



CRANLEIGH CONNECT

Weekly term-time newsletter for Cranleigh School parents/guardians

FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER

FROM THE HEAD

With only a week of term to go, the school is looking fabulously festive and the celebrations are well and truly underway. My thanks to the team of parents who decorated Chapel so beautifully and to our in house teams who are ramping up the Christmas spirit with trees, decorations, special food and all the plans for next week's Winter Wonderland and carol services.

Do come along to the Christmas concert tonight if you are able, it will be a very special event. It's a busy time of year for our musicians and I enjoyed the unplugged concert on Wednesday as well as all the sounds of our choirs rehearsing. In case you missed my email earlier this week,

I can confirm that the Governing Body has approved our plans to enhance our Sixth Form offering with a new dedicated Sixth Form Centre and resource library, along with the appointment of a Head of Sixth Form to co-ordinate everything we provide to those crucial two years at the top of the school. Together with our extended Futures programme and entrepreneurship strategy, this will allow us to focus on building all the skills that students need to thrive in the world beyond the school gates.

Mrs Samantha Price
Head



'TIS THE SEASON!

Festive cheer has arrived at Cranleigh with holiday decorations filling the School.

From our Houses, Dining area, new Reading Room and our beautiful Chapel, it is wonderful to see our whole community embracing the festive spirit!



We are looking forward to welcoming you to the Carol Services next week. Please find the schedule below:

- Monday: West, North and South - 7:00pm
- Tuesday: East, Martlet and Cubitt - 7:00pm
- Wednesday: Loveday and Rhodes - 6:00pm

To ensure a smooth start, we kindly ask that you arrive with enough time to park and be seated in the Chapel at least 15 minutes before the service begins.

For Upper Sixth parents attending drinks in Crane House before the services, reserved seating will be provided. Parents of other year groups are warmly invited to enjoy drinks and mince pies after the services.



Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who gave up their time to help decorate our chapel, in time for our upcoming carol services over the upcoming days.

Here are some photos of them in action!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Our Christmas Concert takes place this evening and we are looking forward to what is always, a festively fantastic musical celebration. In the words of our Director of Music, Mr Richard Saxel, there will be something for everyone to enjoy, from Swan Lake to Star Wars, and jazz standards to Christmas tunes...

Tickets are not required, so do come along if you are not already planning to, from 7.30pm in Speech Hall. Refreshments (including mulled wine and treats) will be provided in the interval.



This weekend the Governing Body approved plans to further enhance our Sixth Form offering with a new dedicated Sixth Form Centre and resource library, along with the appointment of a Head of Sixth Form to co-ordinate everything we provide to those crucial two years at the top of the school. Together with our extended Futures programme and entrepreneurship strategy, this will allow us to focus on building all the skills that students need to thrive in the world beyond the school gates.

The Sixth Form Centre will be situated at the academic heart of the school, in the existing Staff building on the van Hasselt quad, between the Emms Centre and the van Hasselt Centre. It will provide a much-needed space for older pupils that will encompass both social and learning resources, providing the opportunity for Houses to socialise and study together. The Staff room will migrate to the existing painting studios, and our painting specialist artists will then be able to enjoy a beautiful new top-floor studio space in the Woodyer Studios.

PURVIS SOCIETY - CHRISTMAS THEME!

Our Purvis Society had their annual Christmas themed meeting this week!



SIXTH FORM SPOTLIGHT

Twelve members of Upper Sixth and Lower Sixth attended the Benenden STEM Convention last Friday, where they had the opportunity to engage with a range of exciting activities. The day featured a dynamic careers fair, insightful keynote speakers covering topics from AI to Epidemiology, and a captivating carousel of student project presentations.

A highlight was Brandon G.'s thought-provoking speech on his EPQ, titled "Could Life Have Evolved within the Galilean Moon's Subsurface Oceans?" Students also had the chance to network with their peers from Eton, Tonbridge, Benenden, and Brighton, leaving the event feeling inspired about the diverse STEM career opportunities that lie ahead.



