



Our School's Development Ambitions



Development at Cranbrook School

We all share an ambition to improve.

Parents want their children to push their potential further for their fullest lives. Our students want to excel at what interests and challenges them. And every year, we – as a school – want to improve the opportunities we offer and the results we encourage.

Our ambition is to nurture just over 1,000 students. This is an optimum number that will drive competition and group learning without straining resources or overcrowding the campus. This September sees our first Year 7 intake of 90 students; the following year we'll be educating almost 200 more than before 11+ entry began in 2017.

Ambitions are achieved at a cost. Our optimal roll will need extra classrooms. Higher academic, sporting, theatrical and musical achievements need extra facilities and equipment. Personal growth from social interaction needs the right environment.

We'd like to share some of our plans with you here. These plans will achieve our ambition and help your children realise theirs. We hope that they will excite you as much as they excite us, and we hope that you can help bring them to fruition sooner rather than later.



Education ●

1. New Classrooms (Rootes)
2. Earth Sciences Centre
3. New Classrooms (Hub)
4. New Classrooms (Squash Courts)

Cornwallis Redevelopment ●

5. Re-grading
6. New Two-Storey Pavilion
7. Car Parking

Sport ●

8. Resurfacing (Big Side)
9. Outdoor Cricket Nets
10. Airdome for the Cage
11. Resurfacing (Sports Hall)
12. Enclosure for Swimming Pool
13. Squash Courts Development
14. Resurfacing (Astro)
15. New Fencing & Dugouts
16. LED Floodlights

Socialising ●

17. Art Gallery (Conservatory)
18. Covered Meeting & Eating Space
19. PAC Arena
20. Climbing Wall
21. Adventure & Agility Trail
22. Renovation of Greenhouse
23. Wellness Garden
24. Nature Trail (Crane Valley)

An Ambition for Education

Our flagship project will be a brand new Earth Sciences Centre (2) that crystallises our ambition to lead the way in education about the planet. Inspired by the work of two prominent OCs – climatologist Sir Nicholas Shackleton and Eden Project entrepreneur Sir Tim Smit – it will be a compelling statement of our commitment to sustainability and conservation. Providing classrooms and lab accommodation for Biology, Geography, Chemistry, Computer Science and Natural History we are working to fund it through the sale of currently unused land away from the main campus.

We will also need more classroom space for effective and comfortable teaching across the campus – these will come from redevelopments in the Rootes Building (1), the Hub (3) and around the Squash Courts (4).



An Ambition for Sport

We have a proud history of punching above our weight in the core sports of hockey, netball, rugby, tennis and cricket as well as great achievements in other sports ranging from basketball to athletics, rowing to horse riding. More students wanting to compete will lead to greater success and we need the right facilities to achieve that ambition.

We are lucky to have so many facilities in place already. Our plans combine improving those with creating new ones. This summer will see the re-flooring of the Sports Hall (11) and new changing facilities for all added to the squash courts (13). Our astro pitch is excellent, but resurfacing it (14) and adding new fencing and dugouts (15) will enhance it – and with LED floodlights (16) we will have year-round after-school access to train. It will also offer an outstanding resource for our boarders and the local community.

An enclosure to the swimming pool (12) will encourage year-round use and an airdome for the Cage (10) will turn an already well-used resource into an extra all-weather sports area.

Outdoor cricket nets (9) and a relaid Big Side square (8) will benefit all our cricketers.

Our biggest sports ambition is to create a new sports hub on Cornwallis Field (5,6,7) – regrading the slope to create perfect pitches overseen by a two-storey pavilion.



An Ambition for *Character*

Our unique community of girls and boys, day students and boarders, UK nationals and internationals, generates interest in far more activities than other schools offer. By catering for as many as possible, all our students can discover something new to challenge and interest. Many of our clubs and societies use existing facilities but there are new physical changes planned to encourage communities and build character.

We want to take performance outside with a stage built into the hill below the PAC (19) that can be used for performing arts. Students can enjoy each other's creativity at a permanent conservatory art gallery (17). We want to protect students from the weather as they queue for lunch and offer an outdoor setting to eat in (18). We want to encourage teamwork, problem-solving, trust and confidence with a climbing wall (20) and adventure and agility trail (21) for KS3 students.

We have 75 acres of space that can be explored through a Crane Valley nature trail (24) or appreciated quietly in a wellness garden (23) alongside the observatory. Finally, we have the opportunity to re-site and re-build our beautiful greenhouse (22) and re-introduce the skills of growing fruit and vegetables.



Our Development Team

Ant Tomlinson is in his first year as our Development Officer.

His role is to match what we want and need with ways of paying for them: he is building relationships with supporters and donors, identifying grant opportunities and developing fundraising strategies that will get us closer to realising the ambitions of the Head's vision for 2032.



The Development Board

As a maintained school, we rely upon the government to fund all of our curriculum teaching. However, DfE support for the development of our site has historically been extremely difficult to obtain. This makes other income sources much more important. A huge amount can be raised through 'little and often' regular donations by parents.

Created this year, the Development Board comprises the Head, the Bursar, Governors, parents, and fundraising experts: their job is to identify all improvements the school need to achieve its ambitions and to work out the best way they can become reality. It meets four times a year to report on fundraising progress and plan initiatives and is chaired by Governor, Richard Vinton.

Thank you if you are already contributing to Cranbrook Together. If you are not, we hope you now have a compelling set of reasons to do so.