Outstanding Performance in Art & Design

Four students from St Crispin’s each achieved a maximum score of 100% in their GCSE art exam. The exam board, Edexcel, assessed over 34,107 pieces of GCSE art submitted this summer and Gabriella Cox, Natalie Mahon, Sam Montandon and Georgia Quaddy were amongst the top scorers in the UK.

(Mrs Mulunda) art teacher at St Crispin’s said: “This is a wonderful achievement and well deserved. The students are a talented group and I enjoyed teaching them.”

The art department performs well every year and the students take pride in their work and the exhibition of it. Every year the art department, along with the design and technology department, put on an exhibition of their work and many of the pieces are offered on loan to hang in office spaces around Wokingham.

Jen Wood, Arts Coordinator of the Cultural Partnership said: “We have borrowed lots of pieces of artwork from St Crispin’s throughout the past year, and have displayed them in businesses and empty shops around Wokingham Borough. The response to the artwork is always extremely positive and people are always surprised when they realise the work is by ‘AS’ and ‘A’ Level pupils, as the standard and talent demonstrated is to such a high standard.

It has been a pleasure to be able to take the artwork into businesses and help brighten up people’s day. Many thanks to all the students and in particular to Mrs J Barkat (Head of Art) for being so helpful and enthusiastic.”
GCSE students on the front line of history

In October, Mr Blyth and the history department took the Year 11 GCSE history students to Belgium for three days to visit the World War One Battlefields. We visited Hill 62 where we were able to walk through the actual trenches and see for ourselves what it was like to live day and night in them. There were also many craters created by mines and explosions (I managed to fall into one that was full of water). The trip was extremely thought provoking and it made us all realise what the men of WW1 had to go through and most of what we found was shocking. Every cemetery and memorial displayed the scale of warfare and the brutality that was endured on the front line.

As well as portraying the violence and horror of the war, the trip was very informative and everyone discovered new facts about the war which were intriguing and useful for our studies in history. The trip was a great experience and although it dealt with a distressing subject it was extremely enjoyable.

By Sebastian Bowerman (Yr 11)

St Crispin’s and Brookfields School join forces in enterprising scheme

St Crispin’s school is a Leadership Partner school and is committed to developing leadership skills in young people. Eight students between the ages of 15 and 17 had the opportunity to extend their leadership and enterprise skills when they joined Brookfields Specialist SEN School in Tilehurst on a joint project to design new products, which could be marketed to local business partners.

Brookfields School has a strong enterprise culture and many of their products are constructed from recycled materials donated from local companies. Wine racks, bee hives, guinea pig cages and cup trays were just some of the new designs created in the joint venture. The student teams then had to present their prototype designs to an audience of 80 people, demonstrating their presentation and communication skills.

Brookfields staff along with staff from the Education Business Partnership coached St Crispin’s students with the skills required to assist and lead the Brookfields students.

Matthew Fletcher (St Crispin’s Yr 13) said: “The Brookfields trip, although challenging was an extremely rewarding experience. The chance to spend time and adapt to teaching people who have a learning disability is a skill I am sure I will take on and use later in life. I was very pleased to have been selected and hope to be involved in future projects.”

Students from both schools gained a great deal from the two days they spent together, and they hope to join up again next year to collaborate on some new product development projects.

By Sebastian Bowerman (Yr 11)
Enterprise Day

Enterprise day allows students to gain essential life skills necessary for the work place. **The Central Berkshire Education Business Partnership** is an independent company which works with schools and businesses to help young people acquire the skills and experience they will need for their own development and to enable them to play a full part in the life of the community. The main focus of the CBEBP’s work is with the 14 - 19 year age group.

