbox"/> A passion for teaching English and drama	E	Application and selection process
<input type="checkbox"/> Creates and develops interesting resources and activities which engage students and promote good and outstanding progress	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Understands, and can put into practice, the features of an outstanding lesson	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> The potential and commitment to be an exceptional teacher	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Shares and develops own expertise and learns from others	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Able to lead, inspire and motivate students	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Good standard of accurate written and spoken English	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent communication, both in writing and orally, to a wide range of audiences	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Proven ability to use ICT in the teaching, organisation or management of their role	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Self-motivated and takes the initiative	E	

<input type="checkbox"/> Able to embrace new approaches and ways of thinking	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Responsive to the individual needs of students and colleagues	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Values diversity and encourages the contribution of others	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge of effective behaviour management strategies	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of the ability to promote a positive ethos and pride in the school together with high standards of education, care and conduct	E	
Values	Essential/ Desirable E/D	How Identified
<input type="checkbox"/> Promotes and models the school values: Respect, Courage, Responsibility, Kindness, Resilience and Pride	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> A commitment to comprehensive education, equal opportunities and inclusion	E	Application form and selection process
<input type="checkbox"/> A passionate commitment to achieving the highest standards for all students	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> A commitment to teaching approaches which make learning engaging, challenging, purposeful and effective	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fully committed to a close working partnership with parents, governors and the community	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> An enthusiasm for and commitment to developing enrichment including extra-curricular activities	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Values equality, trust, happiness, openness and support	E	
Personal Qualities	Essential/ Desirable E/D	How Identified
<input type="checkbox"/> Strong 'moral purpose'	E	Application form and selection process
<input type="checkbox"/> Conscientious and committed to high personal and professional standards	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Skilled at building and forming productive working relationships with staff, parents and students, with Governors, partners and the wider community	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Enthusiastic about education and learning	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Able to inspire confidence and remain positive and constructive under pressure, demonstrating characteristics such as integrity, resilience and a sense of proportion	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Self-critical and reflective, able to monitor and evaluate own performance and take action to improve or develop where necessary	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Works well with colleagues and contributes effectively to the team(s)	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Abides by the Academy's policies	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional appearance	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Emotionally intelligent	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sense of humour and perspective	E	

Equal Opportunities	Essential/ Desirable E/D	How Identified
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidates should indicate an acceptance of, and a commitment to, the principles of the Academy's Equal Rights policies and practices as they relate to employment issues and to the delivery of services to the community	E	Selection process
<input type="checkbox"/> Commitment to equal opportunities policies relating to gender, race and disability in an educational context	E	
Circumstances - Personal	Essential/ Desirable E/D	How Identified
<input type="checkbox"/> Must be legally entitled to work in the UK (Asylum and Immigration Act 1996).	E	Selection process
<input type="checkbox"/> No contra-indications in personal background or criminal record indicating unsuitability to work with children/young people/vulnerable clients/finance (DBS check required).	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Will not require holiday during term time	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> If driving is a feature of this post – must be licensed and appropriately insured (e.g., business use).	E	
Safeguarding	Essential/ Desirable E/D	How Identified
<input type="checkbox"/> Has appropriate motivation to work with children and young people, and can relate to them	E	Completion of an Enhanced DBS disclosure
<input type="checkbox"/> Ability to maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children and young people	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Displays commitment to the protection and safeguarding of children and young people	E	
<input type="checkbox"/> Good knowledge and understanding of the importance of safeguarding students and the welfare of staff, and of the action to take if necessary	E	