

Message from the Head of Upper School

As we near the end of another busy term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the outstanding achievements of our Upper School students. This has been a term full of hard work, new opportunities, and exciting developments that set the stage for even greater success in the months ahead.

Our Year 11 students have shown incredible dedication, particularly during their Mock Exams. Their commitment to their studies has been truly impressive, and I would like to commend them for the resilience and focus they have displayed during this crucial period. Beyond the formal, Year 11 also had the opportunity to experience life beyond the classroom during the Strode College Experience Day. This event provided invaluable insight into further education and helped many students take their first steps in planning for the future. Additionally, we were thrilled to open the new Year 11 Common Room, a space that has quickly become a popular and well-received hub for relaxation, study, and socialising. It is wonderful to see the students making the most of this new facility, and I have no doubt it will continue to support them through the remainder of their GCSE preparations.

Meanwhile, Year 10 students have also had an excellent start to the academic year. With the launch of our Year 10 Prefect programme, these students are already stepping into leadership roles, contributing to the school community in meaningful ways. Many of them are beginning to look ahead to work experience placements, which will provide them with invaluable real-world experience. As they progress through their GCSE courses, we can already see the foundations of a strong academic journey being laid.

Looking ahead, we are excited for the upcoming Careers Day in January, where Year 10 will have the opportunity to engage with professionals from a wide range of industries, helping them to explore their future pathways and make informed decisions about their careers.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all as parents/carers of our Upper School students for the support you have provided over what has been an extremely busy period. It has been a term of growth, achievement, and new opportunities, and I look forward to seeing all that our Upper School students will accomplish in the weeks and months to come.

Moorlight Theatre Productions presents

Aladdin
Script by Matthew Maisey

11th - 15th December

Meyer Theatre, Street,
BA16 0YD

A traditional family pantomime

Sponsored by
Rock House Dental Practice

TO BOOK TICKETS
www.ticketsource.co.uk/moorlighttheatreproductions

Multi Award Winning

CRISPIN SCHOOL PRESENTS

A School production by arrangement with
The Really Useful Group Ltd.

SCHOOL of ROCK
THE MUSICAL

Based on the Paramount movie written by Mike White
Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber Book by Julian Fellowes Lyrics by Glenn Slater

STRODE THEATRE
6TH-8TH FEB '25

Tickets
Standard £14 *Under 16: £10
Available from Strode Theatre Box Office
www.strode theatre.org.uk

*Parental discretion is advised as the show contains some occasional use of mild language



Wessex Trust Council

We are really excited to introduce our members of the Wessex Trust Council.

Each half term all of the middle and secondary schools in the Trust will meet. The focus in today's meeting was on improving student leadership within schools.

We want all students to have leadership opportunities within school and allow students to develop leadership skills for the future. Ideas were shared from all of the schools involved.

The Lower School Student Leadership team has been elected and will be introduced in Lower School assemblies over the last two weeks of term.



Year 7 Community Project: Reducing Litter at Crispin

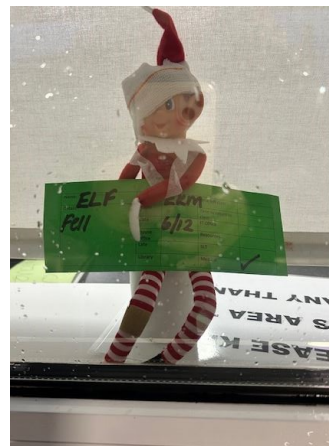
At Crispin, we believe in fostering a strong sense of community and responsibility in our students. We focus this around a Personal Development Curriculum, where all students in the Lower School complete different community support projects within school. This term's community project for Year 7 has been aimed at reducing litter and maintaining a clean, tidy environment on our school grounds. As part of this project, Year 7 students have been working in small groups to contribute to this important effort.

Year 7 student, Italia (7-AGC), said that 'it is nice to be helping out the school and makes us feel part of the Crispin community'. Italia also reflected on the team work aspect of this project, saying that 'it is a really nice way to work with other people that are not necessarily in your classes'.

Another student, George (7-KLT), commented that it was a 'really good thing to do' and 'that we are contributing to keeping the school a cleaner place be'. George continued to describe his experience, 'we went round the whole school, working in pairs with grabbers and bin holders'.

