

DISPATCHES

The Crossley Heath School News



Summer Term 2026



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Head Teacher's Journal

It has been a wonderful school year with so much to be thankful for and so much to look forward to in the new school year to come.



Thank you to our students for:

- Your kindness to promote happiness, speak with care, celebrate diversity and fundraise to support those less fortunate than us.
- Your courage to represent the school in sports, performing arts, academic competitions, speeches and so much more.
- Your excellence in being role models as House Captains, mentors, student leaders and showing pride in your uniform, books and school.



KINDNESS



COURAGE



EXCELLENCE



Head Teacher's Journal continued

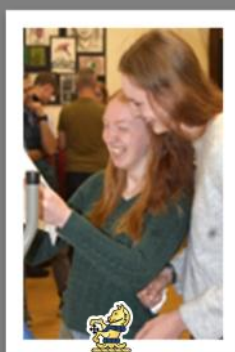
Thank you to all the older members of our Crossley Heath extended school family for supporting our students.

- To our staff thank you for every lesson planned, floor cleaned, book marked, meal cooked, relationship nurtured, computer fixed, school trip led, letter sent and extra-curricular opportunity supported.
- To our parents/carers and Trustees thank you for your commitment to attending school events, joining meetings, supporting fundraising and championing our school as we aim to offer all our children a truly excellent education.
- To our alumni and community, both as individuals and groups like the Crossley Family & Foundation, Old Crossleyans' Association and Heath Old Boys, thank you for keeping our school heritage alive, offering work experience placements, sponsorship, awards, scholarships, kind donations towards amazing facilities and career opportunities.



Thanks to all these efforts across our Crossley Heath family we are seeing really positive impacts, such as:

- Our highest yet number of students wishing to join us aged 11 and aged 16 in our Sixth Form.
- Excellent attendance, in the Top 10% of similar schools across the country, with more students achieving 100% attendance than ever before.
- Already excellent exam results improving even further to keep us as Calderdale's highest achievers for attainment and progress.
- Twice as many students stating that they "Like school a lot" to keep us as Calderdale's happiest school in the annual school wellbeing survey.



KINDNESS



COURAGE



EXCELLENCE



Head Teacher's Journal *continued*



Yet, we always look forward to growing stronger tomorrow than we are today. Therefore, as we look towards the new academic year, here are the exciting developments coming our way:

- Our school building is being further transformed with refurbishment to update flooring, install a new lift and modernise a science laboratory.
- Our school perimeter is becoming even better safeguarded with a heritage style boundary fence and modern gates.
- Our technology is being further upgraded with new laptops, Mac computers for Music and modern AV media for our Sports Hall and Main Hall to further enhance event spaces.
- Our sports facilities are being transformed spectacularly, with massive thanks to our alumni champions, David and James, who having helped bring cricket nets back to the Arena are helping modernise the Fitness Suite and, amazingly, create a modern Astroturf sports pitch across the rear part of our school!

Our performing arts and sporting opportunities grow further with the launch of our Performing Arts and Sporting Excellence Programmes. For example, our Sixth Form Sporting Excellence Programme sees us partner with Leeds Beckett University and our talented alumni to offer an incredible two years of elite sporting development, with scholarships and masterclasses by sporting legends to support our students to be excellent scholars and excellent athletes.

Our students have really shone with success this year and the future looks even brighter. Have a wonderful summer and we really look forward to having all our school family back together again in September.

Dean Jones



KINDNESS



COURAGE



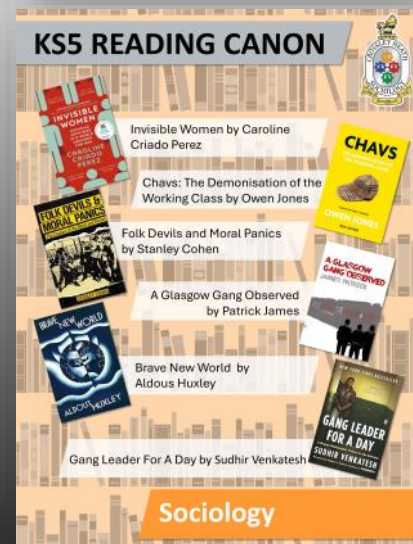
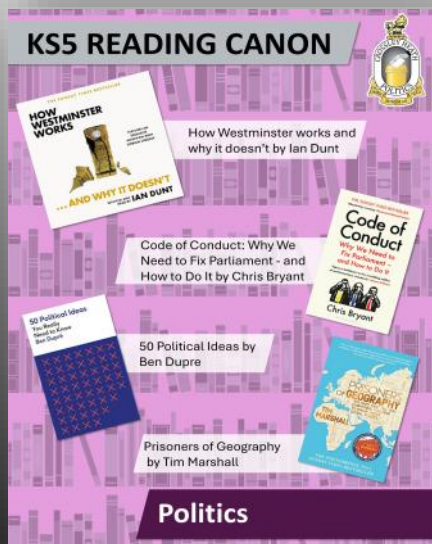
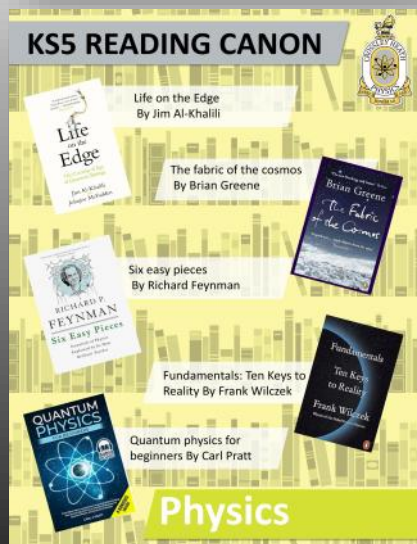
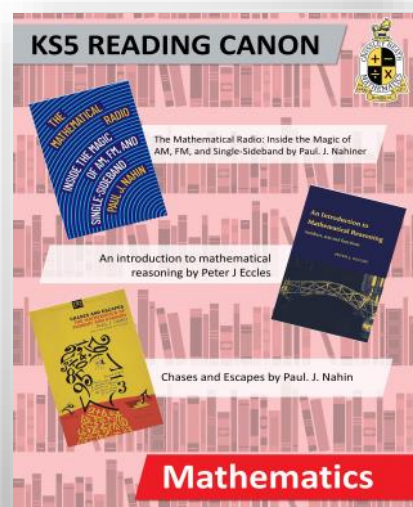
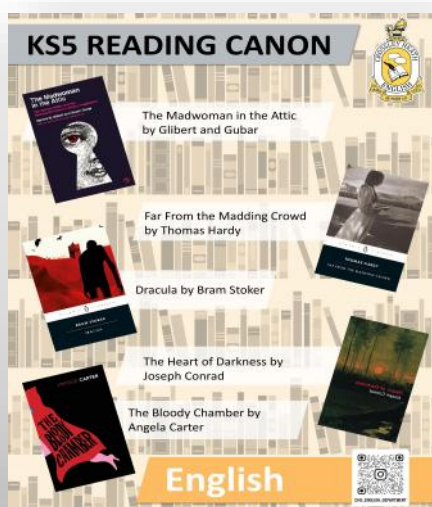
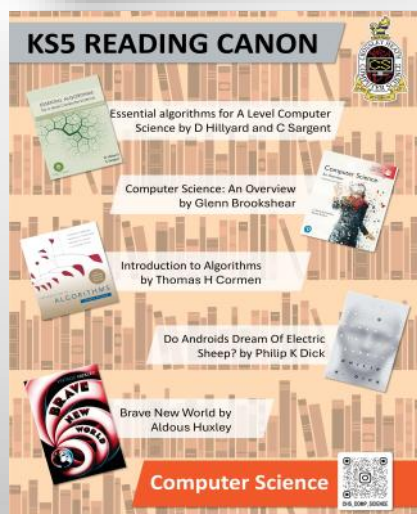
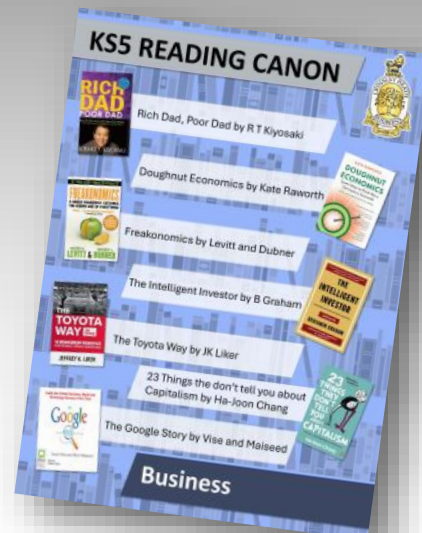
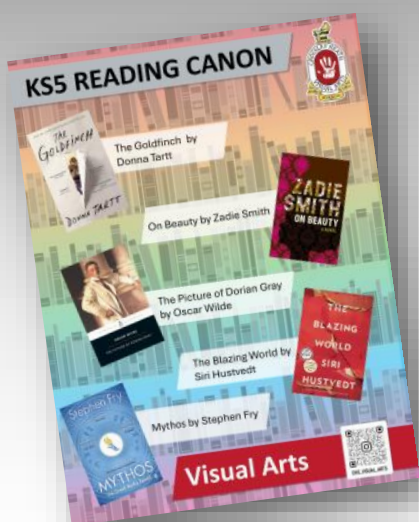
EXCELLENCE



KS5 Reading Canon

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.



Discover Your Voice Public Speaking Workshop



All of our newly-appointed Year 12 student leaders took part in a 2-hour Advanced Public Speaking workshop delivered by public speaking coach and expert, Thomas Skehan, from The English Speaking Union. The students discussed the importance of public speaking, the characteristics of effective public speaking and then practised their skills through a variety of games, activities and presentations. It will be exciting to see these students using and developing their oracy skills over the coming months in assemblies, lessons, presentations and events and as they embark upon their leadership roles.



U19 English Schools' Chess Championship Final

On Tuesday 23rd June, the Crossley Heath Chess Team - consisting of Sri, Alannah, Awen, Ben, Lewis and myself- travelled down to the University of Nottingham to play the u19 English Schools Chess Championship Finals.

The event consisted of a grueling 5 round tournament of classical, slow play chess over the Tuesday and Wednesday where 6-player teams are matched head-to-head against each other, with the team who wins the most matches after the 5 rounds taking the title.

Across the 5 rounds, Crossley Heath won two matches, drew 2 matches, and lost 1 match as a team, meaning that we placed joint 4th, or 9th overall out of around 25 schools due to unfortunate tiebreaks.

Over the course of the competition, there were strong individual performances from the whole team, and every player scored at least 1 point.

Unfortunately, our early loss in the 2nd round to a very strong London team meant we were never in the running for the title, but it was still overall an impressive result for the team, since we were at the event for the first time competing against many seasoned fee-paying school.

We hope to be back next year to build on our success!

I'd like to give the thanks of the whole team to Mr and Miss Irving for taking us to the overnight event in the extreme heat, and to Mr Davis for supporting the team throughout the year as well. Ben Cooper also deserves a mention as he is taking over as the captain from me next year.

Alex Burke





The Anthea Bell Prize

This year, students in our Year 12 German class took part in the *Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators*, a national translation competition run by the Queen's Translation Exchange at the University of Oxford.

The Anthea Bell Prize, named in honour of the celebrated Asterix translator, is an annual competition open to secondary school students. A record-breaking 25,000 school pupils from 532 schools across the UK took part in the 2026 competition, defying the national downturn in language learning. The prize, now in its sixth year, saw participation surge again this year, cementing its status as the largest creative translation competition for young people in the country.

