



Maths &  
Computing



ST CRISPIN'S – A SPECIALIST SCHOOL IN MATHS, COMPUTING & LEADERSHIP



Excellence for all

September 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome to the new term and an especially warm welcome to those parents who are new to the school.

Following the retirement of Alex Biddle after 20 years as Headteacher, we look forward to a busy and productive term. Ahead of us we have the arrival in January of our new Headteacher Ms Ginny Rhodes to which we can look forward. This letter seeks to update you on recent developments in school and also contains some routine but important information.

One sad piece of news to report is the death of our former colleague, Mr Merv Bliss who passed away during the holiday following a period of illness. Mr Bliss worked at St Crispin's for 36 years until his retirement in 2009 and made a large contribution to the life of the school during that time.

### **Communications by e-mail**

Our preferred method of communication with you is by e-mail and we would encourage you to register via the School Office if you have not already done so.

### **Examinations**

The 'A' level results were very good indeed – our best ever. 9% of the grades were A\*, 27% A\* or A, 61% A\* - B and 88% A\* - C with each of these percentages being higher than ever before. The overall pass rate was 99.6% and the vast majority of students secured their first or second choice place at University. The GCSE results were also good, although like many schools we have been affected by the sudden change in the grade boundaries for English. The overall proportion of students gaining 5A\* - C grades was 85%, our second highest ever. With 64% achieving 5A\*-C including English and Maths.

### **Premises**

A great deal of premises related activities took place during the summer break. This included a complete refurbishment of the school dining room. Various areas have new blackout curtains, new furniture, ceilings replaced and have been decorated.

The new Science Block continues to take shape with work internally commencing very shortly. The MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) has been completed and is available to the PE department this term. The landscaping around this area has been delayed due to all the excessive rainfall, but will be completed very shortly. The old Biology block is being completely refurbished as a new Music block which will be ready for occupation in October this year. The toilet refurbishment programme is continuing this term.

### **Fred Millett Mural**

Further to our work last year to reveal the mural titled Summer we are currently having the Autumn mural restored. Work should be completed later this month after which we will arrange an official opening. This ongoing project continues to be led by Robin Cops, a former long-serving Governor of the school. The murals were originally painted onto 3 walls when the school was opened in 1953.

### **Events/Trips**

We are attaching a revised list of trips and activities for the year with approximate dates - some still need to be confirmed so please be aware that there are likely to be changes.

The introduction of “trips days” a few years ago has proved very successful. Parents new to the school might wish to know why we do this. Rather than have trips and activities spread across different days, which can be disruptive for the school, and to accommodate certain activities where we need to collapse the timetable, a number of days have been identified when such events can take place. On such days there will be no normal lessons but instead there will be educational visits, in-school activities, presentations and the like. The first of these is on Thursday 11th October.

### **PTA**

The PTA held their AGM on Thursday, 13th September at 7.30 pm. The PTA are always looking for new volunteer helpers as they have lost some parents due to their son or daughter moving into Further/Higher Education. If you would like more details please do not hesitate to contact the School Office.

### **Open Evening**

This year’s Open Evening is on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> September from 7.00 pm onwards. Whilst this event is primarily for parents of prospective pupils, parents of current students are welcome to come and tour the school. Please note that it is our current practice to close the school early on that afternoon to allow time for staff to prepare the many displays. School will close at 2.10 pm on that day and coaches will depart at 2.30 pm. If this early closure proves to be inconvenient please contact the school and arrangements will be made to provide supervision until the end of the normal school day.

### **Free School Meals**

The government gives schools funding to support the education of those who need additional help. One of the several criteria for this is free school meals. It is important therefore, that all those eligible for a free school meal inform the school, even if they elect not to take it. To claim, the main income provider must be in receipt of Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance or Child Tax Credit.

In September 2009 Wokingham Borough Council introduced an easier way for parents to apply. Previously, you would have to produce evidence of eligibility at the start of every term. Now you will only need to apply once and eligibility will be checked electronically using your National Insurance number. A student who is eligible for a free school meal may also be eligible for financial help towards the cost of curriculum-based school trips. Clearly this is a sensitive matter and the information communicated will be treated in confidence.

Please use the tear off slip at the bottom of this letter to indicate it has been received and also to show whether or not your child is eligible for a free school meal. We are aware that whilst not everyone claims, accurate records need to be kept.

