



Crispin School Newsletter

03 July 2026

Issue 36

Message from Mr Cornwall, Headteacher

With only two weeks of this academic year remaining, I wanted to take the opportunity to be honest, reflective and, above all, to say thank you.

This year has not always been straightforward. There have been moments that have challenged us all and there have been occasions where, as a school, we have had to stop, reflect and acknowledge that we could have done things better. I have never believed that schools should pretend to be perfect, because they are made up of people, and people are continually learning.

What I can say with complete confidence is that every member of staff has worked incredibly hard to make Crispin a better school for the young people we serve. There has been a collective determination to improve; to raise expectations, strengthen teaching and learning, develop our curriculum, improve communication and, most importantly, ensure that learning sits at the heart of everything we do.

Are we where we want to be? No.

Have we got everything right? No.

But are we a better school than we were twelve months ago? Without question.

One of the things I have been most proud of this year has been the willingness of staff to reflect honestly, to hold up their hands when something has not gone as planned and to continually ask, "How can we make this better?" That willingness to learn is exactly what we ask of our students every day, and I believe it is one of the reasons why Crispin continues to move forward.

Throughout this year I have repeatedly asked for one thing from our community: your support. I make no apology for asking again.

Outstanding schools are built upon simple foundations. Students arriving on time, ready to learn, wearing the correct uniform, equipped for their lessons and knowing that home and school are working together. These things may seem small individually, but collectively they create the calm, purposeful environment in which young people thrive.

As many of you will know, this year we introduced our refreshed school uniform in line with Department for Education guidance, reducing the number of branded items to ensure that uniform remains affordable and accessible for families. We also took the decision to provide a full academic year for students to transition from the previous uniform and PE kit to the new expectations.

From **September**, this transition period comes to an end.

I am delighted that the overwhelming majority of our students have already embraced the new uniform and they look incredibly smart. From the first day of the new academic year, we will be applying our expectations consistently across all year groups.

This includes our PE kit. Students will be expected to wear the approved Crispin PE kit as detailed on our website and in communications from the Head of Physical Education. The previous PE kit will no longer be permitted, and students will not be able to wear leggings or tight-fitting gym shorts during PE lessons. These expectations are not new, but I wanted to communicate them now so that families have time over the summer to prepare and to avoid any uncertainty in September.

I appreciate that conversations about uniform are not always easy, particularly with teenagers! However, by having those conversations now, we can ensure that every student returns in September ready to begin the year positively. As always, where families experience genuine financial difficulty, please do get in touch. We will always do what we reasonably can to support.

This week we also had the pleasure of welcoming our new Year 6 students and their families to Crispin. Transition Evening is always one of my favourite events of the year because it reminds us that every September represents a new beginning. Thank you to every family who joined us. Your children made a wonderful first impression, and we cannot wait to welcome them properly into the Crispin community. I know they will thrive here.

Finally, to our Year 11 students. It was a privilege to celebrate with you at both the Leavers' Breakfast and your Prom. Watching you leave as confident, ambitious young adults reminded me just how much can happen in five short years. You have left your mark on Crispin, and I hope you leave knowing that there is a staff team who genuinely care about you and who will always be proud to have played a small part in your journey. We wish every one of you happiness and success in whatever comes next.

Thank you once again for your continued support throughout this year. Together, we have laid stronger foundations for Crispin's future. There is still work to do, and there always will be, but I have never been more optimistic about the direction in which our school is travelling.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.



Crispin School Choirs Celebrate Triple Success in Regional Choir Competition

Students from Crispin School are celebrating an outstanding achievement after all three of the school's choirs were recognised at the 2026 Somerset & Dorset Schools Choir Competition, which attracted a record-breaking number of entries from schools across the region.

Leading the celebrations was Crispin Show Choir, which was crowned Secondary Category Champion, winning Gold with an impressive score of 85/100. As category winners, the choir has earned the honour of performing at the prestigious Somerset County Carol Concert this December.

The adjudicators praised the choir's performance of *Possible* and *Seasons of Love*, commenting that there was "obviously a great culture of singing and drama in the school". They also commended the choir's quality of sound, ensemble singing, musical phrasing, clean precision, ambitious harmony singing and confident stage presentation.

The school's Frozen Ensemble also enjoyed outstanding success, winning the Silver Award in the Secondary category for its performance of a medley from *Frozen*, previously performed at the *Wedmore Clash of the Choirs*. Judges described the performance as "very crisp and neat", praising the group's quality of singing, harmony and outstanding soloists. Such was the quality of the solo performances that the adjudicators suggested they consider joining the National Youth Choir – a remarkable endorsement of their talent and potential.

