



Croydon High School  
*for girls aged 3-18*

*Year 7 trip to Skern*



# *Every girl, Every day*



*Highlights - Autumn Term 2019 Part One*

**Juniors**

Tel: 020 8260 7508

Email: [juniors@cry.gdst.net](mailto:juniors@cry.gdst.net)

**Seniors & Sixth Form**

Tel: 020 8260 7500

Email: [seniors@cry.gdst.net](mailto:seniors@cry.gdst.net)

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## *Headmistress*

*Emma Pattison writes...*



As we are always on summer holiday when it falls, Jamaican Independence Day is an event which is rarely marked within school and so I decided to do so in an assembly dedicated to Jamaica earlier this term. Not enough is known, I claimed, about its troubled history, the abolition of slavery and the proud and momentous day in August 1961, when Norman Manley's National Party finally raised the new Jamaican flag to signal an end to 306 years of British rule.

The huge influence on popular culture, particularly music, of this multicultural island is disproportionate to its small size and I described the primary factor that has most engaged people as being linked to the black experience.

Its influence is certainly keenly felt by many of our community here at Croydon High, including my family; my husband was born in Jamaica to a Jamaican mother and we were married in Strawberry Hill (just 'above' Kingston in the Blue Mountains.)

Given all of the above, I expressed sorrow, and a certain level of disbelief, that the second most frequently asked question to Google about Jamaica was ... Is Jamaica an African country?! Even if they took nothing else from my assembly, I know that every senior pupil not only knows the answer to that question but understands our collective dismay that it was ever asked.

We then explored together the significance of Black History Month, another important annual event which we have not celebrated enough in school in the past (probably because we are, once again, on holiday for 2 weeks of the month.)

The theme for Black History Month this year is "Black Migrations" and will focus on "the movement of African Americans to new destinations and subsequently to new social realities." In the assembly, I reminded the Senior School that understanding and awareness must play an important part in our discussions this month however challenging we may find the topics. Awareness of post-colonial migration to UK, when we sought to make up our depleted workforce after WW2 by bringing workers from the former colonies, fiascos such as the way those of the Windrush generation were treated, the abolition of slavery; all of our histories, whatever our cultural heritage might be, have been affected by these. Our pupil body is well educated, culturally aware and incredibly sensitive of equality and social

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justice; there is no excuse for ignorance when it comes to these issues and, as we often say we want our girls to become fearless, shying away from difficult discussions just isn't our way!

As our current government finalises the extent to which it wishes to divorce itself from its neighbours and closest allies in Europe, it is heartening that here at Croydon High, the sense of acceptance and understanding is universal and resonates around the community. I see the way our pupils celebrate diversity every day without even thinking twice about it. One girl told me this week that her UCAS choices had been influenced by the fact that she felt more at home in one more diverse city's university than the rural campus of another. The mix of visitors and speakers to campus are as diverse as our pupil body, after all, they are often alumnae of the school. Our KS3 (Years 7-9) curriculum and some GCSE and A level courses (namely, where our selection of topic allows it) carry fine role models for our pupils in the form of writers, historical and religious characters from BAME contributors; such positive messaging is really important.

I very much enjoyed, therefore, the Senior House assemblies which took place this week on Wednesday morning and were coordinated by Mr Thorpe. The purpose of these was to ensure our collective knowledge of black history is broad and celebrates the many achievements which, one could argue, are not always given the recognition they deserve.

In another excellent assembly given by Mrs Male, the Junior School discussed segregation in a wide sense (using the idea of those with and without pony tails) and the purpose of black history month to promote equality and positive role models.

The closing message of my own assembly was very much this; use this month to ensure you are informed, culturally aware and socially sensitive about the issues which surround the theme of this year's Black History Month. Read, ask Google, visit the Black History UK website (<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>) or even the Black Cultural Archives in Brixton (the only dedicated heritage centre for Black British history and culture.)

It is important for us to celebrate the different heritages and cultural backgrounds that make up our rich and diverse community so that it may perpetuate and thrive; this means so much to all of us.

**Mrs Emma Pattison**

*Headmistress*



Croydon High School participating in Model United Nation debates

## *Academic direction and community...*

How many of us have happened to look up to the sky to be greeted by this sight? As strange as it may sound, I suggest that these geese serve as a perfect metaphor for the busy academic life of Croydon High School.



As each goose flaps its wings it creates an “uplift” for the birds that follow. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater range than if each bird flew alone. When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the uplifting power of the bird immediately in front of it. Every pupil at Croydon High shares a sense of academic direction and community. Furthermore, our pupils can get where they are going quicker and more easily because they are travelling on, and motivated by, the academic thrust of one another.

When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation, and another goose flies to the point position. The diversity and richness of the academic curriculum here, empowers our pupils to be the leaders of the future whatever their future may be. Through the arts to the humanities, the sciences to our innovative subject, Enterprise Technology, we seek to position our pupils at the vanguard of their chosen fields by discovering and nurturing their unique talents and skills.

While the geese fly in formation, they honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. In groups where there is encouragement, productivity is much greater. Croydon High pupils and teachers alike are aware of the positive value of encouragement. From conversations in lessons to comments in books, from teachers’ using their own time to answer pupils’ questions to the many enriching opportunities in our co-curricular offer, we take every opportunity to celebrate the hard work of our pupils in order to keep them motivated and focused on their academic goals.

When a goose gets ill or is injured, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay until it can fly again. Then they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock. Learning and progress are anything but linear. There will be times where things do not go as planned for our pupils. Our supportive academic community encourages girls to take risks. Teachers stand alongside pupils when things do not go as planned not least because these are often the richest learning experiences.

