

LYNX

2021–2022



INTRODUCING LYNX 2021–2022

1518 Blubery School. 1574 The Free and Perpetual Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth in Cranbrook. 1910 Cranbrook School

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Headteacher, Mr Will Chuter.

CRANBROOK SCHOOL: KINDNESS – INTEGRITY – CURIOSITY – ASPIRATION – INDIVIDUALITY

When I settled into the Head's office in Barham House on January 4th, 2021, we were in the midst of a grim Covid-19 winter. Kent was in Tier 4 and Christmas with families and friends had been cancelled. But things were looking up: children were expecting to come back to school, staff were readying themselves and all looked (mostly) positive. I was excited and nervous. Then, on January 5th, the Prime Minister told us that schools would close and go online: the country was plunging into another full lockdown. So, I had what I hope will be a unique experience: it was my job to lead a school whose students I would not meet face-to-face until March 8th. I was to try to get the best out of staff that I mostly hadn't encountered, and I was to determine a direction for the School by talking

to people on screen. I realised it was a bit like being in a boat on the surface, trying to lead an organisation underneath it: we were all definitely there, but really all I could see were the shapes and shadows of things. Two months of online learning ensued, with students and staff connected via Microsoft Teams and staff laptops that the School had scrambled to buy during the first lockdown. Lessons went ahead mostly live, clubs, societies, assemblies, masterclasses were all online, snow days were encouraged, and sometimes we took everyone offline for a wellbeing day.

As you might expect, the Cranbrook community responded superbly. Parents were supportive, students were engaged, and staff were magnificent: whether teaching via a medium that was as alien to them as to the students, or running the boarding houses that we kept open to accommodate those that needed to be here (over 60), or dealing with the different stresses and strains of furlough. I sent regular 'Talking Head' videos to everyone to remind them of who I was, and I am sure they were sick of them by the time everyone returned in March!

This was just part of what has been the biggest disruption to children's education since the Second World War. The impact was clear from the outset: children less confident in their learning, more anxious about life, very little certainty about the coming months and years. In July 2022, we continue to feel those effects and I'm sure we will for some time yet. We must continue to be mindful of the seismic impact of the pandemic on this generation as we move forward.

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MR WILL CHUTER



Since that point I have been thrilled at the way the Cranbrook community has galvanised itself. Students have got back to working hard, playing hard, and getting the most out of school life. Teachers have thrown themselves behind new initiatives in curriculum, teaching and learning, and support staff have been unstinting in their work to keep the school fed, maintained, clean and working smoothly. Parents have shown their support from day one through groups like the CSPA and ABC (Association of Boarders at Cranbrook), by volunteering to help with Covid-19 testing, DofE, sport or performing arts, and informally on touchlines or in town. We established a vision for the next decade in January 2022 of which I'm proud, and work has begun in earnest to deliver that. It is ambitious and I have been pleased to receive support from Governors, Trustees, parents, staff and students on it. We were inspected by OFSTED in March 2022 under the new framework, which provided some clear indices of what we are doing very well and where we could make improvements.

We finish this academic year with a genuine sense of a 'return to normality'. We are in a phase of rebuilding and growing, with our eyes fixed firmly on the future for our students. We have a new mission and a new set of values. I'm very excited and privileged to have the responsibility of seeing those made into reality.

MR WILL CHUTER



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EVENTS AND NEWS



From left to right: Senior Four 2021 to 2022 Kyle Lu, Tallulah Walker, Headteacher Mr Chuter, Alice Roberts, Korede Majekodunmi.

SENIOR FOUR REPORTS

When I look back on my time at Cranbrook, I am filled with pride and happiness at the friendships I have formed and the achievements that I have been able to reach because of the mentorship and support of the school's teachers, to whom I am greatly indebted. Undoubtedly, one of my greatest achievements during my time at Cranbrook is being appointed School Captain alongside my partner in crime, Korede Majekodunmi. Ever since I attended an open evening when I was twelve or thirteen and heard the Head Girl speaking I knew that this was the place for me and that I wanted to become as good a spokesperson for the school as she was. It is therefore such an honour to be able to write this report and reflect on my time as both a Cranbrook student and a member of the Senior Four.

I will never forget, for example, the joy and fulfilment that came from running FemSoc with two of my best friends and starting crucial conversations about gender equality and what it means to be young women in the modern world. Similarly, I relished the time I spent with the Sellers students during Creative Writing Club and found myself learning so much from Cranbrook's young minds. It encapsulated everything I adore about our school: the community and the idea that we are richer when we collaborate. My time here has been just that: a collaboration. I feel that I have grown into the person I am now because of the guidance and talents of those who I have been lucky enough

to have around me. I think this perhaps became most evident on the Queen's Hall stage which has definitely become more of a second home to me than a theatre! When I joined Cranbrook, I really lacked confidence in my abilities and I remember auditioning for the 2018 production, 'Pride and Prejudice' and being the only person in my year group there. I was very nervous and out of my depth as it was the first time I'd ever done something purely for myself. Miraculously, I got a role (although this may have been Mrs Deeble's sympathy for the lonely Year 9!) and what followed was six amazing months of meeting older students and learning the tricks of the trade from a gorgeous group of people who I'm still in contact with. The moment I saw my name on that cast list was a true highlight of my Cranbrook career and one that sparked my self-confidence and, ultimately, my love for all things theatre. Over the course of five years, I have played over a dozen characters (of varying hair colours) on the Queen's Hall stage and I will always be so grateful to everyone who supported me and from whose talents I could learn and grow.

My year group has been a fairly anomalous one in Cranbrook's history as we have seen the fifth centenary, the 70th Jubilee and we did not do our GCSEs, but what has not been anomalous is the cohesion and community that we have formed because of the familiar influence of Cranbrook's holistically warm, friendly and inspiring environment. There will never come a time where I don't look back on my memories and experiences with love and a sort of peaceful nostalgia. It's been such a pleasure and an honour to serve as School Captain and give back to the community that I owe so much of my character and achievements to. I hope I've done our school proud.

Alice Roberts, Webster

Cranbrook to me has come to be the school for everyone, from boarding, to sports, to art, to the many clubs/societies predominantly run by us, and the many things this school also has to offer. I have truly been able to work on myself and be my most authentic self and, through the hard way, I learnt that I'm not as musically talented as I hoped. On the more positive side, we learnt our strengths and weaknesses and have flourished at what we are good at, and this shows when we look at our students and the various aspects we have all excelled in.

Being part of the Senior Four has enhanced my Cranbrook experience and taking on this leadership role allowed me to be a role model for many. I hope I have shown the importance of individuality being one of our school's values and strengthened the value of confidence that the school works towards building. I encourage everyone to step out of their comfort zones as I did, and try the many things offered.

To say the least, the last five years in Cranbrook have been hectic, with many ups and downs, but our year has overcome it all. We often thought of ourselves as the guinea-pig year, since new rules were often tested on us – safe to say we have equally argued back when said rules have been imposed. Moreover, for some of us Covid-19 prevented us from taking our GCSEs, yet, through the many lockdowns undergone we continued to be resilient no matter what.

As daunting as it may be, everyone will be moving on to a new chapter in their lives probably scattered all over the world, but I wish our year nothing but success in our A-level exams and for our lives post Cranbrook. Leaving this school, we have all become one of the best versions of ourselves, leaving with shared memories and friendships for life. We have proved to be quite an amazing and diverse year and will genuinely be a blessing to the big world outside of Cranbrook.

KOREDE MAJEKODUNMI, BLUBERY

It's tricky coming up with the first line which can perfectly capture our experiences and memories that we've shared at our time at Cranbrook so perhaps I'll change this later. Perhaps not. I mean change happens all the time, right?

At the end of Year 9, I was allocated to Cornwallis House where I met people who would play a major role in changing the person who I am. Mr Turner, my housemaster, taught me the importance of reflection....

However, the main force that drove me into being the person I am today were the boys who I lived with. One of the things I've learnt from the Cornwallis boys was to get involved. For example: learning the guitar allowed me to gain more experience in song-writing which led to building new relationships with people with similar interests. Climbing up to the rank of Sergeant in the Cadet Forces taught me skills which, thanks to my peers, I used to develop myself into a more empathetic person.

Sure, change is daunting but haven't we always adapted to change? Every year we are at Cranbrook, we encounter something new; something different. We've been tested, we've had new teachers, met new people, made new friends and new experiences going from Year 9 to where we are now, all the while with each new year we have adapted to the changes. Why should it be any different now?

Just as we have changed this school, the rest of you now, must step up and face this task. My message to students is, 'If you respect yourself and aspire to be the change, you will achieve your goal'.

KYLE LU, CORNWALLIS

The opportunities that Cranbrook School has given me has allowed me to leave with the knowledge that I am capable of doing what I want to achieve, whether it be academically, mentally, or even physically. The journey that I have been on, since joining in Year 9, has had some amazing memories, created lifelong friendships, but of course has had its down times too.

When I joined in 2017, I was very conscious of what everyone else was doing, what I was doing, and what I should be doing. I was always doing what I could to please peers and do things for the benefit of others rather than myself. As much as having this quality

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ALICE ROBERTS, SENIOR FOUR

of helping others, and doing good is worth, it is also so important to value yourself and your own abilities. Only within the past few years have I been able to do this, and this is largely due to the teachers, students, and atmosphere at Cranbrook.

This is an atmosphere in which everyone is able to be who they want to be, be able to express their views, receive an education and all the while feel comfortable in themselves. No matter whether you are pretty good at the sciences, but not so good at hockey... like me. Or whether you are not so good at art, but you really can play the piano. Everyone's achievements and individuality are cherished and celebrated. I think that allowed me to realise that I didn't need to do everything to please people, but do what I am comfortable with. Whether you think this sounds like a cliché or not, it is important to do what makes you happy.

In my last year, being given the opportunity to have an input into the ways the school could be improved is something that I enjoyed. Making suggestions, and putting forward new schemes that could allow for a greater communication between the students and senior leaders of the school, and having a good relationship with the lower school, allowed me to have well-rounded knowledge of what students felt about their time at school, and the opportunity to try to implement improvements.

I will never forget my time at Cranbrook and how it has formed who I am now. All I can say is thank you.

TALLULAH WALKER, HORSLEY

From left to right: Senior Four for 2022 to 2023 Joe Cooke, Anna Parrish, Tamsin Thornton, Fred Hamlyn, Headteacher Mr Chuter.



EVENTS AND NEWS CONTINUED

The school's Act of Remembrance at St Dunstan's Church and the CSPA's Burns Night celebrations.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The school took part in the Act of Remembrance on Thursday 11th November, Remembrance Day, in St Dunstan's Church with around 1000 students and staff from the school present.

We were able to give thanks to past students and staff who had sacrificed so much for us and this was a hugely dignified celebration of the life of those people. We celebrated with beautiful music from the String Quartet, Isabel O'Neill's trumpet and Lester Chung's piano. The Act of Remembrance was led by senior CCF cadets, Tarabella Middleton, Kyle Lu, Ricardo Garcia, and Rebecca Steele, with a stirring last post from Finn Lewis and Isabel and a moving talk from Mr Young Min. The school's cadet forces also took part in the town's Act of Remembrance on Sunday 14th November.



CRANBROOK SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION (CSPA)

Having had its activities curtailed by the pandemic, the CSPA were determined to return to some sort of normality at the start of the school year.

We launched our new style lottery and were delighted to have a stall once again at Cranbrook's Apple Fayre in October, raising a healthy sum for CSPA coffers despite the dreadful weather.

The big event of the autumn term was a new venture for the CSPA – the Artisan Tasting Evening. It was a complete joy to welcome 100 guests to enjoy a feast of food and drink tasting provided by local producers, with background music supplied by Cranbrook students.

The spring term saw the return of the very popular Burns Night, dubbed 'After Burn' this year due to its delay. It was a fabulous and well-supported evening with traditional food, music and dancing.

Finally, the summer term brought the Summer Ball – a true celebration of the best of Cranbrook with a comedian, live music, delicious food, gin bar and auctions.

Alongside these events, the CSPA have been pleased to support Kent Kindness with their requests for football boots and kit, and an ex-Cranbrook student taking donated football kit to school children in Kenya. In addition, the second-hand shop continues to go from strength to strength.

The CSPA are grateful to everyone who has supported us this year – please see our website www.cranbrookschoolparents.com for more information about who we are, what we do and how to get involved – we'd love to hear from you!

MRS LUCY HOWELLS, CSPA





SCHOLARS' REPORT

For our Year 9 Scholars, there is a thought-provoking range of super-curricular activities offered by each subject, in addition to bespoke support for these activities run by our brilliant hand-picked Year 12 mentors.

Our 37 scholars are heavily involved in writing articles, Oxbridge competitions, Science Olympiads and Maths Challenges where we have had a wide range of successes. They have engaged brilliantly with the critical thinking activities, discussing topics such as 'How Language Shapes your Thinking' and writing essays on notions of truth. They have also engaged very well with the 'mini-masterclasses' where we have had talks on 'Is French the Language of Love?' and 'History's Greatest Villains'. We look forward to similar academic success next year.

DR SAM DARBY

The Cranbrook Scholar Society, which consists of 37 members, came into being this year and we were extremely fortunate to be able to attend regular masterclasses on a variety of subjects, and these have been incredibly enriching. These masterclasses (via Teams) have broadened our knowledge of many subjects, from environmental anthropology and forensic science (given by guest speakers) to classical iconography in early Christianity, and 'Ten Things You Never Knew About Zero' (by Mrs Warren and Mrs Hulland-Rumley respectively).

In March 2022, we had the pleasure of attending a masterclass by John Simpson (World Affairs Editor of BBC News) on 'Ukraine and World Affairs'. Hundreds of students from Years 7 to 13 joined the Teams meeting and dozens asked Mr Simpson questions about his experiences as a war correspondent. This sparked much discussion about the situation in Ukraine and it was a truly engaging and enlightening evening.

Scholars were also encouraged to enter competitions to do with languages, creative writing, science, and more. Science scholars gave presentations on topics of interest to their forms in Science Week (10th-19th March), which were fascinating and demonstrated their enthusiasm for their subject. In addition, we also had a mentor scheme in which sixth formers assist scholars in the same subject with their weekly tasks and advise them academically.

Dr Darby is in the process of organising a trip to Port Lympne Zoo for the scholars. Following this, each scholar will complete a project in which they pursue an area of interest connected with the zoo. This should be an exciting opportunity to go off-timetable and do something stimulating.

I think that the Scholar Society is a brilliant aspect of Cranbrook life and I am very grateful that I have been able to experience these masterclasses and expand my knowledge in so many varied fields as well as my scholar subject (English).

I would like to thank Dr Darby for organising the Scholar Society and planning masterclasses and trips for us all. We look forward to more in the future!

SOPHIE PLATT, YEAR 9

Left, Year 9 Scholars lectures and trips.

SPEECH DAY

The first Speech Day for two years took place on 28th May and the weather was kind, if a little windy.

The event saw prizes awarded for academic excellence, achievements and co-curricular involvement to current Year 11 and sixth form students. It was a joyous celebration of all things Cranbrook and long overdue after Covid-19. The school's talented musicians performed beautifully and OC and governor, Nick Addyman, was both inspirational and humbling in his speech to students.

MRS CHRISTINE NEWMAN



WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTO

For the first time for four years the entire school assembled on Cornwallis Field to have a whole school photograph taken.

In a masterpiece of organisation, and with the weather in our favour, each year group and members of teaching and support staff waited patiently for their turn to take their place on the massive benched scaffolding ready to say 'cheese!'

ACADEMIC



Above, churros in the classroom and Spanish students visiting the BFI.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

During National Poetry Week the MFL department challenged students to read and translate French and Spanish poetry the old-fashioned way – using dictionaries and imagination.

It was a lovely linguistic experience with the best budding poetry translators being Molly Patel and Lucy Platt, Year 7, Amy Moxey and Sophie Platt, Year 9, Isabella Payne and Cosmo Everitt, Year 11.

The Mexican Day of the Dead was celebrated in November to celebrate Hispanic culture which included a Mexican themed lunch, music and quizzes for all.

A TASTE OF SPAIN

It was with some surprise and excitement that we noticed that a new sweet shop in Cranbrook was advertising “churros – freshly-made”.

Churros are a type of doughnut that is typically dunked in very thick hot chocolate and eaten in Spain during festivals or as a very indulgent mid-morning snack. Mrs Croot made the special hot chocolate and brought it into school in flasks and nipped out to get the churros, so that Year 12 and Year 13 students could enjoy a taste of Spain at their desks. It certainly “sweetened the pill” of doing translation and grammar exercises!

FILM STUDY DAY AT THE BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE

On February 8th the Spanish A level students went to London to the British Film Institute for a study day on their A level film *El Laberinto del Fauno* (Pan’s Labyrinth).

The auditorium was packed with lots of excited 6th formers, as Covid-19 restrictions had meant that the previous year’s event had been cancelled. With a talk in Spanish (summarised in English) with film clips and audience participation, the morning passed quickly before an afternoon screening of the film. Our students were slightly overwhelmed when they realised that all these other people in the south east were also studying the same film at A level, bringing it home to them that they would be competing with them at exam time!

For the teachers it was reassuring to see lots of students studying A level Spanish, although it cannot disguise the fact that, since the introduction of a more rigorous two year A level course in 2016, the numbers doing a modern language at A level have dropped dramatically, resulting in some Universities closing departments.

In a recent webinar, the All-party Parliamentary Group on Modern Languages expressed real concerns at the relative difficulty of MFL GCSE and A level exams and the general take-up of modern languages and how this will affect the UK’s ability to trade and promote itself as a serious player on the world stage. Our A level linguists, even if they do not go on to study a language at university, will enjoy the advantage of having an important life skill that they may well find will help them in their future careers.

MRS ANGELA CROOT

GEOGRAPHY

FIELD TRIPS

The geography department was so pleased to be finally taking students out on field trips again after a two-year hiatus. In April we took the Year 12s to London Docklands, Stratford and the Thames Barrier Park to observe examples of urban redevelopment and regeneration in action. We also spent time collecting data in Canning Town as an example of a contrasting location to Cranbrook for the Changing Places topic.

At the end of June, our Year 10 students spent time collecting data in Rye and Pett Level. In the glorious sunshine the students did a great job of asking members of the public about their opinions on the impacts of tourism in Rye. They also used a variety of data collection methods to help them decide on the effectiveness of the coastal management techniques at Pett Level and Cliff End. We are now in the process of planning more field trips for the next academic year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my Year 11 and Year 13 geography students for their hard work and commitment over these tough last two years and to wish them every success in the future.

MR SIMON PENNY



ACADEMIC CONTINUED



LATIN

Year 10 Latin students went on a residential trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace and Bath in May.

Students were able to examine the intricate mosaics of the Palace and imagine the wealthy Romano-British family dining in exquisitely furnished rooms. We then spent the night in the city of Bath before attending the museum and seeing the amazingly preserved remains of the religious and leisure complex known as Aquae Sulis. On our way home we stopped at Silchester Roman town to see the remains of the walls and the impressive amphitheatre. The students behaved impeccably and this was a really enjoyable trip all-round – as well as being a fantastic way to bring the civilisation component of their GCSE course to life.

MRS GINNY WARREN

CRANBROOK ROBOTICS

After two years of cancelled events, both Student Robotics (for sixth form) and Robocon (for juniors) ran their respective robotics competitions once more. Kickstart for both took place around the



October half-term where the teams were presented with some electronic control circuits and a novel task for their robot to solve. The teams then had six months to first build a robot and any necessary mechanisms and then to program their creation to carry out the task autonomously – these are not remote-control competitions but proper exercises in robotics and coding.

The Robocon challenge was to try to collect five cardboard tokens and move them into a specific scoring zone in the centre of the arena. No one in the team had any previous experience in such a competition and so this was a steep learning curve! A group of determined students stuck it out and made real progress, eventually building a solid design that could complete the task. Little time was left for coding, however, so a lot of work needed to be done during the two days of the finals to gradually improve performance and make necessary changes to tactics. Clever robot mechanisms and hard work in adapting code paid off very well and the team of Evie Shimmin, Paris Kes-Ogedegbe, Alex Zaki and Jasper Baker not only took second place overall in the competition but also won the judge's award for the best robot design and strategy.



The Student Robotics challenge involved collecting metal cans with no tokens attached that the camera could readily detect. This was a really tough task for a competition reboot and the SR chat room was filled with puzzled teams trying to work out how their robot could find the cans in the first place. Cranbrook seniors eventually came up with a clever mechanism and sensors to capture cans without knocking them over and a team of Rhys Ho, John Hubbard, Effie Stevens, Rosie Meewezen, Alina Roche, Tommy August and Dani Foster took a well-built robot to the final weekend. Our robot proved to be a reliable performer and we successfully made it to the knockout stages on Sunday afternoon before losing (but to obviously better opponents, so no hard feelings).

Both teams showed determination, initiative and creativity. Importantly, everyone enjoyed the process very much and those students still here next year are already looking forward to the 2023 competitions!

MR ANDY HILLS

HISTORY

BERLIN HISTORY TRIP

I don't think anyone apart from those that experienced Berlin through the Cold War years can truly realise and accept how significant the division was in the city. Although we did see where the Berlin Wall had previously existed, most of us still found it impossible to imagine the city split into two.

On our first day, Mrs Corney wasted no time in taking us to Bernauer Strasse, a street that was physically split by the Wall during the Cold War. Houses there literally straddled the border between East and West Germany and became a pathway to escape from the East. In the Visitors' Centre, the group read horrifying accounts of the many that didn't manage to survive the literal 'jump to the West' from their windows. However, we were also astonished by the number of different escape tunnels often with a length of over 100m. We then rapidly moved on to look at ghost stations, where to everyone's surprise there were no supernatural beings to be seen. The real story behind the name derives from the trains from the West that crossed through the East but were no longer permitted to stop in these 'ghost stations', as the only people still allowed to wander these stations were Eastern German guards. After a slight hiccup with directions, our next stop was Tränenpalast, which translates to Palace of Tears and was one of the few border crossings between East and West. We were amazed by the amount of training the border guards had to go through, and the level of precision it required: even your eyes and ears were thoroughly checked to see if they matched your passport photo.

