



Cranbrook  
School

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**TEACHER OF PHYSICS**

**Maternity Cover from May 2020**

## Information

Cranbrook School is a mixed state grammar school with 747 pupils aged 13-18 years, including 300 plus Sixth Formers and 240 boarders. For its first 400 years the school was known as Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School with strong roots in the small town of Cranbrook. Day pupils come from within 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) of the school, following a test to judge their suitability for an academic education. Boy and girl boarders are admitted from a wide area, having sat the same test. Although it is a selective school, Cranbrook admits a wider ability range than many other grammar schools. It provides a challenging curriculum for the academic high flyers whilst at the same time catering to the requirements of those of more relatively modest abilities. The value added scores that are achieved each year bear testimony to the success of the provision.

Pupils join at the age of thirteen and take ten or eleven subjects for GCSE. Most students then qualify for the Sixth Form, this being supplemented by a healthy intake into Year 12 from other schools. All Year 12 students follow a course of AS Levels, leading to A2 levels in Year 13. Each year the GCSE pass rate is in the mid 90% with the A/A\* pass rate last year at 67%. At A Level the pass rate last year was 100%, with the A\*-B grades at a pleasing 74%.

For a state school the facilities are very impressive. Within the seventy acres of school grounds are found the six boarding houses, the Queen's Hall Theatre (used for assemblies, school productions, visiting theatre companies and concerts), a magnificent library, Lecture Theatre, Sports Hall, recently-extended Dance Studio, Gymnasium, heated outdoor swimming pool, squash courts and extensive playing fields and facilities for the boys' and girls' games - hockey, rugby, cricket, lacrosse, netball, tennis and athletics - with an astro-turf pitch. The school also possesses purpose-built Performing Arts Centre and Sixth Form Centre. The school boasts an Observatory and Science Centre, named after Dr Piers Sellers OBE, a former student who is a NASA astronaut.

As a school, Cranbrook is very keen to educate the whole person and to this end it runs a wide programme of extra-curricular activities, including community service and the voluntary CCF (combined cadet force), as well as a broad range of sports, music and drama, both during the week and at the weekend. We have a long tradition of overseas trips and in recent years groups have travelled to Poland, Morocco, Italy, Crete, Honduras, Tanzania, The Battlefields of Flanders, Southern India, Grenada (West Indies) and the USA. These have been for sports tours, choir tours, cultural exchanges, adventurous activities, scientific research and to work on projects. We have International Schools Status and are now looking to widen links with schools in other countries. Cranbrook is an active school which will appeal to those prepared to give generously of their time and to take academic work very seriously. The school seeks to appoint staff who will involve themselves fully in the life of the school and applicants are invited to indicate areas where they would be able to make a contribution.

Some of our staff arrive with us through the GTP programme or after a PGCE here. Most of the links are through Canterbury Christ Church University although not exclusively so. The presence of so many trainees has done much to enhance the pedagogy of all staff and an increasing number of them are becoming accredited mentors to allow them to provide better guidance.

An interesting blend of the maintained and independent traditions, Cranbrook is a place with deep roots in the past but with its eyes clearly focused on the future. Each year our School Improvement Plan focuses on ways to improve staff and student performance and the specific focus for the current year is addressing some underachievement in the Sixth Form. A series of groups, led by different members of staff, investigate and report back on specific areas of interest, such as how to move lessons from good to outstanding. Our most recent Ofsted inspection (2015), rated us as 'Outstanding'.

Much of Cranbrook's success results from the involvement of its committed Governing Body. The Governors take a genuine interest in the School, attend many of its functions, are involved in the regular reviews of departments and houses and work closely with the Leadership Group on new initiatives.

Boarding is central to the experience of life at Cranbrook and a programme of activities is provided for the boarders remaining on site at weekends. Each of the six houses has its own ethos and identity and a marked sense of house pride. The Heads of Boarding meet every week under the chairmanship of the Head of Boarding to discuss both day to day administration as well as longer term issues. The group reviews the national boarding standards on a regular basis to ensure that we are meeting them all. As a School we are members of the SBSA and the BSA. The facilities and general comfort of the houses are excellent and the School's own catering service provides high quality food. We have a long tradition of providing enjoyable outings on Sundays for which a number of staff give up their time. The boarding life of the School enriches everyone's experience and makes this a most interesting and congenial place to work.

The town lies in the Weald of Kent, about fifteen miles from Maidstone, Ashford, Hastings and Tunbridge Wells, and London is just an hour away by train from nearby Staplehurst. General information about the school can also be found on its website at [www.cranbrookschool.co.uk](http://www.cranbrookschool.co.uk).

### ***Science Department Overview***

Science is a vibrant, relevant and exciting group of subjects, and at Cranbrook we seek to communicate this to our students through dynamic and supportive teaching. The Science Department consistently delivers a very high standard of education, and as a result has established itself both as a leading department within the school and as one of the most popular choices for our students at A-level.

