

# crest academy THE MAGAZINE

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**Every student ready for university, every student a leader**



## Welcome

**I am delighted to welcome you to the fourth edition of The Crest Academy magazine, and the first of 2018. This year has already proven to be incredibly exciting, and it is with the upmost pride and pleasure that I introduce myself as Acting Headteacher.**

I have 23 years of experience in teaching and leading inner London schools. I am committed to providing first class opportunities and ensuring the best outcomes for every student to prepare them for the next step of their journey. I am certain that Crest will provide students with the tools and skills they need to become tomorrow's leaders.

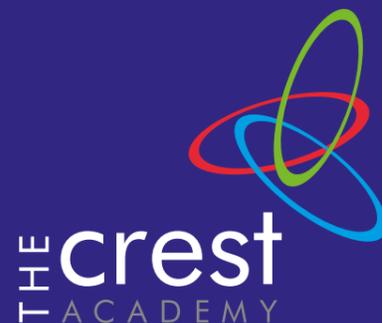
During my time at Crest, I have witnessed for myself how dedicated staff are to helping all of our students live and breathe our vision: 'Every student ready for university, every student a leader'. Throughout this magazine you will see examples of this in action, as students are supported in every aspect of their educational career at Crest, to boost academic and personal development.

I wholeheartedly believe that the values we instill in staff and students create the right environment for us to provide an outstanding education. Crest's rapid improvement in recent years assures me of this, but nobody will become complacent. We will continue to progress by striving for excellence every day.

It is an honour to be leading The Crest Academy, and it gives me great pleasure to share the fantastic successes and developments happening across our academy. I hope you enjoy sharing in our student's achievements, as I assure you there are many more to come.

Should you want to find out more, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us and book a tour of our outstanding environment, or a personal meeting with me to discuss our future.

**Cristalina Fernandes, Acting Headteacher**



## Creating future leaders

At Crest, our vision is integral to the education we provide. Our duty is not simply to give students the skills and knowledge to pass exams, but to prepare them for life after school. This is why students, right from their first day, are provided opportunities that will prepare them to take their places at university and in the workplace.

### Bounding about in Wales

A phenomenal week was had by our Year 7 and 8 students on a week's residential in Aberdovey, with the Outward Bounds Trust. This included a 36-hour expedition in the Welsh hills, taking part in Jog and Dip, gorge walking, kayaking, wall climbing and team building challenges, amongst many other growth mindset and development tasks.

The trip took students out of their comfort zones, boosted their confidence and increased their understanding of teamwork. Many of them exhibited great leadership skills from the first day and it was a delight to see everyone's self-belief strengthen as they were emboldened by their experiences.

The students were thoroughly challenged and pushed on each and every task. Their growth and determination over the course of the week made both the Outward Bound instructors and teachers very proud! Everyone represented Crest impeccably and were true ambassadors for the school.



### Stepping into the unknown

This term 100 Year 10 students were presented with the opportunity to experience university life for the day. In January they travelled into central London to visit one of the UK's leading higher education providers, UCL.

Students toured the campus, experienced a university-style lecture and delivered presentations to their peers – a true insight into life at university. This was the best opportunity that most of them have had to really get to grips with what life could be like for them if they are determined enough to get there.

This trip was made possible by our ongoing partnership with The Transformation Trust, an education charity dedicated to opening the doors of opportunity to young people across the country. We would like to thank them and UCL for orchestrating this eye-opening experience.



# 60 seconds with our senior leaders

Our network of strong, senior leadership is key to our journey of progress and in creating the right environment to provide an outstanding educational provision for students. Our vision of 'Every student ready for university, every student a leader' is underpinned by our core values that our leaders live and breathe. Take the opportunity to meet some of the senior leaders in the school, and learn why they chose the Crest Academy.



## Head of Sixth Form, Vanessa McCrossen

Vanessa has been at Crest since 2009, originally leading the PE department and is now the Head of Sixth Form. She's kindly taken time out of her busy schedule to answer some quick-fire questions and share a bit more about herself and the plans for developing Crest's post-16 provision.

