



Dispatches

The Crossley Heath
School News

December 2023

A Farewell from the Head

The holiday season is almost upon us! It has been a long and very busy term for our students, staff and families. It was been wonderful to see students enjoying a multitude of activities, visits and experiences.

Our transition processes for Year 7 and Y12 ensured a warm welcome to new students in September. Both year groups have settled into school life very well and the positive feedback we have received from students and parents has been appreciated.

During the term we were pleased to continue to promote our ethos of inclusion and to further celebrate our wonderful diversity. We were delighted to be asked to host the Calderdale Hate Crime Conference at which our students spoke compellingly. We were also delighted to hold a joyful Diwali - Celebration of Lights with the help of our parents who gave generously of their time.

We have seen a number of external visitors to the school this term including a wonderful Big Band Workshop led by Rossendale Valley Sounds, the ambulance service who led Re-start a Heart for 6th formers and a performance by Riot Act theatre group. Our now annual Piano Festival was, again, a great success.

As the Christmas break approaches, we have thoroughly enjoyed some of our traditional activities. The House Drama competition



was won by Queens House after a hotly contested competition. Staff also got in on the act with a bake-off competition which was won by Kings. And very tasty it was too! Our fantastic catering staff served delicious turkey, vegan and vegetarian Christmas dinners to hundreds of students in the hall with the traditional visit from Santa. Mr Hirst, as always, led the karaoke. A surprise visitor was The Grinch whose true identity is a closely guarded secret.

At the end of November, our Winter Fayre, organised by the Crossley Heath Association was hugely successful. Many thanks to them for their hard work in raising funds for the school.

As you know, this has been my last term before I retire. It has been an immense privilege to be the head of this truly special school. We have wonderful students and staff and I thank them from the bottom of my heart for an amazing six (and a bit) years. To end my long career in education as headteacher of Crossley Heath, has been an honour and I have loved every minute of it.

My thanks also to our kind and supportive parents and families for your unceasing support for the school. Your children are an absolute credit to you. I wish everyone happiness and success for the future and a peaceful, restful break over the Christmas period.

Lynnette Cassidy

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DT students' impressive performance



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Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award



"Striders through the storm"

Success for the Crossley Heath Gold DofE group. Having suffered countless problems on their training and assessment weekends in the past the group managed with great fortitude to succeed in their assessed expedition, which took place from the 20th to the 23rd of October. It is to their credit that despite storm Babet, they managed to continue on their first day to reach their objective campsite in Oxenhope, striding and perhaps sometimes wading over what is known as "Top o' Stairs" in atrocious conditions, having made a few important but minor adjustments to their original route. The four girls had the misfortune of postponing their previous assessment to October, having been prepared fully in June for an assessment in the Lake District. Instead, the new assessment timed unfortunately to one of the largest storms of the year, in one of the darker, colder months, shortly before the DofE season ends and the clocks change. Setbacks in their journey to reach Gold have been fairly numerous, from a hard frosty morning on their training expedition in Malham, to armed police officers cordoning the area, unexpected illness, a sinister storm, a flooded phone, thick autumnal fog and the occasional redirection or even perhaps rare moments of getting lost. They certainly deserve congratulations for their fine (and storm busting) endeavours.



Debbie Gallimore and I are aware that the girls have needed to balance their academic studies carefully with their commitments to the DofE award scheme programme and have tried to fit this "fairly" seamlessly into their school calendar. We wish the girls all the very best now, for the completion of the other 4 sections of their gold award. There will be a presentation of their experiences in the near future at school. They were working on biodiversity studies along the route of all their expeditions and so hopefully this will reinforce many academic studies, such as those learnt on the Biology Field Trip earlier in the summer... and so much more. They proved to be a strong team. We wish them well for all their future challenges come rain, shine or storm!

Paul Taylor

Libya and Morocco Bake Sale



The Bake Sale organised by the RS department in September raised a grand total of £811 for the Libya and Morocco natural disaster appeal. This is a fantastic amount.

Thanks to all students and staff who supported this event by bringing in produce, making purchases or helping out at lunchtime!



Interhouse Art Contest

Our first Inter-House Art Contest was flooded with entries from all year groups, based on the theme 'Your House Colours'. We were blown away by the diversity of the entries but our unanimous winner was Lois from Queens House, who won 25 house points for every member of Queens!



Mace Debating Competition— Round 1



On November 23rd, members of our KS3 and KS4 Debating Society took part in the first-round debates for the English Speaking Union's Schools' Mace competition. Our Year 9 and 10 team consisting of Awen Gitay, Myra Garg and Ibrahim Ahmed debated the motion **this House would broadcast court cases in the British justice system** as the opposition team. The debate was against North Halifax Grammar School and took place via Zoom. The team performed impressively against much older sixth-form students but, unfortunately, were unsuccessful on this occasion. The team was ably supported by Rana Abdulheem, Sara Davies, Samara Ravat, Ritika Shah and Yashwi Mehta throughout the preparation. This is still an amazing accomplishment and experience for all involved. The KS3 and KS4 Debating Society continues to meet weekly on Thursday lunchtimes in L4 - all students are welcome to attend, whether to debate, help to prepare the arguments or just to watch the debates. We are all now looking forward to the House Debating competition later this year.

Anna Hazelton



Sixth Form Careers



Sixth Form News

Visiting careers speakers to the 6th Form have included

West Yorkshire Police (degree apprenticeships), Isabella O'Toole (apprenticeships with Deloitte), and barrister and former Crossley Heath student Emily Landale who talked to a packed room of students about careers and routes into Law.

Emily Landale will be running an Advocacy Workshop in school in February which Y11/12/13 will be able to apply for.