In the evening after a scrumptious pizza, we visited a monumental landmark of Berlin: the Reichstag. From its shiny glass dome you can see most of the city and Mrs Corney timed our visit to see the cityscape with a wonderful setting sun. Although the building suffered significant war damage, it has been restored to all its glory and remains a very important element in German politics.

The second day was full of more museums! We started the day with a walking tour through Berlin. Our guide was very knowledgeable and helped us get a better understanding of life in the GDR. The tour ended in Alexanderplatz. The afternoon was filled with a trip to a Stasi prison and overall this was everyone's favourite part of the trip. We discovered the physical and psychological tactics used by the Stasi to obtain information from East Germans. The group found it unbelievable that the Stasi managed to keep the location of the prison hidden from the public and more importantly the prisoners until the end of the Cold War.

The final day was packed with more museums! We started with the DDR museum, which was followed by a trip to the Stasi Headquarters. Many of the gadgets we saw were used by the secret police. Sadly, the trip came to an end as there were no more museums left to visit in Berlin – or so we hoped! I would highly recommend anyone thinking of taking history to go on this trip as you do learn a lot.

Not only did the trip teach us a lot about history, but we also managed to acquire some German from making friends with other students at the hostel. Unfortunately, we were unable to acquire any more vocabulary the next day, as we had to say goodbye to our German friends on the first night, which turned out to be particularly heart-breaking for Joe, who

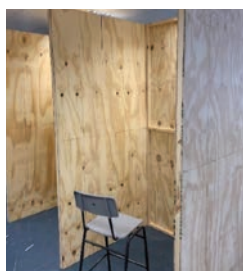
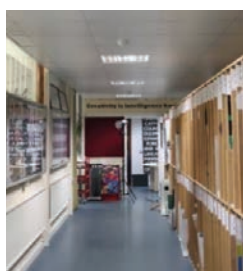
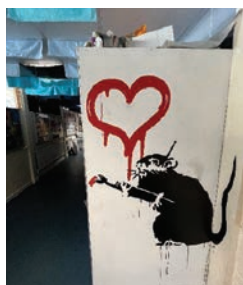
managed to find his German doppelgänger – hopefully they'll keep in touch. The second day mostly entailed walking and 'power naps' on trains: it is fair to say we were pretty exhausted with one individual having a quick snooze while Mrs Corney was talking, leading us to wonder if she would take advantage of the fact we were in an ex-stasi prison and lock us in a cell! However, we were awake enough to squeeze in a visit to Checkpoint Charlie, which clearly caters primarily to tourists, with fridge magnets and other souvenirs being the main focus. The final day consisted of having our millionth 'Five Guys' of the trip and we then had a quick 'stamina test' sprinting through Berlin like mad people when EasyJet brought the flight time forward, only to find ourselves waiting at the gate for over an hour on arrival. We were still thankful that we did actually get there and back without major issue.

JOE COOKE AND HELEN CHAMBERS

It was a packed schedule for the Year 12 history trip to Berlin.



ACADEMIC CONTINUED



Above, improvements to the gallery space in the art rooms. Right, Francis Bacon Exhibition at the Royal Academy and Kehinde Wiley Exhibition at the National Gallery.

ART

THE PRACTISING ARTIST BY MR JAMES KENNY, HEAD OF ART

As humans our brains are designed to constantly seek new challenges and it is from the pursuit of goals that most of the value we feel is derived. Science has proved this with how dopamine affects the brain and makes us want to overcome challenges in order to receive a reward.

I fully understand this myself as an artist and a professional educator and the reward of education should be the acquiring of new knowledge and skills. As artists we seek out creative opportunities, and no sooner have we achieved one challenge than we are already planning out a new and more exciting challenge. It is the process of creating the work that continually drives us forward. We are never complete or in some way never want to be. It is through the pursuit of this goal that an artist grows and experience makes life richer and more abundant. Arguably the highest level of goals and virtues are transcendent, therefore in some sense you want them to be something that you will never achieve. You want your artistic goals to be above you as you continually move towards them like a horizon of continually expanding possibilities. To a certain degree, artists aim for a goal that they can never attain, and that's probably why artists refer to themselves as 'practising artist'.

This year in the Art Department we have achieved some really significant goals making it an outstanding year. We have been able to get out and visit galleries again – experiencing art is so important as our trips to London, the Royal Academy and The National Gallery confirmed. Please read the Caitlin Mathieson and Michelle Okoye articles on the trips on the opposite page.

There have been major improvements to the gallery space this year in the art block. The entrance has had two significant pieces of art installed. The first one was by George Beauchamp and Ellie Nenguke the new Year 9 Art Scholars. They both created an homage to Banksy in the front of the entrance hall. This work is significant in many ways. The startled rat is holding a paintbrush frozen like it has just been captured painting a huge red love heart with fresh paint drips running down the wall. As many of you already know RAT is an anagram for ART, so you end up with Love ART from a rat which is, according to Blek Le Rat the father of stencil graffiti, the only creature in the city that is truly free.

The second major improvement to the Art Department entrance came in the form of a phenomenal, giant ten metre long x two-metre-high light installation by Anna Lane in Year 13. Inspired by her love of science she created and transformed the space with a dramatic programmable structure made up of 50 x two metre high LED strips. Exploring the architecture – which she will be studying at Bath University next year – she synthesised themes of colour, light, negative space and science. It has to be experienced to be fully appreciated. Gordon Young (the Chair of Governors who himself is a practising architect) could hardly



believe it was the work of one pupil because of the scale and complexity of this piece of work.

We have also improved the gallery space inside the art studios, with many hours spent at weekends and evenings after school constructing the new bespoke purpose-built work areas for Year 11 and Year 13.

There is no doubt that pupils have fully embraced and benefited from this new area to dramatic effect. Millie Vinton, Freya Roberts and Greta Shannon all produced ambitious installations in the space as part of their final GCSE outcomes.

Art Club has also been a huge success this year, proficiently led by Max Yang in Year 13. Max's inimitable style of Art Club has been very well received by the lower school pupils. Art Club takes place every Thursday after school, and has grown in popularity over the academic year. Mrs Anja Pomeroy joined us in January as our new Art Technician, and she has led activities including cross-curricular links with science during Science Week. Pupils experimented using baking soda, vinegar and food colouring to create works of art. To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee pupils made replicas of British postage stamps for Barham and designed their own posters encouraging everyone to take care of the environment. In the latter part of the school year, the new Art

Prefects created natural brushes with the students and they and Mrs Pomeroy look forward to exploring creativity and art in the next academic year.

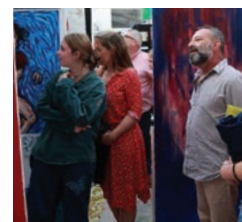
We ended the school year with the first joint GCSE and A Level Art exhibition since myself and Mrs Forbes-Gower joined Cranbrook School four years ago, which was the perfect finale to an extremely busy year. The work this year was of exceptionally high quality both in its content and execution. The feedback from all who attended over the three-day exhibition was overwhelming, and the positivity from parents, pupils, staff, governors, and trustees reflected how much progress has been made in art. We were very honoured when practising artists Marina Kim and Brenda Hartill attended the exhibition along with car designer Professor Tony Stevens. There is often a much-misrepresented image of an artist at home locked away in their studio for hours on end never seeing a soul. But the reality is different; artists travel for inspiration, they visit galleries and are very social creatures exemplified by this event. One parent of a Year 13 pupil summed up very beautifully their daughter's experience having been taught GCSE and now A Level: 'The department is a place of sanctuary, of calm, a celebration of individuality

and of inclusion. Amazing! Of course, but not taken for granted, you have built a passionate team that is infectious in their enthusiasm'.

Parental support and pupil happiness are fundamental to all staff in the art department and is evidenced in how we teach on a daily basis. We aim to offer all pupils who study art at every level a safe space that allows them to grow emotionally, intellectually and artistically. On behalf of the Art Department we want to thank the CPSA in particular for their unwavering support for the art students, not just the financial support that they have given us but the moral support they have shown over the last four years.

The Art Department is still on its journey as it aims at its horizon of ever-expanding possibilities, but I would suggest we will never be complete as our creative minds continually seek out new more exciting challenges. It has been a fundamental journey of improvement and change and we hope to continue practising our love of art, and build on this as each year group passes through; we feel privileged and honoured working with such talented students.

MR JAMES KENNY



Viewers at the summer A Level work exhibition.

TRIP TO THE ROYAL ACADEMY TO SEE FRANCIS BACON 'MAN AND BEAST' EXHIBITION

The Cranbrook Art Department organised an educational trip for the Year 10 Art students as part of our GCSE Art syllabus. The trip included going to London to see the most striking, stunning visual, inspirational pieces across the medias and inspire us students to incorporate different styles into our work.

Where best to start than the Francis Bacon 'Man and Beast' Exhibition at the Royal Academy of Art? During this exhibition, Bacon's artwork frequently used oil-paintings and demonstrated many distorted images to tell a story of their own. What interested me the most was his array of artwork on 'The Bullfight'. His paintings creatively portrayed his view on crucifixion 'just an act of man's behaviour' which refers to the title of the exhibition. Furthermore, often Bacon used the technique of bodies in motion which conveys a sense of an animation in his paintings. The exhibition also allowed us to be creative and freely take pictures of our own alongside the paintings. During our adventures through London, we also visited The National Gallery and witnessed some of the most iconic Van Gogh paintings in the flesh! It was so interesting to see the different textures and colours up close.

A great work of art can generate emotions and feelings. Therefore, the value of a feeling can translate into opportunity and have the power to generate memories, moments, imaginings, and even more art. The inspirational factor was achieved and we are looking forward to many more day trips in the near future.

CAITLIN MATHIESON



TRIP TO THE NATIONAL GALLERY TO SEE KEHINDE WILEY

Kehinde Wiley is an artist who is best known for merging black figures into western art history. He held an exhibition in The National Gallery which we visited showcasing some of his work. The exhibition is in two parts, firstly a small selection of a few paintings and then a video installation on six screens.

Wiley is known to scout for his models on the streets of London and New York. Many of the portraits that are seen at the gallery are of established people from recognisable backgrounds, whereas most of the people in Wiley's paintings are faces that you would see just walking around. He takes simple people who are just going on with their daily lives and transports them into historic paintings. By positioning his chosen models in the original poses of historical art figures, he highlights the spaces in western history where people who look like him are barely represented. Wiley believes that "art should do more than to point, art should have an opinion". His detailed paintings help to showcase the absence of black figures in European art history.

In the film, Wiley took his chosen individuals on a journey to Norway to be filmed against dramatic winter landscapes. The chosen models walked along in the turbulent snow-covered mountains, playing an African clapping game called tinko and held smiles for as long as they could. Wiley recognises how mountains represent purity and godliness as they are some of the highest points of the earth. They show the romantic notion that certain landscapes are seen as sublime and "a place to contemplate man versus nature and therefore man's position in the world". This idea is a construction of the western world. Examining the relationship between man and nature is greatly shown in the works of European landscape artists like Casper David Friedrich and Claude-Joseph Vernet which Wiley took inspiration from. Kehinde Wiley is an artist whose work conveys a message and yet also tells a story.

MICHELLE OKOYE

ACADEMIC CONTINUED

Clockwise right to left:
Madeleine Stonehouse Year 11,
Alanis Nwadike Year 11,
Lucy Freeman Year 11,
Arina Karcenko Year 13,
Max Yang Year 13.

EXAM LEVEL ARTWORK FROM THIS YEAR



“ Congratulations to the A Level art students for their stunning results this year, 73% A* to A.

MR JAMES KENNY



CAREERS

It has been a busy year for the Careers Department and with the easing of Covid-19 restrictions we were able to resume our annual Careers Fair in November as a face-to-face event attracting a wide range of career areas and experts to chat informally to the students. It was an extremely busy morning with students from most year groups popping in during the event.

Work experience for Year 11 is back on the cards again for this summer too and the majority of students have worked hard to secure placements to give them a taste of the world of work and life outside the classroom.

Our weekly 'Futures' careers bulletin continues to be produced and made available to all students and parents via Teams, email and the school website providing invaluable information and links to online and face-to-face opportunities for courses, lectures, workshops, open days and conferences to enhance our students' education outside of the curriculum.

A new initiative for this year has been introducing our 'Careers Champions' to the school. This is a team of Year 12 students who have been helping to spread the word to juniors about the opportunities available to them to enhance their learning and also assisting with careers assemblies and presentations. Thanks to Tamsin, Flo, Anna, Ebun and AJ for their help this year.

MRS CHRISTINE NEWMAN

MATHS

In November, Year 12 and Year 13 maths students took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge 2021. The top performers nationally are invited to take part in the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1 or the Senior Kangaroo.

The Senior Mathematical Challenge is a 90-minute, multiple-choice Challenge which aims to promote a love of problem solving. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

The UKMT have been inspiring a love of problem solving through competitions and enrichment activities for over 20 years. Their mathematical challenges are the UK's most popular school mathematics competitions and ideal preparation for studying mathematics at higher education.

The school also entered a team of Year 10 and Year 11 maths students into a Team Maths Challenge at Invicta School in which they qualified for the final and came fourth overall – a great result considering we were up against the Judd and King's School, Canterbury.

MRS CAROL LAMB



SHORT STORY RESULTS

Year 7 and 8 category

Runner up:

Andrea Ross Year 8,

Winner: Maya Talbot Year 7

Year 9 and 10 category

Runner up:

Ogo Madu Year 10

Winner: Eliza Briffa Year 9

Year 11 and sixth form category

Runner up:

Tein Karibi-Whyte Year 13

Winner: Scarlett Bromage Year 11

JUNIOR BOOK REVIEWS

The Ninth Life of Louis Drax by Liz Jensen

Nine-year-old Louis Drax is terrifyingly accident prone (and extremely disturbed). He's had an awful lot of accidents in his short life and was once 85% electrocuted and then on a family day out he plunges over a ravine and lapses into a coma. This is a book full of suspense with a heart stopping fire at the end.

SYLVIA, YEAR 7

Bullet Catcher by Chris Bradford

Troy realises he is a bullet catcher when he saves a girl in a terrorist attack and then goes on to stop people attacking the mayor's daughter. This book was unputdownable!

WILLIAM, YEAR 7

Pax by Sara Pennypacker

In this story a young boy is forced to leave his beloved fox at the side of the road. The boy knows he needs to rescue his fox and he walks for miles until he hurt his leg. He stays with Vola who helps him regain strength but Pax the fox likes life in the wild and when the boy and the fox are reunited, he has to let him go.

MILO, YEAR 7

Northern Lights by Philip Pullman

Lyra and her Dæmon must leave Jordan College where she grew up and go on an adventure to reinstate lorek Byrnison, save Roger, her friend, and Mrs Coulter, face her destiny, find Dust and find a way to another world.

MAX, YEAR 7

ANNUAL CSPA SHORT STORY COMPETITION

There were many entries from students representing all year groups in this year's annual short story competition. The shortlisted entries were judged by author Matt Killeen and he commented as follows on creative writing at Cranbrook School.

"It's been another bumper crop of creativity from the Cranbrook School Short Story Competition. This year we had a lot of darkness, a lot of fluid and crumbling realities and some lovely gothic twists. All of which suggests the frankly spooky last 18 months have leaked into the collective subconscious a bit. Well done to everyone who entered. The quality was extremely high, and you should all be very proud. And to those who have submitted the opening pages of a novel, I say, WRITE THE NOVEL. There were some superb ideas and I'd love to see how they pan out".

Well done to all who entered and keep writing. You can read Scarlett's winning entry below.

MRS CHRISTINE NEWMAN

ANNUAL CSPA SHORT STORY COMPETITION

The far off bells chimed 7:00 P.M, and the thinly glazed windows fought vainly to keep the nippy autumn evening out, the coral coloured leaves clung to the windowsill, a swift breeze making them shiver ever so slightly. The city was not yet covered with darkness, an afterglow still hung in the clouds. Above the city skyscrapers, antennas began to twinkle and faint brush strokes of orange and pink befell the city.

My mop sludged across the maple stained wooden floor. The museum was empty now. I relished the familiar faces and shapes frozen on these walls. Breathing in the soporific smell of paint that tickled my senses, this place was solely mine until dawn. People flit and flutter within these domed halls, but I remain within the ancient, colour-stricken walls. Empty rooms and empty chairs; satisfaction crawled up my back.

Oh! How I hated leaving them alone, the art stared at me longingly; at times their gazes were so maddening that I slept on the filthy back-cracking floor below them.

My most maddening muse, a muse that tore my heart to stringy shreds; Lady Agnew painted by none other than John Singer Sargent. Her fixed expression, not a smile nor a frown. Her sickly sweet disposition haunted me as I scrubbed the floors. White face, young yet hollow eyes brimmed with a lilac pigment, a large lavish pendant hung on her neck. Those eyes... those eyes! The drooping dog kind, with pools of tainted emerald. Why had she looked at me in such a way? I turned my back away from her, admiring Claude's soft warm summer pastels radiating off my face, soothing my mood momentarily. I could fall into this frame, a story of an old testament written and depicted, one of joy, one of music, one of dance... I could feel her anguish behind my back, cutting like a dagger. I pivoted and accidentally kicked over my bucket. Thud! Suds creeping into the wooden cracks. But still my eyes

LIBRARY NEWS

In the last issue of the Lynx the 'Library' reported on the library, its sorry state of repair, fallen ceiling, lots of scaffolding and waiting for repairs and refurbishment. Now I'm glad to report that the ceiling has been repaired and repainted along with the walls and radiators and we are in the final stages of refurbishment. It will be renamed 'The Rowe Library' to commemorate Peter Rowe, headmaster at Cranbrook from 1970 to 1981, and a lover of literature, history and philosophy. The grand opening of the Rowe Library will take place in the autumn term.

During the long closure of the library, the promotion of reading for pleasure and reading for relaxation has continued apace. The 'Pop-up' library was created in a small classroom to provide reading material for students of all ages and to allow them to relax and read at lunchtime with regular themed book displays, book-themed competitions, the celebration of World Book Day and book reviews.

MRS CHRISTINE NEWMAN

were drawn to her. What message was written upon her ambivalent face? Did she want me like I wanted her?

The bells chimed 11:00, I hung up my uniform and broom. I walked through the park, a dark drizzle hung on my clothes and hair. A drunken blues resonated from a busker's trumpet, melody rippling through the swaying trees. My mind drifted back to the woman in white, I saw her face in every warm reflection of light on the gooey pavements. A woman... the woman, she walked past me. Her hair held up in a clip this time, dressed in office attire. My eyes fixated on her – it was her!!! It was her! I grabbed her wrists, my grubby fingers against her beguiling, milky complexion. She screamed in horror, eyes bulging from her softly framed face, she flung my hand off and scurried away hurriedly away from me. Why had she rejected me? Silent rage swept over me. The hasty hollow clicking of her heels faded away.

A picture I knew so well, a face I could sketch on the back of my hand. I had been working at the museum for twenty years and each day she taunted me. I sat on a nearby bench running beaten hands through my dirty hair. The quiet became loud when the busker drifted off... Into... a deep sleep... SNAP OUT OF IT! I had to keep my senses, I had to think of what to do – far too long had this gone on – I had to take her with me – I could not leave it too late, I had to take her with me. The bells chimed twice. I fled and raced through the soggy grass, wetting my ankles. 35th street, right turn, around the solemn statue. A path I knew all too well. A thief in the night! Blood furiously battered my temples and coursed through my brain. A thief in the night! A funny thought oozed through my rotten core. Tomorrow, the people would come from far and wide and flock to the shockingly naked green spot on the wall. She would be mine, and we would cross the border to a foreign land. For who would have thought? Me. The lurking invisible man of the empty museum halls, slowly sludging my mop across the floor, dusting the frames. A thief in the night.

SPORT

NETBALL

I would like to say thank you very much to all the staff, students and parents that have committed to netball this year. Overall, it was a great season with a 70% win rate across the teams. Stand out performances from the U12A, U13A and U15B teams for unbeaten seasons and huge congratulations to the 2nds, U16A and U15A who only lost one match all season. Despite some frustrating late cancellations, the season culminated in two wonderful OC matches which demonstrated the love of netball that both current and past students have, which ultimately is what it's all about!

MRS LIZ COLEMAN

U12A

The U12A team had an amazing season together. We started off with a commanding win against St Ronan's followed by another victory against local rivals Dulwich and we finished the season with a couple more final victories against Ashford and Benenden.

Milly Gann and Siena Weston had never even played netball before the start of the season but managed to quickly fit in smoothly with the rest of the team.

ELLIE HOWELLS, CAPTAIN

U13B

It was a real privilege being captain this season and the team had some outstanding results and great performances. One of the best matches we played was at Colfe's School as we won 20-1. I would like to give praise to Faye Hitch for being an incredible shooter and helping us get our points and to Delyth Huddart for being a great defender.

IMOGEN CARR, CAPTAIN

U13A

It was a very successful season for the U13A netball team as we have shown an exceptional perseverance and performance in all our matches. We did brilliantly well in the county tournament winning through to the quarter finals where we lost 2-3 to Kent College, Pembury. We also won all the matches we played against other schools throughout the season. Our biggest accomplishment was how well we worked together as a team which resulted in us being undefeated!

