



Dispatches

The Crossley Heath School News

December 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

A Word from the Head



I have come to the end of my first term as Head Teacher, and what a fantastic term it has been. We have enjoyed many great activities, trips, and experiences since September and created many wonderful memories for both students and staff.

As a newcomer to the school, I have been delighted with the enthusiasm and commitment shown by students to our House activities. I immensely enjoyed the swimming gala, which featured tremendous effort by all who took part, and some impressive swimming and diving.

Last week saw the culmination of the House Drama competition, following nail-biting heats. The winners were Kings, with an innovative

interpretation of Dr Seuss' 'The Cat in the Hat', but all the performances showcased the creativity and talent of our students. Charity Fundraising has also thrived this term with an amazing £2000 raised already, and very generous donations to the Rotary Christmas shoe box appeal.

In November, we were delighted that the hard work of our students and the dedication of our staff was recognised by the Sunday Times 'Parent Power' list. We are proud to feature as the fifth best secondary school in Northern England.

A further highlight of the term was the vibrant Crossley Heath Association Christmas Market which brought a myriad of stalls, games, and food into the school together with large numbers of festive shoppers. My thanks to the CHA for organising this event and for their outstanding support for the school.

I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Lynnette Cassidy



Canada Rugby Tour

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Our U14 and U15 rugby players enjoyed the trip of a lifetime in October.



House Drama

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There were outstanding performances from students taking part in the annual competition.



Rotary Collection

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Students bowled us over with their support for the Shoe Box project!



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Canada Rugby Tour 2017

Rockridge School

The next hosts, Rockridge School, looked after the boys for 3 nights. Being located close to downtown Vancouver, the boys were able to visit a number of local sights, with some even staying on Bowen Island, a short ferry trip away from the mainland. In the 2 matches, our U14 were victorious, but the challenge posed by a strong North Vancouver select XV proved

to be too much for the U15 who lost the only game of the tour.

St Georges

St George's School, with whom we have a long standing friendship, were the final hosts. This proved to be an excellent end to the tour with the boys taking 2 victories, watching New Zealand Maori train and grabbing some bargains in the outlet stores before the long journey home.

Throughout the trip the boys were a credit to themselves, their parents and to Crossley Heath, and this was commented upon by hosts and members of the public on numerous occasions. Thanks to everyone who helped and supported the trip.

The U14 and U15 tour party departed for Canada on October 14th. After a 6 hour coach ride and a 9 hour flight the party arrived in Vancouver and met their first hosts, Earl Marriott School.

Unfortunately the poor weather prevented the planned touch rugby from going ahead the next day, but the boys were well looked after by their hosts and had a great weekend.

The new headteacher at Earl Marriott was presented with a First XV tie in memory of his late father, Anthony Whitham, a former Crossley's student who moved to Canada many years ago, and who had refereed us in 2000!

Vancouver Island

On Monday 16th a ferry ride took the party to Vancouver Island where they were based at Shawnigan Lake School. Highlight of the stay was whale watching from Victoria where the boys were able to see the mighty orcas in their natural habitat. Two wins against very strong opposition the same day were an added bonus.

From Shawanigan the party moved back to the mainland, again seeing whales from the ferry.

Tour Facts

40 students
3 host schools
6 games
5 wins
1 defeat



An Enterprising Future

Boujee Gifts launch

Boujee Gifts are the new Crossley Heath Young Enterprise company this year.

Thirteen students in Y12 have set up the business which focuses on developing a retail gift concept based on luxury soaps, diffusers and unique bamboo towels imported from China.

They have already achieved initial success from key selling events such as the Post 16 Open Evening and the CHA Christmas Market with further retail events planned for the Gleddings School and at the White Rose Centre.

In addition, the group have volunteered to re-energise the school tuck shop on the Arena selling sweets and snacks to students every Monday, Thursday and Friday at lunchtime.

Tuck shop take over!

Despite the relatively inclement weather recently, the Tuck Shop is proving extremely popular and provides an ideal opportunity to learn about the



practicalities of running a small business first-hand. Well done to everyone involved.

