



Dear Parent/Carer, we thought we would take this opportunity to update you on some non-academic events and also provide you with some safeguarding information which we hope you will find useful.



Our students have been acquiring a record amount of house points this term. Students are rewarded via being 'Stars of the Week' and receiving priority lunch passes. Stars of the term' also receive a voucher. Remember, all points lead to the House Cup! Students will be given an update of the total points per house during our final assembly of the term. Remember house merchandise can be purchased via our [online shop](#) which can be found at the bottom of our home page.



Mobile phone survey: Parents say

Thank you to those parents who completed our 'mobile phones in school' survey. It is a complex issue and one that polarises opinions, which are often strong. The findings: the majority of our students are happy with the current policy and around 66% of our parents/carers also did not want to see a change in policy. Reported or observed misuse of a mobile phone during school is rare. Online safety and appropriate use of mobile technology remains a key component of our schools' Personal Development curriculum. Our rules are clear: phones should be off during lesson time unless a teacher says otherwise, no photos or videos are to be taken without a teacher's permission and students should converse in a manner befitting our school values. Sanctions such as detentions and phone confiscations are issued for misuse. Parents/carers will be informed if this policy changes.

Welcome Mr Irving. KS4 Pastoral Leader

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Mr Irving to our school as the new KS4 Pastoral Leader. He has been introducing himself to our students through assemblies and is a great addition to our team. He is very experienced in working with and supporting young people from all walks of life. His role is primarily to support students from Y9-11. His school email is m.irving@crossleyheath.org.uk should you need to contact him with any pastoral concern.

Uniform!

It's always great to see our students looking smart in their uniform. **Please ensure students have school shoes, not trainers and that trousers and skirts are the required length. Jumpers should be the school grey jumper including a badge or a plain black V neck jumper. Crew neck jumpers or hoodies are not allowed.** Please support us by ensuring your child is dressed accordingly for school as per our [school policy](#). We have set up a second-hand uniform shop, currently in Mr Chesters' office in the pastoral base. We have a selection of items available. Should your child need replacement items they may come to the Pastoral base during social times and be kitted out. We shall take their name and form and add items for payment to Parentpay. Monies raised go to our student support budget. Blazers, jumpers are £10, all other items are £5 except shirts and sports socks which are £1. Items are bought as seen.

Free School Meals

Did you know that if your child qualifies for free school meals, not only can you save hundreds of pounds on lunches per year: the school also receives extra funds to improve school resources/provision. We do not share your personal information, the money simply gets discreetly added to your child's parent pay account each day. See if you qualify by clicking [here](#)

Attendance Reminder

We are experiencing a significant number of requests to take students out of school during term time. Students miss out on learning and other peer events that occur. Holidays during term time will not be authorised under any circumstances.



Safeguarding

At The Crossley Heath School we adopt a **whole school approach** to safeguarding and this is achieved through our policies and processes in order to operate with the best interests of the child at heart. We encourage all staff to use their professional curiosity and to always be critical with what they see and hear. The school follows guidance and protocols outlined by Calderdale's Safeguarding Board. Our school is a safe space for all students.

PREVENT

Prevent is 1 of the 4 elements of CONTEST, the UK government's counter terrorism strategy and aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. As a parent, you need to be aware that individuals and groups with extremist views use the internet and social media to spread their ideologies. Children spend a lot of time online, and this has made them more susceptible to extremism, whether from Islamists or the far right.

Extremist groups tap into young people's insecurities. They often claim to offer answers and promise a sense of identity that vulnerable young people often seek. These feelings of insecurity can become more heightened when a child is feeling:

- Marginalised from society
- Trapped between two cultures
- Excluded from the mainstream

As part of their recruitment strategy, extremist groups also work to undermine the authority of parents. Extremist groups also use very sophisticated methods to trigger feelings of anger, injustice and shame that a child might feel.

WHO IS PREVENT FOR?

They tackle both the causes and risk factors that can lead someone to become radicalised. It directly supports those who are at risk through early intervention, is resourced to risk and addresses all forms of terrorism and extremism. It is there to be support young people, parents and schools.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM WORRIED ABOUT MY CHILD?

If you notice a change in your child that concerns you. You can contact your child's Pastoral Leader or [PREVENT direct for advice](#). Early Intervention is key. But it's important to remember that any child can be affected by extremism. You can play a vital role by providing emotional support that acts as an alternative to the extremist narratives that your child might feel comfortable believing.

It's not easy to talk to your child about the dangers of extremism, but as with issues such as sex and drugs, it's necessary. Give your child a safe space where they can talk about difficult subjects. The more you talk, the more confident your child will become in challenging extremist narratives.

SAFEGUARDING SUPPORT CAN BE SOUGHT BY CALLING CHILDREN'S SERVICES.

If the child lives in Calderdale on [01422 393336](tel:01422393336) or Kirklees on [01484 456848](tel:01484456848) or Bradford on [01274 435600](tel:01274435600) or Childline on [0800 111 111](tel:0800111111)

If this a matter which would involve 'PREVENT against extremism' please refer to our webpage for support <https://www.crossleyheath.org.uk/prevent/>

Safeguarding Concern?

We invest heavily in safeguarding training for staff. Our Progress and Pastoral Leaders are externally trained to Designated Safeguarding Lead level. All staff are routinely trained on national and local issues. If you have a safeguarding concern. You can raise it directly with Mr Chesters by phone or email the school's safeguarding team via safeguarding@crossleyheath.org.uk

We recently undertook a school safeguarding review to aid our internal planning. This was conducted via an external independent party. A few minor policy amendments and recommendations have been acted upon such as having a central email address for safeguarding concerns (as above) rather than using Mr Chesters' email address solely and also ensuring we had information on what is now called child on child abuse on our own website. Overall the findings were extremely positive. A number of students across all years and backgrounds were asked questions, both as part of a range of student panels and informally around school. Extracts from the report include:

The students were clear that they can report concerns to any member of staff, although they were also able to identify key pastoral and safeguarding staff. They were all aware of the button that they can use on the website to report concerns, and liked the fact that this could be anonymous if this was felt to be important at the time. The students were incredibly positive about the school and the staff, and all the things in place to keep them safe. They pulled out themes of respect, honesty and inclusion across the groups and felt that these all helped to reduce the incidences of Child on Child Abuse (Bullying). They felt that they had less incidents than their peers from other schools experienced, and they attributed this to the number of staff, the expectations around how to treat others and that issues were responded to and resolved when reported. The students all felt that anything they report is taken seriously. They felt that staff would respond consistently and that matters are resolved, and that staff take the time to follow up weeks later to ensure that the matter is genuinely sorted.

If you have any worries about your child please speak to your child's Pastoral Leader.

Is your child getting a new phone during the school holidays? We recommend using a parent monitoring app such as Google's family link to ensure only apps you are happy with can be downloaded.

