



# The Crossley Heath School **PROSPECTUS 2021**



# WELCOME TO CROSSLEY HEATH

*It is a privilege to be the Head Teacher of this wonderful school which nurtures our young people to become independent, well-rounded individuals who want to make a difference in the world.*

We want to inspire each of our students to flourish as an individual, to be curious, to be resilient and to love learning. We aspire for them to grow into articulate, independent future citizens and to become the leaders of tomorrow.

We have a strong vision for the school rooted in our core values: Respect, Self-belief, Aspiration, Challenge, Purpose and Responsibility. At our heart, we endeavour to be a genuinely warm, inclusive and vibrant community, to offer outstanding pastoral care and to secure the well-being of everyone. It is important to us that our school is a place of momentum, building on our excellent provision to move forward, grow and develop at all times.

Our students share our high aspirations for their futures and are challenged and supported by our dedicated teaching and support staff to achieve their ambitions.

We embrace and celebrate our wide ethnic and geographical diversity, striving to ensure that each child feels valued and participates actively in our school community.

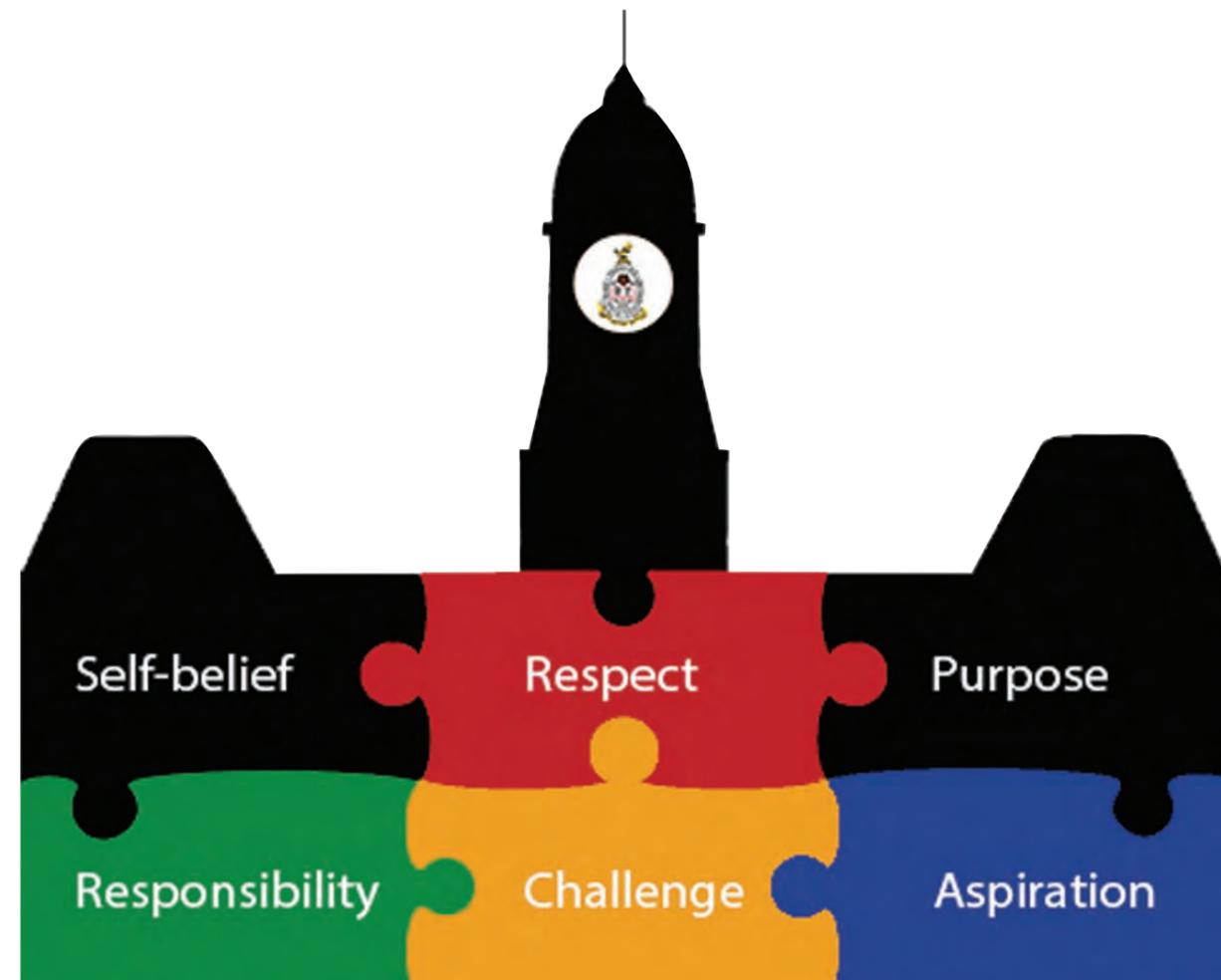
Our thriving non-selective sixth form is intrinsic to the school and its students contribute much to the vibrancy of school life. Our sixth form community is drawn from students who have studied GCSEs at many schools, including Crossley Heath.



