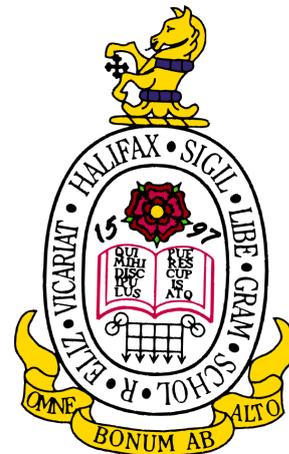


# CROSSLEY HEATH SIXTH FORM TRANSITION NEWSLETTER

## A WELCOME MESSAGE

Hi everyone!

I am pleased you have opted to study at the Crossley Heath Sixth Form and I am looking forward to meeting you all in September. Hopefully you are excited by the prospect of joining us at the start of the next school year and I trust you feel enthusiastic about embracing the new opportunities that lie ahead.



This newsletter has been compiled by current students to give you an insight into life in our Sixth Form based on their first-hand experience. Hopefully, it will provide an overview of what to expect and also encourage you to engage fully in the broad range of opportunities we have to offer.

Even during unprecedented circumstances such as those we find ourselves in today, it is always useful to keep an eye on the future. Here at The Crossley Heath School we are currently actively planning for your arrival in September to ensure your transition into life in our Sixth Form runs as smoothly as possible.

Life is certainly a journey, rather than a destination, so we try our best to ensure all your needs are catered for as you move into Year 12 and we endeavour to create an environment throughout the Sixth Form where your aspirations, whatever they may be, can become a reality.

I see the Crossley Heath Sixth Form as a family; we are caring and supportive, whilst at the same time offering the ability for you to feel a sense of independence as you develop. As your Progress Leader, I will be heavily involved in overseeing your transition at the start of the year, before focusing on my main role of monitoring your academic progress as you move towards your final examinations in the summer of 2022.

Eventually, there will be a return to some form of 'normality' and the Covid-19 pandemic will be consigned to the history books; however in the meantime, I hope you manage to make the most of the remainder of your summer.

Please take care and keep positive!

Mr Schofield, Year 12 Progress Leader



## A HELLO FROM MRS DOIG

Hello everybody, I want to extend a warm welcome to all of you planning to join our Sixth Form in September. Your teachers, tutors, pastoral leaders and our Y13 students will all work together to help you settle in, make new friends and enjoy new experiences.

You can be confident that you will be treated with courtesy, kindness and respect here. The Sixth Form team are excited about all the different interests, talents and opinions that you will bring to our community next year and we ask that you get involved in as many different ways as you can please. We want you to enjoy your lessons and the chance to take more responsibility for your own progress and development – as Sixth Form students you will certainly have more freedoms than in Y11.

Over the next two years, we will support you in acquiring all the knowledge and skills (and the formal qualifications) necessary for you to progress into Higher Education, apprenticeships or employment according to your personal goals. We know that you will also develop independence, confidence and resilience in order to be well prepared for life after Sixth Form.

We are very much looking forward to working with you. Have a lovely summer and we will see you on results day in August and for the start of term on September 4th.

Best wishes, Penny Doig (Head of Sixth Form)

## WELCOME FROM THE STUDENTS

Hi everyone,

We hope you're all well and are making the most of isolation. Since you won't have the opportunity to visit Crossley Heath before you officially join the sixth form in September, Mrs Doig has asked the new Senior Students to put this newsletter together to try and give you some insight into what sort of things you'll be getting up to next year.

Of course, every student has a different sixth form experience, and we have therefore tried to incorporate the views of as many current Year 12s as possible to ensure that we've included something for everyone, no matter your subject choices or outside interests. We hope you find it useful and that it will answer some of your questions about what sixth form will be like. Have a good rest of your holiday!

Gem and Ellie, Y13 students.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

### STARTING SIXTH FORM

For the next two years, you will be a sixth form student. This is a title which comes with more independence, responsibilities, and being considered a role model for younger students. Though this may sound daunting, you will find yourself rising to the challenge and becoming accustomed to a new routine with the support of your peers and the close-knit sixth form community.

As a sixth former you will be given more freedom, and are only expected to be in school for lessons, form meetings and enrichment sessions (if you do these in school)- you are just asked to sign in and out as you come and go with your ID badge. You must always wear your badge around school for safeguarding purposes, and they can also be used to open doors around school.

