



Dispatches

The Crossley Heath School News

April 2025

Head Teacher's Journal



Spring brings brightness and celebration to the forefront, especially so this March with both Easter and Eid approaching, hot on the heels of Holi, the Festival of Colours and then Vaisakhi . As always in our Crossley Heath school family, we have plenty to celebrate and so I have picked out five causes for celebration to share this Springtime.

1. We are the happiest school in Calderdale!

Both the annual Calderdale Health and Wellbeing Survey which students themselves complete and a **survey of Ofsted Parent Views published in *The Times* ranks us as Calderdale's happiest school.** The Platinum standard Safeguarding Award we achieved in March shows the strong foundation of care for children at our school. We are proud of the pastoral and wellbeing care and support that runs through the heart of our school to ensure happy students are at the centre of our vision to be "*The leading school for educational excellence, where we nurture happy students with strong values so they all contribute positively to society.*"

Continued...

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Year 13 New York Trip



UKMT Regional Maths Challenge



Andrew Watson—Blue Plaque unveiling



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Head Teacher's Journal *continued*

2. Our students are achieving great academic success!

We were proud to celebrate our **GCSE students achieving the best attainment and best progress of all Calderdale schools** this summer. As we approach our summer exams aiming to strengthen ever further we have had great news about our students post GCSE and post-A Level progression. With three of our students achieving **offers for Oxford and Cambridge (3% of the year group, the highest proportion in our region)** and **two of our students earning Arkwright Engineering Scholarships** we are seeing Crossley Heath students succeed at the highest level nationwide.



3. Our students' attendance is excellent!

As of March 2025 our **students' attendance to school is in the Top 1% of the country, 4.1% above the National average**. Furthermore, **150 of our students still have the proud record of 100% attendance** in this academic year. Coming to school each and every possible day demonstrates our value of courage, ensures students learn as well as possible and shows children are happy in their education.



4. Sporting excellence is shining stronger than ever!

Our sports teams are flourishing thanks to the commitment of students, the dedication of staff and the support of parents and carers. **Our students have reached national finals in table tennis, north of England finals in badminton, won the Yorkshire Plate in Year 10 rugby and competed in the final in Year 7, reached the Calderdale Indoor Cricket final, our Year 11 boys' football team are in the semi-finals of the Calderdale Cup and we still have two Calderdale netball finals to come this Springtime!**

Our international sports tours are back, with the Isle of Man and Italy rugby tours this year and **our Canada boys' rugby tour and Abu Dhabi/Dubai girls' football and netball tour later this year.**



5. Crossley Heath heritage is being restored to our glory days.

Back have come the Swimming Gala and annual school production, traditions dating back over two centuries to Heath Grammar School. Then we have been joined by Viv Anderson and Brian Moore, alongside a wealth of Heath Old Boys and Old Crossleyans to **celebrate Andrew Watson of Heath, the world's first black international footballer**. A lovely event celebrating diversity and inclusion shared on regional and national news **to inspire our current and future students to be trailblazers and "the first" in their lives to achieve landmark achievements.**



National Storytelling Week 2025



National Storytelling Week is a fantastic annual event and a celebration of the power of sharing stories. Stories teach us about the world; they allow us to step into someone else's shoes and feel empathy; they help us to relax and escape and they can help develop essential literacy skills.

In celebration of this event, the LRC ran a quiz and a video storytelling competition, in which we invited pupils to record themselves reading aloud from a favourite book or a story written by themselves.

Out of all the entries, we had to choose joint winners –Daphne from 7E with her beautifully read, original short story entitled *Catharsis*, and Henry of 7F who created a visual epic using Lego and stop-frame animation techniques to tell his story, both winners encapsulating the magic of the variety of storytelling.

Video Story—Joint Winners



Daphne 7E
with: *Catharsis*



Henry 7F with:
A Soldiers Wipe Out

Quiz Winner



Shanaya 7E

University of Oxford Trip



Dreaming Spires
A group of Y12 students had a fantastic trip to the University of Oxford in February. Hosted by Crossley Heath's link college, Worcester College, we had presentations about the application process and life as an Oxford student and then got to explore the stunning grounds and buildings of both Worcester and Jesus College in the beautiful, late winter sunshine. Students visited college libraries and dining facilities and had their questions answered by student representatives who explained all about university life and what to expect as an undergraduate student. We had some time to explore the city itself before making the long journey back to Yorkshire.



... SIXTH FORM NEWS ... SIXTH FORM NEWS ...

Newcastle and the Road to NATO



In January, former Crossley Heath student Gabrielle Joyce (class of 2021) returned to school to talk to students about her post-Sixth Form journey. After completing her Politics degree at Newcastle, Gabby has now secured a prestigious position working for NATO in Brussels starting in September, and is currently filling her time by working for Halifax MP, Kate Dearden. Gabby encouraged students to maximise all opportunities to get themselves ahead of the game, and discussed how they could get useful employment experience by working in roles for universities alongside being a student.

Gabby herself had a particularly proud moment when she was invited to Parliament with her research team to present a paper they had written. She was a great ambassador for Newcastle University and students went away with a very positive impression of the experiences that could help shape their futures.



Be Inspired Programme



Former student Nathan Sparkes (Class of 2020) visited us in March as part of our *Be Inspired* programme. Having graduated from the University of Sheffield with a Masters in Materials Engineering, Nathan is now working in the composites industry for Airtech who provide parts that end up on many F1 cars, commercial aeroplanes and yachts. He spoke to sixth form students about why they should consider studying Engineering, discussing metallurgy, CAD and finite element analysis, as well as composites and nuclear engineering. Nathan discussed how the vast number of different degrees courses often had a similar engineering foundation, including the study of subjects like thermodynamics, fluid mechanics, heat transfer, nanotechnology and so on. In his current role, Nathan's company is heavily involved in sponsoring teams competing in Formula Student - a league of universities led by students that have to design and build a new car each year and race them. Whilst he was with us, he was delighted to meet up with the teacher who first inspired him in his early DT lessons, Mr Barber! It was great to have Nathan back with us and to see the 'Crossley's Family' legacy continuing.

... SIXTH FORM NEWS ... SIXTH FORM NEWS...

Year 13 Hit the Big Apple

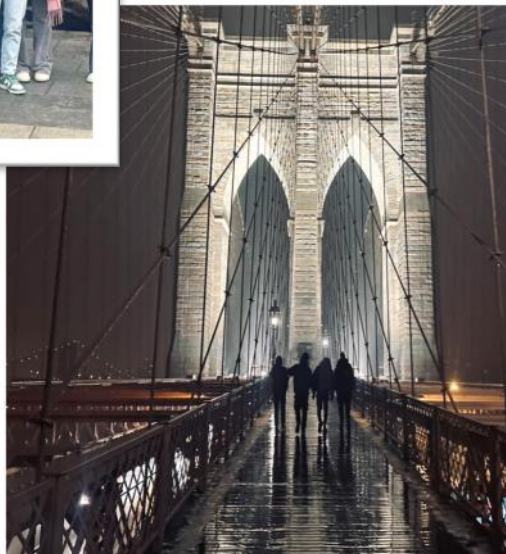
Our Y13s had an amazing, action-packed trip to New York at February half term. In the first 24 hours, students had ridden the subways, had a burger at Hard Rock Café, taken in the evening atmosphere of Times Square, visited the sombre but impactful 9/11 memorial museum and visited Ellis Island after a trip to the Statue of Liberty!

That evening saw a walk across Brooklyn Bridge, with incredible views despite the rain. In the morning, the group visited Central Park where they paid tribute to John Lennon and wandered for an hour. They explored 5th Avenue, St Patrick's Cathedral and the fantastic Grand Central station before taking in the Harlem Globetrotters basketball game at the Barclays Center. After a massive food order of buffalo wings and hot dogs, and a last second Globetrotters' win, the students had a photo opportunity at the Charging Bull sculpture on Wall Street, followed by a visit to the New York Stock Exchange. The afternoon ended with a quick glimpse of the Empire State Building and a shopping trip to Macy's department store before dinner at Buba Gump's in Times Square!