Pictured with Calderdale's Mayor and Consort at the Christmas Market are : Luke Dunne, Freya Atkinson (Managing Director), Hannah Barraclough & Billy Duffy.



Science Journal Club

A level science students star in this bi-termly event where students volunteer to give a presentation about a topic they have researched beyond their A level specification, to an audience of staff and students.

There is an interactive question and answer session after each presentation, and drinks and donuts are always provided. So far this year presentation subjects have included histopathology, the importance of bees and dental stem cells. It would be great to hear from some physicists and chemists at the next meeting - we need you too!

All interested sixth formers and Y11 are welcome to attend. The next date is provisionally Monday 5th February, 3.30 - 5pm in the Conference Suite - keep an eye on the plasma screen for more details.



- **62.3% A*, A or B grades at A level**
- **56.2% A* or A grades at GCSE**
- **100% A level pass rate**
- **Top five state secondary school in the North of England**

Top 5 Accolade for Crossley Heath

We were delighted to have been named the 5th best performing state secondary school in the north of England in the latest Sunday Times Parent Power survey.

The list identifies the top 2000 schools in the UK, ranked by their latest examination results.

In 2017, 62.3% of all A levels at Crossley Heath were at A*, A or B grades and 56.2 percent of GCSEs were A* or A grades.

The Parent Power survey is widely acknowledged as the most authoritative survey of the country's best schools and is published several weeks ahead of the official government tables for secondary school performance.

We are very pleased to receive this recognition of the high quality education we offer. Our success is a real testament to our fantastic students and dedicated staff who work tirelessly to provide excellent teaching and support.

House Drama

It wouldn't be Christmas without the House Drama competition - and what a year it has been!

House Captains and their teams are given the responsibility of choosing a play to perform and then have to

choreography, all coming together for their big performance.

This year's plays included Queens performing their

Savile - Peter Pan



produce a script, organise castings and rehearsals as well as coordinating make-up, costumes and scenery.

It's a mammoth task of organisation and brings out the best in student leadership and teamwork. It's also a chance to involve students from all years of the school both on stage and behind the scenes in set production and

for different aspects of their productions but felt that Kings and Porter were the best plays on the day. Tension rose for the evening of the final, performed to a new panel of judges, and Kings were ecstatic to finally bring the House Drama trophy home.

Big congratulations also go to our two Best Actor winners - Sophie Wisniewski as the Cat for Kings and Ali Khan as the Wicked Queen for Queens.

Porter - Cinderella



Porter's students on stage for their production of Cinderella - a worthy runner-up this year.

Kings - The Cat in the Hat



own version of Snow White, entitled 'The Poison Apple', Kings with 'The Cat in the Hat', Savile with 'Peter Pan' and Porter with 'Cinderella'. Judges faced a tough job and praised all the Houses

THE AWARD GOES TO...

WINNER

Kings

RUNNER-UP

Porter

BEST FEMALE ACTOR

Sophie Wisniewski

BEST MALE ACTOR

Ali Khan



Queens - The Poison Apple





Y12 A level Geography students spent five days in November on Arran, an island off the west of mainland Scotland.

"During the trip we visited many areas from Lochranza to Lamlash and along the way learned about the beach profile by measuring rock sizes and

gradient using a quadrat to be able to understand the beach more deeply. We covered the river profile by climbing mountains to visit the tributaries whilst taking in the breath-taking views and by looking at waterfalls and fast flowing rivers, with the help of chains and big wellies! We also measured soil filtration levels and soil

The Isle of Arran

colours in different areas around Arran to give us a deeper insight into the island. On the final day we moved onto Human Geography and looked at population, buildings and tourism, including a visit to a very good chippy!

After every day in the field we came together as a class and discussed our results whilst recording data in graphs and tables. The days were followed by good food and relaxing in the centre with other schools after a hard day's work.

Overall the trip to Arran was an experience we will never forget as well as a very useful aid to our A level coursework. Despite the cold weather, we had a great time."