Representatives from CBEBP came into school to work with Year 10 students on a business project. Working in teams, students identified market needs before exploring ideas for a business venture. Once the team had decided on a project each member was assigned a specific role with responsibilities. At the end of the day each team presented their ideas to their peers and teachers and the winning team won Oracle vouchers. The key skills students develop on Enterprise days are:

- Idea generation
- Group negotiation
- Team working
- Time management
- Problem solving

The winning enterprise day team receiving their Oracle vouchers from Mrs Mitchell, Head Of Business Studies

The best work experience student in Berkshire

Fern Brereton won the award for **Best Work Experience Student 2010**. Fern spent her week at the Coombe CE Primary School, where she made such a good impression that she was nominated for the best student award. Fern then went on to come first out of 3000 students and was invited to attend the CBEBP awards ceremony in October, held at the Novotel Hotel in Reading.

During the evening, awards were presented to individuals and businesses that have made an outstanding contribution to young people in the Reading and Wokingham areas in work related learning.

Fern Brereton collecting her award

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St Crispin’s hosted a student leadership event with an Olympian focus on Tuesday 19th October. Student delegates travelled from Hampshire, Kent, Buckinghamshire and Sussex to attend the one day event, which encouraged students to develop leadership skills through organising an Olympic themed event in their own school.

Anna Hemmings MBE, Olympian and six times world champion canoeist, gave an inspirational presentation on the history and values of the Olympics and how those values may be used in other walks of life. Caitlin Devereux said: “Anna’s presentation was inspirational as she demonstrated that with hard work and determination it was possible to achieve your goals. She was a positive example as she demonstrated how she managed to overcome chronic fatigue syndrome to succeed as a sports athlete and business woman.”

Working in teams, students brainstormed ideas about how they could implement Olympic values in their own school. After much consideration many schools decided to run an Olympic day or week at their school, involving all the different subject areas. St Crispin’s has decided to change sports day to an Olympic day, with each tutor group choosing a different country to represent. Students will explore the culture and environment of their chosen country, which will involve studying geography and history. They will design posters which will require work in English, art and technology; maths skills will be required for looking at data. Finally the sciences, PE and food technology will play a dominant part when considering the health, fitness and performance of competitive athletes.

St Crispin’s student achieves long term ambition

Adam Bailey was always sure that he wanted to help society in some way and on leaving St Crispin’s in 2006 he went on to study for a foundation degree in Paramedic Practice at Sheffield Hallam. He recently passed his advanced ambulance driving test and has just secured a job as a paramedic for East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS).
Year 8 Team Building 2010

Each year St Crispin's students are offered the opportunity to experience a residential trip that takes place over a weekend. This autumn, Year 8 students visited PGL's Osmington Bay to take part in a team building weekend. The students followed a programme of activities including; abseiling, quad biking, problem solving and climbing.

Osmington Bay is on the coast of Dorset, and has beautiful coastal views - luckily during our stay the sun shone all weekend. 14 members of staff accompanied the students on the trip and they all agreed that this year group were 'fantastic' and a credit to themselves and the school.

“Team Building was so much fun, I can't wait for next year,”

“I was able to overcome some fears and really enjoyed being away with my friends.”

“The giant swing was a daunting task, but my whole team and I had a go and encouraged each other all the way'.”

Tamsin Bradley 8KSA & Sophie Burrows 8KSA

By Miss K Savage (teacher of drama & dance)

Artistic inspiration along the Thames

Gifted and talented KS3 art students went to London to take part in a multi media art workshop. Students were set the challenge to create a piece of work which captured the essence and mood of one of London’s most iconic landscapes - the view of St Paul’s Cathedral from the south bank of the river Thames. Standing along the Embankment, students worked in inks on acetate or with charcoal and a putty rubber to create their scenes.

After a creative morning, the KS3 students went into the Tate Modern to view the works on show. ‘A’ Level art students and school staff guided the younger students around the gallery and gave insightful talks on the exhibits.
AS Drama & Theatre Studies and the Thames Valley Police

AS theatre studies students were given the opportunity to use their skills outside the classroom in a project with the Thames Valley Police. Martin Elliot, Community Liaison Manager for the TVP, organised for the students to work on the set of a police training video, which took place at the Ibis Hotel in Reading. The students were given role-play scenarios and one student had to memorise a monologue for one of the roles. The students found the experience invaluable and hope to work on other projects with the Thames Valley Police and the wider community. Martin described our students as: ‘enthusiastic, mature and a pleasure to work with and a credit to the school and themselves.’ Martin looks forward to providing more students from St Crispin’s with similar opportunities to work on community projects.

