



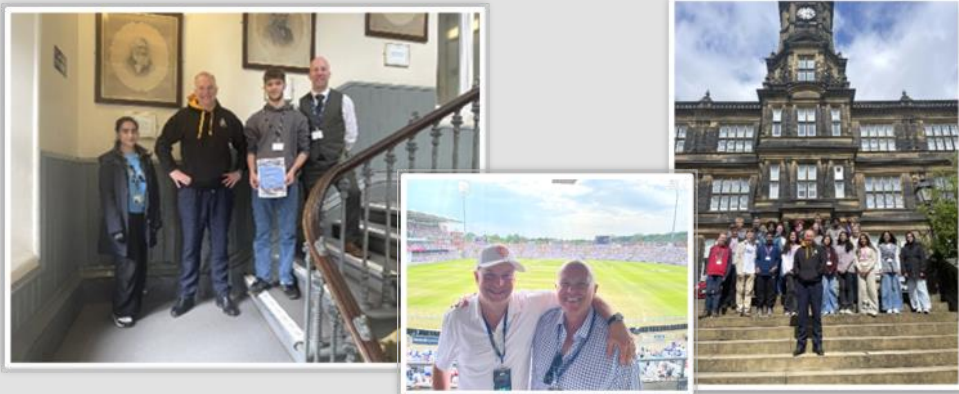
DISPATCHES

The Crossley Heath School News

Summer 2025

Head Teacher's Journal

Looking back on this school year there are so many highlights and so many ways the school's values of kindness, courage and excellence have shone through. Yet truly standing out during my first full school year at Crossley Heath is the amazing kindness of current and past members of our school family. I want to extend a massive thank you to all those below and of course the many other people and organisations in addition who support our school community. Thank you.



Our most generous alumni who keep Crossley Heath close to their heart.

The generosity of our 1992 graduates David Briggs and James Kirkham is genuinely central to fuelling smiles and driving success at our school. The Crossley Brothers' scholarships to support our most aspirational A Level graduates at University is a unique opportunity for creating leaders of the future thanks to David ('We want to help shape the leaders of the future': Crossley Heath old boy returns to his former for Halifax school to launch exciting new scholarships) and we thank them both for making the return of Cricket Nets to our Arena reality. Also, the magical special events our students get to enjoy thanks to David when travelling internationally, like seeing the Harlem Globetrotters at Madison Square Gardens. Imagine if the creation of an amazing 3G pitch for our students was turned into reality ... Dreams can be turned to reality by kindness!

Continued...

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Head Teacher's Journal *continued*

The Crossley Family following in the philanthropic footsteps of their ancestors.



Welcoming the descendants of John, Francis and Joseph Crossley who built our school was a lovely opportunity to celebrate their support which continues to this day. We thank them for our annual GCSE scholarships, supporting the German exchange trip and cricket net restoration. With a soon-to-be-announced annual prize sponsored by Hugh Crossley, 4th Baron Somerleyton coming in the new school year. Exciting times!



Our 'old' scholars associations – The Old Crossleyans and Heath Old Boys, plus alumni from Crossley Heath.

The students of yesterday at both our founder schools of Heath Grammar School and Crossley and Porter School continue to champion our students of today and tomorrow. Through fundraising, donations to our school, grants for our students, volunteering time and career experience they help us keep our heritage alive and coursing through our school culture with tremendous pride. Both associations working hand-in-hand brought the wonderful celebrations of Andrew Watson of Heath Grammar School, the world's first black international footballer, to international media attention this year. Every month we have graduates of Crossley Heath returning to support our students through inspirational careers talks, by facilitating work experience and volunteering as Trustees of our school. This includes Olympians like Sophie Cox and Max Burgin. We thank them so very much.



Thank You!



Our parents supporting individually, through our Crossley Heath Parent Teacher Association (CHPTA) and our Crossley Heath Rugby Development Fund (CHRDF).

Parent power helps ensure every single Crossley Heath student can access wonderful opportunities like school trips, coaching and sports tours regardless of the costs of these special experiences and the financial hardship many families face. Parents have so very generously sponsored our sports teams and tours through their businesses (thank you A-Safe, TOG24 and Avant homes), have sponsored books for our library, donated to fundraising events, offered careers opportunities and contributed to our



[Helping Hand Fund](#). Our CHPTA has raised over £10,000 this year to fund resources for subjects and our school (like our Year 7 lockers) through their events and quizzes, they support refreshments at so very many events and give their time so generously for our children's benefit. Whilst rugby coaching, rugby equipment and rugby tours are funded and subsidised by our CHRDF helping fuel the resurgence of success in rugby and sport as whole at our school.





Head Teacher's Journal *continued*

Our community – such as our Sporting Partners at the Old Crossleyans Rugby Club, Heath and Rishworth Rugby Clubs, Queens Tennis Club and many more.

Volunteering coaches coming in each week during rugby season has certainly helped us offer more training sessions and achieve more success this year than for a long while. Our partnership with the Old Crocs Rugby club has helped fund the international tour places for students in need and our shared dream for the school's Kensington Road sports pitch offers real excitement for coming years. Our local sports clubs offer us the kind use of their facilities for rugby, tennis and squash. We have also been supported by many sponsors such as A-Safe, Avant Homes, Black's Solicitors, Brain and Body Boost, Gilbert Rugby, Howarth and Hollings, Pure Travel and TOG24. We would love to grow partnerships in even more sports and with even more clubs for our boys' and girls' teams, so if you have any connections please share them with me.

Our wonderful students and staff

Being part of the happiest school in Calderdale is a real privilege and thanks to the kindness of students and staff to each other on a daily basis. We ask our students and staff to commit hours each year to additional enrichment outside of lessons since we truly believe the character development and enjoyment that comes from sport, clubs, trips and competitions is the making of the real magic of our school days. Whenever we ask for volunteers for after-school events, weekend events and residential trips we are inundated with staff and student volunteers. The creativity and kindness seen in our students endeavours to fundraise to support both our school and local charities is heart-warming. Our Sixth Form student leaders work extra hard to manage their studies and support mentoring of younger students, leadership of house events and commit to public speaking to emphasise what makes our Sixth Form graduates the uniquely well-rounded leaders of the future we are so proud of.



As we embark on another wonderful school year in September thank you to every single person who has helped our school family in any way this year or plans to help during the exciting journey ahead.

Dean Jones

Thankyou to our Year 8 Pupil Librarians this year: Eliza Manning, Hana Akhtar, Hajra Saghir, Asawir Ismail, Hiba Maryam, Maanvi Bains, Lewis Nimmo, Sid Goyal, Naavya Chaudhari, Katherine Behera, Fariha Gohir, Hasini Sravana and Ishnaaz Gill. They all have worked in the Library during our busy lunchtime periods, being a cheerful presence and helping in all areas of the Library. Their tasks ranged from issuing books and making book recommendations, to re-shelving returns and processing the many new books that have arrived, as well as assisting with events such as World Book Day.

In the new school year the new Year 8 cohort will be invited to apply to become a Pupil Librarian and we look forward to welcoming enthusiastic helpers.

Pupil Librarians





'Discover Your Voice' Public Speaking Workshop



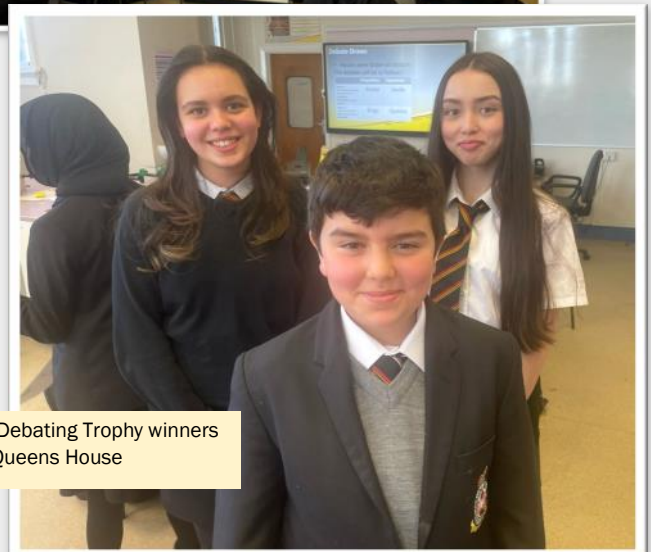
In June, 27 Year 12 student leaders and school and house officials took part in a morning of public speaking training delivered by Alex Edwards from the English Speaking Union. During the 'Discover Your Voice' workshop, the students learned the theory behind effective public speaking and then developed their public speaking skills through a range of group activities and tasks. It was an interesting and fun morning which will help the students to carry out their roles as student leaders effectively such as delivering assemblies and speaking at events.



House Debating Competition



Four House teams competed once again in the House Debating Competition in April. The teams had time to prepare the two motions in advance and put together some convincing and persuasive arguments to support their cases. The first debate saw Porter and Savile discussing 'This House would ban the use of facial recognition technology in public spaces.' Kings and Queens followed with a debate of the motion 'This House would build homes on the green belt.' The debates were chaired by Mr Coote who also gave feedback to each team to help them to develop their skills further. Mr Jones and Mrs Hazelton judged both debates using the English Speaking Union's Mace mark scheme and awarded the highest mark to Queens. Congratulations to Dani, Sara and Ramandeep who raised the trophy and to all the other participants.



Debating Trophy winners
Queens House



Year 12 Biology – Fieldwork Course



Year 12 Biology Fieldwork Course

At the time of writing, 52 A level biology students are just getting started on their biology fieldwork course. This is a five day long residential adventure to the beautiful North Wales, near Betws-y-Coed. We will be deepening our knowledge of ecological techniques, species native to the UK, conservation techniques, planning investigations and, of course, statistical analysis of all the wonderful data we collect! This experience enables students to spend several days carrying out full length ecology investigations, taking their work into far more depth than we ever could in school. We will be investigating limpets and seaweed on the rocky shore, changes to the ecological composition of sand dunes over time, mosses and lichens in ancient oak woodland, and invertebrates in still and flowing water. We know our students will be working hard and learning lots, as well as gaining experience of staying away from home and being in the great outdoors. As a reward for all their efforts, they will be visiting Zip World on our final morning for a fantastic time on the forest coaster and the tree top nets!



We are currently writing this on Day 4 of the biology field-course trip. This week, our Year 12 biologists have travelled to Betws-y-Coed in North Wales to carry out ecological research, as well as gain hands-on experience while undertaking their required practicals.

So far...

On Day 1, we explored the woodlands—investigating the distribution of lichen and moss. This allowed us to become more confident in planning and carrying out experiments independently, while also familiarising ourselves with specialised equipment.