Completing an exceptional set of results, the Lower School Choir received a Highly Commended award for its performances of *A Million Dreams* and *Shooting Star*. The adjudicators praised the soloists, the choir's warm ensemble tone, even vocal quality and confident solo singing, recognising the potential of the younger singers while encouraging them to continue developing their harmony singing and dynamic contrast.

The competition was judged by Caroline Radcliffe and Saffron van Zwanenberg, with organisers describing this year's event as attracting a record-breaking number of entries, making the achievements of Crispin's choirs even more significant.

Alison Cooper-White, Head of Performance Faculty at Crispin School, said:

"I am incredibly proud of every student who took part. For all three of our choirs to receive recognition in such a competitive event is a wonderful achievement and reflects the enthusiasm, commitment and teamwork shown by our students throughout the year. To be crowned Secondary Category champions and receive an invitation to perform at the Somerset County Carol Concert is a fantastic honour, while the judges' comments about the culture of singing at Crispin School are something of which we are immensely proud. Congratulations to every student who represented the school so brilliantly."

These results reflect the vibrant musical life at Crispin School, where students are encouraged to develop their confidence, creativity and musicianship through singing, drama and performance. The school now looks forward to showcasing its award-winning Show Choir at the Somerset County Carol Concert later this year.



Aspiration & Employability

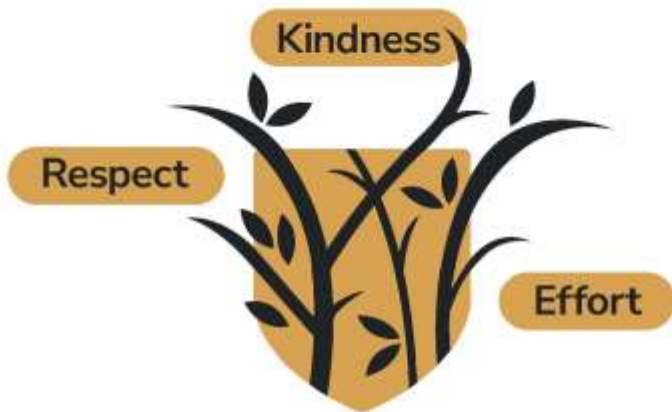
Year 10 Work Experience

Our amazing Year 10 students have smashed it again on their Work Experience week.

This is just a snapshot, but thanks to all the businesses, schools, organisations and shops, local and otherwise, for giving them such fantastic opportunities to develop their skills and confidence in the workplace.



Voice of Crispin



Always ask for help, learning should be a challenge and we all need help along the way.

Do not stand for someone interrupting your learning - this is, and will never be, right.

Somerset Domestic Abuse Service

Drop-in sessions

Please come along to our new drop-in sessions and speak to one of our qualified Domestic Abuse workers.

We are here to provide free and confidential advice on issues you may be struggling with as a result of domestic abuse and we can offer support for ongoing situations involving domestic abuse.

We offer advice on a range of topics including:

- Housing
- Safety planning
- Children services
- Legal matters

For more information, please contact Somerset Domestic Abuse Service on **0800 69 49 999** and select option 2.

The YUL Trust supports and advises people experiencing domestic abuse on behalf of Somerset Council.



Chard

10am - 1pm, every 2nd Friday of the month
Chard Library, Holyrood Street, Chard, TA20 2YA

Street

10am-1pm, every 3rd Tuesday of the month
Room 21, Crispin Hall 63 High Street, Street, Somerset, BA10 0EZ

Yeovil

5pm-8pm, every 1st Thursday and 3rd Thursday of the month, Abbey Manor Business Centre, Preston Road, Yeovil, BA20 2EN

Wellington from April 2026

10am-1pm, every 4th Thursday of the month
Kings Arms Community Hub, 4 High St, Wellington TA21 8RA

Bridgwater

10am - 1pm, every 1st Tuesday of the month, Nelson's Trust Women's Centre, 14 King Square, Bridgwater, TA8 3DG

ChatHealth



Emotional Health
Relationships
Sexual Health
Drugs
Smoking
Alcohol

Got a concern?

If you're 11-19

it only takes one text to start making a difference

You'll get confidential advice from your School Nursing Team and you don't have to give your name if you don't want to.

