



Crispin School Newsletter

13 February 2026

Issue 20

Message from Mr Cornwall, Acting Headteacher

Who needs more words than *FROZEN*!?

Whilst it has been a week since opening night, memories of the wonderful performances remain incredibly strong.

The students delivered outstanding performances throughout, supported by the tremendous work, commitment and care shown by all of the staff involved in bringing the production to life.

I was fortunate enough to take my family to the Friday evening performance and they were completely spellbound. It says so much about our students that members of the cast took time to make a real effort with my youngest daughter, who is absolutely Elsa and Anna mad. It meant the world to her and is yet another reminder of what a kind, thoughtful and talented group of young people we have within our school community.

I have written an end-of-half term letter that includes more detail about the term so far and key points for our return which will be sent out to you today.



MEET the author



Lesley McDowall

Lesley McDowall is the author of fiction, non-fiction, and short stories, and was formerly a literary critic for major newspapers.

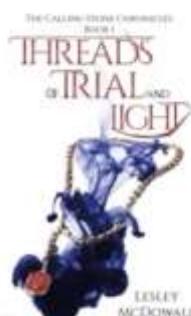
Lesley will be joining us for World Book Day to talk about her career journey and becoming an author.

Workshop

Thursday 5th March

If you are in year 10 and would like an opportunity to meet with Lesley as well as having the experience of creating your own literary world sign up with Miss Wellbelove in E04.

Limited spaces - first come first served



Threads of Trial and Light

Gracie Fellows is sixteen, dyslexic, and running out of places to hide. At school she's bullied without mercy. At home her mother's new boyfriend, Seth, watches her with cold, calculating eyes—his control tightening like a noose. Then the pendant her long-absent father gave her flares to life and drags her into Limskada—a savage, dying fae realm where the land itself is tearing apart.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following students for receiving the highest individual house points last week.

Noah Johnson	Year 7	Zoe Henley	Year 7
Amelie Cheer	Year 7	Ella Whiting	Year 10
Maya Norris	Year 9	Breeze Travella	Year 10
Alex Edgar-Attwell	Year 8	Eaden Teakle	Year 8
Oscar Ware	Year 9	Chloe Reina	Year 7



Year Group house Point Leader (Year to date)

Year 7	Melek Ozsevgec	Year 8	Ayda Chaplin
Year 9	Samuel Crosse	Year 10	George Savva
Year 11	Oscar Vowles		



School Production of Frozen - A Personal Thank You

As Director of this year's production of *Frozen*, I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped make it such a special experience.

I am so proud of every student and staff member involved, both on stage and behind the scenes. From auditions back in June to the final curtain last week, the commitment, teamwork and talent on display have been incredible. Rehearsals were busy, challenging and at times exhausting, but students rose to every challenge with maturity and real determination. Watching their confidence grow week by week has been a genuine privilege.

Our cast brought fantastic energy to every performance. The vocals were strong and confident, the acting was funny and engaging, and the dance numbers were performed with real focus and enthusiasm. They supported one another throughout and truly worked as a team, which is what makes a production special.

I am equally proud of our student technical and backstage teams. Many people may not realise that students ran stage management, fitted microphones, operated spotlights and worked as crew on set and props throughout the performances, by show week, I was pretty redundant! Their calmness, organisation and quiet leadership ensured everything ran smoothly each night. The show quite simply would not happen without them.

We were delighted to share the production with our wider community and to welcome local primary school students into the theatre last Thursday. Seeing our students perform with such pride for younger audiences was a real highlight. The warmth of the audiences across all performances meant so much, and the standing ovations each night were a lovely way to recognise the hard work and heart that had gone into the show.

Thank you to the staff team who gave their time and energy so generously, to our wonderful community volunteers, and to our Crispin families for your ongoing support. School productions are always a collective effort, and this one was no exception.

Productions like this are about far more than the final performance. They are about joy, friendships, shared memories and the sense of belonging that comes from creating something together. Being part of that process is honestly one of the most special and rewarding parts of my job.

Thank you to everyone who supported *Frozen* and helped make it such a memorable experience. I already can't wait for next year.