Danny's Bench

**"A new day will come.
And when the sun shines, it
will shine out the clearer."
J.R.R. Tolkien**

Mrs Moffat came into school in November for the unveiling of the memorial bench for Daniel Beal. Danny's family and Y8 rugby team mates were also in attendance and the bench now has pride of place on the front lawn.



National Awards for Sophie



Huge congratulations to Y13 student Sophie Jackson who collected two national awards in recognition of her contribution to the success of the Great Britain and England Water Polo teams in the latest season.

In the European Championships in August, Sophie's save in a penalty shoot-out took the team to their best ever result and secured automatic qualification for the World Championships in Belgrade next year.

Emerging female athlete

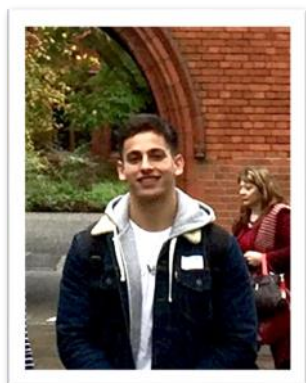
Sophie's first award was Emerging Female Athlete of the Year for Water Polo, which

she received from British Swimming. A week later she also won the Performance Athlete of the Year award, given by Swim England at their ceremony in Birmingham. Sophie told the Halifax Courier "I was really surprised and pleased to win these awards. It's great to get recognition, but water polo is a team sport and we've been so successful this year because everyone worked really hard and played their best."

Sophie has applied to universities in America, where collegiate level water polo is amongst the best in the world. She is also in discussions to try and secure a sports scholarship that will allow her to study in the US and continue playing.

MFL News

Cambridge Taster Day



In the last newsletter, we reported on Fabrizio De Vito and Jolan Noszkay's visit to the MFL Taster Day at Girton College, Cambridge in October.

Fabrizio subsequently entered a writing competition run by the college. He wrote about what he had learnt at the Taster Day and the judges were impressed by both the level of his language use and his enthusiasm for the day and for language learning in general.

Girton College

They awarded him first place for which he received a certificate of his achievement as well as a £25 book voucher for himself and one for the MFL Department.

Fabrizio's impressive writing is below:

Was ich bei dem „Girton's Languages Taster Day“ gelernt habe

Ich habe gelernt, dass es falsch ist, dass nur die Privilegierten in der Universität von Cambridge studieren können. Die Uni sucht eigentlich die Personen von allen sozialen Verhältnissen. Das kann von dem Ausmaß der Schüler gesehen werden, die in diesem Workshop teilgenommen haben.

Ich habe gelernt, dass ein Fremdsprachenabschluss die Karrieremöglichkeiten nicht einschränkt. Die Fremdsprachenhochschulabsolventen können in vielen Bereichen arbeiten, die sich von Unterrichten bis zu den Finanzdienstleistungen reichen. Auch bietet der Abschluss einem die Chance, ein Jahr im Ausland zu verbringen, wo

man das Unterrichten mit dem Lernen oder der Arbeit verbinden kann. Es wurde uns erzählt, dass am Anfang, man sich während des Jahres im Ausland ein bisschen einsam fühlen kann aber es gibt einem die Erfahrung, gänzlich vertieft in der anderen Sprache und Kultur zu sein.

Während der Workshops wurde mein Wissen über die Dialektveränderung in Italien verstärkt, zusätzlich hatte ich die Gelegenheit, ein paar Sätze zu überdenken, die ich mit meiner Familie in Italien gelernt habe, als ich jünger war.

Es war eine gute Erfahrung und ich werde auf jeden Fall in Betracht ziehen, mich um die Universität von Cambridge zu bewerben, um Fremdsprachen zu studieren.

Let's hope Fabrizio will be back in Cambridge studying languages in the future. Well done to him!



Mandarin Programme

7C Students working on Chinese calligraphy

7C is our flagship form group who have embarked on the Mandarin Excellence Programme, a national scheme to encourage more secondary school students to learn Mandarin Chinese. As part of the programme, 7C have 4 hours of Chinese lessons during the school week and have to duplicate the same amount in their home learning.