Day 2 included a trip to the river, where we gathered data on the distribution of invertebrates, all while appreciating the scenic beauty of the environment. Back at the centre, we identified the species we collected, comparing them to the community found in the pond. It was a truly immersive experience—especially for Sameer, who got a bit wet—which we wouldn't have experienced elsewhere.

Yesterday, after a quick coach ride, we headed to the rocky shores of the Isle of Anglesey to carry out studies on the spread of the limpet population. It was a very warm day; the sun was shining, and seeing the seals swimming nearby while eating ice cream was the cherry on top. Exhausted after a few intense days of work, it was a very quiet journey home.

And now, we are on our way to Aberffraw—close to where Mr Davies grew up—to study how sand dunes undergo succession. Once we've completed our investigations, we're planning to spend a relaxing hour on the beach. Tomorrow, we're looking forward to a fun-packed morning at the infamous Zip World, near our accommodation. Although... it's raining, so hopefully we don't get too wet! (PS: We got drenched.)

A massive thank you to all of the teachers who have taken us on this amazing trip: Dr Chipperfield, Dr Jackson, Mrs Slack, Mrs Hussain, and Mr Davies. Also, a big shoutout to our outstanding tutors, Jemma and Gem, whose enthusiasm for biology has kept everyone engaged throughout the trip!

Don't forget to check @crossleyheath on TikTok for a video of our favourite highlights of the trip!

By Anaya Hammad and Lakshya Kaushik (Head Girl and Head Boy)





Year 9 – Paris Trip

Our students have had a brilliant adventure in France!

Day One began in the early hours with a 1:00am departure from school, followed by an early morning ferry crossing to Calais. After arriving in France, we visited Vimy Ridge, a World War one memorial to Canadian soldiers before continuing our journey to Paris. We arrived at the hotel around 7:00pm and enjoyed a relaxing evening meal.

Day Two was packed with culture, learning and unforgettable experiences. After breakfast, we headed to Versailles, where the students visited the vibrant local food market, putting their French into practice. This was followed by an inspiring visit to the stunning Château de Versailles. We had dinner in a local creperie where we ate delicious traditional savoury galettes and sweet crêpes. The evening saw us return to Paris for an incredible evening ascent of the Eiffel Tower.

Day three saw us spending another jam-packed and exciting day exploring the sights of Paris! We began with a visit to the charming area of Montmartre, taking in the stunning views from the Basilica du Sacré-Cœur. Pupils enjoyed wandering the cobbled streets, watching local artists in action, and picking up a few souvenirs along the way.

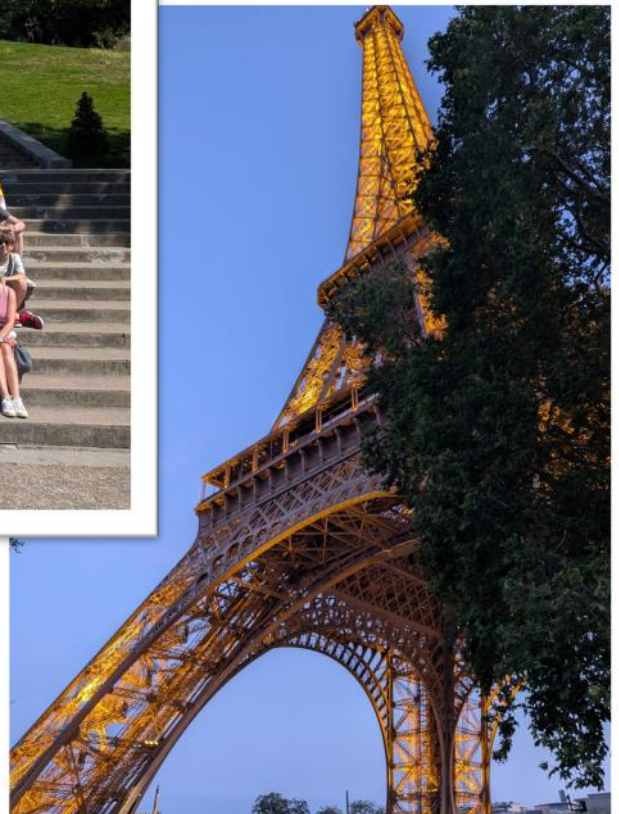
From there, we visited the iconic Arc de Triomphe and then headed to see the famous glass pyramids of the Louvre. Our walking tour continued past Notre Dame Cathedral and through the heart of the city to the historic Bourse, now a modern art museum, where students had the chance to admire the artwork on display.

After a tasty supper at Flunch, we ended the evening with a magical river cruise along the Seine, taking in the illuminated sights of Paris by night. A fabulous end to an amazing trip!

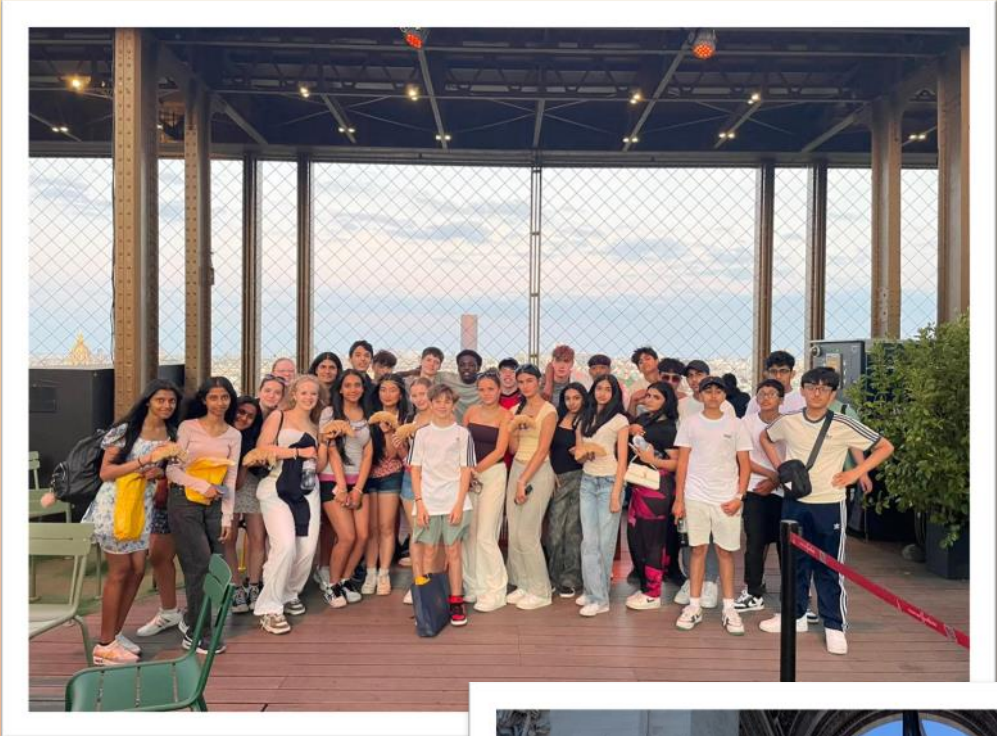


Sacre-Coeur

Eiffel Tower



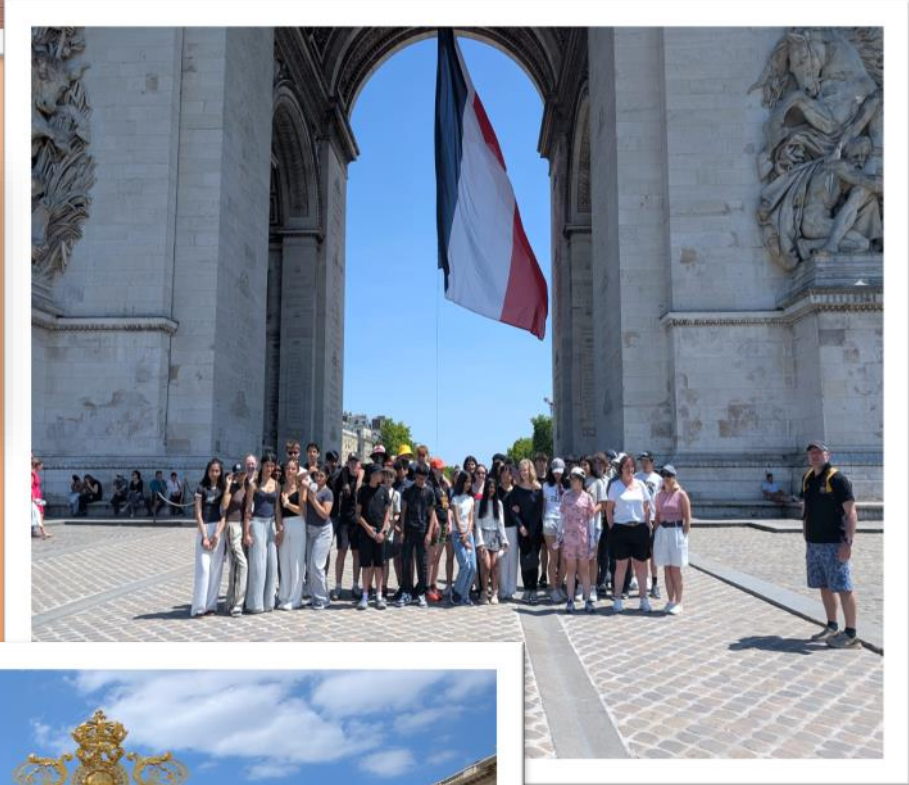
Paris Trip continued...



Top of the Tower Eiffel Tower



Arc de Triumph



Versailles

Year 10 Religious Studies—Rome Trip

A Journey to Remember!

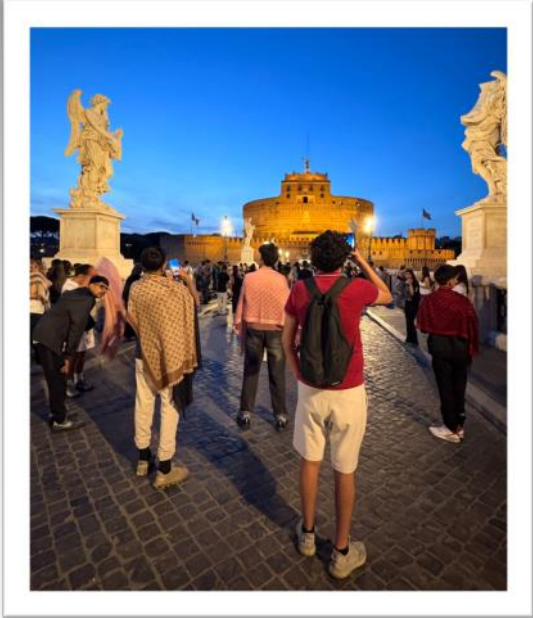
At the start of June, 39 excited Year 10 students set off for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Rome – and what a trip it was! Over three unforgettable days, students explored some of the world's most iconic landmarks, including the awe-inspiring Colosseum, the stunning Sistine Chapel, the Spanish steps, the Pantheon, Trevi Fountain and of course, the Vatican. They even caught a glimpse of the Pope himself!

