

STAY IN TOUCH

Crompton House C of E School Newsletter



Issue 31 - September 2023



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Our Head of School Welcome Message

Welcome from the Head of School, Mrs Susanna Hegarty.

As we draw near to the end of our first half term, I wanted to take a moment to extend my gratitude for the warm welcome I have received as the new Head of School.

These past weeks have been a whirlwind of activity and I am immensely impressed by the dedication, passion and resilience of our students, staff, and parents. There is a real atmosphere of enthusiasm and motivation throughout the school and the commitment we have to fostering an environment of excellence is evident in all we strive to do, both within and beyond our school walls.

With this newsletter, I am eager to share the highlights and achievements of the new academic year so far with you. From inspiring classroom discussions to competitive sporting events, to moments of kindness and support, this newsletter edition is a glimpse into the progress and accomplishments of our students. I invite you to read on and discover the inspiring stories, achievements, and experiences that have already made this academic year one to remember.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Crompton House community. Together, we will continue to nurture the potential within every student and create a vibrant learning environment where success knows no bounds.

Warm regards



Introducing Our New Chaplain

This term we also welcome our new school chaplain, Rev Bec Wilkinson. Based in the new chaplain space near the school hall, students can see Rev Bec every Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtime for spiritual guidance. In the coming weeks sessions will focus on the themes of friendship, the environment and gender.



Our Year 7s' First Day



KENYA 2023

This summer a group of intrepid sixth formers followed the school motto 'sapere aude' – dare to know or dare to be wise, a theme for recent worship. "The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding."

(Proverbs 4:6-7). This is about putting yourself in new situations to gain knowledge that can then be acted on in your life to have a positive impact on yourself and others.

So, for 2 weeks in July this group of students, Mr Banks and Miss McDanielson visited Kenya. There were a number of aims but essentially the trip was about personal challenge and benefitting people far less fortunate than ourselves.

On our arrival we were taken to our campsite in Embu. This is where we met a group of young people who we would spend most of the time with and our support team. The special thing about these people is that they have come from the streets/ slums of Embu or Nairobi and are getting (or have acquired) an education to better their chances of good jobs and lives. Throughout the 2 weeks we all worked, did trips and took part in activities together and spent a joyous time learning about each other's lifestyles, (inc. for us learning some Swahili) etc. Our backgrounds were irrelevant in one sense as we were just ordinary people sharing extra-ordinary experiences and lifelong friendships have been formed through them. In Embu, we spent time helping at the Moving Mountains Rescue centre, which feeds 150 street children and teenagers every day, we visited local primary and special schools and each of us spent a morning teaching the super enthusiastic young children at Gatwe primary.

Then we moved onto our physical challenge – Mt Kenya. This is the second highest mountain in Africa at just over 5000m. The 4-day trek passed through lush bamboo forest with Colobus monkeys, buffalo, hornbills and much more wildlife, up to the vertical bog and then the surreal alpine moorland which has a lot of Giant Lobelia as well as MacKinders Gladiolus.

Entering the Teleki valley with its Giant Cabbage Groundsels and the view of the summit was breath-taking, as was the altitude. The group reached the Mackinders Hut at 4,200+ m (higher than most Alpine mountains + 4 x Ben Nevis). Altitude got the better of some but others got up at 1.00am on summit day to take on the final challenge. Although not all made the summit every individual learned so much about resilience, about pushing to the limits (and beyond what they thought they could do) and themselves that it was a positive experience for all. Also everyone supported each other in true Crompton House style.

Mount Kenya – Naro Moru Route (3)

After this we had earned our safari experiences near the end of the trip. Crossing the Equator to take canoes on a lake, bicycles to Hells Gate, and a safari vehicle for the bush/savannah tours. Luck was with us as we saw lions, rhinos, giraffes, buffalos, hyenas, zebras and so much more.

Our final couple of days were spent in Nairobi seeing the basic office for Moving Mountains and taking a journey through Kibera slum (the largest in Africa) which continued to put our lives in the UK into perspective. Two weeks was not enough to get involved in making a big difference, but we were assured that our being there interacting with the young people and support team, helps to raise aspirations and our money will help to fund their education. The funds will also help the schools MM have set up, provide meals for the street children and give basic jobs to people who desperately need them.

We are proud of our students and what they have done and there is a shared goal of continuing to do more for the Moving Mountains charity this year. Keep a look out for further fundraising and maybe have a look at the MM website.

<https://www.adventurealternative.com/>



Harley is in Emmerdale!

It has been an exciting start to the new term for Year 10 student Harley Hamilton who has been selected to play the latest member of the Emmerdale cast. Harley plays Oscar, a teen who has a rare blood disorder, after landing the role through a talent agency.

