



Dispatches

The Crossley Heath
School News

November 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

A Word from the Head



I hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing break over the half term holiday.

It has been an exciting and busy term so far. In September, we started the year celebrating fantastic exam results, the result of the tremendous hard work of students and staff. We were also very pleased with our new 'transition day' for Years 7 and 12 which went a long way to supporting our new students to settle into school life.

Y12 have given us some great feedback about how welcome they have been made to feel since starting in the sixth form and it has been lovely to see a real community spirit developing amongst Y12 and Y13 sixth form students.

Amongst a number of visits that have taken place, we have been impressed with Year 7's cheerfulness and fortitude as they managed to dodge the rain to visit the West Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Fountains Abbey.

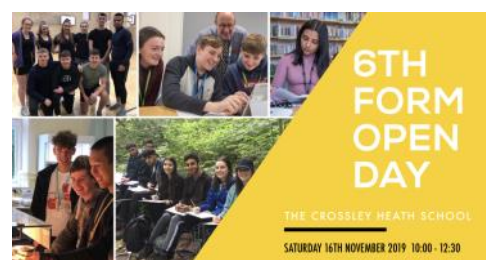
Last year was a tremendous year for charity fundraising with both staff and students

contributing to the £10,000 total. We have made a similarly good start this year with tremendous support for our bake sale and non-uniform day. A group of students wonderfully demonstrated active global citizenship by leading fund-raising for the Kashmir Earthquake appeal.

Other events which have made us proud included our annual 'Re-start a Heart' day, involving 190 sixth form students who are now equipped to give CPR, and the House Swimming Gala where so many of your young people braved the water, and the diving boards, in front of an enthusiastic audience.

We are looking forward to the second half of the term. Particular highlights this year include our Sixth Form Open Day on the morning of 16 November, and the Calderdale Interfaith - Annual Faith Celebration 2019. We are delighted to have been asked to host this event, which will bring together representatives from communities and public service organisations across the region, and hope that we will see many of you there.

Lynnette Cassidy



6th Form Open Day Page 2

Plans are hotting up for our open event!



Y7 Outward Bound Page 4

The whole year group goes team-building at Mixenden!



Re-Start A Heart Page 4

Sixth form students learn life-saving CPR



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Email: admin@crossleyheath.org.uk
Phone: 01422 360272



Yorkshire Sculpture Park

In addition to their trip to Mixenden, Y7 also visited the Yorkshire Sculpture Park where the students, especially those with artistic creativity in their hearts, were able to experience, discuss, respond to and draw the numerous artworks first-hand at the Sculpture Park in their workbooks.

Though heavy rain on site dampened the pages of the workbooks, it did not dampen the spirits of the students and staff on the trip which was enjoyed highly all round, with each student learning in more depth about art and its significance in everyday life.

Femi Crowther - Y12 Digital Reporter

Locker Update

We would like to apologise regarding the issues with student lockers.

Unfortunately, the company we commissioned has not been able to fulfil our requirements due to manufacturing issues which has resulted in temporary lockers being provided by them which are not up to the standard we have ordered. We realise this has been upsetting for parents and students and we are working on getting this resolved and are in regular contact with the company about the issues.

The latest update is that the company is still having difficulties receiving their products and, therefore, replacements will arrive in phases over the coming months up to January. We have given the company notice that should these not arrive by the end of January we will no longer be working with them.

We realise this is not the news you would wish to hear but please bear with us whilst we try to get the correct products in place. We will inform your child via their school email as replacements arrive so please avoid contacting school to query when this might be. In the meantime, if anyone wishes a refund from the Locker company, please contact the school reception and give your name and your child's name to the receptionist so we can compile a list and contact the company for you to arrange this. Please note that obtaining a refund will mean the locker is re-allocated and you would need to go on the waiting list which is on the school's website if you require one at a later time.

We hope this clarifies the current position.

There's something about the History Department's annual trip to Fountains Abbey that unfailingly brings out the best in the weather every single year.

In a week of storms and flood warnings, the 30th September held out bright and clear for our Y7s who spent the day at this stunning World Heritage site, discovering some of the incredible history on our doorstep.

Dressed in belted robes, our mini-monks imagined what life would have been like for the Benedictine scholars who founded the abbey. Destroyed by Henry VIII's Dissolution, the atmospheric ruins that now remain are a window into a medieval way of life in which devout monks searched desperately for a

simpler existence. Our students took temporary vows of silence and enjoyed their picnic lunches whilst wandering the deer park.