### FORM TUTORS

At Crossleys, you'll be assigned a form tutor based on your subject choices, so it is likely that they will also teach some of your lessons. Your form tutor is there to support you throughout your A-Levels, and is the person you can go to with any academic problems you may have.

Forms are usually made up of 15 - 20 students, and you will have regular short meetings with your form tutor throughout the year. You'll generally see your form tutor every half-term to discuss your progress, though they are always available if you wish to organise a meeting with them yourself for any reason. Your form tutors will also write your reference for your UCAS application in Year 13, so it's important to make sure that you attend all scheduled meetings so that you can get to know each other as much as possible.

### ACADEMIC ADVICE

- Put time into your bridging work! There is a significant period of time until the start of Year 12, so refreshing yourself on your chosen subjects, introducing yourself to new ones, and preparing to go back to working hard after such a long break is essential.

- Talk to your teachers as asking questions and seeking clarification when you're unsure can make all the difference to your grades. If you feel you're struggling, go along to support sessions if your subject teachers run them or, if not, don't be afraid just to send them a quick email.

- For many subjects it is helpful to stay on top of current affairs or read around your topics, so doing this as much as possible will prove to be really valuable in the long run.

- Revise and make notes as you go along so you don't get overwhelmed when it comes to exam season. It's important to remember that topics are often interlinked, so to retain as much content as possible you should make revising a part of your regular routine.

- Use the study spaces the school provides in your free periods to get work done. The science room and the library are usually the quietest places!

- Participate in your lessons and class discussions. You will learn a lot by sharing ideas with your others.

# SUBJECT INFORMATION

## BIOLOGY

- A Level Biology builds on the content you learnt at GCSE as well as introducing you to some completely new topics.
- As well as completing all the bridging work you were set over summer, it would be useful to go over any topics you personally struggled with at GCSE.
- You will be given a login to access the resources available on Kerboodle, along with revision sheets and practice questions on the VLE. The CGP guide called *Head Start to A level Biology* is a good resource to buy and helps bridge the gap between GCSE and A Level as it will introduce you to some of the new topics you'll be studying next year. You will also need access to a calculator.

You will be doing AQA Biology and can take a look at the specification here:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/biology/specifications/AQA-7401-7402-SP-2015.PDF>

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

- A Level Computer Science is quite similar to GCSE and is designed to be accessible even to people who didn't take it at GCSE level. Therefore, the entry requirements are a Grade 6 in Computer Science or in Maths.
- The main programming language used at Crossley Heath is Visual Basic, so if you aren't familiar with it, it may be useful to learn some of the basics over the summer holidays. It is also recommended that you go over the GCSE topics before starting A Level even if you didn't take Computer Science last year. A good resource for this is the YouTube channel Computer Science Tutor, specifically the series on the OCR GCSE course because A Level Computer Science builds upon this content.
- You don't strictly need specific equipment for Computer Science, since you'll mostly be working on school computers and very occasionally on paper, and you've no need for a calculator because they're not allowed in the exams. If you have access to a computer at home which can run visual studio it may be useful, although this isn't absolutely necessary.

You will be doing OCR Computer Science and can take a look at the specification here:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/170844-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-computer-science-h446.pdf>

## CHEMISTRY

- The Chemistry Department provides bridging work to do over the summer holidays, which is based on GCSE knowledge. It's important you have a firm understanding of the topics in this bridging booklet as A Level Chemistry builds on these ideas.

- If you feel there are any topics you're weaker at, try to use summer as a chance to get to grips with them. Don't panic about trying to get ahead and start learning the new content as the first few weeks of Year 12 focus on GCSE topics and the course doesn't move at too fast a pace.

- Chemistry provides textbooks for you to use in class, and once you start you'll be given a login so that you can access them online via Kerboodle as well. The only equipment you'll need for chemistry is a pen, pencil, ruler and calculator – lab coats and goggles are provided at school for practicals.

You will be doing OCR Chemistry and can take a look at the specification here:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/171720-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-chemistry-a-h432.pdf>

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- During the summer holidays, it would be useful to read as much as you can (both fiction and non-fiction texts as you will study examples of both). It's also important to complete your bridging work to start to get to grips with what A Level English Language will be like.