In addition, they are expected to learn about the culture in lots of different ways. Their form tutor, Mr Hirst (Department Leader for Visual Arts), is delivering a programme of arts and crafts activities in form time enabling them to learn about Chinese



Christmas Markets

To compliment their work on the topic of Festivals and Traditions, a group of sixth-form students paid a visit to the German Christmas markets in Manchester with seasoned Christmas Market-goers, Mrs Hazelton and Miss Gillespie.

The students were able to sample some German specialities as well as practising their German when ordering Bratwurst and Waffeln. It was the first time at a Christmas market for many of the students and everyone enjoyed the magical atmosphere.



culture whilst making artefacts. So far they have made Chinese dragon rod puppets and ceramic tea cups and Mrs Kneebone (Chinese teacher) has also

taught them vocabulary relating to these activities.

In December, the class visited Manchester's Chinatown to give students the opportunity to practise speaking to Chinese to people in shops and supermarkets. Whilst dodging the pouring rain, they completed a host of activities in a work booklet and enjoyed a Chinese banquet meal too. Students really enjoyed the day and learned more about Chinese culture whilst working on different writing and drawing tasks.



November was a busy month for charity starting with Mr O'Connor and Mr Smith and Y13 student Ali Khan growing moustaches for 'November' and raising £129 for male cancers.

Our poppy sales in support of the Royal British Legion raised £364.84. The ever-popular Staff v 6th Form charity netball match was a runaway victory this year for the students who won 17-9 and brought in £98 in donations to go to Children In Need.

Every form across the school also started to fill shoeboxes for the annual Rotary Shoebox Appeal, supporting families in need in our local community during the festive period. In the end we filled 94 boxes, which was a fabulous effort from all!

Charity Round-up

Our Christmas Jumper Day/ Sparkle Day in aid of Save the Children on Friday 15th December, which raised £841.65. The total raised so far this term is testament to all of the hard work and the generous nature of our students, their families and local community.

- **£129 for Movember**
- **£98 for Children In Need**
- **£364 for the Poppy appeal**
- **£841 for Save the Children**



Sixth Form Open Evening

We welcomed students from across West Yorkshire for our Sixth Form Open Evening in November. It was a chance to show exactly what we had to offer and the strength of support and academic excellence on which Crossley Heath prides itself.

Our current Y11 students and those from other providers all attended presentations

from the Headteacher which celebrated our not only our outstanding results and strength of teaching, but also our leadership opportunities and pastoral support.

Current Y12 students also supported the event and were on hand to conduct tours and talk to prospective students about why they had chosen Crossley Heath above other providers.

From the Finance Department

Many thanks to all parents who are now successfully using the system.

Please ensure that you check ParentPay regularly for new trips, resources etc., which will require paying for. Please ensure that there are sufficient funds on student accounts to enable them to have lunch on their return in January. Also please check for instalments due on various trips.

Remember there is a facility for an alert from ParentPay to advise you of a low balance on catering. To set this, click on 'Communication' on the top bar on your home page, and then click on the blue box 'Change alert settings' and follow the instructions.

Finally, to all Music Tuition students, a reminder that Spring Term fees are now due. Many thanks and festive greetings.

SPORTS LEADERS

Our Y10 sports leaders helped run a Primary Sportshall athletics competition for pupils from The Gleddings, St Chads, Savile Park and St Marys Schools. The leaders led an aerobic routine to music which they choreographed and then helped officiate the field and track events. The teachers from the primary schools commented on the maturity and enthusiasm of the sports leaders and thanked them for running such an enjoyable event. The overall winning team was the Gleddings who will now go on to compete in the Calderdale Finals.



The U12B team also played their first game this term and lost out to Trinity B with Selina Ren named player of the match.



BASKETBALL

Crossley Heath took part in the U16 & U14 Calderdale Basketball Tournaments. The U16's were undefeated, winning all 5 of their games against North Halifax, Brooksbank A & B and Rastrick A & B. Ben Adeniji and Olufemi Bright were outstanding.

