

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been another very busy but exciting term with pupils learning well in lessons and enjoying the different opportunities school is providing for them during and after school.

This term we have sent out the Parent/Carer survey which asks questions about your perception of school life at Crofton. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete it. In response to the feedback received we have provided a hard copy of your child's Curriculum Overview - also known as the Long Term Plans and a reminder of where to find this on our website is in the newsletter.

To fully understand and engage with the curriculum pupils need to be able to read and understand different texts, consequently reading is still a priority across the school. Pupils will sit their GCSE and BTEC examinations in year 11. It is crucial for pupils to be able to read fluently so they can access the papers and apply their knowledge.

The school continues with its thorough strategy which includes registration activities and the accelerated reader scheme which is used with all pupils in Years 7-10. This involves an assessment which is used to determine the pupils' reading age, this is then reported home to parents/carers using our normal reporting cycle.

This term the Personal Development Programme has allowed pupils the opportunity to experience different aspects of learning, from opportunities to experience first aid or learn more about careers. We have had many different external visitors and all have commented about the excellent conduct of pupils here at school. Student Leadership have continued to be busy with different projects which has included supporting both local and national charities and our prefects have been supporting some of the younger pupils with mathematics.

We were excited to welcome the National Theatre Company who performed here along with a company bringing the English curriculum to life with live performances of the GCSE texts our Year 10 and 11 pupils are studying.

Crofton has enjoyed sporting success in all year groups and the extra-curricular clubs have again been very popular.

I would like thank you for your continued support, and wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Mr P Walker
Headteacher

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Personal Development Programme has continued to be busy this term with all year groups taking part in bespoke Drop Down Days. Year 7 pupils experienced their first Drop Down Day on the theme of 'Being Safe and Healthy'. They took part in four workshops led by Crofton staff looking at the basics of consent, LGBT, alcohol awareness and personal and dental hygiene. 'The Riot Act' performed to the whole year group a play about road safety and took part in a follow up discussion. Pupils showed maturity throughout the day.

Year 8 pupils took part in their second Drop Down Day on the theme of 'Wider World'. We had a visiting speaker from OE Electrics who talked to pupils about their career paths and the skills important for the world of work. The Leeds United Foundation gave a presentation on the basics of finances. Crofton staff further supported the day, delivering sessions on the basics of credit, debit and insurance; discrimination awareness; Fundamental British Values and what this means and the basics of first aid (knowing how to help someone with an allergy or asthma attack). Pupils engaged fully and the visitors praised their attitude and behaviour.

Year 9 pupils took part in their first careers based 'Wider World' Drop Down Day and we were fortunate to have support from the local colleges to allow our pupils to take part in a mini careers fair, allowing them to find out more about courses at college prior to them choosing their options. They also took part in separate workshops: one led by an industry expert on financial advice; the second on working in industry led by Equans and the final one led by the Leeds United Foundation on the basics of finances. The final session led by Crofton staff focused on careers and aspirations. The day supported pupils to explore and good questions were asked. Again our visitors enjoyed working with such polite and interested pupils.

Our final Drop Down Day of the term took place for Year 10 with a focus on 'Being a Responsible Citizen'. Pupils received advice and guidance on consent and what this means from Spectrum Community health. Crofton staff supported the day delivering sessions on: maintaining healthy relationships; the basics of first aid (focus on choking and bone/muscle injuries); alcohol awareness and the risk of gangs. Year 10 pupils showed maturity and fully engaged with these serious topics.

We have continued our 'Wellbeing Wednesday' programme registration activities - with all our year groups learning about different aspects of life, careers and how to manage situations. Through this platform, we have continued to respond to events in the news as part of keeping our programme flexible: for example, teaching our pupils about the unfolding situation in Ukraine and the events at the Oscars. We have also introduced the opportunity for our pupils to find out about key religious festivals throughout the term and gain a wider understanding of life in the wider world. Careers continues to be supported through 'Job of the Week'.

Finally our pupils took part in the national 'Apprenticeship Week' and 'Careers Week'. During 'Apprenticeship Week' all pupils found out about different apprenticeships linked to the subjects they study at school. This took place in lessons and was supported by Wellbeing Wednesday. During 'Careers Week' pupils were given the opportunity to find out about subject related careers and Year 9 pupils experienced subject specific careers lessons, giving them chance to find out about different careers, skills and labour market information related to specific school subjects. Pupils were supported with further careers based opportunities with the introduction to two sites that can be used in any year group; eClips and Careerpilot. As always, all details for these sites (and other careers support) are on Google Classroom and the school website.