- Whilst you will be required to build upon the terminology and analytical skills you gained at GCSE, the content you learn in the Language and Diversity section of the course will be completely new.

- You do not need to buy any resources for English Language other than a folder, as you will be provided with a textbook and any additional sheets or booklets by the department.

You will be doing AQA English Language and can take a look at the specification here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-7701-7702/introduction>

## HISTORY

- The bridging work gives you a feel of what Britain and Germany were like in the lead-up to the studied periods so that you have a decent understanding of the respective political climates going into the course.

- Crossleys will provide two core textbooks (one for Germany and one for Britain) which are yours to keep throughout your A Level studies. You will also be expected to do extra reading in your own time, and two of the main resources used for this are <https://spartacus-educational.com> and William Carr's *A History of Germany 1815-1990*.

- As well as this, it is also important that you keep up to date with current affairs by reading or watching the news regularly as this will improve your understanding of past events.

You will be doing AQA History and can take a look at the specification here:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/history/specifications/AQA-7041-7042-SP-2015.PDF>

## ENGLISH LITERATURE

- You'll be provided with bridging work to do during the holidays, which introduces you to some of the context you'll be using to better your understanding of the set texts. It also gives you the opportunity to practise the skills you'll develop next year. It's a good idea to read as much as you can both before and during your A Level studies- especially some of the books suggested on the reading list provided.

- The work you do in Year 12 does not rely on you remembering content from GCSE, but rather requires you to build upon and improve the skills you used to analyse texts last year.

All of the set texts studied throughout the year can be found in the library, though it is useful to purchase your own copies to make annotations on if possible. You will also be given booklets with additional information to further your understanding of each unit you study.

You will be doing Eduqas English Literature and can take a look at the specification here:

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/gkxh25ep/eduqas-a-level-english-lit-spec-from-2015-e.pdf>

## FURTHER MATHS

- It's vital to complete the bridging work for Further Maths as you start the course straight away, and you will be doing unfamiliar topics.

- The A Level Further Maths course covers a wide range of topics- some of which better your knowledge of regular Maths, others introduce you to entirely new concepts. The subject is divided into three main topics: Core Pure Mathematics, Decision 1 and Further Mechanics 1.

- You will be able to access revision materials online using Pearson Active Learn.

You will be doing Edexcel Further Maths and can take a look at the specification here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Mathematics/2017/specification-and-sample-assesment/a-level-l3-further-mathematics-specification.pdf>

## MATHS

- A Level Maths builds on GCSE content and you'll spend the first few months solidifying your knowledge of the more difficult topics that students often struggle with in Year 11. You may find it helpful to recap any ideas you are unsure of with over summer in preparation for the first few weeks of lessons.

- Our Maths Department provides workbooks for each topic that you can take home, and you will also be given access to more resources via Pearson's Active Learn website. You will also use Dr Frost, which contains revision PowerPoints, videos and practice questions for every topic in the specification.

- In preparation for A Level Maths, you will need to purchase a Casio FX-991EX Scientific Calculator. These are available to buy through the school, along with additional revision guides, but if you would prefer to have one from the beginning of the year you can find them on Amazon and similar sites.

You will be doing Edexcel Maths and can take a look at the specification here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Mathematics/2017/specification-and-sample-assesment/a-level-13-mathematics-specification-issue4.pdf>

## PHYSICS

- It's important to have a good understanding of GCSE topics when you start A Level Physics, as many new topics rely on a full understanding of them. Your bridging work should give you a good idea of the most important GCSE knowledge going into Year 12.

- A Level Physics is very maths-based, so recapping GCSE equations over the summer would be helpful. You may also find it useful to print out the list of given equations at A Level, to keep in your folder for easy access throughout the year.

- School will provide you with a new Hodder Physics textbook in the classroom (plus other materials for revision and home learning), as well as a lab book you will use keep track of all the required practicals, so it's very important to keep this neat! You will also need your own scientific calculator for every lesson.

You will be doing Edexcel Physics and can take a look at the specification here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Physics/2015/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/PearsonEdexcel-Alevel-Physics-Spec.pdf>

## GERMAN/ C6 FRENCH

- Over summer, it's important to keep on top of your language-learning- doing a few minutes every day will help, such as by reading articles or listening to music written in your chosen language. Bridging work may also be given to help with this to ensure you forget as little as possible over the holidays.

