



CROFTON HIGH SCHOOL

Specialists in Maths & Computing

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Issue 45

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MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING HEAD

As always the Autumn term is one of our busiest times of year; I am sure everyone is ready for this well deserved break.

You will see there have been a variety of key events this term which have involved a wide range of pupils. The community Garden Project is well underway now and we are still welcoming volunteers from the local community. Opera North was an exciting new event which gave a different focus to the music curriculum. As you will read, whilst the future of the School Sports Partnership is unsure, due to funding cuts, we have shown our support for the continuation of this highly successful program.

Unfortunately the snow arrived early this year and due to travel conditions we were forced to close for 3 days. Thanks to all those volunteers who helped us to clear the site so that we were able to open again on the Friday.

For the past week, Year 11 pupils have been sitting mock examinations and we commend them for their hard work and conduct. We hope pupils now have time to relax and enjoy their Christmas break whilst awaiting their results. We will ensure that pupils receive feedback after the holiday on their exam performance.

Year 7 have now completed a full term and, along with support from Mrs Rowe and Mrs Fogg, seem to have settled well.

I would personally like to thank all parents/guardians and pupils for their messages of support over the last term and would like to wish pupils, parents/guardians, staff and friends of Crofton High School a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope to see you all safely back on 4 January 2010

Hellen Bolton
Acting Headteacher

Crofton Community Garden Project Update

Just an update on the progress of the Crofton Community Garden project. Things are moving on, we had a really good day clearing the entrance to the site and also preparing an area which will be paved and used for study and picnics.

Our pupils were fantastic and we were helped massively by a group of Princes Trust student's based at the Youth Centre on our school site. The team from Generation Xchange also got their wellies on and gave us a hand preparing the land! You may have seen the article in the Wakefield Express which has further fuelled interest in the project.

The next step is to dig and create a wildlife pond, finish the paved area and then, when the weather allows, a 24ft x 60ft polytunnel will be erected hopefully sometime before March 2011. Some of our Year 9 pupils have also entered a Wakefield District Housing competition which will be focused around the development of the site. This will culminate in a "Dragons Den" type presentation against other schools in the Wakefield authority.

GOOD LUCK TO THE YEAR 9 PUPILS INVOLVED!!!

OPERA NORTH EDUCATION PROJECT

At the end of October, forty pupils from Years 9 - 11 spent a day working alongside professionals from Opera North. The day's workshop centred around Benjamin Britten's Twentieth-Century masterpiece "*The Turn of the Screw*" which is a musical adaptation of a chilling Victorian ghost story. Pupils analysed the plot, characters and main musical ideas before creating and performing their own scenes. All those involved were taken to see the entire opera at Leeds Grand Theatre in the evening.

The project was a real success and our pupils were fantastic throughout the day. The visit to see the professionals in action was a wonderful opportunity and greatly enjoyed by all.

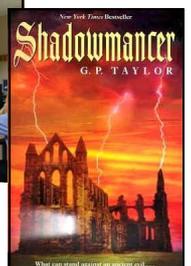


BEST SELLING AUTHOR VISITS CROFTON HIGH SCHOOL

We welcomed best selling author GP Taylor on 24th November. Year 7 were all on the edge of their seats in the hall as the former reverend and police officer entertained them with spooky tales. He also talked about how he discovered books and reading, he began to find schoolwork easier, his behaviour improved and he stopped being expelled! Graham spent the rest of the day leading creative writing workshops for Year 8 pupils in literacy and year 9, 10 and 11 Aim Higher pupils.

Over the last couple of years several of the countries leading authors have visited us at Crofton and it's fantastic to see them work their magic inspiring young people.

Taylor is talked about as being "hotter than Potter" with Universal Studios having bought the film rights to several of his books. Remember, you saw him here first!



IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 17 December - finish for Christmas
4 January - return to school

Friday 18 February - finish for half term
Return Monday 28 February

CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOP

We are hoping to run two circus skills workshops during February half term holiday. Twenty places will be available for Crofton High School pupils for each workshop. **Look out for more details next term!!**



OUR LINK WITH LAWSWOOD SCHOOL

You may be aware that we have an ongoing partnership with Lawnswood School, Leeds. This link has been established through the Schools and Academies Trust. In March of this year we were asked to form this partnership as part of the Gaining Ground Programme, where a high achieving school (Crofton) works with a school whose pupil attainment, for whatever reason, is not to the level expected.

Since March, teaching and administration staff from Crofton have supported their colleagues at Lawnswood by sharing ideas, good practice and policies. Staff from Lawnswood have joined us during our Inset Day training and members of the Maths and English Departments will be visiting Lawnswood to establish collaborative links.

I will keep you informed of how this partnership progresses.

Mr L Hardcastle

Adverse Weather Warnings

In Winter time, or in cases of severe weather, information about the school will be posted on the school website or the local radio station, Ridings FM (106.8)

IT'S BEEN A BUSY TERM FOR THE LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT!

It's been an exciting and busy term for the languages department. In November the Year 8's had the opportunity to experience an appetising French Breakfast in the dining hall whilst participating in a range of activities. Well done to Miss Goodwill's form who were awarded the prize for 'Best Effort' in their completion of the tasks.

In addition to this in November a small group of pupils enjoyed a foreign film experience at Wakefield Theatre Royal, which was part of their Foreign Film season. 'Joyeux Noel' (Merry Christmas) was a perfect blend of drama and humour portraying the truce that was called between the Scottish, French and Germans on Christmas Day during World War I.

The pinnacle of events for the Languages Department was the four day trip to Paris during the October half term. The trip was very successful and we would like to say 'well done' to all those pupils who took part. The planning for the Paris 2011 trip is already underway and we are looking forward to taking more pupils to la Belle France next year!

CROFTON HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Autumn 2010 has been another busy term at Crofton. This term's activities began with a Year 1 and 2 football competition at Crofton Infant School. Fourteen of our new Year 10 Sports Leaders crossed the road and took to the field to referee and score the event. For many of them this was their first opportunity to experience organising and running a tournament and I am proud to say they did a fantastic job.

The annual Year 3 bench ball competition saw many of our sports leaders in action again. Teams from Crofton Juniors, Sharlston and Walton battled it out in our sports hall under the watchful eye of our now experienced referees and scorers. The tournament was a great success thanks to the professional attitude of our sports leaders. With the pressure on our Sports Leaders again stepped up to the mark to deliver a wonderful Partnership Final. The last round was a close affair with Netherton J&I beating Sandal Endowed to become champions with our own Crofton Juniors coming joint third. Again lots of praise from children, teachers and parents/guardians for our outstanding Sports Leaders. Next term brings a "Wake Up, Shake Up" dance competition to Crofton High School for the first time, with High 5 Netball, Basketball and Tag Rugby tournaments for our budding young Sports Leaders to get their teeth into organising.

This is the sixth year the school partnership has been running in Crofton High School. It has seen hundreds of our pupils compete for their primary school in a whole range of different sports and then go on to give something back by running competitions for those same schools. At the moment the future for the Schools Sports Partnership is not clear, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank pupils, teachers and parents/guardians for their support in trying to save the benefits that it delivers for young people, to not only participate in sport but to be involved in organising opportunities for primary school children to enjoy.

Have a very Merry Christmas
Steve Biltcliffe, School Sports Co-ordinator