Mrs Baumgardt





Cake Sale for Tanzania

In July 2027, Crispin students have the incredible opportunity to take part in a World Challenge expedition to Southern Tanzania. This once-in-a-lifetime trip will allow them to explore a new culture, work alongside local communities, and develop essential life skills such as teamwork, leadership, confidence, and independence, all while contributing to meaningful projects that make a real difference.

World Challenge is an educational travel organization providing student-led, 7-27 day international expeditions focused on developing life skills, resilience, and global citizenship through community projects, trekking, and, cultural immersion.

Beatrice (8-AJP) has been putting her culinary skills to the test in the aim to raise much needed funds to support her trip. Bea have baked a selection of yummy goods and sold them at school during lunch time. Not only has this cake sale been incredibly popular with the school community, but it has also managed to raise just under £100 towards Bea's £4,000 target to get to Tanzania. Well done Bea and thank you to all your friends who helped make this event a success.

There are lots of different fundraising events happening, both in school and within the local community. Please do let us know if your child has panned or has done something for their World Challenge fundraising so we can celebrate together.



Year 8 Visit M Shed

Year 8 Visit M Shed Bristol to Explore the Transatlantic Traffic in Enslaved Africans

This week Year 8 students took part in an important and thought-provoking visit to M Shed in Bristol as part of their History studies on the Transatlantic Traffic in Enslaved Africans. The visit, delivered by the Bristol Museums Learning Team, formed a key part of our curriculum and built directly on the work students have been completing in lessons since January.

During the visit, students participated in a specialist workshop titled Bristol and the Transatlantic Traffic in Enslaved Africans. Through the careful study of artefacts, documents, and visual evidence, pupils explored Bristol's role in the trade. The students explored how wealth was generated through shipping, manufacturing, and plantation economies, as well as the impact this had on enslaved Africans. Students also examined evidence relating to life in West Africa, experiences on plantations, and the realities of forced labour.

Alongside the workshop, students completed a guided visit of the M Shed galleries, allowing them to place their learning within the wider context of Bristol's history as a port city. Using structured workbooks, they were encouraged to ask challenging questions, evaluate historical sources, and reflect on the human cost behind economic growth.

The visit also linked strongly to our wider study of the Industrial Revolution and the British Empire, helping students understand how global trade, exploitation, and industrial growth were deeply connected. Trips like this play a vital role in developing historical understanding, empathy, and critical thinking. Year 8 students should be extremely proud of the thoughtful and mature way they engaged with such a challenging topic.





Student Council

Representatives from the School Council recently met with Mr Cornwall to share thoughts from their year groups.

The meeting started with telling Mr Cornwall things that students thought were going well.

These included the changes to the school uniform this academic year, that there are lots of clubs on offer for students, and how the lunch queues have improved.

The students then went on to discuss things such as how to continue to improve the lunch queues, clarifying wet lunch processes and use of the astro at lunch time.

It was agreed that after half term, the astro will be open to all students at lunch time. The student council also suggested that it would be a good idea to trial a 'girls day' on the astro - this will also start after half term.

The student council will continue to meet regularly, and once a half term will meet with Mr Cornwall.



After
School

UpGrade Spring Terms

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Art 15:15-16:15 101	Art 15:15-16:15 101	Art 15:15-16:15 101	Engineering Unit 1 catch up 15:15-16:30 103
Photography 15:15-16:15 101	Photography 15:15-16:15 101	Photography 15:15-16:15 101	Media NEA 15:15-16:30 105
Graphics 15:15-16:15 101	Graphics 15:15-16:15 101	Graphics 15:15-16:15 101	Maths 15:20-16:20 T12 and T32
Product Design week 8 15:15-16:15 102	Drama week 8 (from 23/02) 15:15-16:15 Drama	Product Design 15:15-16:15 102	Science 15:20-16:20 106 or 104
Drama week A (from 09/02) 15:15-16:15 Drama Studio	Separate Science 15:15-16:15 SD7	Media NEA 15:15-16:30 105	
Food (NEA catch up) 15:15-16:30	English (RFW) 15:15-16:30 E03	Sociology 15:15-16:30 M05	
Science Higher 15:20-16:20 106	MOC - 15:15-16:00 (E04)		
	Maths (DKM) Girls Grades 3 and 4 in T12 15:20 - 16:20 (OH) Boys Grades 3 and 4 in T11 15:20 - 16:20		
History 15:15-16:30	Business Studies 15:15-4:00 M04	English (JIT/RCW) 15:15-16:30 E13/E01	
Sport Science 15:15-16:30 104	Food 15:15-16:30		
English (BEP/SLB) 15:15-16:00 E11/E14	Geography Various dates, please see your Teams pages for info	Sport Science 15:15-16:30 104	
(DKM) T23 15:20 - 16:20			