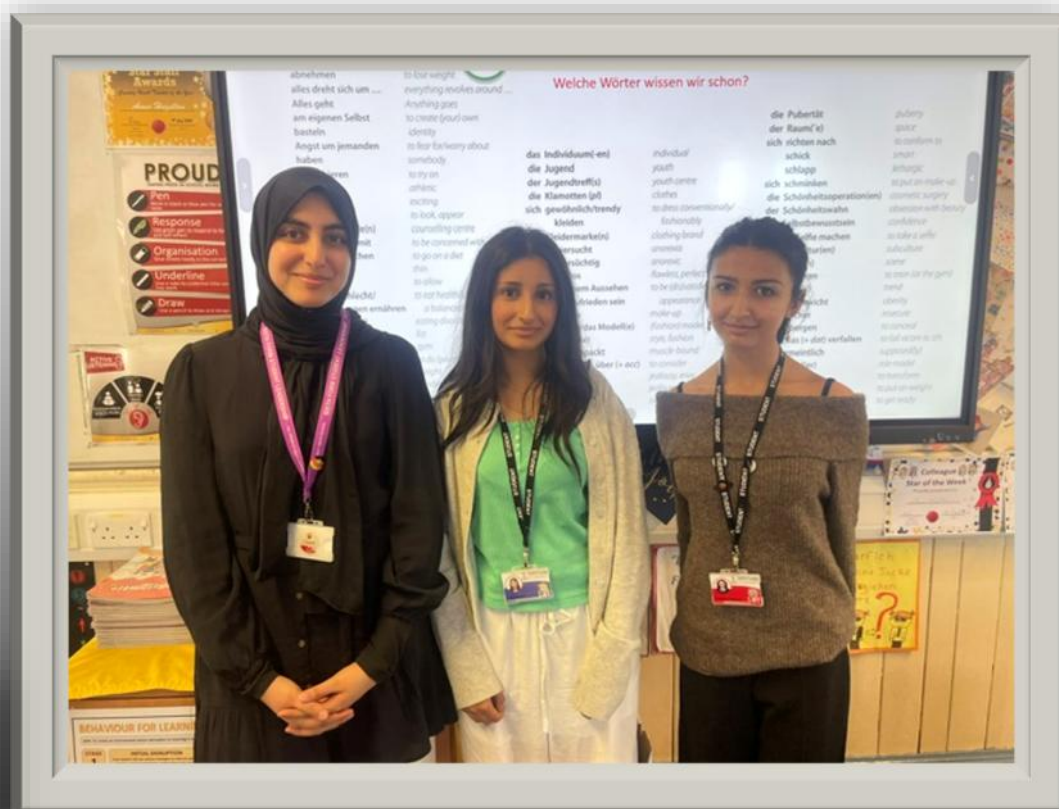
Hiba Majid was awarded commendation for German.

Schools taking part in the Anthea Bell Prize received free access to a suite of innovative classroom resources in six languages: French, German, Italian, Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish. Schools submitted thousands of student entries, over 5,400 of which were judged by a panel of renowned literary translators and Modern Languages students at the University of Oxford.

The surge in engagement comes as languages education faces significant challenges. A recent Duolingo-sponsored report noted that language learning is in 'catastrophic decline', yet that the skills attained while learning a language – the attributes of a 'linguistic mindset' – help young people to thrive in a global, AI-driven economy. The popularity of the Anthea Bell Prize indicates that creative, cultural content is the key to increasing uptake and attainment in languages.

Dr Charlotte Ryland, Director of QTE, said:

"The skills developed through translation – critical thinking, problem solving, empathy – set the rising generation up to thrive in our global economy. Our Anthea Bell Prize winners excel in all these skills, and I can't wait to see what they go on to do."



Maths Challenge 2026 Update

It's been a busy summer term with the UKMT Junior rounds and a team challenge being completed. All at the national level! There were some stand out performances that we would love to share with you!

The pictures to the right are of Ridhit (yr 8) and Dhruv (yr 7) who achieved the Best in School and Best in Year for the Junior kangaroo challenge.

Well done boys!!



The seven students below got through to this next stage of the competition.

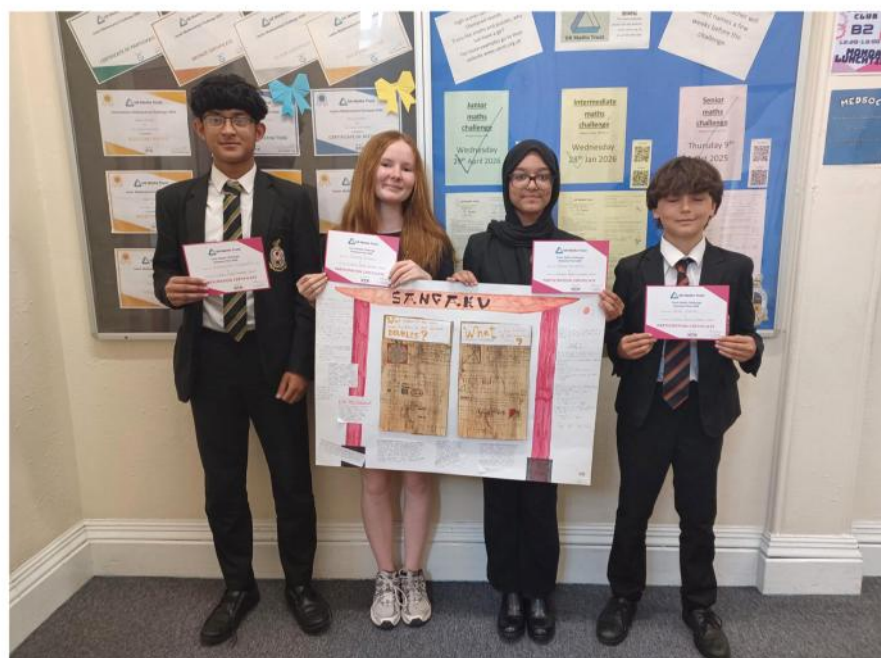
Noah Gee
Jasmine Illingworth-Lomas
Rehoboth Oladoke
Dhruv Singal
Ridhit Gupta
Teigan Jagger
Aidan Mohammed

Congratulations to them all for scoring highly in the first round and competition in the second round, especially the year 7s!

The team of four pictured to the right took part in the team challenge in Manchester on the 8th June. They came 27th out of 60 which is a great achievement as this is a national challenge.

They are pictured to the right with their poster (and came 16th out of 60). We have not reached the national final for many years and are really proud of these young mathematicians! We are excited to see how they get on in next years competitions!

Muhammed, Sienna, Sheza and Jesse.



Student Praise

Shortlisted for the John Locke Junior Essay Prize



The *John Locke Institute's Junior Essay Competition* is a prestigious academic writing contest for students aged 15 or under, which invites students to explore a wide range of challenging and interesting questions beyond the confines of the school curriculum.

It encourages young people to cultivate the characteristics that turn good students into great writers: independent thought, depth of knowledge, clear reasoning, critical analysis and persuasive style, exploring a wide range of challenging and interesting questions in seven subjects: Philosophy, Politics, Economics, History, Psychology, Theology and Law.

Jack Rainforth, of 9C, is not keen on writing essays and feels he needs to improve his English skills, so decided to enter this competition (with a bit of persuasion) as his 'skills section' in his DoE bronze, thinking it would help improve his writing skills. He could also do it in a subject he was interested in. He wrote an economics essay and wrote it in the same way he would write a debating speech (which he does like!)

He then had to do a 20 minute interview (to prove he understood his subject and references and didn't write it with A!!)

There were over 100, 000 entries worldwide this year and the top 17.5% have been short listed so he is really pleased. He will find out in October if he has been awarded a commendation or higher.

Summer Reading

As part of the **National Year of Reading**, we invited Angharad Hout, Calderdale Libraries' Library Officer Young People and Development, to give presentations to our KS3 and KS4 students about the array of books and services available for them from our local libraries.

Highlighting a variety of relevant books and links to online library resources, among them access to: the library catalogue; thousands of comics, graphic novels and manga titles and a digital library of audio-picture books for children in 100+ world languages, there is certainly much to discover and to make use of over the Summer break for all ages.



Simply use your Calderdale Library Card to enjoy all there is on offer!

More information can be found from Calderdale Libraries <https://calderdale.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/OPAC/HOME>

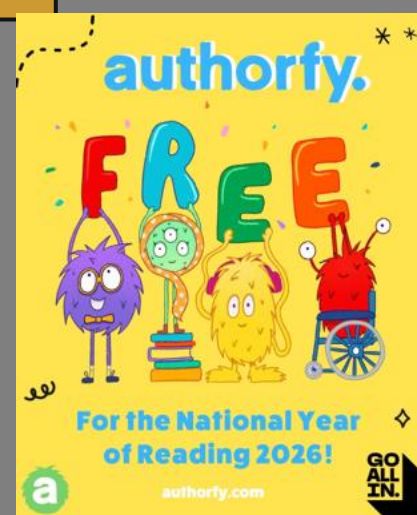
Authors & Illustrators on Authorfy

Authorfy

Authorfy is an award-winning online platform that gives you the opportunity to browse the largest collection of author videos, get unlimited access to thousands of book extracts, resources and writing challenges, and connect with hundreds of children's authors and illustrators at the touch of a button

As an official **National Year of Reading** resource, *Authorfy* is completely free throughout 2026

https://authorfy.com/?dm_i=7LHS%2C2VFL9%2C54K1Y%2C73UG0%2C1%2C0%2C0%2C0





A Thousand Ways to Tell a Story

Visual & Performing Arts Showcase

Our annual Visual & Performing Arts Showcase was a truly memorable celebration of the incredible creativity, talent and dedication of our students. This year's theme, *A Thousand Ways to Tell a Story*, brought together Art, Music, Dance and English in an inspiring evening that showcased the breadth of artistic talent across the school.

Visitors enjoyed an exhibition of outstanding GCSE and A Level Art, Graphic Communication, Photography and Textile Design work, highlighting the creativity, technical skill and individuality of our students. Throughout the evening, guests were also treated to a selection of original GCSE Music compositions, creating the perfect atmosphere as they explored the exhibition.

The school band gave fantastic live performances, entertaining audiences with a varied programme of music, while the English department invited guests to engage with interactive blackout poetry and read a collection of thoughtful and imaginative poems written by our students.



Adding to the evening's entertainment, a student-led drama group gave a fantastic performance, demonstrating their creativity, confidence and passion for the performing arts. Their performance was a wonderful addition to the programme and reflected the enthusiasm and talent of students who have come together to pursue drama beyond the classroom.

One of the highlights of the evening was the eagerly anticipated House Dance Competition, where each house delivered energetic, creative and highly polished performances. Congratulations to **Kings**, who were crowned this year's House Dance champions.



The evening concluded with the spectacular House Fashion Show. Sixth Form students designed and created a beautifully decorated ceremonial cloak for each house before unveiling their collections of garments inspired by the theme **Royal**. The standard of work was exceptional, with students dedicating many months of lunchtime sessions to designing, constructing and refining their creations. Their hard work, creativity and commitment were evident in every piece presented on the catwalk.



Congratulations to **Porter**, who were awarded first place for both the House Cloak and the Fashion Collection, making them the overall winners of this year's Fashion Show.



The Showcase was a wonderful celebration of the arts and a testament to the passion, resilience and teamwork of our students. We are incredibly proud of everyone who contributed to making the evening such a success, both on stage and behind the scenes. Their enthusiasm and dedication created an unforgettable event for our school community, and we look forward to seeing what next year's showcase will bring.



See next page for more photos...

Visual and Performing Arts Showcase continued





KS3 Graphic Design Club

Our KS3 Graphic Design Club has had a fantastic start, with students exploring the exciting world of digital design and video game character creation.

Led by Sixth Form student **Ainesh**, the club is giving students the opportunity to develop their graphic design skills while creating their own original video game characters. Students have shown great creativity and enthusiasm, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow each week.

A huge thank you to Ainesh for sharing his expertise and inspiring the next generation of digital designers. We look forward to seeing the finished character designs later this year.



Arts Ambassadors

Our Arts Ambassadors have been busy this term helping to champion the arts across the school. They have supported a range of arts events, helping to promote activities and encourage students to get involved.