With over 75,000 steps clocked up in just three days, there was plenty of walking – but the effort was more than worth it. Along the way, there were countless slices of pizza, scoops of gelato, and moments of laughter and wonder. The students were absolutely fantastic throughout, showing curiosity, respect, and enthusiasm at every turn.

A huge well done to everyone involved – it was truly a brilliant experience that will stay with us for years to come!



Rome Trip continued...





Berlin Trip

The 2025 Berlin Trip started at the crack of dawn. With the flight departing at 7am. On the coach there was limited fire in the bellies, but German words in the mouth ready.

On arrival, it was straight into the trip starting in Sachsenhausen. The concentration camp was eye-opening and interesting with many of the original buildings well maintained or reconstructed to really understand what it would have been like for the thousands of prisoners being kept there. Despite the tiredness of the group, we were all very respectful of the surroundings and topics being spoken about, representing Crossleys well. The short coach trip to the next stop was to the Gedächtniskirche, a church built for the memory of the first Kaiser of Germany: Kaiser Wilhelm I. It was damaged in WW2 and left like that in memorial of war and destruction. A little bit of free time before we checked into the hostel was spent on one of the most famous streets in Berlin: der Kurfürstendamm. It is a major shopping street with big department stores such as KaDeWe. The end of the first day after checking in was greeted gladly by most, with an early night in preparation for a busy first full day.

Tuesday's first visit was to the DDR Museum. This was of particular relevance to sixth formers as they are studying the film 'Goodbye Lenin!' and it is set in East Berlin which was under control of the DDR Regierung. The museum had multiple old Eastern products, most famously there was a Trabant (Trabi) which was the only car at the time, mass-produced and now a fashionable car to have due to historical meaning. After this, we had a short walk around the Museumsinsel of Berlin and along the way taking pictures of the Berliner Dom. Lunch was had after a short visit to the Ritter Sport chocolate shop, renowned for their square bars. Lunch was had before the famous Ampelmann shop and souvenir shopping. Ampelmann in Berlin is famous due to the green and red traffic men wearing little hats and it was kept from East Berlin times. We then had a leisurely boat trip on the River Spree, a nice break from walking around the city. Lots of iconic buildings and sights were seen from the river. The evening was spent looking around the Berliner Fernsehturm offering panoramic views of the city and sights from above. It is the tallest building in Germany in Alexanderplatz. The evening afterwards was spent with a mix of cricket, volleyball, football and mini table tennis with Frau Grossova and Frau Hazelton showing everyone how it was done!



Wednesday started with the U-Bahn to the Brandenburg Tor, one of the most renowned buildings of Germany. Originally built for peace but increasingly became a symbol of German power and marking the end of the famous Unter den Linden street. Lots of pictures were taken and after a bit more free time, we walked around the Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas (Monument for murdered Jews). It consisted of lots of concrete blocks of varying sizes, with the artist aiming to make you think about what it means rather than a set meaning. It led to reflection and a good group reflection of possible meanings in memory of all the murdered Jews. A nice lunch under the sun in the Tiergarten was enjoyed by Y9s again playing football and cricket. We briefly saw Checkpoint Charlie, the American checkpoint in Berlin before a new to the 2025 Berlin Trip visit to the Spy Museum. This was enjoyed particularly by Year 9's with many practicing their German speaking skills with a German boy who was keen to answer their questions. The busy day allowed time still for the Mall of Berlin. Lots of shopping, eating and resting before the highlight of the day for the evening visit to the Reichstag. The historic Parliament building is opened to the public to walk around the top and the glass dome built by British architect Norman Foster in the 1990s. The sun was setting for the day as we all took in the views from the Reichstag and the winding path up to the top of the dome. A tiring day for all meant back to rooms when we got back and packing for Thursday.

Although we were ready to go home, activities were not yet over as we went to the Illusion Museum, which was very good, playing tricks on our minds. The coach took us to the famous East Side Gallery before the airport. It is a 1.3km stretch of the remainder of the Berlin Wall. It has become an incredible art exhibition with more than 118 artists creating amazing artwork along the wall. Some of the most well-known pieces include the Fraternal Kiss depicting the 'kiss' between Erich Honecker and Leonid Brezhnev and "Test the Rest" depicting a Trabant breaking through the wall.

After this, we went back to the Berlin Brandenburg Airport, which was the end of our Berlin 2025 trip. We had brilliant weather, a jam-packed itinerary and have made some excellent memories and experiences, as well as speaking loads of German! We would like to thank all the teachers involved, Frau Grossova, Frau Hazelton, Herr Davis, Herr Priestley and Ian Braisby (the tour guide) for all their hard work but particularly our German A Level teachers Frau Grossova and Frau Hazelton for organizing such a fantastic trip. Vielen Dank!

Written by Alex Lewis-Year 12

Berlin Trip continued...



Halifax Harriers Calderdale Way Relay

May 18th saw 12 brave Crossley Heath staff taking part in the Halifax Harriers Calderdale Way Relay. 12 staff ran in pairs to cover the 6 legs which span approximately 82 kilometres (51 miles) with an elevation gain of around 2600 meters (8530 feet), the Calderdale Way is a captivating loop. Crossley Heath staff last took part in 2019 where they finished last.....2025 they came back with a shared dream, would it manifest itself into a reality?

In the weeks prior to the event Nick Barber (Leader in Running Fitness with English Athletics) put staff through a merciless 12-week training plan which involved gruelling reps up and down Wakefield gate and through local Scar Top Woods. Some of the team had never run a mile and in committing to the programme showed amazing grit, commitment and outstanding progress.

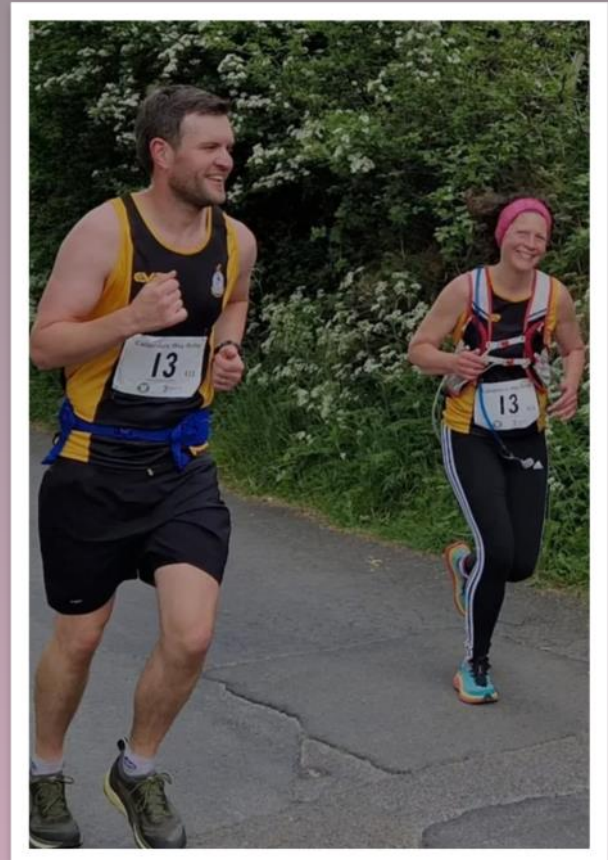
Leg 1. An early start at West Vale saw staff proudly wearing Crossley Heath running vests adorned with the number 13 race number. Mr Barran shot off like a scalded cat accompanied by Jonathan Lees. The pair were making good progress when disaster struck....a sharp pain in the calf resulted in J.Lees unable to carry on. Having not ran such a significant distance before a frustrated but determined Mr Barran decided that this would not prevent completion of the course and forged ahead to pass the baton on.

Leg 2. Mrs Johnson and Mrs Slack anxiously waiting at Cragg Vale, several selfies 1200ft of elevation and a further 9 miles later the baton was passed to Mrs Peers-Webb and partner.

Leg 3. Mrs Peers-Webb, my partner, had been sadly injured (doing the Leeds half-marathon, no less) so a last-minute substitution was required. I thought of my son, a Crossley Heathen and previous winner of this race. He had been the one to show me the route before I started training. A quick phone call & thankfully, like thunderbird 3 he made the journey home from Uni to help his mum out.

Leg 3, whilst the shortest in distance is quite the punisher (for a novice like me) with over 1300 ft of climb involved.

The start, from Todmorden swimming pool, is a quick jaunt down the road before starting what can only be described as 'the concrete mountain' a hard, hand laid rough concrete track leading all the way up the fell opposite the leisure centre to just below Stannally Stones. There are lots of hands-on knees to be seen on the tight switch backs with only the speediest continuing to run past. It certainly gets the heart rate up but you're rewarded with the most fabulous view at the top and quite an enjoyable traverse along a grassy path and helpfully laid flat stones.



Calderdale Way Relay 13 continued...

The stiles & gates do interrupt the flow a little but are not too tricky as even when you've been in a massed start you soon spread out. The leg is varied passing through a golf club, farm yard, even past an animal sanctuary on varied (bone dry) terrain until you're treated to the sight of Great Rock. At this point you know you're on the home straight & you can see Blackshawhead up in the distance. The spaces between the stones appear to get bigger for tired legs as do the rungs on the ladder stiles but then before you know it you're on the last climb, a cruel grind up the tarmac road, up to the finish where we were cheered on & greeted with the warm welcome you always find at fell races.