This term the DfE published the Academy's destination figures. Once again we are above national average. This is testament to the work done by our Careers Lead Sharon Lord, Careers Advisor Tracey Chapman, Academy staff, pupils and parents/carers. Indeed by working together we have set pupils on the right paths to future success.

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CURRICULUM

In response to the feedback received, through our Parent/Carer survey, we have provided a hard copy of your child's Curriculum Overview - also known as the Long Term Plans. This shows you what is being taught in each curriculum area. This term we have continued to refine and develop our planning, building on Teaching and Learning training. In addition, we would like to remind you about the wealth of curriculum information on the school web-site, www.croftonacademy.org.uk where you can navigate, via the Curriculum tab on the home screen, to find: the overview of the curriculum; our Curriculum Prospectus and information about assessment and reporting.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

After school clubs have continued to thrive this term and pupils have enjoyed a range of activities linked to sport, reading, games, cooking, history - to name just a few. We are looking forward to enhancing our offer even further for Term 3. Please complete the Joining Form which has been sent home with your child this week (and sent out via ParentMail), even if your child currently is part of a club. Clubs will begin again on 3 May and everyone is welcome!

Mrs K Ashton
Assistant Headteacher

EXAMS & ASSESSMENTS

Year 11 sat a full series of mock examinations during March, in preparation for the summer exams. The conduct and effort of the Year 11 pupils during the exam period was outstanding and a real credit to themselves and the school. Pupils will be getting their results after the Easter break and looking to make further improvements going into the final Year 11 assessment period.

All Year 11 pupils who met the criteria of having attended all lesson 6 sessions, handed in all homework and maintained a very high attendance record, were invited on a rewards trip to Alton Towers at the end of the term. On Friday 8 April, those who achieved the reward will be going on a well-earned trip to Alton Towers before finishing for the Easter break. Well done everyone on your great effort and continued dedication to your studies.

Over the Easter break, school will be open on selected days as staff are delivering sessions in order to make sure pupils make the most progress possible. Pupils will be receiving a bespoke timetable of sessions that they are invited to attend.

GCSE exams will be starting on Monday 16 May. Pupils have received their individual exam timetable showing when all of their GCSE assessments are during the exam period. Further details around the finish date for Year 11 pupils will be announced after the Easter break.

Year 10 pupils will also have some assessments during this period which will count towards their final grade. As well as formal BTEC assessments, Year 10 will be sitting mock exams in a variety of subjects to fully prepare them for Year 11.

Mr D Peaker
Assistant Headteacher



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our student leaders have had another busy term supporting themed weeks at the Academy, helping at the recent face to face parents' evenings and taking part in charitable events. Our newly elected Year Group Councils met for the first time this half term and took part in a series of behaviour focus groups with Mr Pool – Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour. The students shared their views on policies and practices at the Academy and were able to ask questions of behalf of their peers. Mr Pool was impressed with the mature way in which the students engaged in discussion, provided feedback and shared their passion for helping to move the Academy forward.

The Student Leadership Council (SLC) spent time this half term organising and sorting donations to help those affected by events in Ukraine and for families within the local community. We were overwhelmed with the generous donations received. All items have now been donated to the United for Ukraine appeal and to the Clothing Bank which supports families in need across West Yorkshire. Thank you to all members of the Crofton community who supported our leaders with this project. Year 7 members of the SLC also helped us to celebrate 'Random Acts of Kindness Day' by spreading kindness and thanks to all staff by explaining why they are grateful for what staff do and giving out treats.

Along with completing their mock exams, our prefect team have done a fantastic job completing morning duties and continuing to be role models for their peers. They have also had another successful term providing mentoring support during Year 7 and 8 numeracy sessions alongside running another productive nurture group. The senior prefects also planned and ran an extremely successful bake sale in aid of their selected charity – Wakefield Hospice where they raised £242. Thank you to all students, parents and staff who baked for us, there were some amazing buns and biscuits for sale. After Easter, Year 10 will be invited to submit prefect applications and we will begin the process of selecting a new Head Boy and Head Girl. Information will be shared in the assembly on Monday 25 April.

Thank you to all students who have given their time this term, have a lovely Easter break and we look forward to seeing what we can achieve together in the final term of the year.

