

# DISPATCHES

## The Crossley Heath School News



*Autumn Term 2025*



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Thank  
You!

# Head Teacher's Journal



Let's start with a massive thank you to anyone reading this as you are highly likely to be a member of our Crossley Heath School Family as a student, parent, staff member, parent, alumni or community member. Thank you for supporting our students to set some fantastic records which we are really proud of and for which we are grateful for your support in achieving.

**In a record-breaking past few months, here is what our school family have been achieving:**

## Our highest ever GCSE exam results

With over 70% of students achieving Grade 7-9 (A/A\*) we were not simply the best school in Calderdale once more, yet we were also silver medalists in the quest to be the highest attaining school in all of Yorkshire. This is a tremendous feat given that all our students are encouraged to study the academically challenging curriculum areas of Humanities and



Languages over a two, not three-year, GCSE course. We believe in academic stretch and challenge, in challenging our students to have the courage to go beyond the norm and stand out from the crowd. It is wonderful to see them do so.



## The fastest growing and improving Sixth Form around

It is wonderful to see the amazing pace at which our Sixth Form is transforming and strengthening. Our number of students has grown by 50% from 100 in last year's Year 13 to a record 150 in this year's Year 12 whilst our entry grades have risen too. Still the perfect size for individualised learning in small class sizes, yet a growth in popularity linked to the best Sixth Form offer in our local area ([check out our Sixth Form promises at the bottom of our Sixth Form applications website section here](#)). The A\*-B attainment of our students shot up by 10% and with this rapid improvement on track to continue we are excited to be returning to the peak of academic excellence. With five hours of teaching per subject each week, new academic tutors to work with students in free periods and seven pastoral staff dedicated to Sixth Form support there is more time and care given to our students than can be found

elsewhere. As a result, our Sixth Formers are thriving.



## The first (but certainly not the last) international sports tours this decade

Our international sports tours are back! In October over 50 of our boys travelled to Canada for a tremendously successful rugby tour. Winning seven out of eight games, staying with local families, whale watching and creating memories to last forever. Over 40 of our girls travelled to Abu Dhabi and Dubai to shine in games on netball and football against local and international schools. Haggling in the souks, exploring the desert and representing our school with pride. Amazing and the exciting news is that 2027 tour planning is underway!





**Head Teacher's Journal *continued* ....**

**The first (but certainly not the last) Crossley Heath Leadership Conference**

We are proud to be a state school, home to students from all different backgrounds, yet we also want our students to have every opportunity available to students attending fee paying private schools. Thanks to our lifelong Crossley Heath relationships with alumni for whom Crossley's will always have a place in their hearts, we are able to achieve this. Fresh from supporting the return of cricket nets to our arena and beginning the development of the new 2G pitch at the rear of our school (how exciting!) our alumnus David Briggs sponsored our inaugural Leadership Conference in London. Our Crossley Brothers Scholarship students from 2025 Amelie and Luke, along with a host of student leaders spent a day experiencing leadership advice and connecting with mentors to support them in their educational and career journeys ahead. Unique support that being part of Crossley Heath school provides and continues to provide after graduation.



**Our highest Autumn Term attendance yet**

Being in the Top 1% of attendance in the country during this Autumn Term is a brilliant achievement, showing our students' courage, commitment and enjoyment of school. Being in school every day is the best step to achieving highly and with around 390 students still with their 100% attendance record for this year, we gave them a richly-deserved celebration in our house event Santa Dash to find hidden chocolate and even our own hidden Santa Claus with a sack full of queue jump passes to say well done. For all students who achieve 100% attendance from the first day back in January through to Easter there will be a queue jump pass for each and everyone and an Easter egg hunt led by the Easter Bunny to celebrate the resilience and commitment it takes to be in school every day.



**So where do we go from here as we head into Spring? So many positive experiences lie ahead:**

The launch of our new Sporting Excellence Programme for Sixth Formers wishing to pursue a dual careers of regional/national level sport alongside A Levels. This is being developed in partnership with leading Universities to offer coaching, strength & conditioning, nutritional and psychological training to our students who compete in sport alongside their studies.

Our next alumni networking and leadership conference taking place here in Halifax.

Continued preparation for our performing arts showpiece events like Piano Festival, House Drama and Matilda! We hope our students and their families continue to be happy, healthy and thriving here at Crossley Heath throughout the New Year and beyond. Best wishes.

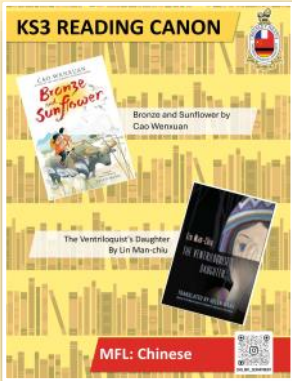
Mr Jones.



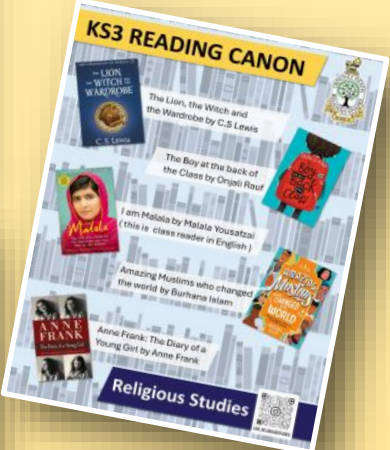


# KS3 Reading Canons

By exploring texts within the school's literacy reading canon, students can recognise their own communities while engaging in worlds very different from their own, fostering empathy and a broader perspective.



A goal of a grammar school education is to teach essential literacy skills using texts from the reading canon, preparing students for future academic success and meaningful cultural conversations.





# Sponsorship News: Celebrating Support from Our Local Community

We are delighted to share some fantastic sponsorship news that highlights the growing support from our local business community.

This term, we were thrilled to welcome **James Smith from A-Safe** into school to present him with one of the shirts he has so kindly sponsored for our boys' Canada Tour, along with team bags and other accessories. His generosity made a real difference to the students on this exciting international opportunity.

We were also pleased to welcome **James O'Rourke Tutoring**, who received a personalised hoodie after sponsoring the girls' UAE Tour. This sponsorship was secured in a wonderfully creative way: the PE team held a raffle, with the top prize being the chance to sponsor the tour kit – a brilliant idea that brought lots of excitement!

In addition, we have been fortunate to receive several further offers of support from local companies. **Aesthetique Dental Care in Leeds** has generously sponsored the Sixth Form boys' football shirts, while **Elland-based Absabetterway** is supporting our younger girls' netball teams through new kit sponsorship.

We are incredibly grateful for the enthusiasm and kindness shown by these organisations. Building strong relationships with local businesses not only enhances opportunities for our students but also strengthens our wider school community. We look forward to developing these partnerships even further in the year ahead, bigger and better than ever!





# Crossley Brothers Scholarship and London Conference



This year marked an exciting milestone for Crossley Heath with the launch of the first ever Crossley Brothers Scholarship. Our two top-performing A Level students, Luke Harling and Amelie Baker, were named as the inaugural recipients. The scholarship provides a £5,000 cash bursary each year for the three years of their university degrees, along with a range of additional opportunities designed to support their development and prepare them for future career success.

One of the key elements of the scholarship is an annual conference in London, and on 13 November we hosted the very first event. We travelled to the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall, where Luke and Amelie were joined by the next four highest achieving A Level students, as well as our Head Boy and Head Girl, Lakshya and Anaya.

Students heard from a brilliant line-up of former Crossley Heath students who now work across a variety of industries. They shared their career journeys and offered thoughtful advice for success. Some of the common themes included

the importance of resilience when facing setbacks, recognising what makes you unique and using it to your advantage, and the value of remaining grounded and humble.

While in London, we also hosted a networking event for alumni living in the city. It was a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with former students from across several decades, all of whom still speak proudly of their time at Crossley Heath. Many offered to support current students through mentoring, career talks and future events.

We were especially pleased to meet alumni who had not been in contact with the school since leaving, and we hope to continue building these relationships. Plans are already underway to replicate this success with a Halifax-based alumni networking event in the near future.





# Fundraising Update: Supporting Our Community

We have recently welcomed several visitors into school, and made a few external visits, to share the funds raised during our Fundraising Fortnight.

Representatives from **Noah's Ark**, **Overgate Hospice** and **Forget Me Not Children's Hospice** visited us to receive their donations and to talk about the important work they do in the local area. We also took a small group of students and staff to **St Augustine's** to present our fundraising cheque in person and to learn more about how our contribution will support their community programmes.

A portion of the money raised has been kept here at Crossley Heath to support our **Hardship Fund** and other initiatives that directly benefit our students.

We are very grateful to all staff and students who took part in Fundraising Fortnight in July and helped us raise such a strong total for these causes. We are already looking forward to seeing what we can achieve next year!





# The English Speaking Union School's Mace Debating competition

On Thursday 6th November, Awen Gitay (Y11), Ibrahim Ahmed (Y11) and Jack Rainforth (Y9) all ventured to Manchester for the first round of this national and esteemed debating competition. The debates were held at The University of Law, a fitting venue for an evening of discussion and argumentation. Our team first watched debates between North Halifax Grammar School and Titus Salt School on tourism tax and between Dixons McMillan Academy and Trinity Sixth Form Academy on short-haul domestic flights.

