



CROFTON HIGH SCHOOL Specialists in Maths & Computing SPRING NEWSLETTER

Issue 45

17 February 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING HEAD

We're now half way through the year and I am pleased to report some great progress being made by pupils across all year groups. In particular Year 11 are now working towards the final push in preparation for their exams. Indications from the mock exams are very positive.

In a change for 2011, Year 10 pupils will be sitting the GCSE Mathematics exam this summer, a year earlier than usual. Pupils are preparing hard for this and have been supported by a mock exam experience. Year 10 pupils have also recently experienced a 'mock interview' which gave each pupil an experience of being interviewed for a job. They were a credit to themselves and conducted themselves extremely well, most were barely recognisable in smart suits and ties!

Please be aware that we have approached the local authority with regards to the traffic hazards on the High Street outside school. We have requested advice in ensuring pupils are safe when leaving and entering the school, and will work with pupils to ensure they have an increased awareness. We would ask for your continued support in not coming onto school grounds when dropping off and picking up pupils.

With Option Choices, Sex Education Day and a Science and Engineering event, we are also keeping Year 9 pupils particularly busy at the moment!!

A group of pupils and staff will set out from Crofton on Saturday 19 February heading for Pila in Italy on the annual ski trip lead by Mr McLeod. We wish them "viaggio sicuro" and hope they thoroughly enjoy themselves.

Hellen Bolton
Acting Headteacher

DRAMA DEPARTMENT INSPIRES PUPILS

Its been a busy start to the new year in the Drama Department with two visiting companies providing inspiration to Years 9, 10 and 11.

This January Year 10 and some Year 11 pupils were lucky enough to watch two specially commissioned monologues about growing up in Wakefield. Sarah Osborne of Yew Tree Theatre has created the 'Getting Through Project', to encourage students to look at 'risk and resilience'. Practical workshops invited a group of Year 10, to tackle the issue of how two characters could make the right decisions and practical actions to become more responsible for their futures e.g. college courses and possible career pathways. The monologues certainly created some lively debates and got students thinking about their own choices too. It was great to see Danny Bell, a former Crofton High School student performing one of the monologues. There are plans for Yew Tree to return in May to lead workshops for our Year 9 students who have decided to take Drama as a GCSE.

During February CAPA (Cathedral Academy of Performing Arts) gained rave reviews from a group of Year 9 pupils with a showcase of work from their Performing Arts course. The company came complete with their own sound and lighting technicians to show the students' versatility and skills. We were treated to a performance of Shakespeare's 'Macbeth', various dance styles and musical numbers from 'We Will Rock You'. Many thanks to CAPA.

Miss Allsoop, Co-ordinator of Drama



We would like to thank Crofton Resident Mr Mike Porter who continues to support the school in his spare time, in order to provide us with great photographs of our school events

ARTY NEWS!!

Crofton wanted to say well done to Anna Grudna 8(LMa) who worked with Mrs Taylor in the Art Department to produce a fantastic piece of artwork. The work formed part of a display of the Wakefield Visually Impaired Groups (WVIG) Art Exhibition which opened at the Art House in Wakefield for their bi-monthly "Art Walk" on 27 January.

Well done Anna and keep up the hard work.



FILMCLUB NEWS!!

Filmclub is an after-school club that takes place every Tuesday in the mains school hall.

Here pupils watch a film, which our members have voted for online, whilst enjoying a few snacks bought from our sweet trolley. The trolley is run by filmclub volunteers and is one of many jobs we have along with the role of putting up posters to market and inform other pupils of the films on show and the times.

The money raised from the trolley was recently put towards a trip to the National Media Museum in Bradford where we watched the latest Harry Potter movie. We are hoping to organise another one of these trips in the near future. Anyone can become a member.



**Ellie Fieldsend 9(KSp)
Peri Phillips 9(KSp)
(Filmclub Committee)**

PLEASE NOTE: INSET DAY THURSDAY 28 APRIL FOLLOWED BY AN EXTRA BANK HOLIDAY (FOR ROYAL WEDDING ON FRIDAY 29 APRIL)

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 18 February - finish for Half Term
Monday 28 February - return to school
Thursday 24 March - Yr 9 parents evening
Friday 8 April - finish for Easter Holidays
Tuesday 26 April - return to school
Thursday 28 April - Inset Day
Friday 29 April - Bank Holiday

YR9 DISCOVER THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

During February our Year 9 AimHigher students took part in the 'Discovery University of Sheffield Programme'. This programme provides students with an insight into life as a student in Higher Education. This was their first event at the University so to start the day off they were involved in some 'icebreaker' activities which helped the pupils to mix and interact with students from other schools.

