



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

This has been a fantastic term which began in September with us all celebrating the fantastic GCSE results from the Class of 2025. Once again, the school's headline figures put us in line or better than the local and national average. In addition, we had many pupils achieving the very top grades and we are all very proud of the results achieved by this year group, which we celebrated recently at our annual celebration event. This is a real testament to the hours of dedication and skill delivered by everyone working at the school, along with the incredible work completed by the pupils. The best part is watching them go on to the next phase with great qualifications and the belief they can compete with anyone in the country.

This term has continued to be a huge success with us building on our work from last year, including many opportunities for parents/carers to visit the school and either learn about our assessment strategies, and therefore be able to support their children in the parent information evenings, or to be part of the celebratory evenings we have had for Years 8 and 9, and also for Years 10 and 11.

We have an amazing extra-curricular club offer, both at lunchtime and after school, and it has been wonderful to see over 500 places being taken up every week. Additionally, we are proud to offer free music peripatetic lessons which a large number of pupils enjoy. This week it was fabulous to see and hear the talent at Crofton as pupils performed their Christmas concert. The hall was packed and it was wonderful to see pupils, after hours of practice, taking part in and showcasing their incredible talents to perform brilliantly in front of their peers, family and friends. The crowd were quite rightly cheering throughout the performance.

Once again, our Christmas card competition has been a huge success with the winning design and verse used to create the Christmas cards which we send to local residents and other organisations.

I would like to thank you as parents/carers for your continued support during this busy term. I hope you all enjoy a wonderful time with your families over the Christmas period.

Mr P Walker
Headteacher

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PROGRESS & ASSESSMENT

Key Stage 3

This term our Year 8 pupils completed their first of two rounds of assessments. We were very impressed by the way they used their Mastery Sheets to prepare for success. When they received their reports, pupils reflected thoughtfully on their performance and are already thinking ahead to the improvements they can make in the next cycle. Their celebration assembly in November was a showcase of pupils' wonderful progress and we are very proud of all they have achieved.

Our Year 9 pupils have already received their Mastery Sheets booklets and are working hard with their teachers and at home to prepare for their assessments. The Year 9 assessment cycle was launched to parents/carers last month in an online meeting and it was wonderful to be joined by so many families. Their first round of assessments will begin on 26th January.

Year 7 pupils will learn all about the format of our assessment cycle when they return to school in January. Parents/carers of Year 7s are invited to join us on the evening of Wednesday 21st January to find out more. Further details will be sent home in the new year.

Mrs C Knowles - Assistant Headteacher

Year 11

Year 11 pupils have been working extremely hard since September. During October they all completed training on 'Restart a Heart' with local health professionals and their engagement was commended. They have also been busy planning for their futures and have received assemblies from many post-16 providers to help them choose which courses to study next year.

Their attendance at period 6 has been fantastic so far this academic year, along with their completion of homework. Year 11 pupils have also completed their first mock examinations and their hard work, dedication and resilience was to be admired. Well done to all of our Year 11 pupils.

Miss R Dean - Assistant Headteacher

REWARDS

We are proud to reward and celebrate the positive outcomes, commitment and achievements of our pupils. Over recent weeks, pupils have enjoyed a range of rewards linked to our core values of Care, Aspire and Succeed. A significant number of pupils have been recognised through our stamp system and we are delighted to share that 233 pupils achieved Bronze certificates, 653 pupils achieved Silver certificates, and 85 pupils achieved Gold certificates this half term, reflecting consistent effort, positive behaviour and dedication to learning.

In October, we were delighted to reward excellent attendance with a special attendance event for Years 7 - 10, where pupils enjoyed watching *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. This was a well-deserved treat and a great opportunity to celebrate the importance of being in school every day. Our Year 11 pupils experienced and took pleasure in their very own driving lessons, supporting their personal development and preparing them for life beyond Crofton Academy.