Our motion was *'This House would ban dating and relationship-based reality TV'*. We were the opposition team against Blackburn College. Our debaters had researched and prepared thoroughly in their own time and during *Speak Like A Crossleyan Club*. They stood up and presented in front of an audience of students, parents and teachers with confidence in an articulate and convincing way. This showed great courage and they performed with excellence against older opponents. This was a brilliant opportunity to develop their oracy skills and I am really proud that they tackled this challenge with bravery and enthusiasm.

We were thrilled when they were announced as winners of their debate and they, therefore, progress onto round 2 later in the year. A really brilliant achievement!

For any students who would like to become confident public speakers and have opportunities like this, *Speak Like A Crossleyan Club* runs at 12.30pm every Monday at 12.30pm in L4 and we practice debating and public speaking skills. Watch out for the House Debating competition later in the year too.

Anna Hazelton (Reading and Oracy Lead)





## The English Speaking Union School's Mace Debating competition continued ....

On Thursday 20th November, four talented Year 9 students proudly represented our school for the first time in the ESU Public Speaking Competition, held virtually via Teams from 4:30–8:00pm. Gauri (Speaker), Advaita (Chair), Sofiah (Questioner) and Jannat (Reserve) demonstrated maturity, confidence and excellent communication skills throughout the evening. The event featured thought-provoking topics including the benefits of boredom, nature vs nurture, and concluded with Gauri's powerful and articulate speech exploring the Martin Luther King Jr quote, "There comes a time when silence is betrayal." Although our team did not progress to the next round, all four students should be commended for their hard work, preparation and professionalism in such a competitive field. They were excellent ambassadors for our school.



## UKMT Senior Maths Challenge



We had a very successful first term in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge with nearly 40 sixth form students taking part. Two students did make it through to the next round, Jacob Lewins and Morgan Harrison. They achieved a silver certificate in the next round which is a great achievement!

Well done to them and all the other students who took part!!





# Return of the Cricket Nets

We were thrilled to celebrate the long-awaited return of the cricket nets, first installed by students themselves in the early 1900s, to our Lower Arena with a fantastic launch event this September.

We welcomed a wonderful mix of visitors, from parents and alumni to local teams and coaches, all keen to see the revitalised facilities in action. Guests enjoyed cupcakes handmade by former student **Halima**, along with beautiful event decorations created by current student **Alishba**. Students even took on our visitors in a series of fun cricket challenges throughout the afternoon.

This project was made possible thanks to the generosity and passion of former students **David and James, The Big 6**, and the **Crossley Foundation**, whose support has restored a much-loved part of our sporting heritage.

The nets have already become a firm favourite with students, with **Mr Davis** supervising lunchtime use and leading an emerging cricket excellence coaching programme. We are delighted to see cricket thriving once again at Crossley Heath.





# Year 12 Isle of Arran Trip

In early autumn, our Year 12 students travelled to the Isle of Arran for a six-day residential fieldwork experience based at the Lochranza Centre. The island's diverse landscapes and vibrant communities provided an excellent setting for the full range of fieldwork required by the A-Level Geography specification.

Across the week, students carried out coastal and river investigations, alongside human geography studies linked to Arran's role as one of our Paper 2 case studies. These activities allowed students to strengthen their data-collection techniques, deepen their understanding of geographical processes and begin developing the practical skills they will draw upon for their NEA.

Outside the formal fieldwork sessions, students also had the chance to experience more of what the island has to offer – from exploring caves along the west coast to visiting the chocolate shop and bakery in Brodick and even spotting a few seals!

The Arran trip remains a highlight of Year 12, offering a memorable blend of learning, teamwork and the opportunity to explore one of Scotland's most distinctive islands.





# European Day of Languages



European Day of Languages  
House Cake Decorating Ent.  
Name: Archie 2025 7A

As part of the school's celebration of the European Day of Languages, a House Cake Decorating competition was held.

It was a European day of success  
The students did themselves proud and some of them were absolute masterpieces.

SAVILE WON.  
and came second...  
Porter third.

Chris Garbutt







# House Poetry Competition 2025

## House Poetry Competition

In celebration of National Poetry Day in October, the English Department organised a House competition, giving students and staff the opportunity to submit their poetry entries on the theme of "Stuck Inside."

Thank you to all who submitted entries. A winner was selected from each year group and the overall winners were Savile House



## A Winter's Evening

The fire is on,  
The lights are dimmed.  
The cup still warm in my hands.  
I want to stay still,  
To relax,  
To calm,  
I want to stay inside.  
I want to rest, To close my eyes,  
To enjoy the silence,  
I want to stay inside.  
While the snow falls.

By Sarah Dews Savile House

## Winning Staff Entry



**O Constant Oak Sonnet**

Upon you tree my mire earliest joys were hung,  
In ancient arms embraced my tender years.  
Beneath us shade, my childish songs were sung,  
And in its bark were carved my secret tears.


O constant oak, thou keeper of my time,  
Thy roots dost bind the letting hours fast.  
Thou stood'st unmoved while I did strive to climb,  
And guard the fleeting shadows of my past.

Though now my path hath wandered far from thee,  
Still in my heart they memory is sown.  
No fairer friend hath time bestowed on me  
Than thou, who stood whilst I was yet unknown.

Forevermore thy branches shall remain,  
A gentle soft solace to soothe my heart's refrain.

By Sheza 8A Porter House

**Year 8 Winner**






### The Queenless Hive

I feel like I need help, I feel helpless—claustrophobic, maybe lonely.  
I feel suffocated by my thoughts,  
It feels like something's watching me.

As I watch the rain drip down,  
I see the bees bend and waver,  
Their wings heavy with silence,  
Their dance forgotten in the storm.

I sit there—  
Lost in a hive of memories  
Each thought a restless bee  
Buzzing, searching for the queen.

Gazing at my past,  
I see the hive crumble,  
Bees scatter, aimless, honey spilling like broken dreams.  
Maybe they're lost,  
Maybe—like me.

Maybe I'm the queen who's gone missing.  
Maybe I'm the hive without a heart,  
Maybe the swarm inside my mind  
Has forgotten where to start.

The buzzing growing louder,  
Trapped inside my skull—  
Wings beating against the dark,  
Stuck inside my thoughts,  
The darkness of my mind.

By Urooj Fatima 7F Queens House



Year 7 Winner

### Cozy Stormy Days

Cozy stormy days,  
Cold crisp mornings, dark quiet nights,  
Fire falling from trees.

By Clara 10F Kings House

Year 10 Winner





# House Poetry Competition 2025



## A Death Sonata

A never-ending routine.  
The ring of each note is so misleadingly harming.

But like a dancer in a music box,  
Wound up time and again.  
Each note burns and scorches, engraved into  
That fake smile.

Stuck inside this endless loop.  
Each crisp note loses its distinction.

They think they know you.  
They have inspected every inch of 'you,'

"The dancer"

In your frilly tutu, in a pretty box, chine high-lifted.  
They think they see your flaws.  
They do not.

Trapped insode a vessel-forced to glide across,  
Each painful screech of each familiar note,  
With that stupid smile.

"Who are you?"

A never-ending routine.

By Safiyah 9E Savile House

**Year 9 Winner**



## Stuck Inside

I'm stuck inside, a version of this story  
Where you love someone else,  
And I'm the quiet background  
Of your brightest scenes.

You tell me about her, and I smile,  
Like the words don't echo  
Against the walls I've built  
To keep myself from breaking.

Your laughter fills the room, and empties me,  
A beautiful sound,  
That bounces off the inside  
Of this cage I can't leave.

I laugh when you laugh, but part of me folds inward,  
A paper heart creased too many times,  
Trapped in the shape, you never chose to hold.

I memorise your face  
In borrowed moments,  
Like sunlight through glass,  
Close enough to feel,  
Never close enough to touch.

You're too kind,  
And I twist your warmth  
Into reasons to stay  
In this loop of maybes.

You call me friend,  
And I say it back,  
Like it's not a door  
That only opens one way.

And so, I stay,  
Trapped inside these walls  
Watching you love someone else  
While I'm stuck  
In the silence of what we never said,  
The echoes of a love  
That never found its way outside, stuck in  
The space just outside your heart.....

By Maryam 12C Kings House

**Sixth Form Winner**





**Skip A Beat**

Skip a beat

Skip a beat

Blink and you might skip a beat.

A bright sunny smile

The river that flows for countless miles

A sky that clouds swim in freely

And hopefully soon a world we'll be able to move around in,

Without guns,

Ideally.

Skip a beat

Skip a beat

Blink and you might skip a beat.

A child crying out for his mother

An old woman on the streets who no one knows or gives any bother

Gun shots, bombs, gas chambers, mental qualms

So many scars, pain,

Agony.

It can't be put into words or songs.

Skip a beat

Skip a beat

Blink and you might skip a beat.

Great famine, starvation,

Across multiple different nations.

Skeletal ghosts,

Of food and water deprived,

In conditions so horrendous hey don't want to survive.

Families in such poverty: mothers, fathers, babies, children

They can't even afford a 75 pence blue biro pen.

Their pockets nonexistent and empty,

Their souls worn out.

Their eyes glazed over, nothing to see.

Their hope nonexistent,

Just utter, complete doubt.

Skip a beat

Skip a beat

Blink and you might skip a beat.

Bodies. Bodies. They lay still, lifeless.

