

The Crossley Heath School - Summer School Report



Overview

We are delighted that our Summer School was attended by over 130 students each day. The summer school was a vibrant and exciting week that was led by experienced Crossley Heath teachers, Pastoral Leaders and Sports Activity Coordinators. The focus for us was to create a fun and inclusive environment for all who attended. The programme was designed to provide opportunities to help our students experience their new school in a unique and engaging way that supported a positive transition into secondary education after students had such a disrupted Key Stage 2 due to the pandemic.

The summer school ran from Monday 16th to Friday 20th August beginning at 9am and finishing at 3pm each day. Lunch was provided by our excellent Catering Team, led by new Catering Manager Mr Scott.

The activity programme was comprised of three key development areas;

- Core Academic Sessions (Maths, English, Science, History and Languages)
- Creative Arts Sessions (Music, Art and Theatre)
- Physical Activity Sessions (Tag Rugby, Frisbee Golf, Cricket, Netball)
- Personal Development Sessions (School Values, CPR Training and Reflection Assemblies)

Students were grouped for sessions in their six allocated new form groups. This served to maximise the development of new friendships prior to the new school year, to give students an insight into how the school environment will feel for them and also to give each form an early sense of identity.

Pastoral Care Focus

The Summer School was staffed with a targeted approach on delivering excellent pastoral care and guidance. The Y6-7 Transition Leader, who is also the Y7 Progress Leader, designed and coordinated the programme from beginning to end with a sharp focus on student happiness and wellbeing. Other key Pastoral Leaders (non-teaching) were part of the wider Summer School team ensuring that students were supported swiftly where they needed it. All information relating to vulnerable students formed an evidence base for targeted pastoral and curriculum support for students with SEND, emotional vulnerabilities or for students with medical needs. A full time Medical Officer was in place throughout the week. Through the strategic provision of key assemblies there was a clearly communicated message about the importance of student wellbeing. Students were regularly informed of where and who to go to if they had a wellbeing concern.

Summer School Surveys

Both students and their parents/carers were asked to give feedback about our summer school through an on-line survey. The information gained was overwhelmingly positive about the Summer School provision. 130 students took the survey. Of those surveyed, 98% said that they enjoyed the Summer School experience and 100% reported that they felt well supported by the Pastoral Team. 76 parents/carers responded. Of these 94% agreed or strongly agreed that their child enjoyed the Summer School. 99% said that their child was well supported and had gained confidence for their transition to secondary school. The overall rating of the Summer School (out of 5 stars) was 4.73.

The very small number of students (2) who reported that they did not enjoy summer school have been given additional pastoral support as they began the new school year. The issues raised were around feelings of anxiety and low confidence. A subsequent student transition survey carried out at the end of the first half term has shown that these students are happy or very happy at school.

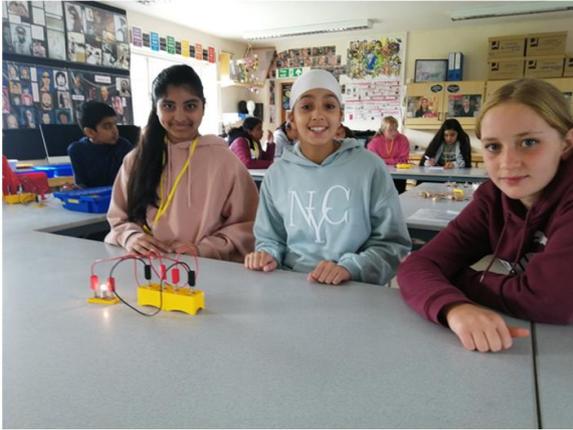
The one parent who reported that their child had not gained confidence in their transition to Crossley Heath stated that their child had struggled to make positive connections with their new peers. Again, this allowed us to make targeted interventions for that child as the new term began. In a subsequent student survey this child has reported that they now have positive friendships.

Final Summary

The week was an overwhelmingly successful and enjoyable one for students and staff. Our new students demonstrated their clear potential and promise as they begin their new educational journey here at The Crossley Heath School. Our school looks forwards to the possibility of running summer schools in the future, should funding be available to do so.

Scenes from Summer School







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