### What attracted you to a career in teaching?

I really enjoyed being at school as I was growing up and was fortunate to be taught by inspiring teachers. It felt right to do the same for future generations.

### Why did you choose Crest?

My first impressions of the school were that it was very welcoming and that it would be a positive challenge where I could really develop and build upon my existing skills base.

### What makes this school unique?

The school's spirit is that students arrive each day to be inspired and challenged through a curriculum that seeks to achieve the best possible outcomes for all pupils. Clear boundaries are set to ensure that all pupils feel secure and cared for in a modern and technologically advanced environment.

### What are you hoping to achieve in the coming months?

I want to support students across the academy to achieve their full potential by assisting the management team to strategically implement good practice that exists already here and across the other schools within the Borough of Brent and beyond.

### Tell us what you think are the reasons why pupils enjoy coming to this school?

I believe that students are aware of the staff's commitment to helping them achieve their goals, and the positive relationships that develop and grow between staff and pupils is an important reason why pupils enjoy coming to Crest Academy.



## Deputy Headteacher, Sophie Grant

Sophie is Deputy Headteacher with responsibility for Inclusion, Culture and Ethos. She joined in 2009 as Curriculum Director for English. Demonstrating a passion and flair for her subject, learning and teaching, she quickly moved into a leadership role. She is also in charge of the induction and integration of our Year 7 students into life at Crest.

### How did you know Crest was the right school for you?

I decided as soon as I met the students – everyone was so polite, hard-working and enthusiastic. I loved teaching my interview lesson, talking to the students around school and hearing stories about them.

### What do you enjoy most about teaching at the school?

I have always found the students' work ethic inspiring – they all work incredibly hard to achieve great grades – it is rewarding to work with such motivated young people.

### What is unique about your role at the school?

I think it is unique because Culture and Ethos filters into everything we all do on a daily basis; it is so important that we have a shared set of values as well as opportunities for enriching experiences which every student will benefit from.

### Tell us what you think are the reasons why pupils enjoy coming to this school.

There are so many opportunities for them to take part in different sporting activities, make friends, get support from teachers – the list goes on. The atmosphere in general is so collaborative and students really look out for each other.

### What has been your greatest accomplishment?

My greatest achievement at Crest was when 17 of my students in one class achieved A\*s. I was delighted at their amazing progress and achievements, especially as they had worked so hard for it!

## Assistant Headteacher, Eartha Pond

Assistant Headteacher and Curriculum Director of Performance and Enrichment, Eartha joined the Crest Academy in 2016. We are extremely thrilled to share that Eartha was recently selected as one of 50 finalists for The Global Teacher Award – one of only four teachers in the UK to be in the finals.

### What attracted you to a career in teaching?

I wanted to ensure pupils had a similar experience to mine: a positive learning experience, high levels of teaching and be provided with the opportunity to succeed – so I decided to make the difference.

### What inspired you to teach at The Crest Academy?

I believe that a good education can go a long way for young people, so I wanted to be part of the transition Crest was making in a community close to home.

### What makes this school unique?

Every day is different, every child has their own story and every experience is one you can learn from. All staff members have a common goal, to work collaboratively and contribute to the overall successes of Crest Academy.

### What are your future ambitions?

To ensure I am the best teacher and learner possible. I aim to make sure all students and staff fulfil their potential under my leadership, ensuring empathy and integrity remain at the forefront.

### Tell us what you think are the reasons why pupils enjoy coming to this school.

The staff at Crest Academy have the best interests of all students at heart. The ambitions, potential and wellbeing of students are at the centre of all that we do, and the students know that. Everyone is committed to working hard to ensure the best outcomes for everyone.





# Beyond the classroom

## YEAR 12 GRADUATION

As part of our continuous efforts of ensuring students are equipped with the skills and tools needed for a successful future, Year 12 students took part in a session focused on their future – from building their CVs, networking and interview practice, to team mentoring, developing management skills and securing work experience and apprenticeship placements.

Students benefitted hugely from the experience, learning a wide range area of skills that will benefit their career pathways. It was inspiring to see the students engaged in a session focused on self-development, building confidence and learning about the skill sets of the future.