Blood, bones scattered, organs displaced,

Such a mess.

Rubble, redly stained,

Grass now bloodied and unmaintained.

An ownerless arm, with a doll in its hand

Why are these people innocently murdering over ownership of land?

Skip a beat

Skip a beat

Blink and you might skip a beat.

Blink and tear will roll down your cheek in shock.

Feeling the rosy rush of blood as your anger rages.

Why must we make our mouths (to our words) cages?

Why must we stop the anger from thawing through these pages?

This injustice, these scars, this pain and agony.

Why must these individuals face the 'consequences' of an agony?

This fury, this temper, in my mind it's stuck inside.

If I let it out, it wouldn't aid them,

Nor give the help they'd been denied.

Skip a beat

Skip a beat

Blink and you might just skip a beat.

By Rana 11C Savile House

**Year 11 Winner**





# Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Bronze		Silver
Sohana Podapati	Karam Atwal	Vanessa Pukl
Amelia Young	Simon FENG	Aaliyah Saqib
Musa Iqbal	Raganvi Kakumani	Harvin Singh Dhanda
Jayden Jairath	Sokratis Pantazis	William Bell
Rana Abdulrheem	Harry Davison	Ibrahim Zeeshan Ahmed
Matilda Walker	Zunairah Ahmed	Caitlin Phillips
Muhammad Zafeer	Thomas Howells	
Seth Harford	Ayan Siddiqui	
Rushiraj Dash	Clara Burgess	
Amaan Siddiqui	Matthew Allcock	
Zoha Nazir	Amna Arshad	
Anaya Hameed	Yousha Bin-Sajad Ismail	
Rayyan Adeel	Ayza Syed	
Syra Jan	Sarah Mahmood	
Isla Isukapalli		
Eleanor Wickham		
Amelia Qurban		
Thomas Sanderson		

**Duke of Edinburgh Awards**

There have been 38 fabulous completions on both bronze and silver levels of the award since last term. We continue to encourage students to keep on collating evidence of their chosen activities and recording all their Assessor Reports at the conclusion of the various timescales necessary for each award. We hope to see Gold awarded again this forthcoming year and encourage those who have now completed a Bronze or Silver to enroll on a higher-level award in the near future. So... "It's up to you!"

Many congratulations and very well done to the following recent recipients of their award.

+  
A  
DV  
ENT  
URES  
AT  
ADVENT

Wishing you many fabulous ADVENTURES for this year's advent and the new year ahead.

*Mr Taylor*  
DofE Awards Verifier





# Crossley Heath Archives

## Crossley & Porter Memories



**Family Connections**

This special pin badge was given to Barbara Bower (née Spencer) back in 1933 when she entered Crossley & Porter School as a proud member of Savile House [formerly St Andrew's.] Now, at 103 years young, Barbara has passed the badge on to her granddaughter, our very own Health & Wellbeing leader Victoria Hughes!

Even though Victoria is firmly in Kings House, sworn enemies of Savile, of course, these two generations still manage to speak to each other!



### School Memories of Barbara Bower (nee Spencer) Crossley & Porter 1930-1938

School started at 9.00am, first bell was at 8.40am and finished at 4.00pm. All students arrived at school having walked or caught the bus—cars were rare then. School uniform consisted of: a navy coat in winter, regulation green blouse, navy blue box-pleated tunic with girdle (the tunic had not to go below one's knees when kneeling!!) navy knickers, long black stockings, navy low-heeled shoes, school blazer with school crest and a cap in school colours with a small edging around the brim (no one liked the cap and as soon as we got outside the gates, the cap was removed!)

Mr Bolton was the Headmaster for boys. Miss Richardson, Headmistress for girls. I recall the staff for girls being: Miss Hesford—Assistant Head Teacher, also taught science; Miss Herbert—History and Geography; Miss Walker—Art; Miss Oakley—Latin and English; Miss Pallot—French and Miss Lean—PE and Games, followed by Miss Lazenby.

The main hall was used as a dining room—girls one side, boys the other and no communication between them was allowed. The hall was also used for speech days or special events. The top two landings of the school were used as dormitories and there was a small swimming pool on the boys' side which girls were allowed the use of.

Senior girls were Prefects and woe behold you if called to report to them! This meeting was held in the Sixth Form class room in the building known as the New Wing, which had opened shortly before I started.

A small shop run by 'Ma' Hewitt down Moorfield Street, would take a postage stamp for payment. Day girls were allowed off the grounds of course, so went to this shop at lunchtime, buying 2oz nuts and 2oz raisins for a 1p stamp, for one of the boarders. Day girls also brought packets of crisps to school for breaktime—swapping them with a 'boarder' for a slice of their 'Pokey' bread. This was made on the premises and was delicious!

Amongst people employed for the outside work—I recall Tom—he did a great deal of painting railings, gates etc. When asked why no sign saying 'Wet Paint' his reply was 'Too many fingers touching to see if it was!'

I attended Crossley & Porter from 1930 to 1938, leaving to take a Domestic Science course at Halifax Technical College. Domestic Science was not introduced as a school subject at that time. I then attended the Yorkshire Training College of House craft, Leeds, qualifying there. I married in 1947 to Dougie Bower.

Barbara also remembers the brass lions on the staircases...but that is another story...!



AN ARIEL VIEW OF THE SCHOOL.

The School as it would have looked during Barbara's schooldays



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

## Year 13 Sheffield University Trip

The Sixth Form team took Y13 students on a really interesting visit to explore the University of Sheffield on 19th September. They met student ambassadors and had personalised tours of Sheffield's extensive campus before having lunch in the student union building. We were then able to take part in a valuable session on applying to Russell Group universities, a talk on student life and a really useful session with helpful advice on applying for competitive courses.



## Year 12 Cambridge Visit

Our aspiring Oxbridge applicants in Y12 spent two lovely days in beautiful Cambridge as guests of Selwyn College. We were given tailored sessions on the Cambridge application process, support schemes, insights into interviews and what students could do to make themselves stand out. Students discovered how to set about choosing a Cambridge college learning what current students valued as important, and then had a tour of the historic city to find out where everything was in relation to the various university buildings. We also visited the Fitzwilliam Museum and enjoyed watching the picturesque sight of tourists punting on the Cam in the glorious autumn sunshine.



## Year 13s Alumna Visit—Aliza Arshad



In October we were delighted to welcome back Crossley's alumna Aliza Arshad, who is now into her second year of training with KPMG as part of their prestigious degree apprenticeship programme. Aliza spoke to the whole of Y13 giving students some useful hints and tips about the competitive application process and what skills they needed to concentrate on to be successful. Our students will be having the opportunity to sit a mock assessment centre event as well as practice psychometric testing in the new year, giving everyone considering a degree apprenticeship route some really important experience before going through the real thing! .



## Lancaster University Chemistry Workshop



The Lancaster University Chemistry department delivered an Infrared Spectroscopy practical workshop in school. Students were given the unique opportunity within school to use the university's spectrometers they study the theory of in Year 13. The live spectra were then analysed by the students to identify the function groups within the compound tested. Students developed their understanding by seeing the chemistry in action and were very grateful for the time the Lancaster University PhD students took out of their busy schedules to come and support them.

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

## Year 12—MedSoc Committee Members

Say hello to this year's MedSoc committee! Our year 12 prospective medicine and dentistry applicants underwent a selective application process before being appointed to their important roles in this society which is run for the benefit of students in years 9-13. The committee are MedSoc President: Aanya Thakker, Vice President Medicine: Iman Bibi, Vice President Dentistry: Samara Ravat, and Committee Members Grace Sheard, Umaima Khan, Is-haaq Azeb, Ritika Sha and Aayan Jamil.



## Digital Champions

Our new batch of 2025-26 Sixth Form Digital Champions are trained and all in post working alongside AgeUK to provide support to older people to improve their digital skills, as well as providing loan technology to those without access. Y12 students have chosen this option as part of their enrichment programme which they follow alongside their A level studies.

One Digital Champion Programme service user said: "People from my generation can feel excluded from a society that is becoming more digital by the day and this wonderful service is invaluable and essential!"

Crossley Heath are thrilled to have been the school chosen to host the Age UK Digital Champion Programme in Calderdale & Kirklees. Improving digital skills and access to technology means a brand new group of older people in our area are now able to access essential services and the opportunity to connect with loved ones.



