

Message from the Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

With Easter rapidly approaching I hope you are enjoying the warmer weather. Spring is a time of change and that is certainly the case at Crofton School at the moment, so I want to use my piece of our newsletter to highlight two important changes, one that is about to happen and another that we are hoping will happen in the near future.

Student Support Leaders

Following a review of how we support our students pastorally, I am pleased to inform you that we are introducing a new staff role to our pastoral system, 'Student Support Leader' (SSL). These have resulted from a reorganisation of existing roles, to ensure we can better support students in both their behaviour and progress. We will be introducing these new roles over the next two months.

Each year group will have an SSL assigned to them, working with their existing Head of Year and Assistant Head of Year. Their time will be divided between two main aspects. Firstly, they will spend time working with students who are not making expected progress, primarily but not exclusively disadvantaged students, to help them get back on track and make better use of their teachers' support. Secondly, they will support more efficient responses when pastoral issues arise. We know parents always appreciate a quick response when a serious issue arises, but also understand that when Heads of Year are teaching this is not always possible. As SSLs are non-teaching staff they will often be able to respond more rapidly to ensure problems are quickly addressed.

Your child's Head of Year will be in touch shortly to introduce their SSL and explain in more detail the work they will be doing with the students.



Shortened Day Proposal

Thank you to all the parents who have responded to our consultation on shortening the school day on Wednesdays, which if agreed will commence from 19 June 2019. Many of you have shared your views, in most cases supportive of the proposed change, and also made some very useful suggestions and queries for us to address. This excellent parental engagement in such an important decision for the school is very much appreciated. Governors will be making their final decision on this proposal at the Full Governing Board meeting on 27 March, and I will communicate the outcome as soon as possible after this date.

If you have not yet had a chance to look at the proposal, details can be found in the news section of the school website.

Red Nose Day

We had an excellent response to our Red Nose Day cake sale this year. Thank you to all the parents and students who contributed. Every single cake was sold and we were able to raise £214.46 for Comic Relief. Crofton students and staff are always willing to throw themselves into events like this, whether for charity or simply raising awareness. World Book Day and the forthcoming Autism Awareness Week are two further examples of the kindness our students show all the time, they are a great credit to the school and their parents!

I do hope you have an enjoyable time with your family over the Easter break and look forward to an exciting Summer term ahead.

Kind regards,



Mr S Harrison
Headteacher

GCSE Drama trip review: 'The Unreturning'

On the 7 February, Year 10 GCSE Drama students went to watch Frantic Assembly's production of 'The Unreturning' at the Chichester Festival Theatre. The two-hour show explored themes of post-traumatic stress disorder and wars of the past, present and future using abstract techniques to effectively portray such emotional depth. The ability of the four-man cast astounded the students and became topic of many conversations after the show - inspiring them in their upcoming study of Component 2 (devising) as well as providing them with an excellent experience of live theatre; a requirement of the GCSE course.

It is undeniable that every student thoroughly enjoyed the performance and each individual had a different response to the piece emotionally - recognising various aspects of the piece, technically or from the performer's perspective, and developing their own interpretations. Regular theatre trips are arranged and encouraged within the department to get the students' creative minds working and allow them to adapt a sense for effective dramatic approaches as an audience member as well as a performer whilst actually having a chance to experience the art. The mature and thought provoking themes gave the students an opportunity to consider the creation of tension and the impacts on the audience, meaning that they are able to become critical in the evaluation of their own work and that of their peers.

Nalah S (Year 10)
Drama student



Sweeney Todd News - Schools Edition

Auditions are in full swing and there has been a wealth of talent.

The cast and crew will be announced on Monday 25 March 2019 and rehearsals will begin the week before the Easter. We are looking forward to keeping you updated with photographs and videos of rehearsals. In addition, you can follow the production details on the Drama twitter account <https://twitter.com/CroftonDrama>

Tickets will go on sale in the Summer term.

Mrs K West
Subject Leader of Drama

World Book Day 2019

On 7 March, we enjoyed yet another successful World Book Day at Crofton School! You can see all the evidence on our Instagram page @Crofton_library. Give us a follow to keep up to date on all the wonderful goings on.