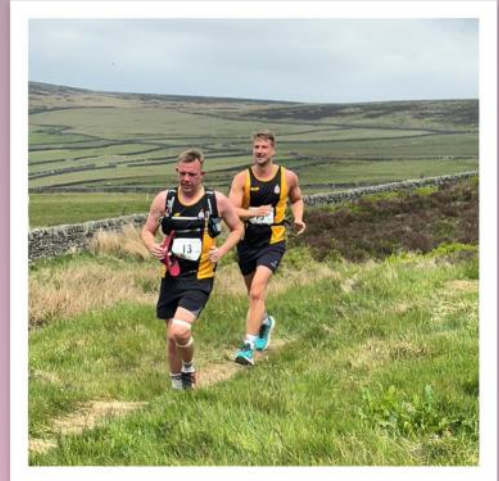
Leg 4 Eagerly at the start line, Mr Riley with every joint of his body strapped up, he and Mr Garbutt were ready to start their 10 mile slog over leg 4 of the Calderdale way. Known as the 'fell runners leg', they were looking forward to taking on the challenge with a target of under 2 hours. It started well, with the pair over taking the majority of the pack early on and flying through Heptonstall village in record time. Down to the blue pig then a horrible climb up which, was the end of Mr Riley. His ankle injury from years ago came back to haunt him. Determined to push through, Mr Garbutt's positive encouragement got the pair to the half way mark but then it got worse. Mr Riley's pain was just too much, and everyone we had previously over taken, took us back. When we were over taken by the old man with the calf injury from mile 1, we knew it was over. A steady trot down the Jerusalem farm and back up the other side to the finish line. It wasn't sub 2 hours, but it wasn't last place...

A rebuild for next year, with a target in sight.



Leg5 Mr Cartmell and Mrs Hughes - A week after completing the daunting Fred Whitton challenge on my road bike I rocked up to the start of leg 5 having not run in years. I knew I had the stamina but was scared that I didn't have the legs for running! The vibe at the start line was amazing and the panoramic views stunning. My partner for the day was the hardcore runner Mrs Hughes. We made a tentative start to our leg not knowing how fast we were in comparison with our competition. We were sitting in last place for the first mile getting bottlenecked by the narrow paths. When the route opened up we started making our way through the field following the runners in front for directions as neither of us had reced the route. I found the steep downhills the hardest part as they were using completely different parts of my leg than I would use for cycling. Mrs Hughes was setting an infernal pace overtaking runners with me hanging onto her coat tails. The hills kept coming with the most sadistic being the cobbled climb up windy bank that saw lots of runners reduced to a walk.

Our grit and determination to keep running on the lower part of that climb saw us overtake at least 5 teams. As we approached the last miles I started to feel more confident knowing that I would make it to the finish. 57th overall on our leg out of the 100 teams was a good result considering our slow start. Let's see if we can crack the top 50 next year with better positioning in the mass start.



Leg 6 Mrs Hazleton and myself (Mr Barber) had already ran a leg of the course earlier in the morning for clubs (Todmorden Harriers - Mr Barber and Meltham AC - Mrs Hazleton). I think it would be fair to say that Frau Hazleton was feeling a bit uneasy about being partnered with myself. I wasn't accepting a let's just get round approach. I was keen to wring out of Frau Hazleton the best performance I could. With a little encouragement Frau Hazleton revealed a target. For the first few miles I circled around the mark breathing down their necks to create sufficient discomfort and make them run a little faster than they probably wanted. As we knocked off the hills, I noted that the hills were going to be our attack point as we climbing like a persistent hunter. All we had to do was ensure that we kept tapping out the strides and make sure that when we passed we didn't look back. Inevitably we made the strike and successfully passed the marked pair. I locked my sights on to other targets and we successfully repeated the same tactic, taking places throughout the 11 miles we were passed by none. The miles passed well, and I was delighted with our overall performance and getting a fantastic run out of my partner.

Crossing the finish line, it was great to see staff there ready to cheer and applaud the team success. Sadly only 11 of our 12 made it round their legs and therefore on the results we are recorded as a DNF - Did Not Finish 😞

I think the majority of the team are looking forward to improving upon this result this and planning to enter again in 2026 but there will be spaces available if you're feeling inspired.

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

Year 12 Chemistry Trip—Lancaster University



23 Year 12 chemistry students visited Lancaster University to spend a day in the chemistry department.

Students completed three practical activities in the morning, then attended a lecture in the afternoon on drug discovery and development and the use of metals as catalysts in the process.

Students had a fantastic day and have taken a lot away from the opportunity!



House Captains

The Crossley Heath School presents, your new House Captains!

Some may say it is the greatest honour to lead your house to victory and these students will give it their all.

They have been extremely busy with House Music and House Athletics, along with helping out with all the fundraising we do here at Crossley Heath.

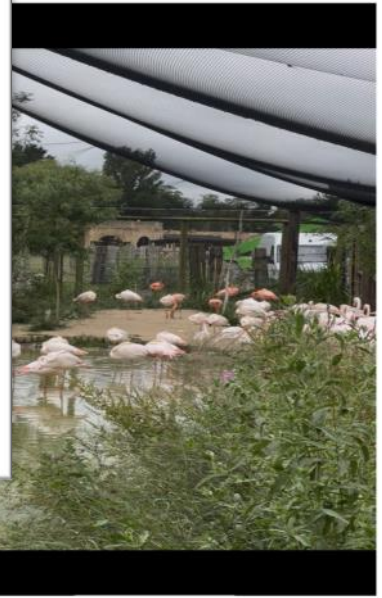
If you have a student here, make sure they take part in house events, they are memories that will last a life time.

On that note, Alumni, what are some of your fondest memories of house competitions?



Year 12—Psychology and Sociology Flamingo Land Trip

The psychology and sociology students went on a trip to Flamingo Land. The purpose of the trip was to gather data from animal observations to form the basis of a written report. Students planned their studies in lessons prior to the trip and worked in groups to conduct their research. They then had some free time to explore the theme park and enjoy the rides. It was a lovely day and the students were exemplary – displaying all the excellent Crossley Heath values.



Bank of England Visit – Bo Horsley

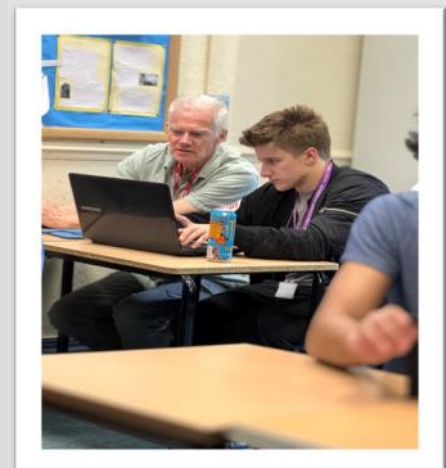


Y12 Economists and some Business classes across the school enjoyed a visit and presentations from alumna Bo Horsley who now works at the Bank of England. Bo finished her A levels at Crossley Heath in 2020 and went on to study Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (PPE) at Durham before joining the Bank of England's Policy department last year. Students discussed themes of economics in practice and also learned about the work of the Bank of England itself and its Future Talent programmes for graduates. We're proud to have such a great alumni network to help us support the students of today!

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

Year 12 Digital Champions Project with Age UK

Our fabulous Y12 Digital Champions team celebrated the end of the first year of this pioneering project with AgeUK in July. Crossley Heath Sixth Form was invited to help launch this project to offer digital skills support to elderly people from Calderdale and Kirklees - the first to be rolled out in our area. We recruited and trained a team of seven Y12 students - Will, Oliver, Morgan, Isaac, Callum, Neel and Hani - and have been running weekly drop in sessions as part of their enrichment activities, helping older people set up their devices, learn vital digital skills and increase their confidence in the modern online world. Project Coordinators Julie Taylor (AgeUK) and Vicky Pennington (Sixth Form Development Manager) commended the students for their commitment and support over the year and also presented our service users with certificates to mark their completion. We have a waiting list of older people wishing to join in the new term and are looking forward to recruiting our next team of Digital Champions from the incoming Y12 students starting with us in September!



Year 13 Prom Night



Year 13 Leavers





Fundraising News

Tuition Scholarship Launch

This term, we launched an exciting new initiative to support local pupils aiming for grammar school entry. Thanks to generous support from two fantastic tutoring companies, StudyWrite 11+ and 11plusschool, we've secured over £40,000 worth of tuition for local primary school students. We received 65 applications for the programme and are now in the process of selecting 20 children who will each receive a full year of specialist 11+ preparation.

The launch gained attention in the local press and received a brilliant response on social media – a huge thank you to everyone who helped spread the word. We're really looking forward to following the journeys of these students as they prepare for the 11+... and we hope to welcome many of them into the Crossley Heath family.



Crossley Family Gathering

On Sunday 6th July we welcomed a special group of visitors to Crossley Heath. The descendants of the three Crossley brothers (John, Joseph, and Francis) who founded our school as a school and orphanage in 1864 visited Halifax to explore their remarkable family legacy.



They travelled from all over, even as far as Australia, to see their ancestors' legacy. We shared our archive materials, toured the school, and showed them the portraits of the brothers. We also spoke about how we continue to keep the brothers' spirit alive through our core school values of kindness, courage and excellence. As well as founding our school, the brothers used their success from Crossley Carpets at Dean Clough Mills to support an incredible amount of charitable causes across the town. We're excited to continue the relationship with the family in the future.



The brave participants of the Ice Bucket Challenge

Ice Bucket Challenge

Earlier in the year, our brilliant Head Girl Anaya and Head Boy Lakshya nominated school to do the trending 'Ice Bucket Challenge' in aid of children's mental health. A huge thank you to Mr Jones, Mr Smith (x2!), Mr Barber, Mrs Doig, Miss Dollive and Mr Thomas for so kindly stepping up and getting involved! It raised £650, and this was donated to Invictus Wellbeing, the brilliant young person's mental health charity based at Dean Clough.



Fundraising Fortnight

Fundraising Fortnight – week one!

We're just wrapping up the first week of Fundraising Fortnight, and what a brilliant start it's been!

We kicked off with a fantastic non-uniform day where students proudly showcased their cultural clothing - a wonderful celebration of diversity. This was followed by a very sunny student-led Marketplace out on the Arena, which was bursting with energy, creativity and fun. There were bake sales, quirky games, nerf gun battles, sponge-the-teacher (thank you to our brave volunteers!), and press-up challenges.... congratulations to Mr Baker for coming out on top! We've also heard stories of some amazing students undertaking independent fundraising efforts – from sponsored swims (like Charlie, (image: top right), ticketed family BBQs, sponsored silences and lots more.

It's been a hugely positive and fun week for everyone involved, and we can't wait to see how much we've raised. A huge thank you to all staff who supported students with their stalls and helped bring it all together and an even bigger well done to our amazing students for their enthusiasm, dedication, and creativity in raising money for such a good cause.

Here's to week two!



Our cross-curricular arts and music showcase is back!



The Crossley Heath School Showcase 2025



The Crossley Heath Showcase 2025

A Celebration of Creativity, Talent & Passion.

The Crossley Heath Showcase was once again a fantastic celebration of the incredible creative talent that thrives within our school. It was a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together and applaud the ingenuity, dedication, and imagination of our students – both in and beyond the classroom.

This year, our first fashion show took us 'Under the Sea', as students transported us beneath the waves through a stunning display of recycled fashion, accompanied by music composition from GCSE student Tego.