As part of their work, the ambassadors have also created a **Creative Map of Calderdale**, showcasing local arts and cultural opportunities, and have designed a new **Arts Ambassador badge**, which will be launched in September.

We are incredibly grateful for their enthusiasm, creativity and commitment, and look forward to seeing the programme continue to grow in the new academic year.



Matilda 2026

After ten months of rehearsing, prop-making, a few tears and the odd tantrum, our incredibly talented and hard-working cast burst onto the Crossley Heath Stage with their version of *“Matilda”*. It might have been a sizzling 30 degrees but our team of over fifty students and staff kept their cool to pull off a fabulously entertaining performance filled with exceptional vocals and breathtaking choreography.

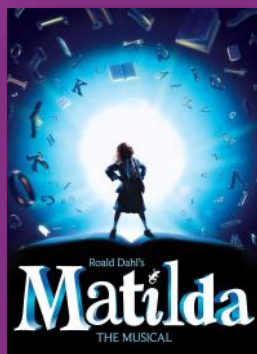
Matilda is an adaptation of Roald Dahl’s classic children’s story of Matilda Wormwood, a clever little girl who, despite her diminutive size, gets the better of her poisonous parents and her hideous headmistress. The award-winning musical, with book by Dennis Kelly and original songs by Tim Minchin has captured audiences for fifteen years with its larger-than-life characters, hilarious comedy and show-stopping songs, and our audiences at Crossley Heath were certainly no exception. Our cast presented a matinee performance to groups from four different primary schools, before two sell out performances on the 8th and 9th of July.

The set design team worked tirelessly all year to create an impressive visual backdrop that really immersed our audience into the world of *Matilda*, from the intimidating gates of Crunchem Hall and the terrifying Chokey, to the wonderfully tacky Wormwood House. But what made this production so special were the outstanding performances from our amazingly talented students. Toby Churchill wowed as the villainous Miss Trunchbull, delivering a spellbinding performance that was a masterclass in comic timing, and left our primary school

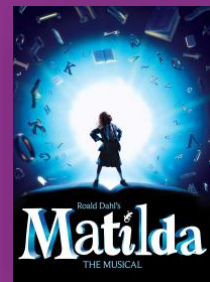
audience (and some of the grown ups!) shaking in their boots. Daphne Bullock gave us the perfect blend of defiance and brains in the leading role, with beautiful vocals in *“Quiet”* and *“Naughty”*. Incredible vocal performances were the order of the night, with Neve Murphy’s stunning rendition of *“This Little Girl”* as the lovely Miss Honey, Annie Hudson’s West-End worthy performance of *“Revoltin’ Children”* and of course, the ever-impressive ensemble performances of *“The Hammer”* and *“When I Grow Up”*, amongst others. Charles Rooney and Isobella Hawkins shone as Mr and Mrs Wormwood, the couple we all loved to hate, with Oskar Payne as their gormless teenage son, Michael. The leading roles were supported brilliantly by cheeky Little Kids, cynical Big Kids, shifty Russians and the magical Escapologist and Acrobat.

The hard work, effort, dedication and commitment from our fabulous team of staff and students all came together on the night to showcase a slick, professional and joyful performance, a true celebration of the range of talent we have here at Crossley Heath.

Congratulations to the students and staff who made it possible. We can’t wait for next year already- after a well-deserved rest of course!



Matilda 2026 continued



Record-breaking Fundraising Fortnight!



At the time of writing, we're only halfway through this year's Fundraising Fortnight – and we've already been absolutely blown away by the support from our school community.

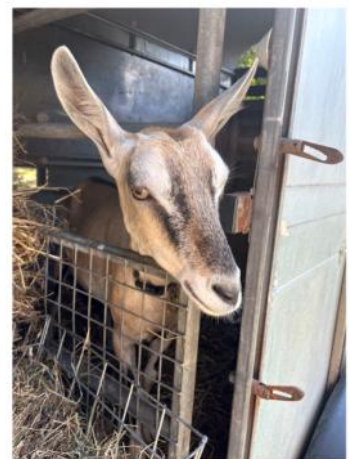
So far, we've raised an incredible £23,500 (with our final total still to be confirmed!) for Overgate Hospice, Forget Me Not Children's Hospice, St Augustine's Centre and our school's exciting new 2G pitch project, making this our biggest and most successful Fundraising Fortnight to date.

The fortnight has been packed with fantastic events, from our House-themed non-uniform day and ever-popular Staff Masked Singer to our wonderfully busy (and very warm!) two-day Student Marketplace. It has been brilliant to see so many students and staff getting involved, whether running stalls, volunteering, performing or simply throwing themselves into the fun. Special thanks go to Harry in Sixth Form for bringing in goats from his family's farm, Jasmine in Sixth Form for securing a signed Leeds United shirt for auction, Mr Baker for allowing students to pour tins of soup over his head, and Mrs Doig for organising what was undoubtedly our most successful 'Soak the Teacher' event yet!

At the time of writing, we still have our Colour Run to come, which is set to be our biggest ever, with more participants booked than in previous years.

This year's success simply wouldn't have been possible without the incredible generosity of our local business sponsors. We are especially grateful to WD Accountants Ltd, our main sponsor, for their exceptional support, along with Dean Clough, 11PLUSSCHOOL, Telos Talent, MiraGold, Chadwick Lawrence Solicitors, O&C, Barnsley Hot Tubs, Cresswells Accountants, X-Press Legal Services and Colin Maguire Electrical Services.

Finally, a huge thank you to the many students who have gone above and beyond by organising their own fundraising. From sponsored horse rides, Three Peaks challenges, sponsored swims and sponsored silences to selling handmade crafts and much more, their enthusiasm, creativity and generosity have been incredible. We couldn't be prouder of everything our students have achieved this year.



Sporting Excellence Programme

This September marks the launch of our brand-new Sporting Excellence Programme – an exciting new Sixth Form initiative designed to support talented young athletes as they balance sporting success with academic achievement.

Our first cohort of 13 Year 12 students will represent a wide range of sports, including figure skating, rugby, cricket, athletics, netball, badminton, field hockey and more. Throughout the year, they'll benefit from strength and conditioning support, performance profiling, leadership development, university experiences and expert guidance, all delivered in partnership with Leeds Beckett University.

We're also hoping to welcome a number of inspiring alumni and guest speakers to share their experiences with our students. Plans include Olympic finalist Max Burgin, fresh from winning a bronze medal in the 800m at the 2026 European Athletics Championships, and international tennis umpire Robert Balmforth, who recently officiated the 2026 Wimbledon Ladies' Singles Final. By hearing first-hand from people who have reached the highest levels of sport (both as competitors and in careers beyond competing) we hope to inspire our students and broaden their understanding of the many exciting pathways available within elite sport.

We can't wait to welcome our first cohort in September and follow their journey throughout the year!

Crossley Brothers Scholarship Returns for a Second Year

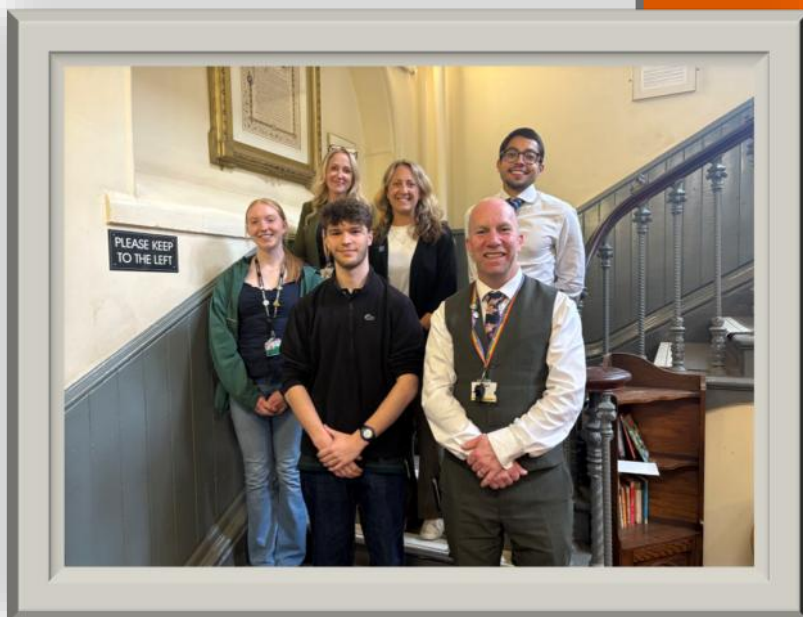
Following the successful launch of the Crossley Brothers Scholarship last year, we're thrilled to be offering this life-changing opportunity to our Year 13 students once again. Founded by former Crossley Heath student and GeoComply CEO David Briggs, the scholarship recognises exceptional academic achievement while helping talented young people access opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach. Each year, two students (including one from a disadvantaged background) receive financial support of £5,000 per year for three years, alongside leadership opportunities, mentoring and ongoing career support.

Last year's recipients, Luke and Amelie, have gone on to study at the University of Sheffield and the University of Oxford respectively. Both are thriving and have spoken about how grateful they are for the support and opportunities the scholarship has already provided.

We're now eagerly counting down to Results Day on 13th August, when we'll discover which two members of this year's Year 13 cohort will become our next Crossley Brothers Scholars.

We were also delighted to recently welcome Katy Hampshire and Jon Datta from The Sutton Trust to The Crossley Heath School. Together, students and staff discussed social mobility, access to higher education and the initiatives we have in place to ensure that talented young people can thrive, regardless of their background.

It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the impact the Crossley Brothers Scholarship is already having, and we're incredibly grateful to Katy and Jon for taking the time to visit, share their expertise and help us continue strengthening the support we offer our students.





Year 10 Parliament Trip



Yr10s turn this time and they did a workshop all about the 'Power of Petitions' where they learned about how they can be involved in politics even before reaching the age to vote. We had a lovely sunny (hot!) day. We walked via Buckingham Palace where the changing of the guard was happening before our brilliant tour of the Palace of Westminster. After that we hopped on an Uber boat for a cruise down the Thames to Tower Bridge and headed up to the top floor of Garden 120 where we had amazing views of the city before enjoying some downtime in Regents Park.

Year 12 Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award

A huge well done to our Year 12 Gold Duke of Edinburgh students, who spent four days in the Lake District over half term completing their expedition; supervised by CI Adventures Ltd.

Carrying everything they needed to survive, students trekked for up to eight hours a day through some challenging terrain and did so during a heatwave, making the expedition an even greater test of endurance, resilience and teamwork.

The determination, independence and positive attitude shown throughout the expedition were truly impressive, and everyone involved should be incredibly proud of what they achieved.

An amazing effort from all our Gold DofE participants, congratulations!



Send My Friend To School - Trip to Parliament

At the beginning of June, Rosie and Nishka visited the Houses of Parliament with a goal, a goal to tackle the funding cuts to overseas education.

They proudly showcased the work they have been doing at school through their Send My Friend to School meetings, highlighting the importance of investing in international development and ensuring that every child has access to quality education.

Next, they met with members of the International Development Select Committee, specifically Bambos Charalambous MP, and posed insightful questions about how the government is working to invest more in global education.

They also enjoyed a tour of the Houses of Parliament, gaining a fascinating insight into the history and workings of one of the most important buildings in the country.

Finally, they finished their day with a visit to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, where they were given an insight into what it is like to work in that environment. The day concluded with all the Campaign Champions handing in a letter that will be given to the Foreign Secretary, Yvette Cooper.

We are incredibly proud of what Rosie and Nishka have achieved. They spoke confidently and passionately about what they believe in to the people who can help bring about the change they want to see in the world. Well done to them both!





