



CRANLEIGH CONNECT

Weekly term-time newsletter for Cranleigh School parents/guardians

FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY



FROM THE HEAD

I have really enjoyed our focus on Children's Mental Health Week. It's always a priority at Cranleigh but this week we've added lots of activities such as yoga sessions and a group mindfulness session in assembly. Wednesday's Wassail celebration was a fun way to connect our community with nature and the importance of gratitude. Everything has been designed to show the pupils the importance of grounding, switching off and quietly reflecting in the midst of busy lives and next month we will be highlighting the practice daily as we celebrate Mindfulness March jointly with our international schools.

It was a great pleasure to spend last Saturday evening with so many of you at our Big Band Supper Dance and I'm grateful to our Music team for their hard work all week as we enjoyed a fabulous Winter Festival of concerts. I look forward to meeting more of you on the touchlines tomorrow.

Mrs Samantha Price

Head



WINTER FESTIVAL

WITH CRANLEIGH ABU DHABI

The full review of our Winter Festival from Mr Richard Saxel is available to read on our website [here](#).

BIG BAND SUPPER DANCE

On Saturday night, in partnership with the Cranleigh Friends, pupils from both schools came together in an extravaganza of jazz and dance music for the Big Band Supper Dance. The team of parent volunteers from the Cranleigh Friends had transformed the Speech Hall into a glitzy, glamorous venue reminiscent of the golden age of Hollywood, and the thirty-five members of the band produced an exceptional evening of rousing numbers.

The audience of two hundred and fifty were treated to a champagne reception, exceptional food and wine, and entertainment that brought smiles to everyone's faces.

This was a fitting conclusion to a wonderful week of music making, embracing every musical style possible, and showcasing the highest standards of music-making at our family of Cranleigh Schools.



SENIOR WIND, BRASS AND PIANO COMPETITIONS

Last Friday evening provided excellent entertainment with the competitions for the Cyril Dashwood Piano Prize, the Pat Dixon Woodwind Prize and the Senior Brass Prize all taking part on the same evening.

This resulted in a varied and highly entertaining evening of music at an extraordinarily high standard.

To read the full review, visit [here](#).

UPPER SIXTH INTERVIEW TRAINING

We are hosting a presentation on Monday night for Upper Sixth pupils with an external speaker, employment and CV expert Polly Ingestre. It is a precursor to Interview Technique Training.

DETAILS

Date: Monday 10th February
Time: 19:30

The presentation can be viewed online [here](#).





SPORTS UPDATE FROM MR ANDY HOUSTON

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

CROISSANTS AND CAREERS

Last Friday morning, the Futures Department, with the support of our catering team, hosted their inaugural "Croissants and Careers" networking breakfast. The event's theme focused on Marketing and Media industries, and we were delighted to welcome 15 accomplished parents from diverse fields, including marketing, PR, broadcast news, sports partnerships, the charity sector, and even stunt performing.

Students from Upper Fifth, Lower Sixth, and Upper Sixth were invited to participate, and the room buzzed with vibrant and insightful conversations. Our students demonstrated exceptional networking skills and left feeling inspired, filled with fresh ideas and enthusiasm for their future career journeys.

A standout moment of the event came when parents were asked, "What advice would you give your 16-year-old self?" Their thoughtful and heartfelt responses perfectly embodied the core principles the Futures Department strives to instil in our pupils:

- **Don't be afraid to fail, learn from it.**
- **Turn up, work hard, don't waste an opportunity.**
- **Read, research, make the most of work experience.**
- **Be connected with the outside world and stay true to your values.**



A MUSEUM THEMED LESSON

Fourth Form Classical Civilisation pupils had a museum-themed lesson. The pupils imagined they were visiting a museum where every exhibit was related to Heracles, the hero they're studying this term.

They had to note down what each exhibit taught them about Heracles and who might have used these objects in ancient Greece.





CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

This week was Children's Mental Health Week (3rd – 9th Feb). The theme for this year is 'Know Yourself Grow Yourself' with the rationale that the more we can understand about ourselves, the more prepared we are to express our emotions and take on life's ups and downs.

There was a variety of events happening throughout the week, including a talk from Sophia L. and Daisy B. who shared the importance of the subject in assembly.

There were mindfulness sessions taking place with Mr Weighton and an introduction to Yoga and Breathwork Session with Mrs Emley. Pupils discussed the topic in their Houses too. This was an addition to the normal priority time and sports/activity sessions.



CRANLEIGH WASSAIL

The Cranleigh Wassail took place on Wednesday, recreating an ancient English tradition. It is held at the end of the festive period and the start of the New Year, to beat away the winter blues and bless the orchards for a good harvest come autumn.

This traditional blessing of orchards not only ties us to the land and the cycles of growth that ultimately sustain us all (no matter how separated from this we may feel in today's modern world).

It also translates into today's concerns with biodiversity loss as not only are orchards useful and beautiful, they are perfect for pollinators, and fruit trees age quickly which creates essential deadwood habitats. They offer both food and shelter to thousands of species, some of which have high conservation priority. Worthy of a wassail celebration indeed!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Our upcoming open events are a great way for people who are interested in joining Cranleigh to visit.

Please share the word to anybody who you may know are interested in Cranleigh.



ROUND THE HOUSES

EAST



Through to House Debating Finals, well done James, Laith and Coco!



Good luck in the second round!



Charlie H. through to the next round of the Jamsport racing scholarship; a competition to help drivers enter the racing world with full funding for a season with car, tyres, fuel and entry fees all paid for.

MARTLET



House Music Night



House Family Puddings with Mrs Scott



House Debating Semi Final Winners



Martlet/East Sixth Form Cheese and Wine Social



CUBITT



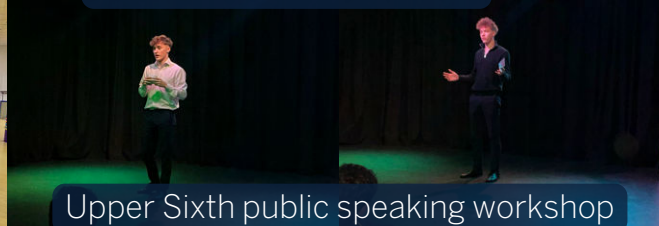
Lower Fifth bowling trip



Senior music competitions



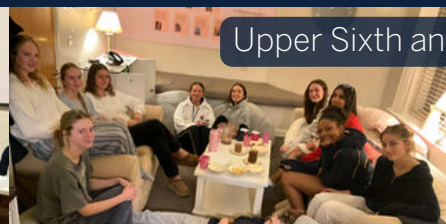
Upper Sixth public speaking workshop



WEST



House Debating



Upper Sixth and Fourth Form Matrons Social

Treat night for the Upper Fifth



Fourth Form Wagas takeaway



SOUTH



Through to the finals of house debating, well done Gina, Poppy and Tom



Lower Fifth in house dinner



Fourth Form cereal night



Lower Fifth bowling night



RHODES



Lucy and Tiana (Heads of Eco) at the Wassail ceremony



Senior Wind, Brass and Piano Competition



LOVEDAY



Lower Fifth treat from matron



NORTH



House Debating with Jago, Paige and Rewa