A fantastic final 24 hours in New York started with a night time trip to the Edge, the highest observation platform in the western hemisphere. Despite being very windy, the views were breath-taking and it was the highlight of the trip for many. In the morning the group walked the High Line through Chelsea and the Meatpacking district. They then visited Top of the Rock, the scene of the famous photo on the Girders - even meeting Porter House Duck's American cousin! The trip ended with a trip back to Times Square and some chocolate from Hershey's and M & M's! All students were a credit to the school. We will be sending some news soon to Y12s about next year's trip!



 The Crossley Heath Sixth Form



... SIXTH FORM NEWS ... SIXTH FORM NEWS ...

Sixth Form Partnership with Ravenscliffe



Our long partnership with Ravenscliffe High School is looking in safe hands with our new prospective volunteers! Six of our Y12 students, five of whom are pictured, have been to meet the school's staff and students and have had their induction training session. Thanks to Jo Hague (Crossley's alumna, Porter House Captain and now Headteacher) and her team for supporting this project. It will give the students, most of whom are aiming for careers in clinical fields or social work, valuable hands-on experience over the rest of the year. They're looking forward to getting started and supporting the Ravenscliffe students and staff in the next few weeks!



Legal Advocacy Workshop



Barrister and former Crossley Heath student Emily Landale, of Nine St John Street Chambers in Manchester, ran an Advocacy Workshop in February for our Sixth Form students. Joined by some keen Y11s, it was a fabulous day for the team discovering all about advocacy skills and the power of reasoned argument. Students learned about case analysis, submissions advocacy and how to prepare a plea in mitigation with an emphasis on effective use of language. There were also some fine acting skills in evidence for the role play scenarios! Well done to all who took part and huge thanks to Emily for giving up her time to help our current students!



Book Exchange – March 2025

In March we ran another successful Book Exchange. This enables staff and students to refresh their bookshelves without spending any money. It's also a great way to share your favourite reads and discover new ones and conversations that come out of sharing books are always so enriching. It's a fun, low-pressure way to bring staff and students together.



IDTA—National Dance Champions

Two of our students have done very well! Madeleine McGill had competed earlier in the year at the IDTA NE Area Freestyle Qualifying Competition and qualified in both her freestyle solo and slow dance solo, along with pairs and team. Madeleine attends Bodyrockerz School of Dance in Huddersfield.

At the Nationwide Finals at the Winter Gardens in November, Madeleine competed against over 100 pupils who had qualified from across the UK, in front of 7 adjudicators.

Madeleine made the final 6 in both her freestyle solo and slow dance solo and had to perform a 'spotlight' on her own in front of the 7 adjudicators and hundreds of spectators. She ultimately won 1st Place in her freestyle solo and 2nd Place in her slow dance solo.

In the 10-13 Years Team Section, both Madeleine and Olivia Eatwell (year 7) competed in the same team which won 2nd Place Nationally!



Madeleine McGill



UKMT Regional Maths Challenge

We had a team of 2 year 8s and 2 year 9s competing in a Regional Maths Challenge run by UKMT at NHGS on Monday 3rd March. We finished a close second to Heckmondwike and the students really enjoyed the challenges. They narrowly missed out on getting a place in the final which is being held in London. So, a big well done to Dhruvan Karthik, Phil Daniel, Madeleine McGill and Katie Waters!



Reading Buddies



Reading Buddies is a programme where older students read with younger students. They meet weekly in the LRC for the Mentor to listen to the Mentee read out loud.

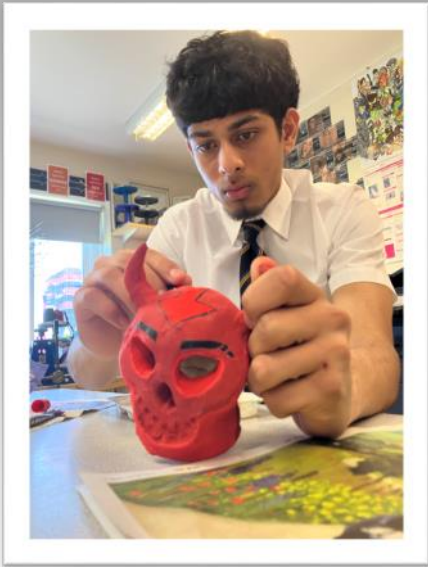
The benefits are profound. It promotes a higher interest and engagement in reading; improvement in social and communication skills and helps model good reading.

For the older students (Mentors) it develops key soft skills such as communication, empathy and active listening and builds leadership skills through taking initiative and being reliable.

Overall, the Reading Buddies scheme Improves student wellbeing, confidence and self-esteem.



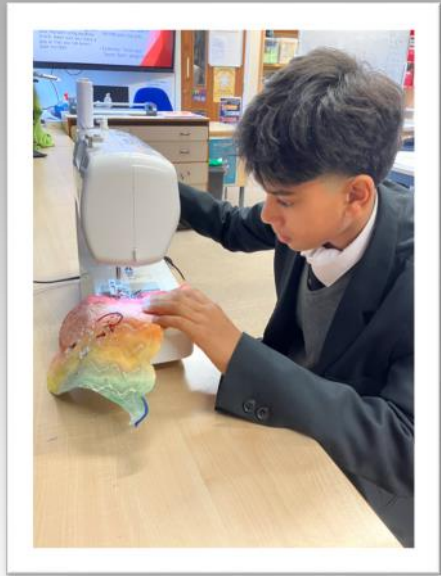
Visual Arts Department



This term, Year 9 have been creating their own monster designs as part of their *Manipulating Reality* project for Visual Arts.

Students had the opportunity to either work in clay and build a ceramic monster inspired by artist James DeRosso, or they could create a plush monster inspired by the *Stupid Sock Creature* designs of John Murphy.

The ceramicists learned about building clay techniques, followed by developing their painting skills, while the textile artists learned about creating tie dyes, batik wax-resist designs, hand stitching and using a sewing machine.





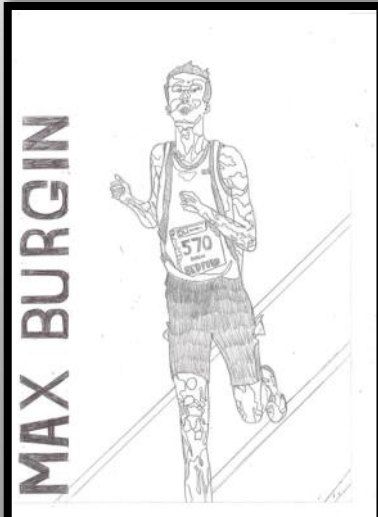
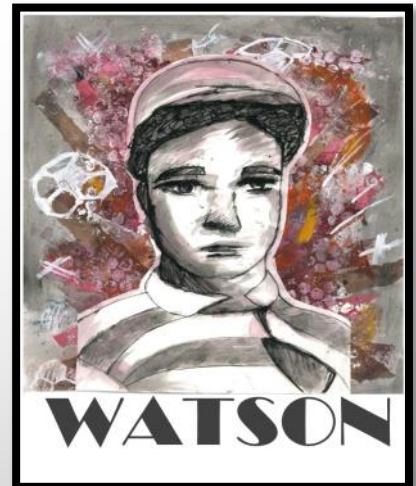
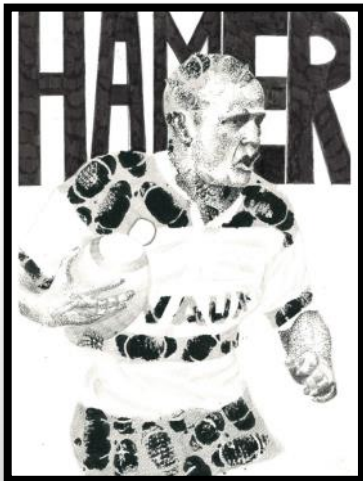
Manchester Art Trip

As part of their GCSE and A-Level arts courses, students visited Manchester Art Gallery to view contemporary art and textiles, as well as having the opportunity to view historic pieces by renowned painters and sculptors from across the world.