Our students have been able to experience the value of teamwork, respect for the environment, and the importance of contributing positively to the community. Thank you Year 7 for your efforts so far and for your continued effort to contribute to the Crispin community.

Look at what our Naughty Elf has been up to this week at School





House Point Focus

The House System is currently going through some key changes but remains an ever present and foundation for the school. As such the school uses House Points to praise and recognise students – these points hold two key meanings as we celebrate a total students achieve as an individual accolade, and they contribute to a student's house as each house battles to win the House Cup.

As a school we monitor the House Points awarded closely to ensure that students feel recognised by staff and the school as a whole. Tutors speak to students daily about House Points either providing verbal praise or encouragement, Heads of Year monitor these across the term to praise and recognise student's efforts in assemblies.

As a whole school we announce the highest House Points achieved weekly in our newsletter along with the running House total. The totals achieved this year have been exceptional with a strong display from the Upper School (this is unusual).

Credit has to be given where it is due, and the new structures for recognising students were designed through student voice and have clearly had a significant impact. As part of the process students asked to be recognised at different milestones for their House Points with different members of staff writing home to congratulate them. I am very pleased to say at the time of writing four students have achieved over 100 House Points so far this year!

A great term so far – keep up the great work!

Golden Ticket Fortnight

The School's termly Golden Ticket fortnight begins this Monday 09 December.

During these two weeks staff recognise everything good that the students do by providing the students with a Golden Ticket – the students need to collect as many as they can to enter into the prize draw that takes place on 20 December in the final terms whole school assembly.



Good luck to everyone!

Fundraising

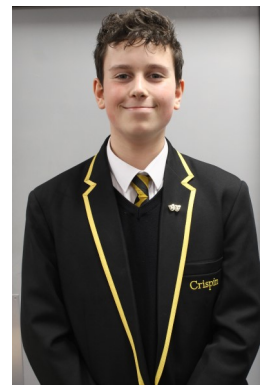
We are pleased to announce that following fundraising last academic year we have installed one table tennis table with two more in the process of being built ready for students to use during their break and lunchtimes.

Over this academic year we hope to purchase another two table tennis tables and continue to fundraise to put another two basketball hoops in the playground.

There will be a non-uniform day on 20 December – theme Christmas jumpers! (If you already have one but please do not feel obliged to buy one) where all proceeds donated will go towards purchasing further play equipment.

Student Kindness

It is always a huge pleasure to share all the wonderful news we have received about the students of Crispin and their achievements inside and outside of school. Just last week the school was contacted about the wonderful actions of a student in year 10. However, these actions were different from our usual reports and has made everyone around this student exceptionally proud.



Mackenzie in Year 10 helped to save a neighbour's home by building a wall of sandbags to protect their property. As the heavy rain continued to fall, the sandbags did their job keeping the house safe and dry!

Mackenzie is an exceptionally hardworking young man taking up all opportunities that the school offer to him, we are very proud of his actions.

YMCA | Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you

Youth Work at Crispin
with the YMCA
Street Youth Team

Lunch Club: Year 7 & 8
Monday Week A, Room T16

Games & activities, hang out with
friends, bring your lunch, chat with
youth workers

YMCA
BRUNEL GROUP
BATH | BRISTOL | WILTSHIRE
EAST & SOUTH SOMERSET

STREET
PARISH COUNCIL



Crispin Carol Service

On Tuesday evening close to a hundred students from Year 7 – 11 raised the roof at Wells Cathedral as part of the school's annual Carol Service.

Performing to an audience exceeding four hundred, the first ensemble to perform was the Gospel Choir who gave a beautiful performance of 'Sweet Silent Night' led by Elspeth Cameron who sang the first verse beautifully.

The sixty strong lower School Choir were simply stunning in all that they performed! In particular, their performance of 'The First Tree in the Greenwood' also known as the Sans Day Carol was sung with enthusiasm! This song was accompanied by members of the folk band. Soloists for this performance included Lynette so, Lola Dowden and Ivy Davis. This piece features harmony singing and canon between the three sections of the choir.

You could simply feel the energy coming from this group of students!

The Staff Choir was simply stunning! They performed a very polished version of 'On This Silent Peaceful Night' and 'There is Faint Music'. During the latter, a group of Year 7 – 9 sopranos sang a beautiful descant countermelody over the top of the last verse.

