

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,



With a new term already well underway, I hope you and your family had a great Christmas and are looking forward to a happy and prosperous 2019. During the first week of term, we used our whole school assembly to update students on some of the changes we have been making in the school, and what is planned for 2019. Some of these changes, such as our re-planning of the Key Stage 3 Curriculum, are long-term projects that have less visible results at first. It was also good to share some of the areas in which change is already apparent to students, such as our new student leadership groups, the different ways we are starting lessons and the growing number of anti-bullying ambassadors we are training. The students even had a chance to see how their charity fund raising was having a real impact on people's lives through a live demonstration of the work of an assistance dog brought in by 'Canine Partners'. Despite our best efforts, the presentations by staff were very much upstaged by the antics of the dog!



The Crofton Arch

As I write, the 'Crofton Arch' that marks the entry to the LRC is being demolished to make way for a new arch. It is perhaps the most instantly recognisable feature of our school site, so much so that it is incorporated into our school logo. Those of you with a long association with the school will recall that for many years it was the main entrance to the school, and continues to be a focal point. However, it was in urgent need of replacement and by the time you read this I hope that the new arch will be in place. Although quite different to the original I hope you will agree that it is very much in keeping with our school identity.

Procedures for Emergency Closures

We hope the weather will remain mild, but parents are advised that should a substantial snow fall be forecast, they frequently check our website, their mobile phones for a text/email, listen to local radio and watch the Hampshire website <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/schools/schoolclosures.htm> for school closures. Of course we hope this will not be necessary, but it is always best to be prepared!



Mock Examinations

Year 11s have now received their mock examination results and are busy responding to feedback in readiness for the final exam period, which will soon be upon us. The hard work they put in will pay dividends in the real GCSE exams, and staff will be doing everything they can to motivate and support them, as will parents of course. However, it is important they remain healthy – sensible eating, good sleep habits, and making time for relaxation with friends and family all remain important. If you feel your child is struggling and needs some additional help please, do not hesitate to let us know.

Year 8 have also just completed their exams. I have been hugely impressed with how they have engaged with these. They are developing a range of essential learning habits that will ensure they are well prepared for when the time comes for the real exams at the end of their time at Crofton.

New Staff

Finally, I would like to welcome a number of new members of staff to the school. Our new staff are Eleanor Beach (English), Kirsten Bate (Geography), Hannah Bell (Dance) and Dana James (HR Team). They have already begun to settle in well and are excellent additions to an already highly skilled and effective staff team.

I look forward to continuing our work together in 2019, and continuing to ensure we get the very best outcomes for all of our students.

Kind regards

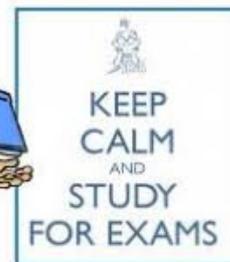


Mr S Harrison
Headteacher

PDL update

Events in the news in the coming weeks will continue to reveal a lot about what we can expect of the year to come, and beyond. In PDL we try to best prepare young people for the choices and challenges they will have within and beyond the school gates: a world that is expected to be more familiar to us with greater experience of the world. Yet the changes around all of us presently make it difficult to predict what sort of futures await us all. Nevertheless we continue to best prepare our young people to be effective citizens who make moral choices about their beliefs, actions and how they relate to others and the environment around them.

This term Year 7 will be looking at Personal Finance and Year 8 will be considering ageing and reflecting on our local community. Year 9s will be focussing on Drug Education and Year 10 will be doing further work on Careers related activities including visits from NATS, BAE and IBM. Year 11 will be exploring the sensitive but important topics of Euthanasia and Genetic Engineering. We continue to host various outside visitors who contribute to the PDL learning experience.



An exciting development for this term is that Mr Zealander (Head of PE) will be leading and launching an Outdoor Education series of activities during PDL time aimed at Year 9 in the first instance. It will focus on skills such as problem solving, leadership, team-work and communication.