Many thanks to all our visiting speakers



Davina and Amelie with their winning cake for Queens at the House Bake Off competition during the 6th form Open Morning



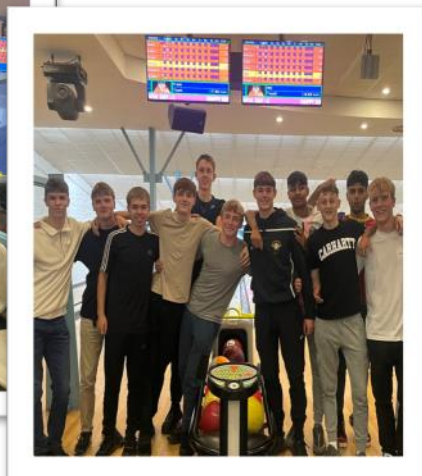
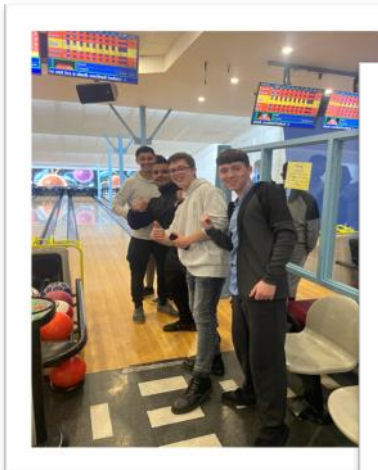
Mrs Cassidy with Mr Muirhead presenting the House Bake Off trophy



Ten Pin Bowling

A bowling trip to Electric Bowl at Halifax was organized for our Year 12s in September.

This was a team building trip for all students to get to know each other and was enjoyed by all.



Netball Match

A closely fought match between staff and our 6th form squad ended up with the staff winning by 7-4, victorious for the third year running. The match was fast and furious (at times) with the ball moving quickly from end to end, however great play by Mrs Doig and Miss Twibill in midcourt and consistent shooting by Mr Chesters, Mr Thomas, Mr Riley and Mr Cartmell helped the staff get the win. £100 was also raised for the Children in Need charity.



Isle of Arran Trip

The Geography Department are delighted to share the highlights of our recent A Level Geography trip to the stunning Isle of Arran. The excursion provided a unique opportunity for our students to delve into practical fieldwork, exploring the diverse landscapes that Arran has to offer.

The trip was graced with mostly beautiful weather, enhancing the overall experience. The sunshine not only elevated the scenic beauty of Arran but also allowed our students to engage more deeply with their surroundings during fieldwork. The primary focus of our expedition was human and physical fieldwork. Students actively participated in data collection, analysis, and interpretation, applying their theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios. The diverse coastal formations and river systems of Arran provided an excellent backdrop for our students to deepen their understanding of geographical processes. As our journey back unfolded, cancelled ferries added an extra layer of adventure to our trip. The detour led us through picturesque landscapes and unexpected viewpoints, turning what could have been a major inconvenience



into a memorable and spontaneous exploration.

Overall, our A Level Geography trip to the Isle of Arran was a resounding success, blending education with adventure. We extend our gratitude to the students for their exemplary behaviour, the favourable weather for enhancing our experience, and the unplanned detour that added an unexpected but delightful twist to our journey. Mr Spencer and I would like to thank our amazing Year 12 Geographers for making this journey not only educational but also immensely enjoyable.



Restart A Heart

All of Y12 were trained in CPR and how to use a defibrillator during our recent *Restart A Heart Day*. This is a national campaign run by West Yorkshire Ambulance & St John's Ambulance providing training in schools.



Pumpkin Carving Challenge

Having fun for Hallowe'en, there were some creative entries for the Pumpkin Carving Challenge, with Reuben's design coming out on top.



Links Forged with Partner Schools in China

From 13th to 19th November Deputy Head, Mr Brownlie attended the 2023 International Forum for School Principals organised by the Education Department of Jiangsu Province, China. He was part of a delegation from primary and secondary schools in West Yorkshire. Over the course of the six days Mr Brownlie visited schools in 4 different cities, including three Senior High Schools and two Middle Schools, as well as attending the International Forum in Xuzhou City alongside delegates from across Asia, Europe, North America, and Australasia.

The schools visited were impressive not just for their scale (most had approximately 3,000 students) but also the facilities, which were more akin to university campuses and all built in recent years. Jiangsu Province is one of the wealthiest in China and it was clear that the provincial government was investing heavily in education. The dedication of this funding was matched by the value that staff, students and parents placed in education. Senior high schools focus on preparing students for the fiercely competitive university entrance exam, the *Gau Kao*. The school day starts at 6:30 and

students (and teachers) remain in school until 22:00. Despite the long days, students were happy and focused on their studies, though when told about the school day in England they all said they would prefer our system! At school students study the full range of subjects, but can 'major' in certain areas towards the end of senior high. The academic curriculum is supplemented by sports, drama, arts and music and the visitors saw many examples of this in action.

As a result of the trip, Crossley Heath now has two partner schools with whom we plan to work going forward:

Tongzhou Senior High School in Nantong, a modern city renowned for its excellence in education. Yangzi High School in Nanjing, the provincial capital.

We are very much looking forward to working with our new partners and opening up additional opportunities for our students.



Hello Yellow Bake Sale



Hello Yellow! A BIG thank you to all students and staff who contributed to our World Mental Health Day fundraising. We raised in the region of £1000 which will go towards supporting mental health and wellbeing provision



Shoebox Appeal



We were eager to support the annual Shoebox appeal again which is run by the Rotary Club in Calderdale. Thanks to the fantastic generosity of our students, parents and staff we were able to fill over 50 shoeboxes with small gifts but in addition, we were able to provide many carrier bags filled to the brim with suitable items for those who may need them, for all ages from young babies up to teenage years. That Crossley Heath kind spirit shone through again to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Thank you to everyone who contributed!