- Many of the A Level units build on the vocabulary and grammar you learnt at GCSE, but there are some parts of the course which will be new to you, such as the study of a book and a film written in your chosen language, and overall the topics allow you to learn more about the cultures of countries in which the language is spoken.

- Though you don't need any special equipment to study a language, it would be useful to have lined paper and a ring binder as exercise books typically aren't provided. You will be given a textbook which can also be accessed online through Kerboodle and a grammar workbook, as well as a login for [thislanguage.com](http://thislanguage.com), a revision website which helps with learning vocabulary as well as practicing your skills. Quizlet and WordReference are free apps which will also prove useful for language learning.

You will be doing AQA French/German and can take a look at the specifications here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/french-7652/specification-at-a-glance>

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/german/specifications/AQA-7662-SP-2016.PDF>

## PSYCHOLOGY

- For most people, Psychology is a completely new subject at A Level and so you will be learning new content and skills.
- Over the summer, it is important that you complete the bridging work you have been given so that you have all the necessary background information before officially starting the course in September.
- The Psychology Department provides you with a login to access an online version of the textbook which you use during lessons as well as an exercise book. The only specific equipment you need to bring yourself is a calculator.

You will be doing AQA Psychology and can take a look at the specification here:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/specifications/AQA-7181-7182-SP-2015.PDF>

## GEOGRAPHY

- Over the summer, it is important to go over the GCSE content to ensure you remember any key ideas. The Geography Department also sets some bridging work to help you with this.
- Many of the A Level Geography topics build on GCSE content, but there will be some completely new topics. The course is divided into Physical and Human Geography. 20% of your grade is determined by project work based on field trips.
- The department provides a login to access an online textbook, while also having physical ones available to use in school. However, it may be useful to purchase your own revision guide to have from the start of the year. It would also be helpful to have pencils to hand for drawing diagrams and graphs.

You will be doing AQA Geography and can take a look at the specification here:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/geography/specifications/AQA-7037-SP-2016.PDF>

## ECONOMICS

- A Level Economics is a new subject for most Y12 students, so before starting the course you should ensure all bridging work is fully completed. As well as this, you can supplement your learning using *Head Start in A Level Economics*, found here: <https://www.tutor2u.net/economics>.

- You will be introduced to Economics by building knowledge of core concepts, and by investigating economic theory through real-world businesses. You will make good use of your Maths and extended writing skills.

- The Economics Department uses Microsoft Teams, which allows you to access any resources you may want to use at home. For lessons, you will need a calculator and a ring binder to keep your work safe. You are provided with textbooks but can also purchase revision guides through school.

You will be doing Edexcel Economics B and can take a look at the specification here:

[https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Economics%20B/2015/specification%20and%20sample%20assessment%20materials/9781446914410\\_GCE\\_2015\\_A\\_ECOB\\_WEB%20spec.PDF](https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Economics%20B/2015/specification%20and%20sample%20assessment%20materials/9781446914410_GCE_2015_A_ECOB_WEB%20spec.PDF)

## PHOTOGRAPHY

- A Level Photography builds on skills from GCSE, but it's important to complete the bridging work in order to get to grips with what will be expected. Within the first few months, you will look into the history of photography in preparation for your main project. You will also have separate Art History lessons and can incorporate what you learn into your own photography.

- Since Photography is largely done online, it is easy to access resources and work that you will be set. Your work must also be documented on a PowerPoint for your teachers to check your progress.

- The Art Department does have a limited supply of cameras, so it may be useful to bring your own.

You will be doing AQA Photography and can take a look at the specification here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/as-and-a-level/art-and-design/subject-content/photography>

## PE (C6)

- A Level PE, studied at Brooksbank, involves many of the concepts learnt at GCSE and it is therefore important that you go over any of the content that you struggled with. In preparation for the start of the year, any bridging work that has been set should be completed.

- Brooksbank provides you with a textbook as well as additional resources. You will need to bring pens, pencils, a ruler, a ring binder and a calculator. You will also be given the option to buy revision guides.

- 30% of the course involves a practical performance in physical activity and sport. It would be ideal to be performing competitively in at least one sport for the duration of the two years.