The migration routes of geese never vary. They use the same route year after year. Even when the flock members change, the young learn the route from older geese. Similarly, we are steadfast in our commitment to academic excellence, breadth and innovation, creativity, exploration and enjoyment. As such, creative teaching and learning opportunities abound for ‘every girl, every day.’

So the next time you look up to the sky and spot a flock of geese on their well-trodden route, I hope you’ll be reminded of the common sense of academic purpose, the many opportunities for leadership, the celebration of hard work and effort, and the supportive academic community which together are the hallmarks of the unique Croydon High learning experience.

**Dr Philip Purvis**

*Deputy Head (Academic)*



## *Getting on with it...*

There are days (days of memories, myths and legend even), which we never fail to recall, however long past especially amongst friends. Such days represent our highlights and rock bottoms, filled with surprises and long-awaited outcomes.

School days offer plenty of opportunity for these future reminiscences; sports finals, first and last night nerves in the school productions, concerts, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, leading an assembly, and yes, exams, or rather, exam results. Combined with raging hormones and a developing brain, emotions are felt oh so keenly during this time. They can range from ecstasy to heart-breaking devastation but thankfully, for the most part, they lack long-lasting impact on our adult lives.

Of course it can't all be highs and lows and between the halcyon and the rough days, there are of course the functional days. But interestingly, even the most functional can be transformed with the right attitude and I am reminded of this so frequently here at Croydon High.

A perfect example recently was that the two trip leaders returned from respective 'drenchings' at Hever Castle (Year 8) and Coastal Geography fieldwork (Year 11). They told tales of

pupils unfussed by the weather and with a physical capacity and mental resilience to get on with the job of enjoying the experience, thereby turning it in to something shared and memorable.

I wondered whether the pupils were aware that they were displaying precisely the kind of character referred to by our alumna Sarah Nelson Smith, in her Prize Giving address, when she said "If you have to do it, do it with good humour".

Of course, neither the opportunity to visit Hever Castle, nor the chance to ride the "Pickering Express" are opportunities one has to "endure" but Croydon High pupils always seem to make the most of every day, regardless of the weather! There is a real determination within our young people. We do not have to work hard to find it and we do not have to do much to encourage it. I have noticed it from the moment I joined the school, I have seen it in visiting alumnae and I know it will remain as part of our collective DNA for many years to come. It is heartening.

There are times, in between highs, lows, myths and legend, when you just have to "get on with it" – and our pupils can and do.

**Mr David King**

*Deputy Head (Pastoral)*

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## *Honing the vision ...*

In modern culture there is a lot of talk about following your dreams (often on reality shows where the message seems to be follow the dream blindly, even if it is proven that you cannot in fact sing!). However, I am a believer that dreams are too easy to simply dream - but do nothing about. Dreams have no plan, no timescale, no starting point. I prefer to encourage students to have a vision.

Vision has long been a staple of athletes and their coaches. One presumably needs a pretty good reason to train in the rain, in the dark and the cold. It is also an understood necessity for entrepreneurs. What I like about the vision of an entrepreneur is the idea that the vision can and should change. As one such visionary put it “Some entrepreneurs are great at communicating a big vision for their start-up, while others are good at finding a place to start. But the best, and most successful, entrepreneurs are those who are able to strike an exquisite balance between that big vision – Version 5.0, if you will – and a high-traction starting point, or Version 1.0.”

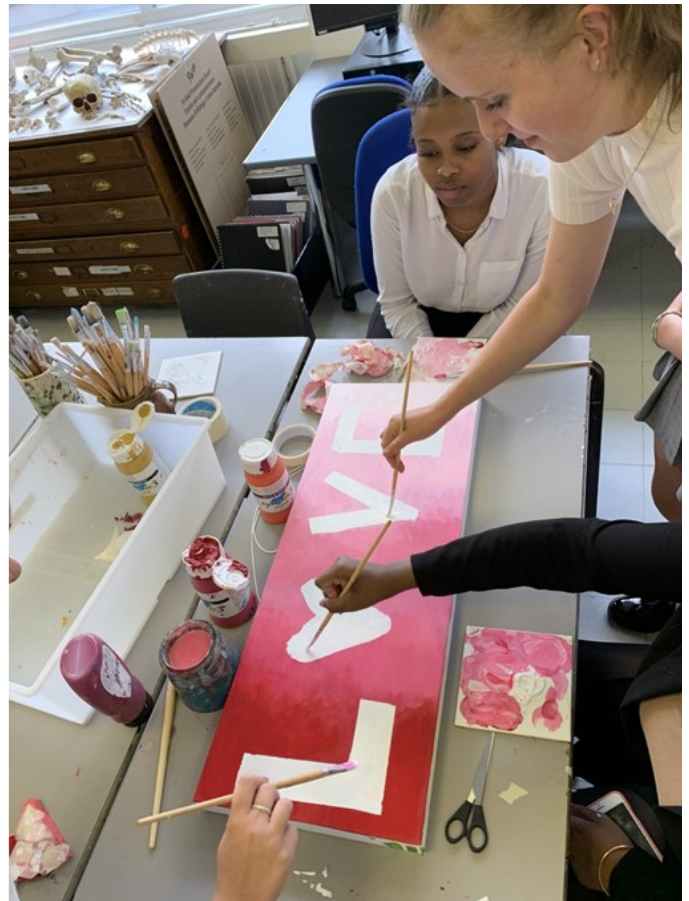
I like the idea of this ‘high traction starting point.’ It suggests action, it does not demand perfection or nothing, or boom or bust. It is the important first step.

Our Sixth Form began their year making vision boards. The idea is that they are reminded every time they open a folder of the ‘why’. Students with a clear vision make more effort, deal with setbacks better and, subsequently, get better results.