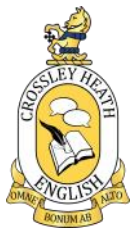
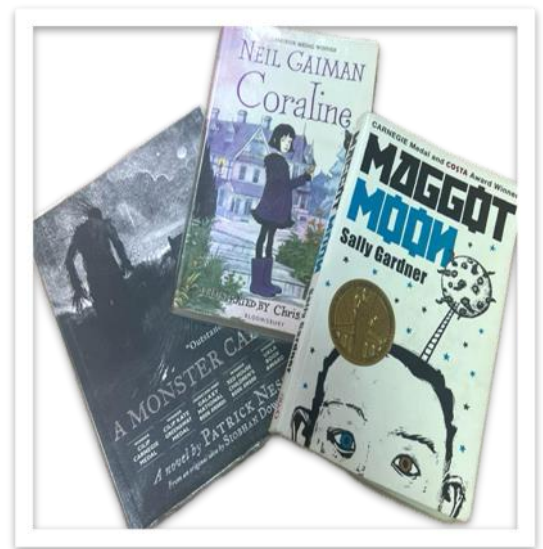
Yr7, Yr8, Yr9 and Yr10 Book Clubs

Two new book clubs are running in English this year – **Reading Masters** for Years 9-11 and **'It was the best of books, it was the worst of books'** for Years 7 and 8. It's been great to see readers getting together to talk about a book we have been reading and get everyone's thoughts on the best and worst plot moments, which character we like the least, whether or not we would have done the same as the characters did - and lots of other questions along the way.

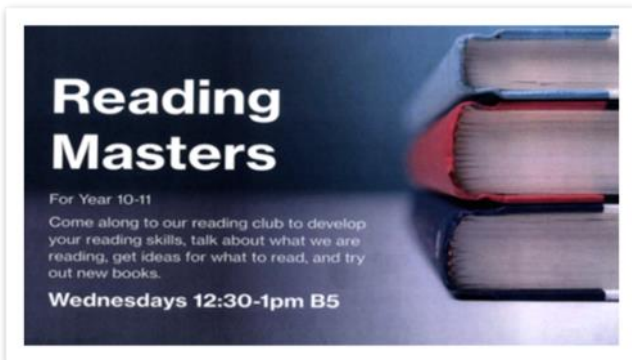
Currently, Reading Masters have read *Fahrenheit 451* (a bizarre dystopia about burning books) and we're just finishing *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (a classic novel about friendship built on shared trauma in a war torn Afghanistan) before we begin *Klara and the Sun* after Christmas. It will be an interesting read – a world where every teenager has an Artificial Friend (AF – but more like AI ...) and every child is judged on their IQ, or lack of!

Year 7 and 8 started with *Coraline* (a dark fantasy horror story about a girl who finds a doorway to a parallel new home) then chose to read *A Monster Calls* (a fantasy novel about a 13 year old with a recurring nightmare). Their final choice this term is *Maggot Moon* (an alternative 1950s Britain dominated by the dark and oppressive forces of The Motherland). The group are also busy creating a list of '50 great reads for Key Stage 3'.

If you have any recommendations or want to join, please just come along, new faces are always welcome!



Reading Masters for Years 9-11 on Wednesdays in B8 (12:40-1)



'It was the best of books, it was the worst of books' for Years 7-8 Mondays in B5 (12:40-1)



Diwali—Festival of Lights Celebrations

This term the Visual Arts Department have been busy leading workshops in support of our Diwali Celebration as well as running the first Inter-House Art Competition.

Students from across the school were invited to help create colourful paper lanterns in celebration of Diwali 2023.





Library News



The cosy Christmas Reading Corner

Pupil Librarians

Our new Pupil Librarians for this year are Lilly, Naomi, Lael, Katie, Tara, Yummy, Sohana, Eleanor, Keira and Amna, with Raganvi also helping out occasionally. They have learned the Library processes quickly and made a significant contribution already, with helping users find books they're looking for, making recommendations and suggesting the idea of the LRC running a **Creative Writing Competition** which was inspired by National Novel Writing Month in November. The theme was *School* and we have received a number of amazing entries—selecting a winner was a difficult choice.

See page 18 for the winning entry

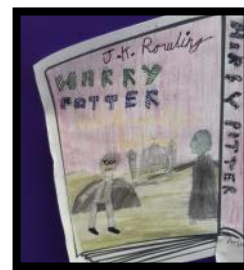
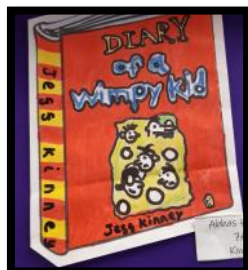
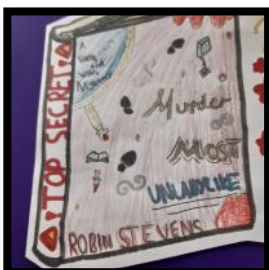
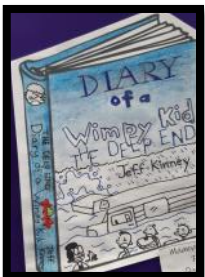
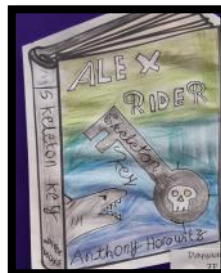
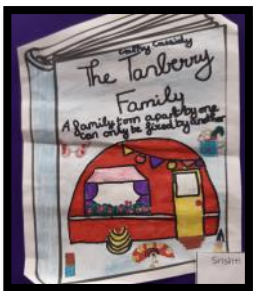
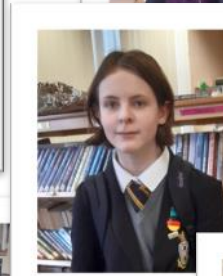
Year 7 Book Cover Designs

Our new intake of Year 7s were given the opportunity to design a cover for their favourite book and we had several eye-catching entries handed in when the new school term started in September.