Following the gallery, students were taken to visit the iconic Manchester Museum in order to gain first hand observation of historic artefacts including Egyptian mummies, dinosaur fossils and ancient sea life as well as live specimens from across the globe. This gave the group the opportunity to make their own written, photographic and drawn recordings of the objects on display as part of their research towards their coursework.



In support of our blue plaque for Andrew Watson reveal, several students created artwork that celebrates several of our local sporting heroes - many of whom are part of the Crossley Heath Family, including Jon Hamer, Sophie Cox, Max Burgin and Andrew Watson.





MedSoc

Beginning the year, the MEDSOC team ran a Charity bake sale in the Main Hall to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Susan commented:

'Sales were led by myself, Maryam, Aliza and Diya, as well as support from Year 12 student Ruby T. Many lower school members of the committee brought in an assortment of baked goods to sell, as well as a gracious donation of a Victoria Sponge cake from an anonymous gifter! With the help of all the teachers and students who got involved we managed to collate an impressive donation for the charity! The event gave our attendees an opportunity to demonstrate key attributes that an aspiring medic should hold- such as empathy and a charitable mindset.

Within our sessions, MedSoc have hosted multiple guest speakers, who provide our committee with more great opportunities to expand our knowledge and understanding of their niche areas of expertise. More recently, we were joined by Dr Abassi, over zoom, in the session he delved into life as a psychiatrist – his chosen specialty- whilst also providing us with invaluable advice on applications and life in Med school. We soon hope to invite Serena Wigglesworth – to talk to us about her work in Alzheimer's research and look forward to learning more about the topic itself- potentially inspiring some of our attendees to get involved into this field of research in their futures.

As a part of work experience week, many of our committee members attended hospital placements – here, Paarth summarised: 'Upon arrival to the hospital, we were warmly greeted by the enthusiastic staff which comprised of healthcare professionals from different specialties working together as a team. This is known as a multidisciplinary team, which we learnt is a core value throughout the NHS. We were given the opportunity to observe interactions between doctors and patients allowing us to adapt the calm and empathetic nature needed when conversing with patients. We got to help out with many other admin roles and learnt what goes on Behind the scenes – quickly establishing, that many workers simultaneously play a role in caring for patients beyond the doctor's initial input.' When back at school, we intend to feedback our individual experiences to the MedSoc committee, which will help further their understanding of their perspective career choices!

Anaya
MedSoc Co-president



International Women's Day

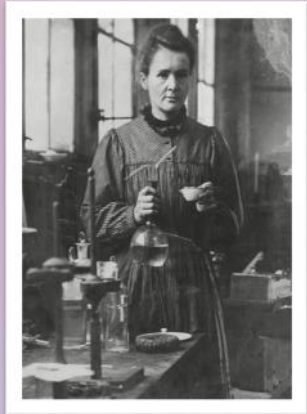


On Saturday the 8th of March it was International Women's Day. To celebrate, an able group of 6th formers were tasked with researching and collating information around different female scientists to be displayed on the screens around our school to raise awareness. Unfortunately, women scientists are not as recognised as their male counterparts, so it is with great initiative to celebrate such commendable figures. A few examples of which scientists were researched:

Marie Curie was a trailblazing scientist, the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and the only person to win in two fields—Physics and Chemistry. Her pioneering work on radioactivity advanced science and opened doors for future women in STEM. Curie's legacy inspires us to dream big, overcome challenges, and value the power of knowledge.

Born on 10th December 1815, Augusta Ada Byron, Countess of Lovelace, was a gifted mathematician who is considered the first computer programmer for her pioneering work on the Analytical Engine. She introduced the concept of algorithms for computers, specifically writing the first published algorithm meant for use on a machine. Ada also recognised that computers could do more than just calculations, a revolutionary insight that has influenced modern computing. Her legacy is celebrated annually on Ada Lovelace Day, a tribute to her groundbreaking contributions to computer science.

By Zain G. Hamid



Marie Curie, Scientist

Augusta Ida Byron, Mathematician



Sixth Form Library Sponsorship



Our 'Sponsor our Sixth Form Library' campaign has been a huge success so far! We're delighted to have received 33 generous book donations from our Amazon Wishlist, thanks to the incredible support of parents, alumni, and the wider community. A massive thank you to everyone who has contributed or helped to share the campaign. If you speak with anyone who might wish to support this campaign, our Wishlist is [here](#). If someone wishes to purchase a book, they simply click the link and checkout as usual – the book will then be sent directly to us, and we will send the purchaser a personalised thank you card.





Andrew Watson Events

On Tuesday 18th March, we hosted a Sporting Heritage Celebration - an evening inspired by the unveiling of our Andrew Watson plaque and a brilliant opportunity to bring together different pockets of our school community to celebrate our sporting achievements. Guests enjoyed supper, a raffle, and an auction, with some fantastic prizes up for grabs, including signed shirts from Viv Anderson (*pictured right*) and Brian Moore. We were incredibly proud to see our community come together in such a special way.

While guests in the main hall tucked into a classic pie and pea supper, we also welcomed a group observing the sacred month of Ramadan. A specially set-up classroom provided space for prayer, iftar, and breaking fast before they joined the rest of the event. Seeing everything work in harmony was a real reflection of the diverse and inclusive community we're so lucky to have. A truly proud moment for our school!

The following day, Wednesday 19th March, we hosted our Andrew Watson Plaque Unveiling - honouring former Heath pupil and the world's first Black international footballer. An impressive crowd gathered to witness this historic moment. Journalist and author Mark Metcalf kicked things off with the inspiring story behind the plaque campaign, followed by Headteacher Mr. Jones, who spoke about our school's sporting heritage and exciting future. We also heard from Halifax Town FC manager Chris Millington, Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire Virginia Lloyd, Councillor Colin Hutchinson, and Scottish Football Museum representative Richard McBrearty, all of whom shared powerful reflections on Watson's legacy.

A highlight of the event was hearing from our own footballing students, Grace and Ibrahim, who spoke passionately about Watson's influence in modern football, alongside an inspiring speech from Brian Moore. The event culminated in Viv Anderson unveiling the plaque - securing Watson's place in history for future generations.

We've been absolutely blown away by the press coverage of these events, with features on *BBC News*, *ABN Pakistan TV*, the *Halifax Courier*, the *Daily Mail*, the *Sunday Mirror*, and various local radio stations!



Right: Andrew Watson, Capt. (seated, centre) and the Scottish Football team 1881
image credit :
The Scottish Football Museum

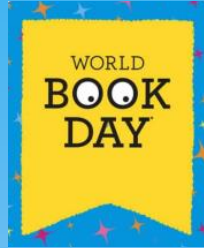




World Book Day Celebrations

Inter House Fancy Dress Competition

Following on from the success of last year's happy event, the school was once more filled with colourful literary characters ranging from Arthur Dent to Skulduggery Pleasant and from Bellatrix Lestrange to Lottie Brooks, with students and staff joining in to celebrate World Book Day 2025.



The Pastoral Team

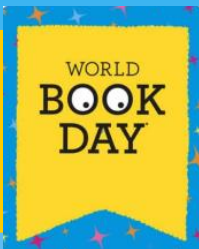


An Inter House Book Quiz, the Book Exchange (see p8) and the Inter House Short Story competition were also on offer as part of the week long celebrations
See overleaf for the winning Short Story by Safiyah, along with a selection of other noteworthy entries to enjoy)





Interhouse Fancy Dress Competition



WINNERS

Goldilocks and the Three Bears
Kittie Hana, Ariana (Kings), Saanvi (Savile) 8E



WINNER (STAFF)

Miss Trunchbull
from *Matilda* by Roald Dahl
Mrs Doig



RUNNERS UP

Dorothy and The Wicked Witch of the East
From *The Wizard of Oz*
By L Frank Baum
Daphne (Kings) 7D
Jana (Savile) 7F

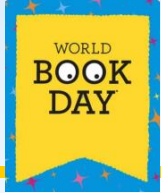


RUNNER UP (STAFF)

Maleficent
From *The Sleeping Beauty*
Mrs Greening



Gangsta Granny
By David Walliams
Hana (Kings) 8C



The Maths Department

The English Department





Interhouse Short Story Competition

WINNER

Fallen Stars

By **Safiyah 8E Savile House**

WORLD
BOOK
DAY



Aster. According to Greek mythology, the flower was created by the tears of a goddess—so upset by the lack of stars shining in such a dark sky. Now he lay in a snowy expanse, the pure, innocent whiteness stained with the blood of this fallen star. How cruel, Aster, being left to stare at the very stars he so longed to reach for desperately. In his final breaths.