By Miss Kate Savage (teacher Drama & Dance)

The students involved were: Alex Kennet, Will Pennington, Jay Newton, Becky Jones, Milly Beech, Stephanie Seear, Emma Gilbey and Jenna Hartnett

Governors in School Day

Every year the governors of St Crispin’s visit the school to sample a taste of school life. On Friday 18th June, my fellow governors and I began the day with a briefing from Mr Biddle in the staff room after which we were allocated a student to shadow throughout the day. The first lesson of the day was geography with Miss Hay, in the library where students were working on a project about the spread of Aids throughout the world. This was followed by a quick transfer to the top of the tower for an RE lesson from Miss Brickell about prison conditions in Victorian times and how they compare with prisons today.

After a coffee break back in the staff room, it was over to the language block for a German lesson taken by Miss Gabbitas. The whole lesson, which was based on a test, was taught in German – an interesting experience for someone who does not speak the language.

The governors then ate lunch with the students in the canteen before the start of afternoon lessons. Another governor and I then went to watch Mr Ford teaching tennis in the Sports Centre. All the governors agreed it was an interesting and informative day. Our thanks go to Mr Biddle and the staff for enabling us to participate in the school day as well as to the students who agreed to be shadowed.

Wendy Dacey (School Governor)
Careers Evening

St Crispin’s School hosted a careers evening which gave students and their parents an opportunity to put questions to businesses and further education colleges about possible career paths.

Students as young as fourteen are now thinking seriously about their futures and many showed an interest in apprenticeships, especially in engineering, as it appears there is likely to be a shortage of engineers, both electrical and mechanical, in the future.

There were representatives from HSBC, Romans the estate agents, South Hill Park Arts Centre, The Army, The Royal Air Force, The Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, ICE - The institution of Civil Engineers and JTL, as well as many colleges of further education.

The evening was received positively by students and parents and the exhibitors were impressed by the interest shown by the youngsters.  
*Tania Hemley (Careers evening co-ordinator)*

Polish visitors take a Science lesson

Three scientists from Warsaw in Poland visited St Crispin’s to observe how science is taught in the English classroom. The purpose of their visit was to enable them to make comparisons and undertake analysis of teaching systems across Europe. The scientists are also going to visit schools in France, Spain and the Czech Republic. The visitors were able to make contact with St Crispin’s through the University of Reading where we have links to many educational programmes.

*Joanna Lilpop - Scientist, Urszula Poziomek – Scientist and Piotr Walicki (Educator)* enjoyed their day at St Crispin’s and said they had been made to feel most welcome and thought the students were ‘delightful’.
On Wednesday 3rd November Year 7 students participated in a PLTS (Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills) morning. The pupils spent the first session in the hall with Mr Blyth, who explained to them the meanings of government and politics. They then watched a short presentation which outlined some of the problems faced by us in the 21st Century, ranging from international terrorism to homelessness.

The students were then divided into small groups and were asked to create their own political party. We had some fantastic names, The People Unite Party and the Loonier than the Looney Party were just two of the party names. Whilst working as part of a team, they created a logo, slogan and manifesto. In the final session, each group presented their party to the class and when this was completed a secret ballot took place. Each form group has voted in a winning party and they will present to the rest of the year group in the next assembly. It was an excellent morning and the students came up with some fantastic ideas on how to put the Great back in to Britain. Watch this space for the next Churchill to be a St Crispin’s student.

Mr R Blyth (Yr 7 DAW & History teacher)

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Mr R Blyth (Yr 7 DAW & History teacher)

Sharmaine Clark, Charlotte Chivers and Lacey Eyles present their party’s aims.

Luke Daughters, Kyle McLoughlin, Callum Hughes and Conor Breslin work on their party manifesto.

Wokingham Student Youth Council

Lewis Mallet, Elinor Lower, Jay Newton and Emily Islip have had their applications to stand as youth MPs accepted by Catriona MacMillan of Wokingham District Council. The candidates will be asked to campaign on 3 main issues that they believe affect the lives of young people in the Wokingham Borough and how they would work best towards improving services or facilities across the Borough.

