



# CRANLEIGH CONNECT

*Weekly term-time newsletter for Cranleigh School parents/guardians*

**FRIDAY 29th NOVEMBER**

## FROM THE HEAD

One of the busiest weeks in a packed term, it has been a real pleasure to see the pupils throw themselves into everything that our school offers. The Music Award Holders concert on Wednesday was a perfect mid-week treat and I'm looking forward to tonight's Drama showcase, as well as our Advent Service, Darkness to Light, which will mark the beginning of the festive season. In the spirit of coming together, it was good to see so many parents from Cranleigh Prep School at our drinks reception on Tuesday, to meet our new Head of Prep School, Will Newman, and hear us talk about plans for the school. There has been a huge range of activities for our Eco Week and I'm grateful to our Sustainability Lead, Phil Leamon, for putting it all together. I especially enjoyed Thursday evening's seminar on Careers in Sustainability, thank you to the inspiring parents who gave up their time to tell the Sixth Formers about their work.



I hope that Upper Fifth families found the Sixth Form Open Evening helpful for narrowing down A-Level choices. In a week of storms, ice and torrential rain, I am also immensely grateful to our dedicated team of Grounds staff, who keep the pitches and courts playable and the paths and roadways safe. Their work on Wednesday in clearing the ditches at the front of school to alleviate flooding was invaluable, and so it was disappointing to see parents soaking them as they sped past. Please do take care on and around the school site and particularly in bad weather.

**Samantha Price**  
Head

## GIRL ON THE TRAIN

Our brilliant play, *The Girl on the Train*, has been nominated for a National School Theatre Award. Praised as 'thrilling and gripping' by the reviewer, you can read the full article [here](#).

"THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN  
WAS NO ORDINARY SCHOOL  
PRODUCTION.

THIS WAS A MASTERFUL  
ADAPTATION OF A  
THRILLING PLAY, PUSHING  
BOUNDARIES AND  
REDEFINING WHAT CAN BE  
ACHIEVED IN A SCHOOL  
SETTING."



THE SUPPORTING CAST WAS OUTSTANDING,  
TRANSITIONING SEAMLESSLY BETWEEN CHARACTERS AND  
CAMERA OPERATORS IN A UNIFIED AND FLUID FASHION.



## ECO WEEK

Moved this year to coincide with COP and to set an earlier sustainable agenda for the rest of the year, Eco Week has been the culmination of a lot of work for the Sustainability Council and I would like to start by thanking them for all their hard work and dedication at such a busy time of year.

Lucy and her team started Eco Week a fortnight ago, actually, delivering PSHE lectures to the Fourth and Lower Fifth year groups. It is no mean feat for 17-year-olds to deliver a speech to 150 15-year-olds so they should be incredibly proud of their achievements.

Monday saw the first ever Cranleigh Green Dragons award that has been developed by myself and Mr Edwards over the past term and saw 8 intrepid teams present their sustainable ideas to three 'dragons' from the sustainable business world: Ben Macallan is the founder of Zero Carbon Guildford as well as working for Surrey County Council as a sustainability lead; Gareth Williams is Project Manager on the 'Weald to Waves' initiative at the Knepp Foundation and our very own Mrs Ambrose, Head of Futures, and previous business and charity entrepreneur.



Our mix of Upper and Lower Sixth teams presented on their ideas - from sustainable smoothies, to eco-friendly car cleaning products, to festival tents, to community second-hand clothes initiatives, to a Christmas focussed re-use project, to fixing dynamos to shopping trolleys, to a sustainable paddleball consultancy, to an app for facilitating product redistribution in the agriculture industry (the eventual winner). Cranleighans demonstrated problem-solving, creativity, an eye for detail, ahead for business and a heart for sustainability. It was an incredibly inspiring evening and one we hope can grow further next year. Congratulations to Alex, Jamie, Rafe and Paddy for their fantastic idea - Ecoco.

Tuesday saw Lucy & Tiana lead the whole school Eco-Assembly, which focussed largely on our new bins. These, if used properly, will allow us to significantly reduce our plastic waste. Our student waste targets for the year are:

- MAKE LESS WASTE OVERALL THAN LAST YEAR BY 10% AT LEAST.
- REDUCE OUR FOOD WASTE BY 25%.
- REDUCE OUR RECOVERED WEIGHT BY 25% TO LESS THAN 10% OF TOTAL WASTE.