This week, celebration assemblies have taken place across the school to recognise pupils' achievements, attendance, effort and progress. Pupils have also been actively involved in our '12 Days of Kindness', encouraging thoughtful actions, positive relationships and support for others during the festive period. Alongside this, pupils have enjoyed a range of rewards including hot chocolate treats, Heroes rewards, queue jump passes, and Christmas lunch.

This week, we were also excited to host a Silent Disco for over 500 pupils to celebrate pupils achieving 95%, or better, attendance, alongside a festive Winter Wonderland experience. These events highlight our commitment to rewarding dedication, attendance and positive behaviour.

Miss L Armstrong - SLT Designate

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

This term has been an inspiring and action packed one for Personal Development across the school. We began the year by launching our new Year Group Councils and it has been wonderful to see so many pupils stepping forward to take on leadership roles and share their ideas with confidence. Our Prefects demonstrated outstanding community spirit by hosting a hugely successful bake sale, raising valuable funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you to everyone who baked, bought, and supported this meaningful cause.

Years 7 and 8 took part in their first Personal Development Days, focusing on staying safe and healthy. Pupils enjoyed hearing from a range of engaging guest speakers who helped bring these important themes to life. Meanwhile, Year 11 pupils have been exploring their future pathways, hearing from many Post-16 providers to help them make informed choices about their next steps.

As always, the school showed great respect and compassion during the Remembrance period, with the Student Leadership Council selling poppies and so many pupils choosing to support the cause. Year 9 also had a powerful Personal Development Day delivered by the 'Prison! Me! No Way!' team, exploring the real-life consequences of poor decision making and the importance of making positive choices.

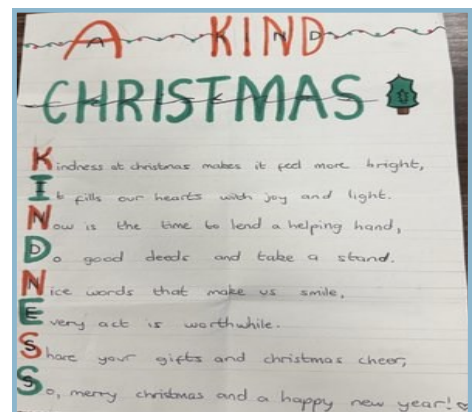
We were also delighted to celebrate the achievements of our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award cohort, who successfully completed their award, an accomplishment requiring commitment, resilience and teamwork. We are incredibly proud of them.

The term ended on a heart warming note with the launch of the 12 Days of Kindness initiative, encouraging pupils to complete an act of kindness each day. This has been a wonderful way to spread festive cheer and strengthen our sense of community and belonging.

It has been a very busy and rewarding term. Wishing all our families a restful, enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Rostron

Associate Senior Leader





YEAR 7

I am delighted with the way Year 7 have settled in this term. I've loved getting to know them; we have some funny, talented, kind and clever pupils which is very exciting for me. They are working hard in lessons, behaving in a respectful way and their manners are exemplary. I am proud of how they have approached this settling-in period, it's a very scary thing coming in to a new school, meeting new teachers and pupils, learning new subjects, managing old friendships and navigating a big site, but they have taken to it like ducks to water. I very much look forward to what the rest of the year brings. I hope all of you have a fabulous Christmas and a brilliant 2026.

Mrs Clark - Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

It has been a great term for our Year 8 pupils and I am incredibly proud of the way they have approached both their learning and wider school life. They have shown great enthusiasm for new challenges in lessons and continue to develop their confidence, resilience and maturity as the term has progressed.

This term has included some fantastic highlights where pupils demonstrated creativity and teamwork including the year group 'Cupcake Challenge', the school Christmas concert, and the drop-down 'Be Safe Day' when pupils engaged maturely with important messages around safety and wellbeing.

