



Crispin School Newsletter

16 January 2026

Issue 16

Message from Mr Bullock - Acting Deputy Headteacher

It is hard to believe that I am writing this as we approach what is already the end of the second week of 2026. It has been a real pleasure to see the continuation of the focus and positive attitude of our students across the school which Mr Cornwall alluded to in his message last week. Within our school there is an undeniable and tangible sense of momentum building, and it is clear that students are determined to make the most of the opportunities ahead.

This term is an especially important one for our Year 11 students, with just 13 weeks now remaining until the start of their GCSE examinations. This is the point at which effective revision really needs to begin in earnest. I would strongly encourage all Year 11 students to engage fully with our extensive UpGrade offer, which runs both after school and at lunchtime. Timetables are shared on our social media platforms and displayed on screens around the school. The time invested now will pay dividends later – you will not regret the hours you put in, but you may regret those you do not.

In the coming weeks, we will also be hosting a Revision Skills Workshop for parents and carers, designed to provide practical guidance on how best to support students in the lead-up to the February PPEs and those all-important summer examinations.

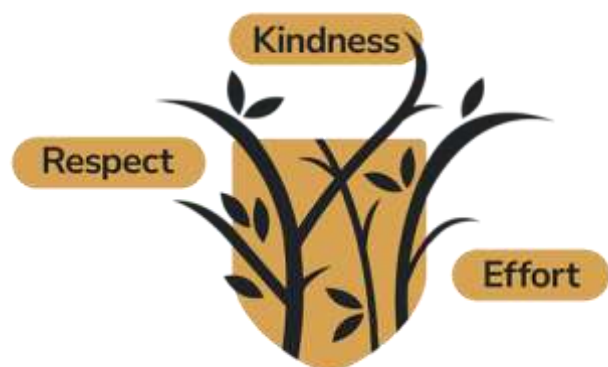
These assessments will take place in the weeks that straddle the February half-term break, deliberately mirroring the structure of the summer exam period.

This approach helps students build stamina and develop the resilience needed to stay motivated both before and after a week break "off".

This week's bulletin has a THRIVE focus, showcasing just a small sample of the array of high-quality personal development opportunities on offer and the way our students are embracing them. Through THRIVE, we aim to develop confident, resilient and compassionate young people, equipping students with the character, values and life skills that sit alongside academic success. These experiences play a vital role in shaping well-rounded individuals who are prepared not only for examinations, but for life beyond the classroom- something we are deeply committed to at Crispin.

Next week's bulletin will be a TLA (Teaching, Learning and Assessment) Takeover. It will highlight the strides we have made and continue to make in this area, exploring what high-quality TLA looks like in our classrooms and why it sits at the cutting edge of educational research. I am very much looking forward to sharing this with our community, as it is an area we are exceptionally proud of at Crispin.

I wish you all a restful weekend and successful week beyond.





Welcome to our Thrive Community Newsletter

Thrive has been launched this academic year to encompass all aspects of Crispin – from lessons to enrichment, from visits to tutor time, from house competitions to careers guidance and support - and everything in between.

The aim of our Thrive curriculum is to equip our students with all the tools needed to succeed both during their time here at Crispin, and once they leave at the end of year 11.

We recognise that academic achievement is vital – but so are so many other life skills and experiences that our Thrive curriculum offers.

This newsletter will give you a brief taste of some of the Thrive activities that have taken place, and an idea of what is coming up!

Thrive Week

Excitement Builds for Upcoming Thrive Week

Plans are officially underway for our much-anticipated **Thrive Week**, and we can't wait to share what's coming.

A huge thank you to all parents and carers who completed the survey before Christmas - your feedback has helped shape some truly exciting experiences.

The trips have now been decided... and while we're keeping the details under wraps for just a little longer, expect adventures that could take you to new heights, get the adrenaline pumping, immerse you in culture, or introduce you to fascinating animals from around the world.

Thrive Week Dates:

Tuesday 14 July – Thrive Day 1

Wednesday 15 July – Thrive Day 2 - Sports Day

Thursday 16 July – Thrive Day 3

Watch this space - more details coming soon!

Crispin Needs You!

Are you an ex-Crispin student?

If so click the QR code or go to [Crispin School Alumni Q&A – Fill out form](#) and complete our Alumni Q&A.