As an orphan, he had little to live for—distant memories of a mother he once had.

Amidst the blurred and out-of-reach voice that echoed in his mind, one was always clear as day. “Shine for me, Aster...”

Since then, from the moment he could remember, he had dreamt of flight. Each night, he would gaze up at the blank canvas, so much potential, his heart overflowing with the desire to soar among them, for them. On his seventeenth birthday, a dampened poster caught his eye; it sparked a bold choice—enlisting in the army. Training to become a fighter pilot transformed his dreams into reality. The thrill of the first flight was indescribable; as he ascended into the azure expanse, the earth fell away, and he felt liberated. Aster would often tell his fellow trainees, “Up here, we’re not just airborne; we’re soaring, we’re living, and one day we’ll be up here fighting when we get our star ranks.”

The rigor of his training sharpened his skills, and soon he earned his wings. Graduation day brought joy and pride as he donned his uniform, a symbol of his newfound destiny. Each time he climbed into the cockpit, the sense of belonging would surge through him. As he took off, he marvelled at the horizon stretching beyond him, the crisp air frosting his windshield.

One fateful night, Aster and his squad were assigned a critical mission over enemy territory. The stunning sunset painted the sky with hues of orange and pink, a moment of beauty that almost masked the hazard that lay ahead...

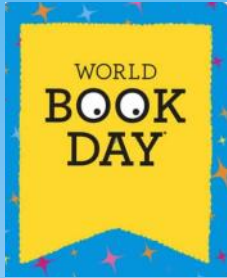
As Aster manoeuvred his aircraft among the clouds, he spoke to his comrades, grinning. “Tonight, we’ll be shining.” A brief moment of peace and chuckling sparked hope.

Without warning, their radio crackled with urgent warnings, and his team was ambushed, enemy fire erupting from below. The calm beauty of the sky shattered into chaos. Aster’s hands tightened around the controls as alarms blared around him, signalling a dire malfunction. He focused, determined to keep his aircraft steady, to survive the havoc around him. In those critical seconds, as his plane spiralled dangerously, he fought hard to stay alive, trying anything and everything he knew. The desperate barks of his comrades crackled through the radio, ringing painfully through his ears; he had to cling on, he wouldn’t surrender.

But fate was unforgiving. In an agonizing moment, an enemy round struck his aircraft. The world around him erupted, flames burning at the edges of the plane as he struggled to maintain control. Aster felt gravity permanently grounding him down into darkness, and as the plane began to descend, his vision began to blur.

Strange thing, asters—they can tolerate many conditions; however, like many other flowers, they cannot tolerate heavy snow or deep frost. Left there, the frost wilting his hope. Now, in a fleeting blizzard of thoughts, the sky is just a painful reminder of what he lost.





I drag my body up the stairs, dreading sleep and knew the horrors it will undoubtedly bring me. I pull the covers up to my chin, take a deep, shaky breath, and close my eyes. The visions come sooner than usual this time, the images immediately swimming out of the inky blackness of sleep and coming into stark focus. I look down at my body, that of an old man (not mine) with a gray, wrinkled hand clasping an expensive oak cane. I hear laughter coming from behind a door. It sickens me. My hand tightens around the cane, it's strong wood cracking under the immense strength I now possess. I walk through the room. A family of four sit around a table, eating dinner.

"Grandad! Come sit next to me!" Cries a small, delighted child. My hand flies up to his throat, crushing it as I crushed my cane. The white table cloth turns red. The others start screaming but stop quickly as the walls, floor and ceiling join the tablecloth. Finally, I feed. Their flesh feels supple between my powerful jaw, their bones exploding in my throat. I wake up, drenched in sweat and breathing heavily. I catch my breath for a minute, telling myself it was just a nightmare. I go downstairs into the kitchen and grab a bowl from the counter.

"Cases of temporary insanity have been reported in_" I switch off the radio as I walk past, unable to concentrate on the words. I grab the cereal off the shelf and pour some into my bowl. I sit down at the table clasping the spoon tighter than I should. My brain catches up with the world and, with a start, I jump over to the radio and switch it on faster than I ever have before.

"_advise that you stay at home and be extremely cautious. If you feel and signs of insanity please isolate yourself and call the police immediately. For those of you joining us now, a man of 80 has pleaded guilty to the murder of his family but claimed temporary insanity. He claimed that, one minute he was about to join his family for dinner and the next standing in the midst of his family's remains. Detectives even believe that he ate their bodies." I turn the radio off at this point, unable to bear hearing what I already know. I sit down at the table, my hands clutched over my ears as my body quivers. I think back to my dreams, they started over a month ago now and I've had one almost everyday, each one as horrific as the last. How many came true? How many people have I killed?

By Art Watson 9B Kings House

The Murderous Criminal

This is the story of one unfortunate man who had been caught and killed on sight with many others by a deadly criminal out loose. This is the story of David. This happened because one of the thousand criminals held in a central jail had escaped and our man David has been caught in one of his murderous streaks.

As David walked out of a convenience store, he looked at a TV shop which was broadcasting a news channel. The news channel warned everyone to be careful about a criminal who just escaped. On the TV, the reporters showed a CCTV footage showing a man wearing a clown mask escaping a high security prison. Next to him, there were many dead prison guards.

They told everyone to be cautious of the man, but David wouldn't believe them as he thought it was fake footage of just a man wearing a silly mask. Little did he know that this was real as next to him in an alleyway was the same person with the mask hiding the body of a victim he had just killed.

What David had missed on the news was that this killer was the most violent the country has ever seen. Just because of him, several different cases of brutal murders would be filed at the police department. Only when they had capture him, he already found a plan to escape. This was one of the world's worst deadly murderer.

But David did not know this crucial fact. He just kept walking about normally as if it was a normal day. That's when he started to notice that there was no one around him. He started to think, "Is it actually real?"

So, in the anxious thought of his mind, he jogged towards his house. But once he got there, he saw the most gruesome site. There were piles of dead bodies lying about. Blood all around the carpet and walls as if the colour was its original wall-paper.

He started running, all around the apartment, searching for any survivors when he saw one person looking around. He went up to the person to ask the situation but once the mysterious man turned around, true horror shock in his eyes. It was the same person with the clown mask who escaped with blood all over his clothes. Before David could understand the situation, the murderer stabbed David in the chest. The only choice he had was to run!

David ran for his life, tugging at his shirt to try to stop the bleeding but could not.

He tried many ways to escape but couldn't as the murderer had caught up to him. David tried to fight but couldn't so at last he had to accept his fate, to die in the hands of the murderer.

By Abhinav Ashok Kumar 7F Savile House



Interhouse Short Story Competition

The Letter

The wrought iron streetlamps cast a saffron glow, draped like a silk blanket over the cobbles. Far above, stars blink lazily, partially obscured by drifting patches of smog. A clattering echoes throughout the streets as a carriage thunders by, pulled by two roan mares. London, 1856.

A cloaked figure flits down Burleigh Street, lurks in the shadows of the Adelphi's façade, mingles with the crowd of high society spilling from the bowels of the Savoy, vanishes from the view of the public in their finery. The swirl of muted crimson next appears around the bend in the Strand; it moves purposefully towards the Lyceum Theatre.