Making less waste in the first place is at the forefront of any good waste strategy and we would urge pupils to adopt these targets wholeheartedly. To help with this, we played a fun game called "What's in Mr Boggitt's Bin?" where staff and students had to guess which is the right bin for a variety of waste 'discovered' in Mr Boggitt's bin! It was a fun way of hopefully clearly showing the importance of correct recycling practices. Thank you to Mrs Price and SMT for being such good sports.



## ECO WEEK CONTINUED

Wednesday saw a fantastic debate on whether meat should be rationed. Lower Sixth Politics students debated with skill, knowledge and impressive rhetoric on this complex issue and split the house with their well-researched ideas. What was really pleasing was the commitment on both sides to explore the big issues here in a respectful and thoughtful manner, rather than getting bogged down in the 'nitty-gritty'. A huge thanks to Mr Vaiani for hosting and Tiana for organising.



Finally, Thursday evening saw the Sustainable Careers Seminar where six amazing parents gave up their time to talk to Upper and Lower Sixth students about their careers that both help the planet and deliver a strong, profitable career. We had illuminating discussion from parents in sustainable investment, entrepreneurship, power and infrastructure, consultancy, trend-tracking, aviation, electrification of car networks to charities aiming to solve the world's most complex issues.

It was a truly inspiring evening and we are so lucky to have such a fantastic 'resource' of our wonderful parents. Students listened intently and then asked thoughtful and searching questions before taking the opportunity to speak to these inspiring business leaders in person. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the speakers again and also the many, many other parents that offered and we just didn't have time for. It is a testament to the strength of our community that we had so many offers and I hope we can use more of you in the future.



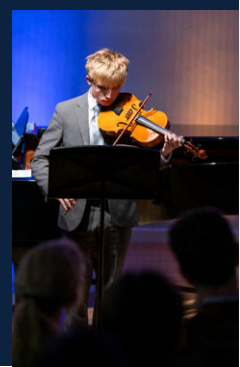
A massive thank you to all of my fabulous Sixth Form team for their hard work, to all staff who have 'green seasoned' their lessons and helped out, to Lillie for her photography late into the evenings all week, to pupils who have come to events and to the staff from IT, Catering and Facilities who have helped set up events and make everything happen.

## JACK COOK STRINGS COMPETITION

On Wednesday 27th November, we welcomed Mr Andy Meyers to adjudicate the senior section of this year's Jack Cook Strings Competition. Andy is currently musical director of both the Kingston Chamber Orchestra and the Mid-Sussex Sinfonia.

The evening showcased some much-loved classics from Len W., Evelyn G., Charlie M., and Leah S. securing the prize for her characterful rendition of Kapustin's Elegy.

Thanks and recognition are due for the hard work and preparation of all the performers, their teachers and their accompanist Mr Richard Saxel. The second installment of the senior competitions, featuring woodwind, brass and piano categories, will take place on Friday 31st January. To read more, visit our website.





## SALLY BEECHAM SENIOR VOCALS COMPETITION

Following the recent success of our Musical Theatre evening the second half featured a strong selection of our senior vocalists performing in two categories - Art Song and Music Theatre. Both categories were hard fought with captivating performances of music from Amy Beech to Robert Schumann and the maturity of vocal performances was truly impressive.

The benefit of a chance to perform in public earlier in the term was evident for our musical theatre singers as each of them upped their game and really sought to capture the magic of their chosen song. In the end, there could have been many winners but Len W. (North) took the prize in the Art Song category and Alfie A. (North) came out as the victor in the Music Theatre class.

## SENIOR GUITAR COMPETITION

The Senior Guitar Competition showed off the skill and dexterity of five excellent musicians.

It was great to feature contemporary music in between the strings and the singers and the combination brought a great sense of the breadth of talent in the Cranleigh music department. With performances from Richard E., Brandon G., Sirius P. and Euan B., Jamie T. took the prize.

To read more, visit our website.



## COMPUTER SCIENCE TRIP TO LONDON

On Wednesday this week, our Sixth Form Computer Science students attended an inspiring conference at the Emmanuel Centre in London. The event offered fascinating insights into the real-world applications of technology, ethical challenges, how to pursue careers in tech, and what studying Computer Science at university might involve.

Highlights included Professor Paul Curzon's engaging talk on how software should be designed to reduce errors and Emma Byrne's exploration of large language models like ChatGPT, which raised important questions about the quality and biases of their training data. Amber Shand also shared her unconventional journey into coding, suggesting approaches to break into tech careers and highlighting how these roles are accessible to those with diverse experiences and backgrounds.