## Restart a Heart Day



### Restart a Heart Day 2025 – Saving Lives at Crossley Heath!

Nearly 300 of our Year 12 and 13 students took part in lifesaving CPR training as part of Restart a Heart Day, led by the incredible team from the Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

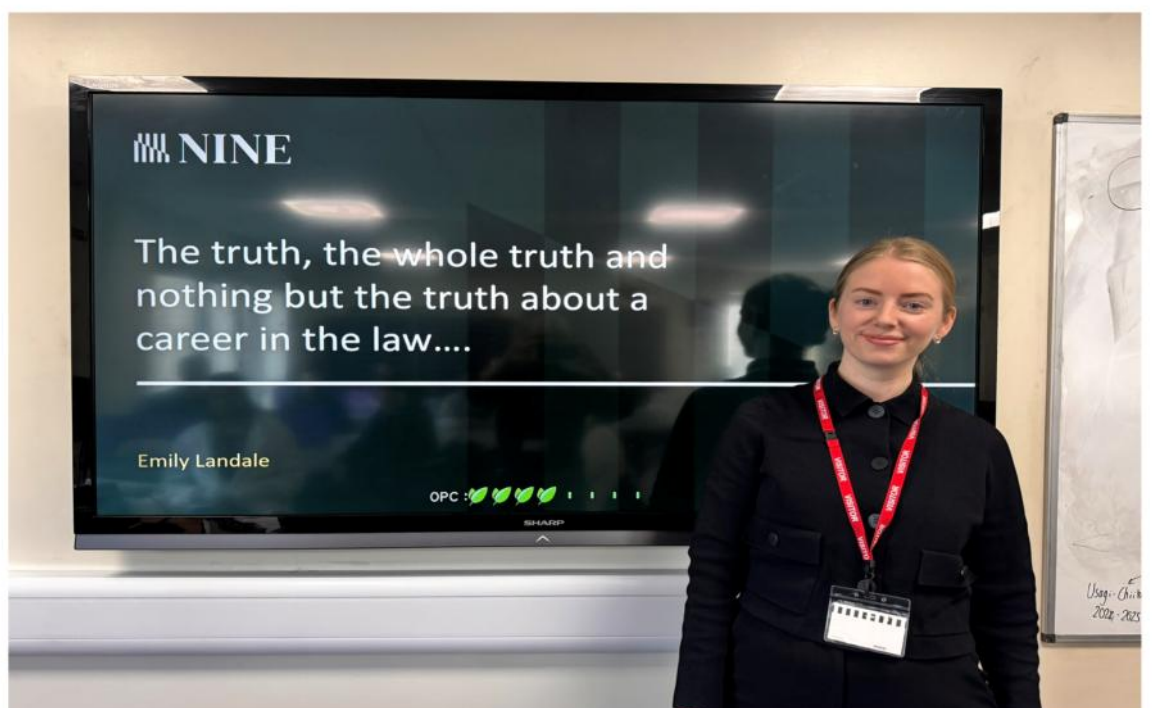
We're especially proud that one of the instructors was Niamh, a wonderful member of our Crossley Heath alumni, who has gone on to make a real difference through her work with YAS.

Our students showed fantastic engagement and maturity throughout the sessions, learning vital skills that could one day help save a life.

A huge thank you to Yorkshire Ambulance Service and everyone involved in delivering such an important and inspiring day.

## Barrister and Former Student Emily Landale Visit

Barrister and former Crossley Heath student Emily Landale talked to a packed room of sixth form students about careers and routes into Law in October. Students learned about different entry routes as well as the various legal jobs they may soon wish to aim for and how to start getting useful experience. Emily will also be running an Advocacy Workshop for our Y12 students in school in February to bolster their future applications!

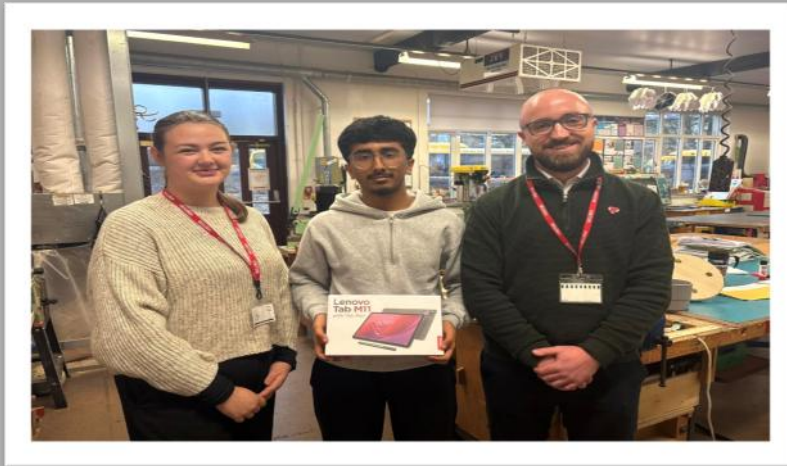


# ... SIXTH FORM NEWS ... SIXTH FORM NEWS ...

## West Yorkshire Manufacturing Services— Scavenger Hunt Challenge

Congratulations Raheem! West Yorkshire Manufacturing Services ran a Scavenger Hunt challenge at their National Manufacturing Day event back in September. A huge well done to Raheem, one of our Year 12 Product Design students, who answered the most questions correctly.

Pictured, presenting Raheem with his prize - a Lenovo tablet - are Freya Taylor, marketing manager and organiser of #NMD2025, and Sam Sleight from Made in Yorkshire, who kindly donated the prize. The event was a fantastic opportunity to inspire the next generation about the world of manufacturing - and it was great to see so many enthusiastic young people taking part!



## Be Inspired Programme



We had a fantastic session for our 'Be Inspired' programme in November, thanks to former student Alastair Rawes, who is in his final year as a Dyson Institute Engineering Degree Apprentice. Students found out about the Dyson's brand-new engineering degrees, about life and opportunities with such an interesting and forward looking company and about his exciting recent placement in Singapore. Alastair shared how to best navigate the recruitment process and the students came away with lots of information about what they can be doing now to make themselves stand out as future applicants! Huge thanks to Alastair for coming all the way from Wiltshire to see us and to Dyson for their support!



## Year 12—Tenpin Bowling Evening

Y12s enjoyed a fun after-school bowling session on 11<sup>th</sup> November, challenging staff for the highest scores and the best techniques! It was a great way to get to know each other and have some enjoyable down-time!



## Pumpkin Carving Challenge



A 6<sup>th</sup> form Form Challenge where each form had a pumpkin to carve. We had a spooky judging session and the winners were Iris, Wiktorina and Ritika.





# GCHQ National Language Competition

### GCHQ National Language Competition

From 17th-21st November 2025, 6 teams of Year 9 students took part in this national competition in an attempt to solve the most language-themed challenges within a 25 hour time-frame and win a visit to GCHQ in Cheltenham. The points totals and rankings of our teams were as follows:

<b>1</b>	Reflective Lizard	6290
<b>2</b>	Bold Crab	5085
<b>3</b>	Stylish Firefly	4115
<b>4</b>	Zippy Zebra	3080
<b>5</b>	Knowledgeable Snake	1840
<b>6</b>	Rare Hyena	1690

Well done to all those who participated especially to Kittie Banasko, Hana Zahid, Ariana Hewage and Safiyah Adeel who made up our top performing team, *Reflective Lizard*.

Anna Hazelton



# Chess Success!

## School Chess Teams

The School's two Chess teams made their way through to the second round of the National Chess Championships with a comprehensive win in round one:



- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Sri Sasi       | Ibrahim Ahmed  |
| Alex Burke     | Amaan Siddiqui |
| Awen Gitay     | Noah Ramsden   |
| Aaryan Butt    | Yusuf Basharat |
| Thomas Howells | Raffi Sefen    |
| Shaheer Ahmed  | Harris Rana    |



The proud father of Sri, a year 8 student of Queen's House, has sent us the following account of his success:

*I'm happy to share that Sri had a fantastic chess tournament over the weekend in Sheffield. He won **first prize** at the **3rd Sheffield Chess International**, finishing **unbeaten** in the 5-round event, securing **first place with 4.5 points**, and earning a **cash prize of £500**.*

*This was a highly competitive tournament featuring many strong and experienced players. Despite starting with a **ranking of 16**, Sri displayed remarkable consistency, focus, and determination throughout the event. His strong opening rounds, combined with confident middle-game strategies, helped him build momentum as the tournament progressed.*

*Sri's performance was truly inspiring, he not only outperformed higher-ranked opponents but also demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and composure under pressure. He finished the tournament in style, and we are all extremely proud of him.*

Congratulations go to Sri and to all our students' excellent achievement.





# A Fond Farewell

## End of Mocks 2025

November saw the GCSE and A Level students take their mock exams, with all the students working hard to achieve good results with the encouragement of their teachers.

The School's intrepid team of invigilators, affectionately known as *The Headless Chickens*, once again proved their services invaluable.

These are the last exams for Sally Thristan, the School's Exams Officer, who is leaving for pastures new and whose excellence (including her legendary 100% exam board inspections!), unflinching courage and natural kindness along with her great sense of humour, have been the hallmark of a 24 year long career at the School.

Emma Haig, Assistant SENCo and Exam Access Arrangement Manager, will be flying solo as 'Head Chicken Honcho' until our new Exams Officer starts.

We wish Sally every happiness in her new ventures!



## Blue Peter badge



Hana Akhtar, who is in 9C, applied for the BBC Blue Peter Book Badge over the Autumn break and has now received it.

Designed by world-renowned illustrator, Quentin Blake, this badge is awarded to children aged 5-15 who send in their thoughts on a book, draw a character or scene and share which other books and writers they love.

Here is a snippet from Hana's application, reviewing the book *I Must Betray You* by Ruta Sepetys:

"*I Must Betray You* follows Cristian Florescu, a 17-year-old living in Communist Romania under constant surveillance, shortages, and fear. When he is blackmailed by the secret police to inform on others, Cristian must choose between betraying those he loves or risking his life. As Romania edges toward revolution, he learns the power of trust, love, and quiet courage. Despite suffering and oppression, Cristian and his friends remain resilient, proving that even in the darkest times, kindness and hope can survive."





# Recommended Christmas Reads



## KS3



**Chasing Vermeer** By Blue Balliett

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra Andalee and Calder Pillay combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.



