

## **CRAWSHAW ACADEMY – OPEN EVENTS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **LEARNING:**

#### **How will you ensure that my child will be academically challenged?**

We use prior data and standardised national assessment to set challenging benchmarks for students when they join us in Year 7. These benchmarks are reviewed and increased when it is deemed necessary.

Subject curriculum planning is carefully constructed to build and strengthen foundational knowledge and understanding from individual starting points. Schemes of learning are designed to assess and build on prior knowledge to enable mastery of core concepts and skills. The mastery approach, adopted in subjects where this is appropriate, ensures secure foundations are built-essential for deep learning and understanding. Student data is used to plan for progress by stretching all students

All our teachers are trained in the Crawshaw Teaching and Learning model of planning lessons and the following elements are regular features:

- Challenge for all is built into all lessons and schemes of learning in the form of aspirational objectives
- Teachers use explanation and modelling to demonstrate the desired aims
- Formative assessment, high order questioning and quizzing are used to enable responsive teaching to move students on at the right pace
- Challenging tasks enable opportunities for students to learn from their mistakes-we know this is when new learning occurs
- Independent learning time in lessons allows for deeper thinking and consolidation of new learning
- Students apply their learning to new contexts to further extend their thinking
- Home learning is designed to consolidate in-class learning and also build knowledge

Our annual training programme is focused on improving students' learning and outcomes with dedicated curriculum planning time.

Crawshaw Academy is a member of both Red Kite Learning Trust and Red Kite Alliance where subject specialists meet to share and develop curriculum planning and thinking. These partnerships are invaluable in ensuring our young people have the best possible opportunities to achieve academic excellence.

#### **What subjects will my child study?**

Crawshaw delivers a full, broad, balanced, challenging, and enriched curriculum. Years 7 and 8 see students studying all subjects including the 'Core' subjects of English, Maths and Science alongside the EBacc subjects of Geography, History and MFL. A full range of practical and creative subjects are studied including Art, Music and Drama whilst Enterprise supports students develop important Business and IT content, which provide the foundations for opting for them as specialist subjects further up the school, alongside Personal Development skills.

Year 9 is the transition year between Key Stage 3 and 4 and here students can specialise in one Applied subject, for example qualifications such as Media Studies, Business and Sports Science

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are introduced here. The full Options process happens during Year 9 to start in Year 10 where students can choose an additional three subjects to study alongside their Applied option and core qualifications.

We review and evaluate the Curriculum content and structure annually. At present, Year 7 is delivered through mixed ability classes in subjects such as English, Geography and History, teaching to the top and scaffolding learning for all. Maths is usually broadly setted by ability during Key Stage 3.

### What does the school day look like?

Our school day begins at 8.30am with a 10 minute tutor time which helps set students up for the day, ensuring they are equipped and ready for learning alongside providing opportunities for Personal Development. There follows a 20-minute session, the Crawshaw Book Club, which promotes the vital skill of reading through a shared reading experience. There are then five 1-hour lessons through the day alongside a morning breaktime and lunchtime. The school operates a two-week timetable (Week A and Week B) which means that you may have different lessons, or in a different order from one week to the other.

### OPPORTUNITIES:

#### What trips and visits do you run at Crawshaw?

We have focussed very heavily on providing a wide range of enrichment opportunities for students as part of our STRIVE philosophy. We organise and deliver many visits in addition to those that are required as part of the curriculum. Geography run a fantastic visit to **Sorrento** in Italy to look at coastal landscapes, tourism, and Tectonic activity including a visit to Mount Vesuvius and Pompeii. History offer the opportunity for a residential visit to **Berlin** which provides a fascinating insight to one of the most interesting cities in Europe with students coming back with a great understanding of the recent history of the city and area. Modern Foreign Languages run a visit to **Paris** to allow students the chance to be exposed to some of the most creative artists and influences in the World. The **Ski Trip** provides many students with their first chance to experience winter sports and it is always wonderful to see the development in confidence levels in students across their week. In addition, we aim to take **every Year 7 student** on a residential visit early on in the year to allow them to mix and get to know members of their new forms whilst undertaking some team building activities important for their own Personal Development.

