



# CRANLEIGH CONNECT

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

**FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY**



## FROM THE HEAD

Yesterday evening eight pupils delivered a series of eight minute talks on a range of highly thought provoking topics in our annual public speaking competition, Dangerous Minds. Congratulations to all of them and to this year's winner, Zoe G., who spoke on the topic of neurodiversity. This week Adam Rothwell gave a moving assembly on the theme of Holocaust Remembrance. It was a stark and sobering message on the importance of remembering one of the darkest chapters on human history and sparked a whole school discussion on ideology against the backdrop of this week's extraordinary political events. Pupils may wish to continue the discussion this weekend and I would encourage you to do so.

We have received the first cut plans of our new sixth form centre which I shared with the Upper Fifth and their parents at the start of our parents' meeting this afternoon which were received with a ripple of excitement and something to really aspire to during these coming months of hard grind preparing for their GCSE exams next term.

Tomorrow our exchange pupils arrive for their visit to participate in our Winter Festival and second set of visitors from Cranleigh China return to China after a fantastic week at Cranleigh. Do enjoy the long exeat weekend with your families and I hope to see as many of you as possible at next week's events.

**Mrs Samantha Price**

Head

## RS ACADEMICS SURVEY

Many thanks to all those parents and guardians who completed the survey of the school undertaken by RSAcademics in October. The aims were: to understand how satisfied families are with each area of school life; to find out what you most value about Cranleigh; and to investigate the areas in which you would like the school to develop and invest.

A summary of findings, along with our responses, can be viewed [here](#).



## BRITISH MATHS OLYMPIAD SUCCESS

Simon F. was awarded a certificate of distinction for the British Maths Olympiad paper one. Well done Simon!

He was elected to take paper two and sat the 3.5 hour, four question paper on Wednesday.



## LOWER SIXTH ECONOMICS DEBATE

While studying “Economic growth”, Lower Sixth Economics students were placed into teams and asked to collaborate and prepare for a debate titled: “This house believes that the benefits from rapid economic growth outweigh the costs”.

Each team was allocated an Opening Speaker, a Rebuttal Speaker and a Closing Speaker. It was then opened up to a floor debate with all pupils involved. The debate lasted for the full lesson length (50m).

## EXCHANGE TRIP

We were so pleased to host our second group of students visiting from China this week. The chance for our visitors to experience language immersion, coupled with genuinely valuable cultural exchange opportunities with our own pupils, has been a real pleasure to witness. Our hosting pupils, once again, should be given a huge amount of praise for the way they have welcomed our guests.

The ability to get to know and work with people from a range of backgrounds is a key skill in life and our Cranleigh pupils showed how they are already well on their way to mastering this. Our guests now leave us to visit both Oxford and Cambridge before heading home on Sunday evening and we look forward to welcoming our group of musicians from Cranleigh Abu Dhabi on Monday.





## DAINGEROUS MINDS

Last night, Alexis and Bella (Rhodes, Upper Fifth) hosted the annual Dangerous Minds competition, an event designed to encourage pupils to think creatively and showcase their public speaking skills. Seven speakers competed head-to-head with their "dangerous" propositions, tackling debates on topics such as policing, mental health, neurodiversity, and AI.

The audience was also treated to a stunning musical performance by Kitty W., Grace J., Coco B., and Vivi G-A. (Martlet Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth), who performed Adele's 'Make You Feel My Love'.

While all the speakers — Dexter G. (Lower Sixth), Coco B. (Upper Fifth), Bertie H. (Upper Sixth), Zoe G. (Upper Fifth), Madeleine R. (Upper Sixth), Alex R. (Upper Sixth), and Brandon G. (Upper Sixth) — delivered fantastic presentations, Mrs Price and Mr Newman faced the tough task of selecting a winner.

Ultimately, it was Zoe G. who took home the Henry Hunt Trophy for Public Speaking, delivering a thought-provoking and emotive speech exploring the question: "Is neurodiversity the future?" Congratulations Zoe!



## PREP AND SENIOR DANCE SHOW

Senior dancers visited the Prep School on Tuesday to perform as part of the 'Dance Magic' show, adding an extra touch of excitement to the event. The Senior Dance Company captivated the audience with a group jazz performance, alongside two beautiful solos — a classical ballet solo performed by Charlotte T. and a jazz solo performed by Georgina D.