The voting process will take place over the course of one week in December. Young people can vote in schools, youth centres or at other nominated polling stations across the area. Election events at polling stations can be either one day during the voting week or more. The successful candidate will then take up their role of Member of Youth Parliament for Wokingham on 1 February 2011.

By Mrs H Beukes (maths teacher & student leadership coordinator)
**Special Mentions**

**Scarlett Waddington** (8JCN), a dedicated dancer who attends 14 dance classes a week has qualified for the regional finals in the All England Dance Competition. Congratulations and good luck Scarlett!

Congratulations to **Megan Averill** and **Jessica Fletcher** (Year 11) for being selected to play U16 County Football. They were selected from a strong field of players at trials, which were held at Bulmershe School.

**Matthew Jasper** was invited to the National Mathematics Summer School at Queen’s College Birmingham following an excellent performance in the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge. The mathematical activities were intensive and designed to stimulate around 40 of the UK’s most talented young mathematicians. Matthew said: “**On the maths summer-school I learnt about much more advanced and interesting maths problems than we have done in school and I learnt about new areas of maths, such as impartial games and mathematical induction. I met other people who are just as interested in mathematics as me. It was very interesting.**”

**Creative writers:** Laura Sibley, Rebecca Harrison and Charlotte Gantzer were amongst the top ten writers in the Wokingham Schools’ Short Story competition, and received a "highly commended" certificate signed by Hayley Davies-Edwards, the Secondary Learning and Achievement Service Manager at Wokingham Borough Council.

The **Tucasi on-line payment** system is working extremely well and we would like to thank everyone who has used the system to pay for trips/planners etc. We are delighted that so many of you are now choosing to pay on-line. The system is easy to use and we would encourage you to use it wherever possible, especially as personal cheques will be withdrawn from use in 2012 and so the online system will be the only alternative to paying by cash. There is a dedicated helpline email address (see below) so if you have any problems we will be happy to help you. Please be aware that even when paying on-line for trips you still need to return a consent form to the school office. A place on the trip cannot be secured until this is received, and we are unable to confirm with you, or the trip organiser, the numbers attending until we have parental consent for the activity.

**Benefits of Tucasi**

Tucasi allows you to track your payments so you always have access to the amount paid and the amount still owing and you can pay in small instalments to suit your budget up to the deadline dates. In addition you will be able to view all the trips available to your son/daughter. So why not try the system the next time you are required to pay for something - it really is very easy and we are always on hand to help.

Thank you. **Mrs S Harker (Bursar)**

[onlinepayments@st-crispins.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:onlinepayments@st-crispins.wokingham.sch.uk)
St Crispin’s School once again scooped top marks when they came first in the annual Schools Gardening Competition. Success was achieved through team effort by students, staff and the PTA, admirably led by Mr Bannatyne Shaw, the site controller. Joy Westlake, Finnbar Crockett-Magee, Daniel Gleeson and Karl Dunne began a long-term project as part of their ASDAN qualification, which saw them renovating the whole school allotment. They dug up the majority of the beds, rotated the soil, refreshed with topsoil and mixed in manure for growth. In addition to this, the students planted a huge variety of vegetables including: cabbages, broccoli, potatoes, onions, and leeks to name but a few. The team also worked together with members of the gardening club to plant strawberries and to construct the frames and netting to stop birds from getting to the fruit. The PTA gardening team also played a huge part and several times throughout the year valiantly took on the onerous task of weeding beds around the school. Judgement day was turned into a social event when the gardening team and Mr Shaw invited other members of the school to come along and sample the strawberries which were teamed up with homemade scones baked by the food technology students. Musical accompaniment was provided by Mrs Jane Asher (Head of Music) and the student string orchestra.

The competition was judged on 7th July by Paul Smith - Amenities Officer, Cllr Barbara Bench, Cllr Philip Houldsworth and Cllr Elsie Hudson from the Wokingham Town Council.