Year 9 & Year 12 Berlin Trip 2026

Day 1:

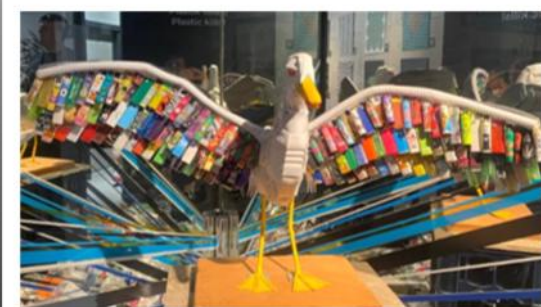
After a long travel day and a very early start, we made it to Berlin at around midday where we quickly grabbed some lunch at the local Rewe which became a favourite throughout the trip. We were then straight onto the bus to embark towards our first destination: Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, established in 1936 to hold predominantly political prisoners but also Jews, Roma, homosexuals and foreign forced labourers. Our tour guide Ian showed us around the camp enlightening us on the harrowing war crimes which took place there and providing us with our own opportunities to explore and reflect on the various exhibitions including the former gas chambers.

Following the camp, we then headed over to the heart of Berlin: Alexanderplatz-a square, only a 10-minute walk from our own youth hostel. We had the chance to stroll around the square, explore some of the shops and grab a drink or bite to eat: all of which with the backdrop of the Fernsehturm towering over us. Our studies of the city of Berlin had finally been brought to life therefore we soon retired to our youth hostel to relax and revitalise our energy for the next day's adventures.



Day 2:

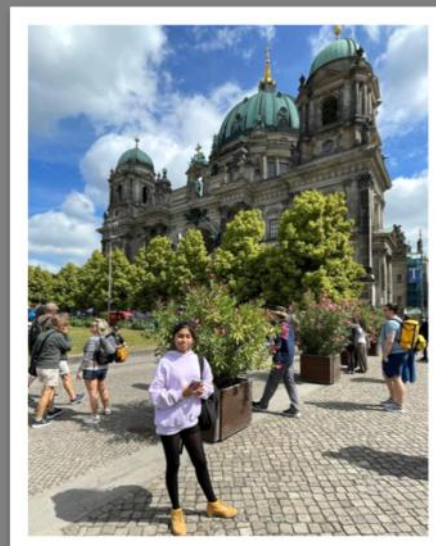
On our first full day in Berlin, it was definitely a busy day with many exciting events and opportunities. After a buffet breakfast at the hostel, we got ready and walked to the DDR museum which is an interactive experience that offers a real insight into the everyday lives, culture and political agendas in the former east Berlin under the German democratic republic (GDR) which was known in Berlin as the Deutsche Demokratische Republik (DDR). This was very useful especially for the A level course as it was a first-hand experience into the lives of those we study in the film 'Good Bye Lenin!'. It included old food products and packaging along with the famous 'Trabi' cars. We then visited the famous Ampelmann shop with numerous souvenirs to showcase the iconic traffic light man. Arguably one of the best parts of the trip was our visit to the Olympic stadium (Olympia Stadion). It was originally built for the 1936 summer Olympics and serves as the biggest all-seater stadium in Germany. Most importantly it is the renowned place where Jesse Owens who was African-American won 4 gold medals in front of Hitler. It is also recognised as the site of the filming of Hunger games prequel- The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes. It was a very surreal experience to visit such a timeless and historically significant building. After a long day of sightseeing, we finally had the chance for a spot of dinner at the Berlin mall and of course a chance to go shopping. There were many diverse food options such as authentic German specialities, Chinese food and Turkish food which showcased the diverse culture present in Berlin. However, the day was not over yet as we had the opportunity to go up the famous TV tower (Fernsehturm) which is an incredible 368 metres tall. The journey up is only a short lift which leads you to the top of this remarkable structure and shows a breathtaking 360-degree view of the entire city!



Year 9 & Year 12 Berlin Trip 2026 continued

Day 3:

After a good night's sleep, we began our day once again with breakfast at the hostel. We then set off walking to the U-Bahn station, but made a quick pit-stop to 'Haus Schwarzenberg', a historic courtyard complex with uncurated street art and galleries, and an amazing spot to snap some memorable selfies. We then made our way over to the river Spree, where we boarded a boat for our boat trip down the river Spree. This was a stunning and informative journey, with a running commentary of all the historical buildings we went past and of course, beautiful scenery. Some highlights we saw included the 'Berliner Ensemble' (one of Germany's most famous and historic theatre companies) and the 'Berliner Dom' (Berlin cathedral). We then had a lunch break nearby, with many surrounding food spots, including a chain bakery called Back Werk, which turned out to be another fan-favourite during our trip. Next, we made our way to the Tiergarten, where a small group paid a quick visit to Brandy Melville! After some nice shopping, the whole group got together again and headed towards Checkpoint Charlie. Ian (our tour guide) once again gave an amazing explanation about the history of this place before giving us some free time to explore the local souvenir shops. On our way to the Brandenburg gate, we stopped at a few spots to learn some more history and look around. These included Niederkirchnerstraße (the longest stretch of the Berlin wall to still exist in the city centre) and the 'Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas' (The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe). Finally, we arrived at the Brandenburg gate, where we took heap loads of photos and had some chill time before dinner. We had a buffet dinner at Trattoria Mama restaurant before heading off to our final destination of the day – the Reichstag (government building). After going through airport-style security, we reached the doors to the Reichstag and took the lift to the roof – the views were breathtaking from here. At the end of a long and productive day, we finally made our way back to the hostel for the last time on our trip to recharge before our fourth and final day.



Year 9 & Year 12 Berlin Trip continued**Day 4:**

For our last day, we visited the exciting 'Illuseum'. In this museum, we had the great opportunity of experiencing many different forms of illusions. We had the time to take numerous photos and enjoy the puzzling images. After this, we were exposed to the German underground one final time to reach the Spreebogen Park. Here we had our lunch under the bright Berlin sun and enjoyed the picturesque atmosphere. Following this, we visited 'Futurium'. This exhibition offered various interactive displays about the future of living in relation to tech. During this informative and interesting presentation, we were able to witness a beautiful view of the Berlin skyline while the sun still shone high. Finally, to

conclude our day before we returned to the airport, we visited the long-awaited East side gallery. This is a special gallery - specifically outside as it is presented along the former Berlin wall. Spanning longer than 1.3km, this gallery holds extremely powerful and diverse paintings, with significant meaning in relation to Germany's history, and how far its society has developed since. This moving piece is home to the very well-known and highly controversial painting referred to as "The Fraternal Kiss".

**Conclusion:**

Insgesamt war es eine fantastische Reise, wir haben wertvolle Erfahrungen gesammelt. Die Landschaft, das Essen, die Menschen – alles war großartig! Auch hatten wir die Chance, mit anderen Deutschen zu sprechen und während wir sicher waren, hatten wir noch viele Freiheit. Im Großen und Ganzen haben wir uns unglaublich genossen und wir haben viel über die Geschichte, Kultur und Architektur in Berlin gelernt. Eine tolle Reise mit sogar besseren Erinnerungen!

Written by Humaira Nazam, Umaima Khan, Hana Suleman, Hiba Majid (Year 12 German class)





Iceland Trip 2026

The Crossley Heath School offers a wide range of educational, cultural, and sporting trips that extend learning beyond the classroom. These experiences help students develop independence, leadership, teamwork, resilience, and a broader understanding of the world while supporting their academic studies.

A group of Year 10s got to go on the trip of a lifetime to Iceland at the start of June. The trip begun with a stop at the gap between the tectonic plates and a drive to a geothermal power station to see the hot springs that power it. The first thing you notice about the landscape and the lack of trees. Due to the island being formed through volcanic activity there is rarely enough soil to support them. We then went to walk on lava from an eruption a few years ago. It was sharper and more porous than I was expecting! We checked into our hotel and after a nice meal we enjoyed a swim in the geothermally heated swimming pool. With 20 hours+ of sunlight each day we were thankful for the blackout curtain so we could get some sleep!

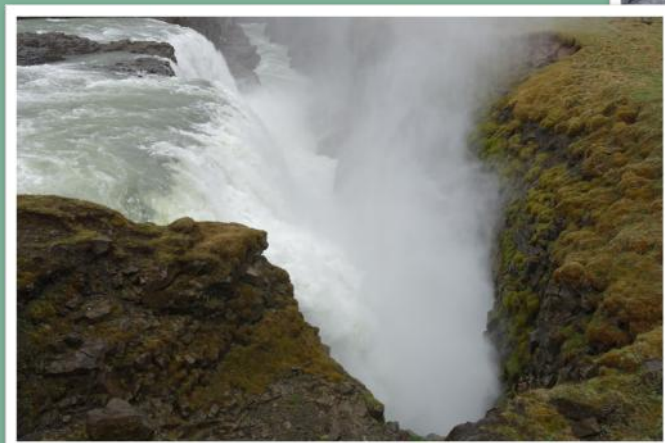


Day 2 started with a trek up the Sólheimajökull glacier complete with helmets, crampons and ice axes. The views were spectacular and it was really interesting to learn about the history of the area. After lunch we went to some spectacular waterfalls including the 60m tall Skógafoss and another that you could walk behind before more tea and swimming at the hotel.

Iceland Trip continued....

Day 3 started with a walk in a world heritage site between two tectonic plates. The views were amazing. Via another waterfall we made our way through the location of the original parliament of ancient Icelanders and got to see the site of the infamous "witch trials". We then went to the Geysir center to see surreal explosions of steam and water from the Geysirs and enjoyed panoramic views from the hillside. Our final stop of the day was the ironically named (due to its popularity) Secret Lagoon for a swim in the geothermally heated swimming pool. The cold plunge pool that was braved by some was bracing! Mr Spencer then took us for a walk to some hot springs after tea to round off a truly special day.

Day 4 started at the Perlan Museum on the outskirts of Reykjavík to see an ice cavern, a 3D immersive dive into a volcano and the planetarium cinema for a trip back into Iceland's past. We then had some free time in the capital to explore the highly muralled buildings and shops. We then went to a lava show. They heated up the basalt lava to 1300 °C and then showed us how it changed as it cooled down. We followed this up with a talk from a volunteer from Skyggir who in England would have been called mountain rescue but in Iceland it also included volcano and earthquake rescue! After arriving at our new home for the final night we went for a stroll down to the white sandy beach before returning to pack our bags ready for the flight back home the following day.



Our trip to the "Land of fire and ice" will live long in our memory. Thank you for all the teachers who organised the trip, all the parents/guardians who funded it and the students for conducting themselves in such a brilliant manner.





Year 10 Battlefields Trip

Commemorations on the Battlefields Tour

The GCSE History Battlefields Tour took place from June 2nd to 5th 2026. It was a very interesting trip led by Mr Davies and Mr Donlan. The group travelled by coach from Northern France to Western Belgium, visiting various locations significant to the First World War on the Western Front. Although today the Somme and the Westhoek seem picturesque agricultural districts, few areas in either region were not reduced to a sea of mud or rubble by 1918.

The devastating human impact of the First World War became increasingly apparent with every memorial and military Cemetery we explored. At some memorials we had the opportunity to pay our respects to Old Boys of Crossley & Porter Orphan Home & School and Heath Grammar School (the two schools amalgamated in 1985 to form Crossley Heath) who fell in the conflict. In total, around 100 former pupils sadly lost their lives. Below is a little information about those whose names I located.

Private Arthur Gordon Wood is commemorated on Pier and Face 8C of the Thiepval Memorial. Wood was Private 20045 of the Royal Fusiliers and had left Heath Grammar in 1905. He was employed at the Yorkshire Penny Bank where he worked in the branches at Halifax and Sowerby Bridge. A victim of the Somme Offensive, Wood was reported missing in action on September 15th 1916, aged 24.

Likewise, Corporal Harry George Spencer Short is commemorated on Pier and Face 6B of the Thiepval Memorial. He was killed while attacking a heavily fortified German salient called the Liepzig Redoubt, during the Battle of the Somme on September 22nd 1916. Short left Heath Grammar in 1908 and lived in Halifax, before the family relocated to Snaith.