In our Sixth Form, we are concentrating on honing the vision so it quite quickly starts to take a more defined form, but our younger pupils have plenty of time to alter their course. The most important thing is that we encourage them to set out on their ‘journey’ with open minds and a determination to turn their dreams – whatever they are - in to reality.

**Mrs Sophie Bradshaw**

*Deputy Head (Sixth Form and Operations)*



# A Level results 2019

## Outstanding results secure exciting futures at Croydon High

The Class of 2019 had much to celebrate at Croydon High this summer with almost half of all grades awarded being A\* or A.

These girls had already shown signs of great work ethic and the capacity for independent study, when an impressive 83% of the cohort achieved A\* or A grades for the highly regarded Extended Project Qualification.

In a year group of diverse interest and ambition, Croydon High girls are heading off on many different paths secure in the knowledge that their hard work has paid off and they have achieved their goals.

Headmistress, Emma Pattison is not only extremely proud of the academic achievements of our girls but also of the individual journeys they have taken. "Behind every set of A level results, there is a story and this is what we celebrate on Results Day. Every single girl has been working towards an individual dream, and, with the support of their teachers and their families, they are now well on the way to realising them. Their ambitions are as unique as the girls themselves and it is a real hallmark of Croydon High that we are able to first encourage and then facilitate such diversity of interest."

The school is delighted to report that nearly 60% of students have taken up places at one of the prestigious Russell Group universities and equally proud of those who have chosen to follow different paths, including a highly competitive apprenticeship or on more specialist courses in subjects they are passionate about.

### Architect of her own success

Special mention must be made of Siena Cornish, whose stellar achievement of straight A\* grades in Art, Maths and Physics and A\* at EPQ ensures that she will be taking up a coveted place at Queen's College, Cambridge, to read Architecture. Siena is an inspirational young woman who, as well as working exceptionally hard in all her subjects as these results show, also achieved her Gold Duke of Edinburgh award and



contributed wholeheartedly to every aspect of school life as a Senior Prefect and Art Scholar, who also plays piano and flute to a high standard. Siena was understandably delighted saying, *"I am so happy and relieved of course and it's just wonderful to be able to celebrate with everyone here today."*

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## STEM students shine



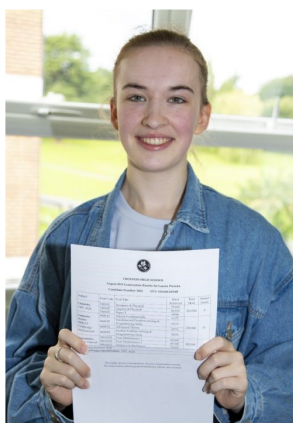
Not to be outdone, scientists were also celebrating strong performances. Many congratulations must go to Rebecca Willans who will be heading to Durham to read Natural Sciences armed with a set of exceptional results; A\* grades in Biology and Chemistry and A grades in Maths and Economics and A\* at EPQ.



Nahid Inayat, has long had her sights firmly set on Dentistry and is certainly smiling having achieved an A\* in Biology and A grades in Chemistry and Maths and an A\* EPQ. Nahid will be taking up her place at Kings College London.



Felicity McCrea is also an A\* Biologist, matching this with another A\* in Maths and an A in Chemistry and an A\* EPQ, all of which send her comfortably to Bristol to read Veterinary Science.



Lauren Pococke was all smiles opening her results; A\* in Computer Science, A in Maths and Chemistry and an A\* grade EPQ. Lauren is heading to the beautiful city of Bath to read Computer Science. Freya McEwan's straight A grades are also sending her to the West Country where she will read History at Bristol.



Piya Varma will be reading Psychology at UCL in the autumn, having excelled herself with A\* grades in Psychology and Business, an A in Art and a B in English Language and Literature and an A\* EPQ.



## Modern and Digital Languages tell the same story

Whether they opted for Modern Foreign or computer programming languages – and in one case both – girls simply excelled with all Computer Science, French, German and Spanish students achieving A or A\* grades.



Head Girl, Kristin Agyekumhene's A\* in Computer Science and A in Maths and German and A\* EPQ sends her safely on her way to Edinburgh to realise a long held dream of studying Software Engineering. Kristen was very generous in her praise for the school and her teachers, saying *"I am just so grateful to Croydon High for everything they have done for me and for helping me to go on and study what is my passion."*



Fellow Head Girl, Jennifer Cairns seen here with Head of Classics, James Loudon, will be joining Rebecca Willans in Durham to read Classics; her A\*AB and an A\* EPQ sees her safely on her way.

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### A Young Apprentice



Jess Grant's ambition was always to start building a career in the City, starting with an apprenticeship where she could gain an industry recognised qualification whilst in the workplace. Jess knew what she wanted and worked extremely hard to get there so the whole school was extremely proud when she was offered a coveted place on the highly competitive apprenticeship scheme at Rothschild & Co. Her excellent ABC grades at A level will serve her well as she begins a career in this exciting and demanding environment.

### Setting the Standard

All these individual achievements and the very positive attitude of the entire cohort will provide inspiration for the incoming Upper Sixth, for whom early indications are also very positive, given that they achieved a stunning 87% A\* or A grade in the EPQs they submitted this year.

Emma Pattison said, "I would like to say to each and every one of the Class of 2019, Croydon High is proud of all you have achieved during your time at the school and we wish you all happiness and success on the next stage of your journey. I would also like to pay tribute to the exceptional teaching staff here at Croydon High, who have worked so hard in tandem with the girls and who make this school such an inspiring place to work and learn."