**George's Secret Key to the Universe**

By Lucy & Stephen Hawking

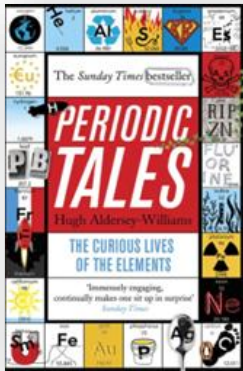
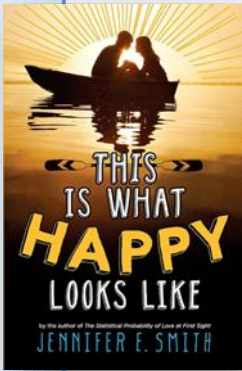
George's pet pig breaks through the fence into the garden next door - introducing him to his new neighbours: the scientist, Eric, his daughter, Annie, and a super-intelligent computer called Cosmos.

And from that moment George's life will never be the same again, for Cosmos can open a portal to any point in outer space . . .

## KS4

**This Is What Happy Looks Like** By Jennifer E Smith

A humorous and heartwarming novel about small towns, big love and mistaken email identity. When teenage movie star Graham Larkin accidentally sends small town girl Ellie O'Neill an email about his pet pig, the two seventeen-year-olds strike up a witty and unforgettable correspondence, discussing everything under the sun, except for their names or backgrounds. out that Ellie's Maine hometown is the perfect location for his latest film, and he decides to take their relationship from online to in-person. But can a star as famous as Graham really start a relationship with an ordinary girl like Ellie? And why does Ellie want to avoid the media's spotlight at all costs?



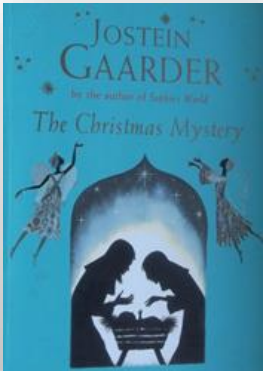
**Periodic Tales**

By Hugh Aldersey-Williams

Everything in the universe is made of them, including you. Like you, the elements have personalities, attitudes, talents, shortcomings, stories rich with meaning.

Here you'll meet iron that rains from the heavens and noble gases that light the way to vice. You'll learn how lead can tell your future while zinc may one day line your coffin. You'll

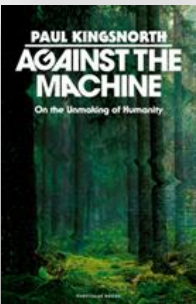
## Adult



**"The Christmas Mystery"**

By Jostein Gaarder

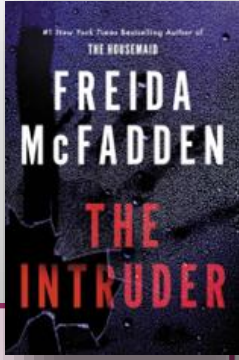
Hidden in the corner of a dusty old bookshop, Joachim discovers a handmade Advent calendar and begs his father to let him take it home. He next morning, when he opens the calendar's first door, out falls a tightly folded piece of paper: the first instalment of a magical story about a young girl named Elisabet. Little by little these pieces tell the girl's story, and as we learn what happened to her, another story is revealed - that of the strange old man who made the calendar...



**Against the Machine** By Paul Kingsnorth

An account of the technological-cultural matrix enveloping all of us. With insight into the spiritual and economic roots of techno-capitalism, Kingsnorth reveals how the Machine, in the name of progress, has choked Western civilization, is destroying the Earth itself, and is reshaping us in its image. From the First Industrial Revolution to the rise of artificial intelligence, he shows how the hollowing out of humanity has been a long game—and how your very soul is at stake.

It takes effort to remain truly human in the age of the Machine. Here Kingsnorth reminds us what humanity requires: a healthy suspicion of entrenched power; connection to land, nature and heritage; and a deep attention to matters of the spirit.



**The Intruder**

By Frieda McFadden

A taut psychological thriller about endurance and desperation, exploring how far one girl will go to save herself— and the repercussions of survival at any cost...



# ... MUSIC NEWS ... MUSIC NEWS ...

## ABRSM exams

At the time of writing, the following students are due to be undertaking grade examinations within school. We will share



First name	Last name	Instrument	Grade
Isobel	Anderson	Alto Saxophone	3
William	Bell	Piano	6
Noah	Gee	Piano	3
Sai Venkat	Gnanasakthi	Piano	1
Seth	Harford	Piano	3
Reuben	Hayre	Piano	1
Elijah	Hill	Alto Saxophone	3
Alice	Hobson	Piano	5
Riya	Kanetkar	Singing	3
Sohan	Kodidasu	Piano	4
Jingzhi	Lou	Piano	1
Ata	Ogutu	Piano	1
Andiya	Qarany	Piano	2
Duwa	Rehman	Piano	1
Oscar	Richardson-Horn	Piano	2
Harrison	Ricketts	Piano	2
Prithiv Jith	Shiva Deep	Piano	6
Stanley	Stuart	Piano	4
Sofia	Swales	Piano	1

## Instrumental lessons in school

It is great to see so many students accessing our instrumental lessons in school. We have nearly doubled the number of students taking instrumental lessons in school, in the last five years. 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 from the image on the left...




# ... MUSIC NEWS ... MUSIC NEWS ...



## Winter Fayre

On Saturday 29th November, our school was transformed into a festive wonderland as we hosted our much-anticipated Winter Fayre. The event was a fantastic success, welcoming students, staff, families, and members of the local community to enjoy a day filled with seasonal sights, sounds, and delicious festive treats.

Live music was a true highlight of the day, creating a joyful and welcoming atmosphere throughout the school. Our brass group, featuring Sam Cooper, Ben Cooper and Art Watson, performed alongside Mrs Callaghan and delighted visitors with a selection of well-loved Christmas carols and festive favourites, bringing an extra sparkle to the celebrations.

As guests browsed the many stalls, they were also treated to beautiful background music from our talented solo pianists. Eliza Ravat, Samara Ravat, Kamissa Kouadio, Prithiv Jith Shiva Deep, Evelyn Strong, David Nimmo, Oscar Richardson-Horn, Noah Gee, and Raphael Aghahowa all performed with great skill and confidence, their performances adding warmth and charm to an already magical occasion.



## Piano Festival

This year, we decided to reposition the Piano Festival in the School Calendar. Please see below for details. If your child would like to be involved please sign them up by using the QR code or link below...

[Piano Festival Jan 2026! – Fill in form](#)

**CROSSLEY HEATH PIANO FESTIVAL 2026**

4 days of music filled corridors  
12-15<sup>th</sup> January.  
Culminating in an evening concert with special guest performances.

Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2026  
6:45pm  
(Doors open at 6.30pm)  
Main Hall

Tickets for the concert are now live on parent pay £5.

Refreshments will be available on the night.

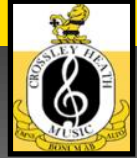
**PIANO FESTIVAL 2026**  
Piano Festival Jan 2026!

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6:45pm  
(Doors open 6.30pm)  
Main Hall

Tickets for the concert are now live on parent pay £5.

Refreshments will be available on the night.



**Ravenscliffe**

As part of our continued commitment to building strong musical links with local schools, The Crossley Heath Band recently visited Ravenscliffe School to share some festive cheer through a special Christmas performance. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for students from both schools to come together and celebrate the season through the shared language of music.

Led by Mrs Callaghan, The Crossley Heath Band presented a lively and engaging programme that was warmly received by students and staff at Ravenscliffe. The performance featured a selection of festive favourites, including *The Christmas Song* and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, which quickly captured the audience's attention and filled the room with seasonal cheer.

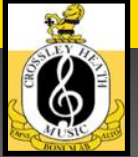
A particularly special moment in the concert came when one of the Ravenscliffe students took to the podium to conduct the band, an experience that was enjoyed by both the conductor and performers alike and perfectly reflected the collaborative spirit of the visit.

The band has grown significantly since last year, with a noticeably larger ensemble and an expanded percussion section adding depth, energy, and excitement to the performance. This growth is a testament to the enthusiasm and commitment of our musicians and the continued success of the ensemble.

The concert ended on a high with an interactive sing-along to *Feliz Navidad*, with Ravenscliffe students enthusiastically joining in by clapping, tapping, and shaking instruments, creating a joyful and inclusive atmosphere.

We are delighted with the success of this visit and look forward to continuing our partnership with Ravenscliffe School. This performance marks another positive step in what we hope will be a lasting and rewarding musical collaboration for years to come.





## Prizegiving

Our Annual Prizegiving Ceremony was a memorable evening celebrating the achievements of our Year 11 and Year 13 students from the previous academic year, recognising not only academic success but also the outstanding musical talent within our school community. The ceremony was enriched by a varied and high-quality musical programme that created an atmosphere of pride and celebration throughout the evening.

The event opened with an energetic performance from the brass group, who set a bold and ceremonial tone with *Le trombe* by Banchieri. This rousing opening provided a fitting start to the evening's celebrations.



The school choir followed with a warm and uplifting performance of *A Million Dreams* by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul (arranged by R Emerson), bringing optimism and joy to the occasion.



A highlight of the programme was a solo performance from Grace Hobson on alto saxophone. Grace performed the second movement (*Romance*) from Ronald Binge's *Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Piano*, delivering an expressive and sensitive performance that demonstrated her musical maturity.