**“Media Com has allowed me to learn a wide range of skills within that specific area of media. Previously I had no confidence and found it difficult to talk to people, this experience has allowed me to gain more confidence and learn how to converse with the public. I hope to bring these skills with me to university and the future.”**

**Maryam Al-Makhzoumi 12P**

## ROYAL ENTERPRISE COMES TO CREST

On the 23rd and 30th January, Crest’s budding business leaders used their entrepreneurial skills when they took part in the Mosaic Enterprise Challenge. Working with The Prince’s Trust, Mosaic have established an online competition to help students learn about establishing and running a business through an interactive business simulation game.

The whole of Year 9 took part supported by real-life mentors. From engineers, civil servants and lawyers, the students were able to pick their mentors’ brains and use their valuable insight to learn as much as possible.

Working in small teams, students played a business simulation game to try to earn as much money as possible: the record currently stands at £6million! With a few weeks still to go before the closing date, students are still using their spare time to boost their cash in time for the regional finals. Fingers crossed!



## Jr. NBA

Basketball is a sport close to the heart of many Crest’s students. We have recently been entered into the Jr. NBA (National Basketball Association), a league setup to replicate the highest level of basketball in the world. We will compete against schools from around London and further afield for the first time in Crest history.

As part of this we recently attended an event at CitySport, the sports and fitness centre of City University London, which taught students more about the game and benefits it can bring. It also gave students the chance to meet past and present stars of the NBA, considered to be the premier men’s professional basketball league in the world.

Sabrina Badawy, Year 8, said of the day: “I had a lot of fun meeting NBA players and training with professionals, it’s something I’d love to do again.”

## Crest Academy – an opportunity

It is always a great pleasure to hear about our students’ experiences with us at Crest. One student joined us in 2015 as a Year 7 EAL student and is now in Year 9, beginning to think about GCSE options. The student shared his experience with us: “The Crest Academy has provided me with high levels of support and teaching, to become a resilient learner and an outstanding English speaker. It has been an opportunity for me – to continuously learn, achieve what I deserve and fulfil my potential.”

## West London schools championships

The athletics squad had an exceptional day at the West London Schools Championships, with Crest Academy student Josh crowned the champion. His triumph comes as a result of winning the Under-16 boys competition; our congratulations are extended to Year 7 student Maria Rosa, who achieved third prize in the Under-13 girls competition – well done both, two fantastic accomplishments!



## Free throwing ballers bounce into the final

The Year 7 boys’ basketball team, otherwise known as Crest’s version of the Harlem Globetrotters, continued their fantastic unbeaten record since they started at the school by winning the semi-final of the Brent League.

Our very own Michael Jordans recently netted another win against fierce rivals Preston Manor, comfortably dribbling to victory by 43–9 to keep the winning streak alive. Their latest triumph will see them face off against the winner of the other semi, either Claremont or Newman, in what is sure to be a hotly contested matchup.



# Spotlight on the Head Girl

## Hafsa, Year 11

**Do you have any responsibilities linked to your role?** As head girl I manage the prefects and oversee their performance, I also organise charity fundraisers and lead the Prom Committee.

**Summary of recent achievements (GCSE, AS Level)** I achieved grade 7s in my recent mocks and have been predicted 8s in the summer!

**What has been the highlight of your time at the school so far?** Definitely debating in the Houses of Parliament. It was a great experience that allowed me to grow as a speaker.

**What is your favourite subject or best part of being part of the school?** My favourite subject at Crest is maths because the teachers really help me progress. They care a lot about our education and their passion shows through in their teaching.

**How has the school helped you to achieve your goals?** Crest has given me a lot of confidence to aim high. They organise specialised interventions targeted at people who are struggling so that they can achieve their academic targets.

**What are your plans/ambitions for the future?** I plan to study at a Russell Group university. Crest has allowed me to prepare for this by taking me on visits to universities and giving me a taste of life after secondary school.

**What advice would you give to younger students?** I would advise students to really get involved in all the opportunities that Crest offers such as extra-curricular activities, Duke of Edinburgh, The Access Project and the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge.

**I would recommend the school because...** There is a lot of support here and the teachers care a lot about the students.