For those who have never been, you can now virtually wander the ruins of Fountains Abbey via [Googlemaps Streetview](#) courtesy of the Google trike!



Fountains Abbey





**SATURDAY 16
NOVEMBER 2019
10.00am – 12.30pm**

Presentations will be made at 10.30am & 11.30am

Our excellent academic standards together with our supportive ethos and numerous leadership opportunities means Crossley Heath is a great platform for your future.

Give yourself the future you deserve by choosing to study A-Levels at our high performing 6th form. Come along and find out more at our Open Day – we very much look forward to seeing you!

Crossley Heath School

SIXTH FORM OPEN DAY

The Crossley Heath School, Savile Park, Halifax, HX3 0HG
01422 360272 | admin@crossleyheath.org.uk
www.crossleyheath.org.uk

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Sixth Form Open Day

Lots of exciting and hands-on events are planned for our Sixth Form open morning on Saturday 16 November. Staff and students will be on hand in all our departments to talk about transitioning to A-Level study and what makes our Sixth Form such a special place.

**Saturday 16 November
10:00 - 12:30**



Post 16 students will be taking part in an inter-house football tournament, table tennis competition and a show stopping Bake Off challenge. We will have a mini House music competition with performances from talented students in each house taking place in the hall just prior to the official talks at 10:30 and 11:30.



With 81% of our students this summer successfully gaining university places (29% at Russell Group institutions) we are an excellent choice for your A-level options. We look forward to seeing our Y11 students and parents there!



National Re-start A Heart Day

We were delighted to take part once again in this national event to teach young people life-saving CPR techniques. In sessions led by Yorkshire Ambulance Service, together with colleagues from West Yorkshire Fire Service and police, 192 of our sixth form students were trained in the latest Call Push Rescue programme. Students also listened to the moving testimony of heart attack survivor Neil Davidson whose life was saved by CPR given by his own son. Thank you to everyone that helped deliver the programme to our students on the day.



Swimming Gala 2019

Congratulations to both Queens and Savile on winning the Swimming Gala this year. It's actually the first time in 31 years that we have had joint winners! Thank you to all the students who swam or dived for their house and to anyone who joined in at the last minute to earn valuable points.

Mixenden Activity Centre

In the second week of term, the whole of Y7 was given a new chance outside of their comfort zones and forms to not only socialise with others in their year, but to participate in teambuilding House competitions with them in Mixenden.

These team based activities included a new addition to the annual Mixenden trip: making bread on a campfire, alongside raft building and sailing (which nobody emerged dry from), going through a spider-net, passing a ball through a 3-piece tube held up by individual teammates, a minefield challenge (no actual danger involved, we promise), and picking up a bucket using two sides of a rope. And we are happy to report that the students enjoyed these activities very much - certainly a fulfilling day for everyone.

As for the results of the overall House competition, the glory of 1st place belonged to Savile, with runners up being Porter 2nd, Kings 3rd, and Queens in 4th place.



At the end of the trip however, it wasn't about winning or losing for anyone on the trip (well, maybe a little bit) but more importantly it was about teamwork, excitement and having a good time, a shared experience for all the students.

Femi Crowther - Y12 Digital Reporter

Madagascar Expedition 2021

Students and their parents interested in this exciting opportunity were treated to a thoroughly enjoyable presentation in October by Eleanor Field, the Madagascar expert from Operation Wallacea who organise the expedition. Eleanor explained that students would be involved in working alongside research scientists, monitoring and investigating biodiversity in the dry forest and coral reef ecosystems of this unique country, to justify and gain funding for conservation initiatives.

Although the living conditions will be basic at times, Eleanor's infectious enthusiasm for the rare and wonderful species that participants would encounter captivated the vast majority of the audience.

At a cost of about £3000 for the two week expedition it doesn't come cheap but there is plenty of time, and support offered for students to fundraise a large proportion of the cost.

Participation is open to students currently in y10, 11 and 12. If you are interested then see Ms Johnston in the Biology Department as soon as possible to sign up.