The sixth form also got involved by modelling customised t-shirt designs, as well as supporting the students and staff throughout the event.

Our talented musicians set the atmosphere with performances that reflected countless hours of practice and an unwavering love for music – from live performances from the brass band, to pre-recorded compositions by our GCSE students.

Our visitors were surrounded by captivating fine art, graphics, photography and textiles from both our GCSE and A-Level artists. The evening was a true testament to the hard work, vision, and passion that define our school.

Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students. Their creativity and commitment continue to make Crossley Heath a truly special place – where the arts don't just exist... they thrive.

We are so proud of them all!



KINDNESS



COURAGE



EXCELLENCE

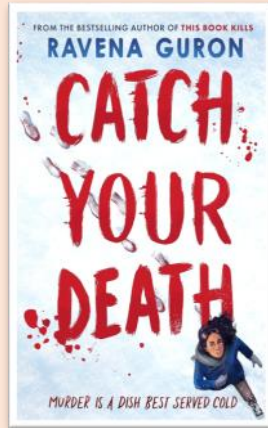
Recommended Summer Reads



KS3



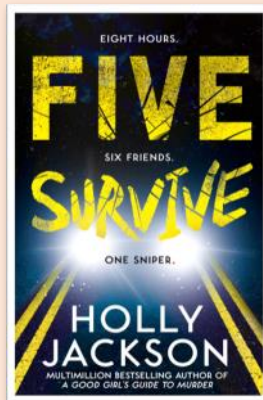
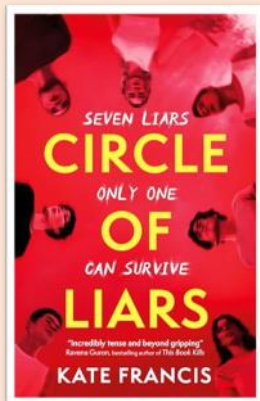
"Serial Chillers: The Witch in the Woods" by Jennifer Killick follows a group of middle-schoolers in the town of Hazard, who are investigating the town's mysterious history for a school project. Their research leads them to uncover unsettling legends, including the tale of "Blood-Eyed Mary" and a dangerous sinkhole, eventually forcing them to confront a living nightmare in the woods.



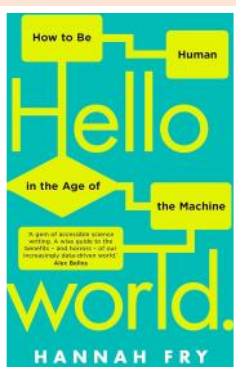
"Catch Your Death" by Ravena Guron is a young adult thriller about three teenage girls who become entangled in a murder mystery while stranded at a remote mansion during a snowstorm. The girls are strangers who find themselves trapped with the Vanforte family after Emily Vanforte is poisoned during dinner. With no power, no WiFi, and no way out, they must uncover the killer among the family members.

KS4

"Circle of Liars" by Kate Francis is a YA thriller about seven teenagers trapped in a deadly game of revenge. They are forced to choose one of their group each hour to be killed, or else they all die, because someone knows about their buried secrets from a past school fire.

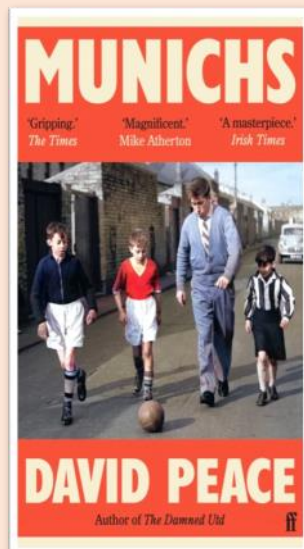


"Five Survive" by Holly Jackson tells the story of six teenagers on a spring break road trip whose RV breaks down in a remote location, trapping them with a sniper who targets one of them for a secret they are hiding. As they struggle to survive the night, buried secrets and tensions within the group come to light, threatening their lives.

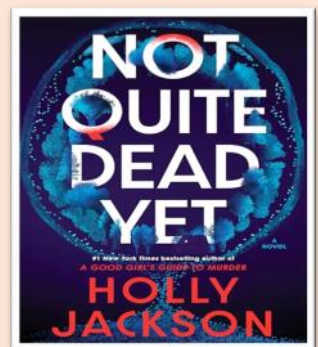


Adult

"Hello World: How to be Human in the Age of the Machine" by Hannah Fry explores the increasing influence of algorithms and AI on our lives, examining their impact on various aspects of society and prompting reflection on how humans should navigate this technological shift.



"Munichs" by David Peace is a novel exploring the aftermath of the 1958 Munich air disaster, where a British European Airways plane carrying the Manchester United football team crashed, killing many including the "Busby Babes".



In Not Quite Dead Yet, Jet Mason, a 27-year-old woman from a wealthy Vermont family, is violently attacked, resulting in a catastrophic brain injury. She's given a week to live due to an impending aneurysm. Determined to solve her own murder before it's too late, Jet uses her remaining time to investigate those closest to her, including her family, her former best friend, and her ex-boyfriend.



Crossley Heath - UKROC 2025

UKROC is a national model rocket competition organised by ADS. Every year, students aged 11-18 design, build, and launch a model rocket with a fragile payload. The rocket must adhere to a specific set of requirements which change every year.

This year, the goal was to launch a rocket no less than 65cm long and no more than 650g in weight, which would need to carry two raw hen's eggs without damaging them. Ideally, the rocket would reach the goal altitude of 790ft, deploy parachutes, and land within 41-44 seconds of being launched. This year, our school entered a team of four to compete for the first time.

Throughout February and March, we designed, simulated, and built a rocket which met the requirements stated. We were sponsored by the Crossley Heath Careers Association, who generously provided £300 to make this possible.

On Tuesday 25th March (the date of the regional finals), we were taken by our Engineering teacher, Mr. Pritchard, to Elvington Airfield, where we were to launch our rocket. Following a safety briefing, we prepared the rocket for our first launch.

Our very first launch attempt was unsuccessful as the igniter fell out of the motors. After a brief fix, we returned to the launch site. This time, the launch was successful, but the rocket only reached 257ft in altitude due to a slight lack of thrust and due to its trajectory not being perfectly vertical. By lunchtime, the score for our first launch was still in third place. For our second flight, we attached two additional motors onto the sides of the rocket using epoxy resin and tape. Thanks to the extra motors, our second flight reached an amazing altitude of 1091ft, a little too high this time. Unfortunately, the wind picked up and slowed the rocket's descent, resulting in a time of 1 minute and 58 seconds, (and a very long walk to retrieve the rocket).

Although by the end of the day our scores weren't enough to take us to the national finals, we had lots of fun both preparing for and competing in the regional finals. While many teams' rockets failed to successfully descend, our rocket was not damaged at all and protected the payload successfully. We have all learned a lot and hope to participate next year with the knowledge and experience we have gained.

We would again like to thank the Crossley Heath Careers Association for their generous support, which enabled us to participate this year, and has paved the way for future teams to enter through the resources we were able to purchase.

Check out our school DT department Instagram for the launch videos: [chs_design_tech](#)

Article by Nina Slyman 11D



Left to right: The Crossley Heath rocketry team – Michael, Siddh, Nina, Daniel



Our first successful launch.



Our rocket, decorated to look like a snake, with the extra motors.





Design & Technology News

During the year we have had some outstanding results from Design Technology students, both with their Non-Examination Assessment projects and extra-curricular activities. A huge and deserved congratulations to you all.

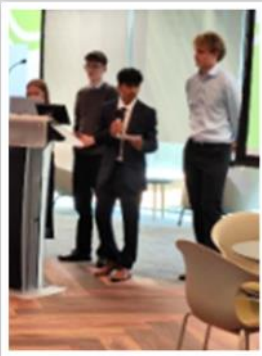
Arkwright Engineering Scholarship

Each year students across the country apply to become an Arkwright Scholar.

An Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is the most esteemed scholarship of its type in the UK, designed to inspire students to pursue their dreams and change the world as an outstanding engineer of the future. The Scholarships are awarded to hard-working Year 11 students through a rigorous selection process.

Scholarships are sponsored by a commercial company, trade association, university, professional institution, armed service, government organisation, worshipful company, charitable trust or personal donor. This means that support is offered in various different ways, for example, valuable hands-on work experience, support for your curriculum project and a personal mentor who can help you with aspects of your studies and career planning. This year Arkwright had the highest number of applicants in their 30-year history, so places were extremely hard to achieve. A small number of our Y11 students fought their way through the three rounds of applications, tests and interviews and of which two students flew through and have been awarded Scholarships for next year.

Well done, to Sofia Lam and Siddh Pallavajjala. Hope you find this useful for your future engineering careers.

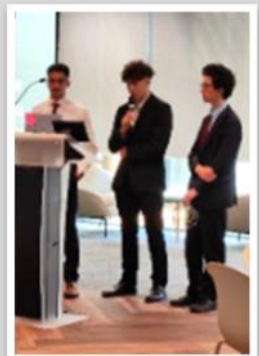


ARUP Design Programme

The 'Arup Design Programme' is a creative, engaging and inspiring selective work experience programme focused on giving students insight into the day-to-day life of engineers, designers and consultants working within the built and natural environment. Again, this year some of our top Y11 Engineering students Sofia Lam, Michael Laki, Siddh P and Nina Sylman, applied and won a place on this year's ARUP Design Programme between 7-11th July, a week-long induction to 15 different engineering and design departments within ARUP. Working in Teams to research, design and then present a proposal for a new Festival event for the Leeds, to ARUP Design Heads, parents and teachers, having to include all details, including, the site choice and plans, staging, lighting, and infrastructure.

Students gained a huge insight into how a big company works and was a great way to see the different areas within engineering careers. Huge congratulations to excellent presentations all round, with the winning team containing one of our students.

ARUP





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

MfY

The Crossley Heath Band recently had the incredible honour of representing the school at the prestigious National Festival of Music for Youth in Birmingham. This event brought together some of the most talented young musicians from across the country, and our students certainly rose to the occasion.



Under the expert leadership of Mrs Callaghan, the band performed in the Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space at the world-renowned Symphony Hall. Their programme included a vibrant and varied selection of pieces: the uplifting *Circle of Life*, the instantly recognisable theme from *The Simpsons*, and the dramatic and adventurous *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Each piece was performed with energy, flair, and real musicality, earning warm applause from the appreciative audience.

The experience didn't end there. As part of the festival, the students also took part in a professional jazz workshop at Birmingham's CBSO Centre. Led by experienced jazz educators, the workshop challenged the students to develop their improvisation skills, explore new styles, and work creatively as an ensemble. It was a highlight of the trip, providing fresh inspiration and musical insight.