This year we started our celebrations early and kicked off the week with a game of Whole School Cluedo. Students had to find the clues around the school and work out who had committed the literary murder, where it had taken place and what was the weapon of choice. I am glad to report that thanks to the diligence of our students Percy Jackson was apprehended in Oz with the offending bow and arrow that he stole from Katniss Everdene. Well done to Arif in Year 8, for being our winning detective and earning himself an Amazon Echo Dot!

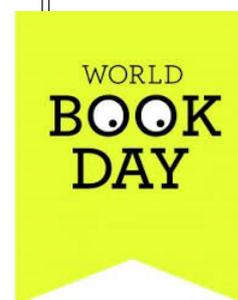
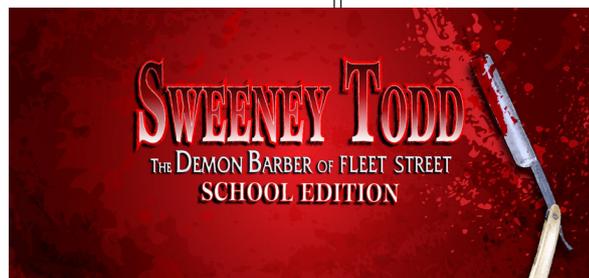
During World Book week we also had great fun with our BOOKFACE competition. The simple rules of this game involve taking a selfie and incorporating a book cover into the photo. I had so many brilliant entries to this, from staff as well as students, but in the end a vote took place and lucky Kaycee in Year 7 found herself taking home the star prize of Beats headphones! Well done Kaycee.

As always on World Book Day, I encourage as many as possible to dress up as a literary character. I was blown away by the response this year and not just amongst the students. The staff went above and beyond and really helped to make WBD a fun day for all. I am very lucky to have so many people willing to get involved – it certainly makes my job easier! It was close competition but Alexander in Year 7 won a Bluetooth speaker for his amazing homemade outfit and Mrs Price was awarded best dressed member of staff. Well done both of you.

To finish the week off, Year 7 were lucky enough to spend some time with the fabulously entertaining Mike O'Leary. Mike is a local storyteller who regaled us all with local myths and legends. I know I was very happy to listen to him all day and the students were equally as enthralled. We are in the process of collecting thank you letters to send to Mike and hope to see him back at Crofton next year.

What a wonderful week we had and as always this wouldn't be possible without any of you getting involved. So a massive thank you from the LRC!

Mrs S Dix (Library Manager)



Canine Partners

I am very pleased to be writing to you with an update about Crofton, the canine partner whom you are sponsoring. He is progressing well with his Puppy Training in East Sussex. Crofton is now seven months old and I'm delighted to share with you a photo taken recently.

Crofton is a quiet, laid back puppy who has settled in well with his puppy parents. He is making steady progress with his training, and is currently focusing on responding quicker to the basic commands of sit, down and stand. His loose lead walking is coming along nicely and he focuses well on his handler. Crofton can be a little over the top with the family dog but is learning to respect it and read body language.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

If you would like any further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on my direct line, 01730 716051 or email giftofindependence@caninepartners.org.uk.

Holly Allum
Fundraising Administrator

Austrian Alpine Adventure: Ski Trip

This February half term we took the biggest group of skiers to Austria that Crofton has ever had; we visited the resort of Saalbach-Hinterglemm. Of the 70 strong party, three quarters of the group were complete beginners. By Wednesday morning it was terrific to see everyone at the top of the mountain ready to ski down in their different groups. The conditions were ideal: super snow under ski and blue skies. I am glad to say that a lot more sun cream was used than thermals!

The level of skiing in the top group was the highest we have seen for a number of years and the instructors enjoyed skiing the reds and blacks with them. The second group were biting at the top group's heels and were chuffed when a number of them got a faster time in the Thursday slalom race. The beginners were awesome; often showing determination and perseverance before enjoying the joy of combining their first series of snow plough and later stem turns. By the end of the week many beginners were skiing parallel. In fact, an instructor made the very rare comment that one beginner in particular should not waste their obvious talent and should build on their natural ski ability when they return to the UK.

In the evenings we enjoyed visits to a Spa, ice hockey match and ski show; some skiers enjoyed the experience of night skiing too.