IT ALL STARTS AT YES

NCS scheme for Y12

We were delighted to meet Dan Ilsey and Talish Butt from the Brathay Trust who are our school's new provider for the National Citizen Service (NCS) scheme for this year. NCS bills itself as a 'youth programme like no other' and is open to all 16 and 17-year-olds in England. It helps build skills for work and life, while taking on new challenges and meeting new friends.

NCS brings together young people from different backgrounds and helps them develop greater confidence, self-awareness and responsibility. It also encourages personal and social development by working on skills like leadership, teamwork and communication.

Some of our Y12s have already signed up for their first activity - a residential trip to the Lake District over half term followed by 30 hours to be spent on a social action project in their community.

We look forward to hearing more about their adventures!



THE EASY WAY TO PAY

Finance Bulletin

Thanks to all the 'new' parents who have activated their ParentPay accounts and are now successfully using the system.

Please ensure that you check ParentPay regularly for new trips and resources which will require paying for and to keep your child's catering account topped up.

We are experiencing a number of students each day who try to buy food in the dining room and do not have any credit on their account. This is resulting in a large amount of time being wasted by the catering staff having to note food that has been requested and then by the admin staff having to chase parents to credit money onto their children's accounts.

Please ensure that your child's account is in credit before they go to the dining room. 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. Many thanks.

The Finance Team



Head Teacher awards



Congratulations to our Head Teacher award winners this half term:

- **Tolisha Warnakulasooriya** 7D (for competing in squash representing England Juniors)
- **Evelyn Dale** 10G (for her performance in Swan Lake with the English Youth Ballet)
- **Annie McKeown** 8D (for her amazing poem reflecting homelessness which will soon be seen around school).

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

ENGLISH SCHOOLS FELL RUN

Congratulations to our three students who took part in the English schools fell run at Giggleswick school this term.

Elijah Peers-Webb in Y10 finished in 38th place in the Y10/11 boys whilst Isabel Richardson, also Y10, ran an excellent race top to come in 3rd place for Y10/11 girls.



Lauryn Gregg also ran a great race in the girls 12/13 age category and came 4th.

Well done to all competitors on a fantastic achievement.

**HOCKEY**

We have had a really strong turnout for our U13 hockey practice with up to 40 attending practice. Thank you to Mia Ghosh for her help with the coaching this term.

The team have played 3 and lost 3 games, but they have got better each



time they have played showing some really good potential. The team show a good deal of promise for future games.

Edith Davies and Dinara Gull have demonstrated excellent skill and leadership of the team.

NETBALL

Netball continues to be one of our most popular sports.

We have had a strong turn out across all of our netball practices from year 7 – 11. Our KS3 teams have lots of fixtures coming up next term so we are hoping for some good results.

Our Y9 and Y10 teams have had a super start to the netball season this year. In the West Yorkshire Invitational tournament, our Y10s managed to remain unbeaten for the whole tournament. They played some fantastic netball and really worked well for each other as a team. The Y9 team had two tough games against Bradford Grammar and GSAL but won the rest of their games to come third in the group.



Our U15 netball team and Charlotte Margetson went to the county round of the national schools netball competition. Unsure of what to expect, the girls took it all in their stride being a year below the age group playing. They beat Huddersfield Grammar in their first game which put them on to a good start. They went confidently into their next games narrowly missing out to the first and second placed team of the tournament by 1 goal. They played really well throughout the whole tournament and demonstrate a lot of promise for next year's competition.

**GIRLS TENNIS**

Well done to the U15 girls tennis team, who following their unbeaten run of games in the summer qualified for the North of England Division 2 Tennis finals.

The girls won their first round and went on to play Bolton school in the final, but were unable to maintain their form across the team and narrowly missed out on first place. A special mention should go to Charlotte who won all her games at the tournament.

RUGBY

Fifty five of our Y9 and 10 students travelled to Canada at the end of October. Look out for some fantastic pictures and match reports in the next issue of Dispatches!

Look out for brand new CBBC programme called, "A Week to Beat the World".

The series began screening in October but our students may see a familiar face if they tune in on Monday 9th December.

The programme takes three boys and three girls on separate trips to amazing places in the world, competing against local children at their national sport. The youngsters live and train with their hosts for a week experiencing their way of life, families and traditions.

Our lucky Y10 student Niamh Woodhouse was chosen as first reserve for the programme so did not know until the last minute if she would be picked or where she might have to travel to. In the end she was called on the very last trip and ended up travelling to Malaysia to join the team that had already been training out there. To her credit she slotted in to the group perfectly and everyone said they felt she had always been part of the team.