### **TUCASI**

The Tucasi online payment system has been in use for about 3 years and is proving very successful. Please use this system if you are able to. It is secure and quick and gives up to date payment information immediately both for school and parents. If you experience any problems when using the site please e-mail [onlinepayments@st-crispins.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:onlinepayments@st-crispins.wokingham.sch.uk) so that someone can contact you to talk you through the process.

**Parental Access to the site by car**

Parents who are new to the school might not be aware that they should not use the school car park to collect or drop off pupils. Generally speaking this policy, adopted two years ago, worked well with the co-operation of nearly all parents. Exceptions to this will be dropping off or collecting musical instruments and picking up from trips that involve luggage, from sports fixtures and trips when the exact time of arrival is uncertain and of course for students with physical injuries or disabilities. The governors acknowledge that some parents will see this as an inconvenience. Nevertheless, students’ on site safety has to be our priority. Please could you also be aware that the Sports Centre car park is private property and is for the sole use of their customers and staff.

**Entrance to school by the side gate**

The side gate (Westende entrance) will be open from 8.00 am to 9.00 am. It will then be closed from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm. The gate will be closed again at 5.00 pm so students needing to enter the school in the evening should do so from the main entrance.

**Mobile ‘Phones**

The school reserves the right to confiscate a student’s mobile ‘phone should he or she be found attempting to use it during a lesson. It will be returned at the end of the day. Should it be confiscated on more than one occasion, the ‘phone will be retained until collected by a parent or carer. On the rare occasions that a student is placed in isolation for poor behaviour, they will have their ‘phone confiscated for that period of time.

**Absence**

It is a requirement that you ring the school office before 8.30 am if your son/daughter is not well. We would like to remind you that this needs to be done each morning of the illness. We cannot assume that if your son/daughter is ill one day and does not come into school the next, that they are still unwell. A daily telephone call means that the registers can be updated correctly.

**Privacy Notice**

Please find attached to this letter a Privacy Notice which we are required to pass on to you by law. After reading this, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Callow  
Acting Co-Headteacher

W Patterson  
Acting Co-Headteacher

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Please return this slip to your Form Tutor

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Form: \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge receipt of the Headteachers’ start of term letter dated September 2012

My child is eligible for free school meals

**YES/NO**

**ST CRISPIN'S SCHOOL**  
**SCHOOL DATES: SEPTEMBER 2012– AUGUST 2013**

|                  |                     |  | Approx cost  | Approx date money requested |
|------------------|---------------------|--|--------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>September</b> | 3 <sup>rd</sup>     | <b>INSET DAY – School closed</b>                       |              |                             |
|                  | 4 <sup>th</sup>     | <b>Start of Term</b>                                   |              |                             |
|                  | 13                  | Year 10 Info Evening                                   |              |                             |
|                  | 13                  | PTA AGM (7.45 pm)                                      |              |                             |
|                  | 14-16               | Year 8 team building                                   | £163         | paid                        |
|                  | 20                  | Year 7 Tutors Evening                                  |              |                             |
|                  | 20                  | Year 12 Informal Evening                               |              |                             |
|                  | 24                  | <b>Open Evening – school closes at 2.10</b>            |              |                             |
|                  | 27                  | Year 8 Information Evening                             |              |                             |
|                  | 28                  | Years 7 and 11 Focus Day                               |              |                             |
| <b>October</b>   | 4                   | Year 11 Parents Evening                                |              |                             |
|                  | 9                   | G&T Evensong   | £14          | September                   |
|                  | 11                  | Year 7 to St Paul's/Mandir                             | £22          | September                   |
|                  |                     | Year 8 trip to France                                  | £55          | September                   |
|                  |                     | Year 9 to Science Museum                               | £17.50       | September                   |
|                  |                     | Year 10 London Galleries trip                          | £13          | September                   |
|                  | 11-14               | Year 10 Battlefields                                   | £400         | paid                        |
|                  | 17                  | Year 10 BTEC – Science Museum                          | £20          | October                     |
|                  | 25                  | Year 11 Options Evening                                |              |                             |
|                  | 26                  | <b>INSET DAY – School closed</b>                       |              |                             |
| <b>November</b>  | 7                   | Year 12 Art Trip Government Collection                 | £13          | October                     |
|                  | 15                  | Music Gala   |              |                             |
|                  | 19                  | Year 10 Parents Evening                                |              |                             |
|                  | 29                  | Year 12 Parents Evening                                |              |                             |
| <b>December</b>  | 4                   | Years 10 & 12 Clothes Show Trip                        | £30          | November                    |
|                  | 12                  | Christmas Concert                                      |              |                             |
|                  | 13-20               | German Exchange  | £300         | paid                        |
|                  | 21                  | <b>TERM ENDS – School closes at 12.40</b>              |              |                             |
| <b>January</b>   | 7                   | <b>INSET DAY – School Closed</b>                       |              |                             |
|                  | 8                   | <b>Start of term</b>                                   |              |                             |
|                  | 10                  | Year 7 Parents' Evening                                |              |                             |
|                  | 17                  | Year 9 Options Evening                                 |              |                             |
|                  | 31                  | Focus Day Years 7 and 9                                |              |                             |
| <b>February</b>  | 7                   | Year 9 Parents, Evening                                |              |                             |
|                  | 17-20               | Year 12 Disneyland Trip                                | £280 approx  | October/December            |
|                  | 18 – 22             | <b>HALF TERM</b>                                       |              |                             |
|                  | 27                  | Year 8 Focus Day                                       |              |                             |
| <b>March</b>     | 5                   | Year 7 trip to Cheddar Gorge                           | £18          | February                    |
|                  | 5                   | Year 9 visit to National Army museum                   | £13          | February                    |
|                  | 5                   | Years 11, 12, 13 Art students trip to London Galleries | £13          | February                    |
|                  | 5                   | Year 10 Work Skills Day                                |              |                             |
|                  | 8-14                | Year 12 Gredos Trip                                    | £560         | Sept 12/ Feb 13             |
|                  | 14                  | Year 8 PLTS Day  |              |                             |
|                  | 25                  | Year 13 Parents' Evening                               |              |                             |
|                  | 28                  | <b>TERM ENDS – school closes at 12.40</b>              |              |                             |
|                  | 29 March to 6 April | USA Ski Trip   | £1000 approx | October/December            |
| <b>April</b>     | 15                  | <b>Start of Term</b>                                   |              |                             |