Contributions came from:

Arjun, Riyaa, Abbas and Hasini (7A);
Maanvi, Hatim, Ishnaaz and Katherine (7D);
Srishti, Zaha and Safiyah (7E) and
Ariana, Dayyan and Varshith (7F)

House Points were awarded to all entrants and thankyou to all who took part - these have formed a colourful display on entering the Library and have attracted lots of interest and admiration.





Recommended Reads for the Christmas Holidays



KS 3



The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

It's hilarious and it helps to put your troubles into perspective
Recommended by Dr Chipperfield and Mr Brownlie

The Highland Falcon Thief by M G Leonard & Sam Sedgman

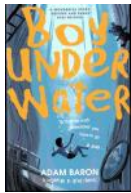
Part of the *Adventures on Trains* series, a thrilling and highly entertaining mystery set aboard a steam train with deceptions, puzzles and clues to solve



The Stone Thieves by Eddie Telviot

Action, adventure and intrigue. A wonderful story with amazing technology and inventions and engaging characters, brilliant escapism for a winter's night (*a highly recommended* [Instagram account to follow too!])

Instagram @fabatoms TikTok @fabatoms



Boy Under Water by Adam Baron

A heartbreaking, heartwarming story about family, friends and secrets. Will probably make you cry and will definitely make you laugh



Under the Hawthorn Tree by Marita Conlon-McKenna

The first book in a classic trilogy. The Great Irish Famine brilliantly recreated through the eyes of three young survivors. A story of courage, danger, adventure and survival.

Recommended by Pupil Librarian, Tara

KS4

Magician by Raymond E Feist

An excellent story about a young orphan apprenticed to a court magician and his journey through a tumultuous time, in which he and the world around him are changed forever.

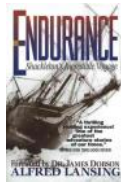
Recommended by Dr Flood



Lessons In Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

A quirky and thought provoking book, which challenges societal norms and the role of women. About cooking but also the power of science, knowledge and the main character's determination to break down barriers and bring about change.

Recommended by Mrs Mallinder and Mrs Doig



Endurance:

Shackleton's Incredible Voyage by Alfred Lansing

The jaw-dropping true story of overcoming many, many obstacles and challenges

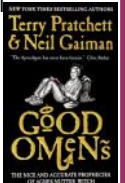
Recommended by Mr Barber

Thankyou to Mrs Johnson, our Head of English, for encouraging all staff to put forward their reading recommendations for our KS4 and above, and to those pupils who have let us know what books they have been enjoying. Unfortunately space has limited the number of titles we can include here but there is something for everyone to curl up with for a good winter's read!

Good Omens by Terry Pratchett & Neil Gaiman

Covering topics of religion, morality and the human condition with humour and wit.

Recommended by Mrs Tomlinson

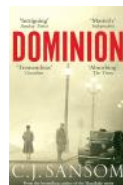


KS5

Dominion by C J Sansom

An alternate history novel describing Britain in 1952 after Hitler won the Second World War: under Nazi rule, persecution and oppression are rife but a growing resistance movement gives hope to those who are suffering. A book that makes you thankful for the freedoms we have in Britain today which we often take for granted.

Recommended by Mr Davis



For Staff & Parents/Carers

Monumental Oversights by Vic Allen

An irreverent book on public sculpture in Yorkshire. Informative and entertaining.

Recommended by Mrs Fielding



Yellowface by R F Kuang

A fast paced thriller and satirical commentary on diversity in the publishing industry and the detrimental effects of social media hate campaigns and cancel culture.

Recommended by Olive LeFevre Y12/13



Mrs England by Stacey Hall

A portrait of an Edwardian marriage, set against the atmospheric backdrop of West Yorkshire.

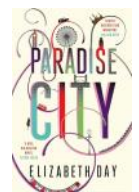
A very compelling mystery.
Recommended by Aisha Y12/13

Paradise City by Elizabeth Day

A captivating novel answering questions about love and death, ambition and failure, responsibility and guilt.

With engaging characters, it shows how a life event can change your path or is shared by others and how this can shape your life.

Recommended by Miss Catterson





Year 9 Creative Industries Careers Day

On Monday 27th November, our Year 9 students were treated to a full-day of inspiring talks and workshops from a host of our ex-Crossley Heath students who work within the creative industries.

The day was put on by the Visual Arts team to promote the subject ahead of the Year 9 options process; however, more importantly it was an opportunity to celebrate the

success of some of our talented ex-students and for them to share their journey into their career since leaving The Crossley Heath School.

The day began with an online virtual presentation from ex-Head Boy, Charles Royle (*attended 2009 – 2016*) who was on a short vacation in Los Angeles, California. Charles left Crossley Heath after studying his A-levels to attend the top design school in the world, Parson's School of Design in New York, where he majored in Fashion Design. Due to the Covid pandemic, Charles was forced to return to the UK where he completed his MA in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Management and is now working for YOOX Net-A-Porter Group as an Innovation Manager.

Following this interesting talk, students split off into groups to complete a carousel of half a dozen 30-minute presentations from a range of ex-students.

They included face-to-face talks from Tom Brown (*attended 2004 – 2011*) who studied at Bournemouth University completing his degree in Computer Visualisation and Animation, and currently works for DNEG; Alice Banham (*attended 2005 – 2012*) who studied at Northumbria University completing her degree in Advertising and now works for IMA-HOME; Ellie Szanyi (nee Dyson) (*attended 2003 – 2010*) who completed her degree in Design for Film and Television at Nottingham Trent University, and now works as an Art Director with the likes of the BBC, ITV, C4, SKY and Paramount+ among those she has worked for; Cameron McGarvey (*attended 2008 – 2015*) who is now a freelance photographer and videographer after completing an apprenticeship in Product Design; Katie Nancarrow (*attended 2011 – 2018*) who is currently an Architectural Assistant after completing her BA Architecture at University of Manchester.