This imposing building dominates the dim section of the Strand it rests recumbent and splendid in, its stone face intricately carved. A boy, face coated in grime, scours dung from between the pebbles. His tough-bristled broom towers above his head, swaying precariously while he drags it with ease across the crowded street after a shiny hansom cab.

The cab grinds to a halt, its dappled mare flicking her charcoal tail and its chestnut stallion stamping his feet with a distressed snicker. The cabbie's whip flicks—once, twice—and the horses still. Holding a wheezy breath in, the urchin with the broom watches the door slowly creaking open.

The rustle of taffeta, the soft sssshink of silk, the chinking of a neck laden with pearls. The Lady Rosemary Davenport-Fairfax steps out, lip curling in disdain at the cobbles still smeared with dirt. She glances at the boy with broom, and loudly says, "I just want to go to La Traviata without dragging my dress through the dirt. What are they paying these children these days? I was born in a time where the streets were always cleaned quickly," to the gathered crowd of aristocracy watching her descend.

As the boy, ears burning in embarrassment, scurries forward to scrub at the space around her voluminous pale emerald skirts, sewn in the latest style, he takes the opportunity when in between her and the hansom cab to whisper discreetly. "You could try not to draw so much attention to me."

"It is called keeping up appearances, Bram," Rosemary hisses. "Where is the contact?"

"I was told a red cloak, and nothing more." He squirms away through the mass of gentry, pulling his brown cap low over his brow.

Rosemary flicks her head back to her peers, and scoffs overdramatically for their benefit. She carefully steps over to the grand entrance to the Lyceum Theatre.

At the dim-lit stage door, a vermilion hood is lifted and a bone ivory clasp undone. A thickspun wool cloak drops to the ground, pushed away by the stage door swinging open, pushed from the inside.

"Are you the contact? Lady Rosemary is—oh!" A startled woman, exuding a matronly air with her apron and tightly pinned hair. "Sorry, I was not expecting a... masquerador. That is what you call them? I know not, in truth. All these performance hall folks are rather strange. Lady Rosemary likes it well enough, but personally I have never seen the interest."

She backs off when the jewelled mask remains silent. Tiny rainbows glint off its diamonds and reflect over the delicate peacock feathers fanning from its edges. A black-gloved hand extends, proffering an envelope.

She bustles down the plain hallway, clutching the folded paper like a lifeline. "Must deliver to my lady, must deliver to my lady... come on, Tabitha, get it together," can be heard down the austere corridors as she mutters the vital reminder to herself.

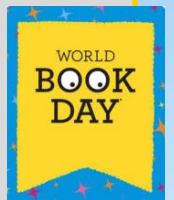
Panting slightly from her exertion, Tabitha ducks into the shadowed background of the Davenport-Fairfax box, only a few minutes after she herself received the envelope. "Lady Rosemary?" she asks hoarsely.

"Tabitha!" Taking care to remain quiet and discreet, Rosemary snatches the envelope from her maid's hand. She lovingly runs her fingers over the maroon wax seal, lips moving as she scans the calligraphy. "The Violetta to my Alfredo... ha. My dearest always did have a way with words." She slits the envelope. "I shall have to thank Bram, and his contact, and you, my faithful Tabitha. I was uncertain how much longer I would have to wait without a letter from my dearest." She slides the letter out, gasping at the tiny sprig of clustered, amethyst flowers that tumbles out. Then Rosemary gasps. "No... not my dearest."

To be continued...

[La Traviata, the opera referenced in this short story, is a real opera by Verdi that was actually shown in the Lyceum in 1856, centred around a young Parisian lady called Violetta, and her love with a young nobleman named Alfredo. Unfortunately, Violetta dies of tuberculosis. The Adelphi, the Savoy and the Lyceum are all real theatres on the Strand in London, and Burleigh Street is a real street branching off the Strand next to the Adelphi. The characters in this story are, however, not real.]

By Eleanor Wickham 9C Kings House





[Author's note: I wrote a short story about a mother and a son. the son is a young boy named Mateo with a mother who is always drunk. she doesn't care about him, but he still loves her unconditionally.]

Today was his Mum's birthday, he'd been working on the card all morning, carefully choosing the brightest crayons. Now, he couldn't wait to show her. "Mum, Mum, look at what I made!" He held it out, his eyes shining with pride, completely unaware of the empty bottles scattered near her feet. The acrid smell of cigarette smoke filled the living room as the TV played the latest news. "Mum look at what I made. It's a present for you!" he exclaimed, waving the card in his mother's weary, gaunt face. "What is it now Mateo, can't you just let me drink in peace?" she rolled her eyes in annoyance and snatched the card out of his hands. Her eyes were met with a neatly folded card covered in sunshines and rainbows and a large pink heart drawn in the centre. Inside the card read:

Dear mummy

Happy Birthday! I love you so much!

Lots of love from: Mateo

Xxxx

"Do you like it mummy?" he asked, eagerness shining in his dark, hazelnut eyes. He expected an answer such as 'I love you too' or 'this is beautiful honey' but instead he faced disappointment. "Why can't you just leave me alone? You always bother me with such stupid nonsense. Go put this garbage in the bin" she said, shredding the cards into pieces and throwing them on the floor. Mateo's excitement faded away into a look of hurt. His mother's words stung him, but he didn't flinch, just a small tightening around his eyes. "Maybe if I drew her a bigger heart next time, she would finally love me as much as I do..." he muttered to himself, a single tear rolling down his cheek. He knelt onto the floor and picked up the scraps scattered on the floor...

~ 2 years later ~

MATEO'S P.O.V

I walked into the house; the pungent smell of smoke filled my lungs as the dozens of beer bottles were scattered across the living room floor. "Mum. I'm home." I shouted, navigating my way through the dirty floor. Usually, mum would lay on the sofa with a bottle in her hand or in bed asleep. However, today she was nowhere to be found. I turned the house upside down looking for her, but she had disappeared. My little 9-year-old head was filled with questions and worries about my mum. Could she have gone out? Had she gotten herself into trouble again?

I never understood why she was like this. I knew she wasn't like the other mums who picked their children up from school or made them lovely lunches, but she was still my mum, and I would do anything for her. She would never ask how my day was, and she would even forget my birthday. Most of the time she would scream at me telling me that I was just a waste of space and that I should just die but I knew deep down, somewhere in that heart of emptiness she loved and cared about me.

I ran out of the house running up and down the neighborhood searching in panic. "MUM! MUM! MUM!" my voice echoed across the streets as a waterfall of tears poured out of my eyes. Every minute felt like hours. I knew mum couldn't be outside by herself without collapsing or injuring herself. My legs were cramping from the constant running. Suddenly, beneath the flickering orange streetlamp, I saw a crumpled shape. Her worn coat was half-hidden in the shadows. Her face was pale, her lips slightly blue. It was Mum...

~ same day, in the hospital~

MUM'S P.O.V

I opened my eyes and found myself in a hospital room. My memory was hazy but the last thing I remember was having a pint of beer and a cig. I sat up and saw a doctor walk in. "Hello doctor. Why am I in the hospital and where's that useless son of mine?" I asked, my head still feeling dizzy. The doctor was crying as she held a letter in her hand. "Beatrice Collins, you have just survived a serious heart failure. You would have died if your son...hadn't saved you in time." I was confused. I hadn't died so why was this idiot crying? "Miss Collins. I'm so sorry..." the doctor handed me the letter, her hands trembling. I unfolded the paper and childish drawing of a pink heart blurred as tears welled in my eyes. I began to read, each word a hammer blow to my soul. 'Dear Mum...' my breath hitched. 'Happy Birthday!'

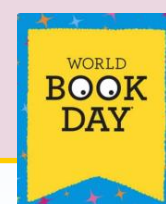
Dear Mum,

Happy Birthday! I love you so much. To show you how much I love you I decided to give you my most valuable thing. My heart. The doctors said that if I do this I will have to go up into the sky with God while you will stay here But I know it's worth it. I would do anything for you. Mummy you must promise me that you will stop drinking your juice and will change for the better. My teacher told me that life is meant to be fun and happy so please live a happy life for me. I hope you will always remember me. Don't forget, I'll always be with you, watching you from above. I love you so much.