## Croydon High celebrates another outstanding year at GCSE for their all-round high achievers.

- Over 50% of exams taken awarded A\* Grades or equivalent
- Nearly ¾ of all examinations awarded the top grades A/A\* or numbered equivalent
- Almost 40% of Croydon High girls awarded straight A or A\* grades

“Headmistress Emma Pattison said, “We are absolutely delighted to be celebrating these impressive GCSE results, achieved by a group of aspirational and inspirational young women. As teachers, we recognise the hard work, dedication and focus that the girls have shown and I would also like to publicly recognise all the staff here at Croydon High for their dedication and tireless support of each and every girl.



It is also a day to acknowledge the care and encouragement given to the girls by their families throughout what can often be a stressful time.

*“GCSEs results are all about opening doors and these girls have certainly given themselves every opportunity to go on to build fulfilling and exciting futures for themselves.”*



In a cohort full of individuals, all of whom have their own unique strengths and passions, special mention must be made of those girls who have achieved outstanding results in all subjects.

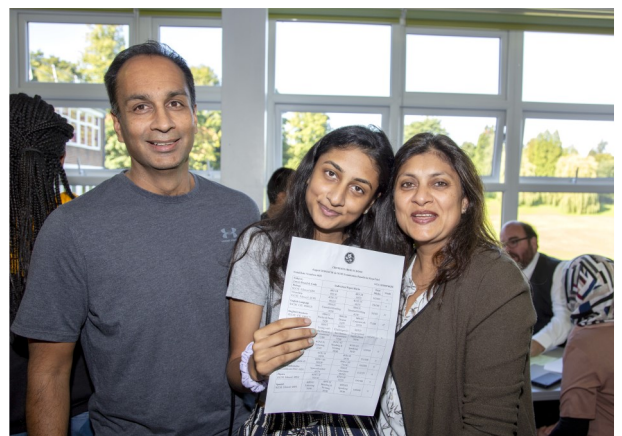
**Aditi was awarded straight 9/A\* grades in all ten of her I/GCSEs, together with an A^ (or A double star) in her AQA Level 2 Further Maths. A truly outstanding achievement for a girl who deserves every accolade.**

Aditi was obviously thrilled although she modestly said she didn't expect to do so well!

*“I didn't sleep at all last night,” she said ...I was hoping for a few 8s and 9s but I am very happy now!”*

**Keya is also celebrating stellar results, having achieved straight 9/A\* grades in all ten I/GCSEs, and an A in her AQA Level 2 Further Maths.**

Head of Sixth Form and Deputy Head of Croydon High, Sophie Bradshaw congratulated both girls, saying “ We are looking forward to working with Aditi and Keya over the next two years and have every confidence that these results will be the springboard to equally outstanding success at A level and beyond.”



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## Girls plus STEM equals success at Croydon High

Amidst a continuing dialogue around the gender gap between boys and girls succeeding in STEM subjects, Croydon High continues to buck the trend.

In Maths, almost half of all students were awarded an A\* grade - this is an exceptional achievement. Equally impressively, 84% of Chemistry students and 88% of Computer Science students were awarded the top A\*/A grades.

Amongst these students were the following girls, all of whom achieved straight grade 9-7/A\*-A grades in *all* of their I/GCSE qualifications *and* in AQA Level 2 Further Maths. Many congratulations to Diya, Laveenaa, Choi, Anna, Vaishnavi and Sophie Webber.

## Musicians hit the high notes whilst PE girls are All-Stars

In a school that prides itself on the strength of its co-curricular offer, with elite performers modelling excellence for their peers, it was fitting that those who also chose to study performance based subjects such as Music and P.E for GCSE have excelled.

Director of Music, Marcus Suranyi, was beaming as he learned that his cohort of young musicians achieved straight grade 9-7 (A\*-A) grades.



Head of Upper School and member of the P.E staff Sue Beck was also celebrating the fact that it was a clean sweep of Grade 9 (A\*) grades for Croydon High's sportswomen.



It is a hallmark of the school that girls are encouraged and supported to study subjects they love and to reap the benefits of the broad curricular and co-curricular offering.

This year's results certainly support this all-round high performance ethos with, in addition to those already mentioned, the following girls achieving straight grade 9-7/A\*-A in all of their I/GCSEs.

Many congratulations to Simar, Analisa, Annabella, Eloise, Aashna, Kaitlyn, Isha, Alice, Nana and Rhianna.



## *Year 7 trip to Skern*



Skern was a trip filled with adventure, mystery and facing your fears. When we finally arrived we were full of excitement, nerves and more. We found out where our rooms were and I made so many more friends than I thought I would. We were split into activity groups where we headed off to go to high ropes, which was my favourite because I love climbing. The knowledge that I would just be dangling if I fell made it even better.

Finally, it was the evening. The sky was full of a dazzling array of colours like pink and red. Skern had one of the most phenomenal sunsets I had ever seen. During our evening walk, our instructor told us some fascinating facts about Skern's history, like things to do with WW2. We took part in water activities like surfing, rafting pool Olympics; you would think it was cold but with all the excitement and games you couldn't even notice. Skern was overall amazing and I would do it again!



**Mia**

I found Skern the most amazing trip I have ever been on. Our week was filled with millions of activities - there wasn't one activity I would miss. My family wishes they had done the same trip! The food was amazing as were the instructors, accommodation and activities.

My absolute favourite activities were surfing, body boarding, high ropes and rafting. I enjoyed high ropes because there were so many activities to do in the air including 'leap of faith' where you climbed up a tall log then jumped to a trapeze where you could hang upside down.

When we got back on the coach at the end of the week we had all made new friends and were sad to be leaving Skern Lodge. If I had one wish I would use it to go to Skern all over again – it was an experience of a lifetime.