The team of ex-students who attended to deliver interesting and inspiring talks



Finally, students also watched a pre-recorded video from Annie Wade Smith (*attended 2007 – 2014*) who was unable to join us in person but wanted to tell students all about her job as a Dynamic Interpersonal Therapist working in the NHS with people suffering from trauma or severe mental health. Annie completed her degree in Psychology at University of Liverpool, and her talk demonstrated to students that there are careers out there that can marry up a love of art and creativity with other industries and sectors.



Students listening to Charles Royle who joined the day virtually from Los Angeles, California

All of the presentations were very inspiring and the speakers highlighted the two core skills that all students can develop through studying art and design: creativity and innovation.

Following the lunch break, students gathered once more in the main school hall to link up virtually with another ex-student, Hannah Sloan Wood, who lives and works in Copenhagen. Hannah left Crossley Heath in 2008 to study Architecture at The University of Sheffield followed by an MA in Political Architecture and Sustainability at the Royal Danish Academy, School of Architecture. Hannah now works for an architecture company, SLA, whilst also teaching as an MA Lecturer at the Royal Danish Academy where she once studied herself.



The day was wrapped up by organiser of the event, Mr Hirst (Assistant Head and former Department Leader for Visual Arts), who spoke to the year group about the GCSE in Visual Arts and what it entails. The final word left students with lots to consider hearing about how the creative industries are the fastest growing industry in the UK, contributing over 8 billion pounds annually and providing a huge range of possible career routes.

The afternoon session allowed students to opt for a workshop of their choice to learn some of the skills that would be used in some of these interesting jobs/careers.

Tom Brown and Cameron McGarvey stayed all day to offer workshops in cinematography and photography, respectively. They were joined by 3 more ex-students who delivered workshops in architecture and landscape architecture. Tom Dobbins (attended 2005 – 2012) studied Architecture at The University of Nottingham and now works as an architect for Piercy & Company; Amanda McDermott (nee Browning) (attended 1998 – 2005) completed her degree in Architecture and Landscape Architecture at The University of Sheffield and now works as a Senior landscape architect at 2B Landscape Consultancy Ltd. She was joined in her presentation and workshop by Hafeez Mumraz (attended 2010 – 2017) who also studied Landscape Architecture at Leeds Beckett University. Hafeez now works as Project Specification Support at Marshalls plc and is living proof of how impactful these careers days can be; having spoken with Amanda several years ago, he was later inspired to also go on to complete his degree in Landscape Architecture too!



Students engaging in the landscape architecture talk and workshop with Amanda and Hafeez.



With the Creative Arts being, annually, the fourth most popular course choice at university, with well over 50,000 creative courses available, there is something out there for all of our talented and creative students who are just about to embark upon the same journey that the speakers of this exciting day did when they chose to study this GCSE subject. The Visual Arts team hope that this opportunity has helped to open our students' eyes to the possibilities available to them, and even if they are not amazing at drawing or painting, there is so much more on offer if they did choose to study this as one of their GCSE subjects



Whole School Photo

Continuing a longstanding tradition , once every 5 years or so, we all come together for our whole school photo and Wednesday 27th September. This is a huge logistical task.

Huge thanks go to [@gillmanandsoame](https://twitter.com/gillmanandsoame) for making it all run smoothly .

The weather held off with perfect timing as it was the day Storm Agnes hit us— an hour after the staging came down!



*From our School Archives:
The whole school photos of Heath Grammar School and the Crossley & Porter School, both taken in 1922*

CHPTA Winter Fayre



The CHPTA would like to thank all parents that have supported our fundraising this year.

The Winter Fayre proved yet again an enjoyable occasion for all, with many stalls full of crafts and festive treats on display.

Volunteers Needed

 www.facebook.com/CrossleyHeathPTA





House Drama

The main House activity in the Autumn term is the House Drama competition. House Captains and their teams are given the responsibility of choosing a play to perform and then they have to produce a script, organise castings and rehearsals as well as coordinating makeup, costumes and scenery. It's a mammoth task of organisation and brings out the best in student leadership and teamwork. It's also a chance to involve students from all years of the school both on stage and behind the scenes, drawing on the many skills our students possess. This year's plays included Queens' performance of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Kings with their version of *Toy Story*, Savile with *Alice in Wonderland* and Porter with *Beauty and the Beast*.

The Judges, comprising staff and Trustees, faced a tough job and praised all the Houses for different aspects of their productions.



However, Queens stole the show in the end and won the trophy for the best performance on the day. The best Actor and Actress from each play were nominated and the overall winners were Dylan Prieditis as the March Hare in *Alice in Wonderland* and Maisie Rana as Woody in *Toy Story*. Special congratulations to them.

Well done to everyone involved with the Drama competition!!

The winner's trophy being presented



Savile



Kings



Queens



Prizegiving

The annual Prize Giving event is a highlight of the school calendar when we recognise the success of our students from the last academic year.

Current and former students receive special prizes and awards, along with GCSE and A Level certificates.

Music by our students featured highly at this event, adding to the celebratory atmosphere.

Our special guest speaker was former student and head boy, Edwin Prior, who left in 2008.

He shared his fond memories and his experiences from school, outlining how the ethos and values he had learned have been fundamental in his successful career as a tech investment banker.

He was certainly an inspiration to the next generation!



Music News 2023



Mini-concerts

In class recently, we have been offering our year 7 instrumentalists and singers the opportunity to prepare a performance.

We have had an overwhelming response! Over 50 students have taken part, performing to their peers and building their confidence. We have some real talent!



Parent/Carer Information Evening

After the success of the Piano Festival, two of our talented year 7 pianists performed a solo at the Parent/Carer Information evening.

After just a few weeks of being Crossley Heath students, it is brilliant to see our students having the confidence to perform. Well done to Leo Tat and Alice Hobson!



Instrumental lessons in school

Our instrumental provision is continuing to grow and we are delighted that so many students access instrumental lessons in school. If your child is interested in having lessons on an instrument, please email musiclessons@crossleyheath.org.uk.