Private Frank Sharp is commemorated on Panel 20 of the Menin Gate. Private 2576 in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Sharp was shot and killed on sentry duty in Ypres on July 19th 1915: his battalion was still relatively new and unaccustomed to the Front. He was 22. Sharp was born in Hebden Bridge and -his father having died- he attended the Crossley & Porter Orphanage. He was of quiet disposition and very well-liked. He was a committed member of St John's Wesleyan Church and School where he taught as well as worked as secretary to the local branch of the Wesley Guild.

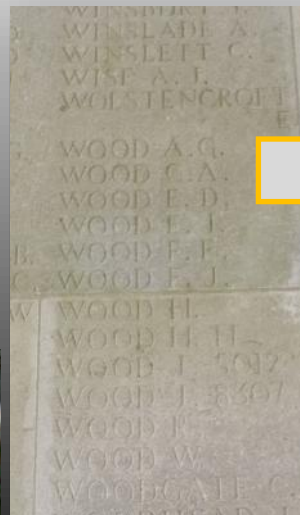
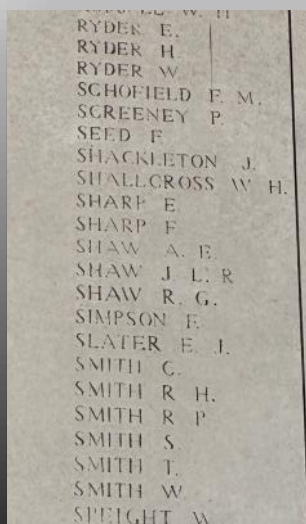
On the third day of our trip, we saw the panel at Tyne Cot Cemetery on which is commemorated Captain Alfred Ernest Mander. A wreath was laid here in his memory. Mander was deputy headmaster at Crossley & Porter until he enlisted in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. He died aged 38 on October 19th 1917. An account in *The Crossleyan* magazine describes his death as having 'cast a gloom over the School'.

There are many more Old Boys buried or commemorated 'over there'. There are plenty too in our locality mentioned on their respective family gravestones: Private Frank A. Whiteley (left Heath 1903, died aged 25 on November 14th 1918 of wounds and pneumonia in Citadel Hospital Cairo) in All Saints' Churchyard and Lieutenant Charles C. Foster (left Heath 1903, died aged 32 on 29th July 1918) in Lister Lane Cemetery, to name two. May they all rest in peace.

Ella Hardy
Form 10D



Frank Sharp
Crossley & Porter (boy
no.1187) 30th June 1908



A. G. Wood

Year 10 Battlefields Trip continued





Year 10 Religious Studies Trip to Rome - An Unforgettable Experience

At the beginning of June, 30 Year 10 students travelled to Rome for an incredible three-day Religious Studies trip, packed with history, culture and unforgettable memories.

During their visit, students explored many of Rome's most famous landmarks, including St Peter's Basilica, the breathtaking Sistine Chapel, the Vatican, the Pantheon, the Trevi Fountain and the Spanish

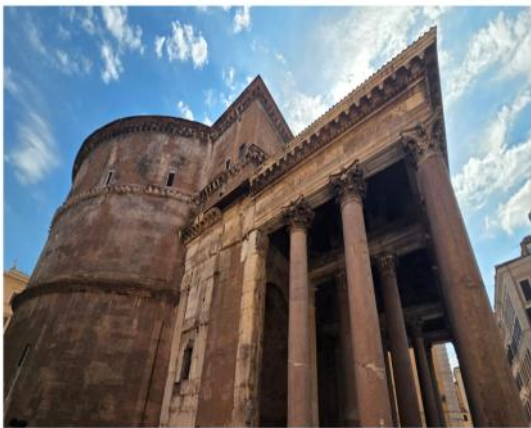
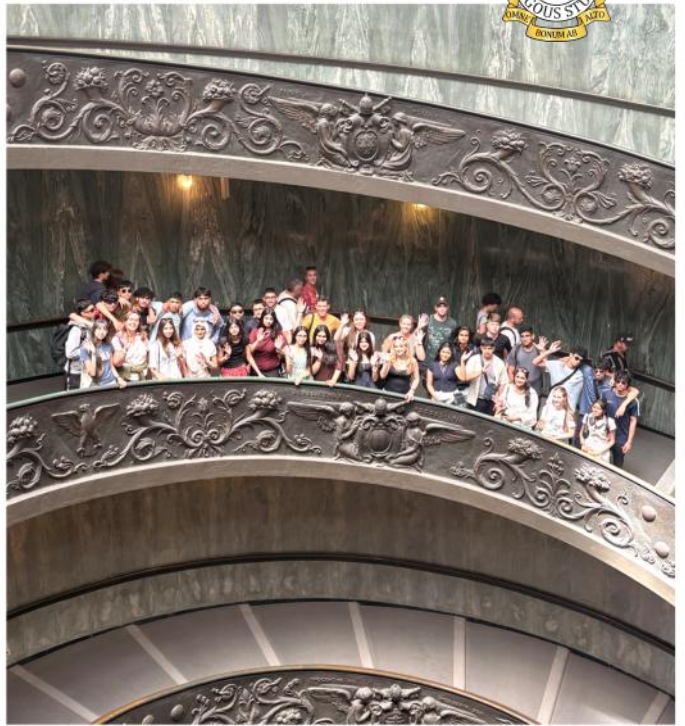
Steps. A particular highlight was seeing the Colosseum beautifully illuminated at night, giving everyone a completely different perspective on this iconic ancient monument. The group were also lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the Pope during their visit to the Vatican.

The trip offered plenty of new experiences beyond the sightseeing. For many students, it was their first journey on an underground metro system, while evenings were spent enjoying giant games of chess, playing football together in the local park, and, of course, sampling plenty of delicious Italian pizza and an impressive amount of gelato!

Throughout the trip, our students were exceptional ambassadors for the school. They demonstrated maturity, curiosity and respect wherever they went, embracing every opportunity to learn about the history, art and religious significance of one of Europe's most fascinating cities.



A huge thank you and well done to everyone who took part in making the trip such a memorable success. We hope the experiences, friendships and memories made in Rome will stay with our students for many years to come.





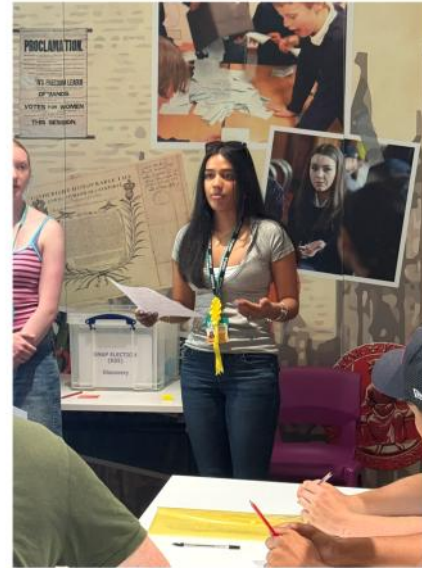
Year 12 Personal Development Trip to London



Our Year 12 students recently enjoyed a fantastic educational visit to London, bringing together students studying History, Politics and Personal Development.

The day began with an enjoyable journey from Halifax to London on Grand Central Railway. Once in the capital, the group split into two. One group visited Friends House to learn more about the Quaker movement and its historical significance, while the other headed straight to Parliament for their first workshop of the day, *Snap Election!*

During the workshop, students worked in teams to create their own political parties, develop manifestos and deliver election speeches. The clear winner of the student vote was the imaginative **Yorkshire Party**, whose manifesto promised that Yorkshire Tea would flow freely from every tap, brewed with genuine Yorkshire Water! They also pledged that all young people would receive a flat cap and a pint of tea when they turned 18. While there were plenty of laughs, students demonstrated an impressive understanding of the democratic process, confidently taking on the different roles and responsibilities involved in preparing for a snap election.



Year 12 Personal Development Trip to London continued



In the afternoon, the History group visited the Imperial War Museum, exploring its interactive galleries and fascinating exhibitions, while the Politics group continued their experience at Parliament, learning more about how our political system operates.

Blessed with glorious sunshine throughout the day, students also had the opportunity to enjoy some of London's most famous landmarks and soak up the atmosphere of the capital. The trip was not only highly educational but also provided valuable opportunities for students to develop their confidence, teamwork and communication skills.

We look forward to running the trip again later this year, when our Year 10 students will visit Parliament and take part in a workshop focused on the power of petitions and how young people can make their voices heard within our democratic system. It promises to be another memorable and inspiring experience.





Visit from Author and Actress Samantha Giles



Author and actress Samantha Giles with Ruby and Mrs Johnson, Head of English

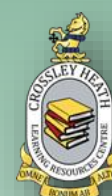
During this year, we had a special visit from the one and only Samantha Giles, the author of the incredible *Rosemary* fantasy trilogy. Samantha starred in *Emmerdale* starting on November 25th, 1998, playing Bernice Blackstock.

The trilogy starts with *Rosemary and the Witches of Pendle Hill*, continues with *Rosemary and the Book of the Dead* and finishes with *Rosemary and the Witches' Stone of Camelot*. My personal favourite is *Rosemary and the Witches of Pendle Hill* as it was my first book I read of the trilogy and found it fascinating. It was also one of my first book reviews on my YouTube/Instagram channel. I was so excited to hear that the 2nd and 3rd book were released because I really wanted to find out what happened later in the series and when I read them, I couldn't stop!

My favourite character is Lois as I've always wanted a little sister and when I was reading the books it was like I was Rosemary and had a little sister to help me continue my adventures. She always makes books funny in the right moments. The main trio in the books, Adi, who uses excellence, Lois, who uses kindness, and Rosemary, who uses courage, show how each of our school values help to achieve goals and dreams.

The visit we got from Samantha Giles is definitely something to remember, because every book you read tells a different story on how to use our values to achieve dreams we have.

Ruby 8A Porter House





Samantha Giles Q & A

Visit from Author and Actress Samantha Giles to The Crossley Heath School Friday 15th May 2026

Transcript of Q & A session

Q. Why write a trilogy?

A. *I wasn't ready to let go of the characters after the first book – plus the story was not ended – and, I enjoyed writing it!*

Q. What's the biggest difficulty you've found with/when writing?

A. *The biggest difficulty is getting work published, having to first get a literary agent who will promote your book to publishers – it's a very competitive area/business.*

Q. Will there be a fourth book in the Rosemary series?

A. *No. I wrote the books purely as a trilogy. I am continuing to write books, although these are aimed at an older audience.*

Q. How long are the Rosemary books?

A. *They are each around 300 pages long, with 68,000 - 70,000 words.*

Q. Are the Rosemary books the first books you have written?

A. *Yes.*

Q. Did you design the book covers?

A. *The publisher arranges for a designer to design the book covers, in line with the theme of each book. The latest book, Rosemary and the Witches' Stone of Camelot, is blue to symbolize the theme of a lake and Camelot, which is the setting for this book.*

Q. How long does it take to write a book?

A. *My first book took 9 months to write, alongside filming for Emmerdale at the same time.*

Q. How do you balance writing and acting?

A. *I would like it to be more balanced! They are both quite different disciplines in that writing can be very solitary, almost a lonely occupation, as opposed to acting, where you are acting with other people and it's fun.*

Q. Do you have any advice for getting into acting?

A. *Keep doing it! Join a drama club or group and keep practicing. There are lots of acting school in the North and you can find work as a child actor. Join a drama group which is attached to an agency and always have another string to your bow as finding consistent employment as an actor can be difficult.*

Q. Do you have a favourite book or author?

A. *A book that I enjoyed when I was younger and that made a lasting impression on me was The Silver Crown by Robert C O'Brien.*



For more information and to order books visit Samantha's website www.thesamanthagiles.co.uk

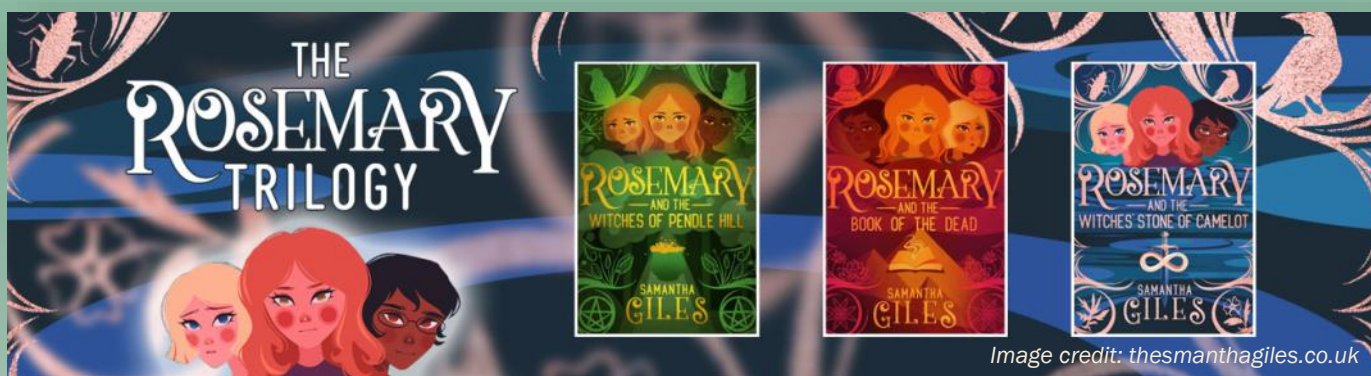


Image credit: thesamanthagiles.co.uk



Visit from The Halifax Oddfellows



In May, the School welcomed visitors from *The Halifax Oddfellows*.

