

# FAQs



## Crossley Heath 6th Form

Student cohort 2021-2023

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### Welcome to our prospective Y12 students!

We would like to offer you the warmest welcome to the Crossley Heath Sixth Form. We are delighted that you are considering us for your Post 16 place and are confident that if you choose to join us, you will enjoy your time here. This booklet intends to answer some of the main Frequently Asked Questions about starting in Y12.

### Your future

Everybody will work hard to ensure that you are happy and successful during your sixth form years. We will strive to ensure that academically you experience the highest quality of teaching, that you develop independence and resilience and that you gain the qualifications you need in order to follow your chosen career pathway.

*“ The new school year will be full of new experiences; personal tutors instead of forms, study time, flexibility of start and finish times, no uniform and academic subjects that you have chosen. Sixth form life should feel positive and exciting and we hope that you thoroughly enjoy every day of it! ”*

*Mrs Doig*



Marcus Weston • Jane Rudman • Penny Doig • Andrew Coote • Vicky Pennington • Mark Schofield • Adam Smith

# Meet the Team



**Mr Coote** - UCAS Coordinator and Teacher of English. I will lead your UCAS applications, oversee personal statements and advise on university exams, plus specialist medicine and Oxbridge entry.



**Mrs Doig** - Director of Sixth Form and Deputy Head Teacher. I will teach some of your maths and like to get to know all our students so you will often find me popping in to your lessons!



**Mrs Pennington** - Post 16 Development Manager. I'm responsible for day to day planning, communications, attendance, social media, enrichment and I oversee admissions.



**Ms Rudman** - 6th Form Pastoral Leader. I have responsibility for student well-being, safeguarding and helping you sort out your day to day issues.



**Mr Schofield** - Y12 Progress Leader. Department Leader for Business & Economics. Responsible for monitoring Y12 academic progress, offering advice & organising additional support .



**Mr Smith** - Associate Assistant Head (6th Form). Department Leader for Maths. I oversee academic progress for Y12/Y13 & coordinate intervention and links with C6 & Calderdale College



**Mr Weston** - Y13 Progress Leader. Department Leader for ICT. I'm responsible for monitoring progress for Y13 and coordinating advice and additional support .

“ At Crossley Heath we pride ourselves on being a warm, inclusive community that encourages academic excellence and allows you to be the very best you can be. We place student well-being at the heart of everything we do. However big your problem may seem, we provide you with the support network to overcome it. ”

Head Girl & Head Boy 2020

# What can you wear?

## Q: Can I wear what I like?

**A:** We ask you to be reasonable. There is no uniform in 6th form but we need to have standards fitting for a leading learning institution. So yes you can express your individuality but we do not want to see ripped clothing, facial piercings/stretchers, visible tattoos, low cut or cropped tops or shorts. If your clothes are too revealing or deemed unreasonable by the Sixth Form Team you may be asked to cover up or get changed.

## Q: What if I don't have a timetabled lesson?

**A:** Our collegiate system means you don't need to come in if you do not have a lesson. If you have a free period between lessons, we have plenty of study space upstairs in the 6th form work room with computers, laptops and printing facilities. In Y13 you have access to a further dedicated IT space for quiet study periods and research.

## Q: What can I do at break & lunch?

**A:** Break lasts for 15 minutes and most students stay on site, many getting breakfast from the dining room. Some students who have more time take themselves to the local Tesco to grab a Costa coffee.

Some students stay in school for lunch and bring it over to the 6th form building where we have a kitchen area with microwaves and kettles. This area can become busy and it is key that you tidy up after yourself and show consideration to your peers and respect to the building, leaving it clean and tidy for the afternoon activities.

Others leave school for lunch or bring food back to school. King Cross offers a large Tesco supermarket, plus a range of different takeaways, cafes and sandwich shops where you can eat in or get takeout food.

## Q: How do I pay for things?

**A:** We use an online prepaid system in school called ParentPay. You will receive a letter when you come to register on results day. This will enable you to create a new account ready for the start of term. It is very straightforward but do not hesitate to ask if you encounter any problems. ParentPay is used to pay for food and drinks from the dining room, online resources e.g. books and revision guides, trips and visits.

## Q: How do I find my way around?

**A:** We make every effort to ensure you are as comfortable as possible when you start in the 6th form and knowing your way around is a big part of this.

If you are new to Crossley Heath you will be paired with a person in your form who is already familiar with the building. They will show you where all your lessons will be taking place.

Additionally, you will be given a map in your welcome pack. The main building is on 3 levels: A, B and C floor with a staircase on each side of the building. At the foot of each staircase there is a rooming list with the classrooms located at that side of the building. You will soon get used to finding your way around!

*Respect is an important part of school life. As you are in the Sixth Form, staff will give you more independence to make decisions. You are also a role model for all our other students and responsible for setting standards in school.*

**Independence and respect  
are key to 6th form life!**

# Your A level timetable

Every task set by your teachers is designed to help you learn the material you have covered. Exam boards recommend that A Level students spend an hour of private study for each hour in the classroom to reinforce understanding, so if you have 15 hours of lessons, you should plan to spend 15 hours in additional study.

