

# Welcome to Cranbrook School

A unique state day and boarding grammar school for girls and boys  
in the heart of the Kent countryside. Founded 1518.

Maiores tento praesentibus aequus  
Equal to today, I reach for greater things

# Head's welcome

Cranbrook is a genuinely unique grammar school. We are a fully co-educational, state-funded, selective day and boarding school, with a 500-year history, in the heart of glorious Wealden countryside in southeast England.



We are small enough to know all our students well as individuals, yet large enough to provide a rich and varied educational experience. We have three simple aims:

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

Our students thrive thanks to the breadth and challenge of our curriculum, and our emphasis on growing character as much as minds. Opportunities for independent thought and leadership are many. Our boarders are the beating heart of the school and enrich our small community with different cultures and perspectives. As a state school, Cranbrook's boarding is incredibly good value for money – parents pay only for the boarding experience.

The values that infuse all that we do are:

- Kindness
- Hard work
- Curiosity
- Aspiration
- Individuality

We are very proud of all that Cranbrook is. Please visit to see these values in action.



## Admissions

As a state grammar school for boys and girls, we cater for the top 20-25% of the academic ability range. We offer both day and boarding places.

Day place applicants must live within an 8.5km radius of the school. Boarding applicants must hold a UK passport or residency. Successful applicants have to gain a certain mark in our entrance tests.

- Year 7 entry: day only (90 places)
- Year 9 entry: day (38 places) and boarding (52 places)
- Year 12 entry: day and boarding (places vary)

If you are considering Cranbrook School for your child, please scan the QR code for information on open days, tours of the school, application forms, deadlines for registration, exam information, and exam dates.



# Learning and achieving

Academic success at Cranbrook is important but is only one part of our mission to develop great human beings who will make a positive impact on society now and in the future. Our curriculum is designed to help each child find academic fulfilment and enjoy learning for its own sake. We believe exam achievement flows naturally from this.

There is challenge as well as breadth, and a mixture of traditional and progressive subject areas. Specialisation happens late: Key Stage 3 students study everything to build brainpower and help them discover what they love; Key Stage 4 students choose 9-10 GCSEs, including one language; Sixth Formers choose 3-4 A-levels, with the option of the Extended Project Qualification too. Learners with additional needs are supported by our exceptional AEN department. Our scholars have a full annual programme designed to stimulate further their intellectual curiosity. Our academic results are consistently among the very best for state schools in the country, and our leavers head to a variety of top destinations, including Oxbridge and many Russell Group universities.

**Subjects:**

KS3 & 4	KS3 & 4	6th Form additions
Art & Design	History	Business Studies
Astronomy*	Latin*	Classical Civilisation
Biology	Mathematics	Economics
Chemistry	Further Mathematics	EPQ
Computer Science*	Music*	Fine Art
Drama & Theatre	Physics	Psychology
English Literature	Physical Education	Government & Politics
English Language*	Spanish	
Food & Nutrition*		
French		
Geography		

\*Available up to GCSE only





# Boarding

Boarding at Cranbrook is fun, busy and happy, and friendships for life are made with children from around the world. We have excellent accommodation in our Houses, skilled House teams, and an extensive programme of activities.

Students belong in one of our six Houses, with all Year 9 boys going into School Lodge before moving to senior houses in Year 10. Pastoral care is outstanding. Houses are small, with up to 45 students in each: everyone is known, valued and carefully supported by the resident Head of House and Deputy, two Matrons, and a team of Tutors. With 260 boarders, there are always more friends to make, but it also feels like a big extended family; friendships across Houses and year-groups are the norm. Students can board weekly or fully. Weekends are busy as many choose to stay to play in sports fixtures and participate in activities. As a state school, we welcome boarders with British nationality, passports or residency, and are proud to celebrate and promote the heritages of all of them.





# Breadth

The co-curriculum at Cranbrook aims to light fires in young hearts by nurturing enthusiasms and talents outside the classroom that will build their character, enable them to thrive, and bring them joy for life.



## Sport

We believe in the power of sport to develop camaraderie, teach children how to be gracious in victory and defeat, and show them how to be physically and mentally healthy. We have outstanding indoor and outdoor facilities, with 50 acres of playing fields. There is a full fixtures programme in our major sports on Saturdays, and a variety of competition in other sports too.

## Music

Our Performing Arts Centre hums with melody and rhythm: ensembles, choir, instrumental lessons, band practice, recording sessions. Public concert performances and recitals at school or in St Dunstan's Church are regular. Students may take the full range of instrumental lessons. We award Music Scholarships in Year 9.

## Drama

The Queens' Hall Theatre is a haven for developing performing talent onstage and technical acumen backstage. Annual major school productions are mixed with smaller productions to enable the widest possible participation. Students may take LAMDA lessons and exams.

## Adventure

Our students like to get their hands dirty. The CCF (Combined Cadet Force) is very popular, with a wide programme of camps and field days throughout the year, and DofE (Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme) expeditions occur at all levels through the summer term.

## Clubs, societies and trips

Our student leadership is exceptional. There are over 40 clubs and societies, ranging from Blend (diversity action group) to Eco Schools to Warhammer – all run by students. Overseas exchanges, projects, adventurous expeditions and sports tours are regular.

# Care and character

Cranbrook is a friendly school where children feel comfortable to come as themselves. Our pastoral philosophy is simple: a child happy in their own skin will be more likely to flourish. Our approach ensures that each child's needs are understood so they have the confidence to go their own way and overcome obstacles that inevitably occur.

The character that they develop by committing themselves to the various aspects of Cranbrook life will build that resilience, too. Cranbrookians look after each other. Every student gains a sense of belonging in their House – each with their own colours and identity – and is cared for by the Head of House and their Tutor, who in turn are supported by the Heads of Key Stage and Deputy Head. Teaching about staying mentally healthy starts at Year 7, and expert guidance is provided by our onsite counselling service Place2Be. Our experienced safeguarding team works across all Houses and staff to ensure all children in need of help are supported quickly and effectively.



# Community and culture

We are proud of the great diversity our school community brings to Cranbrook town and we place celebration of and teaching about gender, race, sexuality, ability, neurodiversity, nationality and religion at the heart of our school culture.

We also have a deep commitment to our local community and will continue to make a Cranbrook School education as accessible as possible to its children. These sit alongside our commitment to improve our carbon footprint and environmental impact through green initiatives.