Prior to this, Harley attended former Shameless star Sarah Byrne's Acting Academy, based at Hulme Grammar School over a six month period.

Excited to speak with us, Harley explained, 'I hope Emmerdale will carry on forever. I would encourage anyone who wants to act but isn't quite sure to just go for it. Push yourself forward and get yourself there.'

Oscar explained the love of "dealing with different situations" as an enjoyment of acting. 'On the way to set, you start to prepare [his character]. As soon as the director says action, I'm there.'

A huge congratulations Harley! We are all incredibly proud of you.



Year 13 Geography: North Wales Trip By Owen Holdaway

Monday, the 18th of September, was the day that commenced the Year 13 Geography trip to North Wales. The day began with an early start, with heavy rain making the journey to North Wales (along with the new 20mph speed limit) a long journey. Our spirits were kept high due to Mr Douglas' top quality tunes on the minibus. Our first stop of the day was Talacre beach to measure the formation of sand dunes behind the beach, as well as the conditions in which they formed. We measured the wind speed with an anemometer, and as it was exceptionally windy, we got some very intriguing data. It was surprising how much the wind dropped just a few tens of meters from the High-water mark. Measuring the width of the beach was also undertaken, which proved harder than it sounds, due to the strong winds making the tape measure act more like a sail!

Sand dune measuring completed we headed to Ross on Sea to look at the new sea defences being installed, and to test out the new sun loungers that had been put up. Our final stop of the day was the youth hostel, where we had a delicious meal (pizza and garlic bread for me, which was perfect after a busy day). After that, there was just time for a quick run before we sat down to complete our calculations, honing our skills for our NEAs. When we finished, there was plenty of time to use the pool table, or to have a game of table football before it was time for bed. The next day began with an essential bit of fieldwork - a variety of breakfast options. A full English for me, washed down with a glass of apple juice. Due to the glorious September Welsh weather (heavy rain), we continued with theory work, which, when completed (the weather had cleared up) we walked the short distance from the youth hostel to Conwy. Today was all about human geography, and we did creative fieldwork such as tallying up different kinds of shops, and comparing the number of chain stores to the number of independent retailers in the town. As well as the more conventional data collection methods, we also did some more 'creative' ones, like mood mapping, (my mood was mysteriously the happiest when outside the ice cream shop).



Our Jeans for Genes Day

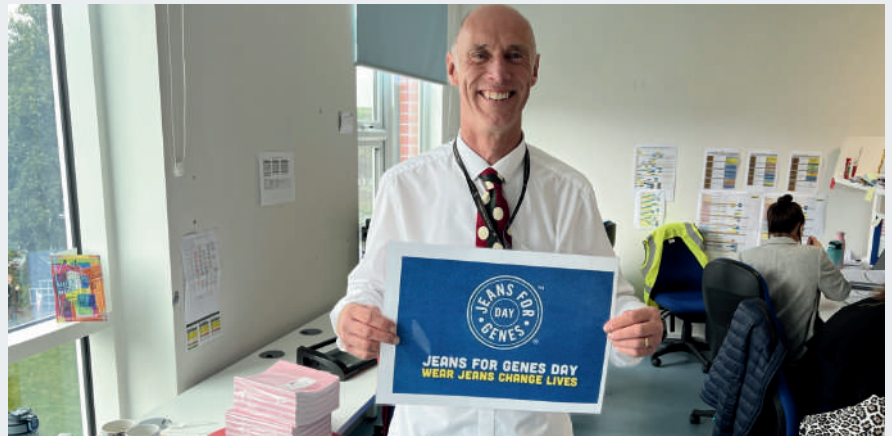
By Madeline Bamford



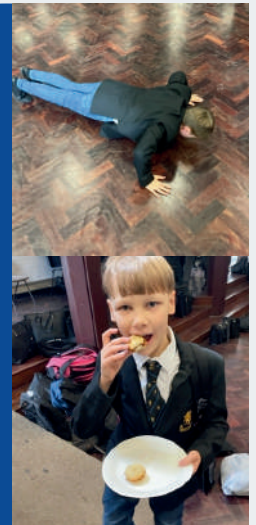
On the 22nd of September 2023, the Student Management team organised a bake sale for Jeans for Genes day, encouraging the entirety of Crompton House to come in wearing their jeans.

Jeans for Genes day raises awareness of the daily challenges faced by those living with a genetic condition and raises money to fund projects that make a tangible difference to the lives of those affected. The day also celebrates the achievements of those living with a genetic condition. By wearing jeans, it encourages us to recognize our own differences and the importance of spreading awareness of genetic conditions.