The audience was also treated to a powerful vocal solo from Pragma Surabhi, who performed *The Wizard and I* by Stephen Schwartz with confidence and emotion, adding a dramatic moment to the evening.

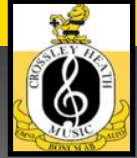


Also, the staff choir, which is beginning to increase in numbers, took to the stage to perform a moving rendition of the traditional *Parting Glass* in an arrangement by R Johnson, followed by an uplifting performance of *Dreaming of You* by James Skelly (arranged by J Alexander).

With such a rich and diverse range of performances, this year's Prizegiving Ceremony truly celebrated both academic achievement and the vibrant musical life that continues to thrive within our school community.




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






Exciting News!

After the success of 'Oliver Jr' which was our first school production in nine years, we are excited to announce the upcoming performance of Matilda Jr which will be happening on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July!

The Crossley Heath School  
PRESENTS



ROALD DAHL'S  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL  
JR.

**8-9 July 2026**  
THE CROSSLEY HEATH SCHOOL  
Savile Park, Halifax, HX3 0HG  
Tel: (01422) 360272 email: [admin@crossleyheath.org.uk](mailto:admin@crossleyheath.org.uk) [www.crossleyheath.org.uk](http://www.crossleyheath.org.uk)

Book by  
**DENNIS KELLY**

Roald Dahl's *Matilda The Musical JR.*  
is presented through special arrangement with  
and all authorized materials are supplied by  
Music Theatre International, New York, NY  
(212) 541-4884 [mtishows.com](http://mtishows.com)

Music & Lyrics by  
**TIM MINCHIN**

# ... MUSIC NEWS ... MUSIC NEWS ...



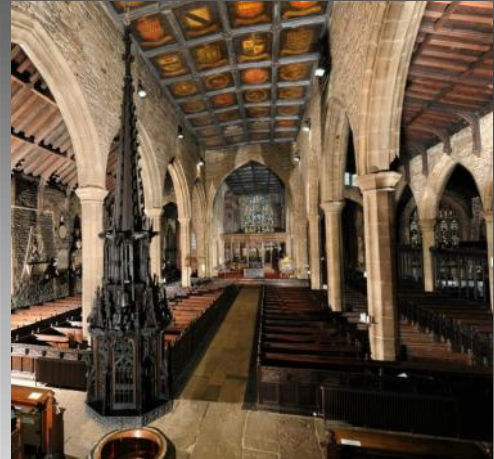
## Halifax Minster

At the time of writing, we are very much looking forward to returning to Halifax Minster for our much-anticipated Traditional Carol Service. This much-loved festive event promises to be a special evening of music in a beautiful setting, bringing our school community together to celebrate the season.

The service will feature performances from The Crossley Heath Band, along with the Choir, Brass Group, String Group, Classical Guitar Ensemble, and the Staff Choir, creating a rich and varied programme of festive music. With such a wide range of ensembles involved, the evening is set to be a wonderful showcase of the musical talent within our school.

We are also pleased to be able to take our Year 7–9 students to Halifax Minster on the final day of term for a celebration for all. This will provide a meaningful opportunity for younger students to experience this special setting and enjoy a shared moment of reflection and celebration as the term draws to a close.

We look forward to sharing this long-standing tradition with our school community once again and spreading festive cheer in such a memorable and inspiring venue.



## Royal Northern College of Music Opportunity

We are pleased to be offering our string players the opportunity to take part in a String Workshop led by tutors from the Royal Northern College of Music. This exciting and inspiring workshop will be hosted at Crompton House School, Oldham, and provides students with the chance to work with specialist musicians from one of the UK's leading conservatoires.

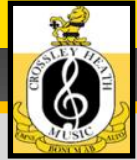
The workshop will focus on developing ensemble and performance skills and is a fantastic opportunity for young string players to broaden their musical experience.

There is a cost of £14 per student, which covers the workshop and associated fees. Payment is available via ParentPay, and must be made by Friday 20th December to secure a place. Parents and carers of students who play string instruments are encouraged to sign up promptly, as places are limited.

For further information, please contact Mr R Nimmo, Head of Music.



# ... MUSIC NEWS ... MUSIC NEWS ...



## Year 7 Sing with Band Performance

The Music Department was delighted to welcome parents and carers to the first-ever Year 7 “Sing with the Band” Concert, which proved to be a hugely successful and enjoyable evening of music-making.



With over 65 students taking part and an audience of approximately 120, the concert was a wonderful celebration of music at The Crossley Heath School and a fantastic opportunity to welcome Year 7 families into the school community. For many parents, this was the first time they had been invited into school since their child started in Year 7, making the event particularly special.

All participating Year 7 students performed with great enthusiasm and confidence, singing alongside the school band and choir. The combined performances included *Circle of Life* and *Can You Feel the Love Tonight*, beautifully supported by the choir, while Year 7 students also impressed the audience with their energetic performance of *Cruella De Vil*.

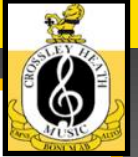
The Crossley Heath Band showcased their versatility and musicianship with a lively programme including *The Simpsons*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and *Funky Town*, which were met with enthusiastic applause from the audience.



The evening not only highlighted the hard work and commitment of our young musicians, but also demonstrated the strong sense of community and collaboration within the Music Department. As the first event of its kind, the concert set an exciting precedent for future Year 7 musical opportunities.

We are extremely proud of all the students involved and would like to thank staff, parents, and performers for contributing to such a positive and successful event. We look forward to building on this momentum as we continue to promote musical opportunities and participation across the school.





## Royal Albert Hall - Schools Prom 2025

Forty members of our school band recently enjoyed an unforgettable trip to London, where they performed at the world-famous Royal Albert Hall as part of the Massed Orchestra for the Schools Prom 2025, organised by Music for Youth.

The highlight of the trip was stepping onto the iconic stage of the Royal Albert Hall. Performing alongside hundreds of young musicians from across the country, our students rose to the occasion with confidence and professionalism. The power and excitement of playing as part of such a large orchestra in such a prestigious venue made the experience truly memorable and a proud moment for the school.

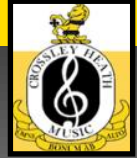
The group stayed overnight in London, making the most of their time in the capital. A river cruise along the Thames offered stunning views of famous landmarks, including the Houses of Parliament, Tower Bridge and the London Eye, and students also enjoyed London sightseeing around the city.

Another highlight was attending a matinee performance of *The Lion King* in the West End. The impressive costumes, music and staging captivated the audience and added to an already exciting itinerary.

Following this incredible experience, the band will be looking to build on their success by entering the Music for Youth Regional Festival in March in Huddersfield. This will provide another valuable opportunity for students to develop their performance skills and showcase their musical talent.



# ... MUSIC NEWS ... MUSIC NEWS ...



Royal Albert Hall—Schools Prom 2025 continued ....



# ... MUSIC NEWS ... MUSIC NEWS ...



## St Augustine's Christmas Performance

A mini choir made up of Year 9 and 10 students recently visited St Augustine's Centre in Halifax to perform as part of the centre's Christmas story celebration. The students shared a selection of seasonal music, helping to bring the story to life and adding warmth and joy to the occasion for everyone present. Their performance was warmly received by members of the community, creating a special moment of connection and celebration during the festive season. St Augustine's Centre plays a vital role in Halifax, offering support, friendship and practical help to people who are seeking sanctuary, experiencing homelessness, or facing poverty and social isolation. The centre provides a safe and welcoming space, along with access to advice, activities and opportunities that help build dignity, confidence and community.

This visit is another example of how the school, and the music department, supports the important work happening within the local community. By giving students opportunities to perform beyond the school environment, the department encourages young people to use their talents for positive impact, developing empathy, confidence and an understanding of how music can bring people together and support organisations making a real difference.



**Music Mark** The Music Mark of Recognition for Ambition and Quality is an award given to schools by Music Mark, a UK association for music education. It recognises schools that have a leading, consistent commitment to high-quality music education and actively collaborate with local music services. We are delighted to have been recognised in this way.





# Visual Arts Department



## A Busy and Creative Term in the Visual Arts Department

As always, the Visual Arts Department has been exceptionally busy throughout the autumn and winter terms, with students embracing creativity across a wide range of inspiring projects and events.

### Celebrating Diwali

Our annual Diwali workshops were a great success. Students had the opportunity to create their own clay flower lamps and paper marigold flowers, while also contributing feathers to our magnificent giant peacock. This collaborative artwork was created by ITT student Sami Rehman and became a vibrant focal point of the celebrations.



### Remembrance Day Dress

This year, our Year 10 GCSE Textiles students showcased their creativity and craftsmanship by producing a one-of-a-kind Remembrance Day gown. The dress featured beautifully handmade poppies, created by students from our lunchtime art clubs, making it a truly meaningful and collaborative piece.





### House Christmas Decoration Competition

For the first time, Crossley Heath proudly had its own Christmas tree displayed at the Halifax Minster Christmas Tree Festival. To celebrate this exciting new tradition, students were invited to design and create decorations inspired by our Crossley Heath Houses. While Savile House were crowned overall winners, every entry was imaginative and beautifully crafted.



Please scan the QR code to watch a behind-the-scenes "making-of" video showcasing how our Visual Arts Department lovingly creates our personalised Christmas message baubles.