Sarah Rostron

Student Leadership & Wider Curriculum Co-ordinator



PE

Rugby League - Year 7 rugby league team have played the most games so far! Over sixty players have represented school! The team is currently in the quarter final of the Yorkshire Plate and will face Outwood.

Year 8 rugby league team have had some great games so far this year. They were knocked out in the Yorkshire Cup to a strobe team from Leeds! Again over forty boys have represented the school this year so far!

Year 9 have played lots of of good rugby this year! A lot of Year 9 players have also stepped up and played for the Year 10 team, which is great to see. Key games were against Kettlethorpe and a real improvement against a strong St Wilfrid's team. The team are currently at the quarter final stage of the Yorkshire Plate where they will play De Lacey.

Year 10 have also had a strong rugby league year. The team qualified for the Yorkshire Cup having been unbeaten locally. They finished second in the group having beaten Brigshaw from Leeds, but lost to a very strong school from Hull. This meant we entered the Yorkshire Plate, where we ended up getting knocked out at the quarter final stages. Fingers crossed we can learn from this year and more successes in next years' competitions.

Year 11 rugby league boys had a fantastic year of rugby from an extremely talented bunch of boys. Unbeaten in Wakefield rugby and seed 1 for the Yorkshire Cup. Unfortunately, one of the teams dropped out so we won one and lost one, meaning that we went into the Yorkshire Plate competition. Making it through to the semi final, in previous rounds beating strong sides from Leeds and Hull, we eventually lost to a very talented team from Hull in a close fought game. Thank you to all who represented the school and good luck in your future rugby careers.

Girls' Sport - Year 7 girls have had the opportunity to play a variety of sports including badminton, netball and take part on cheerleading. The girls have played against local schools in their netball matches with varying degrees of success. The effort, time and commitment has been fantastic from all the girls. The Year 7 girls' football team played their first game for Crofton Academy recently against St Wilfrid's and it was great to see so many girls involved and enjoying themselves. More to come from these, and with over eighteen girls wanting to play the future of girls' football at Crofton looks bright!

Year 8 girls have trained hard in their netball practices and have played fixtures against the local schools and also represented Crofton Academy in the Wakefield District tournament. The girls have attended many extra curricular practices in other sports such as hockey, badminton and football.

Year 9 girls have taken part in a variety of extra curricular clubs including football to rugby to netball and hockey. Some of the Year 9 girls have also helped coach the younger members of the cheerleading group. Many Year 9, girls and boys, have started to come to fitness club and numbers are growing each week which is really pleasing to see. Year 11 girls have played netball fixtures against local schools despite being in the middle of exam preparation and have been very successful. They have now challenged the staff at school to a game before they leave.

We are looking to recruit Year 10 girls into our sports programme and clubs. This is something we will be looking to encourage and expand over the comings weeks.

Football - It's been a very up and down year for football at Crofton. It's been great to see so many Key Stage 3 pupils attend training and represent the school in a variety of fixtures and cup competitions. We had over seventy pupils attending training regularly on a Monday night. Year 7 have played a lot of games and their attitude and confidence is growing. Year 8 had some strong results early on but unfortunately got knocked out of the cup at the quarter final stages. Year 9 are still going strong in the cup and have an upcoming semi final game against De Lacey whilst also wining two and losing two in the league. Year 10 have lost a few players this year, but it's great to see a settled team playing with a smile on their faces. Year 11 lost narrowly to Minsthorpe in the quarter final of the cup and have put in some great performances throughout their last year of representing school.

Miss E Radcliffe

Subject Leader PE

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

If pupils are to achieve their potential, good attendance and punctuality are critical. The link between attendance and achievement is really clear, pupils need to be in school to achieve the best examination results they can. Good attendance sets a positive pattern for the future, it will help them develop a sense of responsibility, as well as helping them to make friends and improve their confidence. Low attendance will have a significant impact on pupil achievement.

Any absence from school is detrimental to a child's education; it disrupts their learning routines and progress and should be avoided wherever possible. We understand the impact good attendance and punctuality has on learning, and we believe in rewarding good attendance and punctuality to motivate pupils. This school year we have many initiatives to support and celebrate attendance and punctuality so that it remains a high profile in school.