A total of 31 students took part in the event, and every one of them was a true credit to the school. Their commitment, teamwork, and enthusiasm were clear to see, and their kindness, courage and excellence throughout the day reflected the best of what Crossley Heath stands for.

Huge congratulations go to Mrs Callaghan and all the members of the Crossley Heath Band for their brilliant performance and for representing the school with such pride. This memorable day was not just a musical achievement, but a celebration of the dedication and talent that continues to thrive in our school community.

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... (see image right)

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.



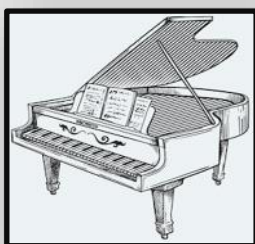
... MUSIC NEWS ... MUSIC NEWS ...



ABRSM exams

We have had so many students ready to do ABRSM exams this summer that we ran a half day on Monday 23rd June where 15 students took and passed their exams in school. They are listed in the table (right)

Particularly well done to Elijah, Kieran, Sohan, Mufaro and Jayden who all passed with merit, and David and Oscar who passed with distinction! Another student who recently passed grade 7 on piano, is Thomas Elliott. He learns in school but did the exam at a local centre.



At the time of writing, we are about to have another session which is on Tuesday 15th July where another 19 will undertake grade exams.

(see table below)

Good luck to them all!

First Name	Surname	Instrument	Grade
Hana	Akhtar	Piano	2
Jayden	George Shilu	Flute	2
Katherine	Harling	Piano	3
Elijah	Hill	Alto Saxophone	2
Sohan	Kodidasu	Piano	3
Kamissa	Kouadio	Piano	5
Hibbah	Lateef	Piano	1
Neve	Murphy	Piano	2
David	Nimmo	Flute	3
Eliza	Ravat	Piano	4
Oscar	Richardson-Horn	Piano	1
Kieran	Riley	Alto Saxophone	2
Evelyn	Strong	Piano	5
Sofia	Swales	Piano	1
Mufaro	Tigere	Piano	1
Gabriel	West	Piano	1

First Name	Surname	Instrument	Grade
Aimen	Amini	Cello	3
Oliver	Bamforth	Piano	3
Sophia	Criscione	Piano	2
Yasmeen	Dababsa	Piano	2
Harry	Davison	Violin	1
Joe	Fitzsimmons	Piano	7
Amy	Hanson	Clarinet	1
Ollie	Hunt	Piano	3
Ethan	Murphy	Trombone	4
David	Nimmo	Piano	4
Prakhar	Nishant	Singing	1
David	Obhielo	Piano	2
Hara	Ramana	Flute	3
Nina	Slyman	Piano	6
Keira	Slyman	Piano	3
Pragya	Surabhi	Violin	6
Meimei	Tat	Alto Saxophone	5
Viraat	Walishetty	Piano	2
Zafeer	Zafeer	Piano	1



In addition to the ABRSM exams, we have also had a number of students who have undertaken Trinity board Classical Guitar exams. Very well done to Madeleine McGill and Jasmine Bone who gained merits for grade 3 and grade 7 respectively. Also, extremely well done to Zachary Pukl who achieved a distinction at grade 7.





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

House Music

The long-anticipated House Music Final was an unforgettable evening of energy, talent, and camaraderie, as students and staff from Kings, Queens, Savile, and Porter Houses competed for the coveted title. With a packed audience and a palpable buzz in the air, the event showcased a rich variety of musical talent, from soaring solos to full-house performances, all delivered with passion and pride.

Each house brought their A-game to a programme that was both diverse and entertaining. The competition included solo entries – brave and brilliant individual performances that set a high standard. From powerful singers to virtuosic instrumentalists playing piano, cornet, violin and classical guitar, the soloists demonstrated not just technical skill but also remarkable poise under pressure.

Next came the House Choirs, where every house delivered performances that were not only creative but also packed with personality. It was all about participation and the collective spirit of each house was clearly on display.

The House Ensembles followed – these performances saw students from each house work together to deliver tight, dynamic group pieces. With everything from brass ensembles to modern band set-ups, it was a true celebration of collaborative musicianship.

Rounding off the night was the infamous and much-loved House Open category. Reserved for Sixth Form students and staff, this section was predictably chaotic, creative, and highly

entertaining. Each house pulled out all the stops, with costumes, choreography, and comic timing all playing a role – and plenty of surprises along the way. It was clear that, while the competition was fierce, the spirit of fun and community remained at the heart of the evening.

Our guest adjudicator was extremely impressed by the musical talent on display, and he singled out a student from each house, whose performances he particularly enjoyed. The students mentioned were Sienna Hinson (Queens) who beautifully sang Abba's 'Slipping Through My Fingers', Daphne Sullock (Kings) who performed her own song accompanying herself with real skill on piano, Kamissa Kouadio (Porter) who played a beautiful Jazz number of piano and Vanessa Pukl (Savile) who took one of Liszt's extremely complex 'Liebestraum' pieces with great aplomb.

After much deliberation, the overall winners were announced: Savile House! Their consistency across all categories, combined with standout creativity and

team effort, earned them the well-deserved win and raucous applause from the crowd.

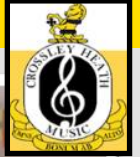
The House Music Final was more than just a competition – it was a celebration of the school's musical talent, teamwork, and the joy of performing together. Congratulations to all the performers, staff, and organisers who made the event such a success – and of course, well done to Savile House on their triumph!



House Music winners
Savile House



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



Midgley

The Crossley Heath Band recently had the pleasure of performing at Midgley Primary School as part of their Performing Arts Week, bringing live music and excitement to a hall full of enthusiastic pupils. The performance featured a lively programme of well-known pieces, showcasing the band's energy and talent while inspiring Midgley's young learners to get involved in music themselves. The pupils were fully engaged throughout, clapping along and being treated to a demonstration of the instruments, especially the ones that they were less used to and had not experienced live. This visit is part of a growing partnership between Crossley Heath and Midgley Primary, aimed at supporting creative learning and building connections through the arts. It was a fantastic opportunity for both schools, and we look forward to many more collaborative events in the future.



Arts Showcase

After more than five years, the Arts Showcase made a triumphant return to Crossley Heath – and it was the school band who set the evening in motion. Their vibrant and polished performance opened the event with flair, creating an exciting atmosphere that carried through the night. Once an annual highlight, the Arts Showcase returned bigger and better, celebrating the incredible creativity of our students. The evening featured a stunning display of GCSE and A Level artwork, powerful and original GCSE music compositions, and a bold and entertaining House Fashion Show. It was a joy to see this beloved tradition revived, and with the Crossley Heath Band leading the way, the evening truly captured the spirit and talent of the school community.

Oliver!

After a nine-year absence from the school production scene, Crossley Heath made a triumphant return to the stage with a spectacular performance of *Oliver! Junior*. The production marked a major milestone in the life of the school, reviving the cherished tradition of musical theatre with flair, heart, and a huge amount of talent. The cast and crew poured their energy into months of rehearsals, and the results were nothing short of amazing. Before taking to the stage for two packed evening performances, the company performed a full dress rehearsal to pupils from Holy Trinity and Midgley Primary Schools. For many of the younger audience members, it was their first taste of live theatre, and they were completely captivated by the energy, humour, and drama on display. The show itself was a vibrant retelling of Lionel Bart's classic musical, specially adapted for young performers. Audiences were treated to a whirlwind tour of Victorian London, complete with bustling streets, shadowy alleyways, and unforgettable characters. At the heart of it all were standout performances from the lead cast. Toby Churchill was brilliant as the sly and charismatic Fagin, commanding the stage with charm and confidence. Gabriel West brought wit and swagger to the role of Dodger, while Lewis Nimmo gave a touching and sincere performance as the wide-eyed Oliver. Amber Mitchell shone as Nancy, delivering powerful vocals and emotional depth, and Dylan Prieditis was a chilling and convincing Bill Sykes. Their performances were supported by other fantastic lead performers and an ensemble whose enthusiasm, commitment, and character work created a rich and lively backdrop for the story. From toe-tapping musical numbers like *Consider Yourself* and *I'd Do Anything* to the darker drama of *My Name* and *As Long As He Needs Me*, the production balanced humour and heartache beautifully. The choreography was slick and engaging, the costumes and set brought the world of Dickens to life, and the musical direction ensured every song was delivered with precision and passion. What made this production so special wasn't just the talent on stage – it was the sense of community and collaboration behind the scenes. Staff and students worked tirelessly to bring *Oliver! Junior* to life, and the result was a show that truly reflected the spirit of Crossley Heath.



The overwhelmingly positive response from audiences – including two standing ovations – proved just how much the return of school theatre was welcomed and appreciated. For many of the students involved, it was their first time performing in a full-scale musical, and they rose to the challenge with maturity, confidence, and boundless enthusiasm. A huge congratulations to the entire cast, crew, creative team and staff who made this production possible. *Oliver! Junior* was more than just a school play – it was a celebration of talent, resilience, and the sheer joy of performing. Let's hope this marks the beginning of a new era for school productions at Crossley Heath!



Crossley Heath Archives

Courageous Crossleyans

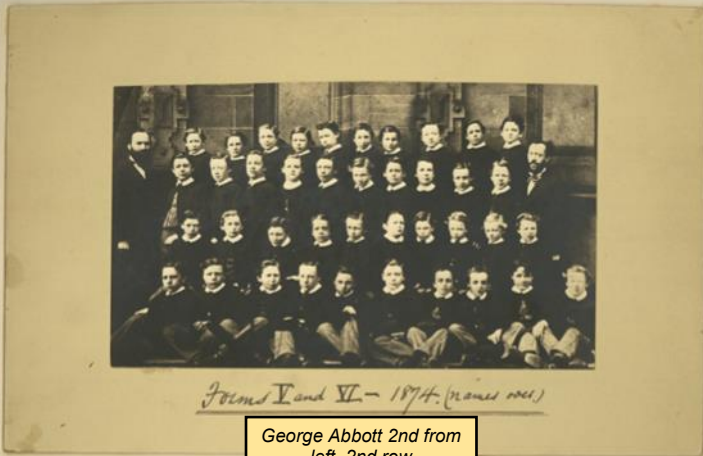
Courageous Crossleyans

In 1884 Edward Crossley founded a scholarship to support pupils to continue their studies after leaving Crossley and Porter Orphanage and School.

An honours board with the names of Distinguished Old Boys who had been awarded that scholarship was installed on the Boys Corridor, now the A floor corridor, early in the 20th century.