Zariya

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## ***2019 Sixth Form Induction Trip***

This year our Lower Sixth began their A level studies with three days of induction activities. The first was spent up at the prestigious Royal Institution where the magnificent setting was the location for a series of presentations, workshops and inter-GDST and alumnae networking opportunities. The students found Samira Ahmed (journalist, and broadcaster at the BBC) especially interesting and her advice emboldening and affirming. Girls were told to believe that “they were enough” and encouraged to use their talents to change the world for the better. In the afternoon, we were joined by one of our own alumnae, Katie Tomsett, who received a huge cheer from our girls.

The next two days were spent on our new Induction Trip “A Taste of the Future” the aim of which was to provide information and skills that would help us make the most of the next two years. A packed visit to the University of Sussex included a session on study skills, the psychology of different personalities and social interaction concluding with a fish and chips supper in Brighton. The next day, workshops/activities at a variety of venues covered the valuable qualities of courage, resilience and teamwork. The day ended with some culture in front row seats at the very popular, all female, West End Show - “Six”. The following are accounts written by some of the Lower Sixth.

Arriving at the University of Sussex, all the students were slightly uncertain about what we were going to do, where we were going to stay overnight and whether or not the lectures were going to be tedious. Our worries were soon proven wrong. After arrival, we swiftly made our way to the lecture theatre, and were pleasantly surprised by the modern room and the choice of coral pink chairs. A lecture on study tips was first. The speaker mentioned useful tips and tricks, debunked revision myths and overall enlightened us with a smarter, more effective way to revise, note-take and ultimately succeed during exams. Secondly, we had a lecture on the university lifestyle and what we will need to



bring in order to live comfortably during the university duration. Shockingly for some, we were told the expensive prices of the accommodation on and off-campus. However, we were then told about the abundance of jobs available for students in order to help finance the university lifestyle. Both lectures were incredibly eye-opening, interesting and motivating as well as being applicable to all universities over the country.

### ***Kaitlyn***

In the afternoon, we took part in a ‘C-Me Lite’ Workshop where we learnt more about what type of person we are, based on colours. It was an enjoyable activity as the teacher made all the students stand in the middle and move left and right depending on the statement asked and what they would do in that situation. We found it interesting to learn about ourselves as well as our classmates, understanding one another and why people may act in different ways. It also taught us how to approach one another in a working situation and how to get the best out of each other’s strengths. Now back at school we are all still talking about the colours we are, even with teachers! It was a lovely learning experience.

### ***Aleeya***

On the second day of the trip we were able to visit Blacklands Farm where we got the opportunity to take part in various team building activities. The first activity was the archery. This was a really exciting chance to try something new, while also learning many new skills. The second activity we took part in consisted only of some crates and a harness. The objective of this task was, in pairs, to climb up as many crates as possible - having to rely on your partner to help you up. This was a really successful bonding activity as we were dependent on our partners and had to trust that they were supporting us. The final activity, and arguably the most challenging, was the 'leap of faith'. We had to climb to the top of a telegraph pole and jump from the top onto a trapeze. Despite the seemingly impossible climb, followed by the breathtakingly high jump, every student on the trip managed to jump onto the trapeze - and so did all the form tutors!

### *Analisa*

On Wednesday evening year 12 was treated to the popular West End show "SIX": a rock concert featuring Henry the VIII's six wives. All the girls - even some who swore they would hate all 75 minutes of the performance - thoroughly enjoyed watching this empowering all female cast and band shine a light on the rather tragic lives of the six women from a feminist perspective. The talented actresses in sparkly costumes and killer dance moves were also such lovely people when we met them at the stage door after the show. We were so lucky to meet Millie O'Connell (Anne Boleyn), Shekinah Mc Fariane (Catherine of Aragon) and Maiya Quansah-Breed (Catherine Parr) and to have the wonderful experience of seeing the show.

### *Megan*



## Prize Giving



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Early September saw public exam performances recognised for the new L6th cohort and for the Class of 2019 Leavers.

The assembled year groups and parents were treated to Yutong playing Frederic Chopin's "Raindrop" prelude, and a few scenes from "She", the researched, devised, rehearsed and Edinburgh Fringe Festival performed show, put on by a collection of our Sixth Formers.

Hearing an update from Mrs Pattison reminded the hall how much is packed into a Croydon High School year, and with such success. Guest of Honour Sarah Nelson Smith echoed the implicit learning that goes on by taking part in so much of that offering, and left the room, particularly the leavers, with five sage pieces of advice. Sarah, an alumna from 1998 with a hugely successful career within law, charitable governance and more recently author of a new book, put anecdotes to the following five "what I wish I'd known", which bear repeating here:

If you have to do it, do so in good humour; If you don't know, ask; Care, but not too much; Kindness enriches lives; You are enough.

May the Class of 2019, and all pupils, have the opportunity to display each of these in the next chapter of their lives. We look forward to seeing leavers at an Ivy Link event soon.

**Mr David King**

*Deputy Head (Pastoral)*



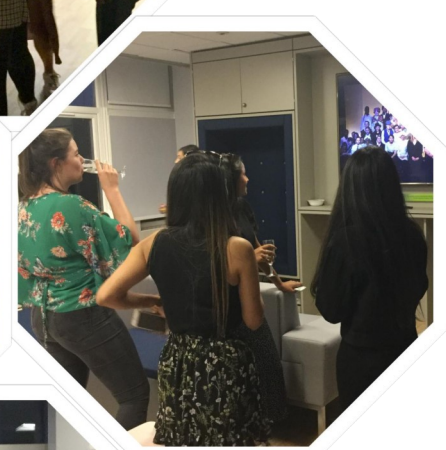


## *An Ivy Link Reunion for the Class of 2014*

We were thrilled to welcome back the Class of 2014 for an evening of prosecco, reminiscing and catching-up on the last five years. For many it was the first time back to school since their first reunion, Christmas 2014. However, some of our 2014 alumnae have already returned to advise sixth form students regarding University life, courses, destinations and careers. All the girls and staff were very happy to see one another and were delighted by the slide show of photographs from their school days, sparking many memories and much amusement. As we always say, *once a Croydon High girl... always a Croydon High girl*; we look forward to hearing more from this wonderful cohort.