You will be doing AQA PE and can take a look at the specification here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/as-and-a-level/physical-education-7582>

## RS

- A Level RS is made up of completely new topics from GCSE, meaning that it's important to complete all the bridging work to gain a basic understanding of the course. An open mind and willingness to discuss different opinions is central to the course and is part of what makes it so enjoyable. Your discussion skills will be developed over time and you will grow more confident in expressing your own opinions.

- You will need to buy two folders, as well as dividers to separate the two main topics: *Religion* and *Philosophy and Ethics*. You will also need your own notebook to write in.

- You will be provided with two textbooks to use in lessons and take home. It is also advisable to read around each topic once you begin the course in order to broaden your understanding and gain knowledge from other sources.

You will be doing Eduqas RS and can take a look at the specification here:

[http://www.rsrevision.com/Alevel/boards/edugas/guidance/edugas\\_as+year2\\_spec.pdf](http://www.rsrevision.com/Alevel/boards/edugas/guidance/edugas_as+year2_spec.pdf)

## BUSINESS

- A Level Business Studies is a completely new subject for most students, so the bridging work is extremely helpful as it gives you an insight into what you will be studying next year.

- It is useful to keep up to date with the news (specifically that which is directly related to business) as it will improve your understanding of the course content.

- You will be given a textbook within the first few weeks which contains all of the topics you will be studying. You will also be able to buy a revision guide through school which is very useful for consolidation. The PowerPoints from the lessons will also be placed on Teams which can be accessed easily.

You will be doing Edexcel Business and can take a look at the specification here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20Advanced%20Level/Business/2018/Specification-and-Sample-Assessment/International-A-Level-Business-Spec.pdf>

## ART

- During the holidays, it is suggested that you keep up with your preferred aspect of art, such as by practice painting or viewing artwork online. It's also important to recognise your artistic strengths and weaknesses to challenge weaker skills and develop your strongest ideas. This is vital in shaping your style to create a coherent and fluent sketchbook.

- You will find similarities between A Level and GCSE Art in terms of your sketchbook's structure, but at the beginning of Year 12 you will be asked to decide on a theme or concept you wish to explore, granting you more freedom to challenge your own interests and style. You will also have Art History lessons to help with this.

- You will need to pay for your own sketchbooks via ParentPay at the beginning of the year. You will be provided with an A3 folder to keep your work and materials in, and are allowed to borrow equipment you don't have access to outside of school so long as it is catalogued and returned in good condition.

You will be doing AQA Art and can take a look at the specification here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/as-and-a-level/art-and-design/specification-at-a-glance#:~:text=Component%201%20Portfolio&text=Each%20student%20must%20include%20in,%2C%20concept%2C%20theme%20or%20issue>

## DT (C6)

- It would be beneficial to recap the theory you learnt at GCSE to ensure you have a strong understanding of the knowledge you'll be building on over the year, and starting to think about product ideas will also put you in a good position.

- A Level Product Design, studied at Ryburn, is similar to GCSE in terms of structure- your lesson time will be split evenly between practical and theory study. The theory builds on GCSE knowledge whilst the practical work involves researching a product that needs to be improved to fit a user requirement. This project takes you right through the two year course, allowing you to really invest yourself in it.

- A scientific calculator is essential as 30% of the theory paper is maths-based, and it would also be useful to bring colouring pencils to lessons. Everything else is provided.

You will be doing OCR Design and Technology and can take a look at the specification here:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/design-and-technology-h004-h006-h404-h406-from-2017/specification-at-a-glance/>

## WHAT IS C6?

*C6 is an arrangement between sixth forms in Calderdale (Brighouse High School, Lightcliffe Academy, North Halifax Grammar, Brooksbank School, Ryburn and Crossley Heath), and involves students from different schools being put together in a class when numbers aren't big enough for a subject to run at the individual schools. For instance, all the French students from C6 schools are taught at Brighouse, PE is held at Brooksbank, and Ryburn offers DT. Lessons take place in blocks on Tuesdays mornings and Thursday afternoons.*

*Though you have to travel to your C6 school on a Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon yourself, Crossley Heath will order and pay for a taxi to take you back before lunchtime on Tuesday, as well as to your second school at the end of lunch on Thursdays. You will be given everything you need in your first couple of lessons, like textbooks and exercise books, along with ID badges or key cards which grant access to the buildings.*