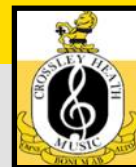
Lots of love: Mateo

xxxx

written by: Ariana Dambrawa Hewage 8E Savile House



... MUSIC NEWS ... MUSIC NEWS ...



ABRSM exams

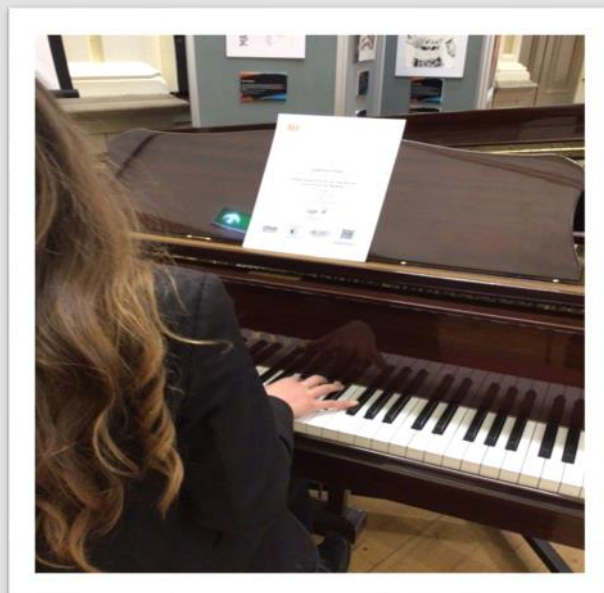
Another packed exam session saw another 20 candidates undertaking and passing ABRSM exams in school. They are listed below.

First name	Last name	Grade	Instrument
Isobel	Anderson	2	Alto Saxophone
Phil	Daniel	4	Piano
Dinuli	Devasurendra	5	Piano
Imogen	Gill	7	Piano
Myra-Sofia	Iftikhar	2	Piano
Asawir	Ismail	2	Piano
Sohan	Kodidasu	2	Piano
Shamritha	Kumar	4	Piano
Shahitya	Manoharan	3	Piano
Tego	Marsh	4	Piano
Hiba	Maryam	2	Piano
Amber	Mitchell	4	Piano
Lewis	Nimmo	2	Clarinet
Caitlin	Phillips	8	Piano
Andiya	Qarany	1	Piano
Arron	Sachdeva	6	Piano
Prithiv Jith	Shiva Deep	5	Piano
Ayan	Siddiqui	2	Piano
Eleanor	Wickham	2	Violin
Isobella	Wood	4	Piano

Particularly well done to Andiya, Prithiv, Lewis, Asawir, Sohan and Isobel who all passed with merit.

There is another exam session booked for June 23rd this academic year. Well done musicians!

Massive congratulations go to Vanessa Pukl who recently passed her ARSM diploma on Piano with merit. This diploma is beyond grade 8 and now means that she has letters after her name! Vanessa is an Associate of the Royal Schools of Music. Well done!



... MUSIC NEWS ... MUSIC NEWS ...



Instrumental lessons in school

It is great to see so many students accessing our instrumental lessons in school. For any student who is interested in having lessons on an instrument, please scan this QR code. Biographies from our wonderful staff and details of how to sign up can be found here...

CROSSLEY HEATH MUSIC
EXTRACURRICULAR


CROSSLEYMUSIC

Instagram



Sign up for instrumental/vocal lessons at Crossley Heath

We offer lessons in: Voice, Piano, Woodwind, Strings, Brass, Drums, Acoustic/Electric Guitar and Classical Guitar

For more information and to meet the staff and access their contact info please scan the QR code below.

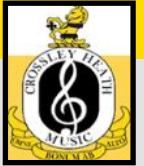


 LEADERS OF TOMORROW

KINDNESS + COURAGE + EXCELLENCE

In addition to this, you will have seen our Pupil Premium Promises and Promise Four relates to music. It states that we guarantee that the school will fund 50% of instrumental lessons and offer students access/loan of a musical instrument. If you would like some further information on this, or if you would like to arrange lessons for your child, please contact Mr Nimmo by email on musiclessons@crossleyheath.org.uk.

... MUSIC NEWS ... MUSIC NEWS ...



London Trip

In February, 45 excited students embarked on an unforgettable trip to London, immersing themselves in the vibrant culture of one of the world's most iconic cities. This trip was more than just an exciting getaway—it was a chance for these young performers, all part of the cast of our upcoming *Oliver!* production in May, to experience the magic of the West End and explore the sights and sounds that have inspired so many in the world of theatre. As the students are preparing for their own production of this classic, seeing the show live on stage was a thrilling experience. They were able to witness the powerful performances, stunning set designs, and the intricate choreography that have all impacted their approach. The students were captivated by the talented young performers, offering a sense of inspiration and a new appreciation for the hard work that goes into bringing a musical to life.

In addition to *Oliver*, we attended *Mamma Mia!*, a dazzling production that had the whole group dancing in their seats. The infectious energy of the cast and the unforgettable songs of ABBA made for an incredible afternoon of fun and excitement. The students not only enjoyed the show but were also inspired by the sheer joy and enthusiasm that radiated from the performers on stage. It was a perfect way to kick off their West End adventure!

In between their theatre experiences, students set sail on a river cruise along the Thames. The boat tour was a relaxing and scenic way to see the city from a unique perspective. Students were able to take in the stunning views while learning about the rich history of this world-renowned city. We also explored some of London's most famous areas, including Covent Garden. Known for its vibrant atmosphere, street performers, and charming shops, Covent Garden was the perfect place to wander, grab a bite to eat, and soak in the culture.

Our London trip was an enriching experience for everyone involved. For the students, it was a chance to see the magic of the West End come to life and gain a deeper understanding of the theatre world. They not only saw incredible performances but also discovered how much effort, passion, and artistry go into creating the unforgettable shows that grace the stage.





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Rossendale Valley Workshop

On an exciting and memorable day of music-making, our school's Big Band had the opportunity to collaborate with the Rossendale Valley Sounds Community Wind Band, creating an event that was both entertaining and educational for all involved. The day culminated in a dynamic performance for our Year 7 students, followed by an evening concert for parents, showcasing the incredible talents of both the students and the community musicians.

The concert had a strong theme centered around film music, with the bands performing a variety of beloved scores from popular movies. The students and audience were treated to vibrant renditions of "The Simpsons Theme," "The Incredibles," and "Pirates of the Caribbean," bringing the iconic sounds of these films to life in a whole new way. The combination of brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments from both bands created a powerful sound that was both energizing and captivating.

Adding to the variety and excitement of the performance, our school choir joined in, adding vocal magic to the event with an ABBA Medley and the Disney classic "Cruella De Vil." The choir's voices blended beautifully with the bands, creating a full, rich sound that added depth to the musical program.



The success of the event wasn't just about the music – it also raised important funds for our school band. Thanks to the generous support of attendees and the tireless effort of the performers, the money raised from the concert has been invested in new percussion equipment, enhancing the resources available to our school band and providing more opportunities for students to develop their musical skills.

Sandra Callaghan, who conducts both the school Big Band and the Rossendale Valley Sounds Community Wind Band, deserves special recognition for her exceptional leadership. Her dedication and passion for music were evident throughout the entire day, ensuring that every moment of the performance was polished and well-coordinated. Sandra's guidance was instrumental in bringing together these two groups, which made for a truly special musical collaboration.

In addition to the ensemble performances, the event also featured a standout solo by Pragya Surabhi, one of our talented vocalists, who performed a stunning Gershwin song. Accompanied by the bands, Pragya's vocal performance showcased her impressive range and vocal control.

Overall, the collaboration between the school's Big Band and the Rossendale Valley Sounds Community Wind Band was a resounding success. It provided an opportunity for the students to work alongside seasoned musicians, gain new experiences, and most importantly, enjoy the power of music. As we look forward to future collaborations and performances, we are reminded of the joy and enrichment that comes from sharing music with others – and the invaluable experiences it provides for all involved.