*Mrs Karen Roe*

*The Ivy Link is a way of bringing together the alumnae, parents and other friends of our school to keep in touch with what is happening and to stay involved in the life of Croydon High School.*



## *SHE Performed at Edinburgh Fringe*

During August, five students from Year 11 and L6 had the opportunity to go to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Over the past 70 years, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival has grown to become the largest international festival in the world! Not only did we get to watch over 20 plays, but we also got the chance to perform our play - She.

With the help of director Madeleine Corner and Mrs Webb, and many months of hard work, we were able to create a verbatim piece of theatre, which is when the script is made using the exact words from real people who have been interviewed. We spoke to a diverse range of people from different walks of life, asking to explain their opinions on the roles of women in society and essentially what does it mean to be a woman. With topics ranging from periods and pregnancies to stereotypes and gender, we wanted to explore the realities of being female so we thought this could be done best by telling real people's stories.

Our show was a real success; we received two 4 star reviews (see below) and had a busy audience for every one of our 6-show runs. It was an incredible experience and we are so grateful to be able to have the opportunity to meet lots of wonderful people and perform our own piece of drama. We can't wait until next year and definitely recommend this trip to everyone.

*Analisa, Lower Sixth*



<https://www.thereviewshub.com/she-the-space-on-the-mile-edinburgh/>

<https://www.withinherwords.co.uk/post/she-by-madeleine-corner-the-space-on-the-mile>

## Girls Go Gold Conference

Last week, twelve Year 10s were lucky enough to go to a wonderful and inspiring sports conference held at Bath University. It taught us lots of new life lessons and was also a great opportunity to see a university at first hand. During the day, we took part in a variety of practical and theoretical seminars consisting of yoga, netball and sports psychology. We all thoroughly enjoyed the yoga session as it proved to us that feeling relaxed is an essential tool in keeping focussed and resolute during challenging and stressful periods in sport and life in general. There were a variety of great motivational talks which encouraged us to become better sportspersons in the future. We have learned to believe in ourselves and believe that we can achieve anything in life as long as we continue to receive the support of others around us. Overall, the day was fantastic and we wish we could do it all over again. We would like to give a massive thanks to Ms Head for organising this truly uplifting event; we were so lucky to have been part of it.

*Inaya and Isabella, Y10*

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## *Amnesty International Honours National Poetry Day*



The Arts, including Poetry, have a unique power to bring people together and to promote change. During a recent assembly the Amnesty youth group used their collective voice to shed the light of truth (a highly appropriate theme for National Poetry Day 2019) on some of the dark corners of the world.

The Year 7s and 8s performed the poem *Greta Thunberg* by Liz Brownlee. Greta was recently awarded the 2019 Amnesty International Ambassador of Conscience Award. Our senior students enacted Victoria Adukwei Bulley's *This Poem is Not About Parakeets*, a poem which both explodes some of the refugee myths which surround us and celebrates the richness refugees have brought to our society. Aleeya's (Lower Sixth) posters served as a backdrop. These works of art were part of Aleeya's GCSE submission. She explained that she 'is interested in portraying conflict in Art' and feels it is 'important to spread understanding of the refugee situation'; she was inspired by her visit to Palestine a couple of years ago when she saw street art as a means to express struggle. Tasia's (Lower Sixth) personal poem *Sticks and Stones* gave an insight into the power of words to lie or to uncover truth.

Mr Noakes spoke about the power of words to change lives, recounting the story of Hussein Manawer. A pupil from a previous school, Manawer found his creative voice at GCSE and now writes and performs meaningfully on the topic of depression, loss and mental health. Mr Noakes gave a dramatic rendition of Dylan Thomas' *Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night*, a poem which explores some of the difficult truths of life and death.

During the day itself, pupils enjoyed the opportunity to explore poetry during tutor time and in their English lessons. Poetry flash mobs also surprised and entertained with guerrilla performances of "Matilda" during the day.



## STICKS AND STONES (an excerpt)

Sticks and stones

may break my bones,

But words will never hurt me.

That old sayin' is so insane,

words are anything but.

Words are imprints on the skin.

Words are scars on the soul.

Words are bullets to the heart.

Words are a sharpened two-edged sword,  
ready to cut through hopes.

Words are tree branches,  
beautiful and filled with life,  
But when broken or cut down  
you are left filled with strife....