It was fantastic to have the senior dancers join the Prep School for this special showcase, making the event even more memorable. 'Dance Magic' truly lived up to its name!





## SPORTS UPDATE FROM MR ANDY HOUSTON

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



### 2025/2026 TRIPS

The trips for 2025/2026 have been released to parents and guardians today.

Please do read the brochure, which can be found on firefly [here](#).

### CRANLEIGH HALF MARATHON TEAM

Fifty five members of the Cranleigh School Community (not all pictured) are taking on the Surrey Half Marathon on Sunday 16th March to raise worthwhile funds for four charities selected by the runners: Sarcoma UK, The Royal Marsden, Max Windle Memorial Trust, Dementia UK.

A huge feat for many of our runners, it's been great to see students and staff pushing themselves out of their comfort zones to help fundraise for worthwhile causes. We would welcome any support [here](#).



### SIXTH FORM THEATRE TRIP

On Monday, a group of Upper Sixth A-Level English students went to see Twelfth Night at the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond.

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





## JUNIOR ECO GROUP

A new Junior Eco Club has started this term and for the first session pupils learnt how to chop wood, had a campfire and set up a wildlife camera.



## WILDLIFE CAMERA

Here are some fab videos and photos from the Wildlife Camera. It's lovely to think that these creatures are going about their lives only a few metres from our classrooms in our beautiful grounds.



## VOLUNTARY ACTION

The Voluntary Action gardening team have been making bird balls to feed the birds in the Medical Centre garden.



## UPDATE FROM THE MEDICAL CENTRE

During the holidays if your child has a new diagnosis, an injury or commences new medication please inform the Medical Centre by emailing [medicalcentre@cranleigh.org](mailto:medicalcentre@cranleigh.org)

You will receive an email in the coming weeks from the Surrey Immunisation Team - they would like to make direct contact with parents of pupils eligible for vaccinations and ensure that those parents who do wish to vaccinate their children, but face barriers in completing forms, are able to do so. It will also give parents that do not wish to have their children vaccinated the assurance that, by completing a no consent, their preference is recorded.



## EDI NETWORKING LUNCH

On Wednesday Cranleigh school again hosted colleagues from other state and independent schools as well as representatives from the West Surrey Schools Partnership, Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation (RNCSF) and Leah Morris from Wyndham James Consultancy to attend our 5th EDI Leads Networking Lunch. The focus of the lunch was to continue to build bonds between Surrey and Sussex schools as part of Cranleigh's outreach, and to share best practice in EDI with fellow EDI leads as well as showcasing Cranleigh's leadership in the sector in this field. The lunch was well attended with 20 people from 11 different schools in attendance.

Cranleigh is proud of its continuing commitment to driving Equity, Diversity and Inclusion forward within the school community, and within the independent boarding sector, and has made firm commitments to identify and remove barriers to inclusion in an effort to create an environment where everyone can feel they truly belong.



## WINTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

We are thoroughly looking forward to the beginning of our Winter Music Festival joined by pupils from Cranleigh Abu Dhabi. Do have a look at the below events and we look forward to welcoming many of you.



### SUNDAY 26th JANUARY

**15:00 ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA  
(ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL, LONDON)**

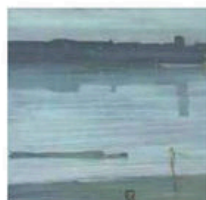
Vasily Petrenko conducts this explosive concert with music by Alban Berg, Beethoven and Stravinsky.



### TUESDAY 28th JANUARY

**17:00 INFORMAL CONCERT (CPS CHAPEL)**

Young musicians from Cranleigh Abu Dhabi join our prep school pupils in what promises to be a vibrant, fun and entertaining concert.



**19:30 ART & MUSIC LECTURE RECITAL WITH  
DAVID VAIANI & RICHARD SAXEL (MMS)**

Exploring the links between Art and Music through a selection of paintings, in what promises to be an illuminating evening!



### WEDNESDAY 29th JANUARY

**19:30 BAROQUE CONCERTO CONCERT  
(CHAPEL)**

Showcasing some of the repertoire from the current GCSE and A-Level syllabus.



### THURSDAY 30th JANUARY

**17:45 LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION  
(DINING HALL)**

A traditional Chinese Lion Dance performance and workshop for the younger pupils.