The Oddfellows is one of the oldest friendly societies in the UK, a non-profit mutual, which is dedicated to improving people's lives through friendship, welfare support, charitable activities and social connection - the latter by arranging local events such as coffee mornings, walks and trips out.

Our visitors enjoyed browsing through a selection of the School's Archive collection of amazing artefacts, photographs and documents on display in the Main Hall, followed by a tour of the ground floor with the

Heritage Boards, showing the historical timeline of the School from Tudor times to the present day, as well as being guided around the exterior, highlighting the beautiful architecture and carved stone grotesques.

It was a pleasure to meet such a lovely group of people, which also included some who either themselves or their family members had been former alumni (as well as a familiar face or two!)



Martha Crossley celebrated



The Martha Crossley blue plaque and unveiling at Dean Clough Mills

While the Crossley brothers are rightly celebrated as the founders of The Crossley Heath School, we believe it's equally important to recognise the woman whose kindness, compassion and values helped shape their vision.

Without Martha's influence, the Crossley brothers may never have gone on to establish the Crossley Orphanage, creating a legacy of care and opportunity that continues to be felt today. On July 15th we proudly unveiled our tribute (above image) to Martha Crossley, the mother of the Crossley brothers and an inspiring figure in our school's history.

This tribute was a true collaborative effort by Mrs Fielding and Mrs Worthington, with the design created by Mrs Tomlinson.

The display board was unveiled by Crossley family descendants who visited the School along with members of Halifax Civic Trust whose Vice Chair, Mr David Glover, gave a very interesting and informative presentation about Martha.

Then followed a short trip to Dean Clough Mills where a blue plaque dedicated to Martha Crossley was unveiled by the Mayor of Calderdale, Councillor Andrew Tagg. This plaque was the result of the hard work and dedication of the Halifax Civic Trust in recognizing the important contribution of this remarkable lady.



The original Dean Clough Mill





2026 Old Scholars' Reunion

100 years since the Old Scholars' Reunion (shown right including James Labron Plint, the first child admitted to The Crossley Orphan Home & School in 1864) in what has been an annual tradition since then, we welcomed those celebrating to the 2026 Reunion on the first Saturday in July.

Groups celebrating Special Reunions included:

60 years since leaving 1959 - 1966

65 years since starting 1961 - 1968

60 years since starting 1966 - 1973

50 years since starting 1976 - 1983

A lovely group from the Class of 1972 - 1977 also enjoyed the day, and look forward to their own Special Reunion next year of 50 years since leaving - make a date in your diary!

The Reunions are always happy events, providing opportunities for re-kindling old friendships and sharing reminiscences in our beautiful school building, along with enjoying the wealth of photographs, artefacts and lots of other treasures from our School Archives which are displayed. It is especially helpful when attendees can complete the record of attributing names to those on photographs—thank you to the gentlemen from the class of 1976-1983 who were able to do this.

Thanks go to *The Old Crossleyans' Association* whose dedication and hard work which goes into the preparation of this event ensures the success of the Reunions. New Members are always welcome, especially to continue this venture - see the website for details on how to join:

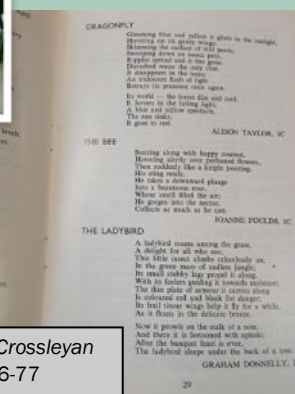
<https://www.oldcrossleyans.org.uk/>



Reunion 2026
Class of 1976-1983



Entries in *The Crossleyan*
magazine 1976-77



One item of particular interest on display this year was the Log Book of the 5th Halifax (Crossley & Porter School) Scout Troop, dating from the 1950s, which has been kindly entrusted to our safekeeping by Old Scholars, Michael Denton and Roger Booth, and which highlights the camps at Elterwater in the Lake District and the building of the Scout Hut there.



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

Supporting Our Community as Age UK Digital Champions



We are delighted to celebrate a second successful year of working in partnership with Age UK as the Digital Champions programme lead for Calderdale.

Following specialist training, our Year 12 students dedicated their weekly enrichment sessions to supporting older members of the local community in developing their digital skills. Throughout the year, they helped visitors build confidence with technology by offering friendly, patient support tailored to individual needs.

Whether assisting with setting up new phones or laptops, showing someone how to send photographs, navigate apps, or shop safely online, our students demonstrated outstanding maturity, kindness and problem-solving skills. Just as importantly, they developed their own confidence and communication skills, learning how to engage with a wide range of people and make every visitor feel welcome and at ease.

The programme has been a rewarding experience for everyone involved, highlighting the positive impact our students can have within the local community while developing valuable life skills for themselves.

Pictured are Julie Taylor (Age UK Project Lead), Vicky Pennington (Enrichment Coordinator), four of our fantastic student volunteers, and some of the wonderful members of the community who took part in the programme.



KINDNESS



COURAGE



EXCELLENCE

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

Year 12

A Fantastic Day Exploring Durham University

Our Year 12 students recently enjoyed a fantastic visit to the beautiful city of Durham, giving them the opportunity to experience life at one of the UK's most prestigious universities. Renowned for its outstanding academic reputation, world-class teaching and stunning historic setting, Durham University provided the perfect backdrop for an inspiring day.

After arriving, students received a warm welcome and introduction to Durham University. They learned about what makes the university unique, including the collegiate system (similar to Oxford and Cambridge) and the many opportunities available to students who choose to study there. The group then took part in an informative session on writing effective personal statements, delivered by Lucy McCabe. Students gained valuable advice on how to showcase their achievements, interests and aspirations when applying to university, with practical tips that will benefit them as they prepare for their future applications.

One of the highlights of the day was a guided walking tour of both the university campus and the historic city, led by current student ambassadors. As they explored Durham's picturesque streets, impressive college buildings and iconic riverside views, our students were able to ask questions and gain a real insight into university life from those experiencing it first-hand.

Adding to the excitement, our visit coincided with Durham University's graduation celebrations. Seeing graduates in their academic gowns, surrounded by proud family and friends, gave our students a wonderful glimpse of what years of hard work and determination can lead to. It was a memorable and inspiring experience that helped many of them picture themselves achieving similar success in the future.

Although a short trip, it was a thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile experience, leaving students feeling motivated, informed and excited about the opportunities that higher education can offer. We would like to thank Durham University, Lucy McCabe and the student ambassadors for making our visit so welcoming and inspiring.



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

Year 12 Students Explore Future Opportunities at the UCAS Discovery Exhibition

In June, 140 of our Year 12 students attended the UCAS Discovery Exhibition at Leeds Beckett University, giving them the opportunity to explore the wide range of pathways available after sixth form.

The event brought together universities, colleges, apprenticeship providers and employers from across the UK, enabling students to speak directly with representatives about higher education courses, degree apprenticeships, careers and training opportunities. It was an invaluable chance for students to ask questions, gather information and begin thinking more carefully about their next steps beyond sixth form.

Throughout the day, students could attend a variety of informative talks covering topics such as the UCAS application process, personal statements, student finance and academic subject talks. These sessions provided practical advice and helped students develop a greater understanding of the decisions they will be making over the coming year.

Students represented the school exceptionally well, engaging confidently with exhibitors and demonstrating genuine curiosity about their future options. Many returned with a wealth of information, prospectuses and ideas that will support them as they begin researching courses, universities and alternative progression routes.

Visits such as this play an important role in helping students make informed decisions about their futures. By exploring a broad range of opportunities in one place, students are encouraged to consider pathways they may not previously have thought about and to develop the confidence to pursue ambitious goals.

We are delighted that the trip was such a success and look forward to supporting our students as they continue their post-18 planning and prepare for the next stage of their educational journey.



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

Instrumental lessons in school

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

CROSSLEY HEATH MUSIC EXTRACURRICULAR

Instagram

Sign up for instrumental/vocal lessons at Crossley Heath

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

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

LEADERS OF TOMORROW

KINDNESS ✦ COURAGE ✦ EXCELLENCE

We are currently working on the timetables for September so please sign up to make sure your child has a place. 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 are delighted to have had another 23 different students undertake 25 ABRSM during the summer term. They are listed below ...

Particular congratulations to Eleanor, David, Emi (singing), Mufaro, Sophie, Oscar, Abigail and Jingzhi who passed with merit, and to Sai, Bea, Alexander and Lewis (on both clarinet and singing) who passed with distinction.

First Name	Last Name	Instrument	Grade
Hana	Akhtar	Piano	4
Abigail	Dean	Piano	1
Noah	Gee	Piano	4
Sai Venkat	Gnanasakthi	Piano	2
Reuben	Hayre	Piano	2
Sophie	Horn	Piano	3
Juan Miguel	Jimenez	Piano	1
Zahra	Kamran	Piano	4
Sohan	Kodidasu	Piano	5
Jingzhi	Lou	Piano	3
Hiba	Maryam	Piano	3
Neve	Murphy	Piano	3
Lewis	Nimmo	Clarinet	4
		Singing for Musical Theatre	
Lewis	Nimmo	tre	4
David	Nimmo	Piano	5
Beatrice	Pedley	Alto Saxophone	5
Sai	Podapati	Clarinet	1
	Richardson-		
Oscar	Horn	Piano	3
Harrison	Ricketts	Piano	3
Emi	Seagrave	Piano	3
		Singing for Musical Theatre	
Emi	Seagrave	tre	4
Alexander	Slyman	Piano	2
Mufaro	Tigere	Piano	2
Tyler	Wang	Piano	4
Eleanor	Wickham	Violin	3





Primary Links and Performances!

As part of our continued commitment to building strong links with our local primary schools, the Music Department recently took our Concert Band on two outreach visits to Midgley School and Holy Trinity Primary School. Both performances were a tremendous success and gave our students another fantastic opportunity to perform for new audiences.

Our visit to Midgley School formed part of their annual Performing Arts Week, an event that we were delighted to support once again after taking part for the first time last year. Performing to the whole school was a wonderful experience, and it was fantastic to see the enthusiasm and appreciation shown by the pupils throughout the concert.