BELLA SAWYER, CAPTAIN

U14B

The under 14B netball team played a total of eight games in the season, winning five. The first match of the season was against King's Canterbury, where we suffered a crushing defeat of 24-6 – our most challenging game! From lessons learnt in that match, we came together as a team, to win our next four matches.

PHOEBE STEWARD, CAPTAIN



It was a great netball season with a 70% win rate across the teams.

U14A

The U14A started off the season with a very unfortunate loss against King's Canterbury, but quickly brought it back with a ten goal difference to win against Bede's school. Our next match was then against Duke of York Royal Military School, with a win of 22-13. Unfortunately, our next match against Sutton Valence was a very tough match, but the team kept together and kept fighting to come to a score of 47-15 to them. This was quite a beating, but the team continued to train brilliantly, getting ready for the King's Invitational Tournament. We played four matches, lost three and won one. The season was a very interesting one, with lots of ups and downs, testing the team's strengths and weaknesses but it was an excellent season to play and every member of the team deserves a 'very well done'!

DIDO EVERITT, CAPTAIN

SPORT CONTINUED



GIRLS' NETBALL COLOURS

Atlanta Anley
Amelie Bottle
Elsie Christopher-Soares
Korede Majekodunmi

U15B

The U15Bs had a successful season winning all their matches. The team worked well together and all improved a lot. The toughest game was away against Kent College Pembury, but we managed to get a 12-8. As the season progressed, we began to play better as a team and got some strong wins including a 27-1 and 23-14 result. All the players put a lot into the team and played their best despite injuries and cancellations.

JOANNA SUEWING, CAPTAIN

U15A

It was a strong season with a very versatile team with five great wins and only one tight loss. The Duke of York match was a memorable match to say the least winning 50-1, an amazing achievement and one which really reflected our strength but the fixture against Kent College Canterbury, a loss of 19-13 tested our skills.

TILLY MCCAFFREY, CAPTAIN

U16B

It was a very successful season for the Under 16B team. We started off with a tight loss, but we managed to quickly turn this around and won many further games and this streak continued through the whole season. We had some great wins, and a special highlight was playing Kent College Pembury second team and winning with a score of 16-9.

HAZEL RODERICK, CAPTAIN

U16A

Despite matches being cancelled due to Covid-19 and many injuries within the team we still had an unbeaten season. We started with a win against King's, 29-14, which set us up for the rest of the very successful season and the West Kent tournament showed our strong teamwork and everyone's determination. Throughout the entire season everyone has worked outstandingly hard with amazing commitment and enthusiasm. Greta Shannon, Sofia Best and Sophie Slack worked seamlessly together in centre court. Alanis Nwadike, Hazel Roderick, Amy Wilkinson and Freya Roberts worked amazing well in defence and Millie Vinton and Chloe Jones shot exceptionally throughout the season.

GEORGINA ANDREW, CAPTAIN

2ND TEAM

The season was a great one for the 2nds as we nearly had an unbeaten season apart from one game. We had some great matches especially against Bede's winning 33-9. The shooting was at a very high standard and helped a lot with goal difference. The defending also improved, and we gained a lot of goals from essential turnovers. Overall fitness was at a good standard too and everybody was flexible with their positions.

TABITHA WEBSTER, CAPTAIN

1ST TEAM

Cranbrook 1sts had many ups and downs this season. Statistics may show that it was a poor season for the girls, this however is not a fair reflection on the effort put in by all members of the team. There were many encouraging features, and the 1sts produced their best on match days despite rarely having their whole team available. The team was led by Elsie Christopher-Soares as GK and GD with Korede Majekodunmi as GS and Erin Olliver as GA. The addition of Chloe Jones in Year 11 as GA with her fantastic shooting was a huge bonus for the 1sts and her efforts did not go unnoticed. The centre court play was carefully controlled by Orla Reid, Lottie Jamieson and Amelie Bottle demonstrating their ability to change the pace of the game. Cranbrook's defence was a force to be reckoned with, with Maddie Rolls and Phoebe Jenkinson often appearing out of nowhere to secure a safe and powerful turnover. Goal defence was played exceptionally by Atlanta Anley, her terrier-like play in attack meant she almost always was free, whilst never leaving her opponent's side in defence. Although we struggled to get the wins that we desired against the tough teams we played we were proud of the way we played and developed our skills and team cohesion throughout our school career.

ELSIE CHRISTOPHER-SOARES, CAPTAIN

GIRLS' HOCKEY

U12

Keen, enthusiastic, and willing to learn this team worked hard to improve their skills and gain a better understanding of structure on the pitch. There were fewer matches than we'd hoped due to cancellations from opponents, but the girls have much potential, and we look forward to them developing as individuals and as a team. Special mentions to Ellie and Holly Howells who demonstrated their enhanced skill level and passion for the game.

U13

This was a team that had energy and desire and played well throughout the season. Led by Kitty Cochrane as captain, the team worked hard to maximise success. Apart from their loss against a strong Ashford side they won all their other matches. They competed well at the U13 Kent Schools competition with assistance from the Year 7 dynamic duo Ellie and Holly Howells and Clara Edwards.

U14B

A great squad of girls who worked hard to improve their skills throughout the season. Despite the frustration of the opposition cancelling a few of their matches, the second half of the term saw them grow in confidence and beat the likes of Sutton Valence and Radnor House convincingly. Some players, such as Issy Gibbons, had the opportunity to play for the U14A and there are others with the potential to challenge for the A team going forwards. It was great to see some girls, including boarders, who have never played hockey before, making huge progress, and representing the school. Kitty Dodds demonstrated positive leadership as captain of this team.

U14A

The under 14A team had an amazing term of hockey and we made great progress as a team and in our game play since the first match. Many of the training sessions had a big impact on our decision-making during the games and we were taught new ideas for how to move the ball up the pitch faster or how to stretch the pitch more and these improved both our communication and passing. Our teamwork progressed immensely from the first match to the last resulting in all our game play being brilliant by the end of the season when we faced some of our tougher matches against Sutton Valence and Ashford. They were close matches and we kept calm and consistent to enable us to play some really good hockey. We were unbeaten for the whole season with many ups and downs along the way, but we remained determined and didn't stop fighting.

MOLLY STREETEN, CAPTAIN

2ND TEAM

It was a great season for the 2nd team this year, winning most games with only two losses. We started off the season with a tough game against Eastbourne and this helped us to prepare for the season ahead. The players all improved massively over the season with a great 6-0 win against Mayfield and we built on our side by using the width of the pitch more, picking up the ball pace and lots of successful deflections. We ended the season with a very successful game against a very tough side – King's Canterbury – but succeeded with the final score being 4-2, finishing on a high. This showed how much we worked as a whole team and refined our technical and goal scoring skills during the season. The best moment of the season for the team I believe, was the 7-2 win against Kent College Pembury. This game really displayed the



team's commitment and sheer determination. With nearly all of the team continuing to play next year, we will be able to carry on building and advancing. Many thanks to Miss Scott for coaching us this season, and I believe we have an even bigger potential for next season.

SOPHIE SHENTON, CAPTAIN

1ST TEAM

After a promising pre-season tournament and during the beginning weeks of term, it was apparent the season was in for success for girls' hockey this year. The introduction to our new coach, Mr Kerr, went swimmingly and spurred all of us to play the best hockey we could. One highlight of our season was against St Lawrence where we won 1-0, the first time Cranbrook had won since 2013, which displayed our determination and commitment. In addition, another vivid memory of the season was against Sutton Valence, a tough and upsetting loss, however, the support from friends and family on the sideline made the occasion worthwhile and in some cases the loss helped us find the motivation to achieve more and get the most out of our remaining games. With endeavour and dedication, we completed our season with a win against King's Canterbury, which meant a lot to our team, particularly as it was the final game for the Year 13s. We were successful in the County Tournament early in the season and represented Kent in the Regionals where we played Bromley High Croydon and Caterham in really competitive matches. We played our best as a team and came 3rd overall finishing this season of hockey on a high. Thank you to our coach Mr Kerr for his patience and commitment and to his two assistants Miss Scott and of course Tim. I feel incredibly honoured to have represented Cranbrook in the 1st XI and be part of such a high achieving team – skippering the team in all of our games this season has been a privilege.

IMOGEN LINTON, CAPTAIN



GIRLS' HOCKEY COLOURS

Atlanta Anley
Amelie Bottle
Anna Lane
Imogen Linton
Maddie Rolls

BOYS' HOCKEY COLOURS

Bertie Barwick
Benji Bignell
Rob Finn
Oscar Roberts
Horatio Thomson

BOYS' HOCKEY

I would like to say thank you to all the boys, staff and parents for their hard work this year in hockey. For my first year at Cranbrook there have been many positives for boys' hockey. The main being the 1st XI getting to Tier 4 Nationals in Nottingham. We have learnt a lot along the way and will be even stronger next season. The hockey calendar ended with a great OC game where the boys were very unlucky not to get something from it but they showed from the first minute what it means to represent Cranbrook. I'm immensely proud of all the boys for their hard work this season.

MR RORY KERR

U12B

The U12B team showed huge amounts of enthusiasm and promise for the years to come in their inaugural season at Cranbrook. Although results did not always go their way, the effort and attitude demonstrated was really pleasing to see. With many players never having played hockey before, they can be proud of their progress.

FIN FOWLER, CAPTAIN

U12A

This was our first season playing together and we have had a very successful season. In our first game we finished with a 4-0 victory, with Bertie Cochrane being man of the match and top scorer. Second game was a straightforward 2-0 win with Theo Peck and Henry Webster scoring one each. Our third game however was a nail biter. We played Skinners, and finished with a 2-2 draw. Thank you so much to the coaches for teaching us so well.

JAKE ADDIS, CAPTAIN

U13B

Like the U12B, the U13B showed a lot of potential for future seasons to come. They were unlucky not to come away with a win, especially in an agonising

2-2 draw against Radnor House. Only ever missing out by one score, the boys' efforts never faltered. Special mentions go to John Campbell who was a constant threat up front, Olly McCarthy who led the team admirably and pulled the strings from the middle and George Willson who defended valiantly.

OLIVER MCCARTHY, CAPTAIN

U13A

I think this season has been a very good learning curve for the team. We went into the season scared and not ready and as a team were lacking in communication and confidence. We have however developed lots of solo skills and good shooting technique. I think next year to improve as a team it would be good to learn drills and routines for short corners, transferring from the back round to attack on another side and be confident that we can all pass and excel at the basics.

OTTO REID, CAPTAIN

U14B

After a difficult start to the season and a squad which hadn't played much hockey before, the U14B team finished the season well with three wins on the bounce, beating Skinners, Ashford and the Duke of York's U15 team. A good group of players who were keen to learn and improve throughout the term.

MAX WOODFEAR, CAPTAIN

U14A

The start of the season began on a high, with the team drawing in an intense 3-3 battle against King's Canterbury, one of the strongest teams in our region. Although we had never played as a team before, we showed strong signs of promise but with definite areas to work on. All in all it was a wholly productive season due to some excellent goal scoring and reliable defence, combined with some strong passing from the midfield. All this is pointing to a hopefully rewarding season next year in the U15.

ALEX PECK, CAPTAIN

U15B

It was a successful season for the U15B team. A new team with many players who hadn't played before all stepping up to represent the school. In the early part of the season the boys took a little time getting used to playing the new style that the school wanted to play, but once we got used to it we started to play some really great hockey. This culminated in a 1-0 win over Ashford and 3-0 win over Duke of York's.

REX WALKER, CAPTAIN

U15A

The boys started off a bit wobbly but in our third game against Skinners School we came out with a big 4-0 victory. The boys played very well. We then moved onto Eastbourne sadly losing 2-0 but we played a lot of great hockey and were very pleased with ourselves. Then came the match we really wanted to win against Sutton Valence. The game started off strong with a goal from Milos Foy, but the opposing team were very



technical and we ended up losing 2-1. Overall, I think the boys played a lot of good hockey this season. Well done to all.

HENRY ROLLS, CAPTAIN

2ND XI

Overall it was a great season for the seconds, losing only one tough game against St Lawrence. We had some excellent feedback from our coaches helping us improve greatly. Special mention to Teyen and Jack for their last season at Cranbrook. We hope they continue to play hockey. Once again, a huge well done to the whole team and good luck to everyone for next season.

TOMMY AUGUST, CAPTAIN

1ST TEAM

The 1st XI had a really strong year this year with some wonderful results, and putting steps in place for a really positive future. The season started out with tough losses 0-3 to King's Canterbury and 0-4 to Sutton Valence but from that moment forward the team never looked back. The team then went on to smash Eastbourne 5-1 on their own turf before reaching the final of the plate in the Frank Mason tournament, where they narrowly lost out to Sutton Valence 1-0 despite dominating the game. The season finished in a really positive way, coming second in the County Championship but qualifying for the Tier 4 Nationals in the process. The team then had back to back wins against Ashford and Duke of York's, before setting off early on a Monday morning and making the trip up to Nottingham. After some hard-fought losses, the team finished off the day by beating Langley Park 2-1 and finishing 7th overall, capping off a brilliant season, having had a taste of what future success may be like.

ROB FINN AND OSCAR ROBERTS, CAPTAINS



RUGBY

U12

The U12s proved to be a hotbed of talent and promise in their inaugural season. They won their first game against Ashford convincingly and then drew nail-biting fixtures against Hayes and Dartford Grammar. The boys have shown a commendable enthusiasm and passion for the game and their attitude in matches as well as at training has been exemplary. All players involved deserve praise for their efforts, but special mentions must go to Henry Webster, Jake Addis, Jim Sellick and Aubrey Twynham for consistently stellar performances throughout the season.



U13

Due to missing their first season of competitive rugby, the U13 rugby squad were chomping at the bit to get out on the pitch this year. They opened their season in style with a 7-1 win away at Ashford. This was followed with another closely fought 3-1 win away at Hayes. The second half of the season proved to be harder work and the boys struggled to fight their way into the game against a sizeable Dartford team, eventually losing 6-2. They narrowly lost an agonisingly close game in the wind and hail away at Simon Langton but the quality of the rugby they played despite the conditions showed how far they have come this season. Special mentions go to Otto Reid, John Campbell, Freddie MacDonald, Tommy Payne, Miles Worsley and Fraser Anderson.

U14B

I don't know how to begin to describe the rugby B Team; amazing, talented, determined, connected are the words that come to mind. The B team however is a work in progress. At the start of the year there were barely any boys who joined the rugby club, but as time went on and with the consistent pressure from the other boys, the team started to grow week by week. This resulted in greater improvements on the pitch and a spring in Mr Parr's step. Our season wasn't littered with wins but what stands out is the way we worked hard and pushed forward. On the whole I would say for my first term of rugby ever, we still have much more to improve on but with the right training from the dedicated staff and players we will all improve.

LAYOMI SONOWO, CAPTAIN

U14A

The A team started off in good spirits, but it was clear that the lack of rugby over the last two years hadn't helped our chances in lifting the Daily Mail cup! After each game we lost, rather than focus on all of the negatives we took a look at the positives and there were a fair few. The team was full of grit and determination

The boys put a lot of hard work into the hockey season this year.

SPORT CONTINUED



BOYS' RUGBY COLOURS

Full colours

Max Moore
Max Wookey
Oscar Edge
Felix Murphy
Charlie Drew

Half colours

Tom Gransbury
Benjie Bignell
Tunji Soetan
Josh Ogunleye
Tom Morgan



with Duke of York's the prime example of this; howling wind, horrific rain, and icy cold conditions. Similarly, at Simon Langton, we played on a swimming pool pitch, in the mud, snow and ice. Considering this was the first season that we played together and that we have multiple years still to come, I can see the team going exceedingly far, whilst hopefully getting a few more wins under the belt too.

BRUNO HAGAN, CAPTAIN

U15B

The motley and inexperienced crew of the U15Bs started strongly against our traditional rivals in East Kent, winning one and narrowly losing two by the smallest of margins – one with a dubious penalty in overtime at St Lawrence. As injuries took their toll across both U15 teams, plus a number of earned promotions to the As, our results against the bigger outer London schools were as frustrating as they were opportunities for the boys to reflect on the importance of togetherness and technique. Lessons were learned

but, the vast majority of games away, inconsistencies in line up and a lack of substitutes at times meant we were handicapped against many teams. The lads' attitude has been faultless this season and it would be unfair to pick out individuals – the whole team tried their very best from start to finish.

U15A

At the start of the season tension was high for our first game which was challenging and we came out on top against St Olave's 14-12. Shortly after this we played Ashford – unfortunately we were beaten and our weaknesses were highlighted. We changed the team and with some players coming up from the B team we put skill and strength into our gameplay. However, we struggled to get another win. Every game we played better rugby but were unable to get that win. Many times we got close with tight games against Maidstone Grammar (15-10), Duke of York's (7-12) and Gravesend (31-33). After pushing ourselves in training as a team, the last game of the season was against Simon Langton. With a positive and determined mindset, despite hail and a freezing temperature, the boys put out a great game of rugby and we won 36-5, a well-deserved win.

LENNON GRANT, CAPTAIN

U16

It was a good year for the U16s. Although they had to deal with the frustration of opponents cancelling three of their games, they showed a huge amount of promise ready to move on up to play senior rugby next year. With strong wins over Skinners' 3rd team and Duke of York's and an agonising one point loss against a strong Dartford team, the boys can be really proud of themselves. Special mentions must go to Barnaby Webster for his outstanding playmaking ability, Chris Nard for his ball carrying and enthusiasm, Jamie Catchpole and Wilf Ross for their work rate around the pitch and lastly to Baxter Stanton, Archie Wilson, Archie Parsons and Cody Walsh for their pace and attacking intent out wide.

MR CARO

2ND XV

The season, where do I start? It all began a long, long, time ago. A glistening sun emerged from a cloudy sky and a strong 2nd XV walked out on to the pitch to face a tough St Olave's side. After a long 80 minutes we emerged with a 10-0 victory showing great defence and determination. Overall, a good day at the office and a promising start to the season led by, straight from the pro scene, Mr Caro. So much so that Bethany pulled out on three occasions to avoid the wrath of the mighty 2nds. This lack of action on the field led to a sub-par performance against King's Rochester where we suffered our first loss. However, we followed this up with grit and determination in training which led to back-to-back wins over Duke of York's and Maidstone Grammar. Our next battle was against a very well drilled Skinners side. We arrived knowing it would not be an easy game and this proved to be the case as we came in after the first half 50-0 down. I will be the first to say this perhaps was not the

outcome we were hoping for. This only got worse in the shortened second half where the ref chose to take pity on us and call it off early at 72-5, unfortunately preventing our comeback. Once again, we showed great determination to bounce back to glory with three wins on the trot against Gravesend, Dartford and Simon Langton Grammar. However, the Dartford game brought great sadness as Captain Charles Latham fell victim to a horrendous swing tackle which dislocated his shoulder. Our little wounded soldier left the battlefield with his head held high, which fuelled the team with willpower to win the game. Special mentions to Bear 'the bear' Kearon for his world class performances game in game out, to Teyen Tapper who led the backs from his number ten role creating a collection of quality tries and to Louis Foy for his ferocious tackling. A fantastic season overall.

CHARLIE LATHAM, CAPTAIN

1ST XV

What a season, quite a few losses and many laughs. The boys put in a massive shift through all the games and made them a joy to play in. There were examples of great rugby against top schools such as Skinners, Simon Langton and Dartford Grammar as well as memorable victories against the likes of St Lawrence and Ravenswood. Special mentions for Year 12 Wilf Sellick and Felix O'Neal for a terrific first season representing the 1sts, Max Wookey for his reliable boot and Oscar Edge and Tom Gransbury for their physicality. All else aside, it was an honour representing the 2021 first team. Lads, it's been DECENT!

MAX MOORE, CAPTAIN

GIRLS' CRICKET

U12

The season was a great one for the U12As – 18 wickets, three wins and three sixes. We had a brilliant start, beating Kent College Pembury 269-228 consisting of seven wickets and two sensational sixes from Amelia Kean. We played Radnor House with a final score of 294-241, another awesome win where, this time, Clara Edwards cleared the boundary. The last of our U12 matches was against Benenden girls (a team we were eager to beat). This match was very close but with five wickets under our belt Cranbrook came out on top (score 253-265).

Overall, everyone on this team showed great commitment, passion and teamwork. There was phenomenal batting from Amelia, Clara and Mila. Jaw-dropping catches by Holly, Ellie and Bella G. Super wickets from Alina, Cece and Bella B, and terrific stops by Siena, Lyra and Milly.

BELLA BARSTOW, CAPTAIN

U13A

Our season started off well with a well-deserved win away against Kent College Pembury. The following week we played Radnor House in Sevenoaks and were once again victorious. Our third match was at home against Sir Roger Manwood School where we had our most resounding victory to date, where we beat them by over 100 runs. Our fourth match was away at Sutton Valence where we won by a small margin; it was a very close match. We then played Benenden where we suffered our first defeat of the season. It was a close match. Our final match of the season was at home against Mayfield. The year 8s who were available played with the year 9s and beat Mayfield. The year 7s very kindly stepped in and lost, however they did Cranbrook School proud as they were playing girls a year older than themselves.

CLAUDIA MASON, CAPTAIN



U14A

The U14A team did very well and won two matches, one against Claremont which we won by 95 runs, and one against Mayfield, by six runs. The B team won their match against Claremont as well. Over the season we improved greatly with our batting and bowling techniques and enjoyed the opportunities to play matches.

RACHEL BRIGHT, CAPTAIN

U15A

The girls U15A cricket team had a very good season with some excellent results. The first game was against Kent College Pembury where everyone played very well but we lost by 42 runs. Kayla Brown got awarded player of the match. Our second match was against Benenden and we ended up winning by six wickets with Ariana player of the match. We then played Sutton Valence, even though we didn't have enough players, and we still won by five runs. Our final game was against Benenden again and unfortunately, we were not as successful. We lost by five wickets and player of the match was Lily Slack.