### ***Science Department structures***

The Science Department works as a cohesive whole to address broad issues and to generate integrated teaching schemes. The every-day teaching of Science is broken down into the three separate disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each of the three subject areas is headed up by a Subject Leader and they are responsible for structuring the delivery of their subject (from KS3 to post-16), and for supporting the teachers with their teaching of each subject.

Within the Science Department there is a wealth of experience, with a large number of senior members of staff bringing both pastoral and curriculum expertise to their teaching. The teachers are very well supported by committed and enthusiastic laboratory technicians. Science is a highly motivated department which is at the forefront of driving forward initiatives in the school.

### **Physics**

Year 12 and 13 follow the AQA Physics course, studying in a 'flipped-learning' format that is popular with students. Between 40 and 60 students regularly elect for Physics in Year 12 with the majority continuing through to A2. Typical A2 results are around 40% A\*-A and 70% A\*-B with a consistent ALPS score of 3 for the last three years.

GCSE students follow the AQA Physics course.

Results in 2018 and 19 have been excellent with 70%+ gaining grade 7 or better and a good value-added score each year.

Year 7 and 8 have lessons in biology, chemistry and physics that are taught by subject specialists in the main school labs. They greatly enjoy this experience and are delightfully keen to learn.

### ***Science Department accommodation***

There are currently 8 laboratories, 4 preparatory rooms, a Lecture Theatre and other ancillary rooms within the Science Department (2 Physics labs, 3 Biology labs, 2 Chemistry labs and 1 Physical Science lab). These were refurbished with money from Science Status funding. There are plans to increase the number of laboratories as numbers grow in Years 7 and 8.

### ***Science Curriculum***

**Year 7 and 8** Year 7 and 8 students will follow an enhanced KS3 course, aiming to embed higher level experimental work and deeper scientific thinking into the standard KS3 material.

**Year 9, 10, 11** All students embark on the separate AQA GCSE courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, beginning this at the start of Year 9. Decisions are then made at the end of Year 10 as to whether they should continue to study the individual sciences or switch to AQA Combined Science (Trilogy) to reduce their workload. Approximately a quarter of all pupils pursue the latter route in a typical year.

**Post-16** Biology and Physics students currently follow the OCR and AQA AS specifications, while Chemistry students follow the OCR A course. To give an indication of the popularity of the Sciences, there are between 40 and 70 students in Year 12 in each subject.

<b>ROLE PROFILE: CLASSROOM TEACHER – PHYSICS (Main Scale)</b>		
<b>Job Purpose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To facilitate and encourage learning which enables students to achieve high standards at all key stages.</li> <li>To take shared responsibility for the teaching of sixth form classes.</li> <li>Support corporate responsibility for the well-being, education and discipline of all students.</li> </ul>	
<b>Accountability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare and teach lessons of a very high standard to the students assigned to him/her: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following designated programmes of study</li> <li>Carrying out the necessary assessments</li> <li>Providing information/comments for records</li> <li>Monitoring students in accordance with agreed departmental strategies.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Maintain discipline in accordance with school policies and demonstrate good practice in the classes taught with regard to attendance, appearance, uniform, punctuality, behaviour, homework etc. Assist other staff in this area.</li> <li>Contribute to the corporate tasks of development, record keeping, monitoring, evaluation of lessons and maintenance of materials.</li> <li>Participate in the application of the departmental homework policy which includes the setting and marking of homework and monitoring homework diaries.</li> <li>Work closely with the Head of Department.</li> <li>Engage in professional development in relevant areas.</li> </ul>	
<b>Personal Qualities</b>	<b>Self-Awareness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An awareness of one's own feelings, strengths and weaknesses. Confident in the job, and with self-belief but open to feedback.</li> </ul>	<b>Social-Awareness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to empathise with the feelings of others and willingness to adapt to the needs of colleagues and students.</li> </ul>
	<b>Self-Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to adapt to situations whilst remaining calm and positive, sets challenging goals with positive expectations and a sense of optimism.</li> </ul>	<b>Relationship Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to lead by example, providing support and stimulation, is not afraid of change and remains objective.</li> </ul>
<b>Knowledge and Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Science-related degree is required.</li> <li>Principles and practices of effective teaching and learning.</li> <li>Preparation of schemes of work and lessons for self and others.</li> <li>Knowledge and understanding of subject area(s).</li> <li>Principles and practices of monitoring/assessment/evaluation.</li> <li>The application of information and communications technology (ICT) to learning and teaching in subject area(s).</li> </ul>	
<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To contribute to the wider life of the school beyond the classroom.</li> <li>Act as tutor.</li> <li>To undertake reasonable tasks as directed by the Headteacher or Head of Department.</li> </ul>	

### **The Application and Appointment Arrangements**

We look forward to receiving your application completed as fully as possible and returned to Dr John Weeds, Headmaster, by e-mail or to the address shown below. There is no need to send an additional CV.

Your statement, on a separate sheet/page, should include your relevant experience for this post and what you can bring to the Science Department at Cranbrook School.

**The closing date for applications is midday on Friday 17 January.  
Interviews will be held in the week commencing Monday 20 January.**

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