



Cranbrook School Curriculum

This is a summary of the vision we have for our curriculum and co-curriculum, our method for implementing them and the intended impact





Our vision...

...builds on our school Mission:

- To provide an outstanding all-round education with academic fulfilment at its heart.
- To add value to our local community and provide exceptional boarding for those outside it.
- To develop curious, resilient and empathic young adults, who are confident to follow their own paths.

This requires a strong academic curriculum, a suitably supportive pastoral system and a robust co-curriculum designed to provide opportunities to develop and strengthen character.

Our curriculum intent:

- To provide an enjoyable, enriching Key Stage 3 for all Year 7-9 as a foundation for all students completing the English Baccalaureate at the end of Year 11.
- To provide a programme of three academic A-levels, the EPQ and/or enrichment in Years 12-13.
- To ensure all leavers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and understanding for successful graduation to Higher Education and the working world beyond.

Our curriculum implementation:

- Our curriculum is structured around the three key stages, each blending support and challenge to nurture the cornerstones of knowledge, skills, understanding and growth.

In order to implement our curriculum, we have embedded:

- An outline of studies 'curriculum overviews' for each subject, clearly defined by Heads of Department which are shared with all students and their parents.
- Teaching which is structured and sequential, based on Schemes of Work carefully crafted by each academic department.
- Assessment which is primarily formative and which dovetails with summative assessment opportunities built into the annual programme to ensure there is clarity about rates of progress.

Our overarching academic and co-curricular aspirations for our school and students:

- To nurture confidence, autonomy, team work and the joy of learning at Key Stage 3.
- To achieve substantial and sustained progress as a school, at GCSE and A-Level.
- To equip our students with the knowledge, skills and understanding to take the next steps to higher education and a career successfully.
- To recognise achievement and development outside of the classroom in the Co-curriculum.
- To achieve competitive attainment scores vs. benchmarks achieved by competitor grammar and boarding schools.

Our curriculum impact:

- We are extremely proud of the outcomes of all our students both academically and in the Co-curriculum. We encourage everyone to look at our latest results as published on our



website and to visit 'Find and compare schools in England' on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) to see how we compare with our local competitors.

The Impact of our Key Stage 3:

Intent

Our core purpose at Key Stage 3 is to deliver an engaging and challenging curriculum through outstanding teaching and learning. We aim to instil independence, resilience and aspiration, underpinned by core knowledge, enabling students to be confident and ready to meet the demands of a broad GCSE curriculum.

Implementation

English and Maths

The core subjects are taught over six to seven lessons per fortnight, allowing students to develop the essential literacy and numeracy skills that will enable them to success in all areas of the curriculum.

Languages

From Year 7 all students study French, Spanish and Latin and benefit from teachers who are subject specialists and often native speakers.

Science

All students in Key Stage 3 study the three sciences, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, separately in specially designed and equipped laboratories which enable them to participate in regular practicals and carry out their own experiments. Food Preparation and Nutrition lessons in specially-designed kitchens teach students cookery skills as well as how to plan healthy and nutritious meals. Students have weekly Computer Science classes in the IT labs where they learn coding and internet safety.

Humanities

Students study History, Geography and RE and benefit from broad and far-reaching Key Stage 3 curricula which develop their skills, knowledge and understanding. All students in the school follow a detailed and rich PSHE programme using discussion and reflection to consider their personal and social development as well focussing on mental and physical wellbeing.

Visual and Performing Arts

In our state-of-the-art Performing Arts Centre (PAC), students study Music and Drama as academic subjects. They are also able to have vocal, instrumental and drama lessons with peripatetic teachers and participate in the many choirs, ensembles and orchestras that rehearse weekly. Each year, we stage a full-school production and a Key Stage 3 production. Art Lessons take place in well-equipped Art studios and students learn to work in a wide variety of media, developing different techniques and studying the work of a wide range of artists.

Sports

Key Stage 3 students have weekly PE lessons using our Sports Hall, Gym and Fitness Suite. One afternoon a week is given over to Games, where students learn Netball, Hockey, Rugby and Athletics. In the Summer Term, swimming lessons take place in our own outdoor swimming pool.