Careers Workshop with Medical students

On Tuesday 3rd February 2026, Emma and Hannah, both fourth-year medical students, delivered an engaging presentation to Year 11 students, providing essential insights into applying to medical school. Their talk covered academic requirements, work experience, and life as a medical student. Emma, who began her medical education after completing a degree in Medical Pharmacology, highlighted her A-levels in Mathematics, Biology, and Chemistry. She expressed a keen interest in Biology and Human Ethics, which she views as vital to her studies.

Hannah shared her journey, which evolved from an initial interest in neuroscience during Year 12 to a focus on medicine after a gap year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Her A-levels included Psychology, Biology, Chemistry, and Core Maths, establishing a solid foundation in the sciences.

The presentation offered crucial advice for aspiring medical students along with those interested in careers in healthcare such as nursing and midwifery. Both Emma and Hannah stressed the importance of choosing subjects that genuinely interest students, recommending three strong A-levels rather than four average ones. They noted that most medical schools require A-levels in Biology and Chemistry, while Mathematics is not compulsory.

Work experience was another key topic. They encouraged students to participate in volunteering, shadowing healthcare professionals, and online work experience programmes. Emma suggested maintaining a work experience diary to capture reflections on these experiences.

Regarding the application process, they provided tips for preparing for the UCAT, describing it as a test of speed rather than knowledge. They advised thorough research on universities, considering location, living costs, and course types.

In discussing interviews, Emma and Hannah shared strategies for success, emphasising authenticity and personal reflection. They concluded by discussing life in medical school and the diverse opportunities available to students, encouraging resilience and motivation throughout the application journey.

Feedback from Year 11 students was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing gratitude for the clarity and relevance of the information shared. Emma and Hannah's visit inspired students and equipped them with essential knowledge for their future aspirations in medicine.



EXAM INVIGILATOR VACANCIES

This is a casual position - hours and days vary according to need.

£12.65 per hour (£14.18ph including holiday pay)

Flexible hours

You choose when you are available

Good rate of pay including holiday pay

Good for parents and flexible working

We do not just have summer exams - invigilators can be used for up to 13 weeks a year over the academic year

Please express your interest by email to exams@crispinschool.co.uk and an application form will be sent to you.

EXAM READER AND SCRIBE VACANCIES

This is a casual position - hours and days vary according to need.

£12.65 per hour (£14.18ph including holiday pay)

Flexible hours

You choose when you are available

Good rate of pay including holiday pay

Good for parents and flexible working

We do not just have summer exams - invigilators can be used for up to 13 weeks a year over the academic year

Please express your interest by email to exams@crispinschool.co.uk and an application form will be sent to you.

Aspiration & Employability

Crispin Future Ready

National Apprenticeship Week 2026 & UCS Careers & Apprenticeship Fair

It's National Apprenticeship Week this week and Year 10 were lucky enough to explore opportunities at the UCS College Group Careers & Apprenticeship Jobs Fair, held this week at The Venue @Junction 24.

Each student was allocated their own 'Passport' for the event so they could select which employers, colleges or curriculum areas they would most like to focus on and gain a stamp every time they chatted and gained meaningful insight into pathways and tested out their interview skills.

Hopefully all students came away with lots of inspiration about next steps in education, work and training, building on the talks they participated in on Careers Day to start shaping their future aspirations.