100% Attendance

410 pupils met 100% challenge January to February and 548 between March to April. Easter boxes full of treats were delivered to the top form groups:

7ACK	95.95%
8SWD	96.09%
9IAF	94.86%
10KKE	95.37%
11CRB	95.89%

Miss S Rowe

Associate Senior Leader

KEY DATES FOR SUMMER TERM:

MONDAY 25 APRIL

School Re-opens

THURSDAY 28 APRIL

Year 8 Parents' Evening

MONDAY 2 MAY

Bank Holiday (school closed)

MONDAY 16 MAY

Year 11 Exams Begin

MONDAY 30 MAY - FRIDAY 3 JUNE

Half Term Break

MONDAY 4 JULY

Bank Holiday*

TUESDAY 5 JULY

Year 6 Transition Day

WEDNESDAY 6 JULY

Year 6 Parents'/Carers' Evening

THURSDAY 14 JULY

Year 11 Prom

FRIDAY 22 JULY

School Closes for Summer Break

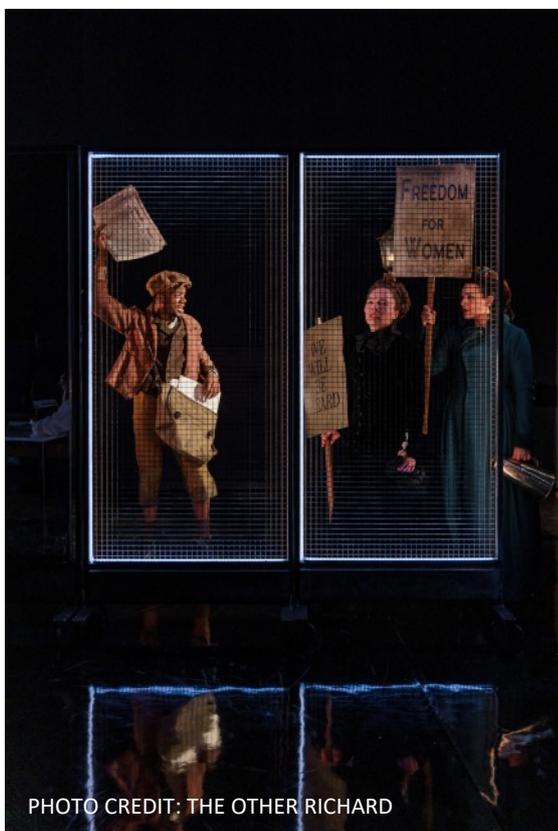
*This bank holiday is in lieu of the Queen's Jubilee which occurs during the half term break

DRAMA

We were incredibly lucky to host the National Theatre's touring production of Jekyll and Hyde in March. Nearly 200 pupils from Years 9, 10 and 11 watched the show in our main hall. Pupils remarked on how amazing it was to see our school hall transformed into a theatre. The set cleverly used reflective mirrors and LED lighting to create atmosphere and flexible locations. The play by Evan Placey was not the traditional tale. In this version, Mrs Jekyll decides to continue in her late husband's scientific work. Eventually we realise the story is the imagination of a 21st century blogger exposing injustice against women's rights. The action flashes between past and present and was underscored by classical versions of modern pop songs. One Year 9 pupil, told me, 'It's the best thing I've ever seen!' It truly was a memorable day. Thank you to all involved in sorting out the logistics of hosting the show. The show organisers were quick to praise our pupils who said what a 'lovely school you have'.

Miss L Allsop

Subject Leader Drama



YEAR 7

It doesn't seem two minutes ago that we were welcoming all the Year 7's to Crofton Academy and now they will have completed two thirds of their first year; time really does fly!!!

We have done a lot as a year group since Christmas, both during and after school, and as always we are extremely proud of all our Year 7's and the way they represent the Academy. We've had our first drop down day, charity cake sale, £10 challenge, road safety workshop, inter-form competitions, drop everything and read (DEAR), attendance challenge and group tutor challenges to name but a few. It was also great to finally have a parents evening and not only meet a lot of you (virtually), but also talk about the fantastic things that your child does on a regular basis.

We have had lots of successes too out of school and it's amazing to see and hear weekly of all the amazing things that the year group get up to, they are a very talented bunch. We have had successes in karate, gymnastics, dance, horse riding, football, and rugby as well as pupils doing wonderful things in the community. We have also had lots of pupils in the year group staying behind after school and taking full advantage of the variety of after school clubs that we offer. These clubs have ranged from robotics and cheerleading to science club, rugby and football - to name but a few. Our Year 7s attended in numbers with enthusiasm and pride. We have had some joy too within the sport and PE faculty, not only with the amount of pupils taking part in the clubs, but also on the field. The Year 7 boys football team have had over 60 pupils representing the school in fixtures against other schools. These include both boys' and girls' teams. Rugby league has taken off too with numbers increasing each week and the boys currently in the latter stages of the Yorkshire Plate competition, fingers crossed!

