

Weekly Bulletin

Friday 26th January 2024

David Clark - Head



Dear Parents,

Despite Monday's power cut and Wednesday's gas leak, it's been a really good week. I have had some fantastic interactions with students and I have enjoyed many of those special moments that you encounter in schools on a regular basis. I love those times when you just can't help smiling and feeling uplifted by what you see, what you hear and what you experience. Monday's Piano Recital was just one of those times with 12 of our incredibly talented pianists performed an extensive repertoire in the Vickers Hall. That was followed up with an equally memorable moment the next day, also in the PAC, where I had the privilege of hearing a piece of music played for the first time, having been composed by one of our Year 11 Music GCSE students. Another enjoyable occasion saw me walking around the site, chatting to students enjoying their packed lunches due to the problems in the kitchen. It proved to be a lovely experience, as the sun was shining and students installed themselves in some of the more picturesque spots on our campus. Having the chance to get away from school with your peers is something that students particularly enjoy, and I loved hearing feedback about the boarders' football trip to see Charlton Athletic and the Sixth Form linguists after their evening of French Cinema in Tunbridge Wells. Watching the first XI hockey team demolish Claremont was further highlight, as were my impromptu discussions with students about Trump's victory in New Hampshire and whether the UK should consider reintroducing conscription to counteract the threat from Russia!

This week brought much-anticipated university news with the confirmation that six of our Year 13 cohort had been given Oxbridge offers – a fantastic achievement as the process is intense and hugely competitive. As you can imagine, students who are successful in their applications to the most prestigious universities tend to have a number of qualities in common. They are invariably ambitious, well-organised and self-motivated and they also display a real passion for their subjects. The best students can be relied upon to go beyond the narrow confines of the syllabus, demonstrate higher order thinking skills and are curious about the world around them. They naturally gravitate to tasks and opportunities contained within the supra curriculum by entering essay competitions, participating in Olympiads and undertaking independent research either by completing the EPQ or by submitting an IRP, part of the Cranbrook Diploma. Finally, the most sought-after students tend to exhibit advanced soft skills and therefore communicate effectively and display leadership qualities as well as high levels of emotional intelligence. Needless to say, these are qualities that we will endeavour to inculcate in all of our students as they journey through Cranbrook School.

There is not long to go until Chicago is staged in the Queen's Hall and I would encourage you to buy your tickets soon for what promises to be a memorable performance.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

David



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Cranbrook School



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David Carney - Deputy Head

We are fast approaching the end of another term and rehearsals are going well for our school production of Chicago. Please purchase your tickets from the [Queen's Hall Theatre](#) to enjoy the wonderful display of talent that we are lucky to have here at Cranbrook.



Well done to our students who are studying for their mock exams which commence next week. Please support students in looking after their mental wellbeing – we will be covering this in more detail during Mental Health Week which is in the last week of term (week commencing Monday 5th February).

We have, in recent weeks, been focusing on school expectations around uniform, mobile phones, punctuality and other important standards that all students should observe when coming into school. You can view the uniform leaflet on the [school website](#). Please note, socks should be black or plain grey and shoes should be black traditional leather (or alternative) but must be able to be polished – not fabric.

We have also been focusing on school attendance. The Department for Education require all schools to monitor attendance looking at percentages. Please see this [visual guide](#) of how time off school can affect students' lost learning time. We are keen to work with families to maintain an excellent standard and percentage of attendance, in line with national government guidance. Please liaise with your Heads of House if you have any concerns. Our Attendance Procedure is available to view on the [school website](#).

Parents may be interested in reading the attached guide from the Police regarding [online safety](#).

Chris Johnson - Assistant Head:

Key Dates for Year 11 Parents and Students

A reminder of key dates for Year 11 students and their parents:

- Thursday 1st February: 8:30am English Language & 11:00am Maths (non-calculator) examinations (Vestry Hall/Dance Studio/Lecture Theatre/Coach House)
- Tuesday 5th February: Art exam (Art rooms)
- Wednesday 6th February: Music (Music room)
- Monday 19th - Tuesday 27th February: Mock Examinations (Sports Hall & Coach House)
- Wednesday 20th March: Mock Exam results shared with parents
- Thursday 21st March: Year 11 Subject Parents' Evening
- Wednesday 1st - Friday 3rd May: GCSE Art exam
- Tuesday 7th May: Last day of teaching
- Thursday 9th May - Wednesday 19th June: Public examination period (Sports Hall & Coach House)
- Monday 24th - Wednesday 26th June: Sixth Form transition (school-based)
- Wednesday 26th June: Contingency exam date
- Monday 1st - Friday 5th July: Work Experience (face to face or remote)*
- Thursday 22nd August: GCSE results published



Further Note regarding Work Experience:

Parents will by now have received the ParentMail detailing the calendared work experience period - Monday 1st to Friday 5th July. Students are expected to confirm their arrangements through Unifrog. Given the timeline of this year's public examination calendar is longer than in previous years, there is an unavoidable clash with students taking part in Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions (Silver). Opportunities available for students will best determine when in July or August the most valuable work experience can be obtained - so please do not feel obliged for the work experience to take place in that week. It is imperative though that all students take this opportunity. Where students are struggling to find placements or need further direction, please contact Year 11 tutors, or Mrs Kiggell directly by [email](#).