Enrichment

Students across the school have had the opportunity to take part in a huge variety of enrichment activities at lunch time and after school.

These have included learning sign language, football club, board games, ski-fit, crochet, science club, set design and many many more.

Over 250 students have participated in these.

Keep an eye out for information about next terms offer coming out very soon!

THRIVE & Careers Youth Work Assembly

Years 7 and 8 recently enjoyed an assembly put together by our local YMCA Youth Club Team Leader, Jess Lewin.

Students learned about youth work – Jess comes into Crispin regularly and runs a lunch club and 1-to-1 mentoring sessions. In tutor time follow up conversations looked at salaries for youth work, required skills or qualifications and gave students chance to reflect on whether this might be a future pathway for them!

Talking Futures is a website to help parents and carers talk to their children and young people talk about

options after school. It can open up conversations early and help explore ideas when thinking about those big decisions. An important part of gaining experience and confidence in a mix of workplaces throughout a student's school career is work experience.

The **Equalex Framework** for work experience, which sets out an ambitious and modern approach for all students to gain at least one week of work experience activities in Years 7-9 and at least one week of placements in Years 10-11. This helps them make informed choices, broadens skills, and enables them to feel career ready. Crispin Careers Team will update parents and look to run in-person sessions as we learn more in 2026.

https://www.talkingfutures.org.uk/?utm_source=Web&utm_medium=CECLandingPage&utm_campaign=TalkingFuturesD2P

<https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/modern-work-experience/>



Careers, Aspiration & Employability

Soon we will launch our new careers platform **Unifrog**.

Every student will have an account that lets them explore their interests, record career-focused activity and keep applications in one place, forming a key part of our THRIVE curriculum.

<https://www.unifrog.org/about>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7S3wWFKm-o>

UCS College Group – Year 11 Choices Session

We welcomed Michelle and Lisa from UCS College Group into Crispin Year 11 Curriculum for Life lessons on Wednesday. Throughout the interactive sessions students explored choices, decision making and a range of courses, gaining insight into matching student profiles to courses and using a prospectus.

The team from UCS which includes Strode, Bridgwater, Cannington and Taunton colleges will be back for Year 11



Respect

- Understand that everyone in school deserves to be treated equally.
- Once you enter a classroom, respect the learning environment.
- As you move around school think about others, don't drop litter, keep to the right staircases and be kind to others.
- We are one community; to succeed we need to support each other.

Kindness

- Do not be afraid to express your opinions – but always be kind and safe
- Always remain calm
- Show empathy to members of your community
- Remember everyone has the right to feel safe, so think about your actions for others.

Effort

- Turn up to your lesson ready to get to work
- No one ever asked for more than your best – so just try.
- Hardwork is the cornerstone of success.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

As part of our ongoing commitment to promoting equality, celebrating diversity, and ensuring an inclusive school community, we have been taking part in a 'Show Racism the Red Card' campaign this month. This campaign uses **Football as a Platform** to educate and raise awareness about racism through influential role models.

Key Campaign Messages teach that racism is learned, silence perpetuates it, and everyone can challenge it actively. Our focus has been to engage the students in our school to promote respect, inclusion, and anti-discrimination.

To find out more about why this is so very important you can listen to Akala, a British rapper, author, activist and journalist talk about 'Everyday Racism'. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/video/2015/mar/18/everyday-racism-what-should-we-do>.

Students have engaged in assemblies, activities and discussions that highlight the importance of standing up against racism and understanding the positive impact of a diverse society. You can listen to Thierry Henry and Callum Hudson-Odoi call for the need for ongoing action on hate at an anti-racism summit last year, convened by Nottingham Forest https://www.google.com/search?q=racism+on+the+pitch&sa=X&sca_esv=a73f109bbcae9216&rlz=1C1GCEA_enGB893GB893&udm=7&fbs=AlljpHxU7SXXniUZfeShr2fp4giZ1Y6MJ25_tmWITc7uy4KleuYzzFkfn_eXafNx6OMdA4MRo3L_oOc-1oJ7O1RV73dx3MlyCigtuiU2aDjExlvdydX85cOq96-7Mxd4K-SNCLhHwYlo4RjXEXVWYwYSeCFXG0J5g7J0_QINiqM4Euq3DbUukakRIQBtEL4YIltWZLBS4_D4qpoqMYJgdHY3UCoXAClgwU4ag&ved=2ahUKEwj8-ft8viQAxUNaUEAHfPhDdQQtKgLegQIA-hAJ&biw=1920&bih=919&dpr=1&safe=active&ssui=on#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:1c941f06,vid:I2MWGnBJmCY,st:0.