Structure

On arrival at Cranbrook School in Year 7, pupils are placed in mixed ability tutor groups as part of Sellers House. In Years 7 and 8, pupils are taught in these groups for most subjects.

Pupils experience a broad range of subjects at Key Stage 3. At the end of Year 8, pupils make two 'pre-options choices' in languages for Year 9, choosing from Latin, French or Spanish.

In the Spring of Year 9, students select GCSE options that meet the requirements of the EBacc.

Setting is gradually introduced in core subjects in Year 9 so that teachers can differentiate lessons in order to ensure all pupils fulfil their potential.

Co-Curricular Activities

Cranbrook students are expected to be willing and capable contributors to a wider school community, participating and leading in a wide range of co-curricular activities. Clubs run at lunchtime and after school and are led by Sixth Formers, teachers and external staff. Our annual Clubs and Societies Fair is held in the Autumn to launch the years' Co-Curricular programme. Some of our most popular clubs include: Creative Writing, Conspiracy Theory Club, Drama, Dance, Astronomy, Cookery, Maths Puzzles, Robotics, Animation and Gardening. From Year 9, students can take part in The Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme (D of E) and Combined Cadet Force (CCF). There is also the opportunity to take instrumental lessons in school and join the numerous music ensembles and choir. KEY STAGE 3 students also have two lessons per week given over to Activities in which they can choose from a range of enriching sessions including: School of Rock, Dungeons and Dragons, Writing a Children's Picture Book, Flamenco Dancing and Film Studies.



The Impact of our Key Stage 4:

Intent

Our core purpose at Key Stage 4 is to support each student to achieve the very best they can in GCSE qualifications, whilst supporting their social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) development through an extensive tutorial, PSHE, sports and co-curricular offer. We strive to instil independence, resilience and aspiration, underpinned by core knowledge, enabling students to achieve their very best in a range of GCSE subjects, conforming to the expectations of the EBacc. Emphasis is placed on a strong academic core, with our students fully equipped to embark on academic A Level courses in our Sixth Form. Our intent is to expect the very best from every student through insisting on high standards (academic and SMSC), celebrating their successes and facilitating a clear plan for support and development where high standards are not met.

Implementation

Students at Cranbrook typically study 10 GCSE subjects. All students study: English Language, English Literature, Maths, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, a Humanity (Geography or History) and a language (French, Spanish or Latin). All students will select two further subjects from the following options: Practicals (Drama, PE, Art), Humanities (Religious Studies, History or Geography) or Languages (French, Spanish or Latin).

GCSE Music is studied by a number of students as an additional subject, with weekly study taking place in a designated after school lesson.

iGCSE Further Maths is studied by our most able mathematicians.

Where students are proficient in another language or studying another subject outside of school, they are encouraged to sit this subject at GCSE level.

Sciences: All students study Physics, Chemistry and Biology as separate subjects, with the majority of lessons in specially designed and equipped laboratories which enable them to participate in regular practicals and carry out their own experiments. An informed decision is taken after the Year 10 internal examinations (summer term) for some students to study Combined Science. This will be led by the Heads of Physics, Chemistry and Physics, in consultation with the student, parent and classroom teacher.

Timetabled allocation

Allocation of each subject on the 10-day timetable for Year 10:

English Language & English Literature (7 contact periods)

Maths (7 contact periods)

Physics, Chemistry and Biology (5 contact periods)

Humanities, Languages and Practical subjects (6 contact periods)

Non-examined subjects: PE (2 contact period), Games (4 contact periods) and PSHE (1 contact period)

Allocation of each subject on the 10-day timetable for Year 11:

English Language & English Literature (8 contact periods)

Maths (7 contact periods)

Physics, Chemistry and Biology (5 contact periods)

Humanities, Languages and Practical subjects (6 contact periods)

Non-examined subjects: PE (1 contact period), Games (4 contact periods) and PSHE (1 contact period)



Maths, English and Languages will set students on ability in entry into Key Stage 4. Where it is in the best interests of the student, there is movement across sets. Typically, this will occur following reported assessments or internal school examinations. This will be led by Head of Department, in consultation with the student, parent and classroom teacher.

Intervention and Support

In order to guide students to become learners and to acknowledge the work they need to do to be successful, each Key Stage 4 student has three allocated independent study slots in their home learning timetable. Students are expected to use this time to consolidate their previous learning or challenge themselves further in any subject. A booklet of tasks suggesting pathways in all subject areas is published and promoted to students.