Year 7 and 8 continue to work on their PiXL EDGE individual programmes and it has been great to see so many of them engaging with the LORIC skills on an ongoing basis: Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication. This term's Assembly themes are given below.

Mr S Barnes

Date	Title
7/1	Blindness: World Braille Day
11/1	Whole School Assembly (p5)
14/1	HOY
21/1	Feast Day of St Paul – renewal & new beginnings
28/1	100 years since the Spanish Flu and precautions against modern Pandemics
4/2	HOY
11/2	Resilience (LORIC)
HALF TERM	

Anti-Bullying Ambassador Scheme

At Crofton School, our aim is to make it a safe place for all students. To support this, we have been running the Anti-Bullying Ambassador Scheme for a couple of years. This year, we have trained a number of students in conflict resolution and will be around the site at break times, available to offer support. The students have also planned and led assemblies to their peers, looking at the causes and effects of bullying. Moving forward we want the young ambassadors to access tutor groups and feeder schools to continue to spread the message about how we can continue making Crofton a safe place for all.

Mr P Williams

Kaitlyn (Year 9) writes:

Recently we have had Anti-Bullying Week and we did an assembly for each year group. The assembly involved how to become an anti-bullying ambassador and what we did in general.



We have a meeting every Tuesday to sort out duty rotas and to train new additions to the group. Every lunchtime we have people in the library, tennis courts and on the stairwell in H Block. This allows us to make sure everything is alright and so people can find us easily.

Part of our job is to make sure that everything is safe and no bullying is happening. If we do get a rare case of bullying, we take a statement from the students involved to get the full story. Then if possible, we get them talking together in a quiet room. If we don't think that getting them to talk together is a good idea, then we get a teacher involved.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Edward L (Year 7). As part of Team Agile Supernova, we won the First Lego League Tournament regional heat held at the University of Portsmouth. The team will now compete at the FIRST® LEGO® League UK and Ireland Final Tournament held at Bristol in mid- February 2019.

Although members worked as a team, Edward worked with other members to build and program the Lego Robot and won the Robot Missions! Everyone contributed to our overall winning of the heat. What a great result!

What is First Lego League?

FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL) is a global science and technology challenge for teams of ten students aged 9 to 16 years, to encourage an interest in real world issues and develop key skills that are crucial for their future careers. The students work together to explore a given topic and make a presentation as well as design, build and program an autonomous LEGO robot to solve a series of missions.

The University of Portsmouth is our regional Tournament venue and the winners compete against other regional winners at the UK and Ireland Final at the University of West of England (UWE) in Bristol. From there the UK winners head for Tournaments across the world including USA, Estonia and Hungary.

Who are the team and where do they come from?

This year our ten-person team called Agile Supernova coached by Liz Stoneham, AKA Robot Liz-ii, was sponsored by Agile ICT and met on Saturday mornings from mid-September 2018 to prepare for the Tournament.

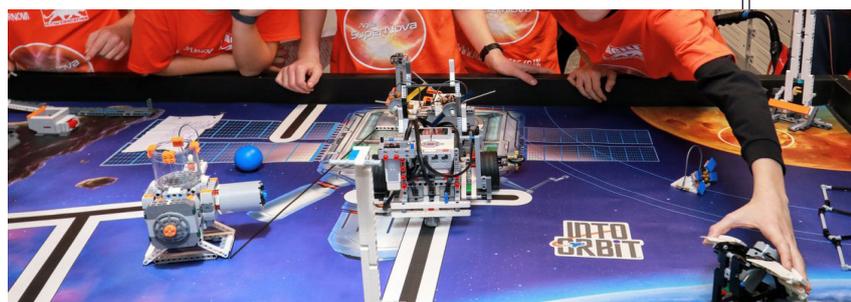
The team members are made up of pupils from Crofton Secondary as well as Cams Hill, Portchester Community and Swanmore College Schools.

This hot bed of talent comes from Robot Liz-ii's Robot Sessions that she holds at Junior/Primary Schools in the local Fareham and Gosport area with up to 100 Year 6 children attending per year.