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Futures Bulletin:

The latest version of the Futures Bulletin is now available to read on the website [here](#).

CSPA:

Bitesize Burns:

What a fantastic night! Lots of kilts, a piper, ceilidh band, a fabulous auction, haggis, tatties and neeps and plenty of dancing. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported this much loved CSPA event. We are delighted to say that we made £1,800 - all of which goes back to the School for the benefit of all students. You can view photos on our social media sites.



Educational Talks for Parents:

The first of our guest speaker programme for this year starts with Dick Moore talking about 'Adolescent Mental Health & How to Help' on Monday 5th February at 5:45pm in the Queen's Hall Theatre. As part of the school's Mental Health Awareness Week, students will also be attending a talk from Dick on the same day. Dick is a former headmaster and now teenage mental health advocate - a fascinating talk, not to be missed. Full details and tickets can be found at: www.cranbrookschoolparents.com/educationaltalks.

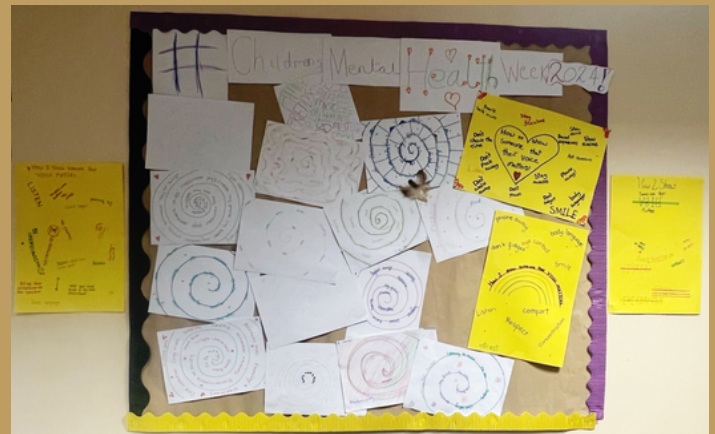
Secondhand Shop:

The shop will be open next Thursday 1st February from 8:00am - 9:30am in The Hut. Further information can be found on the [CSPA website](#).

Supporting your child:

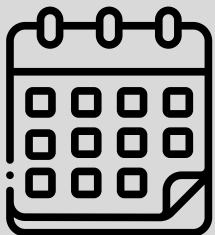
Mental Health Week:

In preparation for Mental Health Week 2024, some Year 7 students created this wonderful display at their lunchtime club with Miss Mercer and Miss Dudding. The theme for this year is 'My Voice Matters'.



UNITE reporting system:

Students have been reminded that we have an anonymous reporting system - UNITE - where they can confidentially share information about all forms of bullying, abuse and harassment. All reports are reviewed and acted upon. The form can be accessed [here](#).



Dates for your diary:

Monday 29th January:	Online boarding event - click here to book your place
Thursday 1st - Sat 3rd February:	Chicago, Queens Hall Theatre
Thursday 8th February:	Last day of term
Sunday 18th February:	Boarders return (18:00)
Monday 19th February:	First day of term

➔ For term dates, lesson timings and A/B week calendar click [here](#).

➔ [Menu for w/c Monday 29th January](#)

For any queries, please contact: development@cranbrook.kent.sch.uk



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Educational Talks for Parents:
Monday 5th February 2024, 5.45 - 6.45pm
Queens Hall Theatre, Cranbrook

Adolescent Mental Health & How to Help

With Dick Moore

Dick Moore worked as an English teacher, rugby coach and was a housemaster and headmaster for 23 years.

He is a trained instructor in Youth Mental Health First Aid and is an Ambassador for the Charlie Waller Trust which raises awareness of depression in the young. Dick has a Ted Talk, has been on Radio 4 (now shortlisted for 'The Best Of...' collection) and spends his time delivering talks in schools, universities and organisations.

"you have literally changed everything about the way I'm thinking of parenting and communicating with my 3 children"

"Over my 25 plus years in education I'm not sure I have experienced or spent such an informed, truthful or real hour"

"Dick Moore has breathed life into a dialogue between me and my son"

"I found it utterly gripping and was very inspired... the best session I've ever been to in any school"

Buy your tickets at: www.cranbrookschoolparents.com/educationaltalks



Dick will speak to pupils during the day - **this talk is aimed specifically at parents.** Tickets: £12 or £10 with Cranbrook Rewards. For more information about Dick, see: dickmoore.org

Friends of St Dunstan's
Church
Presents ...

Cranbrook School

for a
Lunchtime Concert
Thursday 7 March, 1pm



Tea & Coffee and light lunch available from
12:30pm

Date & Time: Fridays 18:30-19:30
Location: Cranbrook School
Cost: £3.00 per session
Register: www.cranbrookjuniorstfc.co.uk/teams/squad



FOOTBALL SESSIONS FOR GIRLS
AGED 12-14 WHO WANT TO PLAY THEIR WAY