Paul Smith (Amenities officer) said:

“We were impressed with the consistency of effort and its application over a long period of time.”

Mr Bannatyne Shaw said:

“It’s a real joy to see the looks on students’ faces when they harvest the produce grown from the tiny seeds they planted earlier in the year. The gardening projects at St Crispin’s are such a success because everyone here works as a team.”
**BIOLOGY NEWS**

In addition to the gardens two beautiful lilies made an appearance to add to the garden display. The Biology department has been nurturing a pond for the last two years to encourage an ecosystem to thrive so that students can study how wildlife in the pond develops over time. Students now also have the opportunity to further their interest in gardening and the food cycle by caring for 6 hens which were recruited to the St Crispin’s community. The hens enjoy wandering around the gardens during the day and retire to the safety of their hen house once the light starts to fade. They appear happy in their new home and their contentment is clearly evident by their plentiful production of eggs during the summer months.

**Sports News**

**Girls Results**

**Year 8 Netball**
- v Emmbrook. Lost 8-6
- v Holt. Lost 18-9 (much improved since we last played them!)
- v Luckley. Won 7-5
- v Bearwood. Won 8-3

**Year 10 Netball**
- v Luckley. Lost 9-7
- v Bearwood. Won 8-6

**Year 9 Netball**
Came 5/8 in their group in the South East Berks Netball Tournament - a massive achievement as they were one of only 3 state schools in their group.

**U16 Hockey**
- v Maiden Erlegh 0-0

**U 14 Hockey**
- V Maiden Erlegh Lost 1-0

**Boys Results**

**Year 7 Rugby**
- Beat Maiden Erlegh 45-5
- Beat Piggott 55-5
- Beat Bulmershe 10-0 (Floodlit League)
- Beat Waingels 15-5 (Floodlit League)

**Year 8 Rugby**
- Lost to Edgebarrow 10-5
- Beat Waingels 15-5
- Beat Maiden Erlegh 25-15
- Lost to Forest 20-0 (Floodlit League)
- Beat Emmbrook 21-0 (Floodlit League)

**Year 9 Rugby**
- Beat Edgebarrow 35-7
- Lost to Bearwood 22-7
- Lost to Forest 15-10 (Floodlit League)
- Lost to Piggott 21-10 (Floodlit League)

**Year 10 Rugby**
- Lost LVS 17-22 (Daily Mail Cup 1st Round)
- Beat Bearwood 38-21 (Daily Mail Plate)
- Beat Edgebarrow 45-10

**Football**
- Year 11 – Lost to Denefield 4-1 (County Cup 1st Rnd)
- Year 10 – Beat St. Josephs 6-2 (County Cup 1st Rnd)
  - Beat Wexham 9-3 (County Cup 2nd Rnd)
**JUICE**

**JUICE** points are the newly commissioned NHS drop-in-clinics which offer a range of health services for young people including:

- Nutrition
- Smoking, drinking and substance misuse
- Relationship and sexual health
- Contraceptives
- Dealing with stress, bullying and harassment

The local JUICE point in Wokingham is every Thursday at Wokingham Hospital from 3:30—5:30. The staff are friendly and confidential and there is no need to make an appointment - just drop in!

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### Youth Cafe

**Wednesdays and Thursdays (term time)**

Bradbury Centre (entrance Rose Street carpark)

3:15—5:30

Year 7 upwards

**Things to do:**

- Laptops with internet access
- Table tennis
- Fooseball
- Wii on the big screen
- PS3
- Pool

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### On the Menu

- Milk shakes
- Hot chocolate
- Toast
- Cakes
- Fruit
- Various snacks

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**NHS**

**Parents/Guardians**

If you have any health concerns about your son or daughter e.g. weight concerns, difficulties sleeping, mental health worries or any other concerns, you can contact the St Crispin’s School nurse, Julia Lamming on:

0118 9495055

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St Crispin’s has been awarded the Intermediate level of the *International School Award*. This means that as a school we have made connections across the globe with schools from overseas. The aim of the scheme is to develop pupils' awareness of the cultures of other countries, while at the same time understanding and appreciating their own country’s culture.