CRICKET

The Y9s have been competing in the Calderdale Indoor Cricket League this half term, to date winning 3 out of 4 games. Their most recent win against Ryburn was their best performance with Sam Mindham and Bilal Butt hitting good scores. Shazil Akram then limited the Ryburn response and Divij Goyal took the final catch on the boundary to win the game.

RUGBY

We have 3 teams still in the Yorkshire cup. The U14 are into the quarter finals against Ilkley GS, the U16 beat Rosset 48-7 in their quarter final on Monday 18th December and the U18 are also through to the semi finals.

NETBALL

We have had a good term of netball with 18 fixtures played across all the age groups. The U12 team have played 2 games and they have had a win against Trinity Academy and a loss against Bradford Grammar. Harriet Hankinson was named player of the match on both occasions.

HOCKEY

Y7 Hockey is going from strength to strength at Crossley Heath. The number of girls turning up to hockey practice week in week out has been exceptional, making selection for tournaments extremely difficult.

Last week two teams went to Brooksbank for the Calderdale U12 Indoor Hockey Tournament. The A - team lead by Cody Harrison finished runners up, narrowly missing out on the title to North Halifax. The girls in the team showed real determination with exceptional defending from Lucy Gregg, creative play in the midfield by Grace Redfern and strength up front with Cassiopeia Bentley being unfortunate not to score from endless possession.

The B team wasn't as successful but still only lost two games. Lead by Harriet Hankinson, the girls improved with every game they played. Freya Brown showed real strength within defence and midfield. Saira Abid also showed excellent composure and versatility playing in midfield and the forward line.

The girls were a real credit to the school and had a few results gone our way should have won the tournament.

Miss Vials is extremely happy with the progress made over the past few months!

The Y7 squad have shown great improvement this term and we look forward to more games in the New Year.

The U13 A have been unbeaten this term winning all of their games against

Calderdale schools and they were the only school team to beat Bradford Grammar this term. We hope they can continue their success into 2018.

The U14 and U15 teams have had a mixed run of form, the Y10 team lost 2 out of their 3 games but beat North Halifax in a close game 21-17. The U14A lost two games against Brooksbank and Bradford Grammar and U14B drew one game against Trinity.

Our 6th Form team remain unbeaten this season beating North Halifax 30-11.





Some of our hardworking 2017 student council members

Know your Student Council Rep!

Say hello to some of this year's Student Council representatives, seen here with Council organiser, history teacher Miss Fern.

As part of a new initiative they have introduced a "Your Voice Matters" box in reception so students can let us know about any issues that are important to them or that they feel need to be raised. Pictured left to right are Sean Gan, Miss Fern, Abby Harlow, Faieza Baig, Alexander Marshall, Praneetha Bharath, Ethan Thomas and Malvina Karuna.

Lift-share to Hebden Bridge?

Some parents in Hebden Bridge are looking into the possibility of a taxi share from school to home on certain days of the week and have potential places. Although school is not organising this, we are happy to put anyone in touch who may be interested.

They are looking at organising a taxi back from Crossley Heath to Hebden Bridge, probably three afternoons a week (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday). If you are a parent of a child on the 592 bus route or were one of the list of people who signed up for the Yellowways bus, you may be interested.

There is room for two other children, and the cost would be £3 per child per journey (so £9 per week), assuming the taxi is filled.

Please contact our Deputy Head Mr Brownlie
j.brownlie@crossleyheath.org.uk in the first instance and we will put you in touch.

Maths Challenge

Two students took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge this term, Abhishek Subramaniam in Y12 and Rayaana Ali in Y9.

82,000 pupils took the challenge with Rayaana's paper scoring in the top 10% of students from across the country and as such he was subsequently invited to sit the follow up Senior "Kangaroo" paper and we are awaiting results of this. Well done to both students.