All the participants in the series had to travel on their own without parents, just the filming crew and the other contestants so it was very brave of them to jet off to the other side of the world.

The girls also didn't know what sport they were going to do until they got to Malaysia and it was sprung upon them and they were immediately thrown into training.

The programme is scheduled on CBBC at 4.40pm on Monday 9th December.

Surprise Malaysia trip for Niamh



What is the 2020 Group?

on all issues affecting the sixth form.

We meet at lunchtimes every few weeks to discuss how we can enhance the existing sixth form experience and facilities, in an academic, extra-curricular and

Since its inception, the **2020 Group** has quickly become an extremely effective forum to promote student views

environmentally friendly context. Liaising with the Senior Leadership Team, we ensure a wide range of views are heard and considered, owing to the representation of our diverse school community within the group.

The group is at the forefront of change in the sixth form, with many of the group's ideas already having been implemented, which is testament to the value placed on the group by the sixth form team. We are currently discussing the ways in which we can enhance sixth form catering facilities, revamp the PSHCE system and develop an even broader extra-curricular programme. The primary aim of the group, however, is to promote our caring and enriching sixth form community. We look forward to handing over the reigns to some interested Y12 students in the near future to hopefully take the group onwards into next year.

Fabrizio de Vito Y13

Visitors' Code of Conduct

We have been advised that it is good practice to have a code of conduct for parents and visitors to promote good working relationships with the school.

Whilst recognising that we are already very fortunate in enjoying positive and constructive relationships, governors have accordingly approved The Crossley Heath School Parent and Visitor Code of Conduct which you can now find on our website.

Term Dates

Re-opens: Monday 4 November

School closed: Friday 29 November

Closes for Christmas: Friday 20 December

Re-opens: Monday 6 January

Closes: Friday 14 February

Nov - Dec Calendar



- 4 Nov Y12 Geography trip to Arran
- 7 Senior Maths Challenge
Y13 Parents' Evening
- 8 Y9 Personal Development Activities
- 11 Y10 exams this week to 18 November
- 12 Calderdale Interfaith Annual Faith Celebration
Y12 RS Trip to Manchester
- 16 Sixth Form open Morning 10-12:30
- 18 Y12 EPQ visit to Leeds University
- 21 Y12 Road Safety Event at Victoria Theatre AM
6th Form Parents Information Evening
- 23 PTA Winter Fayre
- 25 A-Level Taster Day for Y11
- 26 Y12/13 Science Live trip to Manchester
Y7 Tutor Event
- 29 School closed INSET
- 3 House Drama rehearsals
- 4 PTA meeting 7pm
- 5 House drama heats
- 6 Y9 Art Trip
- 9 Y11 MFL mock speaking exams this week
House Drama finals 6.30pm
- 11 Y13 Mock Interview day
- 13 Non Uniform Day for Calderdale Smartmove
- 17 Art Exhibition 4.30pm
Prizegiving 6.30pm
- 20 Carol Services. School closes at lunchtime



Crossley Heath PTA News

We are looking to recruit new committee members to help in future events. Please get in touch and come and see us on at one of our meetings on the first Wednesday of every month during term time in the sports hall from 7pm.

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CrossleyHeathPTA> where we make announcements and mention forthcoming events.

We welcome any suggestions for events particularly if you have been involved in the PTA of your child's Junior school.

Please like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to keep up to date. Registered Charity Number: 1043362



www.facebook.com/CrossleyHeathPTA



[@crossleypta](https://twitter.com/crossleypta)

Ski trip 2021

Our ski trip 2021 to Italy is currently being planned! Look out for information coming during this next half term. The ski trip will be open to students in Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 at the time of the trip.



Welcomes and Goodbyes

We are sad to report that Duncan Beattie, our Healthcare and Student Support Assistant, has left Crossley Heath due to personal family reasons. He has done a wonderful job in the short time he has been with us and has provided fantastic support for our students who have needed help with first aid or other medical and mental health issues. We wish him well and are pleased that he will continue to support the school on an ad hoc basis.

We are delighted to inform you that Nicola Holmes will be joining us to take on this post prior to Christmas. As a qualified nurse, we are confident that Nicola will continue to support the needs of our students to a very high standard.