Year 8 have completed their first assessments and it has been a pleasure to celebrate their successes achieved through hard work and dedication. Thank you to parents/carers for your continued support, it really does make a difference. I hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved break over the festive period and I look forward to welcoming pupils back in January. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mrs Pritchard - Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

With the end of this first term upon us I want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you and well done to Year 9. It certainly has been jam-packed and it has been fantastic to see the amount work and effort that has been put in. Our recent drop-down day - 'Prison! Me! No Way!' was a great success. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the feedback from visitors was excellent, showing how well the year group conducted themselves throughout. It was super to see so many Year 9s involved in the Christmas concert. Finally, I want to wish everyone connected to the Year Group, parents, carers, pupils and staff a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr Wiles - Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

It's been a really busy first term for Year 10 as they have settled in to school life with a renewed focus on their GCSE qualifications. I am delighted to say that the pupils have settled back in extremely well and I can see them thriving and enjoying the subjects they've chosen. I am extremely proud of each and every one of them for the hard work they have put in and the rewards that they are starting to see. It was fantastic to see so many parents/carers at our Year 10 information evening at the start of the year, and it's also been great to celebrate all the wonderful things that the year group have done this term, both in and out of school. I look forward to hearing of more achievements moving into the new year. I would like to give a massive thank you to all parents/carers who continue to support the pupils. I hope you all have a fantastic and safe Christmas and may I take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year.

Mr Longfield - Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

Year 11 have made an impressive start to the academic year, from their commitment in lessons to their determination in preparing for and completing their first set of mock exams. Attendance at period 6 lessons is incredible and has had such a benefit to pupils who have already seen improvements from their last mock exams.

With great effort and commitment comes the need for balance. As January marks the beginning of an important busy phase with pupils working towards their end goal, it's really important that they use this holiday to relax, spend time with family, and enjoy the festivities. So, Year 11, take pride in what you've achieved so far, and remember: a well-rested mind is a powerful tool. Finally, I want to say a massive thank to parents/carers for all your support this first term. Enjoy your break—you've earned it!

Mr Miller - Year 11 Leader

COMMUNICATION

Communication between home and school is vital for pupils' success, and we want to ensure you know all the ways to get in touch with us. Here are the various methods you can use to contact Crofton Academy:

Phone - You can reach our main office at 01924 862985. Our office hours are 8.00am-4.15pm Monday-Thursday, and 8.00am-4.00pm on a Friday. If you need to speak with a specific teacher or staff member, please leave a message, and they will return your call as soon as possible. *Please be aware* this may not be the same day due to teaching and meeting commitments or working patterns.

Email - For general enquiries, please feel free to email us at admin@croftonacademy.org.uk

School Website - Visit our official website: www.croftonacademy.org.uk for important announcements, calendar events, and resources.

Parents/Carers Consultation Evenings & Information Evenings - We encourage you to participate in scheduled parents' evenings and information evenings throughout the year. Parents' evenings are an excellent opportunity to discuss your child's progress and address any concerns. The information evenings give you the chance to find out about the key curriculum and attendance updates, and how you can best support your child.

Social Media - Follow us on our social media 'X' (formerly known as Twitter) @croftonacademy for updates, events and important announcements. It's a great way to stay connected and engaged with our school community – check out our 'X' tag #WeAreCrofton.

School Apps - Don't forget to download our school app Arbor in order to make trip payments, to top up your child's meal account and receive messages from the academy.

In-Person Visits - If you'd like to discuss something in person with a member of staff, please make an appointment in advance with the appropriate teacher or staff member – please do not turn up at reception without a prior appointment.

We are here to support you and your child's education. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns you have.

MUSIC

Our annual Christmas Concert was held on Tuesday 16th December. Over 60 of our talented musicians and singers performed in front of a 200 strong audience. After many hours of rehearsals they demonstrated true passion and talent in music.

The music department also took 16 pupils to perform at primary schools in our 'Crofton on Tour' event. We visited primary schools in Normanton, Sharlston, Ryhill and Ackworth as well as dropping into Junction 32 outlet to perform for the general public.

Mr Edwards - Subject Lead - Music





PE

We have had a very busy first term in PE and it has been fantastic to see our pupils taking part in a wide range of activities, both in lessons and in extra-curricular clubs.

The PE department extra-curricular provision has been very strong as always with over one hundred pupils taking part every week in the clubs that have been offered this term which has been football, rugby, dodgeball, badminton, netball, fitness and dance. Fitness club has been a real success with numbers steadily growing over the half term - so much so that it is now offered on two nights.