|              |              |   |             |                |
|--------------|--------------|---|-------------|----------------|
| <b>April</b> | 15           | Year 8 Parents' Evening                   |             |                |
| <b>May</b>   | 6            | <b>MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY</b>               |             |                |
|              | 9            | Year 8 Historic Dockyards Trip            | £30         | April          |
|              | 13-17        | Year 10 Nettlecombe                       | £350 approx | January/March  |
|              | 27 – 31      | <b>HALF TERM</b>                          |             |                |
| <b>June</b>  | 17           | Year 6 Induction Day                      |             |                |
|              | 18           | Year 6 Induction Day and Parents' Evening |             |                |
|              | 20           | Year 10 BTEC National Grid                | free        |                |
|              | 21-23        | Year 9 Team Building                      | £170 approx | February/April |
|              | 24           | Year 6 Induction Day                      |             |                |
|              | 25           | Year 6 Induction Day and Parents' Evening |             |                |
|              | 26           | Year 7 Warwick Castle                     | £21         | June           |
|              | 26           | Year 8 Lulworth Cove                      | £18         | June           |
|              | 28 Jun-1 Jul | Year 10 Normandy                          | £400 approx | February/April |
| <b>July</b>  | 4            | Year 10 Thorpe Park                       | £32         | July           |
|              | 8            | Addington Proms                           | £10         | June           |
|              | 9            | Year 12 Stock Exchange                    | £25         | July           |
|              |              | Choir Tour                                | £400        | February/April |
|              | 19           | TERM ENDS – School closes at 12.40        |             |                |

Please note that in addition to these trips listed there are numerous others that have no confirmed date. Those studying Dance and Drama should be aware that additional theatre visits take place regularly.

Local trips are not listed.

Various sixth form conferences are also made available to A-level students at approx cost of £25.

**All dates are provisional and costs are approximate; full details are confirmed in specific trip letters.**

Please also be aware that due to booking requirements it is necessary to pay for some residential and foreign trips which take place during the autumn term such as the German Exchange, Year 8 Team Building, Year 8 French Day Trip, Year 10 Battlefields etc. before the end of the current academic year. The cost for these trips in 2013-2014 should be approximately the same as for this year and parents will be notified accordingly when payment for these trips is due.

### TERM DATES 2012 – 2013

#### Autumn Term 2012

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December

Half term: 29<sup>th</sup> October – 2<sup>nd</sup> November

#### Spring Term 2013

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Half term: 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February

#### Summer Term 2013

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July

Half term: 27<sup>th</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May

#### INSET DAYS

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013