A new ensemble for this year was the Folk Group, who performed 'The Weasel's Revenge' – this was the very first performance for this group. They mixed formal and informal performance techniques to create a really interesting arrangement.

Gospel Choir were given a challenging set of pieces to perform for this event and did not disappoint. There was a Great three part harmony singing throughout. The programme reflected the sacred nature of the service – 'Now Behold the Lamb' by Kirk Franklin was performed with skill by Beatrice Goldsmith, Precious Mashingaidze and Annabel Aitken; a special guest (in the form of Mr Priddice) performed on the last song – 'Give Me a Star' alongside solos by Mackenzie Bloodworth and Edith Whatley.

Amy Hodgson impressed with her performance of 'The Little Road to Bethlehem' from memory, and Tegan Harrington-Matthews' performance of Lagrima on classical guitar was spell binding (you could hear a pin drop in Wells Cathedral).

The clarinet ensemble, led by Elliot Stubbs-Green gave a fun arrangement of 'Jingle Bells' that everyone enjoyed.

All students and staff involved showed dedication, determination and courage!

If you have ever seen the Cathedral candle light procession through the Cathedral to the sound of only six sopranos on the opening to 'Once in Royal David's City' then you will understand.

If you missed it this year – we will be back December 2025.

With gratitude and thanks to all involved.



Would you like to be part of the Crispin team?

We currently have the following vacancies:

- Library Administrator
- Services Supervisor
- Senior Inclusion Support Assistant (SEMH Lead)

**WE ARE
HIRING NOW**

For more information
please see our website

**JOIN
OUR
TEAM**

Weasel Learning Trust

www.crispinschool.co.uk/About-Us/Vacancies



Year 9 Visit Arthur's Court Care Home

On Monday 02 December, we took eleven Year 9 students to Arthur's Court Care Home in Street as part of our Crispin community initiative. The students were exceptional and a true credit to the school. They served tea, coffee, and biscuits, engaged in conversations with the residents, and assisted staff wherever they could.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Arthur's Court Care Home, whose staff were incredibly welcoming and supportive of our students.

We look forward to our next visit!



Lower School Movie Night

On Tuesday 03 December after school, twenty five Lower School students joined Mrs Attfield in singing and dancing along to Muppets Christmas Carol, and laughing along at The Grinch That Stole Christmas with Mrs Chadwick and enjoying watching Kevin defend his house in Home Alone with Mr Attfield.

Students enjoyed popcorn, sweets and a drink served by some of our students that are going to Kenya.

We look forward to seeing you at our next fundraiser, the Community Craft Evening on Wednesday 11 December

Kenya Christmas Community Craft Evening

Wednesday 11th December 5pm-7pm



Wreath making - £6

Gingerbread decorating £2.50 for a plate of 3

Card making 50p a card

Baubles decorating £1 a bauble

Friendship bracelet making £1.50 a bracelet

Teas, coffee, hot chocolate and cakes will also be on sale on the night

£10 for a punch card allowing you to do all activities once

November Fundraising

On Friday 29 November staff and students donned fake moustaches all raising money for the charity Movember, joining the male members of staff who had been growing moustaches all month.

The charity is close to the heart of many in our community raising money for prostate cancer, which effects 1 in 8 men and also raises money for causes and initiatives which improve the mental health and wellbeing of men across the globe.

Thank you to all staff and students who donated, we raised £133!



WE ARE A MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM (MHST) SCHOOL

An Educational Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP) can help you with anxiety, worries, low mood, panic, exam stress, emotional support, coping strategies, specific phobias and sleep problems.

The MHST supports a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing through staff training, groups, parent workshops and consultation.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Speak to a trusted adult in your school if you would like support.

CONTACT: spn-tr.mhstsomerset@nhs.net

www.youngsomerset.org.uk/mhst



Meet our Crispin Staff!

Each week we will be introducing you to some of our staff members, so you can get to know them a little bit better!

This week is the turn of Miss Townsend *Miss Townsend is our Head of Year 8 and a Music teacher*

Where do you come from?

I am originally from Salisbury, Wiltshire and grew up in a village not far from Stonehenge.

How did you get your passion for music?