Our Big Band were inspired and have recently submitted a recorded entry to the renowned organisation 'Music for Youth.' We are waiting to hear back from them and there is a possibility that they could be invited to Birmingham to perform as part of the National Festival of Music for Youth in July.

... MUSIC NEWS ... MUSIC NEWS ...



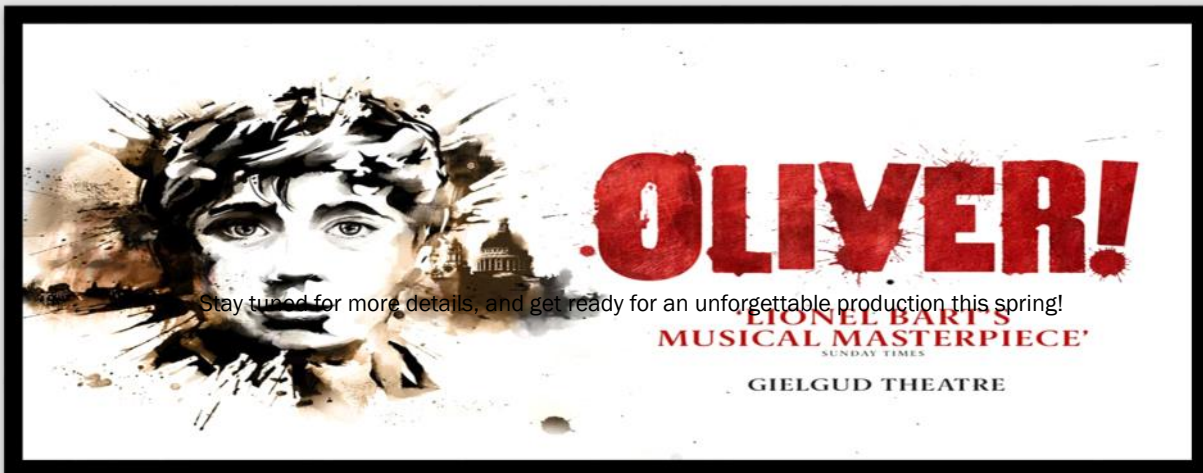
Oliver!

Get ready for an unforgettable theatrical experience as our school prepares to bring the classic musical *Oliver!* (the Junior version) to the stage. This exciting production promises to captivate audiences with its heart-warming story, memorable characters, and vibrant songs.

Based on the beloved novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens, *Oliver!* tells the story of an orphan boy who dares to dream of a better life. From his humble beginnings in a workhouse to his adventures with a colourful group of characters, including the notorious Fagin and the kind-hearted Nancy, Oliver's journey is one of hope, friendship, and resilience. The talented cast and crew have been working tirelessly to bring this timeless tale to life. With dazzling costumes, a lively set, and performances from our talented students, *Oliver! Jr* is sure to be a hit for the entire family.

Mark your calendars for this not-to-be-missed event, and come join us for an evening of music, drama, and fun! Performances will take place on May 20th and 21st in the school hall. Tickets will be available soon, so keep an eye out for more information.

We can't wait to share this magical experience with you!



Stay tuned for more details, and get ready for an unforgettable production this spring!

Boys Sing 2025

The Boys Sing! event, held at Halle St Peters in Manchester, was an excellent experience for our young aspiring male vocalists. Led by the highly regarded Hallé Youth Choir Director, Stuart Overington, and Hallé Youth Choir Assistant Director and Hallé Youth Training Choir Director, Matthew Roughley, the event aimed to provide school-age boys with a deeper understanding of vocal technique, listening skills, and the joy of exploring diverse musical repertoires.

Throughout the session, our students were encouraged to experiment with their voice and the leaders created an inspiring and supportive atmosphere that allowed the boys to express themselves using their voice.

The ultimate goal of Boys Sing! is to nurture the musical education of these young voices and encourage them to continue singing as they grow into their teenage years and beyond. The experience is not only about improving technique but also about fostering a lifelong love of music and performance.

We had the privilege of taking 12 students to participate in the event, and each one walked away inspired and energized. They were captivated by the opportunity to sing alongside other passionate young musicians and to learn from two of influential figures in a wonderful setting.



... MUSIC NEWS ... MUSIC NEWS ...



Class of '25 Showcase

Musicians from our year 11 GCSE group recently came together to celebrate their musical achievements in our 'Class of '25' showcase performance. The event, held before an enthusiastic audience, highlighted the dedication and talent of these young artists as they took the stage to display their skills and passion for music.

The showcase featured a diverse array of performances, including vocalists Bella Wood and Naomi Muhoro, Flutist Bea Pedley, Pianists Samara Ravat, Finlay Hardy and Caitlin Phillips, and Brass player Phoebe Jones and Cindy Wang, and drummer James Stokes. The showcase was a true celebration of the hard work, discipline, and creativity of the Class of '25 musicians, offering a platform for them to shine and share their musical journeys with an appreciative audience.



... MUSIC NEWS ... MUSIC NEWS ...



Paris Concert Tour 2026

Join Us for an Unforgettable Concert Tour to Paris!

There are still places available for our exciting 4-day, 3-night concert tour to Paris, open to all regular attenders of any of our music extra-curricular clubs. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to perform, explore iconic landmarks, and enjoy the magic of Disneyland Paris!

Tour Details:

- **Dates:** Monday, 30th March – Thursday, 2nd April 2026
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights, with 1 night half board (breakfast and evening meal) and 2 nights bed & breakfast (breakfast only). Students will stay in comfortable en-suite triple rooms.

Travel: by coach and Includes a ferry crossing to and from.

Exciting Highlights:

- **Disneyland & Walt Disney Studios:** Enjoy 1 day with entrance to both parks and a 20-minute performance as part of the Disney Performing Arts Programme (subject to availability and successful audition). Plus, a meal voucher to use at a food kiosk within Disneyland!
- **Concert in Paris:** Perform in a special concert in the heart of Paris and share your talent with a wider audience.
- **Iconic Sightseeing:** Experience breath taking views with a trip to the Montparnasse Tower and enjoy a scenic Bateaux Mouches boat trip along the Seine.

Dining: One evening meal at a Parisian restaurant, giving students the chance to sample authentic French cuisine.

This is a wonderful chance for students to bond, perform, and immerse themselves in the culture of one of Europe's most vibrant cities. Don't miss out—reserve your place today!
For more information and to book your spot, please contact Mr Nimmo on r.nimmo@crossleyheath.org.uk

Music Mark

Calderdale Music have celebrated the value that we put on Music as a school by recently inviting us to become a Music Mark School! Music Mark members are leaders in music education and collectively form a national network of organisations and individuals providing high-quality music education for all children and young people. Well done to our dedicated team of peripatetic staff and all staff who contribute towards music enrichment and education in school!



NETBALL

It has been great to see large numbers of girls attending netball club and training this term, with many girls also representing school in matches. We have had a promising season so far with our teams, winning the majority of their matches. Well done to all the girls who have been involved.

Following trials the following girls were selected for various squads:

West Yorkshire U15 squad:

Darcy Farnell, Emily Daniels

U15 Calderdale Squad:

Harriet Ayres, Clara Burgess, Mei Mei Tat, Zara Blanchard, Maysa Aliyev, Henrietta Clements

U13 Calderdale Squad:

Katherine Harling, Sophie Horn, Lola Abdy, Madeleine McGill

U15: The U15 netball team remain undefeated so far this year and have won their spot in the area final against North Halifax on the final's night in April. The team have beaten Ryburn, Brighouse, Hipperholme Grammar, Calder, Brooksbank and drawn to North Halifax.

U16: Year 11 played in the Calderdale U16 tournament. They beat Calder High, Rastrick and Brooksbank, drew to Brighouse and lost to NHGs and Rishworth. They played with so much determination and resilience. It was fantastic to see them all working for each other and supporting each other.

They were also given a shout out for being the most supportive and encouraging team of the tournament! Well, done girls, Miss Denton was very proud of you! POM Yu Xin and Caitlin!