Just know that your words have

an affect,

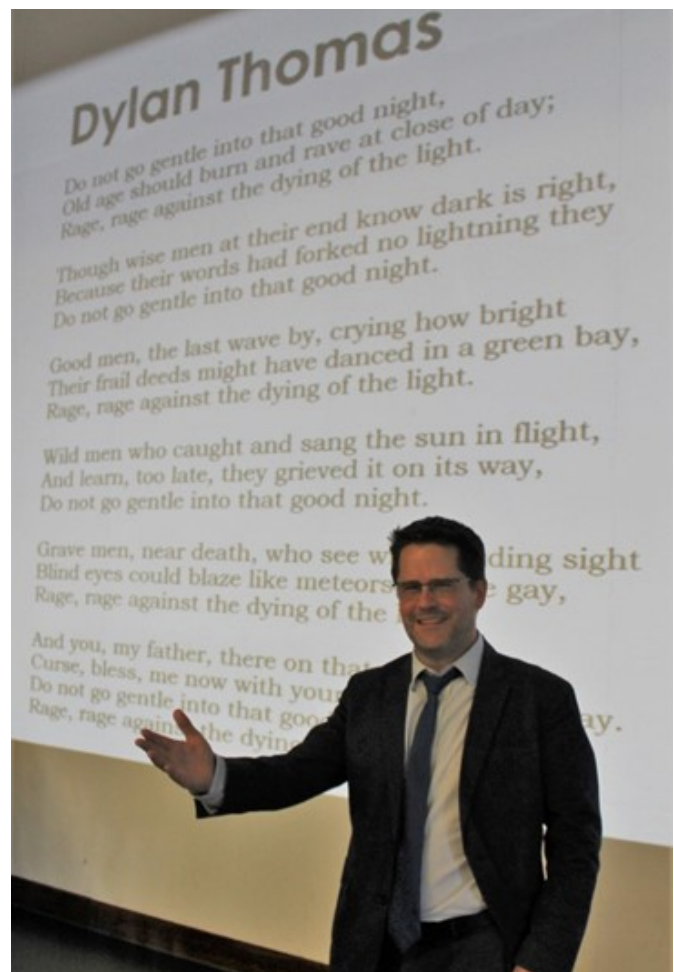
they can hurt or heal,

they can birth or kill,

Words can make a difference to a life.

So Do Not Take WORDS lightly

Tasia, L6



National Poetry Day is a day in which to remember that our artists, including poets, are the visionaries, the storytellers, the ones who reveal truths both within ourselves and within society. The poet, in the words of Shelley: "lifts the veil from the hidden beauty of the world, and makes familiar objects be as if they were not familiar."

## *MUN Club*

MUN Club 2019-2020 has got off to a flying start. With record numbers signing up to the club, we have been busy preparing for the season ahead.

A group of Year 10, 11 and lower sixth pupils visited Wycombe Abbey School to attend a pre-season MUN conference. In the morning, beginner delegates learnt more about the tactics of fruitful debating and the formalities of participating in a MUN committee. The more experienced group of debaters, meanwhile, attended an enlightening masterclass which explored more sophisticated ways of drafting speeches, writing resolutions and amending clauses. The morning also gave pupils a chance to hone their networking skills and make new friends with other delegates from a host of different schools. After lunch, there was a chance to face any nerves and get stuck into debating. It was great for pupils to be able to practice these skills in such a friendly and inspirational environment. Due to the supportive chairs and delegates, it was a very successful day of debate and preparation for this year of MUN conferences.

Throughout this year, we will be attending a range of MUN conferences and hosting our very own **CROYMUN on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November**. To make this event a real success, it is essential that our students chair the committees with skill. We welcomed Fariha Baba, Class of 2017, back to host a workshop on how to be an effective chairperson. Having been an active MUNer in her Croydon High days and now a keen participant in the university MUN scene, she was able to give our students a range of invaluable tips and advice. She also reminded pupils of the benefits of being involved in MUN and how it has opened up so many opportunities for her. We are now all determined to make CROYMUN 2019 the best yet!

Many thanks to Mr. Vickery for his wonderful minibus skills and Megan (Lower Sixth) for her help in writing this report.

*Mrs Tooke*

**EVERY GIRL - EVERY DAY**



## Beacon School Quality Mark



Croydon High are very proud to have received the UCL Beacon School Quality Mark, which recognises commitment to ongoing quality provision for and innovation in teaching and learning about the Holocaust. The quality mark enables us to champion best practice and continue working closely with UCL to recognise the impact of Holocaust education and investment in future learning.

As always, the pupils at Croydon High are our best advocates, showing maturity and compassion in their learning of this invaluable but difficult topic.

The Centre's Nicola Wetherall MBE remarked:

*'It was a pleasure to visit Croydon High School. In your provision and practise you find core elements of what's best about UCL Beacon School status. With Headmistress Mrs Pattison and SLT support, a gifted and ambitious Lead Teacher, Ms Fenwick, has embarked on a journey in partnership with the Centre, that has improved and enriched student outcomes, refreshed teaching and learning, encouraged research engagement and supported school improvement. Thank you to the students who welcomed me to their school and spoke so eloquently about their learning, and to the staff and senior leaders who gave me precious time to reflect upon the impact of their CPD, experience of Holocaust teaching and the outcomes for students. Together, you are doing impressive, and important, work. Your Quality Mark is richly deserved recognition, so congratulations to all involved.'*

If you are interested in reading the full report, please follow the link below:

<https://www.holocausteducation.org.uk/teacher-resources/beacon-schools/beacon-school-quality-mark/croydon-high-school-quality-mark/>

Thank you to all the staff and students for helping us achieve this award.

*Ms K Fenwick, Head of History and PSHE*

## *L'Oréal Young Scientist Workshop on Forensics*

A group of Year 9 and 10 pupils made their way to the Royal institute in London to take part in the L'Oréal Young Scientist workshop on forensics. The workshop was run by expert scientists and gave students the opportunity to use advanced technology outside the normal school curriculum.

The scenario introduced to the girls consisted of a murder to solve, the weapon being a large garden spade, and five suspects all with reason to kill. Initially, most girls suspected the victim's girlfriend as he had not shared his lotto winnings with her! Nonetheless the girls had to remain impartial and begin their work to find any incriminating evidence. They started by analysing and comparing the DNA of the suspects with that found on the murder weapon. All pupils who carried out the process of gel electrophoresis had a chance to use the micropettes, restriction enzymes; technologies usually first used at university. The scientists who ran the workshop were particularly impressed by our girls' technical skills and attention to detail.