When I was little, I used to love singing along to music in the car and would honestly never stop singing wherever I went! My Dad would always have music on in the kitchen and would record songs off the radio that I said I liked – I think the first one he recorded was Wonderwall which I still have on a tape somewhere. He was the one who made my first 'demos' for auditions too. I learned ballet from about the age of three and from there started at a stage school where I could learn all three disciplines of singing, dancing and acting. I was in touring productions of some well-known musicals and since then have never looked back! It wasn't until A-Levels and University that I started to really appreciate classical music and Opera and I am a classically trained singer.

How long have you been teaching and what made you want to become a teacher?

I have been a qualified teacher for ten years this year but did take a short break from teaching to relocate back to the UK, so about eight and a half years. My passion for music and wanting to share that with others was a big influence. Music is one of those subjects that gives a sense of belonging no matter what kind of day you are having, and I would refer to it as a universal language. I have always enjoyed that 'aha!' moment when students understand something new or are delving deeper in their learning. I think that my role as Head of Year is one that suits my passion for working with people, helping students discover their potential and inspire curiosity.

Do you have any siblings?

I have one brother and one sister who are twins, and they are about seven years younger than me. My sister lives in Canada and my brother lives in Bristol.

Do you have any pets?

Yes, I have a cat called Mimi who is a little bit like my child. I was given her at the very beginning of the Covid lockdown while I was living in the UAE and brought her back to the UK with me. She has enjoyed going from being an apartment / indoor cat to having a cat flap in the window of my house and being able to wonder and say hello to the neighbours

What is your favourite food?

Ooh, that is a tough question to answer as it depends on what mood I am in. I would say homemade comfort food would be a pesto chicken pasta or a lasagne. If I was ordering takeaway it would be an Indian curry with peshwari naan.

What hobbies do you enjoy?

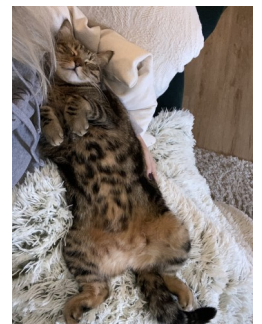
I love to travel and explore places I haven't seen before. I like practicing dragon staff, weightlifting, photography, meeting up for good food or a ramble at the weekends or chilling out with a good film or series. I sing locally too at open mics and when someone needs a lead vocalist for their band. I am hoping to start proper gigging again soon.

What cultures do you like? What is your favourite country you have been to?

I wouldn't say that I have a favourite culture, but I enjoy aspects of each one I have learned about. I have been very lucky to have the opportunity to travel to a range of places. One of my favourite things when travelling is fully immersing myself in traditions and the local way of life. In terms of sights, I really enjoyed Sri Lanka for the tea trails, doing turtle conservation, learning about Ayurvedic medicine, but I also loved Egypt for seeing the Valley of the Kings, Pyramids, diving, climbing Mount Mousa. For the people, I would say Indonesia and Thailand because they are so friendly and welcoming – I am mostly a solo traveller so safety has always been a focus for me. I loved learning about different traditions from around the world with my students when I was living in the UAE and gained a real appreciation for Emirati and Middle Eastern culture too.

What did you want to be when you were younger?

I wanted to be a dancer to begin with, and then a singer on the West End stage.





Lost Property Collection Day

Wednesday 18 December - 15:15 - 16:15

We are having an Open Afternoon for parents/carers to come into Reception to claim any lost property as we currently have a considerable amount.

SCHOOL SHOP

Open every Monday & Thursday



Lunch times
13:30 - 14:10

Glastonbury and Street Musical Comedy Society
present...

Our 2025 PRODUCTION

SHREK THE MUSICAL

APRIL 8TH TO 12TH
at **STRODE THEATRE, STREET**

Directed by: Matthew Maisey
Choreography by: Shelley Smith
Musical Direction by: Lynne Merrifield
Produced by: Jess Russell and Sarah Roberts

Buy YOUR TICKETS TODAY
www.gsmcs.co.uk/shrek

Diary of events	W/C 09 December WEEK B	W/C 16 December 2024 WEEK A
MONDAY		
TUESDAY	Carol Singing, Clarks Village, 16:30 - 17:30	Christmas Lunch - Canteen Christmas Concert, 19:00
WEDNESDAY	Year 7 and 8 Christmas Just Dance Party, 15:15 - 16:30 Christmas Craft Night, 17:00 - 19:00	Lost Property afternoon 15:15 - 16:15
THURSDAY		
FRIDAY		Non Uniform Day End of Term 12:15

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