AMELIA MCCARTHY, CAPTAIN



It was a great season for girls' cricket.

There was much enthusiasm for junior cricket this year.

BOYS' CRICKET

YEAR 7

The Year 7 contingent arrived at Cranbrook keen and ready to go and the group rapidly adjusted towards hardball cricket. There were some superb performances by Henry Webster, Jake Addis and Bertie Cochrane to name a few. With some serious batting and bowling performances against great sides such as Langley Park, Judd, and Duke of York's the boys were able to secure some scintillating wins. We really have an incredible year group, not only in A team cricket but B team as well. Seldom do we see such eagerness not only by A team sportsmen but B team players as well who were champing at the bit to go out and give it their all. Josh Harrison, George Smith and Oscar Whittle are players who improved substantially this season and we are very much looking forward to seeing how this group progresses next year.

YEAR 8

Led from the front by Alfred Everitt, this year group displayed true grit and determination. They lost their first game by 108 runs, and bounced back to win the next game by nine wickets. We are lucky to have such a talented group of cricketers backed up by fantastic individual performances by Alf Everitt, Joe Lordan, Otto Reid, John Campbell and Myles Worsley. Through the season this tenacious group have given their all to hang in and do their best to make it hard for their opposition while ensuring all playing were given a fair game. I have no doubt that this year group will go on to achieve great things in years to come.

YEAR 9

This is a year with real promise. Tom Herbert has really set the tone for the group moving forwards, setting intelligent fields, and bowling to a plan. Batsmen went out into the middle knowing their role, whether that be to rotate, strike or to cash in on loose balls, they were well instructed and clearly organised. This group has been the forerunner for Cranbrook cricket, reaching the furthest in all Cranbrook cricket teams. Special mention of course to captain and opening batsmen, Tom Herbert and Lucas Best, but also to opening bowler Will Sprent, hat trick hero Leo Truett and Bruno Hagan. Some of these players have reached milestones this season, a truly remarkable feat at such a young age. I am eager to see what this year group achieves in years to come.

YEAR 10

It was a great and highly enjoyable season for this group. They displayed a genuine love for cricket and an approach to backing your friends in tough times

was established. Whether it be Milo throwing his bat while trying to hit an opening bowler for 12, Ewan's hitch kicks or even Javier trying to block out for a draw, it has been an amazing year of progress. I hope that the enjoyment had by all will really instil a desire to work hard and better our results moving in to first team cricket. We will be waiting at winter nets!

SENIOR

A real tough season, stuck in the middle of exams and with poor availability. All be it disjointed, I think that cricket week at the end of the season was a real success. They played three hard-fought games, without a first win against Newenden cricket club, housed with many Old Cranbrookians. The boys (and Maisie) conducted themselves brilliantly in a thrilling chase. This summarised what cricket is about; it's not as simple as blasting three overs for 90 runs, it's about patience and waiting for the time to strike. This ethos was well managed and stipulates everything that adult cricket is all about.

The season was a real mix with a very different team finishing than started, however I am absolutely ecstatic that I was able to field an eager and talented side that showed true grit and determination. I am very much looking forward to Charlie Latham leading the side next year and plumbing the depths of Cranbrook senior XI that was revealed during inter-house cricket. There were some exceptional performances this year by James Morgan, Teyen Tapper, Oscar Roberts, Maisie Wright, Charlie Latham and some serious bowling by Harrison Larkin, and Hamish Bignell. Cricket really is a team game and I hope that this group of talented individuals can work hard over winter to put Cranbrook senior cricket back on the map.

INTER-HOUSE CRICKET

This year inter-house cricket was a new and fast-paced format, 20 minutes a side, rotating bowlers, six and out, two for a wide. This format was a new decision to enhance the pace of cricket and to make it exciting. And so it did with some thrilling fixtures and much passion exhibited by the supporting crowds.

Overall winners were Webster who demonstrated a brutal mentality with the bat led by Will Sprent (Year 9) and Lucas Best (Year 9) who dispatched any off centre delivery and put Webster ahead of the rest. This was backed up by bowling from Wilf Sellick, local diamond in the rough spotted bowling, superb right arm seam in games one sunny afternoon, it was a recipe for success. However, each side remained calm and cool and delivered on the day. No less than five players who had eluded 1st team training were scouted to play in the school side against tough opponents who each showed their worth.

Inter-house cricket really was an exciting and tense affair, and I am hoping that the energy carries through to next year's competition. Fingers crossed the drive and commitment to raise the house cup will be as prevalent after a winter of netting and practice. I am looking forward to seeing a jump in the standard of both batting and bowling in next year's event.

MR MICHAEL PARR



BASKETBALL

Basketball continues to be a hugely popular sport at Cranbrook and as always, we have done all we can to provide practices and matches for all year groups. It has been challenging to offer the full range of opportunities for all year groups this year however lovely to see the students using the outdoor courts and hoops after school and at weekends.

U13

There is a very keen and able group of Year 7 and 8 students who played only one mixed match after some training in the cage led by Coach Coleman at the start and then taken on by Sports Leader Tobi Adeosun and guest coaches.

U14

Year 9 enjoyed some sessions with coach Mr Presnell and although no matches I'm sure they will be hungry to get stuck in next year. Lester Chung certainly, made his mark as a talented player and exceptional 3-point shooter and enjoyed playing with the older years whenever the opportunity arose.

U15

Year 10 also knuckled down under Mr Presnell's guidance and although they only played one competitive game, which they lost against The North, they have impressed with their desire to improve and their work ethic has been fantastic. This team will be ready to battle next year.

U16

The U16 are a super keen and talented team, and many have played for the 1st team this season. Archie Wilson captained the side and despite not dunking in a game yet... he must be congratulated for his high percentage of defensive rebounds and blocks. Keanu and Miguel are both excellent players and have really started to appreciate how to maximise the achievements of their team mates as well as themselves.

1ST TEAM

The 1st team, led by Mackenzie Bull and Joe Cooke, has been an absolute pleasure to coach. With the benefit of previous coaching from Coach Coleman, Mrs Coleman took on the main role this year, with support from OC Will Walters at Friday night training. I have really appreciated the dedication and commitment of all the boys throughout the season and we played a respectable ten matches. The Year 11s supported Joe as well as Mackenzie, Tunji, Topsy and Josh as the stalwart Year 13s. Mackenzie did manage a dunk at home in front of a hugely appreciative crowd and bench when they beat Skinners 69-12. Results included seven wins and just three losses with 527 points scored across the season. The season culminated in fine style by bringing home the first bit of silverware for the school winning the Tonbridge Cup. These boys battled hard to come back from deficits at half time to win games against Tonbridge and Sevenoaks and I was hugely proud of the passion and competitiveness but even more importantly the self-belief displayed. Thank you boys; you've been tremendous ambassadors for the school and a joy to coach.

MRS LIZ COLEMAN



GIRLS' TENNIS

The girls had an enjoyable season and played a good number of fixtures.

The U13s were represented by Year 7 in the main plus Claudia Mason in Year 8. They made excellent progress and deserved a 3-3 draw to finish the season. The U14s have six very strong players vying for the U14A – Molly Streeten, Emma Kwan, Anya Rasalingham, Lizzie Hughes, Issy Elms and Elsie Hamerton-Stove. Between them they won 5/5 matches. A great season.

The U15s had some talented players too with 1st pair Sophia Rawlings and Lauren Lane winning most of their matches. Rebecca Sedgwick played well throughout as did Lydia Quinlan who gets my vote as most improved player of the season. They won three, drew one and lost two. The 1st team had a quiet season, with a variety of players and met their match with the opponents they did play but enjoyed the games, nevertheless.

Tennis is a sociable sport in some ways but pressured, requiring mental as well as physical strength to play, especially against stronger opposition. I am proud of the girls who played this season and I sincerely hope that they continue to play through school and beyond. Their energy, efforts and commitment have been much appreciated.



SPORT CONTINUED

Leavers' sports dinner (below). It is hoped to make this an annual occasion.

BOYS' TENNIS

The boys enjoyed their season and there are some talented boys in all year groups.

The Year 7 boys represented the U13s this season with gusto and managed to play tennis as well as cricket. The dream team has been Henry Webster, Theo Peck, Wilf Maidment and Jake Addis. Fixtures have been slim, but the boys have great potential. U14s enjoyed their coaching each week with Hotshotz but again fixtures were limited due to the popularity and push for cricket in this year group. The U15s played seven matches, won four and lost three and Barnaby Dear, Rafe Rayment, Isaac Warner and Henry Rolls represented the A team for most of these fixtures. The 1st team boys have talent, but availability was an issue and fixtures were very competitive with results not in their favour.

MRS LIZ COLEMAN

CROSS COUNTRY

Cross country this year has gone from success to success, with runners now regularly bringing home silverware and qualifying for high level competitions. Each week, we have had training sessions attended by 10 to 20 runners ranging from complete newbies to those representing their county. On top of the training, we also entered regular cross country competitions to give our runners a chance to push themselves and beat their previous PBs.

The first competition of the year was the ESAA Cross Country competition to which we took over 20 runners. There were some incredibly impressive performances, such as Lily Slack who came first for her age group and the senior boys, comprising of a team of Charlie Ellison, Harry Cheung, Noah Flanagan, Matt Finn and Baxter Stanton, who qualified for the next round. The boys put in some phenomenal runs, despite some really challenging competition, and came an amazing 4th place in this round.

It wasn't long before the runners were tying up their laces again, this time in the beautiful location of Knole Park. We entered both the junior and the senior race

and the runners did exceptionally well, despite the tricky terrain and hideous hills! The intermediate girls deserve a special mention as their team came third place – well done to Lily Slack, Sophie Slack, Katie Allen, Eve Morgan and Gemma Brassley.

Our final event of the cross country season was the Kent Schools Cross Country. Wearing their brand new 'Cranbrook Runners' running vests, they took to the start line for a faster and flatter course at the Hop Farm. Yet again, the runners did the school proud and we had a set of phenomenal results. Lily Slack qualified straight to the English Schools Cross Country, with Charlie Ellison, Sophie Slack and Katie Allen qualifying for the South East Schools Cross Country and John Campbell and Alfie Everitt qualifying for the Inter County Cross Countries. This impressive list clearly demonstrates the high calibre of our runners and what phenomenal performances they've put in this year.

MISS PIPPA WILLIAMS

SWIMMING

Swimming has absolutely blossomed this year due to the incredibly talented and committed swimmers we currently have in the school. We competed regularly in various gala competitions at least once every half term and set up weekly training sessions that will cater for a range of different abilities.

The first gala this year was against the Fusion Weald swimming squad. The swimmers did outstandingly well, with some fantastic wins and even a couple of personal best times. They fought hard against the other squad to the extent that the penultimate relay touch on the final leg was so close that we had to just call it a draw. Unfortunately, we lost by nine points in the end but I was so impressed with our swimmers' performances that the final score didn't matter.

Following on from our first gala's success, I decided that we had a high enough calibre to enter the Kent Schools Swimming Competition. We trekked all the way across to Margate, but the journey was worth it due to the phenomenal swims we put in. A special mention for Hayden Annan who got two third places and to Joe Sloan who was a finalist in his event.

We organised a swimming gala against Benenden School in March which gave our swimmers another opportunity to demonstrate their high calibre and impressive skill and the regular swim training sessions have built on our performances to develop a really strong swimming squad.

MISS PIPPA WILLIAMS

SPORTS DINNER

A new event for this school year saw Year 13 leavers, 1st team Hockey Girls and Boys, 1st team Netball, Rugby and Basketball players and parents enjoying a lovely evening of food prepared by Graeme, our wonderful chef, and speeches from coaches and captains.

Many thanks to CSPA members Marie Bottle and Becky Addis for helping to start what we hope will be an established event at Cranbrook in the future.

MRS LIZ COLEMAN



PERFORMING ARTS

MUSIC

The Performing Arts Centre (PAC) is a happy and energetic space enjoyed by staff and students. We are always thinking about the next event and when the notices go out announcing them, the buzz in the PAC increases, the sign-up sheets get swiftly filled up and every break time there is a hum of master performances being created. We have an open-door policy in the PAC; everyone is welcome to come and explore their talents whatever their specialism and preferred genre. This freedom, we believe, aids the growth of their creativity.

We put on a variety of shows throughout the year to give every student the opportunity to perform. Over the last year we regularly held lunchtime concerts in the Vickers Auditorium, and sometimes we were lucky enough to take advantage of the wonderful acoustics in St Dunstan's Church. These performances are always enjoyed by students and staff as well as members of the local community, who regularly attend.

In the Queen's Hall Theatre, we hosted a number of events this year. One highlight of the calendar was 'DanSing', a show that is led by the students, for the students. We got to enjoy a wide variety of performances including spectacular dance routines, beautiful acoustic performances and thrashing bands, to specify a few. The event was a true crowd pleaser with the audience ending the show in a rapture of cheers and applause.

For the first time ever, we hosted our annual Ensembles Concert in St Dunstan's Church this year and raised money for The Sam West Foundation. The event was very well attended, and the atmosphere felt very special.

Our Concert in March was in the style of an intimate cabaret bar with VIP tables and candlelight seating. We were treated to a wide selection of performances

from our ensemble groups, our full symphony orchestra and again a mixed selection of genres from soloists and groups, showcasing some of the amazing talent we have here at Cranbrook.

What is so pleasing to see is the sheer number of students from all year groups who get involved with each production we stage. This is not just performers but also the tech team who work hard behind the scenes to make sure everything runs smoothly. It really is a team effort and valuable lessons are being learnt from teamwork and self-development.

MRS JADE DEEBLE

Lunchtime and Ensembles Concerts were enjoyed by students, staff and the community.



PERFORMING ARTS CONTINUED

DanSing was back in the school calendar this year, produced and performed by students.

DANSING



HOUSE SINGING COMPETITION

Following a break of two years and a last-minute change of plan due to Covid-19, the House Singing Competition (otherwise known as House Shout) finally took place at the start of the summer term.

Every house and every student was involved and the atmosphere in the Queen's Hall was one of excitement and anticipation after many weeks of noisy rehearsals for the whole house groups and dedicated practice for the small group singers taking part.

As the school is so large now the event was organised into heats with a masterful plan devised by Ms Smart whereby the performing houses rotated in and out of the Queen's Hall and into the Lecture Theatre and classrooms to listen to the heats before all eventually getting to perform on the stage.

Blubery won the whole house category for their performance with Sellers winning for the small group. The event was judged by Robert Greenfield, the school's guitar teacher and Mrs Deeble, Head of Performing Arts.

MRS CHRISTINE NEWMAN



YEAR 13 DRAMA

The Year 13 A level drama students performed their devised pieces in September in the Queen's Hall. The pieces were mature, professional and showcased their amazing acting skills.



BATTLE OF THE BANDS

It's back! After a few years absence this much-loved school event made a welcome return to the school calendar this year.

Held in the Queen's Hall, with expert technical and special effects provided by Kester Hulland-Rumley, the event showcased the huge range of musical talent from the very youngest students up to 6th form. The evening was compered by Charlie Barnett and judged by musician and singer Jess Greenfield, who plays with Noel Gallagher and his band 'The High Flying Birds'. Performances by all the bands were exceptional with the overall winner being TN17, a band comprising Year 9 and Year 10 students led by Elliot Graham below left. Their prize is a recording session at a professional studio and a gig with a professional band.

Many congratulations to all who took part for their exceptional performances, including the staff band – already looking forward to next year!

MRS CHRISTINE NEWMAN

Performers – of all ages – took to the stage for the much welcome return of Battle of the Bands.



PERFORMING ARTS CONTINUED



The Grease production was an 'explosion of energy on stage'.

GREASE IS THE WORD!

After months of rehearsals, it was finally showtime...

As soon as I saw the Greased Lightning car that Mr Hulland-Rumley had built as part of the incredible set, I knew Grease was going to be every bit the extravaganza that our director Mrs Deeble had led us to believe. I put my name down for the ensemble in September last year, and spent many hours rehearsing the group dances and vocals. In the run up to performance week our evenings were spent sorting formations, learning improved choreography and going over and over every dance. Everyone involved, from the leads to the tech team, the ensemble to the band had a part to play, and no one could afford to make a mistake. The fantastic hair, make-up and costumes helped everyone get into character and everyone stepped up in the final few days to perfect their performance.

In lockdown, it seemed as if we would never be able to take part in a show at school ever again, so it was amazing to be able to get back up on the stage and perform in the Queen's Hall, packed to the rafters, for three nights running. Everybody came together in one big family with students from Year 7 to Year 13, as well as some Year 6 pupils from local primary schools for the final performance, and we forged friendships that will last until we leave Cranbrook. A huge thank you to everyone involved for their part in this amazing experience! "We'll always be together!"

GEMMA BRASSLEY, YEAR 9

GREASE!

The well-known film, 'Grease', and the iconic status of Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta throws down something of a gauntlet to any new production. This challenge was not only accepted but blown out of the water by the Cranbrook cast, with every single performance brimming with energy and skill. Finn Clubb's 'Danny' was breathtaking, convincing in every mannerism and authentic in overall interpretation. Cedar Thomas-Davies put her own twist on Sandy without diminishing the integrity of the character, bringing out both Sandy's vulnerability in a heart-stopping performance of 'Hopelessly Devoted to You' as well as in the fantastic energy of the final numbers.

School productions are sometimes seen as showcasing a handful of genuinely talented students and providing good experience for others. Cranbrook School Performing Arts shattered that myth back in 2019 with 'Hairspray' and they have doubled down with their latest offering. There were many musically strong performances (Priya Toberman's 'Jan' and Lucas Kenney's 'Sonny' were particularly notable); Flora Wynn-Carter's Rizzo was relentlessly brilliant and James Baskett's Eugene showed exceptional range and comic presence. Even this list is ridiculously incomplete: perhaps the most remarkable thing of all was that every character exuded the energy and passion of the whole.

Underpinning all these impressive individual performances was a set and logistics exercise that was precise and seemingly effortless, with Kester Hulland-Rumley's stunning set design exploited to the full by Jade Deeble's use of the space. All in all, 'Grease' was a brilliantly choreographed explosion of energy on a stage set that would not have looked out of place in a fully professional production.

MRS EVELYN CORNEY



LORD OF THE FLIES

Junior drama in the school was raised to an altogether new level this year with Mr Collins-Smith's superb production of 'Lord of the Flies' in June. It was a fabulous piece of drama expertly executed by the young cast and professionally staged.

Mr Collins-Smith says, "We used a building block system to create the set with Kester Hulland-Rumley adding the finer details to create the atmosphere including making the pig and conch. We both spent an evening putting together the lights and sound with Kester truly capturing the director's vision and cranking it up a notch. The Year 8 students involved in helping to operate the tech on the night of the performance were fantastic as were all the students who made weapons and other props.

"Huge thanks go to the cast who put in endless hours and effort in learning lines and taking directors notes, with a particular reference to Niesha who led on the stage by example and showed great professionalism. A special mention must go to Year 12 students Anu and Eri for their contributions as Assistant Directors, in ensuring pupils were on track, offering words of advice and keeping on top of note-taking and ensuring the cast hit the markers. A mention too for our scholar Dasia, who was like 'a fly on the wall' during this process and gleaned a great insight into the logistics of theatre making".

MRS JADE DEEBLE



REVIEW

On 29th June the school put on a stage adaptation of the classic 1954 novel 'Lord of the Flies' by William Golding. The play was cast earlier in the year and, under Mr Collins-Smith's direction, the students spent months preparing for their roles in this intense piece dedicating endless hours and effort in learning lines and taking the director's notes.

The production successfully showcased the immense dramatic talent of the Year 7s, 8s and 9s. Despite the actors being so young, they conveyed all the gory and brutal elements of the original story as well as a few moments of humour in this otherwise serious piece of drama. The play had moments ranging from melancholy to rage, all brought to life by the acting skills of the cast. It was performed in a naturalistic style with split-staging, and freeze-frames lending themselves nicely to showcase the multiple storylines taking place throughout the plot. Despite its barbaric nature, the small moments of humour gave short relief from the rest of the production. One particular moment that stood out was the slaughter at the end, where the actors' performances, combined with the dramatic music and lighting, left the audience genuinely terrified.

Year 12 drama students, Anu and Eri, contributed as Assistant Directors throughout the piece, ensuring that all the actors were on track, and constantly providing advice that kept the young actors on top of their note-taking. Anu and Eri both had a brief cameo appearance as army officers at the end of the play.

The phenomenal set and lighting design aided the audience's immersion in this piece. Kester and Mr Collins-Smith gave up their weekends to build the structure of the set, with Kester adding the final details to give the impression of a deserted island.

In conclusion, the play successfully conveyed the original story of the novel through the remarkable performance of the actors, the incredible set design and the great direction from Mr Collins-Smith. Everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

SCOTT BINNENDIJK, YEAR 12

Lord of the Flies showcased the dramatic talents of students in Year 7, 8 and 9.



CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

ASTRONOMY CLUB

It was an incredibly busy and successful year for Astronomy Club, with plenty of ideas for 2023 in the pipeline.

The year kicked off with a highly successful open evening for parents, staff and students in the Observatory where attendees were able to take in the marvels of the night sky with a laser tour and a talk about the Alan Young telescope housed in the Observatory. We welcomed local cub groups and students from Cranbrook Primary School who enjoyed a tour of the solar system before learning about the phases of the moon.



Each week students from the club met during the daytime to discuss Astronomy in the news and loosely follow some of the Astronomy GCSE curriculum; learning about our solar system and constellations. Weather dependent, we tried to meet at least once a week during the darker months in the evenings to directly observe the night sky. Students became more familiar with the constellations, learning how to find planets, use the binoculars and learn the basics of using some of the smaller telescopes (though they are still quite powerful).