**20:30 CELEBRATION CONCERT  
(EMMS CENTRE)**

Embracing the whole Cranleigh family with bands, soloists, classical performers and musical theatre singers.



### FRIDAY 31st JANUARY

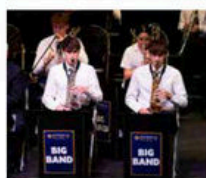
**08:00 CHAPEL SERVICE**

Chapel Brass ensemble accompanies the hymns in Chapel for our early morning Service.



**19:30 SENIOR PIANO, WIND & BRASS  
COMPETITIONS (MMS)**

Our Sixth Form performers compete in these three instrumental categories.



### SATURDAY 1st FEBRUARY

**18:45 BIG BAND SUPPER DANCE  
(SPEECH HALL)**

Cranleigh Schools' combined Big Band provides the entertainment for a wonderful night of dancing and jazz.



# ROUND THE HOUSES

EAST



Amazing to see OC's Jacob, Zubin, Max and Will doing amazing work with Seb's School on their gap year.



House Chess winners!



MARTLET



Molly B.S. at the Cricket World Cup for Scotland



Epi Pen training



Upper Fifth takeaway at end of mocks



Cheese toasties

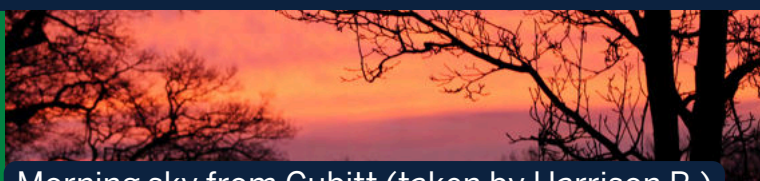


Face Masks



House Chess

CUBITT



Morning sky from Cubitt (taken by Harrison R.)



House chess final



House badminton



WEST



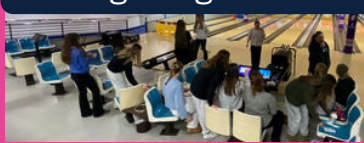
Congrats to Zoe G. for winning Dangerous Minds!



Upper Sixth bowling night



Lower Sixth bowling night



Head's Commendation



Star of the week!





## SOUTH



Upper Sixth in house dinner

Upper Fifth trip to Wagamama to celebrate the end of their mocks



House Chess final



## RHODES



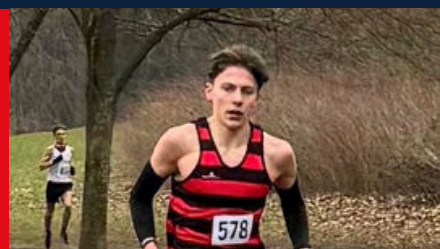
A huge well done to our Upper Fifth girls on completing their mock exams. Celebrating with chicken nuggets and potato wedges!



Georgina (Lower Sixth) and Cara (Upper Fifth) performing brilliantly at the CPS Dance Show this week.



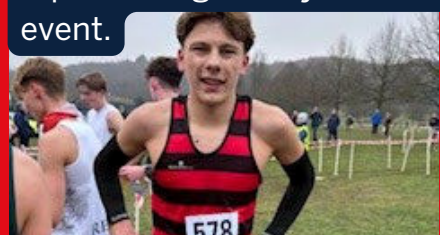
## LOVEDAY



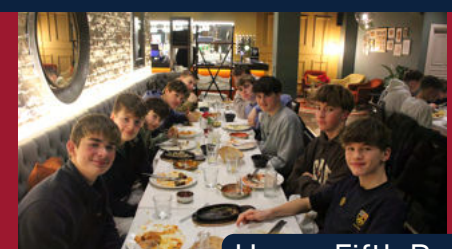
Congratulations to Benji W. - Silver representing Surrey in Cross Country event.



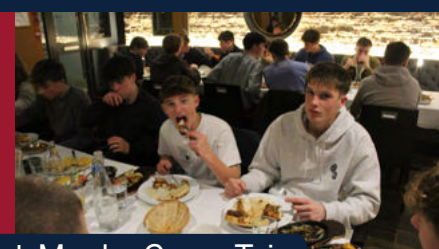
Loveday Lower School trip to watch the Guildford Flames at the Spectrum



## NORTH



Upper Fifth Post-Mocks Curry Trip



House Climbing Champions