*Don't worry about going to an unfamiliar school or making friends - you're all in the same boat and will quickly get to know your new teachers and classmates. Everyone is very welcoming and you will soon be able to find your way around and get into the swing of things!*

# EXTRA CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Y12 students are given time in their timetable, usually on Wednesday afternoons, to take part in an enrichment activity of their choosing. These are meant to boost your CVs, develop skills, and allow you to pursue interests you are passionate about. Crossley Heath offers a range of activities both in school and with other organisations in the local area, but you are also given the option to arrange your own enrichment. Since we start these activities fairly early on in the first term, we've compiled a list of things some of the current Y12s chose to do this year, along with the benefits of each activity, to give you an idea of the sort of opportunities which may be available:

## EPQ

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), is a brilliant enrichment opportunity specifically for Y12 students which involves completing a written project on a topic of your choosing.

It is a highly-regarded qualification in the eyes of some universities, carrying the same amount of UCAS points as half an A Level, and is also a good way to demonstrate you have some of the skills you will be using throughout a degree (especially if you do not take any essay-based subjects at A Level).

Even if university is not your plan, taking EPQ will still be a valuable experience. Whether it be to distinguish yourself in an application for apprenticeship or employment or simply for the opportunity to research an area of interest. (Dylan)

## SCIENCE JOURNAL CLUB

Science Journal Club is a group open to all students- especially those looking at pursuing a future in the sciences or medicine- who want to expand their wider scientific knowledge. The club gives you a chance to present on scientific topics outside of the curriculum that particularly interest you, as well as learn more about different fields of science from others. There are free doughnuts too! (Cristina)



## FIRST AID

The first aid course is a fantastic enrichment option for Y12. It is run over a full school term in the form of hour-long sessions on Wednesday afternoons. Last year, they were run by our school health advisor, Mr Beattie, a former ambulance paramedic who taught the classes on emergency first aid training. Groups are generally made up of around 15-20 students who all practise first-aid techniques together. With a large number of students taking part, the sessions were always lively and fun, and we not only learnt from the instructor but from each other.

Alongside a completion certificate at the end of the course, the course provided an opportunity to learn essential skills like CPR or even preparation for mass-casualty events. There was also a session on mental health and how we cope with it in school. We also took part in quizzes and always had the opportunity to ask questions. First-aid skills are important to have, no matter the career path you choose to follow, but are nevertheless a good addition to any UCAS or job application form in the future. (Caitlin)

## GARDENING

The Environment and Wildlife Club is a lunch-time club open to all sixth form students. We have a great space to host the club, and will often meet in a classroom first to plan our projects before going out to get on with them. Last year, the Environment and Wildlife Club received a grant from the PTA, which has helped us to buy plants and tools as well as make general improvements to the facilities at our disposal. The club is a great opportunity to expand your wildlife and gardening knowledge, and is also a good way to relieve stress. (Caitlin)

## FINDING ENRICHMENT

Though the school offers several enrichment opportunities, you will also be given the option to find your own. I chose to contact my old primary school and set up a Creative Writing Club for Key Stage 2 students. Each week, I led a group of pupils in doing an activity I had planned at home with the aim of showing them a new way to write a story or introducing them to a different genre of fiction in each session. Even though it was challenging at first, over the course of the year I got to know all the pupils in my group and watching them improve their writing skills over the weeks was a really rewarding experience. (Gem)

## RAVENSLIFFE

Ravenscliffe is a local special needs high school. Every Wednesday afternoon we spend an hour interacting with a group of students who have a range of learning disabilities. This involves “intensive interaction,” a skill we all gained confidence in as the weeks went by. I had to use my intuition to communicate with the students, and this helped build my independence. At the end of the hour we would reflect upon our time with the students, such as by reviewing videos we took during the session and sharing our thoughts. Julia Barnes, who works at Ravenscliffe, coordinated our volunteering at the school; worked alongside us; and guided us every week after giving us our initial training, meaning we always had someone to answer our questions.