Members of the club were able to observe several nebulae and stars using the telescopes and later in the year were able to use mobile phone adapters to take some remarkable photos including the moon. The students have been guided by myself and Rod Smith in addition to some volunteers from CADSAS. Their focus is using the Alan Young Telescope to complete research which some senior students from the club started to help with. It is not straightforward for the students to be involved due to the development of the driving system for the telescope, however over the next academic year we are hoping to train more students to use the telescope.

Two junior members of the club, Sylvia and Milo wrote brilliant science pieces for 'Cranbuzz' magazine and we are hoping to access the Crest Awards in the club next year to focus the group. Money from the 'Cranbrook Together' fund has helped us buy some red-light torches and the phone adapters which has made a huge difference to our evening meetings.

Astronomy Club is not for the faint hearted – a lot of patience is needed, plus the cold evenings to cope with but hot chocolate helps! It has been so wonderful to see students with a genuine interest in astronomy and astrophotography being given the opportunity to make use of the school's terrific facilities and further their passion.

MRS SHELLY SUTTON

OBSERVATORY REPORT

Astronomy Club is thriving at the school thanks to 'Cranbrook Together' who have funded a small number of items for the club to use at the Observatory.

Evie and Paris were able to capture a fantastic picture of the moon in March using the new mobile phone adapters for the telescopes, and Olivia and Toby took one of the moon and the Tycho crater. It was a very challenging evening to take photos; with cloud cover and a near-full moon which means the brightness of the moon can cause the detailed features to be too bright to see. It is hoped to extend the astrophotography to other objects in the sky on clearer nights.

MRS SHELLY SUTTON



WILDLIFE CLUB

The Wildlife Club was a new club for this year with big aims. Devised and run by Dr Warren and Mr Penny, it hoped to bring much more attention to the importance of our connections to nature by transforming the school campus and students' involvement in the natural world over the coming years.

There are plans afoot to 'rewild' the Crane Valley (a programme of woodland improvement to turn it back to something like its old Wealden gill form, with native wildflowers, owl boxes, feeding stations, insect zones...) and create a colourful and exciting diversity among the habitats of our lovely campus. This spring the club planted up big wildflower meadows both on campus and down on the Cornwallis field (no small feat requiring a hired digger!)

At the end of February Mr Penny and Dr Warren ran the inaugural field trip in a program that continued throughout the spring/summer, to Rye Harbour. The outing was attended by parents as well as students on a perfect late winter, frosty clear day, and there was no shortage of birds on the reserve's floods and scrapes for the students to get identifying with the club's smart new binoculars funded by 'Cranbrook Together': snipe, oystercatcher, curlew, lapwing, ringed plover, dunlin, redshank, teal, wigeon, little egret, and even two rare spoonbills (a heron-like bird, pure white, with a huge spoon-shaped beak!) During this year students were also involved with finding barn owls, nightingales, bitterns, badgers, butterflies, and much more.

DR MICHAEL WARREN

CIRCUS CLUB

This year saw Mrs Hills start up a circus club with generous funds from the CSPA to purchase juggling balls, hats, scarves, poi, spinning staff, spinning plates and diablo. The students have thoroughly enjoyed the Tuesday lunchtime skills sessions and the weather was generous to us all year.

Circus skills have been shown to help with mindfulness as you can tune into the motions of the equipment and some have even been able to start spinning poi with their eyes closed.

Sam Urie, Year 13, has progressed dramatically this year as he had never juggled before and is now mastering some complex 3 and 4 ball patterns. He says: "I gained an interest in learning circus skills after reading in a psychological journal about how the brain can adapt and improve in response to learning new skills. In fact, they found that learning to juggle can actually increase grey matter in your brain! Learning circus skills has definitely been a highlight of my Cranbrook career. From poi spinning to scarf juggling I have learned so many different skills that will stay with me forever. Recently, while studying for my A-levels I found valuable stress relief through juggling and am so grateful to Mrs Hills and the circus club!"

MRS ELLY HILLS

Mrs Hills is now moving on to join the real circus to continue teaching circus skills both aerial and ground – based to students across Kent, but we hope the club continues at Cranbrook.



GARDENING CLUB

The KS3 Gardening Club has gone from strength to strength this year with the addition of new members as well as old faces as they progress through the school.

Last summer we were involved with the Mayor of Cranbrook's Sunflower Spectacular initiative and planted sunflowers around the school campus. We also helped the Mayor plant foxgloves and wildflowers on the wildflower section of the Ball Field to encourage wildlife and biodiversity. The students have learned so much in the two years the club has been running and we are experimenting this year with new crops such as butternut squash and radishes. We are looking forward to a club outing to Sissinghurst Castle Gardens in July to get some inspiration and see how their vegetable patch is coming along. Well done to all the dedicated members for their hard work and enthusiasm.

MRS GINNY WARREN



CLUBS AND SOCIETIES CONTINUED



The CCF Biennial Inspection which took place in May.



CCF

CCF CONTINGENT OVERVIEW

After two years of disruption to training, activities and camps, we were determined to get the CCF back and running as quickly and effectively as possible.

Our aim was to organize lots of trips and events in order to restore interest and numbers. This we did successfully as illustrated by the various reports included below which have all been written by cadets. One of the annual highlights, as always, was the Remembrance Day Parade. Combined with Cranbrook ACF, we had over 100 cadets marching to the memorial for the service of wreath laying. Cadets have also taken part in range days run by the 11 Brigade Cadet Training Team, and on-site training events giving them a chance to hone their skills. Sadly, the RAF section haven't managed to get much flying time, but this is looking likely to change next year with more slots becoming available for cadets.

On May 4th, we had our Biennial Inspection and were very pleased to have Lieutenant Colonel Simon Farebrother as the Reviewing Officer (OC Rammell). He inspected the full Contingent paraded on the Astro followed by viewing numerous activities around the school grounds including shooting (on the newly refurbished range), archery, fieldcraft, first aid, command tasks and flight simulation. His concluding comments reflected on the high standards, effort and commitment of all the senior NCOs and cadets.

I would like to thank Colour Sergeant Tarabella Middleton (Senior Cadet), Ricardo Garcia (Senior RAF Cadet) and all the Senior NCOs for all their excellent work and commitment throughout the year. I would also particularly like to thank our School Staff Instructor, Flight Lieutenant Ross Hart for all his hard work running the contingent, and all the other staff without whom, we would not have the CCF – Flying Officer Tim Vickers, 2nd Lieutenant Freddie Deane, Lieutenant Douglas Howson, Staff Sergeant David Kelly, Captain David Hazlewood and Lieutenant Natalie Hipkiss.

LT COL DAVID SWINBURNE,
CONTINGENT COMMANDER

EXERCISE DUST OFF – SEPTEMBER

Cranbrook CCF is known for organising many trips each year for both the RAF and Army Sections. In September 2021, Exercise 'Dust-Off' took place at Pippingford Park, in the Ashdown Forest.

The aim of this trip was to familiarise the new Year 10 cadets with some basic fieldcraft skills that had been missed due to Covid-19, and also cover more advanced Fieldcraft such as Section Attacks and Ambushes.

The weekend began with a morning of theory lessons, where cadets were taught and shown, hand signals, section formations, and how to patrol as a section. They also had a theory lesson on ambushes. In the evening the cadets had the opportunity to demonstrate these skills in a realistic ambush battle exercise involving blank firing.

On the second day, we had an early start, followed by a theory lesson where the cadets were taught the principles and mechanics of a section attack, before conducting another realistic battle exercise. The attack was carried out well, with lots of aggression and adrenaline flowing through everybody.

We were very grateful to the Cranbrook staff for organising this and Exercise 'Dust-Off' certainly set a very high bar for the upcoming CCF trips this year.

SERGEANT KYLE LU, ARMY SECTION

EXERCISE NEW DAWN – SUNDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

On Sunday 7th November, the new Year 9 CCF cadets headed to Mereworth Woods for Exercise New Dawn, their first field day of many during their time in the CCF.

For most, this was the first time they had worn their uniform, and this field day gave them an introduction to some of the skills they will learn to master during their time at Cranbrook. The cadets took part in various activities learning basic skills such as camouflage and concealment, basher building, cooking in the field, command tasks, skill at arms training, and also took part in some drill practice.

In camouflage and concealment, the cadets learnt multiple ways to traverse terrain and hide from enemies. The basher building taught the Year 9s how to set up a temporary shelter with just a tarpaulin and bungee cord. Cooking gave the cadets an idea of how to cook the issue ration packs they would be given during exercises and expeditions, using a ration pack cooker. In drill practice, the cadets sharpened up their drill and marching skills. Command tasks provided them with a few sets of problem-solving exercises that they had to complete together as a team. In Skill at Arms, cadets were given their first introduction to the cadet rifle, which they will need to pass a weapons handling test on before they can take part on ranges/blank firing exercises.

In conclusion, the day proved to be a great learning experience for the new cadets and gave them a good look into the CCF's various activities.

CORPORAL SCOTT BINNENDIJK, RAF SECTION

DUXFORD COMPETITION – SUNDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

I was lucky enough to be able to get a place on the trip to the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, for the Duxford Competition. This was one of my favourite trips during my time in the CCF.

We arrived after a long journey, and were greeted by a vast range of ginormous hangers and a live airfield. Within these hangers are a vast range of aircraft and information, ranging from debris from 9/11, to World War 1 flying machines, to modern day fighter aircraft.

The group was split into teams, and our task was to move around all nine hangers and answer questions that had been set for us by the CCF staff. Some of the questions were easy to answer, and some required searching for the information on or around the aircraft. The winning team walked away with the Duxford Competition medal.

My favourite and most memorable part of the trip was walking around the American Air Museum and standing underneath the B-52 Stratofortress and comparing myself to its height. Not only does Duxford Imperial War Museum include a wide range of exhibits to do with aviation, but it also has a Land Warfare Hangar, in which tanks, trucks and other military vehicles can be seen.

I had the greatest time learning about a range of aircraft and had an excellent end to my trip with a go on the flight simulator.

SERGEANT MILLIE SEYMOUR, ARMY SECTION

EXERCISE CRANBROOK SPLASH – MARCH

On the weekend of Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th March, a group of Year 9 and 10 cadets travelled to Bewl Water to engage in a day of fun-fuelled activities.

In the morning, the cadets took part in a canoeing activity. The wind was quite strong so we were first tasked with binding two boats together to be towed over to a sheltered area of the reservoir. There, we first got to grips with manoeuvring the canoes and then we threw ourselves into games such as a water version of capture the flag. We then played a game where each team chose a country to represent and then had to conquer the other boats by tagging them with a tennis ball. Mr Hart won this game in his kayak which was too quick and agile for us to compete with, so his chosen country, England, came out victorious. Before we returned for lunch, we were asked to lean back over the edge of the canoe wedging our feet in the opposite side and dipping our heads in the water. It was terrifying bending back with blind faith that you were not going to fall in, but I am so glad I did it.

After lunch, we had activities lined up for us for which we split up into smaller groups. Axe throwing was a particular favourite of some of the cadets. It required a special skill to get the axe to stick which only a few mastered. It was turned into a competition, each team being awarded points for hitting the target or sticking it, with some extra points being awarded for victory dances. We then moved on to archery, first mastering the skills then putting them into practice in a series of challenges one of which included pairing up to pick a colour and then competing with the other teams, attempting to eliminate them by hitting their chosen colour. Climbing was up last. We were all fitted with harnesses and helmets and then the fun began. Two went up at a time with the rest belaying down below all working as a team to offer moral support to the climber. Many made it to the top with some going further than they thought possible, conquering their fears.



Overall, it was a great trip enjoyed by everyone. It helped us to get to know the cadets in other years and taught us to appreciate teamwork and learn leadership in order to support each other, skills vital to the CCF.

CADET REBECCA SEDGWICK, ARMY SECTION

EXERCISE CRANBROOK ADVENTURE LAKE DISTRICT – 30TH MARCH – 5TH APRIL

The fun began on the journey up to Halton Camp in the Lake District with conversations and jokes being shared around the bus. Halton Camp was small and homely, but it also helped give us a military mindset for the coming challenges and the food was excellent.

My group went bouldering at Kendal Climbing Wall on the first morning. The bouldering was great fun and after a couple of hours, our climbing skills had developed a great deal. After lunch we went on to the moors above Longsleddale to hone our navigation skills ready for

Above, Exercise Splash at Bewl Water with climbing and canoeing activities.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES CONTINUED

The CCF was back up and running after two years of disruption with training, activities and camps.

the expedition later in the week. The short but wild and boggy walk taught us the map and compass skills we needed for the mountains to come. The next day we went to the Lakeside Activity Centre at Windermere and tackled their high ropes course in the morning, the Jacob's Ladder proving a hilariously difficult task. The scene was beautiful, and we ate lunch looking out onto the large lake and sprawling woodland. In the afternoon we were given a search and rescue mission. This activity was great as it required a leader to step forward and careful team coordination with groups allocated different tasks. The pressure taught us that mistakes can very easily be made if proper attention is not applied. We ended the day with a team assault course race.

We then headed off to the Coniston area of the Lake District for the three-day expedition. My group was excited to be on the move and we encountered some challenges crossing the uplands where the path could

not be distinguished but we found our way through and made it to all our checkpoints. The walk was beautiful and the campsite that night was on a small remote farm with newly born lambs all around us. Our army ration packs seemed delicious after a day's walking. The second day started with a steep climb which woke the group up and our pace quickened shortly afterwards. We swapped navigators regularly and imagined that we were walking the hills like the Fellowship in Lord of The Rings. We found ourselves in the next camp faster than expected and set up our tents, catching up with the other groups. The third day was to be a climb of Coniston and it started with a path clambering over rocks and through streams. The fog which had laid itself on the mountain side left us feeling like true explorers. As the weather deteriorated with rain and strong winds, the groups were brought together and the decision was made to cut short the day and descend to Coniston village. We finally made it to the end of the walk, feeling tired yet empowered. That night we ate greedily and slept in the billet enjoying our last evening at camp.

We had many funny memories to talk about on the journey back to Cranbrook where we had one final debrief and three cheers for the staff who had supervised us for the week.

CORPORAL FELIX O'NEILL – RAF SECTION



EXERCISE JUMP FLARE

At the weekend at the end of May, myself, Tarabella, Luca and two girls from Benenden School left Cranbrook School at 7am, most likely not of sound mind, to jump out of a plane at 3,500 feet in the air!

After spending a couple of hours being tortured by Mr Hart's music choices in the minibus we finally arrived at the air base where we spent 6-7 hours of lessons which were predominantly based on the many mistakes that we could make that could either lead to our death, injury or the parachute not working. However, thankfully we spent a lot of time preparing and practising so that no issues arose. We tried to jump at the end of the training session, but the winds were too high to jump.

After a nice roast supper, we all got up early at 6:30am next morning to try and jump as early as possible when the winds were at their lowest however, they were still too high. After waiting for around an hour revising and playing cards, we finally got the all clear to jump. After double checking our parachutes and the plane, we got onboard sitting quietly as we waited nervously for the plane to reach the correct height. When the light showed green the instructor opened the door and we left one by one for the biggest adrenaline rush ever as we freefell for around two seconds before the parachute pulled us up to see the ground slowly coming closer to us. The three of us were even crazy enough to do it again!

CORPORAL MILES GOULDSTONE – ARMY SECTION

ARMY SUMMER CAMP – JUNE 2021

Since summer camp was cancelled in 2020 due to Covid-19, things were up in the air as to whether a camp in 2021 would even happen.

Thankfully, 11 Brigade gave us an opportunity, and we managed to take around 70 cadets to Longmoor Training Camp, to partake in four days of activities. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, we were not given bed spaces on the camp, so all 70 cadets and staff camped in tents at a local campsite for the week, taking coaches each day to the training areas to take part in the various activities on offer. The logistics of the camping alone proved challenging, let alone the activities the Cadet Training Team had in store for us.

On day one, we arrived and took part in an adventure training package, taking part in activities such as climbing, archery, kayaking, raft building and paddle boarding. On day two, we took part in a shooting day, where we fired L98A2s on the 25m range, and a shotgun range. On day three, it was a fieldcraft day, where we did activities such as an escape room, slingshots paintballing, and a stand on Training In Built Up Areas (TIBUA) which finished with cadets clearing buildings during a blank firing exercise. On the last day we took part in a survival exercise where cadets learnt about tracking, how to build/start fires with basic equipment, how to set various snare traps and how to build shelters.

It was not an easy trip, especially for the Year 9s and 10s who had had very limited training due to distance learning, and lack of training time. Despite all this, the staff and senior cadets were very impressed with how they dealt with the difficult situation. All the cadets did a fantastic job, with bundles of energy which kept morale high for the whole week.

All the activities were run by instructors from the Cadet Training Team, and were delivered to a very high standard. After the camp, everyone was very eager to get back to normal training in September. We are all very excited for Summer Camp 2022, which will be at Crowborough Camp, where we will thankfully be in barracks rather than tents.

COLOUR SERGEANT TARA MIDDLETON,
ARMY SECTION

Army Summer Camp –
back in full swing after
Covid-19 restrictions.



CLUBS AND SOCIETIES CONTINUED



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

OVERVIEW

As we hopefully come to the end of the Covid-19 pandemic, I am pleased to say the Duke of Edinburgh Award has started to return to some normality.

Throughout the various lockdowns and challenges that the pandemic posed, the award has continued to inspire Cranbrook students to go that extra mile and do something above and beyond. I can only applaud the dedication that the participants have demonstrated, continuing with their activities and skills in very challenging circumstances.

The pandemic made participants rethink how they could do their activities. Some took to online learning via teams/skype, some took to learning something from family or loved ones, some got involved in the community spirit by helping local residents who needed assistance during the lockdown restrictions. Whichever methods participants chose, the resourcefulness shown by Cranbrook students has been astonishing, and makes me proud to work with such bright young individuals.

The completion rate for the award continues to grow, and the framework that has been trialed and tested is now being modified to try and improve all participants' chances of completing the award at all three levels.

The expeditions still prove to be a big focus point for participants. The expeditions at Bronze are being run locally, with the Silver Qualifying on the South Downs. The Gold expeditions will be taking place in the Brecon Beacons over the summer. In total over 180 students took part in the Bronze Award this year across Years 9 and 10, a further 50 at Silver across Years 10-11 and 20 at Gold across Years 12 and 13.

As well as thanking the participants for their commitment to the DoFE, I would also like to thank all of the staff and parents that continue to support and assist with the expedition phase. Special thanks should also be given to the team in Barham, and especially Mrs Finn, for all of the admin assistance they provide to participants and myself. Without these people, the DoFE would not be the success that it is.

MR ROSS HART, DoFE MANAGER



The Duke of Edinburgh Award at Cranbrook returned to near normality during the school year with expeditions at all levels.

BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

For Bronze DofE each person has to complete three sections of activities: physical, skills and volunteering, and then an expedition.

For my skills section I did an hour of drama lessons outside of school each week for three months. I took these drama lessons on zoom and was working towards my LAMDA exam. The drama lessons taught me how to project my voice and how to act different emotions.

For my physical section I danced for an hour each week. This was great fun as we were working towards a show at the end of term. I learned how to do many dances from other countries and learnt lots of new dance moves.

For my volunteering section I did CCF which is run at school. Each week we do different exercises, for example first aid, map and compass or drill. Each of the activities is fun and are good life skills to have. The CCF is also a good lead into the army.

Finally, for the expedition I took part first in a training day, where we learnt all the basic skills we would need later. We then did a practice expedition where we walked around the local area and camped in Cornwallis field. This helped us to see what worked for us with food, clothing, job roles within the team, and what our strengths and weaknesses were within the team. During the practice I brought too much food and water so on the qualifying expedition I brought much less. The best thing about the expedition was camping with my friends. The worst part of the expedition was going through fields with cows in them! If I were to do the expedition again, I would try to do a bit of training beforehand; for example: hill running with an increasing weight on my back.

The whole DofE experience has been great and I would do it all again any day!

SIOBHAN ROSS, YEAR 9 BRONZE DofE PARTICIPANT

SILVER DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

For my Silver DofE award, I took part in CCF for my volunteering section, rifle shooting at a local shooting club for my skills section, and played rugby for my physical section.

During my CCF training I completed my Advanced Army Proficiency Certificate, and am now working towards becoming an instructor. The CCF has provided me with fantastic experiences and skills whilst meeting new people from across the school. Over the past year we have taken part in a variety of smaller exercises as well as week long camps in the Lake District and Crowborough for adventure and military training.

Rifle shooting gave me the opportunity to learn a skill based on pure concentration and technique as opposed to any outside factors. It was difficult to learn but I improved steadily and am now working towards competing in competitions.

Playing rugby provided me with the ability to work as part of a team as well as improving my physical fitness. Over the past year I played in some great close fixtures as well as a fantastic team building camping weekend in Rye.

For the expedition section, we completed a practice in the local area to improve our navigation skills, and hone our skills that we had learnt during our Bronze DofE.

The Qualifying Expedition took us to the South Downs. The expedition was three days long, and we camped for two nights on the route. During the expedition we walked almost 50km – a feat made more difficult due to the heat. I was fortunate to have an excellent group of friends who made it an extremely enjoyable three days. Many of us intend to do the gold award on account of how great silver was.

As a whole silver DofE was a wonderful experience and I'm looking forward to completing Gold next year.

JACK CREASY, YEAR 11 BRONZE DofE PARTICIPANT

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES CONTINUED



Above, participants in the ever-popular 'Wear What You Like Day' charity fundraising event.