We have a long and rich history as a school dating back to 1585 when the original Heath Grammar School was established. The current school building dates to 1861 when the Crossley brothers founded an 'Orphan Home and School for Boys and Girls', later renamed 'Crossley and Porter School'. We are very proud of our incredible Victorian building which, supplemented by modern additions, provides a unique and interesting learning environment.

I do hope this prospectus gives you a wealth of information about our rich and vibrant life at Crossley Heath. If you have any questions or would like more information about us, please get in touch.

*Lynnette Cassidy MBA, Headteacher*



## OUR SCHOOL VISION

# AN EDUCATION TO BE PROUD OF

Crossley Heath is a very successful school with extremely high aspirations for every single student. Our students achieve a high proportion of top grades at GCSE and A level. We regularly feature in The Times list of the top 150 schools in the country and in The Times top 5 in the North of England region. Information about our examination results is available on our website.

Our broad and rich curriculum is designed to stimulate and challenge our students while preparing them for a successful and independent life in a dynamic world. There is a strong focus on traditional subjects which challenge the intellect and enable talents to flourish. In the lower school all students study a full range of subjects and currently make their GCSE choices before they enter Year 9 (subject to review). At Key Stage 4 students study Mathematics, English Language and English Literature, three sciences, a Modern Foreign Language (French, German or Mandarin Chinese) and a humanities subject

(Geography, History or Religious Studies) together with additional GCSE option subjects. Crossley Heath is proud to be the only school in the locality which offers the prestigious Mandarin Excellence Programme from Year 7. All students have weekly Personal Development lessons which aim to equip students with the skills and knowledge to navigate modern day society. The tutorial programme is an important part of our 'taught' education and aids the building of 'Crossley Heath character'. Crossley Heath Character Education is about acting through our values, establishing good moral sense and developing practical wisdom in the differing circumstances of our students' lives.

*The teachers at school are really helpful and are willing to talk with you whenever you want.*

*Student*



*My time so far at Crossley Heath has taught me to believe in myself and once I've done that I can do anything I set my mind to.*

*Student*

Our teachers are highly qualified specialists who are passionate about their subjects. Learning is highly effective and students know what they need to do to develop and improve. Academic progress is monitored closely to ensure that all students are making excellent progress in their learning. Positive relationships between staff and students also support students' learning. Crossley Heath is committed to being flexible to the changing global landscape and embraces developing technologies. We have a blended learning strategy allowing us to move quickly to learning online if required. The use of Microsoft Teams by students and staff has enabled a continuation of virtual learning and events over the last 12 months. Online parents' evenings have meant that parents have continued to meet teachers to receive feedback about their child's learning.