Just send a text

07480 635 516

Improving LIVES

Disclaimer: This is not an emergency service. It operates Monday to Friday between 10am and 5pm and is only available by using a UK mobile number. Your messages are stored on our secure system and can be seen by the School Nursing Team who run our ChatHealth Service. Although this is a confidential service, as the owner of an organisation using the School Nurse has a duty of care to act on this and may escalate the concern.

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND HAS ENDED

Automatic holiday food vouchers are no longer available.

If you're struggling with food costs, there is support available in Somerset.

<p>1 </p> <p>CRISIS AND RESILIENCE FUND (CRF)</p> <p>Managed by Somerset Council alongside local charities, this fund provides emergency support to residents experiencing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden financial hardship • Unexpected crises • Difficulty affording food or other essentials <p>You can apply for emergency assistance, including food support or food parcels, by contacting the fund directly.</p>	<p>2 </p> <p>CITIZENS ADVICE SOMERSET</p> <p>Citizens Advice Somerset can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Assess your financial situation ✓ Provide crisis payments or supermarket vouchers (where eligible) ✓ Refer you to local food banks ✓ Help you access other benefits and support <p>ADVICE LINE: 0808 278 7842 Monday to Friday</p>	<p>3 </p> <p>HAPPY HEALTHY HOLIDAYS (HHH)</p> <p>If your child is eligible for free school meals, they may be able to attend Happy Healthy Holidays (HHH) programmes during school holidays.</p> <p>These holiday clubs offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Free activities  A nutritious meal each day  Sports, games and enrichment activities
<p>4 </p> <p>EMERGENCY FOOD BANKS</p> <p>If you need food urgently, you may be able to receive a referral for an emergency food parcel.</p> <p>Referral vouchers can usually be issued by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Your GP  Schools  Health visitors  Social workers  Citizens Advice Somerset 	<p>5 </p> <p>NHS Healthy Start</p> <p>HEALTHY START</p> <p>You may qualify for a Healthy Start card if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are at least 10 weeks pregnant, or • Have a child under 4 years old, and meet the eligibility criteria. <p>The card can be used to buy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Fruit and vegetables  Milk  Infant formula  Pulses 	



If you live in Somerset and are worried about affording food, contact Citizens Advice Somerset first. They can help identify which schemes you're eligible for and may also be able to help with other costs such as energy bills, housing, and benefits.

SUPPORT IS HERE FOR YOU

YEAR 8 PARENTS

TAKE YOUR CHILD *to Work Day!*

FRIDAY 10TH JULY

If your child is taking part in Take Your Child to Work Day, please let us know. 

LET US KNOW EITHER WAY
It only takes a minute, and it helps us plan and support our students effectively.

IF WE DO NOT HEAR FROM YOU, we will assume your child will be in school.

IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT IN SCHOOL and we have not been informed, their absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

PLEASE LET US KNOW VIA THE MS FORM SENT VIA EMAIL

THANK YOU FOR WORKING WITH US
to support your child's opportunities.

TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE EXPERIENCE, LEARN AND GROW.



Crispin School invites you, your family and friends to a Private Viewing of GCSE Art, Graphics, Photography & Product Design work.

CREATIVITY & INNOVATION EXHIBITION

TUESDAY 7TH JULY
5:30-7pm
INNOVATION HUB



CRISPIN SCHOOL LIBRARY


OPEN DAILY AT BREAK AND LUNCH TIME

Our library is a calm, inviting, and comfortable environment, and places great emphasis on encouraging reading for pleasure and relaxation.

Crispin School Shop

We have a **school shop** located at the bottom of **Tower Block** (for students only).

It is open **Monday and Wednesday** during term time from **13:30 - 14:10** where you can purchase stationery equipment etc.





Important Calendar Dates

Monday 06 July	Kenya Trip Departs LAC Coffee Morning, 11:30 - 13:00
Tuesday 07 July	Year 7 Geography Trip (X) Creativity & Innovation Exhibition, 17:30 - 19:00
Wednesday 08 July	Year 7 Geography Trip (Y)
Thursday 09 July	Headteacher's Award Ceremony, 18:30
Monday 13th July	Netherlands Trip Departs
Tuesday 14 July	Thrive Day 1 - Sports Day & Colour Run
Wednesday 15 July	Thrive Day 2
Thursday 16 July	Thrive Day 3
Friday 17 July	Netherlands Trip Returns End of Term for Students, 12:15
Monday 17 - Wednesday 19 August	Year 6 Summer School
Thursday 20 August	Year 11 GCSE Results Day