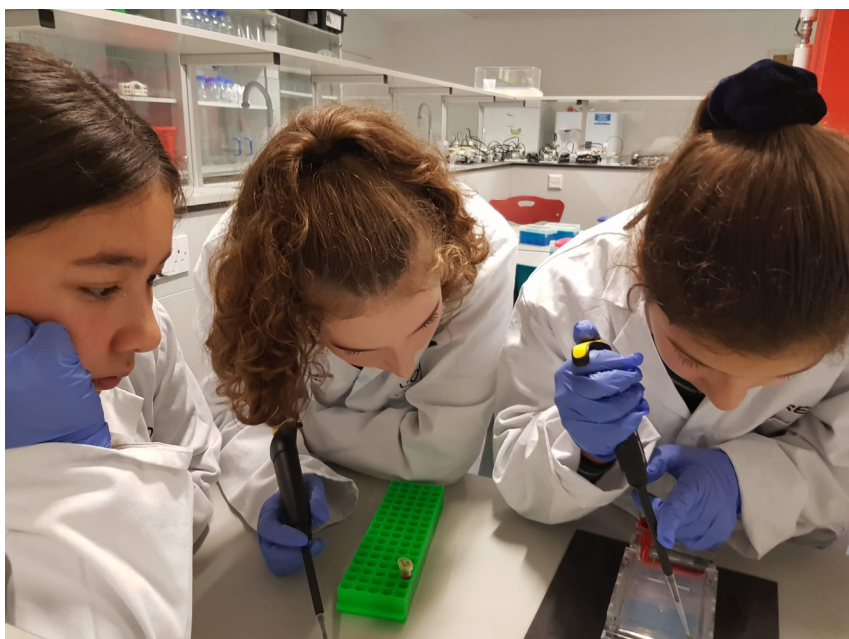
And if the workshop was not inspiring enough, pupils also visited the institute museum which displays the original works of the Great Faraday and Davey who had worked at the institute in their day.

The visit took place on the International Day of the Girl. The push for more women to take up a career in STEM is recognised globally and was the focus of a news report by London Live. Our girls were chosen to be interviewed about their thoughts on this.

After an exhausting but satisfying trip, I sat down with a cuppa as did Miss Baptist, eagerly awaiting the news report. We were both proud to see our girls represent the school so wonderfully, ending with the interview response from aspiring medic, Maddy, about Croydon High School: *"We are always encouraged to follow whatever we want to do, no matter what gender we are"*.

*Mrs Abi Kugathas*

**EVERY GIRL - EVERY DAY**





## *Our Visit to the Department for Transport*

We were invited to the Department for Transport to present our Raspberry Pi project to the technical and inclusion team for buses and taxis, as our project was an interactive bus stop designed especially for passengers with visual impairment.

When we arrived at the London office, we were stopped by security as they weren't expecting school students to attend meetings at this venue. However, they were surprised to hear that we were invited to meet some very important people in the department and we were given the red carpet welcome after we explained the reason for our visit.

It was an amazing, once in a lifetime experience. We gained so much knowledge and we were so lucky to meet such important people. In the meeting we presented our project to the team in the London branch as well as to the team in Hastings via video conference.

We are now looking forward to taking part in next year's Raspberry Pi project and hope it will be a bigger success than this one!



# Sports Pages



Congratulations to Croydon High Under 13 Tennis Team who are Surrey Schools' League Champions!



Very proud of Ness who has represented England Nets with passion and pride in South Africa at the World Championships over the summer



Congratulations to Y7 **Bethan** who won the 25m freestyle and 25m breaststroke at the Dartmouth Regatta Swimming Gala.



Congratulations on your bronze in the Swim Wales, Summer Open 2019 **Bea**!



A huge congratulations to Y10 **Marion** who has received a Swim England regional award for personal achievement in the sport! Marion is also now shortlisted for the national awards in November!

**EVERY GIRL  
EVERY DAY**



Congratulations to Y10 **Aviniya** who has been selected to attend the Surrey Hockey Assessment Centre after attending recent Surrey player pathway camp.



Fantastic news to hear that Y13 Mya has signed for the Tottenham Hotspur U21 squad for the 2019-20 season. She has had a strong start, scoring a goal to help them win their first match of the season!



Some fantastic swimming from Leonie at the Croydon Amphibians club champs last weekend! Y5 Leonie won 2 bronze, 2 silver & 1 gold



Some fantastic swimming from Ella at the Croydon Amphibians club champs last weekend! Y6 Ella won 2 bronze



A great start to the season for our U16 netballers who won their 1st round at Sisters 'n Sport cup match!



What an exciting day for our U11 swimmers! Thrilled to be crowned TRUST CHAMPIONS with each girl receiving a well deserved gold medal



Our Year 6 netballers won their first tournament of the year...congratulations to them all!

CROYDON HIGH PTA  
PRESENTS  
A

# SUPERCALAFRAGALISTIC WINTER FAIR

SAT, 23 . 11 . 2019, 2 - 6PM

CHILDREN'S FUN  
ATTRACTIONS  
SANTA'S GROTTO  
FUN FAIR RIDES  
MARKET  
BAR & REFRESHMENTS

£2 ADULTS  
KIDS FREE

PRIZE DRAW  
WIN APPLE AirPods

CROYDON  
HIGH  
SCHOOL  
OLD  
FARLEIGH  
ROAD  
SELSDON  
CR2 8YB



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EVERY GIRL - EVERY DAY