Sixth Form Open Day Music Competition

During the sixth form Open Morning, four talented musicians represented their houses in a house music competition.

Well done to violinist Eliora Sitch who represented Porter and to Simra Ahmed who was the competitor for Kings on Piano.

The overall winner was Pianist Jasmine Xu who represented Queens.

A special mention must go to our youngest competitor who was year 7 Safiyah Adeel on Classical Guitar.

Well done to all and another win for Queens!



National Saxophone Day

At the beginning of the academic year, we had no idea that National Saxophone Day is November 6th! This date commemorates the birth of the inventor of the instrument, Adolphe Sax. Savile Park Care Home knew this and got in touch with us to see if we would be interested in providing some saxophone music for their residents.

Entertainment for the audience was provided by renditions of some classic pieces including 'Yesterday', 'I Feel Good' and 'Baker Street.'

The Captain of Queens House accepting the House Music Competition Trophy from Headteacher Mrs Cassidy and Trustee Mr Sandhu



Music News 2023



Crossley Heath Piano Festival 2023

We were delighted to host our 2nd annual piano festival at Crossley Heath w/c 23rd October. During the course of the week, over 40 students of differing abilities and experience, performed on various pianos stationed in the corridors and in the Hall. The atmosphere in school was wonderful as the sound of the piano echoed around the building. Staff and students commented on how wonderful it was and how talented the students were.



The week culminated in a concert where 11 students of grade 5 standard or above performed along with several members of staff. The audience were treated to the piano music of great composers including Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Einaudi, Schumann, Debussy and Granados. Well done to William Bell, Nina Slyman, Joe Fitzsimmons, Thomas Elliott, Mei Tat, Leofint Tat, Vanessa Pukl, Anqi Guo, Finlay Hardy, Caitlin Phillips and Phoebe Jones.



Mr Moore made his debut having only been learning for few weeks. Piano Teachers Mr Kitchen and Mr Watts once again performed beautifully along with Mr Carradus. Our guitar teacher Mr Acton also produced a unique take on Ravel's *Gaspard de la nuit* using a speaker installation and technology. The candlelit event was well-attended and the performances were excellent.

Our guest performer, Daria Golovchenko, a professional concert pianist rounded off the concert in style. The audience were in awe of her performance. It was amazing that she chose to come and play for us. Daria decided to treat us to her own arrangement of three very different pieces which she weaved together as one. The first piece was Ray Charles' *'Hit the Road Jack'* which speaks of somebody being made to leave a place. Daria, as a Ukrainian was forced to leave her home because of the war. The second piece she played was *'Remembrance'* by Camilo to which the title says it all. Lastly as part of her carefully woven together arrangement, Daria played *'Libertango'* by Prazzalla which is all about freedom and power. A powerful message overall with stunning technique and beautiful musical expression. It was an amazing evening which Daria took to another level!



ABRSM exams

Over 20 students (and 2 members of staff) are due to take grade exams in school after Christmas. The results will be in the next newsletter. Good luck to all!

Music Department Visit to Belgium

The Music Department are embarking on their first international concert tour since Covid. We are busy putting the final touches to our itinerary for the trip to Belgium. Students from year 8-11 will be representing the school with concerts set to feature the Big Band, String Group, Samba Club, Crossley Brass and our Choir, in addition to soloists. We are also looking forward to the planned excursions including a theme park trip, canal cruise and of course a visit to a chocolate factory!

Further opportunities will be happening in the future for our musicians. Any student who is interested in joining any of our extra-curricular groups in music should speak to Mr Nimmo. We are always looking for new members!

Rosendale Valley Sounds

On Friday 20 October, we were joined in school by Rosendale Valley Sounds, a community wind band conducted by our brass teacher Sandra Callaghan. The band worked collaboratively with our school Big Band and also the Choir. This culminated in a performance during period 5 which was for the whole of year 7. It was a really exciting opportunity for our students to be immersed in music! Rosendale's players commented on how focused our students were and how they really enjoyed working with them. One of our students said it was their 'best day ever in school.' We are excited at the prospect of working with this wonderful band again in the future. Thank you so much to Sandra for organising.





GIRL'S FOOTBALL

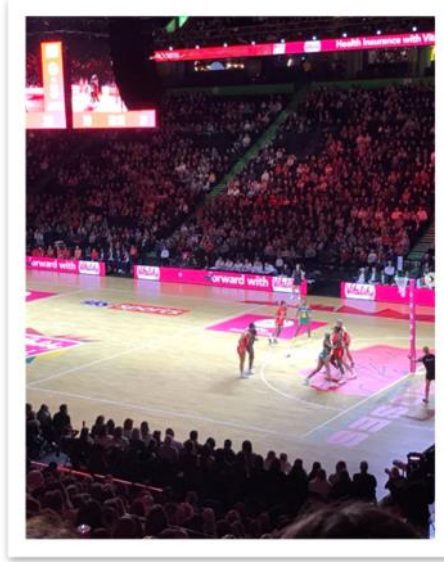
Our U15 girls football team got off to promising start this term. We played Brooksbank in the first game, the girls were really up for their first 11 aside game. They put in a good performance and they played in good spirit with some girls having to swap in and out of goal because we didn't have our first goal keeper. Unfortunately we didn't win the game on but the girls demonstrated some excellent play and resilience in defence and in goal.

NETBALL

Many girls from each age group years 7-6th form have been training on a regular basis and have represented school in The Calderdale Schools' league matches. Our year 8s, 9s, 10s and 11s have also played matches against Huddersfield Grammar and the year 10s and 11s have taken part in their Calderdale tournaments. The year 8A and 9A team are both unbeaten in all their matches, whilst the other age groups have had a mixture of success. The year 7s have just played two matches so far but show a lot of potential.