I would like to end with thanking parents/carers for your continued support since September. I have really enjoyed getting to know you all a little better and look forward to continuing with this over their time at Crofton. Happy Easter to you all and hope you all have a relaxing and safe Easter.

Mr A Miller

Year 7 Year Leader

YEAR 8

Another busy term draws to a close. Pupils have been continued to be conscientious and engaged in a positive manner, which is reflected in their conduct around school and within lessons. Most recently, teachers have been completing subject reports and having read all of them this week, I'm sure you will be as proud as I am; progress, behaviour and attitude to learning are overwhelmingly positive.

complement the curriculum, various activities have been arranged including a Careers Week and a drop-down day looking at finance, discrimination, and fundamental British values. I would like to thank you for your continued support as we work collaboratively to ensure all pupils are the best versions of themselves that they can be. I hope you all enjoy the well-earned Easter break.

Mr J MacDonald

Year 8 Year Leader

YEAR 9

Another productive and positive half term for Year 9. The options process has started very well (thank you to all the pupils, parents/carers and staff involved) with more information on this to be given after the holidays. We have also seen a number of successes with the Year Group's football and rugby teams reaching the semi and quarter finals of the Wakefield & Pontefract Schools Cup and Yorkshire Plate (respectively). Both sides could yet go further in both competitions with their games still due to be played as I write.

We have also had individual successes with Alfie Morris achieving a silver and bronze medal in his recent kickboxing championships (which also has presented him with the opportunity to appear in the World Championships). Finally Abbie Spink, who is an extremely talented and successful dog handler, also returned from the world renowned Crufts dog show with numerous successes and commendations for her efforts and talents.

Mr R Cummins

Year 9 Year Leader

YEAR 10

I can't believe we are nearly at the end of Year 10, do you know that when we get back after Easter there are only 12 weeks left in the academic year? So many of my pupils are working really hard in preparation for Year 11 and I know they will reap what they sow. It's been a busy term with one thing or another. It was fabulous having The National Theatre in school performing 'Jekyll and Hyde' to our GCSE Drama pupils and then all of Year 10 were lucky enough to watch some scenes from Inspector Calls which will really help them with their English Literature and Drama exams - what a great experience.

Congratulations and well done to all pupils who got their Bronze Epraise certificate this week. What a brilliant attitude towards school life! I'm looking forward to Year 10 parents' evening this week ; I have read all their progress reports and there are many pupils who can look forward to a great evening.

I'm excited about the prefect application launch next term. This is such a great opportunity to have an important and influential role in school. There are many Year 10s who would make excellent prefects and it looks really impressive on college applications. Talking of post-16 applications, I know that some of the year have started to look into the opportunities available to them, which is fantastic, and in June/July we will be able to visit our local providers on taster days to see what they have to offer in preparation for their applications.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely Easter. Enjoy the well-deserved break and I'll see you next term refreshed and ready for next term so that we are fully prepared for the demands of next year.

Mrs R Clark

Year 10 Year Leader

YEAR 11

We have had another fantastic term with Year 11 (the final full term that the Year Group will have in their secondary school careers!).

Both Year 11 boys' rugby and girls' netball teams were a credit to the Academy, putting in a number of really pleasing performances and picking up some eye catching wins. It was unfortunate that the boys just missed out on the final of the Yorkshire Plate, but their efforts that saw them right through to the semi finals certainly made us proud.

Our final mock exam period has concluded and again this has been a success and a vital experience for the students moving forward. Their conduct throughout was excellent and I look forward to seeing the results after Easter.

We would like to thank all the pupils and staff who gave support in our recent charity bun sale. Our Head Boy and Girl, Charlie Dawson and Rosie Gordon, were at the helm, and they managed to raise over £200 which will go to Wakefield Hospice.

It has been extremely busy on all fronts and even with the Easter Break upon us, Year 11 still have lots on in this final push, including some intervention sessions over the holiday. I would like to thank all involved in this: parents/carers for their support, staff for their dedication and time and obviously to the pupils who I know are pushing themselves really hard.

Finally, our rewards trip to Alton Towers, which concludes the term is taking place on the last day of term. Congratulations to those who earned a place. This is the first of several celebratory events that will mark the pupils' end of time with us.

Have a great Easter and get refreshed for one last big push next term.

Mr M Wiles

Year 11 Year Leader