#### What opportunities are there for my child to develop as a well-rounded individual?

A Crawshaw student is one who thinks for themselves, who is secure in their decisions and has a developing sense of who they are and where they fit in the world. We are immensely proud of all of them. We strongly encourage our students to embrace school life and become involved at every available opportunity.

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Each form group has an elected form leader who represents the form's views at Student Council. The ability for students to discuss and influence school decisions is crucial and develops their communication skills and ability to collaborate with other students and staff.

Extra-curricular activities are wide ranging and encompass the arts, sport, and community involvement. We would like all our students to explore different activities and find their niche.

Our Student Leadership Team, which includes our Head Student, Deputies and Prefects, play a key part in our school community, representing the school at events, speaking to prospective parents at Open Evenings and providing an important input into the school's Senior Leadership Team helping to provide feedback from a student perspective and provide a steer for further change and improvement.

### **CLIMATE FOR LEARNING:**

#### **How will you reward my child for working hard?**

Our core viewpoint is that all students should be rewarded for their efforts and all staff should find every opportunity to do this. Verbal feedback is essential to develop positive relationships with students and so whenever possible staff will speak to students and praise them for their actions.

Reinforcing our core values of Determination, Integrity and Respect is key to our approach.

All teachers will also reward the students' engagement within lessons through using Classcharts to record positives. Students will be awarded positives for demonstrating the qualities as well as being given positive points for demonstrating good behaviour for learning, for example: completing good quality homework, students helping one another during group work, students asking good questions, students giving good answers verbally or in their book, excellent pieces of work, students working independently on tasks etc.

The accumulation of these positive points will decide which students are rewarded by the school. Rewards will depend on the number of points accumulated each half term and also linked to attendance. These rewards include certificates, phone calls home, Inclusion in a prize draw, jump the queue passes for food and drink for the first week each half term and an invitation to watch a film whilst in school.

We encourage staff to contact home via phone call and Class Charts to also share any good news.

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Each half term we hold celebration assemblies which reward students for their efforts in a wide variety of subjects, extra-curricular activities, and volunteering.

Towards the end of the year we also hold an awards evening in Pudsey Parish church and for all the students who have worked hard all year there is the opportunity to attend a rewards trip. We are always looking for new and different ways to congratulate and reward students and work closely with the Student Leadership Team to offer rewards that the students themselves decide.

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### **How will you ensure that my child is safe and happy?**

A key aspect of any successful school is that there is good behaviour, effective discipline, and a safe and orderly environment where students can learn and thrive. We do a very good job in keeping pupils safe. We have a partnership approach to improving behaviour and this is supported with effective, appropriate interventions. The framework is neither draconian nor rigid. Consistency, clear expectations, and fairness ensure that everyone feels safe and supported. We request that parents help by keeping us informed about anything that might affect their child's behaviour, such as a Special Need or something upsetting that has happened at home.

We take safeguarding very seriously and listen to our families and students when there is any safeguarding issue. We have a very experienced team who work closely with families for many reasons. Any issue brought to our attention is dealt with sensitively and confidentially.

We have a great support network at school that includes staff who are mental health first aid trained, wellbeing staff and other specialist staff that work alongside Heads of Year and Assistant Head of Years to support your children on a day to day basis. We work closely with external agencies and the Cluster to provide bespoke support.

### **FOOD and DRINK:**

#### **How does the catering work at Crawshaw?**

Our catering is provided 'in house'. We operate a cashless set up within catering, utilising the ARBOR Pay platform to deposit money into individual accounts, with students accessing their money via fingerprint at the till point.

We offer 3 servings in the canteen and the food options available are influenced by our student council who regularly give feedback. The provisions are:

- Breakfast – Typical breakfast fayre, including bacon and sausage bagels as well as pastry items.
- Break – A snack-based menu including sausage rolls and pizza slices.
- Lunch time – Our menu rotates on a cycle, with varied meal choices such as chicken fajitas or carvery style roast dinners. We also include a vegetarian option every day and have full allergen information available for all meals and sandwiches.