All eleven boys named on the board went onto Bradford Grammar School and then Oxford or Cambridge University.

Over the years many pupils have been recognised for their scholarships and academic successes, however many have distinguished themselves in other ways, but there are few that have shown such bravery and unselfish care for others than George Abbott and James Labron Plint, who was one of the first boys to go to the Crossley Orphanage Home.



George Abbott 2nd from left, 2nd row
His brother, Thomas, 2nd from the right, 2nd row
1874
CHS Archives

First Row-	Second Row:	Third Row:	Fourth Row:
1. C. Leach. (189)	1. J. E. Matthews (89)	1. ?	1. ?
2. C. Hall. (164)	2. G. Abbott. (125)	2. R. Southwick (180)	2. J. Spencer (29)
3. C. F. Walton. (190)	3. W. Rawson. (152)	3. J. Brooks. (119)	3. ?
4. W. H. Webster. (124)	4. J. Swift. (165)	4. F. Matthews. (216)	4. J. Jefferys. (95)
5. S. W. Turner. (142)	5. F. A. B. Fitcher. (152)	5. A. W. L. Johnson. (227)	5. W. H. Ellis. (96)
6. C. Ford. (127)	6. F. Walker. (122)	6. C. Martin. (204)	6. F. Croft. (75)
7. J. H. H. Mansfield. (115)	7. W. Whittaker. (134)	7. S. Higgin. (3)	7. G. A. Herman. (17)
8. H. R. New. (162)	8. J. S. Roadby. (146)	8. R. A. Riley. (162)	8. G. Watson. (109)
9. W. H. B. Marsh. (222)	9. G. Abbott. (126)	9. J. A. Parvade. (203)	9. G. Cholerton. (14)
10. J. E. Townsend. (141)	10. J. Wood. (186)	10. ?	10. H. Wood. (151)

Trainers - Mr W. C. Barber. (Principal) and Mr. W. J. Hargreaves -

GEORGE ABBOTT (Boy no. 125 C&P 1867-1874)

In 1860 George was born in Heanor in Derbyshire, the first child of Eliza and Roger Abbott who was a miller. George would have had a difficult start to his life because his mother died, most probably in child birth, when his brother Thomas Henry was born in 1862. Roger remarried in 1863 and then in 1867 George, and almost certainly Thomas Henry, were sent to Crossley Orphanage Home. It is not known where the boys were before they went to the Orphanage, they may have been living with their Father and Stepmother or with other relatives. However they were both there in 1871 when a National census was taken.

George left the orphanage in 1874 and went to Australia. In 1882 he was a crew member on the sailing ship "Magnolia" and was sailing off the coast of Southern Australia, 175 miles East of

Melbourne when they encountered two men who were trying to put to sea in their boat. They launched the boat all right but when a mile and a half from shore it was struck by a heavy squall. George and his shipmate George Goodman, aged 19, immediately went to the aid of two men. The four men managed to get the boat near to the shore but was struck by another wave and capsized and all the men were thrown into the water. George and the two other men got safely on shore, but Goodman did not. When George Abbott, saw his mate in trouble without a thought for his own safety, he went back into the water to try to save him. He soon got into difficulties, on seeing this, one of the rescued men waded into the surf and threw a line to the drowning men; but it was not long enough to reach them. Both Georges were unfortunately carried out to sea and into the open ocean.

Three days after the tragedy George Abbott's body was recovered along the coast not far from where the men had drowned. At his funeral the flags of all the vessels in the harbour were hoisted to half-mast in honour of the young hero.

In October George's aunt wrote to the local newspaper proposing that an headstone should be provided by public subscription to let the local community pay tribute to the memory of George and his brave actions. An headstone was provided and also railings were fitted around his grave in Bairnsdale Cemetery. Unfortunately the headstone has fallen and is broken into several pieces.



George Abbott's grave





Courageous Crossleyans

JAMES LABRON PLINT (Boy No. 1 C&P 1864–1870)

James was the youngest of five children born to Thomas Plint and Mary Lebron in Leeds in 1855.

On June 30th 1864 he arrived at the Crossley Orphanage School together with 5 other boys to become the first pupils of the not quite finished school.

The school had decided that every child being admitted there would be given a sequential number and so James was given number 5. However, this was soon amended to become number 1 because he was the first pupil to be admitted by the founders. He spent 6 years there leaving in 1870 and in 1871, he is shown on the census as being a railway clerk and living at home in Leeds.

In 1873, he obtained an apprenticed indenture as a seaman to P Hick Junior, in Scarborough. This was to last for 4 years. He then became third mate on the passenger/cargo steamship *Thales*. This was an iron screw steamship built in Aberdeen in 1873 and registered in Liverpool. It was mainly used for shipping frozen meat from the River Plate in South America to the UK.

In 1880, members of the Liverpool Marine Board met to present medals for bravery at sea from both the Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society and the French Government to officers of the *Thales*. On December 3rd 1879, the *Thales* saw signals of distress and went to investigate. The brig 'Jean', laden with salt and sailing to Granville in France, had lost her mainmast, her bulwarks, deckhouses and boats etc. had all been swept away and she was to all intents and purposes a floating wreck. Although able to hear the cries for help the *Thales* was unable to launch a boat to go to her assistance as the sea was high and angry and it would not have been safe to do so. The *Thales* stayed by her and at 02:00am on the 4th it was decided that the sea had abated enough to try a rescue. There was some hesitation on the part of the crew of the *Thales* in volunteering but James the third mate together with the Chief Officer, the 4th officer and 3 seamen clambered into a boat and went to the rescue. In great danger and with tremendous difficulty they succeeded in rescuing 6 crew members of the 'Jean' unfortunately a seventh had been killed before the arrival of the boat. All the rescued men were well looked after on the *Thales* and they were landed at Southampton.

After that presentation the Mayor, on behalf of the King of the Belgians, presented another medal to James for his rescue of a lad in Antwerp on the 7th May. The *Thales* was in dock there and a young lad fell into the water. James immediately threw off his cap and coat and jumped in after him. He got hold of him held onto him until a boat came to carry the lad back. James himself swam to the steps and got out. At the age of 25 he had proved to be a very courageous young man and one that the school can be very proud of.



James Labron Plint
-No 1.
The School's First Boy.



James Labron Plint. No 1.
August 1922.

James was still in the merchant marine in 1881 but in 1883 he had left and was now self-employed. He was a master stevedore and sailing ship rigger in his own right. He remained self-employed for 12 years and had a clientele of 10 ship owners. He married Dorothy in 1887 and they went on to have 4 children. In 1901 he is shown on the census as living in Great Crosby with his wife, 4 children and his sister. He is now a ships cleaning manager and in 1911 he still lives with his wife and 3 children but is now employed as head of department in a cold storage business and in 1921 he is manager to a general contractor.

In later life, he revisited the Crossley Orphanage and he was persuaded to write an article for the January 1913 edition of The Crossley Old Boys Magazine he also had a photograph [left] taken of himself together with the latest pupil, Reginald Elliot, (roll number 1484) His article tells of many things about life at the orphanage and if you would like to know more about that, it is well worth reading.

James' final resting place was the West Derby Cemetery, Liverpool, he died at the age of 82 in 1937.

It is remarkable that the present school values of Excellence, Courage and Kindness seem to have been instilled in the pupils almost 150 years ago, particularly that of courage for George Abbott and James Labron Plint.

Graham Bradshaw, Jennifer Burton
King Cross Local History Society





Old Crossleyans Reunion 2025

Special Reunions

The following groups had their special reunions at this year's gathering of Old Crossleyans, organised by the Old Crossleyans Association

- 70 years since starting 1955 onwards
- 60 years since starting 1965-72
- 50 years since starting 1975-82
- 65 years since leaving 1953-60



Form 2, with Mr A. Turner, September 1976 CPP067

For more information about the Old Crossleyans Association please visit their website

<https://www.oldcrossleyans.org.uk/>

and their Facebook page

Thanks go to Reunion attendees David Bream, Richard Knowles, Neil Kerrod and Dale Halford (all of the 1975-82 cohort) [shown right], who were able to supply missing names from the 1976 photo (ref CPP067) thereby ensuring we have a complete archive record.

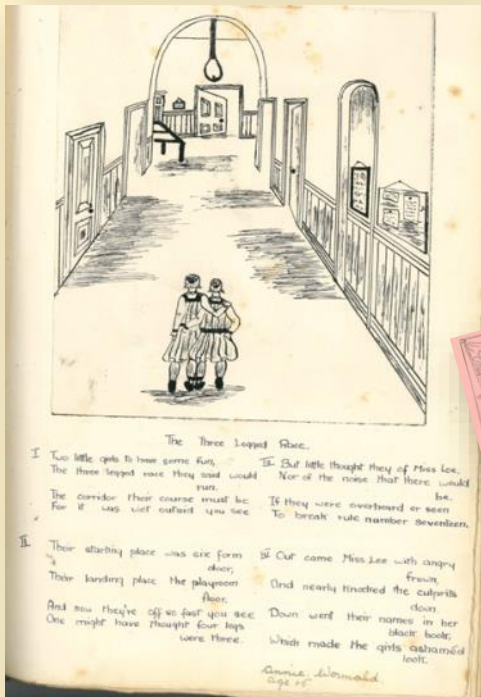


There was great interest once again in the variety of Archive material the school is privileged to maintain, generating many queries. We were also very fortunate to have received as a donation, items belonging to Dorothy Casson, a former pupil (1915-1924) from her son, John (Chris) Robinson, who himself attended the school from 1955-1960.

Among these items are Dorothy's school reports, photographs and the Royal Drawing Society certificates she obtained whilst at school, along with a beautiful and rather unique hand-bound, handwritten and illustrated copy of the Crossley & Porter Girls' School Magazine dated 1919. This includes contributions from Dorothy and other girls and staff members and is a captivating insight into the day-to-day life of the school at that time.



Dorothy Casson (C&P girl no. 815) 1924





Oliver! Jr



Oliver! Jr 2025

After nine years away from the stage, we proudly returned to the world of school productions with a vibrant and heart-warming performance of *Oliver! Jr*. Performed to local primary school audiences on 7th July and to a paying audience on 9th and 10th July, the production was a resounding success – showcasing the exceptional talent, dedication and spirit of our students.

With a cast full of energy and promise, audiences were transported into the world of Victorian London through powerful acting, catchy songs and a moving storyline. The role of Oliver was beautifully brought to life by Lewis Nimmo, whose emotional performance captured the innocence and resilience of the iconic character. Gabriel West charmed the crowd as the lively and street-smart Artful Dodger, while Amber Mitchell delivered a stirring and heartfelt performance as Nancy.