STRODE COLLEGE

YEAR 11s, JOIN US FOR A!

PERFORMING ARTS TASTER WORKSHOP

AT STRODE COLLEGE

MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2026

10:00AM - 2:00PM

STRODE COLLEGE

Experience a fun, hands-on day of singing, acting, and dancing and get a feel for our Performing Arts Extended Diploma course! Meet our tutors, explore our facilities, and find out more about studying the Performing Arts at Strode College.

- ★ Sing, act, and dance your way through the day
- ★ Meet other future Performing Arts students
- ★ Explore our fantastic facilities
- ★ Get a taste of the course and ask any questions

RSVP: EMAIL
APERRY1@STRODE-COLLEGE.AC.UK TO BOOK YOUR PLACE!

Could you tell if your child was being exploited?



Join one of our free online sessions led by Child Exploitation Prevention Officer **Andri Nicolaou**

18 March 7:00 - 8:30pm 30 March 10:30am - 12:00pm

Learn about the different forms of child exploitation and how offenders groom/exploit children both online and offline. We'll highlight warning signs a child may be at risk and practical steps you can take to keep them safe and respond to any concerns.

Visit the **Avon and Somerset Police Eventbrite page** or scan the QR codes below

18 March 30 March



PARENTS, LET'S TALK ABOUT KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE!

Social media is a huge part of our children's lives – but it comes with real dangers we can't ignore. Protecting them starts with YOU. Here's how:

- Talk Openly** – Have honest conversations about online behavior, privacy, and respect. Make sure they know what's safe and what's not.
- Stop Sexting Before It Starts** – Explain that sharing intimate content can lead to emotional harm, bullying, and even legal trouble. Once it's online, it's out of their control.
- Set Strong Boundaries** – Agree on screen time limits and safe apps. Use parental controls when needed, but build trust through communication.
- Lead by Example** – Show healthy online habits yourself. Kids learn from what they see at home.

YOUR GUIDANCE IS THEIR PROTECTION.
A CONVERSATION TODAY COULD PREVENT A SERIOUS PROBLEM TOMORROW.

PARK SAFELY OUTSIDE SCHOOLS



SAFETY REMINDER:

- No parking on single or double yellow lines
- No double parking
- No stopping, dropping or parking on the School Keep Clear yellow zig zags
- No stopping, dropping or parking on the pedestrian crossing white zig zag lines
- No parking on corners or junctions, especially near the school entrance

PLEASE DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAYS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!



Important Calendar Dates

Whole School Events	
Monday 23 February	Term Begins
Thursday 05 March	World Book Day - Author Visit
Friday 06 March	World Book Day - Students & Staff are invited dress as their favourite characters
Friday 02 April	End of Term

Year Group Events		
Year 7	Wednesday 13 - 15 May 2026	Residential Trip
	Thursday 04 June 2026	Face to Face, Parents' Evening, 16:00-19:00
Year 8	Thursday 26 March 2026	Virtual Parents' Evening, 16:00-19:00
	Monday 30 March - 01 April 2026	Residential Trip
Year 9	Thursday 26 February 2026	Virtual Parents' Evening, 16:00-19:00
	Monday 02 March 2026	Deadline for submitting GCSE Option choices
	Thursday 11th & Friday 12th June	Year 9 Vaccinations
Year 10	Wed 06, Thurs 07 & Fri 08 May	Year 10 Geography Trip
	Wednesday 13 & Thursday 14 May 2026	Year 10 Mock Careers Days
	Wednesday 24 June 2026	Year 10 Step Up Evening
	Monday 15 - Friday 26 June 2026	Year 10 Summer Prelims
	Monday 29 June - Friday 03 July 2026	Work Experience Week
Year 11	Monday 09 - 27 February 2026	Year 11 February Prelims
	Wednesday 25 February 2026	Careers Cafe
	Friday 08 May - Wed 17 June 2026	GCSE Live Exams
	Thursday 02 July 2026	Leavers Breakfast & Prom
	Thursday 20 August 2026	GCSE Results Day