NEW GRADUATE TRAINEE SCHEME

We are proud to share that we are leading an initiative to address the lack of diversity amongst teaching staff across the sector, with a new Graduate Trainee scheme that targets under-represented communities.

The first recruitment advertisements will be issued this month and it's expected that the first successful applicants will start the scheme in September. Cranleigh will be working closely with the BAMEed Network who will offer support to candidates throughout the application process as well as providing mentorship for the Graduates who start the scheme.

To read more, visit [here](#).





CRANLEIGH UNPLUGGED
 Congratulations to everybody involved in Wednesday's 'Cranleigh Unplugged' show, in a lovely setup in our Emms Centre.



DRAMA SHOWCASE

Throughout this term, Drama Club students have been preparing for a short showcase, during which they performed monologues they selected and developed themselves. Several Fourth Form and Lower Fifth pupils captivated the audience with their performances, which spanned a variety of genres— from comedic monologues to intense, suspenseful drama extracts!

Thank you to Amy L. (Lower Sixth) who has supported the Drama Club this term, acting as a mentor and director during our priority time sessions.



ART REHEARSALS

Some photos of Upper Fifth pupils in their Art rehearsals.





VOLUNTARY ACTION GROUP SPREADS FESTIVE CHEER AT KNOWLE PARK

Our wonderful pupils in the Voluntary Action group spent time at Knowle Park home for a Carol Concert!

Here they are providing residents with a musical afternoon.

TRIP TO LONDON FOR OUR PUPILS

Pupils visited [the Warner Bros Studio Tour](#) over the weekend - a magical and exciting trip!

Thank you to the staff who gave up their time to take them.



SCHOOL SHOP

The School Shop is in full festive mode and will be open until 18th December. Do visit for school supplies, uniform or even your very own Cranleigh Bauble to keep and treasure! With new, trending cups and our very own Cranleigh pyjamas to keep you warm in the winter, there is something for every need.

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 12pm & 12.30pm to 5pm

Contact Details: 01483 542102 or schoolshop@cranleigh.org



MRS SAMANTHA PRICE INTERVIEWS WITH LUXURY BRAND MAGAZINE

Mrs Samantha Price, was interviewed by the luxury brand magazine [House of Coco](#).

Described by the magazine as bringing a dynamic perspective rooted in empathy, courage, and unwavering commitment, you can read her full interview [here](#).



SPORT

To read a full Sports update, click [here](#).

Last week was filled with outstanding performances across various sports.

WET WEATHER DISRUPTION:

Wet weather, waterlogged pitches and a weather warning this weekend has meant sadly we have had to alter our program.

- The 1st XV, 2nd XV and 3rd XV games have been postponed and will now be played at Cranleigh School on Tuesday 10th December at 2:15pm
- The 16A, B, C & 15C games are currently still on at RGS (Bradstone Brook) on Saturday 7th December.
- The 14C,D and 15B games are currently still on at Cranleigh on Saturday 7th December. There will be several pitch inspections first thing in the morning and throughout the day.
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Sadly this means the 4th, 5th, games are cancelled as well as the 14A, 14B and 15A. I do apologise for that but safety is paramount in regarding playing and travel conditions. Those matches that are cancelled, the pupils are able to leave after lunch on Saturday.

Hockey house matches are currently still on and we will review on Saturday morning. This will be the same with all our sports.

Sadly the Equestrian competition on Saturday has been cancelled with more detail about whether Sunday will go ahead to be given on Saturday afternoon by the competition organisers.

As it is the last report for the term, please may I give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of our sports program this term. To the staff, coaches, caterers, laundry team, grounds crew, bus drivers, pupils, and parents – your dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm are what make this program thrive. It's truly a testament to the power of teamwork, with each person playing a vital role in ensuring everything runs smoothly and that on a day to day basis, we are doing the best we can for all our pupils.



