



NEWSLETTER

Message from the Headteacher, Mr Walker

As we launch into the new academic year, I want to extend my thanks to our families for helping Crofton Academy start strong. The energy across the academy has been inspiring with pupils returning in September with purpose, pride, and positivity.

Attendance is up, uniform standards are high, and the atmosphere is one of Care, Aspiration and Success. This is a testament to the partnership between home and school, and I'm grateful for your continued support.

We also celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2025. Their results exceeded national benchmarks, and their next steps, whether college, apprenticeships, or employment, reflect their hard work and determination. We are very proud of their achievements in all of their subjects and wish them every success.

Welcome to Year 7 – Our Newest Crofton Stars

We're thrilled to welcome our new Year 7 pupils to our Crofton family. Their transition has been smooth, and their enthusiasm is infectious.

On the morning of Thursday 25th September, over 100 Year 7 pupils recently led their families on guided tours of the school, a proud moment that showcased their confidence and pride in their new school. The feedback we received from parents/carers was fantastic, commenting on the positive learning environment, the way their child had settled into secondary school with ease and how they were delighted they had selected Crofton Academy as their school of choice for their child.

Leadership in Action – Senior Prefects Shine

Our Senior Prefect Team, led by Isabel and Tom, have hit the ground running. From hosting Open Evening to guiding Year 6 families around the school, their leadership has been exceptional. Congratulations to Eva and Isaac in Year 7 for their Open Evening speeches to two packed main halls of Year 6 parents and carers. You made Crofton proud!

Celebrating Success – KS3 Awards Evening

Over 70 pupils in Key Stage 3 were recognised at our awards 'Celebration Event' earlier in this half term. Based around our core values of Care, Aspire, Succeed, these awards were for our current Year 8 and Year 9 pupils and with limited nominations available, every award was hard-earned and well-deserved. Thank you to families for joining us in honouring these pupils, it was an excellent evening of celebration.

Achievement Spotlight – Year 11 Momentum

Year 11 pupils are building on strong summer exam results from Year 10. With revision plans, online tools like SENECA and GCSE Pod, and dedicated Period 6 sessions, they're preparing for success. Parents/carers, your support is vital. Let's keep the momentum going!

On Tuesday 14 October all Year 11 were involved in a Revision Day masterclass, focused on how to revise effectively, with expert guidance from staff. Pupils left the session feeling empowered, confident, & ready to tackle their mock exams (November) and summer exams head-on.



Post-16 Pathways – Planning the Future

This term, Year 11 pupils are exploring their next steps. With visits from New College, Barnsley College, and Wakefield College, plus guidance on apprenticeships, they're making informed choices. Careers Advisor Annie Gill is available for one-on-one support and appointments can be booked via form tutors.

The school website has been updated to include the latest open day/evening events at local colleges including Barnsley College, Barnsley 6th Form College, Wakefield College, New College Pontefract, Askham Bryan College, Kirklees College and Leeds City College. You will also find links to college websites and prospectuses.

Half Term Round-up - take a look at everything that's been going off across the Academy

SEPTEMBER

- Pupil photographs
- Safeguarding assemblies
- Y8 Parents' Information Evening
- Year 7 BookBuzz
- Year Council launch and voting
- Big Write 1
- Key Stage 4 Revision Strategies Evening
- Year 7 Student Leadership Launch
- Year 11 college assemblies (NEW College, Barnsley College, Wakefield College)
- Open Evening
- Year 7 Parent Tours (day time)
- Macmillan Coffee Morning
- Theatre Trip – Leeds Playhouse

OCTOBER

- KS3 Celebration Event (current Year 8 & Year 9)
- Year 8 Personal Development Day – Be Safe & Healthy
- National Poetry Day
- Year 8 Sparks (Hull University) cupcake challenge
- Year 6 Parent Tours
- Staff Inset Day – Closing the writing gap with Alex Quigley
- Year 11 Revision Day
- Year 11 college assembly (Askham Bryan)
- Restart A Heart Day
- Ski Trip Meeting
- Year 11 GCSE Business masterclass sessions
- Year 7 Group Tutor Parents' Evening (online)
- Year 7-10 Attendance reward movie event

Attendance Update

The school has an expectation of excellent attendance and punctuality. We expect each child to aim for 100% attendance across the academic year, with a minimum of 97%. Attendance below 90% is considered persistent absence as defined by the Department for Education. Punctuality is important and is carefully monitored. To be on time for morning registration, pupils need to be on site by 8.45am, when the gates will be locked.

DfE and NHS guidance on illnesses is clear and parents/carers can refer to the guidance found [here](#). Pupils shouldn't miss school on a precautionary basis and can normally attend with a mild cough or cold, unless they have a fever, diarrhoea or vomiting.

Free School Meals

Families receiving support payment may be eligible for free school meals. Visit Wakefield Council's website for details: <https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools/free-school-meals/>



Extra Curricular Activities

We are pleased to be able to offer a range of clubs after school during Term 1, until Friday 12th December 2025. Details of these clubs have been sent home via Arbor for you to look at with your child. If your child would like to attend a club, they simply need to arrive at the club at 3.05pm and ask the member of staff running the club to add them to the register.