We have a robust intervention procedure that allows us to use data and feedback from staff and students to support students who are not working towards target grades (academic) or of cause for concern (pastoral). Where students are flagged, support will be personalised to their specific need, whether it be subject specific, wider academic, wellbeing, organisation or other. As well as academic support, our dedicated pastoral team deliver the care and guidance to support each student's wellbeing. This care and guidance come from the Tutor, Head of House, Head of Key Stage 4, Senior Tutor, the SEND Team, the Safeguarding Team, Place2Be Counselling Service and the Medical Centre. Characteristically, support is personalised, with a triangulated approach (student, school and parent).

We employ the CKX independent careers agency and a careers guidance specialist comes to the school every week offering one-to-one appointments, together with year group support at timely moments. All Key Stage 4 students are tasked with having at least one careers appointment over the two years. The majority of these typically take place in Year 11.

All students have access to a programme of activities including Masterclasses from staff, subject leaders and external speakers.

Sport

Year 10 students have two periods a fortnight of timetabled PE. Year 11 students have one period a fortnight of timetabled PE. All Key Stage 4 students have one games afternoon each week where a variety of sports are on offer, including hockey, rugby, netball, basketball, tennis, football, badminton, squash, swimming, cricket, rounders, dance, fitness and rowing. (This equates to four periods over the timetabled fortnight.) There is an extensive programme of after-school practices and fixture list against other school for the

main sports. Year 11 have access to our Schools' Cardio Fitness suite and weights room after school. There is a very strong sporting culture at Cranbrook School and many students also participate in the wide range of sports clubs and teams.

PSHE & Tutor Time

The Key Stage 4 PSHE programme aims to inform and support students beyond the classroom and consists of a lesson a fortnight taught by specialists and weekly activities supported by tutors. Each student has a daily tutor time (10.20-10.40). Once a week, Key



Stage 4 students gather for an assembly, with the focus driven by the PSHE programme of study. Each student has a fortnightly assembly with their House. The focus will be driven by the PSHE programme of study. The weekly tutor group programme is co-ordinated and led by the Head of PSHE, with materials provided for students in a weekly work book, complimented stimulus tasks and materials provided at timely points in the year (catalysed by national, local or school relevant issues). The aims are to provide students with a sense and place of identity in their community; to provide students with the tools to become emotionally, socially and digitally literate of the world around them, their responsibilities to themselves and the wider community at large.

Co-Curricular Activities

Cranbrook students are expected to be willing and capable contributors to a wider school community, participating in and also possibly leading a wide range of co-curricular activities, clubs and societies. Most clubs run either at lunchtime or after school, depending on their nature. Our annual Clubs and Societies Fair is held in the Autumn to launch the years' Co-Curricular programme.

Some of our most popular clubs include: CCF (Army and RAF Sections), Debating, Dance, Astronomy, Robotics, Coding, Charity, Eco Schools, Wildlife and Conservation, Cranbrook Capital, Queen's Hall Tech Team, Warhammer, Chess and Medsoc. We also have a number of societies which aim to promote understanding and acceptance of key political and social issues such as Amnesty, Blend, The Cranbrook LGBTQ+ Community and Femsoc.

There is also the opportunity to take a wide variety of instrumental lessons in school and join the numerous music ensembles and choirs (including the orchestra, string ensemble, brass band, jazz band, wind ensembles). Each year, there are major school productions including plays, concerts and musicals. Key Stage 4 students are fully involved in these productions both performing and backstage.



The Impact of our Sixth Form:

Intent

Our core purpose at Key Stage 5 is to support students to move on to their future pathways including routes into higher education and beyond. Complemented by a broader curriculum and co-curriculum, our students take three or four A levels, delivered by outstanding practitioners who aim to inspire students to be confident, resilient, and independent young adults. At Cranbrook, we are not only focused on students as learners, but as people whose mental wellbeing, physical health and wider knowledge of the world must be nurtured.