Overall, the day was a success, raising £696.25 overall. However, none of this would have been possible without those who brought in cakes and got involved by wearing their jeans and donating. The cakes this year were amazing and it was clear how much effort was made.



"In the hall one of the kids asked if he did 5 press ups could he have double the cake for his money – Harry agreed!"
Mrs Atkins
Sixth Form Admin



RE Cross Competition



Winner: Emma Cowling (year 7)

Runner up: Ava McDonald (year 7)



Winner: Kasey Heppel and Max Jones (year 10)

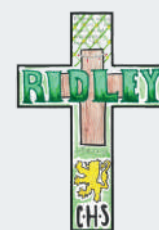
Runner up: Devaansh Sisodia (year 7)

At the end of last term, in Religious studies, pupils were asked to create a cross for their house as part of a competition. We had some stunning entries, and the selected winners have been put on display in form rooms around the school. In total, there are four winners and four runners-up (winners pictured and their prizes). Well done to all those who entered!



Winner: Ella Woodward (year 9)

Runner up: Laiba Ali (year 7)



Winner: Harry Morgan (year 10)

Runner up: Joseph Thompson (year 7)



National Youth Programme Selection for Oliver



This month Year 11 student Oliver Parry has received some exciting news. He's been Selected to take part in the National Youth Development Programme (NYDP), a programme which only selects exceptional achievers, where he will be given expert advice and training on how to be more successful in a competitive environment. Oliver has always been a natural swimmer, joining ORCA - Royton & Crompton Swimming Club at the age of six where he started training at Club level three times a week. He then joined Oldham Aquatics Advanced Training Squad at around 8 years old where he then started training more, including 5.30am early morning training sessions. He started to compete in Open Meets from the age of 9 travelling to various swimming pools around the North West medalling in various races. From the age of 10 he started winning medals at Lancashire County Championships in most of his events (over 50 titles), progressing to becoming the North West Regional Champion in many swim strokes and distances.

He was on the Swim England County and Regional Talent Pathway, and is now on the Swim England National Youth Development Program for Sprint and Middle Distance Swimming where he will be attending Camps at Loughborough University this year. He has represented Lancashire in the National County Championships and will do so again on the 8th Oct in Sheffield. He has represented the North West Schools Division in the English Schools Swimming Association Inter Divisional Championships numerous times representing Crompton House English Schools Swimming Association (essa-schoolswimming.com).

Since the start of 2023 Oliver moved clubs to Aquabears of Rochdale to train under the Head Coach John Weaver there, where he trains 7 times a week- approximately 17 hours of training in a mixture of pool and gym sessions.

In August this year Oliver completed in the British National Championships in Sheffield where he placed a close 4th in 100m backstroke. He also became English National Champion in 50m breaststroke and came 2nd in the 200m Individual Medley. His next big event will be Winter Nationals in December and then prepare for British and English nationals again next Summer whilst focusing on his GCSE's.

Outside swimming, his daily routine apart from school and training is challenging, trying to consume 5000 calories per day and sleep as much as possible to recover from training! This doesn't leave much time for anything else! His long term goal is swimming for Team GB in Los Angeles 2028 in the Olympics - Oliver's short term goals are to swim for GB at European Juniors and also qualify for a Scholarship program in the US to swim in the NCAA Division 1.

We wish Oliver all of the best for the future and we wish him a huge congratulations on this fabulous news.



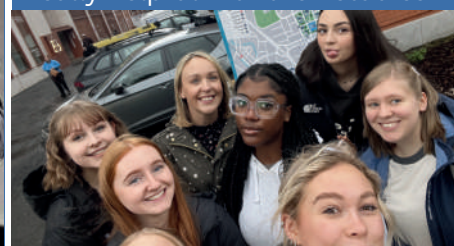
Toby's Band Are Champions

On the 17th September, Year 12 Musician Toby Stott attended the National Brass Band Championship Final with his band, Whitworth Vale and Healey, who play in the Second Section. The band played Phillip Sparke's Lakeland Variations, with Toby playing temple blocks, cymbals, bass drum and tubular bells as part of the band's large percussion section. Toby's band did amazingly well, winning the Second Section Brass Band Championship cup. Toby described the event as a "fantastic experience to be part of" and is looking forward to playing and competing with the band in the future.



Our Y13s Visited MMU

The Year 13 French class went to MMU for an A-Level study day on the 20th September. They all had a fantastic time and found it really helpful with their studies.