NETBALL TRIP TO MANCHESTER ARENA

A group of 49 yr 8-10 netballers and staff travelled across to the Manchester AO Arena to watch an international netball match between England Roses and South Africa. In what was an exciting and thrilling match, the Roses dominated play throughout, until the last quarter when the South African players came back to close the gap. The final score was 54-50 with England Roses taking the win and local girl, Imogen Allison being awarded player of the match. Our girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience of watching top netballers in action and hopefully were inspired.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the following girls, who have been selected for representative squads following trials.

Leeds Rhinos -Emily Daniels

West Yorkshire -Emily Daniels, Mathilda Clark, Darcy Farnell, Mei-Mei Tatt and Harriet Ayres

Calderdale U15s -Maysa Aliyev, Elodee Walker-Watene, Sophia Griscione, Zara Blanchard

Calderdale U13s - Clara Burgess, Ebony Gill, Hara Ramana, Violet Wilson, Isabel Anderson, Sohana Podapati

SPORTS LEADERS AWARD

Well done to the following year 11 students who have achieved their sports leaders awards which they undertook in their PE lessons. As part of their course, the students undertook 5 hours volunteering in their school or local Community as well as organising a Sports event, which included a dodgeball competition for year 7s and a boys v girls netball match.

SPORTS LEADERS AWARD LEVEL 2

Susan Ajayi, Zara Mayer, Iris Kerrigan, Harshitaa Muthukumar, Tolisha Warnakulasooriya, Martha Hodgson, Ava Gray, Hannah Ahmed, Saphiya Shah, Isobel Sykes, Farwah Asim, Mariam Adeel, Olivia King, Thea Patterson, Anaya Hammad, Louisa Tutton, Hamayl Khan, Suhaani Sharma, Simrah Irfan, Ammarah Shahid, Noa Rochester

SPORTS LEADERS AWARD LEVEL 1

Martha Dale, Catherine Taylor, Ruby Taylor, Noor Ul Ain Shafiq, Sara Shahzad.

BOY'S RUGBY

The return to school in September also saw the return of Saturday morning rugby, with numerous boys from various ages representing the school against a tough set of schools. We have had great turnouts and results against schools such as Bradford Grammar, Leeds Grammar, Rishworth and many more. It has been great to return to the school who taught me lots about the sport through a thriving school rugby programme 15 years or so ago and I am delighted I have been in a position and step up to support schoolboys pushing on with their rugby career. Thank you to all volunteers who make school rugby possible; coaches, parents, staff at club venues, and obviously the players! We are looking to access more fixtures in the Spring term across the year groups. Please read below what Isaac Musgrave, Year 9, had to say about his school rugby experience so far this year.

'Our rugby has been great this year. Mr Donlan has changed and improved the team significantly. He has done some amazing training sessions with us and coached us well from the sidelines as well as improving game mentality and game situations. We're now beating teams that we would've lost to last year and getting closer to beating teams that seem to beat everyone! We've played lots of games against schools from all over Yorkshire and Manchester but my favourite game was when we beat Bradford Grammar and Asheville in a tournament. It showed everyone how far we've come since year 7 and especially in year 9 under Mr Donlan. Looking into next year and year 11, I'm excited to play Hill House and Bolton. We lost to them this year, but we could've easily won both games! We will continue to improve because of the fantastic coaching by Mr Donlan and the commitment that the squad has put in. But to summarise this year's rugby season, it has been great, and I've had lots of fun.'

Thanks again to all responsible for a great first term of rugby. Watch this space.

Mr Riley





The Crossley Heath LRC Creative Writing Competition

Winner

Title: Never a Soul by Lewis Nimmo 7D

Savile House

"Aaah," screamed Belle as she was hanging on for life. No one was there. Just Belle and Raven. Now, I know what you are all thinking Blah, blah blah its just going to be a Disney ending. Well, not all stories are like that, especially not this one. Before the ending, I need to fill you in on the beginning....

It all started with everything but a normal girl. Raven was a total outsider, with no friends, no family and no love. It seemed to be like she was mourning everyday of her life. Her favourite colour was black, all her clothes were black and she had inherited quite a peculiar thing. No one knew what it was. Until that one day....

Dear Raven Thunderbolt,

We are writing to ask you whether you would like to join us at this special school.

It is a boarding school where you will be educated for all subjects. This school is

Especially for those with special abilities and magical powers so we can focus on that to prepare for the real world. Please send your reply back with this letter.

Many thanks,

Cuellar Thornsby

Headmistress of Krypton Academy

"Krypton Academy!" Raven exclaimed. "My golden ticket out of this place!" The peculiar thing was that no one actually knew what it was or where it was. Raven straight away, without thought, sent back the letter with yes in capital letters. Raven ran up rapidly to her room and started packing her bag until nothing was left. A care worker noticed....

"What are you doing?" asked the care worker. Raven jumped up with surprise at this question. She had no idea she was there. Raven was never kind with other people as she had never felt any sort of connection. "Didn't you know?" she said coldly. "Because I am so clever, I get to go to a special school. "Right, well, have you discussed this with your social worker?" asked Lily (the care worker). "No, he's a right mess. I'm leaving this dump." And that was that. The letter came back with a time and date and place of where she would be picked up from.

There was a loud knock and a menacing hiss. It was the Headmistress herself! "Come on child, get to it!" snapped the headmistress. "We don't want to be late for the ceremony."

They travelled in a pitch-black car which Raven thought she suited it quite well. When they had arrived at the school, it wasn't sunny like Rosery. It was dark and stormy. Raven was led to a dark room that they called a dormitory. "Yeah, right", she thought. When she entered the room, it turned out there was another occupant too. That side was colourful. Raven's side was dark. Her roommate was called Belle. She welcomed Raven with a warm hug.

"Hi, what's your name?" Belle asked with a bright smile. Raven replied, "My name is I don't do hugs." "So", sighed Belle "What's your special ability?" "My what?" "Your special ability. You know, vampire, werewolf etc?" Raven hadn't known her birth parents so had no idea of what magical powers she had inherited.