We have had a great start to the school football season with a large number of fixtures over all year groups including Year 8 boys' and girls' teams, who both reached the fourth round of the prestigious English Schools FA Cup. Whilst both teams have now been eliminated, it was great for them to have the experience of representing the academy all across the county.

Closer to home, Years 7, 8 and 9 football teams all currently sit at the top their respective leagues and have made progress in the Wakefield Cup with plenty more fixtures to come after the Christmas break. We also entered the local five-a-side tournaments at Minsthorpe Community College with the Year 9 team managing to win the competition.

In rugby, the Year 8 team have entered the Yorkshire Cup, and whilst having lost their opening fixture, they are aiming to secure wins after Christmas to ensure their progress.

We look forward to the new year which will bring plenty more new activities, both in lessons and extra-curricular clubs as well as even more fixtures.

Mr J Fisk

Second in Department - PE

CALENDAR DATES

MONDAY 5 JANUARY

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

THURSDAY 15 JANUARY

Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening (online)

WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY

Year 7 Parents' Information Evening

FRIDAY 30 JANUARY

Inset Day—school closed to all pupils

THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY

Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening

MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY– FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY

Half Term

MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY

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

THURSDAY 12 MARCH

Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening & Careers Fair

THURSDAY 25 MARCH

Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening

FRIDAY 27 MARCH

Last Day of Term for Easter break



ATTENDANCE MATTERS: MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS OF ATTENDANCE

A big thank you to our parents/carers who make sure their children attend school regularly! Your efforts, working in partnership with the school, will ensure that your child will have the best chance to achieve their academic potential and have real opportunity in further education and the world of work. It will also enable your child to:

- access the lessons needed to achieve their expected grades;
- maintain friendships and develop new ones;
- have access to social and sporting events offered by the school;
- explore potential careers;
- develop work habits such as good punctuality which are essential to thrive in the world of employment.

As a reminder, pupils should not miss school on a precautionary basis and can normally attend school with a cough or cold, unless they have a fever or diarrhoea and vomiting.

Research tells us that if a child's attendance falls below the 90% guideline for persistent absence, then this equates to 20 days absence from school, which potentially is 100 lessons missed per year. Parents/carers may not be aware of the cumulative affect of the absence. It is therefore essential that attendance does not fall into the persistent absence category.

Parents/carers who are experiencing difficulties with their child's attendance are asked to contact the attendance team as soon as possible and to work with us so that we can give your child the best possible start to their life and to give them the chances they deserve.

SCHOOL MEALS

Our catering team do an amazing job of providing food at three points each day for our 1,050 pupils and 150 on site staff. It really is an outstanding selection!

- Between 8.15am and 8.40am all pupils can receive a free bagel from the outside Pod.
- At break time there is a choice of cold and warm snacks including toast, fruit and chicken wraps.
- Each lunch time there is a variety of hot and cold meals on offer.

We run a cashless system of payment, pupils can add money to their accounts using the machine in school or parents/carers can top up their accounts using the Arbor parent portal and app.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If your child is eligible for free school meals, their Arbor account will be credited with up to £2.80 towards food and drink purchased each day. The daily allowance will begin at break time until the end of lunch service. Any money left unspent is not carried forward, so the account will only be credited with the amount spent each day. If your child spends more, you will be required to top up their account to cover the total cost spent. If you would like to apply for free school meals for your child or check your eligibility, please go to the website link below: <https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools/free-school-meals/>

BREAKFAST BAGEL – NATIONAL BREAKFAST PROGRAMME

We continue to be part of the national secondary school breakfast programme aimed at providing a free breakfast bagel to pupils before the start of school each day. School will be offering all pupils, who are on site at the time, a free breakfast bagel between 8.15am and 8.40am each day, served from the outside pod. Numerous studies have shown breakfast may benefit physical health and cognitive function too – improving concentration levels, so please encourage your child to pick up their free breakfast bagel each day.