Volunteering at Ravenscliffe is an amazing opportunity offered by Crossleys which allows you to go outside your comfort zone, and I would strongly recommend it. (Erin)



## WORK EXPERIENCE

At Crossley Heath, all Year 12 students participate in a week-long work experience placement during the spring term in order to find out more about real world applications of your favourite subjects and learn about different careers you may be interested in pursuing. The school generally facilitates placements at Calderdale Royal Hospital and Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, but most people are expected to arrange their own work experience. There is contact information from companies which have taken students on over the past few years on the VLE to help you with this. Though it seems a long way off, you do need to have your placement arranged well in advance and so we have asked some students to write about their experiences so that you can start thinking about the kind of thing you may be interested in:

## HRI

If you're interested in pursuing a career in medicine, doing your work experience in a hospital is a great opportunity which is made easily accessible through school. After handing in a written application, you'll be interviewed through school in a straightforward and relaxed way. You will be asked to choose a department of the hospital you would like to spend your time in and will be allocated a placement based on your preferences.

For example, I spent the week in General Surgery at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. The majority of my time was spent in theatre watching surgeries in different departments whilst the consultants or nurses talked me through the various procedures. I also spent time with consultants during clinics and morning ward rounds, along with junior doctors who told me all about being a medical student and giving me advice on applying to university. Before my work experience, I was unsure whether a career in medicine was right for me, but after such an enjoyable week I am now confident that this is the route I would like to go down. (Lauryn)

## LLOYDS BANK

I did an IT placement at Lloyds Bank, which was slightly unusual since I did more learning in the traditional sense than hands-on work. It's important to remember that some work experience placements- especially ones which give an insight into jobs which require special skills- will involve more learning than practical activities. You should try to learn as much as possible on your work experience placement and make the most out of your week, because the things you learn and the experience you gain will be valuable in the future. (Dylan)



## ACCESS HOSPITALITY

For my work experience, I worked at a local non-profit organisation that helps adults with learning disabilities find employment. Throughout my week, I was given the opportunity to perform a variety of tasks, from setting up meetings and making purchases to planning social media posts and fundraising strategies.

I spent most of the week working with the founder of the charity, who gave me a close look into his day-to-day activities. I was also able to ask any questions I had about the work, which allowed me to learn a lot about the inner workings of a small business.

Though not every task I carried out was especially exciting, I was given an honest insight into all the tasks the staff performed. My favourite part of the week was helping to prepare for a fundraising event, which involved me printing out leaflets, purchasing a card donation machine and contacting a local business to ask them to sponsor us. The freedom I was given to carry out these tasks was daunting at first, but it gave me a sense of independence and finishing everything was incredibly gratifying, particularly given that it was all for a good cause. (Ellie)

# SIXTH FORM LIFE

## CHARITY

Charity is an important part of school life at Crossley Heath, and there are a number of fundraisers which take place throughout the year. Whilst we donate money to a large range of organisations, in recent years we have placed a particular focus on local charities. For example, this year we ran a stall at the Christmas Fayre to raise money for the Women Centre and organised a food bank drive for St Augustine's. We also give assemblies and collect donations for the annual Rotary Shoebox Appeal every Christmas. Mr Lees is the Charity Coordinator and we also have a group of Year 13 Charity Officials who organise meetings and work with students in younger years to run projects, trying to get as many people involved as possible.



## HOUSE EVENTS

Within your first week at Sixth Form, you will be assigned a house (these are Kings, Queens, Porter and Savile). Throughout the year, there are inter-house competitions such as Drama, Sports Day and Music, which you can take part in to help collect points for your house- whichever has the most by the end of the year wins the House Cup. Every house also has a charity assigned to them which they must fundraise for over the course of the year.

The Sixth Form is encouraged to get involved in all of these events, as they're great fun and a good way to mix with students from other year groups. Towards the end of Year 12, you will also be given the opportunity to run for House Captain and Vice House Captain positions. These are well-respected roles (you even get a hoodie with your name on!), and involve leading and organising house events.

## TRIPS

There are plenty of opportunities to experience new social environments outside of school. Depending on the subjects you do there will also be trips and visits as part of your courses. Geographers go to Arran in Scotland, Biologists spend a week doing fieldwork at a centre in Wales. English students have a creative weekend in the Peak District and German students visit the Manchester Christmas markets - plus many more! There is a ski trip planned for February half term and school also runs a Y12 trip to Berlin during the summer term for students of German, History and Art. Through events like these, 6th formers are brought closer together, allowing new friendships between people from different schools to be formed.