The students were super and a credit to the school. Thank you to the parents who painstakingly prepared all the luggage and equipment in the build up to the trip and thank you to the 8 other staff who gave up their half terms to allow this Alpine experience to happen.

Our next planned Ski Trip is in the half term of February 2021, details of which will be sent home this coming September/October 2019.

Mr Barnes, Ski Trip Leader



Ski Trip

On Friday 16 January, Crofton School set off for Austria for six glorious days of skiing. As one of the students who attended this trip, I was dreading the long coach journey that awaited me, and my fellow skiers felt much the same way. We boarded the coach and met our lovely bus driver who took us from the school all the way to Dover Port. Three long hours later, we arrived at Dover and went through boarder control. We were anticipating boarding the ferry at 9 o'clock and we were slightly delayed by 15 minutes (but everyone was too excited to care!).

We arrived in Calais, France at about midnight. Here is where we were greeted with two new bus drivers who were going to perform the mammoth task of driving for 16 hours to Saalbach Hinterglemm.

Finally making it to Austria, we went to the ski rental and sorted everything out. We then travelled by ski bus to the hotel, where we had dinner and settled down for a good night's sleep.

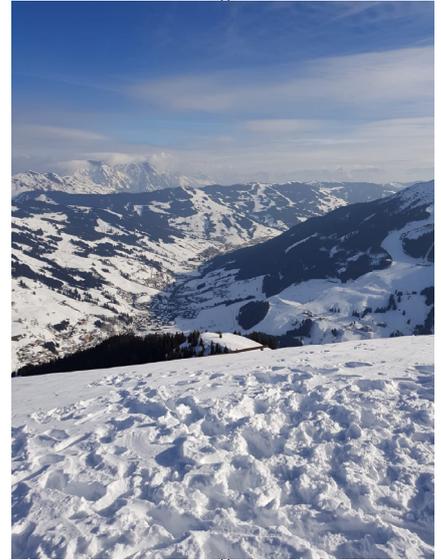
The first day was very exciting. We embarked on a ski bus at 9:00 in the morning and arrived at the slopes at about 9:10am. As soon as we got off the bus, we had to walk about a quarter of a mile over to the green slopes where we were starting. We met our instructors at 9:30am and then started our lessons. The first few hours of this were very frustrating, as the newcomers to skiing had never skied on snow before, so it took about 10 minutes to get our skis on properly. Halfway through the session, people were starting to get the hang of it and were attempting short slalom runs using a snow plough turn.

The next day, our teams became more confident. It was then that our instructor gave us the okay to use the button lift. Now the button lift is great fun if you know how to use it but for us beginners, we didn't have a clue. So, if you get on the seat in time but your skis were crossed, you were going to get dragged along the floor and there was nothing you could do about it. Once we did all make it to the top of the slope, our instructor told us to traverse the slope (none of us knew what that meant). As he explained it to us, we understood you could not just go head first down the mountain but you need to go down diagonally, or you might take someone out.

The third day was pretty much the same; just acquiring and practicing skills and gradually getting more and more confident.

Day four was probably the most exciting. In the morning we went over to the gondola lift station as we were about to travel all the way to the top of the mountain. Now, personally, I am scared of lifts, so you can imagine what was going through my mind. Once at the top of the mountain, we conquered countless blue slopes and even some reds. The views were astonishing. It was almost surreal as to what was before our eyes. It was absolutely amazing to be on the top of the summit, looking out at it all.

On Thursday, it was time to put our skills to the test. A slalom race had been set up for each one of us to complete and our times would be written down and ranked in our groups. So, one by one, we all trailed down in between the poles and across the finish line at quite some speed.



Dinner that night was very different. Our wonderful instructors, who had to put up with us all week, arrived at our hotel to praise everyone on their fabulous achievements.

The last day of skiing came so soon. On Friday, we took a different spot for skiing that we were unfamiliar with. So, as usual, we went up the mountain on a lift, however, this time it was snowing. Our instructor said to us “are you sure you want to ski in this weather? We can just go and sit in the cabin and have a hot chocolate and just chill out”. But, us being children, we all said we wanted to ski (a decision we would all soon regret). At first we only went halfway up the mountain and that was fine, so we skied back down to the lift with absolutely no trouble at all. It was when we decided to go up the whole way that things got interesting, to say the least. At the top of the mountain, it was snowing really hard and it was almost impossible to see where you were going, so we had people stacking it all over the snow. We did eventually make it back down to the lift in one piece but not without difficulty.