Our European Languages Day 🥞

Tuesday 26th September saw Crompton House celebrate the European Day of Languages; a Europe wide celebration of linguistic diversity and the benefits of being able to speak another language. Pupils have been getting involved in a range of activities this week, such as careers and futures lessons in MFL, a form quiz, paella and churros for lunch and the French/Spanish language challenge. However, the big event was our International Bake-Off for charity on Tuesday. We had some amazing entries, but our winning prizes went to:

- 1st Place Grace Day in Year 7
- 2nd Place Isabella Newell in Year 7
- 3rd Place William Duxbury in Year 9

We raised a fabulous £79.79 from the Bake-off alone. All proceeds from the day are going to the Manchester Refugee Network.



Our Year 13 Biology Trip

At the end of September, 28 Year 13 Biology A Level students spent three days at the Field Studies Council Preston Montford Centre near Shrewsbury to carry out their ecology required practicals.

Starting off in nearby Carding Mill Valley, they used kick sampling to identify freshwater invertebrates in two different sections of river. Back at the Centre they carried out statistical analyses on the collected data, completing a Chi Squared test to determine whether there was a significant difference between the two ecosystems sampled.

In the evening the students set small mammal traps - they were rewarded with four wood mice and three bank voles in the traps the next morning, higher than the normal 10% success rate for this type of sampling method.

Following a review of techniques from FSC Tutor Charlotte, the students spent the afternoon of Day 2 looking at hydrosere succession around one of the Preston Montford ponds, again returning to the classroom to collate data across the groups and carry out statistical analyses. In the evening the students split into small groups to plan their own independent data collection using some of the techniques learned the previous two days.

The morning of Day 3 was spent gathering these data, with a mix of pond dipping, random meadow sampling and belt transects set up by different groups.



Our 97th Celebration

On the 28th September we celebrated founders day. A number of activities took place, from services which were held in our school hall, a coffee morning raising a fantastic £122 in aid of MacMillan during PSHE lessons and our school choir performed. It was a special day in our school calendar, marking 97 years since our school was opened thanks to the kind donation made by Mrs Anne Ormerod and Miss Mary Crompton.



Oldham Cup Success

The year 10 A team won the Oldham Cup competition on the 27th September, beating Bluecoat, Waterhead and Saddleworth all very convincingly.

The B team also won their competition against the A sides from Failsworth, Radclyffe and Newman, again winning all their games comfortably.



A Success at Our Open Evening

We had a hugely successful Year 6 Open Evening on the 21st September. Over 1000 people walked through our school gates to see how wonderful our school is. We would like to thank everyone who came and also those who helped to organise the evening.



LIBRARY READS

RECOMMENDED BY MRS CULLEN - FIND THEM IN THE LIBRARY OR ON SORA...



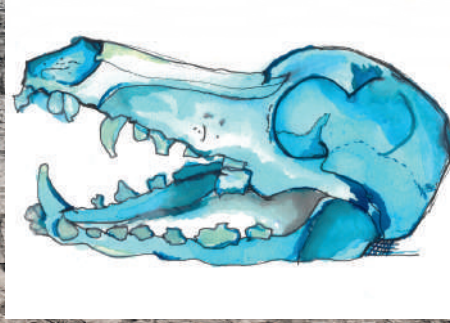
ARTWORK *of the week*



Annie Jakeman Y10



Darcy MacKay Y10



Madison Burfoot Y10



Sophie Meyrick Y11

Wishing You The Best of Luck Mrs Bennett!

This month we said our goodbyes to Teaching Assistant Mrs Bennett: "I have been at Crompton House school for 8 years, which I have greatly enjoyed. I will miss the students and staff and the humour that they bring to brighten up my day. I'm excited about taking early retirement and have lots of plans ahead, including spending more time with my dog and learning more about art."

We wish you all of the best for the future.



Best of Luck Miss Costigan!

We also said goodbye to Teaching Assistant Miss Costigan this term: "I've had 10 fabulous years at CHS, originally starting here in a Pupil Premium role before moving onto a Teaching Assistant position. Working here has enabled me to have a greater understanding of those with SEND. I am in constant admiration of our children and what they can achieve with the help and encouragement from a great team of teachers and support staff. I look forward to a new challenge at Hopwood Hall college but will forever be grateful for the experience and support I have received at Crompton House. Thankyou."

Best of luck! You will be sorely missed.



If you have a story to share please contact:
stayintouch@cromptonhouse.org

COLLECTION POINT

Crompton House - collection for Oldham Foodbank

Emergency food for local people in crisis, please donate an item or two if you can

Thank you!

SHOPPING LIST

- Cooking sauce
- Van
- Cardiff squash
- Thick potatoes
- Carrot
- Washing up liquid
- Bananas/peaches
- Dried lentils
- Onions

Please bring any items to Mrs. Ahmed in the Maths Office or R210. Thank you.

0161 622 1061
tom@oldham.foodbank.org.uk

It has been an exciting month for George Kenyon in Year 11 who has signed up with Leeds United Football Club. Well done!



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