Implementation

A level Subjects

Students at Cranbrook typically take three A level subjects throughout their two years in the sixth form. A small number will take four A levels. Students can choose from a range of subjects including Mathematics and Further Mathematics, English Literature, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History (Early Modern) and History (Later Modern), Geography, Government and Politics, French, Spanish, Classics, Economics, Art, Drama, Religious Studies, Psychology and Business Studies. We are continually looking to expand our subject offer to cater to students interests and strengths. The average class size is approximately 14. Students in Year 12 receive nine contact periods per subject per fortnight and students in Year 13 receive 10. The aim of our A level programme is to promote academic excellence, a passion for learning and to provide all students with the tools they need to learn independently.

Broader curriculum

In addition to their timetabled A level classes, students have the opportunity to undertake a number of other qualifications and courses. This includes the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) which involves a taught skills course, followed by the student independently researching an agreed title and producing a 5000-word report and giving a presentation. The programme is popular and successful and allows students to show a passion for a topic outside of their chosen A levels.

Further to this, to support the wider development of our students, we offer timetabled sessions where they can complete additional courses such as in Personal Finance, Mentoring and Coaching, First Aid, the nationally recognised Sports Leaders Award and much more. There is a good uptake on these and students are encouraged to share suggestions and interests with the sixth form team.

There are also opportunities to engage with our Primary Schools support programme and Elderly care programme.

The Cranbrook Sixth Form Diploma

All students are encouraged to take part in the Cranbrook Diploma, which consists of completing three A levels, undertaking the EPQ or a 1000-word independent research project, taking part in activities or clubs, providing service to others, completing work experience and giving a presentation. The aim of the diploma is to produce well-rounded individuals who have strengths and talents across the board and also to strengthen their profile for applying to universities and careers.



Intervention and Support

In order to guide students to become learners and to acknowledge the work they need to do to be successful, each Year 12 student has nine supervised study periods where they can work in our Sixth Form centre. We have a robust intervention procedure that allows us to use data and feedback from staff and students to support students who are not working towards target grades. Our high-flying students have access to CUSP (The Competitive Universities Student Programme) and a programme of activities including Masterclasses from staff, subject leaders and external speakers. As well as academic support, our dedicated pastoral team deliver the care and guidance to support each student's wellbeing. This care and guidance come from the Tutor, Head of House, Sixth Form Team, the SEND Team, the Safeguarding Team, Place2Be Counselling Service and the Medical Centre. Furthermore, we employ the CKX independent careers agency and a careers guidance specialist comes to the school every week offering one-to-one appointments.

Sport

All Sixth Form students have a games afternoon each week where a variety of sports are on offer including hockey, rugby, netball, basketball, tennis, football, badminton, squash, swimming, cricket, rounders, dance, fitness and rowing. There is an extensive programme of after school practices and fixture list against other school for the main sports. Sixth formers have access to our Schools' Cardio Fitness suite and weights room during the day and after school. There is a very strong sporting culture at Cranbrook School and many students also participate in the wide range of sports clubs and teams.

PSHE

The Sixth Form PSHE programme aims to get students ready for life beyond the classroom and consists of lessons taught by specialists and weekly activities supported by tutors. The aims are to provide students with the tools to become emotionally, socially and digitally aware.

Co-Curricular Activities

Cranbrook students are expected to be willing and capable contributors to a wider school community, participating in and also possibly leading a wide range of co-curricular activities, clubs and societies. Many sixth formers lead clubs for younger students or simply participate in clubs run by other students and staff. Most clubs run either at lunchtime or after school, depending on their nature. Our annual Clubs and Societies Fair is held in the Autumn to launch the years' Co-Curricular programme.

Some of our most popular clubs include: CCF (Army and RAF Sections), Debating, Dance, Astronomy, Robotics, Coding, Charity, Eco Schools, Wildlife and Conservation, Cranbrook Capital, Queen's Hall Tech Team, Warhammer, Chess and Medsoc. We also have a number of societies who aim to promote understanding and acceptance of key political and social issues such as Amnesty, Blend, The Cranbrook LGBTQ+ Community and Femsoc.

There is also the opportunity to take a wide variety of instrumental lessons in school and join the numerous music ensembles and choirs (including the orchestra, string ensemble, brass band, jazz band, wind ensembles). Each year, there are major school productions including plays, concerts and musicals. Sixth formers are fully involved in these productions both performing and backstage.