### Sponsored Baubles

Alongside handmade baubles created by our students, parents, families, and alumni were invited to sponsor a bespoke Christmas decoration. Each ornament featured a personalised message and was lovingly handmade by our very own Mrs Tomlinson, adding a special community touch to the festivities.





# Visual Arts Department

## Artsmark Bid

Mrs Henson and Mr Hirst recently travelled to the vibrant city of Manchester to take part in Module 2 planning as part of our ongoing journey towards securing the Artsmark Award. The day was spent exploring new ideas, strengthening our creative vision, and planning meaningful arts opportunities for all our pupils.

We look forward to bringing this inspiration back to school and continuing to place the arts at the very heart of our community.





# Canada Rugby Trip 2025

The first Crossley Heath long-haul tour was in 2000 when 50 boys visited Canada. October saw a return to this wonderful country to tour to re-establish a new era of senior rugby tours, when once again, 50 boys experienced the hospitality that Canadians are renowned for.

Flying via Amsterdam, the party touched down in Vancouver and met their first hosts at Bayside Rugby Club in Surrey, south of the city. The following day the U16 and U18 teams played their hosts as curtain raisers for the senior club game. Two dominant performances produced good wins for both teams and the after match celebrations provided a fun end to the afternoon before the boys headed home with their host families. The feedback about the boys' conduct was even more impressive than their display on the field and the squad received praise in abundance for their conduct and friendliness.

The following day saw a transfer to Vancouver Island by ferry. The party split between Shawnigan Lake School and Brentwood College School, one of our hosts way back in 2000. On the field the seniors had a very tough game and lost out on the last kick, a much discussed penalty, of the game to a team fielding 2 players who are already signed at Montpellier in France's Top 14! The U16 had it a little easier and after a spirited start from their hosts moved away in the second half and ended up comfortable winners. Off field, the parties met up in Victoria and after some sightseeing departed on a whale watch, seeing both humpback whales and Orcas amongst a wide range of marine life. Another traditional sightseeing experience, to see thousands of salmon spawning was missed out on as the fish had not yet started swim upstream but the older boys did get to walk up the Malahat Skywalk.

A return to the mainland saw us hosted by Collingwood School. After a trip to Granville Island the party was treated to a wonderful lunch at a local restaurant by the ever-generous David Briggs before meeting their hosts in 2 games at Klahanie Park, the home of Capilano Rugby Club, the home of numerous Canada international players. Two close games produced strong displays from both teams and two wins.

Our final hosts were St George's School who we have a long-standing tradition with. We first met in 2000 when we were well beaten, and since then believe that we have played each other approximately 15 times, which is some feat considering the 7,000 mile distance between us. Two wins were recorded and the Friendship Bill, a trophy which passes between the schools regardless of who wins was returned to Canada and will be brought back to us in March. A longer stay with hosts, the boys had all sorts of wonderful experiences of what Canada has to offer, including trips to various sports events like the Vancouver Canucks and Vancouver White caps matches as well as some more local matches.

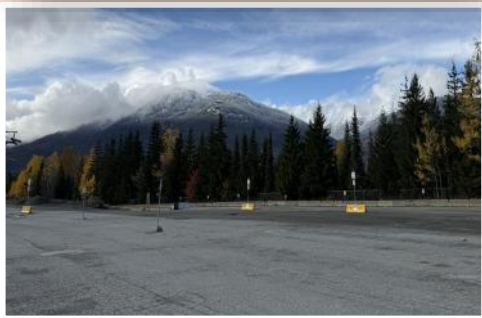
Throughout the tour the boys acquitted themselves exceptionally well on and off the field and were great ambassadors for Crossley Heath. They were praised throughout the trip by hosts, members of the public and staff at attractions they visited. Hopefully, as with that first trip in 2000, many of the boys have made new friends and contacts and will stay in contact with them for many years to come. Canada cannot be recommended highly enough as a place to tour and the people are so friendly and there is so much to see, with beautiful scenery everywhere.



# ... SPORTS NEWS ... SPORTS NEWS ...



## Canada Rugby Trip *continued* ....



# ... SPORTS NEWS ... SPORTS NEWS ...

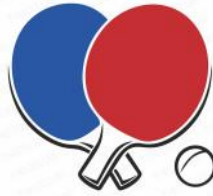


### TABLE TENNIS

West Yorkshire Boys  
Champions  
West Yorkshire Girls  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place



Well done to the U16 Table Tennis team who have retained their title as West Yorkshire champions with wins against Bradford Grammar, Beckfoot and Trinity. They now compete in the North-East regionals in January 2026.



Our U16 girls team, consisting of Safiya, Clara and Mei put on some great performances in the West Yorkshire teams tournament, in what turned out to be a well fought and closely contested competition. Our girls did us proud, finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall just behind Leeds Grammar and Trinity Leeds, but ahead of Bradford Grammar .

### NETBALL

Girls Y8 A and B Squads

The year 8 A and B squads have played some great matches so far this year, with wins against Ryburn and Brooksbank Schools and a draw against North Halifax. It is great to see so many girls attend netball club and we look forward to seeing the girls improve during the rest of the season.



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## NETBALL Girls Y9



The Year 9 Girls Netball Team have gone undefeated since September with wins against North Halifax, Rastrick, Brighouse and Ryburn. The team look set for a great year and hope to continue this into 2026 and qualify for the End of Year Finals.

## NETBALL Girls Y10



The Year 10 Netball team have qualified for the End of Year Finals where they will face Rastrick, attempting to retain their title they successfully won last year.

## NETBALL Girls Y11



The Year 11 Netball Team were Runners-up in the Calderdale competition with excellent performances across all matches. They also entered the U16 West Yorkshire Competition and secured wins against Beckfoot and GSAL in a very high standard competition.

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## INTERHOUSE SWIMMING GALA

Our annual swimming gala was held for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running at Huddersfield Pool and turned out to be another exciting and close Event. There were some fantastic performances across all the age groups and it was great to see so many students represent their Houses, cheered on by our enthusiastic year 7 students, who came down to spectate. Several records were broken, these included:

Seth Hodder -Int boys backstroke  
Henry Priestly -Int boys butterfly

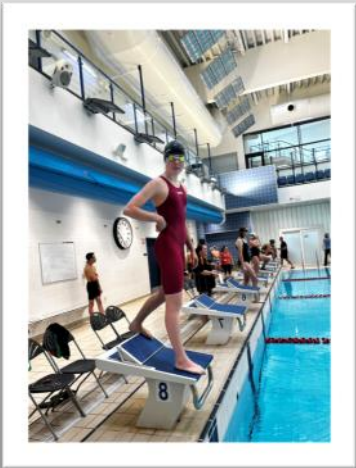
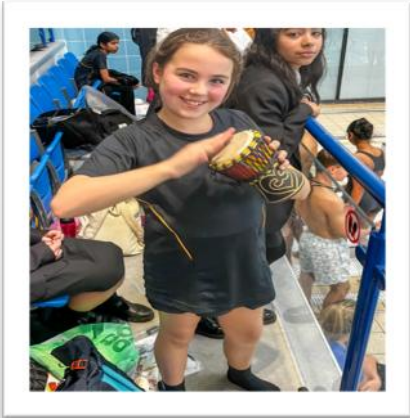
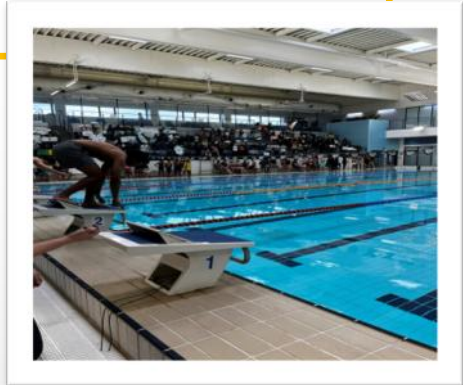
Harriet Ayres -Senior girls butterfly and Int girls breaststroke.

The competition was so close, that right up to the final relays, there was only one point between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. However, Kings stormed ahead in both the Open male and female relays, which resulted in them winning comfortable overall.

Well done to all competitors who took part, demonstrating our school values of courage, excellence and resilience.

Overall results:

- 1<sup>st</sup> -Kings -140 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> -Queens - 127 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Porter -102 points
- 4<sup>th</sup> -Savile -90 points



## GIRLS' FOOTBALL

**Year 7 Football Match Report – Rastrick (First Ever Fixtures)**

In cold and challenging conditions, our Year 7 girls' football team travelled to Rastrick for their first ever competitive fixtures. Despite the weather and inevitable nerves, the team showed real character, determination, and impressive progression across both games.

**Game 1 – vs Rastrick (0-2)**

The opening match saw us face a strong Rastrick side. There were moments of excellent play, with some confident passing and committed tackles, but at times we struggled to keep our shape and hold positions, which allowed Rastrick space to attack. Although the girls worked incredibly hard, the hosts took their chances well, and the game finished 2-0. Despite the result, there were plenty of positives to build on for the rest of the afternoon.

**Game 2 – vs Hipperholme Grammar (1-0 Win)**

The team stepped back onto the pitch with noticeably more confidence and organisation. Their positioning improved significantly, and they pressed the ball with real purpose. This renewed energy paid off when Amelia scored a well-deserved goal after linking up brilliantly with Gurchandeeep.