### **TRANSITION:**

#### **How do you ensure a smooth transition from Primary school? Do you work closely with local Primaries?**

We work very closely with our Family of Schools. This includes all the local primary schools. Once your place is secured at Crawshaw we will meet with primary schools to discuss how we can best

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meet the needs of your children. Our work with local primaries develops year on year and includes both pastoral and academic transition aspects to help your child have a flying start with us in Year 7. We look forward to meeting your child on our transition days and during our Summer School at the end of the summer holiday, when they get to meet other students and take part in team building activities. Alongside this we run sessions specifically for any students that are coming from schools with only a handful of students and we run sports and craft activities weekly for people to join in if they are particularly nervous about starting secondary school. We also work closely with families and can arrange extra visits for students who need more support before they start.

### **FUTURE:**

#### **How will you help support my child to progress in the future?**

Crawshaw Academy has a very strong focus on Personal Development. All students have timetabled 'Curriculum for Life' lessons where age appropriate topics are explored in a safe and supportive environment. These build on all aspects of PHSCE from primary school, and range across a huge number of topics including relationships education, cyber bullying, knife crime and careers planning. Form tutors further develop these aspects of students' characters and emotional development with a weekly 'You Decide' debate which focuses on current affairs. There are assemblies every week on a range of topical matters that help to prepare our young people for a world beyond the familiar.

Transition to P16 education is a lynchpin of Crawshaw Academy's offering, with an emphasis on Careers planning from Key Stage 3. iProgress are used to guide and track students' career aspirations. From Year 9 onwards, targeted opportunities are given for students to engage with employers and further education providers to allow them to explore their next steps with confidence. Our long-standing partnership with iProgress means our students have access to a Level 6 qualified Careers guidance professional who helps them to form their Career Action Plan. Our careers strategy ensures that our Y11 students make aspirational and well-informed decisions about their futures.

### **PARTNERSHIPS:**

#### **What is Red Kite Learning Trust and how does being a part of it help Crawshaw?**

Crawshaw Academy is proud to be a part of Red Kite Learning Trust, a Multi Academy Trust that combines several primary and secondary schools across Leeds and North Yorkshire. Our Trust Mission is to nurture ambition, deliver excellence and enrich children's lives and this is underpinned by our Trust values of Collaboration, Integrity and Respect. Our Trust has five goals: We champion learning; We promote wellbeing; We invest in our people; We innovate with technology; We are our Trust, growing together collaboratively to strengthen our trust for the benefit of our children, our staff, our communities and our environment.

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Since becoming members of Red Kite Learning Trust in 2018, we have benefited significantly in several ways. Crawshaw has received significant capital investment in our facilities. We have seen a complete overhaul of our IT infrastructure. This means that in the coming years, students will benefit from this improvement as a key focus of the school is to develop further how IT can be used to support top class teaching and learning supporting academic success. Other investments have been less obvious (and perhaps less exciting!), but critical for the school such as the replacement of the boilers, LED lighting within the school to improve environmental efficiency and the updating of our Building Management System.

### **How are you developing your Post 16 Provision further?**

We are a partner school of Pudsey Sixth Form college, which finally opened its doors in September 2025.

Crawshaw and Red Kite Learning Trust are at the heart of this development which is in partnership with local schools and Luminate Education Group who run three FE colleges, including the very successful Leeds Sixth Form College, as well as three secondary academies as part of the White Rose Academies Trust.

The plan has grown from a strong tradition of partnership in Pudsey that has supported post-16 provision in the area for over 20 years. Crawshaw is committed to working with the Luminate Education Group and Co-op Academy Priesthorpe to create what will be an outstanding post-16 provision for our students. We will be combining the experience and skills of colleagues across the institutions to create a high quality, specialist sixth form that will be able to provide the breadth and depth of A level provision that no single school can provide.