On behalf of the whole ski trip, I would like to thank all of the instructors and teachers who participated. A special thanks goes to Mr Barnes for organising this amazing trip!

Stefany C-H (Year 8)



Winchester Science Museum

Year 7 ACG students had a fantastic day out at Winchester Science Museum. They had been working on a solar system topic in lessons and being able to go into the planetarium and experience space live helped them enormously with their fact finding mission.

They had a lesson on different light and how it is used in space exploration led by the team at Winchester. They produced a power point presentation on the planet of their choice and then went on to write a creative story about their space mission. They explored the first astronauts in space, had some astronaut training and ate food suitable to take into space.

Mrs S Latter



Grandparents' Coffee and Chat

Monday 13 May 9:00 - 11:00am in the Youth Room - just outside Crofton Community Centre.

All grandparents of children attending Crofton School are welcome.

Lisa Noice
Parent Support Worker



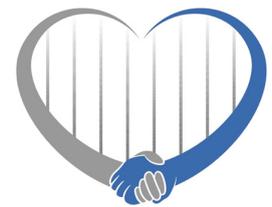
Spring Charity Concert

This concert takes place on Tuesday 2 April at 7:00pm in the school hall. Unlike the Open Mic (rock/pop) concert, this is for students learning an instrument who would like to perform a solo, duet or something in a group.

If your child would like to play in this concert, please email me (joliver@croftonschool.co.uk) or ask your child to see me as soon as possible. Tickets will not be on sale but donations on the door (for our yearly charity) are very welcome.

After Easter, all music groups begin rehearsing again for the Summer Concerts which are due to take place on 3 and 4 July. If your child would like to join choir or any of our groups, please ask them to see Mr Allen or myself; otherwise, please email me.

Mr Oliver
Subject Leader for Music



Crofton School is a hidden sentence champion

We are here to help



If you have a family member in prison, going to court or who has been arrested, we can offer you support.



Contact Details:

Miss A Knight –
Knight@croftonschool.co.uk

Mrs L Dalglish
LDalglish@croftonschool.co.uk

Important Dates for your Diary

March

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| 27 March | Year 11 GCSE Drama Moderation |
| 29 March | Year 9 Holocaust Day |
| 29 March | Non-school Uniform Day |
| 29 March | Year 10 ICT Trip |



April

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 1-4 April | Year 11 MFL Speaking Exam |
| 2 & 4 April | Year 10 Food Trip |
| 5 April | Year 11 Biology Mock Exam |
| 5 April | Year 11 ICT Trip |
| 5 April | End of Term |
| 23 April | INSET Day |
| 24-29 April | Year 7 Exams |
| 24 April | Year 11 Chemistry Mock Exam |
| 26 April | Year 11 Physics Mock Exam |
| 29 April | Year 8 Girls - HPV Injections |
| 30 April | Year 10 Food Exam |

May

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 May | Year 10 Food Exam |
| 1 May | Dance Celebration |
| 3 May | Year 10 Food Exam |
| 7-9 May | Year 10 Food Exam |
| 7-10 May | Year 11 Art and Photography Exams |
| 13 & 16 May | Year 9 Rivers Fieldwork |
| 13-17 May | Work Experience – Week 1 |
| 14 May | Year 9 GCSE Preparation Evening |
| 15 May | Year 8 MFL Theatre |
| 17 May | Year 7 French Trip |
| 20-24 May | Work Experience – Week 2 |
| 23 May | Year 8/9 Teen Tech Careers Evening |

Dates for Your Diary



Term Dates

Spring Term

7 Jan - 5 April 2019

Summer Term

23 April - 23 July 2019

INSET Days for

Staff Training

Tues 23 April 2019

Mon 17 June 2019



Crofton School

Marks Road, Stubbington, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 2AT

Tel: 01329 664251 Fax: 01329 668525

Absence Line: 01329 666825

Email:

Messages for Headteacher: headteacher@croftonschool.co.uk

General School messages: school@croftonschool.co.uk