At the back, Anna and Abigail were outstanding, reading the game well and making important interceptions to break up Hipperholme's attacks. In goal, Abigail D grew in confidence with every save she made, helping secure a clean sheet in the second game.

**Player of the Match – Amelia**



# Girls Senior Dubai Tour : Been There, Dune That

In November, 35 girls embarked on an unforgettable sports tour to Dubai, representing our school in both netball and football. A trip not only about sports, but also about culture and unity.

After landing, the girls settled in immediately, enjoying Dubai's world-class facilities and pools. Although the first football match of the tour demanded an early wake-up, which wasn't exactly popular with the teens, the spirits were soon lifted with a hard-earned victory. Netball matches followed, setting the tone for a week of determination and teamwork.

Beyond the sport, there was the desert safari, which involved camel rides, cultural dances, and watching Dubai's fierce red sunset over the dunes. While Mrs Griggs may have found the undulating dunes less appealing, the students savoured every moment. Each day began with a cracking breakfast (pancakes and honey proving especially popular!), but nothing could top the opportunity to sample authentic Emirati cuisine during the cultural lunch at SMCCU, where girls also learnt about the traditions.

Iconic landmarks were also explored. The breathtaking Sheikh Zayed mosque, where we donned traditional attire and marvelled at the intricacy adorning the mosque's architecture. The F1 Yas Marine circuit, the very track that played host to this year's championship decider, sparked excitement among us Formula 1 enthusiasts as well as a traditional abra boat ride across the Dubai Creek, giving us an insight into the city's history. Of course, the trip wouldn't be complete without a visit to the Burj Khalifa, some well-deserved retail therapy at a plethora of malls and a splash of fun at the YAS Waterworld park.

This tour was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity; the growth witnessed in a week was incredible. We truly represented the motto – "work hard, play hard" We thank everyone who made this trip happen!

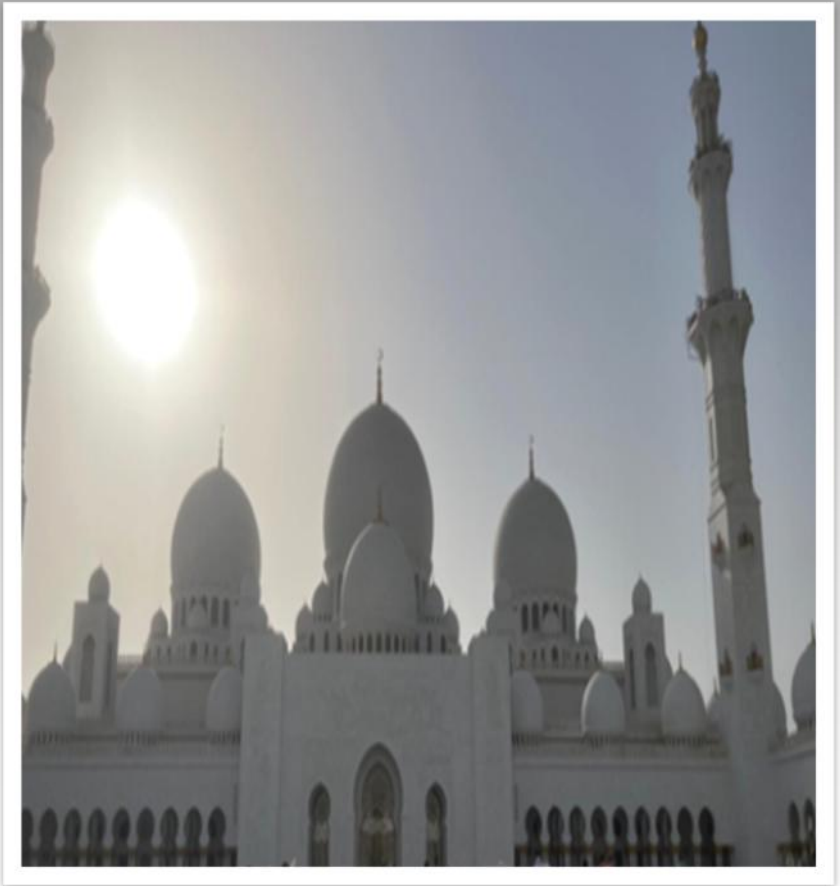
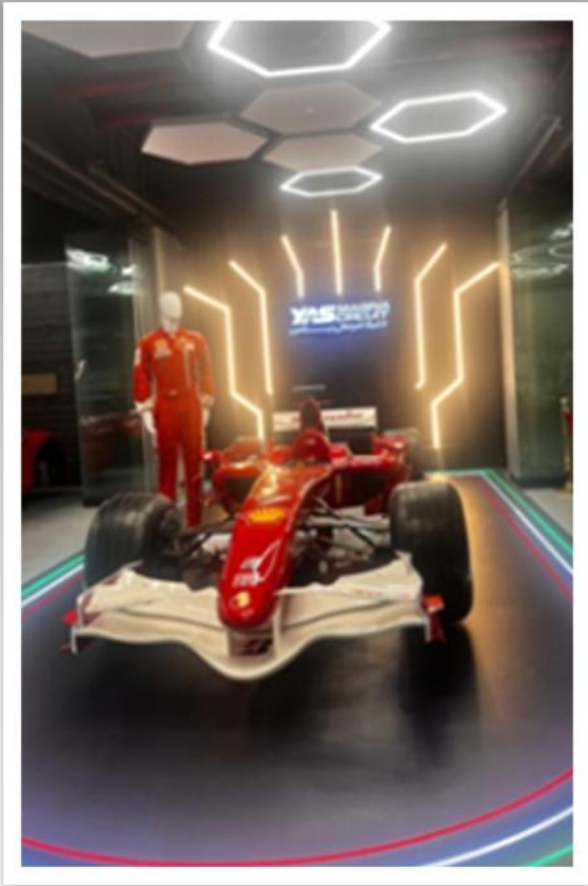
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## Girls Senior Dubai Tour : Been There, Done That continued ....



## Term Dates

### 2026 Spring Term

**Re-open:** Monday 5 January

**Closes Half Term:** Friday 13 February

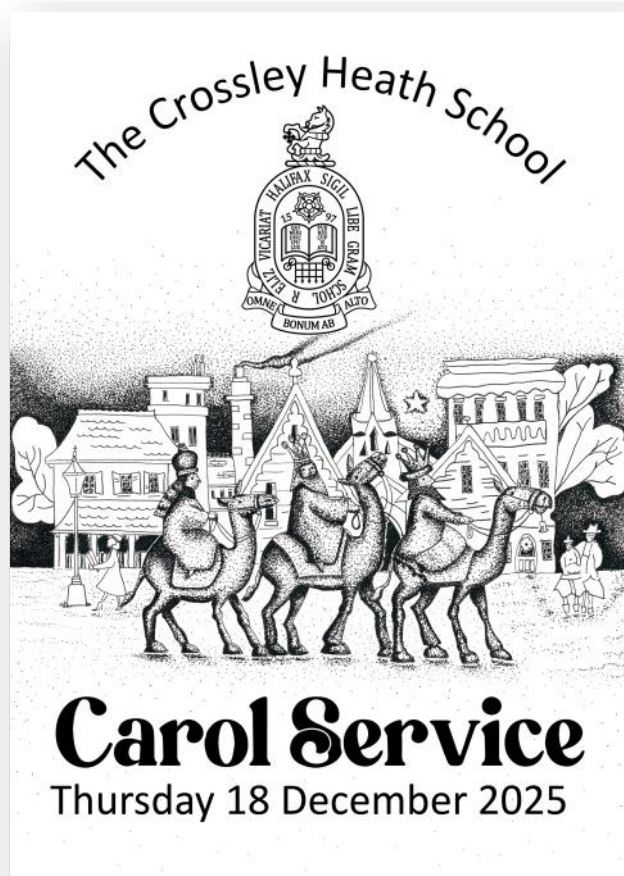
**Re-open:** Monday 23 February

**Inset Day (School closed to students):** Friday 20 March (Eid)

**Closes End of Term:** Friday 27 March

## Jan / Feb

5 Jan	School re-opens
5	CHPTA Meeting 7.00pm
12-15	Piano Festival
13	Y12 Academic Review Meetings
14	In-year transfer tests (pm only)
14	Student Leadership Group Meeting
15	Piano Concert
19	Y9 SLT Options Interviews week
21	Maths Challenge
21	Y11 Parents/Carers' Evening in-person
23	Music Workshop and Evening Concert
27	KS3 Science Fair
28	Maths Challenge
28	Y13 Academic Review Meetings
29	Y8 HPV vaccinations
1 Feb-4	Y11 Computer Science Trip
3	Y11 Ensemble Performance (Music)
4	Inset Day (school closed to students)
4	CHPTA Meeting 7.00pm
5	Y12 Advocacy Workshop
6	House Drama Heats
9	National Apprentice Week
10	Y9 Parents'/Carers' Parents & Options Evening in-person
11	House Drama Final
13	School closes for half term
13-17	Y13 New York Trip
17	Ramadan starts
23	School re-opens
26	Student Leadership Group Meeting
26	Y10 Parents'/Carers' Evening (ABCD) Schoolcloud
27	Y9 Options deadline
27-28	Y11 Revision Retreat



Carol Concert Cover by Lili Danielson



Christmas Celebration Cover by Elijah Hill 9A