A trumpet started sounding. Raven had remembered what Miss Thornsby had said, "When the trumpets sound, 'tis time for the opening ceremony. They all flooded out to the main hall with curiosity about this school tradition. Miss Thornsby's voice boomed out and echoed in the hall. "I have had a look at all your reports and none of you have been to the dentist recently so that will take place before the ceremony."

Groans echoed in the hall as they all lined up to be checked and treated. It was nearly her turn and she felt there something fishy going on as after the students had been treated, they looked as though they were drunk! Their souls had been taken! Raven slipped out the line so no one would notice and she pulled Belle along with her too. She didn't know why. It was just instinct, she thought.

She knew she had done the right thing afterwards though, because everyone was acting like a zombie. Miss Thornsby spoke again, "We will have a competition soon. It is school tradition as you will only be here for 4 months. It will take place in 2 weeks and will be a competition of who can climb Mount Dark. It will be done in teams. I declare this ceremony over. Goodbye." She boomed loudly. Time flew by. It was on the day of the competition and Belle was teamed up with Raven. They were all ready by the mountain and then they started their dangerous path. No one had ever got to the top before. Everyone had failed. They had got halfway up the mountain when they came across a cliff.

PAUSE!!!

I think you all know what is going to happen now. Belle was looking down on the school when suddenly she had stepped on a loose piece of rock. There was a loud, piercing scream. Belle was hanging on for dear life. Raven grabbed her hand. Belle's hand slipped. There was a loud splash in the water. The next thing was Belle found herself shipwrecked on an island. Would she survive?....



Make it in Manufacturing Competition

Well done to students and the Design and Technology department who earlier in the year entered students from years 9 and 10 into the annual *Make it in Manufacturing* competition.

MiiM is an organization which is part of the Calderdale and Kirklees manufacturing alliance, showcasing local companies who manufacture an amazing range of products that sell globally.

The region has an amazing reputation for producing high quality precision products. With a focus on innovation as well as an eye on improving production processes to reduce environmental impact. The local manufacturers supporting MiiM included an exciting ambitious array of companies who are always looking out for young people to embark upon exciting careers. Companies included specialists in Engineering, robotics, material sciences, design, print, joinery, textiles, electronics, automotive and rail infrastructure as well as aerospace and satellite technology. Check out miim.org.uk to find out more.

This year students were tasked with producing designs for recreation equipment aimed at teenagers. It was necessary for the proposal to demonstrate an understanding of manufacturing principles to engineer the design. Entrants were encouraged for the designs to be unusual, imaginative, futuristic. To think about feasibility, materials, sustainability & the environment, construction, safety, ease of use, durability, accessibility, aesthetics.

Crossley Heath students had a great success in and won some fantastic prizes including an iPad, Chromebook, smart speakers.

Awards were given for and went to:

Meet the brief– appeal to target client and understanding requirements: Winner Michael Laki with Convert a Court

Creativity – Concept/Aesthetic/Novelty: Winner Maryam Ahmed with Aquadomes

Communication – Quality of submission/effort/clarity: Nina Slyman with Teen Nets

Impact – durability/environmental/sustainability - Tolisha with Geodomes

Certificates of Commendation will go to:

Alina Petrie-Shah for Zones

Aryan Roychoudhury for Go Cart Getaway

Catherine Taylor for Control Centre

The Trophy for the Young Engineer of the Future to

Nina Slyman for the highest score across all categories.



The department also won for the school £200 towards DT equipment.

Students also attended Calderdale and Kirklees Manufacturing Alliance's National Manufacturing Day, where they had an opportunity to speak to many of the organisations associated with MiiM.

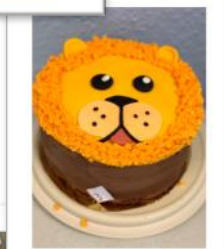
Duncan Pritchard

Staff House Bake Off Competition



With instructions to bake any cake, of any size and flavours but with an element that relates to their house, entries for the Staff House Bake Off competition proved very creative.

An independent judge from Clitheroe Grammar school ranked the entries on presentation and taste, resulting in joint winners Queens and Kings.



Jan / Feb Calendar

- 8 Jan School –reopens
- 9 ABRSM Music exams
- 10-12 Year 11 Mock orals
- 10 CHPTA Meeting 7.00 pm
- 17 Year 9 Parents’ Evening (ABCD)
- 23 Year 9 Parents’ Evening (EFG)
- 25 Year 7 Theatre Trip
- 30 A Level Taster Day
- 31 Intermediate Maths Challenge
- 7 Feb CHPTA Meeting 7.00 pm
- 8 Year 8 HPV Vaccination
- 9 School closes for half term
- 9 Closing date for 6th form applications
- 19 School re-opens
- 22 Year 11 Parents’ Evening (ABCD)
- 28 Year 11 Parents’ Evening (EFG)
- 29 GCSE Music Showcase

Term Dates

2024 Spring Term

Re-open: Monday 8 January
 Closes Half Term: Friday 9 February
 Re-open: Monday 19 February
 Closes End of Term: Friday 22 March

Remembrance Sunday

Head Boy Haris Rathore and Head Girl Sophie Lote represented the school on Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph at the Halifax Minster, and with our customary wreath-laying service at the war memorial in the School grounds, Crossley Heath students and staff also acknowledged the sacrifices made by so many for the freedoms we take for granted today.



Sophia with her winning School Christmas Card design for 2023



SSAT Framework for Exceptional Education

Congratulations to

The Crossley Heath School

who have been accredited for transforming practice in **wellbeing** within SSAT's Framework for Exceptional Education

This award recognises that their practice is amongst the most exceptional nationally

Sue Williamson

Sue Williamson
Chief Executive

This certificate is valid from July 2023 - June 2026

ssat the schools, students and teachers network