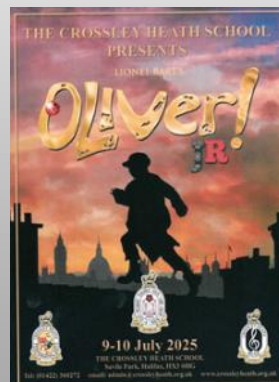


Dylan Prieditis took on the role of the menacing Bill Sikes with impressive intensity, and Toby Churchill delighted audiences with his characterful and witty portrayal of Fagin. A special mention must go to Jesse Hawke, whose performance as Charlie Bates and leader of Fagin's gang stood out for his confidence, comic timing, and stage presence – a real crowd favourite.

It was truly wonderful to witness the growth in confidence and development of acting skills across the whole cast. Every student brought something unique to the stage, and their teamwork and enthusiasm were evident in every scene.



Behind the curtain, the production was brought together by a brilliant team. Directed by Mr Charlesworth, Mr Nimmo, and Mrs Griggs, the show benefited from the tireless efforts of a dedicated backstage crew. Special thanks go to Mrs Heaton, Mrs Riddlesden, and Mr Bale for their essential support. The production was also enriched by the creativity and leadership of our talented junior directors: Matthew Dakin, Lilly Stead, William Bell, and Sophia Criscione – each playing a vital role in shaping the final performance. *Oliver! Jr* wasn't just a show – it was a celebration of school spirit, talent and collaboration. The entire team should feel incredibly proud of what they achieved, and we look forward with great excitement to what the future of Performing Arts at Crossley Heath holds. Bravo to all involved!

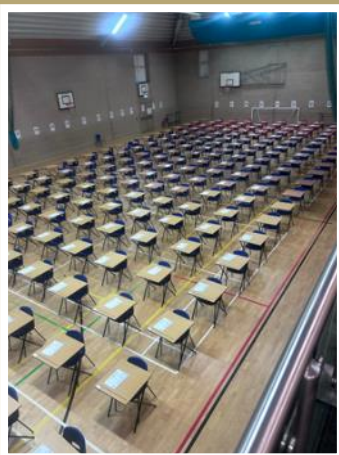




Invigilators Assemble



Another successful exam season came to its conclusion in June, giving our amazing, hardworking team of invigilators the chance to celebrate. This came after a mad time organising two weeks of mocks, immediately followed by five weeks and two days of the main season which consisted of 128 exams, 4928 exam papers (plus packing the same amount off to the exam board!) 95 trolley dashes, and a 100% exam board inspection. A lot of hard work, but also with many things to laugh about, as the intrepid 'Headless Chickens' team once again made it through to the end!



Junior Maths Challenge



It's been another fantastic year for the students taking part in the Maths challenges. We enter 3 national competitions at different age ranges and have had a very high number of entries this year. Well done to all those who took part, especially to the two Year 8s who have become record breakers for our school! First Nikesh scored 100% on the first round paper and then Dhruvan scored 100% on the second round. We have never had full marks on any paper before so we were delighted when it happened twice! Four students received Gold certificates in the second round and this is a great achievement on its own. Dhruvan was joined by Elijah Hill, John Bates and Shaun Sanju. In any other year they would have been the best in school, so that just shows how strong our current year 8s are.

We can't wait to see how they get on in the Intermediate challenge next year!



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

Annual CHS Sports Presentation Evening



At our annual sports presentation evening on Friday 27th June, students who either attended sports clubs in school, and or represented school in sports, were presented with 'their colours' by alumni, Max Burgin, our Olympic 800 metre athlete. Trophies were also awarded to Players of the Season and Most Improved Player, as well as overall trophies to the Sportsman and Sportswoman in every year group, who showed excellence overall across a number of sports, as well as a positive attitude and commitment in training and competition.

In between presentations, students and parents and families enjoyed a pie and peas supper, listening to piano music played by Grace Hobson and William Bell. A raffle was also held, with money raised, put towards the Senior Girls' Sports tour to Dubai and Abu Dhabi next November. A lovely evening was had by all and it was very encouraging to see so many students taking part in a wide range of sporting events and achieving success at local, County and National level.

link to our TOG gear website here: [Crossley Heath Mens & Womens Clothing Collection | TOG24](#)



Right: Max Burgin, Olympian



Below: Cricket



Above: Max wearing The Crossley Heath School sponsored clothing





Student Award Trophies 2025

Year 7A Netball

Player of the Year – Amber Blanchard
Most improved – Ciara Jennings

Year 7B Netball

Player of the Year – Olivia Lees
Most Improved – Jiana Bino

Year 8A Netball

Player of the Year – Madeleine McGill
Most improved – Sophie Horn

Year 8B Netball

Player of the Year – Evie Burrows
Most improved – Shruthi S

Year 9A Netball

Player of the Year -Meimei Tat
Most Improved – Michelle Xinya Cao

Year 9B Netball

Player of the Year – Safa Hussain
Most improved – Matilda Walker

Year 10 Netball

Player of the Year – Emily Daniels
Most Improved – Henrietta Clements

U12 Girls football

Player of the season – Chloe Godward, nomi-
nees: Vinutha Obula , Olivia Lees
Most improved – Khadijah Naeem, nominee:
Reeti Singh

U15 Girls football

Player of the season : Belinda Christofides and
Lola Abdy

Year 7 Rugby

Player of the Year – Kit Walker -Watene
Most Improved – Will Clark and Dexter Murawa
- Boland

Year 7 Football

Player of the Year – Yahya Ajaz
Most Improved – Henry Hughes

Year 7 Cricket

Player of the Year (N/A)

Year 8 Rugby

Player of the Year – Marley Royal
Most Improved – Alexander Lister

Year 8 Football

Player of the Year -Leo Tat
Most Improved – Sriven Pasika and Otto Fox

Year 8 Cricket

Player of the Year – (N/A)

Year 9 Rugby

Player of the Year – David Obhielo
Most Improved – Finlay Ellis

Year 9 Football

Player of the Year – Aiden Coulthard
Most Improved – Mohammad-Hassan Rasool

Year 9 Cricket

Player of the Year - Aayan Khan

Year 10 Rugby

Player of the Year – George Dobson
Most Improved – Adan Khan

Year 10 Football

Player of the Year - Thomas Humphreys
Most Improved - Paramvir Khela

Year 10 Cricket

Player of the Year - Matthew Dakin

Girls Tennis

Player of the season – Clara Burgess

Boys Tennis

Player of the season – Sebby Hawke

Male athlete of the season – Hasnain

Ali

Female athlete of the season – Harriet

Ayres

Year 7 Rounders

Player of the Year – Becca Dakin
Most Improved – Freya Chapman

Year 8 Rounders

Player of the Year – Sienna Hinson
Most Improved – Katherine Behara

Year 9 Rounders

Player of the Year – Sohana Podapati
Most Improved – Sarah Mahmood

Year 10 Rounders

Player of the Year – Zara Blanchard
Most Improved - Eliza Akhtar

U13 Girls Badminton

Player of the Year -Lakshna Srikanth

U15 Girls Badminton

Player of the Year -Smithi Karthick

U13 Boys Badminton

Player of the Year -Samanthi Kalidindi

U15 Boys Badminton

Player of the Year – Phil Daniels

13 Girls Table Tennis

Player of the Year –Safiyah Adeel

U13 Boys Table Tennis

Player of the Year – Dhruvan
Karthik

U15 boys Table Tennis

Player of the Year – Roman

Jabczynski



**SPORTS WOMAN OF THE YEAR-
YEAR 7, YEAR 8, YEAR 9, YEAR 10**

Year 7 – Amber Blanchard
Year 8 – Katherine Harling
Year 9 – Clara Burgess
Year 10 – Zara Blanchard

**SPORTS MAN OF THE YEAR -YEAR
7, YEAR 8, YEAR 9, YEAR 10**

Year 7 – Jesse Hawke
Year 8 - Archie Johnson
Year 9 - George Stewart
Year 10 – Matthew Dakin

Sports Leader of the Year (N/A)



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

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 ...



ROUNDERS
Rounders, Y7, Y8, Y9 and Y10

CRICKET
Cricket, Y7/8 Y9/10 and girls



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

TENNIS



ATHLETICS

Athletics Y7, Y10



Term Dates

2025 Autumn Term

Inset Day (School closed to students): Monday 1 September
Inset Day (School closed to students): Tuesday 2 September
Re-open (Year 7 and Year 12 only): Wednesday 3 September
Re-open (All Year Groups): Thursday 4 September
Closes Half Term: Friday 24 October
Re-open: Monday 3 November
Inset Day (School closed to students): Friday 21 November (Disaggregated)
Closes End of Term: Friday 19 December

Sept / Oct Calendar

- 1 Sept Staff INSET Day - school closed to students
- 2 Sept Staff INSET Day - school closed to students
- 3 School open to Y7 and Y12 only
- 4 School open to all students
- 8 Y7-10-12 photos (Gillman & Soame)
- 9-12 Y8 Rugby Trip to Cumbria
- 9 Y11 Parents' Information Evening
- 10 CHPTA AGM meeting 6.00pm
- 15 Y12 Parents' Information Evening
- 20 11+ Entrance Exam
- 23 Presentation skills sessions Y7-Y9 (am)
- 25 National Manufacturing Day (DT)
- 29 Y10-Y13 Future Pathways Aspirations (TBC)
- 1 Oct Yr7 (ABC) Bradley Wod Trip
- 1 CHPTA meeting 7.00pm
- 2 Y7 (DEF) Bradley Wood Trip
- 3-4 Y11 Revision Retreat
- 9 Maths Challenge
- 10 CHPTA Quiz Night
- 13 Deadline for early UCAS applications
- 15 Y13 Parents' Information Evening
- 17-28 Y10/Y11/Y12 Rugby Trip to Columbia
- 22 Y13 Parents' Information Evening
- 24 Swimming gala (am)
- 24 School closes for Half Term



Hello and Goodbyes

Fond farewells go to Mark Schofield (Head of Business & Economics), started 2000, Luciana Todde-Wilson (English Teacher), started in 1997 and Andrew Todde-Wilson (English Teacher), started in 2014 and Shahnaz Mir (Office / Administration), started in 2018 who begin their retirement and are looking forward to a steadier pace of life.

We also say goodbye this term to Tracey Temelkovski (Business & Economics Teacher) who moves onto pastures new.

Wishing her all the best!

We look forward to welcoming our new staff in September:

- Martine Jervis - Department Leader of Business & Economics
- Ammar Ahmed - Teacher of Business & Economics
- Ella Highley - Teacher of English