The next part of the day was a campus tour around the University where they were advised about the different University buildings & the courses available. After a well earned lunch the pupils then had to create a presentation about what they had learnt throughout the day, through a process of elimination a winning team were chosen. Among the winning team were Rupali Patel 9(KKe) & Megan Croft 9(JMc). Prizes for different tasks throughout the day were given to the students. They all produced excellent presentations well done to all the pupils who attended you really made Crofton High School proud.

Mrs D Hughes, AimHigher Co-ordinator



PEER COUNSELLORS

Over the weeks prior to Christmas we have replaced the Peer Counsellors that have left us at the end of last year. We have successfully trained eight new peer counsellors and these are as follows:-

Sonali Patel, Dulcie Hale, Amy Dunn, Tara Marti, Megan Gordan, Hannah Pickard, Amy Young and Niamh Baynam

I would like to thank them all for their hard work in completing the training programme. They will be introduced to the current peer counsellors and they will receive a certificate in due course.

A special big thank you to Natalie Worrell 11(MWi) for her valuable input into the training process.



BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Despite financial cuts to Extended Schools Service this year, funding has been provided to enable more pupils to take part in a variety of stimulating activities, taking place either after school, during lunch times and even before the school day starts!! A few of the activities that have been offered are:-

- 'Mad Science' after school club, now running each Wednesday, targeting Year 7 pupils
- An Xbox/DS Games Club, taking place every lunch time during term time.
- Trips to the Imax Theatre in Bradford
- An Innovative 'fit 4 Reading' scheme, operating each Tuesday morning to promote reading skills and sports through peer mentoring
- Rugby coaching with more sports activities planned for the future

Other after school activities are being explored such as sailing, martial arts, arts and crafts and pod casting. New ideas are always welcome.

Contact Karen Deeley at School

MAD SCIENCE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Mad Science after school club has been running for the last 6 weeks. Pupils were chosen on their science ability and behaviour, and was on a first-come-first served basis. Each week has been a different lesson theme, and we have brought something home from the lesson too! These 'gifts' have been - slime (which we made) measuring cylinders, conical flasks, UV light ink pads, keyring lights and beakers.

The lessons ranged from learning about Polymers, molecules', glowing lights to my personal favourite the UV glow show because it's fun to watch things glow in the dark, and we also got mini UV torches and ink pads, so now I can see what my fingerprints look like!

By Dani Ramsden 7(SWD)

SCHOOL ALLOTMENT UPDATE



The most recent Big Dig Day was a great success the pupils worked extremely hard. We secured the polytunnel with turf and spent the best part of five hours digging out the wildlife pond.

We moved turf from the intended paved area to landscape the pond. It was blowing a gale!! 65mph gusts but fortunately the polytunnel didn't migrate towards Pontefract!! All the pupils involved deservedly received two merits each.

More good news!! We received an e-mail from the Woodland Trust informing us that we have been successful in our bid for 105 saplings which will provide us with fruits and berries to make preserves, jams, chutneys etc. They will be delivered to school during March so there will be a planting and Allotment Preparation Day in the near future.

See Mr Oxley if you are interested in lending a hand he will be most grateful!

CROFTON HIGH SCHOOL ACKNOWLEDGED FOR OUTSTANDING PRACTICE

As part of our continuing stride for excellence Crofton High School has been awarded an ASDAN 'Acknowledgement of Outstanding Practice' in recognition of our outstanding practice in running ASDAN courses.

CoPE (Certificate of Personal Effectiveness) was initially introduced in 2006, now Wider Key Skills and CoPE are offered as options to all pupils at Key Stage 4. Pupils are also able to work towards CoPE in Year 9 as an alternative subject, supporting candidates in their personal development. We are now also about to launch "Employability" for CoPE candidates in the last term of Year 11.

As a school we realise that Employability complements other ASDAN qualifications and are excited to see the standard of work candidates can produce after developing their independent learning skills through CoPE and Wider Key Skills.

Well done to all the staff and pupils involved!