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 17TH 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 7TH FEBRUARY

12.30pm MMS

JUNIOR CONCERT

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



CONCERTS

WEDNESDAY 12TH 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 21ST 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.



COMPETITIONS

FRIDAY 31ST JANUARY

7.30pm MMS

SENIOR PIANO, WIND & BRASS

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



FRIDAY 7TH MARCH

3.30pm MMS

JUNIOR MUSIC

Piano, Wind, Brass, Strings,
Singing & Guitar



WEDNESDAY 26TH 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.



WINTER FESTIVAL

TUESDAY 28TH JANUARY - SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY



CRANLEIGH
ABU DHABI

WINTER FESTIVAL WITH
CRANLEIGH ABU DHABI

(See separate programme)



Events requiring tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/cranleighschool

Enquiries: music@cranleigh.org or tickets@cranleigh.org

Music Office: 01483 542009

ROUND THE HOUSES

EAST



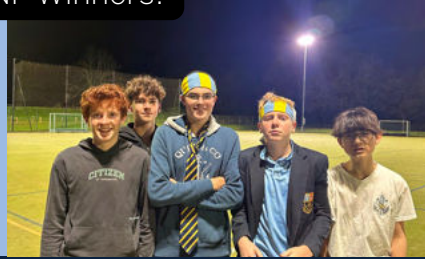
Christmas tree decorating



Junior MNF Winners!



Isaac, Braden and Jamie played in Unplugged. Isaac and Ben did the filming!



MARTLET



GCSE Drama



Upper Sixth Xmas Trip



House Countdown Final



Harry Potter trip



Looks like Christmas



Buddy Arrived

CUBITT



Monday Night Football



Upper Sixth decorating/firepit



Richard in guitar competition



Cubitt Man of the Week

WEST



Harry Potter tour



Nemo at the Prep school



House countdown



Star of the Week

SOUTH



Upper Fifth drama students performed their GCSE pieces this week - amazingly creative and bold, we loved it.



The girls made decorations and have brought a little sparkle to South

Flora performing at "Unplugged"

RHODES



Upper Sixth Boys vs Girls Netball



Tasty treats in House



LOVEDAY

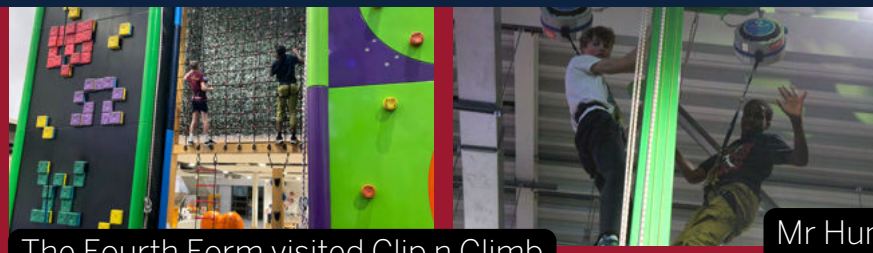


Monday Night Football champions for the second year



Lower Fifth curry night

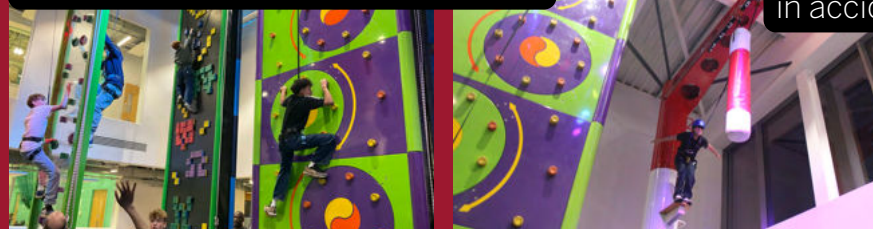
NORTH



The Fourth Form visited Clip n Climb



Mr Humes and Mr Reid on duty night in accidental matching outfits!



House Countdown winners