## Q: What if I have study periods on my timetable?

**A:** Study periods are added to support your learning. They are a compulsory lesson and take place in a supervised room exclusive to sixth form with IT available. You can do homework, catch up work, or extension work set by your teachers. You may bring your own technology (phones, laptops, I pads, etc.) but please ensure that they do not distract anyone else in the room. Here are just some examples of ways to make good use of your study time:

*Reading for a subject. Reviewing notes. Completing practice problems from a text book, past paper or online resource such as MyMaths. Using support resources on the VLE supplied by your subject teacher. Carrying out research for an essay or presentation. Planning an essay, presentation or project. Creating revision lists, notes, mind-maps, visual aids, flash cards that will help you prepare for exams and tests later on. Correcting work that has been marked by a teacher or reviewed in class. Working through old assessment materials (tests, essays etc.) as preparation for an upcoming test. Updating sketch books, DT folders, vocabulary or grammar books. Drafting your personal statement for UCAS or your CV.*

## Q: What do we do in Personal Development ?

**A:** The sessions will be delivered every week and will appear on your timetable as PD. The programme will be delivered via a range of different media including guest speakers, taught sessions and practical tasks.

There are three key concepts:

Independence & Aspiration, Choices & Influences, Autonomy & Advocacy.

Personal Development is all about being prepared for the next step – e.g. careers, higher education, keeping you safe & healthy, relationships, finances, making good decisions & preparing for independent living.

## Helping you achieve the success you deserve!

### Q: What do I do if I am studying a subject through Campus Calderdale (C6)?

**A:** C6 is really successful collaboration and lets our students study a wider range of subjects whilst still belonging to us as their 'home school'. In 2020-21 A-level French, DT, PE, Government & Politics and BTEC Law were all offered at partner schools and take place on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. If transport is required it is provided and paid for by the school. All students will have a meeting before lessons begin (in the first week) to explain what will happen and to give you as much information as you need to help make this as easy as possible for you.

### Q: What do I do if I want to change one of my subjects?

**A:** We understand that despite a lot of consideration and deliberation you may feel, after a week or two of doing your subjects, that it is not for you. We prefer it if you give the lessons at least two weeks before you look at changing to another subject as things can settle down and you may feel better once the initial worries have subsided.

We are always willing to look at your options with you and to offer guidance in terms of the impact changing a subject may have on your studies and your longer term plans.

# More than grades

## **Q: How do I get careers advice?**

**A:** Careers will be covered in your Personal Development sessions. You also have access to independent careers advice from the C&K Careers Adviser who is in school each week. There are various careers and work related events during your time in the sixth form. In Y12 you will visit the annual UCAS Fair and complete a valuable week of work experience. We host a 'Life After CHS' event for students and their parents where representatives from local universities, employers and apprenticeship providers are available to answer any queries.

In Y13 you will be in a position to apply for university, employment or apprenticeships and this is supported through our mock interview event. The A45 study room holds various hardcopy careers resources, including university prospectuses and work related literature. All students (and parents) are given access to Unifrog, an online platform where the most up to date information on careers, HE and training is collated. You will build your personal profile on Unifrog and this will assist you in gathering references, evidencing training, writing your CV and creating a successful personal statement. The careers area on the VLE also has many useful links for you to explore.

For the majority of our students who do apply to university, Mr Coote is our dedicated UCAS advisor and will help you through each step of your UCAS application from the end of Y12.

## **Q: What is the House system?**

**A:** We have an extremely active House system with regular events including sport, drama, charity and musical activities. Every student is assigned to one of the four Houses - Savile, Porter, Kings and Queens. Each House has sixth form House Captains and a team of elected student House Officials. Y12 students who wish to stand for House Captain/Vice Captain during their final year of school will have the opportunity to stand for election from the Spring term of Y12.

House assemblies are held on a fortnightly basis and all 6th formers are encouraged to attend.

You should also look to your contributions and enhance your leadership qualities to make you a stronger candidate for your chosen pathway. Enrichment activities, EPQ, work experience, volunteering and representative sport all demonstrate a commitment beyond the curriculum. Involvement in the school House activities is also recommended.

## **Active engagement is key!**

### **Q: What is the Enrichment Programme?**

**A:** The Enrichment Programme is designed to help you think more closely about how you can successfully market yourself to universities and future employers, to develop new and transferable skills and gain experience in a wider field outside of your academic study. As well as your A Level achievements you will need to be able to offer something else to make yourself an 'attractive' proposition.

Built into your school timetable in Y12 is a 1 hour enrichment period each week that you can use to help you get ahead. We have established links with local companies and organisations in many fields who offer enrichment and volunteering activities. We also offer some in-school sessions in things like First Aid, art classes, music groups, sports teams, social media and mentoring support sessions with students from younger years. You need to use your enrichment time effectively, finding something that makes you a better candidate by improving your knowledge, leadership skills or your personal skills as a team player.

### **Q: So what are my options?**

**A:** We have an Enrichment launch assembly early on in the term. You will be able to choose something that interests you or alternatively find your own volunteer work and let us know. If you already volunteer, or if you play sport at an advanced level for school, you can tell us what you are up to and use the allotted hours in your timetable to work on your own studies so you have less to do after school.