CHARITY AT CRANBROOK

Charity support at Cranbrook School has truly excelled this past year and has had great contributions from the students, staff, and parents. The enthusiasm and initiative from students has allowed money to be donated to the following main charities that the school supports:

- The Big Cat Sanctuary: The Big Cat Sanctuary contributes to global conservation.
- Kent Kindness: offering support and hope to young asylum seekers and refugees who are living in Kent.
- Save the Children: Save the Children works in over 100 countries to support children and transform their lives.
- Young Carers: A local charity that aims to provide support for anyone living with the challenges of caring, unpaid, for a family member/friend.
- Water Aid: Water Aid has teams in 28 countries across the world, working to transform millions of lives every year by improving access to clean water, toilets, and hygiene.
- The Sam West Foundation: promotes awareness, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health issues and helps the education of teachers in music and the arts.
- BEAT: BEAT is a UK eating disorder charity. Their mission is to end the pain and suffering caused by eating disorders, and to provide support to those suffering, as well as support for the parents.
- FUM: FUM is a small charity working in the Tabora Region of Tanzania. Their main areas of interest are education, health, and water.
- Surfers Against Sewage: to campaign to inspire, unite and empower communities to take action to protect oceans, beaches, and wildlife.

Other events that have taken place throughout the year include Horsley raising £288 for Evelina London Children's Hospital, Allantines raising money for the Sam West Foundation, and individual groups wanting to raise money for specific causes, such as the cake sale at the start of the year run by Year 12s, Elodie, Isabelle, and Mayah for Breast Cancer Awareness week.

The events at the start of the year regarding the Ukraine crisis saw the school rallying round determined to help and support in any way we could. The vast amount of clothes, bedding, and sanitary items that were successfully transferred to a depot in Dartford to be transported to the Poland-Ukraine border was amazing. In addition to this, a charity bake sale was run, in which an amazing £970.96 was raised and donated to the Red Cross.

The charity committee has presented many assemblies in order to promote the amazing charities that we support and looks forward to encouraging students to bring forward ideas for fundraising that they want to organise in the future.

TALLULAH WALKER, YEAR 13

CARING FOR CHRISTMAS

This December the Blubery girls had noticed a few signs in the town about 'Caring for Christmas' and we decided that, as a house, we had the space and the manpower (along with the selfless efforts from Talullah Walker and Anna Lane) to co-ordinate, sort, store and then deliver the donations from our pupils and parents.

The Caring for Christmas appeal was being run within the Cranbrook community to ensure local homeless people received warm clothes, blankets and supplies at Christmas; we were keen to support a local charity appeal and the donations were soon pouring in. At the end of the term, Mrs Pack loaded up her boot and dropped the donations off at the home of the co-ordinator. The vast amount of donations filled the back of the car and we are hopeful that the supplies received may have offered some warmth for those finding themselves sleeping rough at a time when others were celebrating Christmas.

BLUBERY GIRLS

CRANBROOK IN THE COMMUNITY

Covid-19, once again, took its toll on the involvement of Cranbrook students in the Cranbrook town community. However, at the start of May sixth form students were back helping at Cranbrook Primary School with children from all age groups.

In April, sixth form students also started once again forging friendships with the elderly community helping out with the Wellbeing in the Weald St Dunstan's coffee afternoon on Wednesdays and visiting elderly folk in their own homes to chat with them and help out with small tasks.

MRS CHRISTINE NEWMAN



Following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, students were back in the Cranbrook Community regularly helping at Cranbrook Primary School as well as chatting to and helping with chores with some of the town's elderly residents.



HOUSE

WEBSTER

Looking back on the last year, Webster has achieved a great deal. Our obvious successes were seen on the sports pitches, but we have also become a closer, more united house through less visual events and embedded our motto 'Be All You Can' within all aspects of the house.

Although Covid-19 still restricted some of our house activity plans, we still managed to take part in all sporting events, charity events and additional competitions. We displayed our hockey talents by winning the boys' hockey and narrowly coming second in girls' hockey after penalties – some of the most competitive house events where Webster managed to keep a cool head! We also had great success in House Cross Country retaining our usual win. With thanks to participants such as Rebecca Steele and Madeleine Clark, we won in every category. With the remaining sporting events, Webster showed perseverance and unity by never losing a competition and always participating, reflecting our strength as a house and our enjoyment in all these activities as we all strive to represent Webster as best as we can.

Our undeniable biggest achievement and enjoyment as a house was House Shout (or conveniently rebranded 'House Singing Competition') where we executed two amazing performances from the Pitch Perfect soundtrack, including layers, dance movements and a rap. We all put so much hard work into it, especially music coordinator Alice Roberts, to whom we owe the success of performances for organising all of us and making us sound so good. But despite the disappointing and shocking results on the day, with Webster only coming 3rd in our group and Mr Miami's obvious heartbreak, we still place House Shout as our favourite moment of the year as it highlighted our ambition, accomplishments and understanding that we do not need a trophy to be proud of ourselves – the whole house really did sound amazing!

Another enjoyment has been watching the members of Webster flourish across the school, with one of Webster's house captains, Finn Clubb, taking the lead role in the school musical 'Grease' and many other Websterites acting alongside making us all proud. Many talents were shown by Webster students throughout the school this year in different events from fundraising to music and drama and debating. No doubt we'll all be successful in our exams too! It has been a great year for Webster, and I am incredibly grateful to have been so involved with the house this year and experience all our achievements together.

IMO LINTON, HOUSE CAPTAIN



ALLAN

OVERVIEW

Allan has had a very successful year and has taken part in many school events, ranging from competitive inter-house sports competitions to fundraising for lots of great charities. We have had the opportunity to compete against other houses and to host many of the house events that we have not been able to do for the past few years. It has been great to see the rejuvenated Allan spirit this year and we hope that the success of the house continues for a long time to come.

TATUM DU LABH AND TOM MORGAN,
HOUSE CAPTAINS

SPORT

This year in Allan, we have been able to compete in a lot of sports throughout the year. Like every year Allan has managed to play and perform very strongly in every inter-house competition. All year groups, genders and abilities stepped up to compete for the house this year, which is very encouraging to see as inclusion was one of our main aims for the year. Every year group had the opportunity to represent the house in 'Super Saturday' sporting competitions. This brought the Allan house spirit back after a year of being unable to do so and was a great opportunity to socialise outside of school hours. Hopefully, Allan will continue to thrive in sport in years to come and continue to win everything! We would like to thank everyone in Allan for being cooperative, extremely determined and stepping up when we needed you.

MADDIE ROLLS AND BERTIE BARWICK



SOCIAL

As a result of recently coming out of the pandemic, many houses including Allan found it very difficult to organise social events in this academic year. Nevertheless, Allan was able to persevere organising musical house competitions, charity events and most importantly recreational social time with individual year groups. We took part in the House Singing Competition, which was a fine example and demonstration of house spirit. Allan has always put a huge effort into its singing ability, especially volume, and this year was no exception. Unfortunately, we were unable to organise the Allan Dinner and Soirée, however Year 13 managed to get together for one last evening to have a curry night with our head of house, Mr Knight. We had the opportunity to reminisce about the times spent in Allan from Year 9 and the friendships made as a result.

FREDDY WHATMORE

CHARITY

Charity amongst the school has been very prevalent throughout my time at Cranbrook. The charity events that Allan house has conducted this year have been very successful and rewarding. From Allantines to Movember and charity cake sales, and the money donated to charities such as Cancer Research, the Movember Foundation and the Sam West Foundation have been extremely beneficial. On behalf of Allan house, I would like to thank everyone for their extremely charitable donations and moving forward I hope charity continues to excel at Cranbrook School. In November, the boys in the Year 13 tutor group raised over £500 for the Movember Foundation, and our annual Allantines fundraiser raised over £400.

BEN LENNON



HOUSE CONTINUED

HORSLEY

This year for Horsley has been a thoroughly enjoyable one but it has gone incredibly quickly. Not only have the Horsley boys and girls performed well individually, but also as a whole under the enthusiastic leadership of Mrs Homewood.

Sporting events kicked off in the autumn term with inter-house girls' hockey, boys' rugby, and the Cross Country Competition. For all of these events we had a surplus of enthusiastic participants from all years and the results reflected that.

When the autumn term came to an end, we had to say farewell to a true Horsley boy, Mr Swinburne. He has helped so many Horsley members through the years, especially during personal statement season, and we were sad to see him go after he had been with Horsley for so long. We had a wonderful take-away night in honour of his departure which we all enjoyed thoroughly. We wish him all the best.

As soon as all lockdown rules were lifted in the second term, we immediately brought back whole house time which consisted of rehearsing for House Shout, recently renamed the 'House Singing Competition'. What we didn't quite understand was that the new name also meant we needed to sound tuneful (rather than just shouting). Nonetheless, we took to the stage with Horsley pride and managed to pull it out of the bag... or so we thought. Last place didn't reflect that well! Our small group sang a delightful rendition of 'Careless Whisper' with a spontaneous but magical dancing performance from Mrs Homewood, which boosted us into 2nd place.



In February, the members of Horsley put together a cake sale for Evelina Children's Hospital, which ended up being one of the most successful cake sales this year. A special mention should go to Levi in Year 9 who brought his speaker to play music which added some extra atmosphere to the cake sale.

Performing arts within Horsley were always going to be strong this year with such an array of talented actors and musicians. Kitty Hind and Harry Kittermaster should be praised for their phenomenal performances in the school production of 'Grease', and Giles and Alistair deserve a big thank you for their leadership role in the House Singing Competition, as well as many other musical performances they put on in other areas of the school.

Horsley members have worked so hard this year in and out of the house and we would like to say thank you to all the Year 13s who have made this year so successful, and particularly Martha Lewis, Kitty Hind and Tallulah Walker.

Finally, we'd like to say thank you to Mrs Homewood for being a wonderful head of house to us all for the past couple of years. Sadly, she is leaving Cranbrook at the end of this year. She will be missed and we wish her all the best. We will also be waving goodbye to a critical member of Horsley after so many years: Mrs Coleman. She has given so much to Horsley and we are forever grateful to her for making it feel like home. Also thank you to all of the form tutors for the amazing work they put into the house. All best wishes for the years to come, and to the Year 11s and 13s leaving, very best of luck for the future.

AMELIE BOTTLE AND ATLANTA ANLEY,
HOUSE CAPTAINS





LYNX

Lynx House has finally enjoyed its first uninterrupted, lockdown-free school year since its inception in 2019. Keen to build on a successful start and led by House Captains Orla Morris and Tom Callaway, Deputy Arina Kravcenko, Sports Captains Max Moore and Elsie Christopher-Soares and Charity Rep Priya Toberman, the house has continued to grow and thrive. What was once the occasional flash of a purple and white tie, is now becoming an everyday sight and students are finally able to get their hands on the highly demanded first Lynx house hoodies.

On the sporting front, Lynx is fast becoming a hotbed of talent, with 1st team representation across the board. Elsie Christopher-Soares and Max Moore captained 1st team netball and rugby respectively and Brent Hilderbrandt represented both the 1st XV hockey and 1st XV cricket teams. Sophie and Lily Slack, Charlie Ellison and Noah Flanagan continue to dominate in house cross country and the house has managed to maintain a competitive edge in inter-house sports in general.

In wider school life, Lynx participated in its first ever house shout event. This was expertly organised and led by Cedar Thomas-Davis who also performed outstandingly alongside Lucy Freeman and Priya Toberman for the small group. The small group (accompanied by a professional group of back-up dancers) performed a Taylor Swift 'mash-up' whilst the big group belted out an inspirational rendition of Journey's 'Don't Stop Believing'. It was the first time Lynx was able to compete as a whole house and it was fantastic to see the house spirit so evident.

Lastly, we say goodbye to three staff members, Mr Hamilton, Mr Judd and Mrs Chivers who will be missed in Lynx. Thank you so much for all your contributions over the last two years and good luck in your future endeavours.

MR JAMIE MCCONNOCHIE

HOUSE CONTINUED



SELLERS

Sellers House has had a fantastic year! We enjoyed taking part in the House Singing Competition with our big group number 'Never Gonna Give You Up' by Rick Astley, complete with actions invented by the Year 7s. Our amazing small group won the competition with their beautiful rendition of 'A Million Dreams' from The Greatest Showman. They worked very hard, practising together at lunchtimes and after school and were very brave in performing in front of a packed Queen's Hall of older students.

It has been a great year for clubs with our Gardening Club going strong, producing vegetables and flowers in Sellers Quad. The Creative Writing Club, Dungeons and Dragons and Eco Society have all been full of enthusiasm and commitment and it has been great to see students setting up and running their own clubs to reflect their interests.

We have enjoyed a range of sports and are looking forward to Sports Day where we will compete on behalf of the senior day houses. We have also enjoyed getting to know our prefects and would like to say a huge thank you to Tallulah, Kyle, Willow and Sophie for all their fun and games and always being there for us.

Lunch Club has been running every lunchtime and we have taken part in playing board games, arts and crafts and generally getting to know each other. Thank you to Ms Dudding for running the club and always being super sweet and smiley.

MRS ROSE RAHTZ



RAMMELL

Our house spirit has always been a distinguishing feature of Rammell and this year was no exception. The house thrived with a great atmosphere and camaraderie. Our pride has been apparent in all aspects; whether it be academic, sports or the general vibrancy of our house, the Rammell boys always give their all.

We have had great sporting accomplishments this year with many achievements in basketball: Topsy Taire, Mackenzie Bull and Tunji Soetan starring in the school first team with Mackenzie well deserving of his spot as captain. Alongside basketball, Tunji was a key part of the firsts in rugby and was awarded most-improved player at the end of the season. For the 2nd XV, Matt Treharne led the way as team captain. The younger years also got involved, with Rammell boys regularly representing the school in many different sports. Also, our ongoing rivalry with Cornwallis continues as we regularly destroyed them at basketball. Collectively, the house showed full participation in cross country with Ethan Lau leading the pack and earning 2nd place overall. In amongst all the school sports, the house took part in a wide variety of social activities over the weekends such as whole house walks, ultimate frisbee, BBQs, football, arrow tag, dodgeball and countless others – all furthering our house spirit. It was great to see Rammell come together so often ensuring there was never a dull weekend in the house.

With regards to our academic side, it is clear that hard work pays off. Our year 13s really led by example, with particular mention going to Rhys Ho and Joseph Tan who both represented the school by achieving gold in the UK Chemistry Olympiad. Rhys was also selected to represent Great Britain at the Physics Olympiad. Credit is also given to the lower years with students like Jia Ming Eow and Ethan Lau excelling in the Intermediate Maths Challenge and paving the way for the future of Rammell accomplishments. Many of the Year 13 leavers were ecstatic with their prestigious university offers from Oxbridge and many other top Russell Group universities. The boys are hopeful for their GCSEs and A levels and it is safe to say that Rammell will keep excelling academically for years to come!

We have always been a big family and it's never hard to find people willing to get involved with events like quiz nights, go karting and movie nights. These really kept the house spirit high all year round. Many memories were made and many friendships will last far longer than our time in the house. As a house, we would like to thank Mr Crews for his leadership which was fundamental in keeping the atmosphere in Rammell so positive; he has been a great housemaster but even better, a huge inspiration for the lads. Also, we would like to thank all duty staff, matrons, tutors and cleaners for making Rammell such a homely and enjoyable place. The green army will continue to triumph! VIRTUS SOLA NOBILITAS.

MUHAMMAD IKRAM, HOUSE CAPTAIN



HOUSE CONTINUED

CROWDEN

Despite this year's school year not quite being back to normal it has been great to see all the Crowden boys enjoying activities which had been unachievable over the previous two years. Activities such as playing football and hockey against other houses on the Astro, being able to socialise and integrate with other houses at dinner and of course the House Shout.

Sport in Crowden was not limited to team sports on the school facilities, and in Crowden we have held numerous inter-house table tennis tournaments. This really helped to bring the boys together and create a fun and competitive aspect within the house.



Weekend activities for Crowden residents this year have been an extensive mix of old favourites and new innovations including cinema trips, meals at Nando's, Pizza Express and Wagamama, bowling, mountain biking, trampolining, paintballing, chocolate making, shopping trips and more. Notably the meals have not been limited to trips to restaurants, as our newest matron, Ms. Branny, frequently cooks for and with the boys during the week. Some competitive weekend cookery has also taken place with the results enjoyed by all involved. The summer term saw the welcome return of barbeques and ice cream vans.

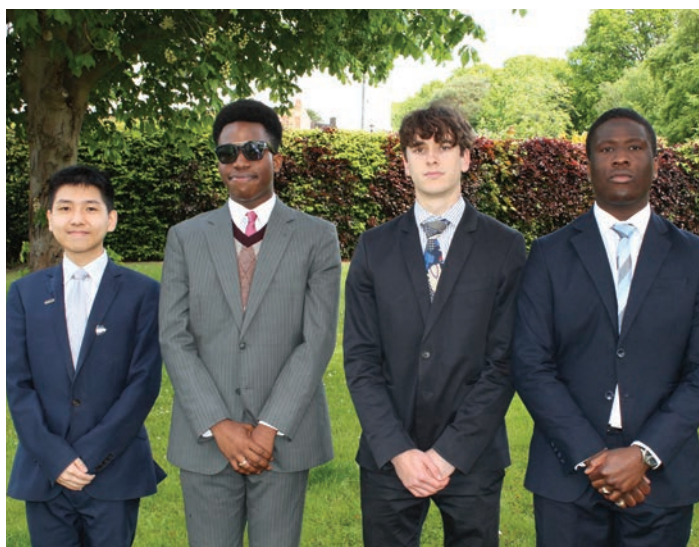
We have also been working hard to make the environment at Crowden homelier and more comfortable by investing in new soft furnishings in the form of rugs, sofas, cushions and more. And everyone was extremely glad that the showers were finally upgraded!

Crowden's charity event this year was "Wear What You Like Day" with the theme of cartoons and kid's films. This took place shortly before study leave began and was once again a great success with students and staff alike whose costumes were a sight to behold.

Due to the restrictions which we have all had to put up with over the last two years I wanted Crowden to make the most of the events we had this year and celebrate in style. As a result, we took Crowden's house dinner off-site for the first time in as long as any staff members can remember. The outcome was a fun and entertaining black-tie dinner with speeches and entertainment provided by our members. It was a truly enjoyable evening for all who attended. We were able to express our appreciation for all the house staff who look after us so well throughout the year and share a few good-natured jokes and say farewell to Mrs Hills who has been a tutor in Crowden, but is leaving to join the circus! I guess she will be well prepared. We were sorry that Mrs Hislop could not join us that evening.

I know parents have really enjoyed being able to see Mr Watts's frequent Facebook posts over the year, which keep them up to date with all of our house shenanigans in real time.

HORATIO THOMSON, HOUSE CAPTAIN



CORNWALLIS

The past year in Cornwallis has been perhaps, more than most, a year of spirit. Both in house life and on the games fields the house has benefited much from this spirit, evolving from the community and atmosphere that makes sure everybody knows everybody. This spirit that has been present amongst the boys is what has made the house so distinctive.

Through the year, the house as per usual, has achieved a lot. On the games fields the boys have lived up to Cornwallis's reputation of sporting excellence. Cornwallis has been the backbone of the schools' sports teams, with six members of the house in the 1st XV rugby team and multiple members representing the 1st hockey, cricket and basketball teams. Unfortunately, with several inter-house competitions being cancelled the boys were unable to represent the house in our many areas of strength. Consolation was to be found in winning house basketball and putting out a strong performance in hockey.

During the Easter period the house was working towards its next challenge, House Shout, rebranded for the modern age as the House Singing Competition. The dedication shown by the boys was admirable, as was the volume, but despite the dedication, the lack of musical talent meant we came last in both groups. Despite this defeat, Cornwallis has a long and strong history of producing great talents on stage, and this can certainly be seen in the many triumphs of Ryan Lui this year as well as many memorable (and in some cases haunting) performances from Victor Taiwo. DanSing and the Battle of the Bands were only two of the occasions where our more skilled members did us proud. The Year 10s remain under the keen eyes of the seniors, eager to uncover abilities yet hidden.



There has been enthusiasm in other directions too. Trips have been undertaken at all opportunities, the most fun being the whole house going paintballing with great ferocity and energy. Cornwallis has also extended the hand of friendship to the other houses, including them in a whirlwind of after school activities, but not however granting access to the house hot tub or swimming pool! The house's cooking abilities have come on in leaps and bounds after the Great Hot Pot incident of 2021, and regular cooking and BBQs are all now within the grasp of most Cornwallis boys.

It almost goes without saying that the prosperity of Cornwallis reflects the enthusiasm and interest of Mr Turner to whom we are ever grateful. With the Year 13s moving on in the coming months, I feel confident the house will be in good hands for the years to come. Finally, I would like to say goodbye to my team of prefects who have made this year much better for both the house and myself, Josh Ogunleye (Vice Captain), Felix Murphy (Sports Captain) and Victor Taiwo (Social Captain).

BENJIE BIGNELL, HOUSE CAPTAIN



HOUSE CONTINUED

SCOTT

This has been another, successful jam-packed year in Scott House. We were glad to see the phasing out of the Covid-19 regulations in the school and happy to be welcoming back visitors into the house. Adapting to the new ways of life and getting back to the new 'normal' was well taken to by the girls. It was brilliant to be back to our old traditions, some of us experiencing them for the first time and back to building relationships between the boarding community including, a BBQ with Rammell, Halloween celebrations with Blubery and boarders' bingo with two Scott winners Paris and Daphne. This year also saw the introduction of the house pool table and Scott Ball, organized by Year 13, finally with guests again.



The year started off with new faces in Years 9 and 10, who have taken to boarding life exceptionally well following the start of year BBQ with friends and family joining us for the first time in two years. There then followed a house trip to Canterbury for the escape rooms and a spot of shopping and another whole house trip in the latter half of the year to watch 'SIX the Musical' and an outdoor cinema event in Scott garden. Numerous tutor trips happened this year with Year 13 going to the Giggling Squid for a meal, Year 11 to Wagamama, Year 10 went back to the escape rooms and Year 9 went to the cinema with Mr Parr to watch Dr. Strange. In addition, many post-exam Dominoes nights in house occurred too this past academic year.