We were equally delighted to perform at Holy Trinity Primary School for the very first time. Having recently welcomed one of their dance groups to an event at Crossley Heath, where they gave a fantastic performance to *Funky Town*, it seemed only fitting that our band included the piece in our programme. Watching the pupils recognise the music and join in with such excitement made for a brilliant moment and perfectly demonstrated how music can strengthen the connections between our schools.

These outreach performances are an invaluable experience for our musicians, allowing them to develop their confidence, perform in different settings and inspire the next generation of young performers. They also play an important role in strengthening the relationships we have built with our local primary schools.

We were also delighted to welcome pupils and staff from Midgley and Holy Trinity, alongside Parkinson Lane and Cliffe Hill Primary Schools, to a special dress rehearsal of our recent production of *Matilda*. It was wonderful to share the hard work and talent of our students with so many young people from our local community, and we are excited to continue developing even stronger partnerships with all four schools in the years ahead.

These collaborations continue to strengthen our Performing Arts provision and provide valuable opportunities for students of all ages. We look forward to building on these relationships through future concerts, workshops and performances.





Student-led KS3 Performing Arts Clubs

This year has seen an exciting new development in the Performing Arts Department, with our Performing Arts Student Leaders taking the initiative to establish two new extra-curricular groups for Key Stage 3 students. Toby Churchill has launched a KS3 Drama Club, while Lilly Stead has introduced a KS3 Dance Club, creating fantastic opportunities for younger students to develop their confidence, creativity and performance skills.

The groups have made an excellent start. The KS3 Drama Club made its debut performance at our recent Arts Showcase, where students impressed the audience with their enthusiasm, commitment and growing performance skills. Meanwhile, many of the dancers recruited by Lilly represented their houses in the House Dance Competition, also held as part of the Arts Showcase, demonstrating just how much progress they have made in such a short time.

The opportunities do not stop there. In the new term, Toby and Lilly will be taking groups of students into Barkisland CE School, another Primary School who we are making links with, to deliver drama and dance workshops, giving younger children the chance to experience the performing arts while providing our student leaders with valuable leadership and teaching experience.

We are incredibly proud of Toby and Lilly for the initiative, enthusiasm and dedication they have shown in establishing these groups. Their commitment is a wonderful example of student leadership in action, and they have already made a real impact on the Performing Arts community at Crossley Heath.

As we look ahead to September, we are keen to welcome many more students into both clubs. We are particularly encouraging our new Year 7 students to get involved, especially any boys with an interest in dance, as we continue to grow these exciting opportunities. Please keep an eye out for our updated extra-curricular timetable in September, as there may be some changes to the days and venues of rehearsals. We look forward to welcoming lots of new faces and seeing these groups continue to flourish.





Diversity day stage performances

One of the highlights of this year's Diversity Day was the welcome return of the lunchtime live music stage. It was fantastic to once again see students performing in front of the school community, creating a brilliant atmosphere and showcasing the wealth of musical talent we have at Crossley Heath.

Two bands took to the stage during the lunchtime performances. Our Year 11 band, **Mixtape**, gave a fitting final performance together before they move on from school, bringing the curtain down on several years of excellent performances. Alongside them, one of our newer Key Stage 3 bands (still searching for the perfect name!) made an impressive appearance, demonstrating just how bright the future of live music in the department looks.

The success of these performances has inspired us to grow our band programme even further next year. We are hoping to include many more bands in future events and are planning to have bands rehearsing after school every evening of the week, giving even more students the opportunity to develop their ensemble skills and perform regularly.

This simply wouldn't be possible without the support of our fantastic Sixth Form students, who have generously volunteered throughout the year to supervise rehearsals and help younger musicians make the most of their time together. Their commitment has been invaluable in allowing our expanding programme of bands to flourish.

A very special thank you must also go to **Mr Cartmell**, who has become something of an honorary member of the Music Department! Adam has been instrumental in setting up equipment, supporting rehearsals and helping our bands throughout the school day and across the year. We are also incredibly grateful to our Initial Teacher Education trainee, **Nathan Hennessy**, who generously gave up many of his lunchtimes to provide additional rehearsals and coaching for one of our bands.

It has been wonderful to see live bands become such an important part of musical life at Crossley Heath once again, and we are excited to build on this momentum next year with even more rehearsals, performances and opportunities for students to make music together.



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

Paris Concert Tour – Easter 2026



During the Easter holidays, a group of talented musicians from the Music Department embarked on a memorable four-day concert tour to Paris, and what a fantastic success it proved to be. The trip combined outstanding musical performances with unforgettable cultural experiences, providing students with memories that will last a lifetime.

The highlight of the tour was undoubtedly our two concert performances. Students first performed at the beautiful American Church in Paris before travelling to Villa Beausoleil, where they entertained residents with a varied and engaging programme. In both venues, our musicians represented the school with exceptional professionalism, confidence and musicality. The warm reception and generous applause from both audiences were thoroughly

deserved and reflected the hard work and dedication that students had put into preparing for the tour.



Away from the concert venues, students enjoyed some of Paris' most iconic attractions. An evening Bateaux Mouches cruise along the River Seine offered spectacular views of the city's famous landmarks, while a full day at Disneyland Paris provided a well-earned opportunity to relax and celebrate after the performances. These experiences, alongside travelling and performing together, helped to create a wonderful team spirit and many lasting friendships.

The success of the tour was made possible through the commitment and enthusiasm of our students, who were exemplary ambassadors for the school throughout the visit. Their behaviour, resilience during

the long journey and willingness to support one another ensured the trip ran smoothly from beginning to end.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts before the tour. The proceeds from the bake sale helped to provide every student with a commemorative *Paris Music Tour 2026* hoodie, which proved to be a fantastic souvenir of an unforgettable experience.



We are incredibly fortunate to have such a wonderfully dedicated team of peripatetic teachers and staff supporting Music at Crossley Heath. Mrs Callaghan continues to do a fabulous job directing our Concert Band, while Mr Cain has developed our Guitar Group impressively, helping it to flourish over



recent years. Mrs Rogerson, our Food Technician, is also a committed member of the school band and has recently established an extra-curricular Clarinet Group, further enriching the musical opportunities available to our students. We were also delighted that Ms Hussain joined us on her second concert tour with the department. An excellent team member, she threw herself into every aspect of the visit and was always willing to help wherever needed.

Our sincere thanks go to all of the staff for giving up their time to make this trip possible. Their commitment, enthusiasm and support ensured that our students enjoyed an unforgettable experience, making the Paris Concert Tour a tremendous success and one that will be remembered for many years to come.

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



House Music

The countdown is on for one of the highlights of the school calendar as students prepare for this year's eagerly anticipated House Music Competition. The House Music Heats take place on **Monday 13th July**, with the Grand Final following on **Wednesday 15th July**, and excitement is already building across Kings, Queens, Savile and Porter Houses.

This year's theme is **One Hit Wonders**, promising an evening packed with instantly recognisable songs, creative performances and, no doubt, a few surprises along the way. Students have been rehearsing for weeks, with soloists, ensembles, choirs and our ever-popular House Open category all preparing to take to the stage in what is sure to be another fantastic celebration of music-making at Crossley Heath.

House Music is always one of the most enjoyable events of the year, bringing together students and staff from across the school in a friendly but fiercely contested competition. While every house will be hoping to lift the trophy, the event is ultimately about teamwork, creativity and the shared enjoyment of performing.

At the time of writing, the competition is just about to begin, and we cannot wait to see what each house has prepared. If previous years are anything to go by, we are expecting an evening full of outstanding musical performances, plenty of laughs and some unforgettable moments. Keep an eye on the Music Department's social media channels over the coming days, where we'll be sharing photographs and highlights from both the heats and the final, as well as announcing which house will be crowned this year's House Music champions. Good luck to everyone taking part—we can't wait to see you on stage!



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



Music for Youth – National Festival – written by Naomi Nimmo – 10C

This year, our talented Band and Choir entered the annual Music for Youth Regional Festival, an exciting annual program that over 15,000 young musicians from across the UK take part in. Any group of 2 or more musicians aged 21 or under, regardless of genre or ability can perform live or even submit a video entry each Spring. All musicians then receive tailored developmental feedback from professional Music Mentors to help them improve further. In March, the Band and Choir went and competed at Colne Valley High School and were given 10 minutes to play for the adjudicators and a large audience, containing many of the pupil's friends and family. Under the direction of our committed conductor, Mrs Callaghan, the Band played 2 pieces: the theme tune from "The Simpsons" and "Mission Impossible" and then together with Choir (conducted by the Head of Music, Mr Nimmo) ended with "Circle of Life" from the Disney musical, The Lion King. This collaboration between the 2 groups showed the judges a strong connection and sense of community throughout the school that they loved and wanted to see more of. Through showcasing the school values as well as the abundance of musical talent, the Band and Choir were invited back to play at the Music for Youth National Festival on the main stage at Symphony Hall in Birmingham. The National Festival is a celebration of young musical talent from across the UK, open to the public for everyone to enjoy in one vibrant city. It includes performances by the next generation of young musicians, fringe stages and workshops with industry professionals and throughout it all, joyfully celebrates the power of music and inspiration from all the diverse aspects of music. Last weekend, our Band and Choir visited Symphony Hall and experienced this festivity in all its glory. They attended the Collective Sounds session that included 7 unique groups from all over the country: "The Crossley Heath Band and Choir", "HONK! Lancashire Youth Street Band", "Carrick Winds", "East Riding Senior Wind Band", "Saxy Brass", "Northampton School for Boys Metalworks" and "Brentwood Imperial Youth Band". Our school performed first and got to experience all of the other groups performances! Band started the performance off with a lively piece of Russian folk music called "Dance of the Tumblers." The fast melody and tempo of the piece had the audience dancing along, feeding off the energy from the stage. The next piece, "Funkytown" featured our Band, Choir and even soloists all working together to create something wonderful and enjoyable to watch. To finish, they closed with another piece from the Lion King, "Can You Feel the Love Tonight?" which was much slower and emotional, contrasting with the first two beautifully and including a duet from 2 members that are involved in both Big Band and Choir. Throughout the program, the Band linked the pieces with the school values and its history. Hopefully the judges enjoyed it as much as the students did as getting through to the next round would mean that they would have the opportunity to play on an even larger stage – The Royal Albert Hall in London – at the Schools Prom in November. Even if our school don't advance any further, the students and staff have thoroughly enjoyed the experience as performing on a world-class stage with some of the best young talent in the country was extremely rewarding and made all the effort and hard work feel completely worth it!



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



Music in Assemblies

It has been wonderful to see students performing in house assemblies over the course of this year and this is something that we would now like to happen in all assemblies if possible. If any student would like to perform (this can be instrumental or vocal) please fill in the form using either the link or the QR code below. There will be a rota coming out in September so please sign up!

[Assembly Performances! – Fill in form](#)

Assembly Performances!





Ensembles Showcase 2026

Our Annual Ensembles Showcase Concert was a fantastic celebration of music, performance and collaboration, showcasing the incredible talent of both our students and staff.

The evening featured outstanding performances from the Guitar Group, led by **Mr Cain**, whose musicians impressed the audience with their skill, confidence and excellent ensemble playing. Their dedication and hard work throughout the year were evident in a polished and engaging performance. We are looking forward to growing the Guitar Group even further next academic year and encourage any students who play guitar to get involved. The group welcomes **acoustic, electric, classical and bass guitarists**, and it doesn't matter whether you're a beginner or a more experienced player—as long as you play, we'd love to have you join us.

The **School Band**, under the direction of **Mrs Callaghan**, also delivered a superb performance, entertaining the audience with an energetic and accomplished programme. The students' enthusiasm and musical ability reflected the commitment they have shown in rehearsals and performances throughout the year.

A much-loved feature of the concert was the performance by the **Staff Choir**, led by **Ms Nicholson**. Their performance was warmly received and highlighted the wonderful sense of community within our school, demonstrating that a shared love of music brings together staff and students alike. We would love to welcome even more colleagues to the Staff Choir next year, so if you've ever thought about joining, now is the perfect time.