When you visit Crossley Heath you will be struck by the warm, family atmosphere that characterises life at this school. The care, guidance and support of students is of paramount importance to us. We work closely with parents to develop a genuine partnership which makes a substantial difference to progress and achievement. This partnership starts early during the transition stage from primary to secondary school. We recognize that it can be a big step up from a relatively small primary school to a secondary school and we work hard to help remove some of that anxiety with an extensive transition programme. Carefully composed form groups help to ensure that our new students settle into school smoothly and facilitate the development of new, durable friendships. Each student has a form tutor who provides support and monitors each child's achievement and well-being.



Each student is also welcomed into one of our Houses – Kings, Queens, Porter or Savile. The Houses, led by our sixth form House Captains, comprise members from across all year groups and staff. The House system provides further opportunities for making friends across the school.

It provides challenge and excitement throughout the year in the form of competitions including sports, drama, music, reading, debating and quizzes. Students often comment that House activities are one of the highlights of their time at school.

## Caring for Each Individual

We care very much for the well-being and health of each of our students. We appreciate that young people today are faced with a variety of pressures from dealing with relationships, social media or exam pressures and these can affect health and well-being. We place mental and emotional well-being at the very heart of our pastoral care, including during the Covid-19 pandemic where we gave extra support to those students and their families who faced personal challenges during this time.

welfare of our young people, including their mental health. Our Pastoral leaders work with vulnerable children and their families to ensure they receive support and help to overcome barriers to enable them to achieve to their full potential. Our well-qualified Student Healthcare Assistant provides excellent care for students with first aid and individual medical health needs. The Pastoral team as a whole is accomplished in dealing with any learning, physical and emotional needs of students, working closely with all teachers to make sure that the individual needs are met and exceeded. Our parents and students tell us that the school offers a safe and happy environment in which to learn.

Our SEN, Pastoral and Well-being teams are able to offer effective and compassionate support tailored to the needs of our students. The whole team adopt a holistic approach to the



# A STRONG FAMILY ETHOS



A culture of respect for each other and a positive approach to diversity and inclusion is embedded in everything we do. Our school community is increasingly diverse and we embrace and celebrate this diversity. We promote the values of personal responsibility, integrity, tolerance, aspiration, and self-belief. Our strong

Behaviour for Learning policy ensures that students engage with their learning, demonstrate respect for each other and develop behaviours that support our community ethos. Through a wide range of activities our students are taught how to be caring and supportive of each other which leads to a happier school community.

# CULTURE OF RESPECT



Our values are based upon the belief that we are all deserving of respect. We take our wider responsibilities to the community to heart and our students support and contribute to the local community in a variety of ways through volunteering, enrichment activities outside of school and fundraising. Each year we raise many thousands of pounds for charities which students have chosen – local, national and global. Staff are equally active in fundraising activities

underpinning the importance we place on working together to support others. We are committed to ensuring that students are happy, well balanced young people with a moral sense of responsibility towards others as well as to the local and wider community. We want them to leave Crossley Heath feeling positive about themselves with a sense of direction and purpose and a commitment to improving the lives of others.



*The school is a great place to come. Everyone is friendly and kind and caring, the lessons are fun but it can be hard work too. You make friends really easily if you get involved with extra-curricular clubs.*

Student



## EXPLORING AND DISCOVERING

We believe that every student should have the opportunity to be extraordinary through developing academic, physical and emotional confidence. This means having the courage to take risks and learn from their mistakes. This philosophy also extends outside of the classroom with a wealth of activities for students to enjoy which will broaden their experiences. Many of these experiences stay with our young

people for a lifetime. These include visits to the battlefields of Belgium, studying volcanos and glaciers in Iceland, taking part in German exchange visits and the Duke of Edinburgh and National Citizenship programmes. Many more local visits take place to enhance the curriculum, to develop independence and personal growth, and to encourage the discovery of new talents.