Should you have any general questions about the clubs please do not hesitate to contact admin@croftonacademy.org.uk marking your email FAO Mrs Rostron. Alternatively, your child should see the teacher running the club for more specific queries.

PE clubs are open to both boys and girls (unless stated). PE fixture information is sent out directly from the PE department.

In addition, the school library is open every day for pupils to change their books and do homework. It is open from 8:15am every morning and every evening until 4pm, apart from Monday.

Admissions Update – Looking Ahead to 2026

Our Open Evening was a huge success, with high attendance from Years 5 and 6. Applications for September 2026 are open via Wakefield Admissions, the deadline: **31st October**. Please do not assume that because your child is at a feeder school (Shay Lane, Crofton Juniors, Walton Primary or Sharlston Community) that they will automatically get a place at Crofton — you have to apply via the local authority. For more information visit Wakefield Council's website at <https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools/school-admissions/>

Calendar Dates

MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER

School re-opens for ALL pupils at 8:45am

THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER

Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening

WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER

Year 9 Parents' Information Evening

FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER

Inset day—school closed to all pupils

FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER

Last day of Half Term 2

MONDAY 5 JANUARY

School re-opens for ALL pupils

Inset Days 2025-2026

- Monday 1st September 2025
- Friday 10th October 2025
- Friday 28th November 2025
- Friday 30th January 2026
- Monday 20th July 2026

www.croftonacademy.org.uk



Staying Connected

CROFTON ACADEMY COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL			
METHODS OF COMMUNICATION (School contacting home) • Pupil Planner • Progress Report • School Website • Newsletter • Letters posted home • Letter sent home via pupils • Text message/email/in-app message via Arbor • Phone call home • X (@croftonacademy)		☎ 01924 862985 🌐 www.croftonacademy.org.uk ✉ @croftonacademy ✉ admin@croftonacademy.org.uk	
SCHOOL CONTACTING GROUPS OF PARENTS This applies to communication that is sent to a whole Form/Year Group/School etc (where the information is not sensitive): • Emails & texts sent via Arbor • Copy of the letter posted on the website under the PARENTS/LETTERS & NEWSLETTERS section • Letter sent home via pupil	PARENTS CONTACTING SCHOOL (who to contact for general enquiries) • Every day issues - Form Tutor • Persistent/serious issue - Year Leader • Safeguarding concern - Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or a member of the Safeguarding Team • Absence - Attendance Officer/Reception • Information regarding a specific subject/lesson - Classroom Teacher/Subject Leader <i>If you are unsure, please contact Reception using admin@croftonacademy.org.uk</i>	CONTACTING THE HEADTEACHER Only when absolutely necessary will the Headteacher become directly involved in queries. However, the Headteacher is kept updated of all matters affecting pupils within the Academy.	EMAIL / TEXT MESSAGES Our main form of day-to-day communication is via Arbor using text/email and in-app messages <i>Please note - do not reply to Arbor messages as this is not monitored by school.</i> <i>Always email us at:</i> admin@croftonacademy.org.uk Check your junk/spam mailbox for emails from Arbor.
SCHOOL CONTACTING INDIVIDUAL PARENTS The school will contact parents/carers individually by telephone or text for the reasons listed below: • If your child is late • If your child is absent and the school has not been notified • If your child is unwell, we have a concern about your child's behaviour or welfare • If your child has been given a fixed period in our Internal Exclusions Unit • If your child has been given a suspension from school	PARENTS CONTACTING SCHOOL Progression of queries When contacting the school with a query, depending on its seriousness and nature of the query, the query will progress along the following route: <i>Group Tutor or Subject Leader > Year Leader or Subject Leader > Assistant Headteacher > Deputy Headteacher > Headteacher</i>	RECEPTION Due to the busy workings of the Academy, we ask that you don't just turn up to see a member of staff. Instead, please contact us by email/phone to arrange for a member of staff to contact you. Email us at: admin@croftonacademy.org.uk Please be mindful that due to teaching commitments, after school classes and pre-arranged meetings/events, we cannot always get back to you straight away.	PARENTS' EVENING Bookings are made via Crofton Academy School Cloud using parent/carer email address. We will notify you when you the system is open for you to make appointments.
			SCHOOL PAYMENTS Lunch payments and trip payments can be made via Arbor.

Arbor Messages

After the half term break we will begin to use the in-app messaging facility on the Arbor App, in addition to texting and emailing. Please ensure that you have notifications in the Arbor App turned on so you know when we have used this method of communication.



(Formerly Twitter) @croftonacademy

Stay connected and informed by following our school's official X (formerly Twitter) account! It's the best way to get real-time updates and an idea of the exciting activities happening across the school, from classroom highlights to upcoming events, you will never miss a moment. Follow us today @croftonacademy #WeAreCrofton