The audience was also treated to a selection of songs from the cast of **Matilda**, providing an exciting glimpse of our upcoming production. The performers brought tremendous energy, confidence and character to the stage, leaving everyone looking forward to seeing the full show.

The Annual Ensembles Showcase Concert was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the creativity, commitment and talent that thrive across our school community. Every performance reflected the dedication of our students and the encouragement and expertise of the staff who support them throughout the year.

Our sincere thanks go to **Mr Cain**, **Mrs Callaghan** and **Ms Nicholson** for their passion, leadership and commitment to nurturing our young musicians and performers. We would also like to thank everyone who performed, as well as the families, friends and members of our school community whose enthusiastic support helped make the evening such a memorable occasion.

Congratulations to everyone involved in another outstanding Ensembles Showcase Concert. It was a truly enjoyable evening and a fitting celebration of the musical talent and community spirit that make our school so special.



Crossley Heath Cricket Report 2025-26

Yorkshire Cup Success for Year 7 Boys



Our Year 7 boys made a fantastic start to their Yorkshire Cup campaign with an emphatic first-round victory over Ryburn. James starred with an unbeaten 77 as Crossley Heath posted 145 before bowling Ryburn out for 26. Bilal, Subhaan, Anvith and Sebby shared the wickets. With over 20 Year 7 students regularly training in the new all-weather nets, the future looks extremely promising.

The team were matched up against independent school Woodhouse Grove in the quarter finals and after a determined effort, falling 30 runs short of the total required to progress to the semi's. The squad have high levels of enthusiasm and promising talent and we look forward to seeing how they develop in the years ahead.

Year 8 Cricket



Our Year 8 team faced the daunting task of taking on Heckmondwike Grammar School in round one of the Yorkshire Cup. Heckmondwike have a number of regional level players at this age group and they proved too strong for us at this stage of the team's development. With plenty of enthusiasm within the squad and commitment to local cricket too, the players will undoubtedly build into a more competitive side.



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U14 Indoor Cricket Team Reach the Final

The U14 indoor cricket team secured a dramatic semi-final victory over Halifax Academy. Jesse top-scored with 27, Abbas added 19 and, after a tense finish, Kathiravan struck the winning run to send Crossley Heath into the Calderdale Final against NHGS. The final was closely contested for spells of the game before NHGS took charge in the final few overs to take the win. This is the 4th straight year we have made the final with two wins and two runners up placings.



U15 Unlucky Not To Progress



Having lost a tight game against Woodhouse Grove in the Yorkshire Cup, our U15 team were hugely unlucky to go out in the first round of the National Knight Stokes when rain forced a bowl off with Crossley's in a strong position.

SPORTS NEWS... SPORTS NEWS...



Cricket Excellence Programme

Led by Kieron Rodgers of Point Blank Cricket, the programme has had been an important step in growing our school cricket provision for both boys and girls. Students have developed batting, bowling and fielding skills through Kieron's innovative coaching methods. The programme will run again next year as we continue to build the opportunities available to our cricketers.



Girls Cricket Continues to Grow



Girls cricket is becoming an increasingly important part of the sporting life of the school. Kathryn Harling achieved the outstanding honour of being selected to represent England at the Indoor Cricket World Cup in South Africa. Younger players Becca Dakin and Annabelle Roebuck have represented the school in U13 hard-ball cricket, providing excellent role models and highlighting the growing strength of girls cricket.

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

Investing in the Future

Crossley Heath has invested significantly in cricket facilities, including excellent all-weather practice nets which have transformed opportunities for training and development. The school's long-term ambition is to establish itself as one of the leading state-school cricket programmes in the North, capable of competing consistently with established independent schools. With teams entered into Yorkshire Cup competitions from Year 7 to Year 10, representative honours for Monty (Y11), Aayan (Y10) and Hassan (Y12), and the first Cricket and Netball Tour to Sri Lanka planned for 2028, the future is incredibly exciting.



Year 10 Boys' Football

The Y10 boys football team made the final of the very competitive Calderdale Cup for the second season in a row.



This is a remarkable achievement for the team and has been carved out through determination and a strong sense of team spirit. Having beaten Rishworth in the quarter finals with goals from captain George Stewart and winger Cory Stewart the team played Brighouse in the semi's. They battled hard against an aggressive side and a brace of goals from striker Charlie Watson gave Crossley's a much deserved and memorable victory. The lads were beaten by the better team in the final, but can be rightly proud of their achievement. Third time lucky next year?

Player of the Year went to Aidan with the Most Improved Award going to Mohammad-Hassan.



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

Junior Sports Presentation 2026

The Crossley Heath School proudly celebrated another outstanding year of sporting achievement at our annual Junior Sports Presentation, recognising the commitment, resilience and success of students across all sports throughout the 2025–26 academic year.

The evening was a fantastic celebration of participation and excellence, with students, parents and staff coming together to reflect on another memorable sporting season. Congratulations to all award winners and to every student who represented the school with pride, commitment and sportsmanship.

A special congratulations goes to our Sportsperson of the Year winners:

- **U12 Girls:** Amelia Ford
- **U12 Boys:** Jonas Dobson
- **U13 Girls:** Becca Dakin
- **U13 Boys:** Devesh Balaji
- **U14 Girls:** Sophie Horn
- **U14 Boys:** Marley Royal
- **U15 Girls:** Harriet Ayers
- **U15 Boys:** David Obhielo

We were also delighted to welcome Jon Hamer as our guest speaker. Jon enjoyed a distinguished rugby league career, making over 240 appearances for Bradford Northern (now Bradford Bulls) before finishing his playing career with York. A two-time Yorkshire Cup winner and testimonial player, he has since dedicated many years to coaching and developing the game through the Police Rugby League programme.

Jon shared honest and inspiring stories from both his playing and professional life, speaking about the importance of resilience, teamwork, hard work and taking opportunities when they arise. His experiences provided valuable lessons for our young athletes as they continue their own sporting journeys.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the evening such a success. We look forward to building on another fantastic year of sport and celebrating even more achievements throughout the 2026–27 season.

Senior Sports Presentation

Our Senior Sports Presentation Evening took place at La Luna Restaurant, where former pupil and trustee Mel Cockcroft presented the trophies. It was a relaxed and enjoyable evening, bringing together yr 11 and 6th form students and staff to celebrate a fantastic year of sporting success. The following students received trophies in recognition of their achievements and outstanding contributions to school sport throughout the year:

1st Team Rugby: POY -Sam Moore, MIP -Henry Spencer, Newcomer -Harry Sproson

6th form Netball : POY -Olivia Bolton, MIP -Maryam Adeel

U16 Netball:-POY -Elodee Water -Watene, MIP -Maysa Aliyev

U16 girls football – POY – Ida Johnson, Coach's player – Alexia Warburton

6th form sports man of the year –Matthew Brearley

6th form sports woman of the year –Olivia King

Year 11 sportsman of the year –George Dobson

Year 11 sportswoman of the year -Emily Daniels

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Rounders

Despite a challenging season with a number of fixtures unfortunately cancelled due to poor weather and scheduling difficulties, our rounders teams still enjoyed another successful summer, demonstrating excellent commitment, teamwork and resilience throughout.



There were some fantastic performances across all year groups. Our Year 10 team were crowned Calderdale Rounders Champions, producing an outstanding campaign and finishing the season as deserving winners.

Both our Year 7 and Year 9 teams also impressed, reaching the Calderdale Finals before finishing as runners-up after two highly competitive competitions.

Meanwhile, our Year 8 team progressed to the Calderdale Semi-Finals, continuing to develop their skills and showing great promise for the future.

Well done to all of the students who represented the school this season. Their enthusiasm, sportsmanship and commitment at training and matches have been excellent, and we look forward to building on this year's achievements next season.

Tennis

This year we played a friendly fixture against Rishworth School and also entered the LTA Tennis Leagues with both our U13 and U15 boys' and girls' teams.



Our U15 girls' squad showed real depth. The team of the two Riyas, Ella and Evie secured a comfortable win against Rishworth School. In the LTA Division A League, our U15 girls, this time represented by Clara, Madeleine, Riya and Ella—faced strong opposition from Bradford Grammar and Leeds Grammar. They produced some excellent tennis, narrowly losing 2–4 to Bradford and drawing 3–3 with Leeds, before just missing out in the play-off.

The boys' U15 team also competed well, losing their LTA matches 1–5 to Bradford Grammar and 2–4 to Leeds Grammar, but finishing on a high, with a win against Rishworth School.



There was impressive tennis from our U13 boys and girls, who finished in 2nd place in the LTA Division B League after matches against Silcoates and Heckmondwike. Our U13 girls also recorded a strong win against Rishworth School.

A special mention goes to Jesse Hawke and Ruby McDonnell, who remained unbeaten throughout the season—an outstanding achievement.

Players of the year awards for tennis were awarded to Jesse Hawke and to Clara Burgess.

We continue to run an after-school tennis club on Thursday evenings at Queens Sports Club, coached by one of their professionals. We are keen to strengthen our links with the club in both tennis and squash, and to support their efforts to rebuild following the fire two years ago.

If anyone—adult or child—is interested in taking up tennis or racket sports or to join the gym, please contact the club for further details.



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

Sports Day—Spring Hall

This year's Sports Day proved to be another fantastic occasion, with students, staff and spectators enjoying a brilliant day of competition and school spirit. Thankfully, the weather stayed on our side throughout the event, allowing the full programme to run smoothly and creating a great atmosphere for everyone involved.

Students competed with enthusiasm and determination across a wide range of track and field events, producing some outstanding individual performances while earning valuable points for their house teams. It was fantastic to see such high levels of participation, encouragement and sportsmanship throughout the day.

Congratulations go to Queens House, who secured back-to-back Sports Day titles with an impressive and dominant performance. Their consistency across the events, combined with excellent teamwork and determination, saw them retain the trophy in style.

A huge thank you to all the staff, student leaders and officials who helped organise and run the day, ensuring another memorable Sports Day for the whole school community.

Calderdale Athletics Championships — St. Mary's Stadium

Congratulations to our Year 10 Athletics Team, who were crowned Calderdale Athletics Champions following an outstanding display of talent, determination and teamwork.

Competing against schools from across the district, the team produced excellent performances in both the track and field events, with students contributing valuable points across every discipline. Their commitment, resilience and willingness to compete for one another resulted in a well-deserved overall victory.

The success reflects the hard work the athletes have put in throughout the season, both during lessons and extracurricular training, and is a testament to the depth of sporting talent within the year group.

A huge congratulations to every student who represented the school and helped bring the Calderdale title back to Crossley Heath. We look forward to seeing this talented group continue to build on their success next year.



Term Dates

2026 Autumn Term

Inset Day (School closed to students): Tuesday 1 September

Re-open (Year 7 and Year 12 only): Wednesday 2 September

Re-open (All Year Groups): Thursday 3 September

Closes Half Term: Friday 23 October

Re-open: Monday 2 November

Inset Day (School closed to students): Friday 27 November

Closes End of Term: Friday 18 December

Re-open: Monday 4 January

We say goodbye this term to Nathan Charlesworth (Computer Science and Pastoral Leader), Katy Paxman (English), Rose Clissitt (English) and Sarah Dews (Mathematics) who move on to pastures new. Wishing them all the best !

A fond farewell goes to Alison Saldana (started 2000) who begins her retirement and is looking forward to a steadier pace of life.

We look forward to welcoming our new staff in September:

- Jenni McGill - Faculty Leader, Art, Design and Technology
- Sophie Seager - Teacher of English
- Saif Mohammed - Teacher of English
- Debra Mistry - Teacher of Business and Economics
- Aimee Hill - Teacher of Science
- Sophie Irving - Apprenticeship
- Richard Stead - Teacher of Computer Science

Hello and Goodbyes