U18: This term has been a fantastic one for the Sixth Form netball squad, with a series of strong performances and remarkable teamwork leading to a string of impressive victories. Here is a summary of our highlights:

Green Head college

In their first game they played with a little apprehension but showed a lot of promise they lost the first three quarters but took a win in the final quarter. Greenhead went on to win the match 34-22. Olivia was the deserving player of the match.

Elliot Hudson College

Wanting to build and improve on their previous match, the team delivered a dynamic performance, securing a 41-19 victory. With strategic play from centre passes and a strong final quarter, the team outpaced their opposition. Special recognition goes to Cara N, whose exceptional gameplay earned her Player of the Match.

Wakefield College

The team truly dominated this fixture, opening with an impressive 14-0 lead in the first quarter. Tactical switches and cohesive teamwork across all positions allowed the girls to extend their lead and finish with a 50-3 victory. The opposition awarded Player of the Match to Catherine for her stellar performance, but it was a true team effort from start to finish.

Barnsley College

In their fourth league match, the team showed resilience, regrouping after some initial mistakes to secure a solid 33-24 win. Maryam's excellent interception skills were pivotal, earning her the Player of the Match title.

Rotherham College

The team kicked off their long-distance away game with a commanding 34-7 win. Although they experienced some early challenges, the girls quickly found their rhythm, showcasing improved communication and sharp attacking play in the second half. Holly and Maryam were rightly recognised as Players of the Match for their standout contributions. The team has shown incredible dedication, resilience, and a commitment to improving with every game. Their strong work ethic and friendship have been a joy to witness. They've not only honed their technical skills but also developed as a cohesive and supportive unit.

We look forward to continuing this momentum into next term.



... SPORTS NEWS ... SPORTS NEWS ...

TABLE TENNIS

Table tennis individual - all through to the National Finals in April: Dhruvan - U13 boys, Safiyah - U13 Girls, Maryam - U19 Girls

Table Tennis Teams - U15 Boys Yorkshire Champions - Sebby, Roman, Awen, Dhruvan; Safiyah and Maryam - U19 Girls - Joint 5th place in the country.



BADMINTON

Our U16 Boys Badminton team were runners up in the Yorkshire & North East Regional finals in Stockton-on-Tees. The team, comprising of Phil, Rakshan, Haaris, Sebby and Roman came through the morning qualifying rounds unbeaten in all 15 of their singles and doubles games. Their level of play was fabulous and were deservedly ranked number one for the afternoon knockout stages. The team secured another 5-0 win in their semi-final against Kings Priory School and progressed into the final to face St Mary's from Hull, who they had battled hard against and beaten in the morning qualifying rounds. The winners would go through to the England Schools National Finals in Milton Keynes. St Mary's were resurgent and shook off the disappointment of their earlier defeat by out powering Crossley's as they showed signs of tiredness. Phil lost his first singles game 19-21 and with Haaris and Sebby losing 18-21 in the first doubles game Crossleys had to win the final 3 games to go through. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be as Rakshan was beaten by the narrowest of margins - 20-21 - in a pulsating game. There was disappointment for all our players but an acknowledgment that their opponents produced the better badminton when it mattered. Well done to the team, we look forward to going a step further next year.



Year 9 Netball - Through to the Calderdale Finals



... SPORTS NEWS ... SPORTS NEWS ...



RUGBY
 Year 10 Rugby -
 Yorkshire Plate Winners
 Year 7 Rugby -
 Yorkshire Plate Runners



CRICKET
 U14 Calderdale Cricket Runners Up



U16 girls football team that came top of the table in their latest tournament

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Crossley Heath School	4	2	2	0	6	3	3	10
Ryburn	4	1	3	0	14	2	12	9
NHGS	4	1	3	0	10	1	9	9
Calder High School	4	1	2	1	2	2	0	8
Lightcliffe Academy	4	0	0	4	0	24	-24	4

Results

ROUND 1			
Lightcliffe Academy	Ryburn	0	: 12
NHGS	Calder High School	0	: 0
Calder High School	Lightcliffe Academy	2	: 0
Ryburn	Crossley Heath School	2	: 2
Crossley Heath School	Calder High School	2	: 0
Lightcliffe Academy	NHGS	0	: 9
NHGS	Crossley Heath School	1	: 1
Calder High School	Ryburn	0	: 0
Ryburn	NHGS	0	: 0
Crossley Heath School	Lightcliffe Academy	1	: 0



FOOTBALL
 Year 10 Football - Calderdale Cup Quarter Finalists
 Year 11 Football - Through to the Semi Finals of the Calderdale Cup after 3-2 win against North Halifax



Term Dates

2025 Summer Term

Inset Day (School closed to students): Tuesday 22 April
Re-open: Wednesday 23 April
Closed (May Day): Monday 5 May
Closes Half Term: Friday 23 May
Re-open: Monday 2 June
End of School Year Close:: Friday 18 July

April / May Calendar

- 22 Apr Staff INSET Day - school closed to students
- 23 School re-opens to students
- 24 Y9 Vaccinations
- 24 Y8 (ABC) Theatre Trip (pm)
- 25 Girls Netball Trip (after school)
- 28-2May U13/14 Rugby Tour to Italy
- 28 Y13 MFL Orals (date TBC)
- 28 Y12 Mid-course Exams start
- 1 May Y8 (DEF) Theatre Trip (pm)
- 1 Y9 DTP Vaccinations
- 1 Maths Challenge
- 1 Y11/12 & 13 Sports Presentation Evening
- 5 MAY DAY—School closed
- 6 In-Year transfer tests
- 7 CHPTA Meeting 7.00 pm
- 8 Y11/12 & 13 Sports Presentation Evening—La Luna
- 14 Y10 Chinese HSK3
- 14 GCSE External Exams start
- 14 Y10 (ABCD) Parents' Evening
- 15 Y10 Geography Trip
- 19 Y10 Food & Nutrition Assessed Practical (3 hours)
- 20 & 21 School Production Oliver!
- 22 Y10 (EFG) Parents' Evening
- 23 School closes for half term

THANK YOU The Crossley Heath School

To every single student and staff member at The Crossley Heath School who has made this a very special year for St Augustine's Centre.

Thank you.

"We are so grateful to The Crossley Heath School for being an incredible partner. Thank you for showing that you care, for investing energy, resources and time into helping us to do what we do, and to do it better. You are such a valued member of our support community." Sara, Centre Director

You invited us to yours and you made us so welcome. You enabled us to bust myths and increase advocacy about asylum.

"I was really impressed by the questions the students asked me. It felt good to share my story"
Musa, Centre Member.

And you donated 261 cans that helped provide more than 8000 meals in our Welcome Café this year!

"We love coming to the Welcome Café because sharing food is about friendship. We feel less lonely."
F & M, Centre Members

It was a joy to have student volunteers at our Open Day. You made our Centre Members feel part of the community.

"We are SO grateful for the Crossley's students. They helped run activities, and without a word they cleared all the litter!"
Les, Awareness Raising Manager

You invited Sabbah and Stacy to speak and celebrate their creativity at a wonderful festival at Halifax Minster.

"It is a privilege to be recognised for my skills. To be known as more than an asylum seeker"
S, Centre Member

You created a Santa's Grotto that we're still talking about! You brought joy to people of all ages who visited Father Christmas. And your staff raised £300 to help us give a present to over 450 Centre Members, very likely to only gift they would receive.

"It is so lovely to receive this precious present from someone who cares about us." R, Centre Member

Les, Mr Jones, a chance encounter in Mytholmroyd, and within a week you came to see us.
You showed that Crossley's is interested in and supportive of all communities.

"I am so happy that the students shook my hand and treated me like I am valued"
A, Centre Member

You donated an incredible £2000!

"The need for our services is increasing. Costs are going up too. Every single penny of this amazing donation will be spent wisely, and will make a difference to the lives of people seeking asylum at a time when they need it most."
Kirstie, Office Manager

Happy New Year!
From all of us to all of you.