House spirit has been stronger than ever this year with our triumph in house netball and being the runners up in the big group in House Shout. There was also great participation in school events such as performances from Year 13, 10 and 9 in DanSing, and in the Christmas service from 12s, 11s and 10s. There has also been great academic success within the house; Year 13 was the highest achieving tutor group in boarding and Alex McGarry won the most merits in Year 11. We wish the best of luck to those taking exams this summer and I know you will all perform exceptionally. Stand out students include, Erin Olliver, sports captain for winning players' player in the netball first time and Eri Okunola & Anu Dada, Year 12, for their exceptional enthusiasm and house spirit.

We wish the best of luck to our live-in tutor, Miss Lowe, who is leaving us this year, to a new job in Hong Kong. We are all very sad to see her go and she will be greatly missed in the house by all the girls and staff too. A huge thank you to all the matrons, cleaners, tutors and duty staff, who keep the house running and look after us every day. I owe a lot to Mrs. Burnett and I know many of the other girls do too. She has shaped us all and none of us would be the people we are without her. I will miss Scott hugely next year and although I have only been here since Year 12, the house has helped me grow and achieve things I didn't think I could. Next year I hope the house continues to flourish and the new girls enjoy and sports their time here as much as I have.

LILY-MAY PARKER, HOUSE CAPTAIN



BLUBERY

This year started off with a welcome barbecue to give the new girls a warm welcome and a good feel of what life in Blubery would be like. The laughter and fun did not stop here as we went on many more house and tutor trips. A varied range of excellent tutor trips have been enjoyed including ice-skating, cinema visits, meals out and even a visit to the nail bar! However, whilst embracing their social lives all the girls have shown strong academic focus with many achievements to be proud of – our very own Scarlett Bromage in Year 11 for winning the Cranbrook Short Story Competition, Jovita Siu in Year 11 who won top scorer for the intermediate maths challenge and Hazel Chan in Year 12 for her excellent GCSE results.

Blubery continued with its strong focus on charity this year and Miss Scott set an amazing example by running (and completing!) the London Marathon. Instigated by last year's Year 13, Blubery repeated 'Eggy Sending' which gives all Cranbrook pupils the opportunity to send eggs at Easter with a message to the recipient. Moradeun Ilaka, our Charity Prefect coordinated the event raising money for the NSPCC. We also participated in the school's cross country competition with Blubery emerging as 1st in participation numbers. In addition, Blubery took the top spot in inter-house netball with a notable mention to the current Senior Boarding Girl, Korede Majekodumni, for an excellent performance in netball throughout the year, even being scouted at county tournaments for London Pulse Trials. Eyes are on our rising stars including Dido Everitt who is showing enormous commitment and skill in various disciplines but notably hockey and netball. A special mention must go to Phi Phung for all her efforts as Blubery Sports Captain.

In recent weeks, a monumental event in the Blubery calendar took place. The Cranbrook House Shout competition was an ecstatic feeling for Blubery girls when all our practice and hard work paid off as we emerged as the 2022 winners! Fore Adeoye, led the group to victory with her amazing vocal skills and the clear vision she had of a soulful take on a Kanye West

track complete with heavenly harmonies. The house did an incredible job and received some high praise from the judges.

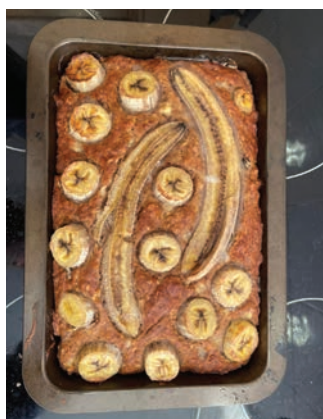
The Blubery staff have also been outstanding. Thanks to Mrs Pack for organising the most recent Blubery dinner at High Rocks which was an absolute success in a beautiful setting. Mrs Swallow and Mrs Ingle have continued to take great care of us including their lovely after school snacks. Thanks to the cleaning team for their amazing job throughout the year, 40+ teenagers' rooms is no small task! We are very sad to see one of our Blubery family leave us at the end of this year, Miss Scott. She will be missed very dearly by the girls and staff alike.

In my two years at Cranbrook, although shorter than that of some of the other Blubery girls, my best memories were made spending time with my Blubery family. This has been an outstanding year for Blubery. We live and learn from each other every day and I am very sure that Blubery will only go from strength to strength.

OROBOSA EGHOBAMIEN, HOUSE CAPTAIN



HOUSE CONTINUED



SCHOOL LODGE

In September, thinking about the coming year can seem very frightening. There are so many responsibilities and changes that you must get used to, like getting to know everyone else, both in School Lodge and the day pupils. All of this can be quite overwhelming. How can someone learn to adapt to all this in such a short space of time? However, in reality, School Lodge is a very welcoming and exciting experience.

Within only a few weeks, you already feel as if you've been here for the entire year. You know everybody in the house, and the endless number of responsibilities seems quite small and manageable (for most of us). Yet there are so many opportunities that have not been discovered like trips, school fixtures and the facilities to be used in school.

As boarders, we get to go paintballing, to Thorpe Park, ice skating and much more. These experiences massively contribute to stronger relationships between both pupils and staff, creating friendships and amazing memories. But they also build up our confidence, getting rid of those last strands of nervousness.

As the year went on, there were new fun activities to try such as playing football in the sports hall, and performances in the Queen's Hall, ranging from hypnosis shows to school plays. You can go to town, to the PAC or you can just relax in School Lodge and chill with your friends.

Cranbrook is incredible for learning sports. For example, this year many of us played hockey for the first time and, although we were completely useless, it was a great opportunity to try something different. As a result of this, we found a new sport that we really enjoyed.

By far the most interesting thing about School Lodge is all the different cultures we have here. We have people from all over the world like South Africa, Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Dubai, America, Japan, Mexico, Cambodia, Nigeria, China and Jamaica. All these different countries contain their own cultures and it's eye opening to learn more about the people we live with.

This year there have been huge ups and downs. There was Covid-19 when we weren't sure if the house would shut down or stay open. Occasionally we argue with each other, and we would sometimes be told off. We're always making mistakes, but boarding has taught us to deal with our problems and move on to the next challenge.

We would like to thank the amazing staff at School Lodge; Mr Rogers, Mr Collins-Smith, Mr Kenny, Mr Stoychev, our amazing matrons, Ali and Roo, and the ladies (Emily, Kerry and Emma), who every day do a fantastic job in keeping the house clean. Thank you for all the opportunities you provide us with and all the support you are always willing to give.

GEORGE BEAUCHAMP AND RORY RANKIN

LEAVING STAFF

DAVID SWINBURNE

David retired at the end of the autumn term after 35 years at Cranbrook. During that time, he has earned great respect and admiration from students, staff and parents for his professionalism and quiet hard work on their behalf.

He joined us in 1986 as a young geography teacher and since then has played many key roles in the school: Head of Department, first XV coach, resident tutor in Crowden, Commanding Officer of the CCF, in charge of DofE, Assistant Head Lower School, and he left as Assistant Head Sixth Form. He met his partner, Florence, in the late 1990s whilst she was a French assistante at the school and their children, May and Matthis are both Cranbrookians.

Over the last decade David has made himself more indispensable by being the man in charge of events and routines. Staff duty rota? David. Speech Day? David. Total re-organisation of the school's routine and schedules due to Covid-19? David. But you would never know this: recognition is not important to him. What is important to him is doing the best for the child in any given situation. I have no doubt he will be fondly remembered by generations of Cranbrook families as the teacher who helped make them take their next steps beyond school.

One OC from Crowden during David's time as resident there, told me recently that David had changed his life. He had arrived under a cloud from another school, and David's example had been an inspiration to him. With his passion for mountaineering, outdoor pursuits

and CCF, David is our own Action Man – this OC got his head down and went on to join the army as an officer.

David is the kind of individual who not only leaves big shoes to fill (DMs to be precise), but who will need to be replaced by multiple colleagues. I am delighted that he will continue to be involved with the CCF. He has tirelessly committed so much of his life to Cranbrook that I hope he will be able to spend more time with his family, and more time in the wild places of the world. Did you know that David claimed a first ascent of a peak in Kyrgyzstan ten years ago? No – I didn't either. But then, that is the man.

Go well David. Enjoy the change: you deserve it.

MR WILL CHUTER



LEAVING STAFF CONTINUED

SANDRA HOLMES

Sandra joined the school in September 2001 as Accounts Assistant in the Accounts Department. Over twenty years at the school, Sandra rose to the position of Head of Accounts. She has been a strong consistent presence in the finance team which has been invaluable. She will be missed by many colleagues who wish her the very best in her new job.



LIZ COLEMAN

Liz has been a stalwart of Cranbrook for 20 years. Arriving as a sports development link from Angley School, Liz is known for her commitment to netball and her philosophy for sports for all. Her arrival at Cranbrook saw her implement the annual dance show which started with nine performers, increasing to a staggering 30, with an interval! Liz's love of dance also saw her take on the teaching of Performing Arts, whilst continuing to choreograph the school productions. Liz's get up and go attitude has seen her raise participation in girls' sport and the re-establishment of academic PE has been in her sights for a number of years. She has led on a number of sports tours over the years and their popularity continues to be high across the school. Alongside her co-curricular role, is there anything that Liz hasn't done during her time at Cranbrook?!

Liz spent many years as Head of Horsley Girls and her enthusiasm and motivation resulted in them winning a number of sport house championship competitions, much to the dismay of the other girls' houses! Liz has remained attached to Horsley even when Horsley Girls combined with Horsley Boys. 2022 saw the first Cranbrook Sports Dinner, which was a great way to send off the seniors and to finally have parents present to witness the presentation of awards.

It is hard to believe that I have been lucky to work alongside Liz for the entirety of her time at Cranbrook, and what is concerning is that she doesn't seem to have aged at all. Liz is moving down the road to take up a post at Dulwich Prep, but I'm sure if she got "the call" she would be back to support the girls she has coached over the years. Mrs C will be sorely missed and is leaving behind a strong legacy of success in girls' sport.

A fantastic, hard working and empathetic colleague whom I feel very fortunate to have worked alongside. Wishing you all the best Mrs C.

MRS KIRSTIE BURNETT



SUE MANCHESTER

Having started out as part of an integral double act, working tirelessly for many behind the scenes in the school front office, Sue soon realised that her true passion lies in looking after and caring for the students. With that in mind, she ventured up the hill to take on the challenge of mothering 40 boys and has become an integral part of the Rammell family for the last five years. Sue has taken on the role naturally and instinctively and has helped nurture many boisterous teenagers into fine young gentlemen. For her boys, Sue never fails to deliver, whether it is sewing together an awkward rip in the trousers, teaching the boys different delicacies to cook, playing games or just having a natter with them in the duty room. Her presence is always felt and the boys have appreciated the care and attention she has given to them. Not least to mention Sue's infamous banana bread, which provides a mouth-watering bakery smell throughout the house and is always consumed within seconds by the boys after a hard day in school. Sue (and her banana bread!) will be sorely missed in Rammell, by the boys and staff members alike, and we wish her the best of luck for whatever the future holds!

MR ALEX CREWS



GRAEME EDMONDS

Graeme joined us in January 2006 from Benenden School and he immediately revolutionised the catering provision at the school to be the varied and impeccably presented menu we have today; there isn't a single student, member of staff, volunteer or visitor to the school who hasn't appreciated the wonderful lunches and other food for the many other special occasions that Graeme and his team have provided for over the years.

There have not been many opportunities to thank Graeme publicly for his dedication, support and enthusiasm for Cranbrook School.

We wish him all the very best as he leaves to start a new chapter in his life by the sea.

Other leaving kitchen staff:

Matt Lamb, Chef; Dee Elwell, Kitchen Assistant;
Flo Grief, Chef; Emma Forster, Kitchen Assistant



LAURA CHIVERS

It is with much regret that we say farewell to Laura 'Duchess' Chivers from the biology department. Laura completed her QTS at Ashford School and moved to Cranbrook School in 2007. Immediately, her infectious laugh, boundless enthusiasm and engaging manner meant that she instantly became a very popular figure. Laura was very keen to motivate young people and provide them opportunities to develop their confidence, esteem, and leadership skills in a very friendly and supportive environment. So, it was natural that Laura utilised her strong family background of serving in the armed forces to join Cranbrook CCF. Over several years, Laura went on many CCF camps and expeditions abroad, which were all fantastic events that were enjoyed immensely by everyone.

Even though Laura has a psychology degree, she wisely decided to utilise her skills in the biology department. Ever since, she has become a pivotal member of the team who is always considerate, helpful, and supportive of colleagues. Laura has seen many changes over the years to the curriculum and has always contributed useful ideas on how to drive and push the biology department forward. Many generations of Cranbrook students will fondly remember her for her excellent teaching and sincere enthusiasm for biology and she spent much of her free time helping individual students with problems and providing extra revision sessions to make sure that everyone met their full potential. As well as being a dedicated and innovative teacher, Laura has been a passionate tutor for Lynx and Horsley Girls for 15 years.

I am going to miss her hugely, as is all of Cranbrook School. We wish her and her lovely family all the very best in any future endeavours in the next chapters of their lives.

MR JOHN BENFORD



ELLY HILLS

Elly has a long history at Cranbrook School. She was a student here from 1996-2001, during which time she was House Captain for Webster Girls and served on the Queen's Hall tech team. Elly was told on her first day by her tutor, Eunice Watson, 'Don't be a sheep', and it is safe to say that she definitely lives by that mantra.

She returned to Cranbrook in 2011 as duty cover for Scott House, before joining the teaching staff in 2013. Since then, she taught across all the sciences, served on the safeguarding team, led the Queen's Hall Theatre, been Head of Bluberry House and most recently a tutor in Crowden. She has also been the Head of Psychology for the last 4 years, a department that has gone from strength to strength under her leadership. She also gave her time tirelessly to help lifeguard the pool both during school time and in the holidays, as well as establishing the Cranbrook Running Club and the Circus Skills club that has been very much enjoyed by staff and students alike!

Although she is an engaging and knowledgeable teacher, during lockdown Elly discovered a love for the aerial arts and circus skills that have become her true passion. And so, although we are sad to see her go, (the school will certainly be a little less bright without her), we wish her all the luck as she goes off to fulfil her dream of running off to join the circus.

MRS TONI HARRIS



CHARLOTTE FRENCH

Charlotte started with us in March 2009 as a Receptionist and leaves as the PA to the Deputy Head. Charlotte is known throughout the school for her cheerful disposition and willingness to help staff. She will be very much missed by her fellow members of staff but we applaud her move into the role of Exams Officer in a school closer to her home. We wish her all the very best.

LEAVING STAFF CONTINUED



RICHARD HOLDEN

Richard joined Cranbrook for a short stint in the spring of 2014 during his initial teacher training – we liked him so much that we made him a job offer and he joined the school properly in September of that year. Richard had taken early retirement from a successful career in IT but had quickly grown bored with a life of ease and now wanted both a fresh challenge and a chance to do something useful that linked with his love of physics. He took naturally to teaching and even in his first year his students usually assumed that Richard was an old hand who had been in the classroom for decades.

It quickly became apparent that Richard was a genuine IT whizz. The undisputed Excel king, his spreadsheets were a marvel and he rapidly became the go-to-guy when the school needed something particularly complex to be done. His lessons were meticulously organised to the last detail and he seemed to have a PowerPoint that left nothing to chance for all occasions. Richard was always a very calm and patient classroom teacher who wanted all of his students of any ability to find success and he willingly gave up much of his free time to sixth formers who needed extra help outside of timetabled lessons. His students valued him greatly as a teacher and gained a great deal of confidence from his considered approach.

Richard also looked to extend pupils beyond the classroom. He created a successful electronics club from scratch, sourcing a wide range of components and creating detailed instructions booklets to take students from beginner to expert in coding. When CCF needed someone to run the RAF section, he stepped up and then arranged all flying days on his day off so that his physics teaching wasn't interrupted. He was a great Webster tutor who happily joined in with house events and took good care of all of his charges.

Richard has moved to the Oxford area where his two children now work. He will be greatly missed by the school and by the department for both his professionalism and his lively sense of humour.

MR ANDY HILLS



CLARE MILLS

Clare joined the mathematics department at Cranbrook in September 2016. Already an experienced teacher, it was not long before she took the reins as Acting Head of Maths, covering for maternity leave. She soon extended her skills over to the chemistry department and has since bridged the two departments for many years. Clare has always offered a high level of support to her students, showing endless patience in giving up her time to help those who have struggled in copious after-school clinics.

She has been a dedicated tutor in Blubery and Rammell and frequently popped into the boarding houses to help them complete their maths homework and cheer them on during house events. Clare was then the founding Head of Lynx, before moving across to Horsley over the past two years.

Outside of school, Clare is a very keen golfer and a legendary crazy golf trip organised by Clare, with prizes for the 'best dressed' and 'most improved' golfer, lives on in the memory of the maths department. She leaves to take up a position at Norton Knatchbull School, which is much closer to where she lives. We wish you all the very best for the future.

MRS COLETTE HARRISON



VICKY HOMEWOOD

Vicky joined Cranbrook School in 2017 as Head of RE, and has becoming an integral part of the school since then. Truly dedicated to her subject, she has helped many students discover a love of philosophical enquiry, and deepened their understanding of the world around them.

As Head of Horsley, her sensitivity and sense of humour have always been able to be relied upon,

and she has been a safe haven for students and staff alike in times of worry. Her impromptu dance recital in House Shout will certainly be remembered, as will her regular habit of annoying the geography department staff with her characteristic mischievousness. (At least the chocolate bourbons will now be safe... if staff ever wondered where they all disappeared to, now you know!)

We are very sorry to see Vicky go, but we wish her all the very best of luck in her new adventures, and may she always be 'living the dream'.

MRS TONI HARRIS



BRIAN JUDD

Brian joined us in September 2019 from Marlborough House School. Teaching both Maths and Economics initially, he quickly established himself as a cheerful, enthusiastic and hard-working member of the maths department and much loved by his students. Brian is always happy to help out and this year he embraced the challenge of teaching additional A-level maths classes at short notice. Outside of school, Brian is always active with a passion for sports – in particular golf and tennis. He retires this year and has plans to travel (and play lots of sports!). We will all miss him enormously.

MS LOUISE FRASER



SOPHIA SCOTT

Sophia has been a huge asset to the PE department since coming to my rescue in spring term 2019 as a netball coach. Despite no teacher training at that point she demonstrated a natural gift for teaching and a professionalism that has never waned. Reliable, strict, fair, consistent, organised and thoughtful are immediate qualities that come to mind. Sophia stayed with us as a games coach and in the autumn of 2019 was quickly snapped up by Blubery as a live-in tutor. She joined us on our overseas sports tour to South Africa in 2019 and more recently has completed her teaching apprenticeship training which again she completed to an outstanding level and passed with flying colours. Quickly securing full time work at King's, she leaves us as a fully qualified professional teacher.

MRS LIZ COLEMAN

Sophia has been an invaluable support to me since I joined as Head of Blubery in September 2020. She was a huge asset to the house and has been integral in developing the confidence and competitive nature of the girls and helping to make house spirit and pride part and parcel of being in Blubery. We have weathered the Covid-19 times in boarding and she has never been afraid to step to the fore when needed including taking the reins when I, and much of the house, was isolating with Covid-19. I will miss our party games for the girls and I am sure this Halloween we will still hear the echoes of Miss Scott shouting out encouragement in the 'Loo Roll Mummy Challenge!'.

MRS CLAIRE PACK



KELSEY LOWE

Kelsey joined Scott as the Deputy Housemistress in September 2019 having previously completed her teaching practice at Cranbrook. Her flamboyant and bubbly nature brought a new lease of life to Scott, as did her slight addiction to online shopping! Kelsey has given her time freely to Scott and has regularly supported the girls with their academic studies and revision techniques. Her love of karaoke resulted in a karaoke machine purchase for the house – what an addition! As well as fully immersing herself in the boarding side of the school Kelsey also ran a holiday programme for international boarders who could not travel home during Covid-19. Kelsey is off to pastures new in Hong Kong and I hope that some of our international boarders will be able to catch up with her there on their return home. Kelsey will be greatly missed at Scott and I hope that her time spent with us has broadened her teaching experience and given her the desire to become a housemistress in the future. Wishing you all the luck in the world in your next adventure and don't forget to visit us on your yearly trip back to the UK!

MRS KIRSTIE BURNETT

LEAVING STAFF CONTINUED



GEOFF CASE

Geoff joined the school two years ago job sharing the role of librarian/careers working two days a week. He quickly applied his expert English Literature knowledge and love of books to the post encouraging students to write book reviews and helping to organise book themed competitions. He was a part-time tutor in Sellers for Year 7 and 8 students and a stalwart of the pop-up library during lunchtimes. Geoff has moved on to a role in editing and is much missed in the school.

MRS CHRISTINE NEWMAN

JAMES HAMILTON

James joined Cranbrook School in September 2020, as we were coming out of Covid-19 and in a very difficult time for education. Having been in a variety of lockdowns and experienced various versions of distance and blended learning, our sixth form pupils were very fortunate to have James's teaching experience and subject knowledge, both of which were vital to close gaps in learning that had been opened during the previous two years of disruption. James was an asset to the department during a difficult time and sadly departed us at Easter for pastures new, joining Coopers School as an assistant head where I have no doubt his vision and strength will be put to good use. James will be missed for his passionate views on economics and politics, his contribution to sixth form life and his love of cricket. Good luck in your future endeavours James!