Enrichment activities add a further vital dimension to the life of the school. Crossley Heath has a strong sporting heritage and encourages all students, of whatever ability or experience, to enjoy physical activities and team sports. These include cross-country, netball, cricket, rugby union, athletics, football, table-tennis, tennis and badminton. We promote fitness and opportunity for all. Your child will be encouraged to find their niche - whatever their interests and abilities are.

We value the importance of music for young people and our aim is that all students will participate in musical activity, including learning to play an instrument. A range of individual instrumental tuition is available. Students have thoroughly enjoyed our music tours abroad and our school productions and concerts. Students in Year 7 take part in singing (when restrictions allow) and are strongly encouraged to sing in school choirs throughout their time with us.

*"I don't have enough words to thank all teachers and progress leaders for helping year 7's to settle in. My daughter was a very shy and reserved*

*girl, but in just a few weeks at Crossley Heath, I can see so much confidence in her and she has made some lovely friends*

Year 7 Parent

# PREPARING FOR SUCCESS

Our highly effective programme for Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) develops the key employability skills that our students will need to function successfully in their chosen career path. We are proud to have retained the nationally accredited Quality in Careers Standard which recognises the very high standard of guidance available for our students and the breadth and inclusivity of our effective programme. We have created a bespoke careers site and all students and parents have access to Unifrog which is a digital careers platform containing a wealth of information.

A comprehensive programme of events, activities, guest speakers, visiting employers and visits to industry enables students to understand the vast range of career sectors and pathways that are open to them in the UK and beyond.



# DEVELOPING SKILLS FOR LIFE



At Crossley Heath we believe in striking a balance between academic work and the leadership, teamwork and other important life skills that are so crucial for young people to develop before they leave school. Students are encouraged to develop these skills not only in the classroom but by participating actively in school life.

We develop a strong ethos of self-belief, hard work and resilience, expecting students to become independent learners and thinkers. We advocate a Growth Mind-set approach which encourages students (and their families!) to value effort, perseverance and practice and to view challenges and failures as opportunities to develop learning and skills.

Crossley Heath students are confident people who are ready to become young leaders. Students have opportunities to develop their leadership skills not only in the classroom but also by supporting a whole range of school activities. The Head Boy and Head Girl help staff to run the school smoothly and there are many other high profile positions of responsibility which add much value to the effectiveness of the school such as Charity Representatives, House Officials, Student Voice Co-ordinators and Sports Leaders.

Teamwork, leadership, confidence and communication are some of the vital skills which our students have the opportunity to develop and which will be vital in their future success.

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*Thank you for doing such a fantastic job. You have inspired my daughter's desire to learn and achieve to the best of her ability.*

Parent

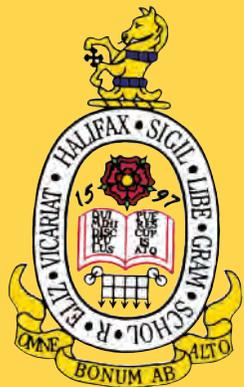
## Progression to **SIXTH FORM & BEYOND**

We expect that students joining us in Year 7 will stay with us for seven years, joining our sixth form community. We also welcome into our Sixth Form many new students from schools across a wide geographical area. Our highly successful Post 16 provision offers academic excellence and a wealth of opportunities, providing a balance of traditional and modern subjects and an extensive enrichment programme. Students are treated as adults with guidance and support from our experienced staff team always on hand. A significant proportion of our students go on to prestigious universities, including Oxford and Cambridge and Russell Group universities. We are able to offer personalised support and advice

on UCAS applications and student finance options. We are also extremely proud of our 100% success rate in students gaining entry to the university of their choice. However, whilst the majority of students do choose to go on to university, we actively support alternative pathways for students to explore, including the increasingly popular higher level and degree level apprenticeships which have provided a viable and equally successful alternative route for some of our students.

**Much more detailed information about our school, policies and procedures, exam results and admissions criteria can be found on our school website. Please do get in contact if we can be of further assistance.**





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