Overall, the conference provided a fantastic opportunity for students to extend their learning beyond the classroom, broadening their perspectives and showing how their academic studies connect to real-world applications and future possibilities.

We look forward to participating in more events like this.



## SIXTH FORM DRAMA STUDENTS THEATRE TRIP

Sixth Form drama students visited London to see 'Hedestown' at the Lyric Theatre.



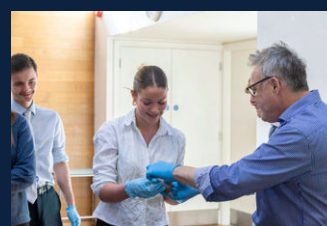
## SAM PRICE AND WILL NEWMAN TALK TO PARENTS

It was good to see so many parents from Cranleigh Prep School at our drinks reception on Tuesday, to meet our new Head of Prep School, Will Newman, and hear Sam Price and Will talk about plans for the school.



## NEUROSCIENCE WORKSHOP

Dr Guy Sutton delivered his neuroscience workshop to Upper Sixth Psychology and Biology students.



He emphasised which structures of the brain are responsible for specific functions and behaviours.

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH YOUNG LEADERS

This year, we have had 4 Young Leaders helping with the Bronze Award, which counts as their volunteering for their Gold Award. Sasha, Maisy, Amelia and Rafe have completed DofE training as part of the programme and have led sessions with our Bronze groups on map reading, putting up tents, orienteering and menu planning, to name but a few.



They have been organised and enthusiastic throughout and the pupils have really benefited from the support they have offered. They have also been an enormous help on the Bronze expeditions over the last year; always willing to get stuck in and help with the many tasks needed to make an expedition successful. As they come near to completing their Gold Awards, we wanted to say a huge well done and thank you from all of the DofE staff.





## SPORT

To read a full sports update including fixtures from Mr Andy Houston, please click [here](#).

What an exciting week of sports we have had and in particular the 'terrific Tuesday'! Here's a quick recap:

- Tuesday:
  - Girls' Hockey Tier 1 matches:
    - 1st XI secured a dramatic 3-2 comeback win, placing them 2nd in the South League U18 table.
    - 16A triumphed 1-0 against Brighton
  - U14 Netball: A dominant 27-14 victory over Embley in the Sisters in Sport Cup, advancing to the next round.
  -
- Wednesday:
  - Boys' Hockey: 1st XI clinched a thrilling 4-3 win over KES Southampton, staying top of the West League.
  -
- Thursday:
  - Girls' Indoor Hockey: Reached the regional finals, winning their group but narrowly losing in the semis.
  - Squash: A great win against Wellington's 2nd team, with enthusiasm for the sport rising thanks to new courts.
  - Badminton: the team lost to Reed's but again are showing improvements every week. Well done to them and their coaches.

Well done to all teams for their impressive performances!

Match tea arrangements will differ slightly on Saturday for the boys, with both the girls' and boys' teams having their meals in the Emms Centre. Please do come along and enjoy the wonderful array of food from our catering team.

I hope you enjoy this weekend's fixtures. You are able to view which team your child has been selected in for sports matches via your Firefly account from 7.00pm the evening before the match (so this evening for the matches tomorrow). Please click on the link [here](#) for instructions:





## DECKING THE HALLS

A reminder on Friday 6th December, we will be decorating the Chapel for Christmas, and are looking for a few enthusiastic volunteers to lend a hand. It's a lovely, Christmassy morning - no previous experience necessary.

We'll meet at 8 for coffee and pastries, decorating begins at about 8.30 and ends by lunchtime.

If you're able to help, please email [friends@cranleigh.org](mailto:friends@cranleigh.org) to let us know.

DATES  
FOR YOUR  
DIARY



# MUSIC EVENTS LENT 2025

Our Lent 2025 season begins with an enriching Winter Festival in collaboration with Cranleigh Abu Dhabi, continues with a spectacular evening's entertainment at Cranleigh Arts Centre, and concludes with an epic orchestral and choral concert featuring the local Choral Society and student soloists. These major showpieces are interspersed by the usual regular programme of informal concerts and competitions.

## LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

1.20pm MMS

### SENIOR CONCERT

Our regular lunchtime concert series begins with performances from pupils in the 6th Form. All lunchtime concerts are free and open to members of the public.

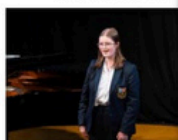


FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

12.30pm MMS

### JUNIOR CONCERT

Our regular lunchtime concert series continues with performances from pupils in the IV form, L5th & U5th.