Student Newspaper

Could you be interested in helping to write and produce a new student newspaper in school? This will be a great opportunity for students from all year groups to showcase and hone their creative talents. Articles will range from journalism, flash fiction, poetry, interviews, to blogs and opinion. We are open to ideas and input!

Meetings will be on Mondays in B9 at 12.20 each week with a view to publishing the first edition in the new year. If anyone is interested please just come along!



Music Groups

As we approach the end of the term, our music students are preparing for performances at our annual Prizegiving and Carol Concerts. Our Wind band, Choir, String group, student-run choir and our new staff choir will be performing as well as some solo performances across the two events. A big thank you and well done to all who are performing.

Another well done to all students who have taken their ABRSM Music exams this term and put a lot of time and effort into practicing their pieces.

Lastly, a reminder of the link to sign up for peripatetic lessons for musical instrument private tuition and dance lessons. Please complete the following survey to ensure you are on the system if you would like to start lessons:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/1B3E5KK>

Term Dates

Re-opens: Mon 8 January

Closes: Fri 16 February

Re-opens Mon 26 February

Closes Thu 29 March

Re-opens: Mon 16 February

Closes for Easter: Fri 29 March

Re-opens: Mon 6 April

2018 Calendar



8 Jan	School re-opens
10	CHA meeting 7.00 pm
11	PSHCE Day Y7-10 Y10 Parents Evening
15	Y11 Mock exams and study leave to 24 January
25	Y13 Mock exams and study leave to 2 February
26	Non-uniform day
1 Feb	Intermediate Maths Challenge
7	CHA Meeting 7.00pm
8	Follow Up Post 16 evening
9	CHA Quiz Night
13	Y9 Health Fair
16	School closes for Half Term
26	School re-opens
27	Y11 Parents Evening - Y9 Vaccinations
28	Y11 History Day Trip
1 Mar	Y11 Science Live Trip
5	Y12 Work Experience Week
6	Y8/Y10 Careers Day
7	CHA Meeting 7.00pm
8	Y8 A-B-C Parents Evening
13	Y8 Geography Day Trip Duke of Edinburgh celebration evening
14	Y8 D-E-F Parents Evening
16	German Exchange to 23 March
20	Parent Focus Group meeting 6.00pm
21	Y8 Options deadline School Production to 23 March
23	Red Nose Day non-uniform
27	Y9 Parents Evening - Y9 Vaccinations
28	CHA Meeting 7.00pm
29	School closes for Easter



Crossley Heath Association News

Firstly, we'd like to give a massive thanks to all the Crossley families who have helped our PTA (the Crossley Heath Association) to fundraise for every child this term. Your generosity – be it donating prizes, volunteering or coming to our events like our Fashion Show, Christmas Market, Christmas Wreath Making, supporting our 400 Club and Easyfundraising - has altogether raised over £10,000 this term.



This has enabled us to fund requests direct from your teachers including a new Food Tech cooker, French & German 'A' level Textbooks, Geography fieldwork equipment – quadrats, compasses, ranging poles, Pastoral care, a PE mat trolley and refurbished exercise bike and PHSCE self-defence classes.

Our 2018 fundraising kicks off with our Family Quiz Night on Friday, 9th February 2018. This is always a popular social night of fun, games and trivia, a curry supper and a chance to win the coveted Quizzley Cup! Please support us through tickets on Parentpay.

If you need a New Year's resolution try Easyfundraising! Raise donations for our pupils, at no cost to you, when you shop with all the major stores and travel agents online. Over 130 parents are now using the easy app and have raised £3,000. Just sit back and watch Mr Garbutt show you just how easy it is ... <https://www.facebook.com/TheCrossleyHeathAssociation/videos/1521549671244865/>

Finally, we've been very lucky to have some wonderful volunteers these last years and naturally some of them will be leaving us as their children leave the school. So, if any parents would like to come and shadow some of their roles with a view to taking a bit more on next year, we would be extremely grateful.

Thank you again for all your wonderful support!
Happy Christmas and see you in 2018

CHA committee

Registered charity no 1043662
Email: cha@crossleyheath.org.uk



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