MR PETER ROGERS



RORY KERR

Rory joined Cranbrook working in the PE department this year to lead on hockey and as an academic and boarding tutor in Rammell. He had a great season with the 1st teams for both girls and boys and the students appreciated his coaching hugely. The girls performed well winning a greater percentage than the previous year. Highlights were beating St Lawrence, a feat not achieved for some years and reaching the Tier 4 Regional Finals. The boys also reached the Tier 4 National Finals which were played at Nottingham. They performed their best hockey of the season here. Rory's contributions have been appreciated by all year groups and he was an asset to the PE department this year. The Rammell boys quickly became very fond of Rory, and enjoyed opportunities to be educated on the finer arts of Iron Bru, Rangers and Slab during his duties in the house. We wish him well with his future endeavours.

MRS LIZ COLEMAN

PAUL SALZER

We say goodbye to Paul Salzer who is retiring after 20 years at the school, seventeen of which were as Deputy Estate Manager. He has been a fantastic asset to the school and his talents and efforts will be much missed. We wish Paul and his family a happy and lengthy retirement a lot of which will be filled with riding motorbikes and catching trout.

NADIA NAZAR

Nadia joined the medical centre team last year after a stint as assistant matron in Scott so was already acquainted with us and our ways and we were delighted to welcome her into the fold. In addition to her sunny and efficient running of the office admin, Nadia has also been seen pitch-side as a rugby first-aider, a role much appreciated by the nurses and players alike during the long rugby term. We will sorely miss her as she leaves Cranbrook to give greater time to family and her fabulous cake-making and decorating skills which are phenomenal!

SUPPORT STAFF

Andrea Baker, Registrar and Lynette Clifford, Office Administrator also left the school during the last year.

OLD CRANBROOKIANS' ASSOCIATION

WELCOME FROM OCA CHAIR, RICH SCULLY

The OCA exists because of the strong sense of feeling so many Cranbrook alumni have for the school and their school days. It's our privilege to help preserve memories and connections, and to reconnect OCs with their Cranbrook years and schoolmates whenever possible. The OCA committee is comprised of a few Old Cranbrookians who do a great job of helping organize reunions, administrate OCA initiatives and co-manage OCA events on an annual basis. These include the traditional November dinner at Simpsons on the Strand or drinks at the Royal Overseas League, the Spring Sports Reunion and reunion dinners such as the event in June this year.

SPORTS REUNION

The spring reunion of sports matches on Saturday 26th March featured the usual 'Past vs Present'.

The day began at Scott with netball (organised by Sally Williams) and a tight match in which the School's 1sts only just edged ahead of the OCs by two goals. It was lovely to see so many of the ladies heading up to Big Side afterwards to watch the return of rugby 7s to the reunion in a tournament of semi-contact matches organized by Rich Scully. With only two icepacks and a couple of paracetamol required, some superb weather and a great run of support along the touchline, Rugby 7s are back to stay.

Hockey followed down on the school astro pitch, with the women's and men's matches playing out throughout the afternoon. The support from the rugby and netball spilled down to Cornwallis, where OCs and

friends enjoyed food and drink and a sunny afternoon. Ben Steel garnered a great OCs side that ended victorious in their match before the reunion ended with a commemorative match to mark Philip Thompson's 30 years of hockey umpiring at Cranbrook. Nick Pink, OC and CEO of England Hockey, presented Philip with a silver umpires' whistle engraved with the current and past Cranbrook logos, as well as a letter from England Hockey recognising his incredible commitment to the sport. After the presentation, Philip took charge of his final match with his son James Thompson umpiring alongside him. Two mixed teams made up of Cranbrook's current firsts were managed on the field by Nick Pink and Tim Barlow, OC and ex-international hockey coach.

It was the largest attendance at the Sports Reunion in recent years by far. Will Chuter, Head, and an OC himself, joined in thanking Philip and sharing some words with the crowds about the current status of the school and its ever growing relationship with the OCA. Will & Rich will continue to work together to further build the partnership.



RICH SCULLY,
HORSLEY 2011, CHAIR

After Cranbrook and taking part in the school exchange program with Cranbrook's Australian counterparts, Pembroke College, I returned to education and studied Mathematics and Spanish at Liverpool, spending a year in Buenos Aires. Having worked in sales, business development and account and event management, I am now working for a sports marketing agency. One thing is for sure – a school like Cranbrook sets you up with the foundations for exploring. I look back very fondly on my time at school as I made many great friends and connections that I value to this day.

Far bottom left, Phillip Thompson umpiring his final match. Left, Patrick Moore sharing some of his team photos.



LYNXES CRICKET

75TH ANNIVERSARY AND NOT OUT!

ATTENDING

Gary Marshall (H 1977), President of the club, Will Chuter (W 1996), David Firminger and Alex Presnell (former Heads of P.E.) Tom Allen (W 1986), Simon Anthonisz (R 1970), Jeremy Barham (C 1960), Tim Barlow (H 1965), James Barron (C 1991), Luca Bertoli-Mitchell (W 2012), Louis Cox, Owen Dearn (W 2012), Roger Eltringham (C 1957), George Gibbons (R 2012), Jake Hornsby (R 2010), Finn Hulbert (C 2014), Josh Humphreys (R 2014), Ian Klemen (H 1960), Tom Laver (2021), Nick Manser (R 2010), Giles May (C 1991), Toby Mullins (R 1979), Toby Russell-Vick (A 2014), Joe Schindler (A 2012), Jeremy Senneck (H 1958), Peter Senneck (H 1958), Matt Simpson (A 2014), Tim Spelling (H 1972), John Taylor (A 1967), Hugo Youngman, (A 1983).

IN ABSENTIA AND MISSED

Guest of Honour, Robin Mayes (Fleet Street Exiles C.C.) and fellow Lynxes Richard Fisher, John Furminger, Roger Tapping, Philip Thompson and John Townsend.

2022 OFFICERS

President – Gary Marshall
Chairman – Owen Dearn
Treasurer – Sam Stibbs
Committee – Nick Manser and Joe Schindler

Top left, Will Chuter and Toby Mullins.

Top right, Karen Marshall, Gary Marshall and John Taylor.

Middle, Tim Barlow, Roger Eltringham, Jeremy Barham, Anna Mitchell, Peter Senneck, Sally Klemen, Ian Klemen and Sophia Davies.

Bottom left, Joe Schindler, Gary Marshall, Nick Manser, Jordan Pickering, Tom Laver, Luca Bertoli-Mitchell, Jake Hornsby and Owen Dearn

Bottom right, Tom and Katherine Allen and family.

Lynxes Cricket Club celebrated its 75th anniversary at Lynxes Cricket Week in July and hosted an anniversary dinner in the school dining hall at which Lynxes of all ages celebrated the club's great tradition and reminisced about matches played, runs scored and catches made and missed.

As President and the driving force behind Lynxes for so many years, Gary Marshall hosted the evening, supported by new Chairman, Owen Dearn, who will now drive the club forward towards its next milestone. Lynxes cricket owes Gary a huge debt of gratitude for all that he has done to sustain the club and ensure its continuation for OCs of the future. During a wonderful meal, Gary called upon a number of Lynxes to say a few words:

Tim Spelling related how much enjoyment Lynxes cricket had given him over the many years he has returned during his summer holidays to play a high standard of cricket amongst friends and to enjoy the rivalry with regular opponents. 'I was shocked in my first meeting with the Racqueteers. Based around South Manchester, the club would bring down a strong side, dotted with a few professional cricketers from Lancashire League Cricket. I think they sussed I was a decent cricketer and at lunch encouraged me to have a few pints. I fell asleep on a mattress outside the pavilion but managed to wake up enough to score 73 – still my highest Lynxes score, I think'.



Tim Barlow described his first game against the Old Suttonians; the off-field exploits of visiting members of The Racqueteers; and a very personal contest when he scored three successive boundaries off the bowling of the England player, Bob Woolmer. Tim's description of each of these shots drew cheers from the younger members of the audience.

Will Chuter explained how one of his aims as Headmaster would be to nurture future Lynxes players. He confirmed that, under the guidance of Mike Parr (Master in charge of cricket), the standard of junior cricket was improving rapidly and he was optimistic for the future of senior boys and girls. Among the latter, Maisie Wright is already representing Kent. Will confirmed that the school would be re-installing practice nets on Big Side and also has a long term project to develop a new cricket ground and pavilion on Cornwallis field.

Owen Dearn called on his contemporaries and others to support the club and said that he was determined to ensure that Lynxes cricket continued for many years to come. 'It's an absolute no-brainer for Lynxes CC and the wider OCA to form a much closer partnership in the future. I have no doubt that increased communication and collaboration will have a positive impact for all OCs and hopefully result in more widespread interest in our summer cricket week in July. I cannot wait to get started working with Rich Scully, OCA Chair, and the rest of the OCA committee to bring some of our exciting ideas to life!'

Gary Marshall has shared memories of his personal highlights through the Lynxes section of the OCA website (oldcranbrookians.com). 'Two days that stand out are the two World Cup wins that the Lynxes achieved. The first came in 1990, the first year of the competition. A strong Lynxes side, led by Tim Spelling, won a good final match. Then again in 2005, after a few years away from the competition, Alex Presnell, with Tim Hinchcliffe as captain, again entered a team that went all the way. The two finals were played on good wickets against strong opposition. I was proud to have played in them and fortunate to have won Man of the Match on both days. Other very fond memories include a partnership of 250+ with Miles Richards, who has been one of the outstanding Lynxes cricketers. Scoring a hundred in my hundredth Lynxes innings was another performance that I will always treasure'. In his closing words, Gary Marshall announced that the Lynxes would be donating £1,000 to the School's project to relay the square on Big Side for which Cranbrook students, current and future, are very grateful.





OLD CRANBROOKIANS CRICKET CLUB V OLD SUTTONIANS C. CLUB			
PLAYED AT Sutton, Surrey ON 16 AUGUST 1960			
BATSMEN	SCORE	BOWLING	HOW OUT
1. J. Barham	10	1. J. Barham	6
2. P. Thompson	10	2. J. Barham	81
3. J. Taylor	10	3. J. Barham	0
4. J. Barham	10	4. J. Barham	0
5. J. Barham	10	5. J. Barham	19
6. J. Barham	10	6. J. Barham	21
7. J. Barham	10	7. J. Barham	1
8. J. Barham	10	8. J. Barham	11
9. J. Barham	10	9. J. Barham	21
10. J. Barham	10	10. J. Barham	2
11. J. Barham	10	11. J. Barham	0
12. J. Barham	10	12. J. Barham	0
13. J. Barham	10	13. J. Barham	0
14. J. Barham	10	14. J. Barham	0
15. J. Barham	10	15. J. Barham	0
16. J. Barham	10	16. J. Barham	0
17. J. Barham	10	17. J. Barham	0
18. J. Barham	10	18. J. Barham	0
19. J. Barham	10	19. J. Barham	0
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23. J. Barham	10	23. J. Barham	0
24. J. Barham	10	24. J. Barham	0
25. J. Barham	10	25. J. Barham	0
26. J. Barham	10	26. J. Barham	0
27. J. Barham	10	27. J. Barham	0
28. J. Barham	10	28. J. Barham	0
29. J. Barham	10	29. J. Barham	0
30. J. Barham	10	30. J. Barham	0
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37. J. Barham	10	37. J. Barham	0
38. J. Barham	10	38. J. Barham	0
39. J. Barham	10	39. J. Barham	0
40. J. Barham	10	40. J. Barham	0
41. J. Barham	10	41. J. Barham	0
42. J. Barham	10	42. J. Barham	0
43. J. Barham	10	43. J. Barham	0
44. J. Barham	10	44. J. Barham	0
45. J. Barham	10	45. J. Barham	0
46. J. Barham	10	46. J. Barham	0
47. J. Barham	10	47. J. Barham	0
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92. J. Barham	10	92. J. Barham	0
93. J. Barham	10	93. J. Barham	0
94. J. Barham	10	94. J. Barham	0
95. J. Barham	10	95. J. Barham	0
96. J. Barham	10	96. J. Barham	0
97. J. Barham	10	97. J. Barham	0
98. J. Barham	10	98. J. Barham	0
99. J. Barham	10	99. J. Barham	0
100. J. Barham	10	100. J. Barham	0

THE HISTORY OF LYNXES CRICKET JEREMY BARHAM (CROWDEN 1960)

An extract from The Cranbrookian of 1947 reads, 'On August 16th this year we play the Old Suttonians at Sutton. If, as we hope, this fixture is played in future years, we want to add one or two more and so begin a modest cricket week based on the School ground'. From the early 1950s a series of matches was scheduled for the second week of August, which became known as the 'Lynxes Week'. The fixture list altered somewhat over the years and in 2007 it was decided to move the 'Week' to early July to better attract current students. It now begins with a game against the School and the OCA Golf Day – but the aims are still the same: to bring together OCs of all ages (especially recent leavers) to enjoy cricket in familiar and friendly surroundings.

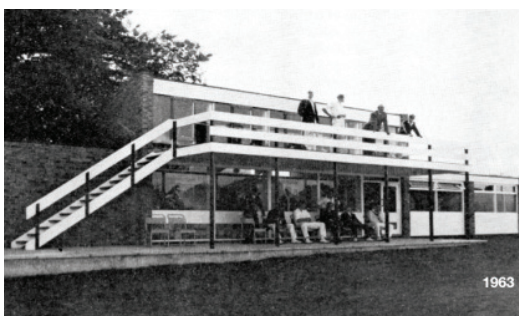
Frank Evans held the position of President of the Club until shortly before his death in 1980. He was succeeded by Peter West who held the position for a further 15 years. The fixture list was developed with games against Cranbrook Town, Bluemantles and other Old Boys sides (such as Old Merchant Taylors and Old Roffensians). The social side of the week was always important with visiting OCs being allowed to stay in boarding houses, use the school swimming pool and tennis courts. The Windmill Pub was always much in use.

The Club has always enjoyed the use of Big Side, the pavilion and the services of the School's groundsmen at no substantial cost. Headmasters and many members of School staff have played for the Lynxes. The Club is privileged to play on a ground with notable history. In 1850 it was the venue for a match between 'The Gentlemen of Kent' and 'The Gentlemen of All-England'.

Big Side pavilion was opened by Mr F.W.L. Evans (Joe), Vice-Master, on 13th July, 1963, and it is named after him as a tribute to one whose inspiring contribution to Cranbrook sport is outstanding. The Lynxes benefit from the major refurbishment of the pavilion that took place in 2018 and in recent years has purchased outside furniture and made significant contributions to the School's acquisition of a sprinkler system, an electronic scoreboard, a boundary rope and a portable sightscreen.



OWEN DEARN,
LYNXES CHAIRMAN



The Lynxes have now played cricket in the 'week' or in the Cricket World Trophy competition against over 50 different opponents, of which 18, including The Old Cranbrookians from Sydney, Australia, have been genuine Old Boys teams. Nearly 500 matches have taken place and well over 500 players have represented the Club. In 1990, the Lynxes won the first "Cricket World" Cup knock-out competition for Old Boys teams and we were successful again in this competition in 2005.

The Lynxes CC are in London too! If you would like to get involved then please contact Owen Dearn.

Far left, Jeremy Barham, Philip Thompson and John Taylor. Score card from first ever Lynxes match.

Right, Frank 'Joe' Evans. Big Side. The pavilion. London Lynxes.

If you would like to get involved in the club in any capacity to reconnect with fellow cricket loving OCs then please do reach out to Owen Dearn via email – owen.dearn@hotmail.co.uk

“ The constant of the Lynxes Cricket Week has proved to be a great way to see old mates and meet new people from different Cranbrook eras.

ANONYMOUS

REUNIONS GREAT AND SMALL



**SIR TIM SMIT,
CORNWALLIS 1968–1972**

After studying archaeology and anthropology, Tim went into the music industry and became a seven-time gold and platinum disc composer/producer. In 1987 he moved to Cornwall and 'discovered' and then restored the Lost Gardens of Heligan before founding the Eden Project – a 'cradle of life containing world-class horticulture' created from a previously sterile disused pit. Tim received a CBE in 2002 and was knighted in 2011 for his services to public engagement and the sciences.

Top, St.John Costelloe and friends. Below, David Swinburne. Below middle, Ed Manwaring.

SUMMER REUNION DINNER

The last weekend of June was all about leaving and returning at Cranbrook. Friday afternoon saw the Gym Lawn scattered with year 13s looking forward to a summer of parties and life beyond school, then on Saturday evening 150 OCs returned to Cornwallis Field for the OCA reunion dinner to reminisce and hear from old friends about the years since they themselves had left. Originally scheduled for 2020, the reunion had fallen foul of two summers of lockdown or social restrictions on school premises, so everyone was delighted to have such a great turn out with OCs from each decade since the 1950s represented. OCs flew in from as far as Australia and America, but sadly some people's trips were made impossible by last minute train strikes in the UK and flight cancellations from the USA – you know who you are and you were much missed.



Quite remarkably, over 40 of the class of 1991 made it back down to Cranbrook for the evening. Credit and congratulations must go to St.John Costelloe who honed the art of networking in order to bring his friends and peers back together for which they were all very grateful.

Rich Scully, OCA Chair, was host for the evening and current Head, Will Chuter, spoke of his pleasure at seeing the affection that fellow OCs share for the school he now has the privilege to lead forward into the future. Ed Manwaring spontaneously called for everyone to stand and raise a glass to the Head of their particular era, which a great many people found surprisingly emotional – something their year 13 self might never have expected.

Two special guests had been invited to speak at the dinner, each with incredible credentials. Will Chuter introduced David Swinburne who has recently retired after 32 years of teaching at Cranbrook and explained how David was a teacher when he was a pupil, and how grateful he had been to have had David's experience and support in seeing the school through the nightmares of the pandemic when he first took over as Head.

The formal part of the evening closed with guest speaker, Sir Tim Smit (music producer, environmentalist and founder of the Eden Project) taking to the floor and entertaining everyone with humorous and candid recollections of his musical 'education' on the Cornwallis fire escape and an impassioned speech about how, despite the doom and gloom we read about in the media, there has never been a better time to be alive. Tim gave examples of how science is revealing and unraveling the myriad interconnections and interdependencies that our world is built and depends on, and explained how his passion for knowledge and innovation stems from having been taught by an inspiring teacher whose lessons made it 'worth being good' and voiced his hope for Cranbrook, under Will, that education would continue to be about dreaming, dreaming about a future that is still ours to make, and never being mediocre.



CROWDEN REVISITED

In 2022 Crowden House is situated opposite Cornwallis, beyond the Performing Arts Centre and adjoining one of the girls' houses, Blubery. Back in the 1960s the boys of Crowden (no girls at Cranbrook at that stage) occupied what is now known as School Lodge, with Frank (Joe) Evans as its revered and much respected Housemaster. If you would like to remind yourself of where the boarding houses were situated and take a look at the school site today, take a look at the aerial tours we have on the OCA website at <https://www.oldcranbrookians.com/Videos>

Early in the summer, a group of eight Crowden 'old boys' returned to Cranbrook to revisit their pasts and to share their memories with us. Overall they were delighted at how little the buildings of their day had changed, although of course there have been many additions over the intervening years.

The party was made up of John Durnell (1963), Stephen Von Speyr (1964), John Postage (1964), Patrick More (1963), Nick Oakley (1962), Howard Pearl (1962), Tobin Elliott (1962) and John Von Speyr (1957). We met on the parade ground at the front of Big School and the 'boys' explained how in years past it had been possible to climb up a pipe to Big School roof and then crawl between the roof and the ceiling in order to wriggle into the lantern. Was it a myth that there used to be an exercise book up there for 'visitors' to leave their names scribbled in pencil in the dark?

Our tour proper started at the front door of School House, which was never used by the boys in their day.



From there we climbed up above the Headmasters' quarters to visit rooms where the youngest boarders began their time at Cranbrook and to view once graffiti, now history, carved into the inside of cupboard doors. Then it was down the back stairs to where boys would play yard cricket behind the kitchens and across the road to Crowden House for the first of many high points of the day. Met at the front door by Matron we walked along the tiled hallway and turned right into Frank Evans' study, still the same today. Beyond lay the boys' common room where enthusiastic corporal punishment was remembered, and behind our guests bemoaned the loss of the large communal baths, but were pleased to see the brigade huts still in use. As we headed upstairs, Matron's sewing room was pointed out before we reached the top floor where the original (pre 1960s) wooden stalls dividing the boys' sleeping areas are still in place much to our guests' joy. The addition of radiators since the 1960s means no morning ice on the inside of the windows these days.

After sharing memories of long assemblies and more lively productions in what would have been the Assembly Hall on the first floor of Big School, we exited across the stage and through to what would have been the Physics room that doubled as back stage dressing rooms. We then headed down to the dining hall, now classrooms but still recognizable, and along to the Crowden prep rooms – remarkably almost exactly as they had been.

The party ended their visit with lunch in the current Head's office in Barham House, listening to a recording of a speech given by Frank 'Joe' Evans at an Old Cranbrookians' dinner the year he retired. Hearing a well remembered voice from over 50 years ago was a perfect way to complement so many familiar, yet for a while forgotten, sights.

If you would like to revisit Cranbrook School, whether as a small party or alone, please get in touch as we would be delighted to show you round.



**NICOLAS DOWLER
(CORNWALLIS 1975-81)
– OCA TREASURER**

Having retired following a 30 year career in international banking, I am now involved with several local charities and I am the Finance Director of the local credit union. I am the Treasurer of the local branch of SSFA (the military charity) where I also chair one of their volunteers committees. I am delighted to have been asked to support the OCA as treasurer and look forward to working with Rich and the wider committee.

Bottom left, view over the brigade (CCF) huts and dormitory stalls still in place.

Bottom right, lining up in 'Joe' Evans's Crowden study.





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