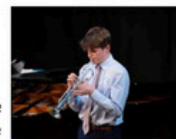
## COMPETITIONS

FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY

7.30pm MMS

### SENIOR PIANO, WIND & BRASS

Our advanced performers in these three instrumental categories compete for the senior prizes.

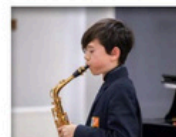


FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

3.30pm MMS

### JUNIOR MUSIC

Piano, Wind, Brass, Strings, Singing & Guitar



WEDNESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

6.45pm Speech Hall

### JUNIOR & SENIOR DRUMS

The last of our competitions this term is a noisy celebration of the skills of our drummers. Each competitor performs with a backing track, so this will be a fantastic showcase for contemporary music.



## CONCERTS

WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

6.00pm Arts Centre

### RISING STARS

Cranleigh's classical and contemporary music stars perform a varied programme of chamber music, solo pieces, and band items in the inspiring surroundings of Cranleigh Arts Centre. Come and enjoy our local Arts venue, with its friendly bar and gallery.

Tickets are FOC available directly from the Arts Centre (01483 278000)



FRIDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH

7.30pm Speech Hall

### MERRIMAN ORCHESTRA & CHOIR

The Merriman Orchestra and combined choirs perform Parry's joyous setting of Milton's Ode Blest Pair of Sirens alongside Bernstein's masterful Hebrew psalm settings Chichester Psalms, under the direction of Dr Andrew Thomas. The orchestra also performs three concerto movements with UVI student soloists (by Rachmaninov, Barber and Raum) in a programme that highlights some of the Music Department's leading musicians.



## WINTER FESTIVAL

TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY - SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY



CRANLEIGH  
ABU DHABI

WINTER FESTIVAL WITH  
CRANLEIGH ABU DHABI

(See separate programme)



Events requiring tickets: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cranleighschool](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cranleighschool)

Enquiries: [music@cranleigh.org](mailto:music@cranleigh.org) or [tickets@cranleigh.org](mailto:tickets@cranleigh.org)

Music Office: 01483 542009



ROUND THE HOUSES

EAST



Several members of 1st Hockey Team after their 4-3 win in a National League Game: Louis (Upper Sixth), Fred, Matt, Theo and Ollie (Lower Sixth) and Josh (Lower Fifth)



House Ties awarded to the East Upper Sixth leadership team - well done to all!



Dino Lamb (East OC 2015) started for Italy against the All Blacks in Turin on the weekend, putting in a superb performance at number 5.



Lower Fifth social at Pizza Express



MARTLET



Upper Fifth Trip to the cinema to see Wicked

Music Competition - Congratulations to Leah S. for winning the strings section



Charity Walk with a Martlet Parent to continue our fundraising

CUBITT



Dexter presenting in the Green Dragons competition



Ashton presenting in the Green Dragons competition



Jake taking part in the Eco debate



Charlie and Archie during the Girl On The Train



WEST



Lower Fifth Social



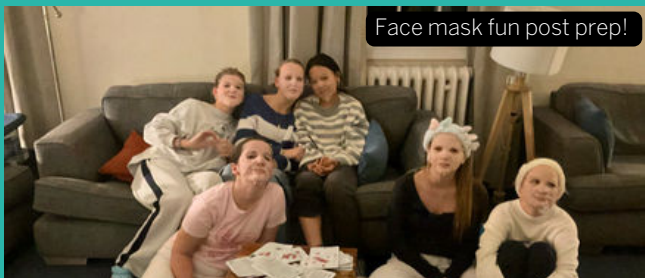
Star of the Week



SOUTH



Our competitors, Poppy and Alice, who fought a valiant battle at House Countdown, along with their lovely supporters.



Face mask fun post prep!

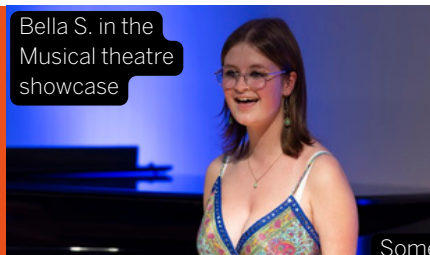


We had a lovely pasta supper with Diamond family.

RHODES



Eco debate



Bella S. in the Musical theatre showcase



Some brilliant photos from The Girl on the Train last week of Rhodes girls, Lucy and Tilda



Fruity treats on Wednesday with matron