The FLL competition is a life-long lesson. It is a real-life problem that can only be solved by the team working together. Everyone struggles at first, but the more effort you put in, the more you achieve and get out of it.

Well done Edward. As part of Agile Supernova, you made a tremendous contribution to the team and good luck at the Finals in Bristol. Go Agile Supernova. Go.

Liz Stoneham
AKA Robot Liz-ii



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Kerry, Anna's mum says "She asked me for a maths tutor as she was struggling. She has come on leaps and bounds, I am so pleased with the progress. The tutors are great! It's a convenient location and the assessment is easy to arrange."

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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

Amazing Achievement

One of the top five prestigious sailing events across the world for dinghy sailors recently took place. Monique (Year 11) came first!

This year there were 242 entries, representing 56 classes from 98 clubs. The prestigious Bloody Mary pursuit race is never for the faint hearted with force three, gusting four and later five, testing the skills of sailors towards the end of the race.



To everyone's astonishment, Monique in a 29er, along with her crew John Mather, just held off a marauding 49er by around 30 metres to win.

Monique said on coming ashore:

"It's great! I've done it twice before in an RS Feva and a Topper and I can't believe we've just won it! It was pretty hard racing and we're just thinking 'Come on, we've got to go' as the 49er came towards us. It was so close and we know they were catching us, but they ran out of time. It was quite windy so good for the skiffs."

Monique is the first youth, the first ever girl and the first 29er to win the event so it is an amazing achievement for her!



Well done Monique!

Noughts and Crosses cast members visit to Crofton Community Centre

On 22 January 22 six Drama students visited the Crofton Community Centre to perform for a group of retired members of the community. We introduced ourselves to the group of about 15 elders and performed key scenes from our Key Stage 3 play Noughts and Crosses. The play is based on racial tension between black and white people represented by noughts and crosses. However, in this dystopian world, black people (crosses) are superior to white people (noughts) in a twist from what we know to have happened in the past.

Other themes of the play include crime, family relationships, loyalty, romance and terrorism. The members of the community group found our extracts heart-warming and engaging and had lots of interesting questions to ask us afterwards. One of the questions was about how the other students react to us being in the play. We explained that the play was open to everyone to be involved in and students didn't need to be a part of it if they didn't want to be. We told them that we are part of a very strong drama community at Crofton and if any of us experience negativity that we have a big group of friends (the cast and crew) to support us and help to brush it off.



We really enjoyed having the opportunity to go into the village and interact with the elders. They asked us what our next production was going to be and although it hasn't been revealed yet, we have promised them that we will be back to perform some scenes from that as soon as possible!

We have really enjoyed putting on our Key Stage 3 play and having sell out audiences has made all of the commitment and hard work worth it! It has been challenging to set the play on a traverse stage (where the audience are sat both sides) but the audience have enjoyed being more in the action. We have loved the community feel that being in a production gives us, as it is not only us actors that have made friends but also the technical students on lights, sound, props and makeup.



We are excited to find out what our production will be in the summer and can't wait for rehearsals to begin!

Written by Michaela M, Charlotte H, Daniel S, Melina R, Niamh D (all Year 9) and Stefany C (Year 8).

Important Dates for your Diary



February

7 February	Year 10 Drama Trip
8 February	Science Live
11 & 12 February	Year 9 Immunisations
11 & 12 February	Year 10 Art and Photography Exams
11 - 15 February	Year 11 Food Exam
13 February	Year 9 Preference Evening
14 & 15 February	Year 10 Art and Photography Exams
15 - 23 February	Ski Trip
18 - 22 February	Half-Term
25 February	Year 10 Exams start
28 February	Drama Trip

March

4 March	Year 11 Drama Performance Evening
6 March	Barcelona Information Evening
7 March	World Book Day
8 March	Year 7 - Author in School
12 March	Year 11 Drama Exam
20 March	Year 8 Consultation Evening
27 March	Year 11 GCSE Drama Moderation
29 March	Non-School Uniform Day

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