To show our collective support, we held a non-uniform day, inviting all students and staff to **wear something red** as a visible statement of unity and our shared commitment to challenging racism in all its forms. There was music and photographs in the school hall at lunchtime, offering students and staff the opportunity to come together to show their allyship for anti-racism in our school community, and we had a great turnout!

We kindly ask for your support in continuing these important conversations at home. Talking with your child about respect, inclusion, and the value of diversity helps reinforce the strong message we aim to embed in school, namely, that racism has no place in our community, and we uphold a zero-tolerance approach to discriminatory behaviour.



Wellbeing and Pastoral Care

Our community continues to be incredibly important to us, and one of the most important parts of that community is hearing our student voice and the voice of our parents. We recently conducted a student survey which covered many topics from whether students feel safe in school, to their involvement within our enrichment program and their thoughts on their extended learning.

We are pleased to provide feedback that 87% of our students reported feeling safe in school and that 92% of our students were able to identify staff they could go to if they had a problem. 87% of our students also told us that they felt like they belonged at Crispin School. Students also gave us feedback on improvement of the rewards program and we are delighted to announce that there are some new rewards coming soon..



Our Golden Ticket fortnight began on Monday 08 December during which students can collect golden tickets from their teachers. The tickets needed to be submitted to their heads of year who will collect them ahead of the live prize draw on 19 December, our last day of term.

Prizes include:

- £10 National Book Token
- £15 Costa Coffee Voucher
- £20 Pizza Express Voucher
- £25 Shopping Voucher
- £50 Amazon Voucher
- Nintendo Switch Lite!



Crispin Future Ready

THRIVE and Sport Coaching Assembly

Crispin students usually know Mr Eaton as a valued member of our PE team, but this week Years 7 and 8 had the opportunity to learn much more about him when we were delighted to welcome him back as a former student and member of our alumni community.

During his assemblies, Mr Eaton spoke openly about the subjects he enjoyed most at school, his interests beyond the classroom and the clubs that helped shape his journey. He also shared some powerful messages about the importance of friendship, which clearly resonated with our students.

We haven't told Head of Upper School, Mr Horner, yet, but Aran cited him as his greatest inspiration so far! In turn, many lower school students reported feeling truly "inspired" by Aran himself.

Find out more about Aranveer in his profile.



UCS College Group – Mission Employable

UCS College Group Somerset are also on a mission to inspire young people with confidence, skills and key connections to land the apprenticeship or role they really want.

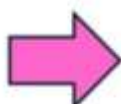
With organisations represented including Muller, Taylor Woodrow, NHS Somerset Foundation Trust and TLE Sports Coaching, the **Mission Employable** event takes place on 29 January so [sign up](#) for a place.



Thales Virtual Insight Event

Thales are hosting a virtual event to share information about its talent programmes, benefits of working for the company, hints and tips on applying and live talks from current apprentices.

Use their QR code to register.



Calling wannabe YouTubers!

DigData and Google have teamed up to offer live online career challenges.

Depending on year groups you can discover what makes a YouTube star or create a strategy to launch a super-advanced smartphone.

[Register](#) for a place.





Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to respond to our Curriculum for Life forms.

Your feedback is incredibly valuable and plays a vital role in ensuring we are equipping our students with the skills they need for adulthood.

Moving forward, we will be holding regular parent and carer forums to ensure your voices continue to be heard and to strengthen

House Competition Time

Create a poster on the theme of 'Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'

Bring your poster to Mrs Hawkins in I11. Ensure on the back you have your full name, year group and house. Points awarded to your house for every poster received.

Ensure you hand in your poster by 19th January.

WESSEX LEARNING TRUST POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION

Poster theme about - Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI

COMPETITION RULES:

1. The design should promote Safer Internet Day on **February 10th 2026**
2. Poster size - A4 Portrait
3. Posters must be submitted to your school by Monday 19th January
4. Winning posters will be shared across all Wessex Learning Trust Schools



Wessex
Learning Trust

On the back of your poster,
we need your:
First NAME only
AGE
Name of SCHOOL

HANDBALL CLUB

