



Cranbrook Senior School

# The Pursuit of Excellence



**CRANBROOK  
SCHOOL**



**Cranbrook epitomises  
integrity, solidarity,  
responsibility, diversity,  
compassion and respect.**



**WELCOME TO CRANBROOK  
SENIOR SCHOOL**

**Set within 4km from the centre of Sydney and overlooking the iconic Sydney Harbour, Cranbrook epitomises a world-class city school.**

Cranbrook is committed to academic excellence, lifting levels of attainment and enriching horizons. Our high calibre teachers inspire young people with the joy of wholehearted engagement with intellectual challenges and develop a life-long love of learning. The close co-operation among the entire school community provides an educational climate conducive to each student working towards achieving his full potential.

We offer a broad, rich and distinctive education both within and beyond the curriculum. All that we do encourages and inspires our students to lead adventurous, courageous and generous lives.

**MESSAGE FROM  
THE HEADMASTER,  
MR NICHOLAS SAMPSON**

**Cranbrook is defined by a distinctive ethos and a simple yet powerful founding mission which centres upon integrity and which values being over seeming to be.**

We believe that a culture of broad opportunity can inspire both the growth of self-belief and a love of the pursuit of excellence.

As a school we celebrate gentle strength and elevate respect for the integrity of differences. We seek to promote and to notice, and to praise, the personal best of each of our students.

We possess a distinctive, and increasingly relevant, educational philosophy which reaches back to the School's foundation. We encourage young Cranbrookians to make the most of their talents and to discover and relish the joys of intellectual commitment and academic engagement. We are preparing our boys for a rapidly changing and challenging global landscape and we have a duty to anticipate the needs of the coming century. Our primary responsibility is to encourage and inculcate academic hunger within our students so that our Cranbrookians can flourish at university and beyond.

I look forward to welcoming you to our great school.

**Mr Nicholas Sampson  
Headmaster**

**VISION**

**A world class school which encourages and enables all of our students to explore, enjoy and fulfil their potential.**

**MISSION**

To lead all students to discover and make the most of their talents, to give of their best and to thrive in and love the pursuit of excellence;

To energise the educational environment by offering a well-rounded, rich and distinctive schooling both within and beyond the curriculum and to give powerful pastoral support to each pupil in our care;

To uphold the character of our Anglican foundation in order to promote the moral and spiritual development of each student and to foster the principles of service;

To build resilience and confidence within our students so that each can face the challenges of the twenty-first century with personal confidence, intellectual versatility, academic hunger and optimism, and

To inspire and support students to respect the integrity of differences and to lead adventurous, courageous and generous lives which contribute to the betterment of society.

**Celebrate  
the individual**

**Model and expect  
respect**

**Strive for  
excellence**

**Embrace  
global-mindedness**

**Lead through  
service**





## TEACHING AND LEARNING PHILOSOPHY

A great school must have the pursuit of wisdom at its heart in order to promote great teaching and powerful learning. Cranbrook encourages and enables each young man to make the most of his talents and to be a well-rounded, balanced individual. We set high expectations and encourage our students to strive for excellence and aim high, as through doing so they will broaden their range of experience, acquire strength of character and self-knowledge.

We expand our students' horizons in order that they understand and appreciate the world beyond themselves, building self-belief to voyage out and discover who they are and what they can do.

**Our young men not only  
win places at universities,  
but flourish there.**





## **Cranbrook is as much about the development of the mind as the formation of character.**

### **DEVELOPING FINE YOUNG MEN**

Our intellectual aims are supported by a first-rate pastoral system whereby boys can build life-long friendships.

We care deeply that our young men are equipped to build useful, rewarding and fulfilling lives. We take a whole school approach and while components of our pastoral care evolve and change as the students move up through the School, the basic principal and values we teach do not. We weave highly professional pastoral care

into every facet of school life. School counsellors work closely with, and alongside, Housemasters and each boy's academic and class tutors. This is critical to ensure that all staff really know each boy; their strengths, weaknesses, hopes and aspirations.

Every teacher and every staff member are part of the School-wide team devoted to the individual wellbeing of our students. Pastoral care is not an optional extra; it is integrated and essential.

**Cranbrook's House System is an integral component of our pastoral care system, and one of the School's greatest strengths designed to promote an environment in which students feel known, valued and purposeful.**

The 12 Houses form the structure through which the School provides individualised care, personal guidance and character development for each student. The House system is designed to complement classroom pedagogy, specific welfare policies, co-curricular activities, learning support, counselling services and religious education to nurture the development of each student.

The Houses are vertically structured so as to provide opportunities for students to interact with each other in formal and informal settings. Older students encourage and support the younger boys through tutor groups and 'buddy' systems. Cranbrook has a reputation for high levels of interaction across age groups. Thus, right from our youngest students in Year 7, boys are given multiple opportunities to engage with the more senior students. Leadership at Cranbrook is not based upon traditional hierarchies and as a result of the House system all Year Groups can find their voice across their interests. Tutor groups within the House allow for strong bonds of friendship and younger students identify mentors and role models. Houses honour and strengthen their traditions, celebrate their identity through social gatherings, trivia and cultural evenings, and participation in inter-House competitions.

**Boarding at Cranbrook offers boys a strong supportive home in an educational environment epitomising creativity, exploration and generosity of spirit.**

Cranbrook boarders are independent, self-confident and have a keen sense of responsibility for themselves and towards others.

There are two Boarding Houses which care for approximately 75 students from Year 7 to Year 12. Our Boarding Housemasters live on site with their families and provide powerful pastoral support; they fully understand the pastoral needs of raising boys and the challenges they face as they progress through to adulthood. The Boarding team also consists of full-time members of the teaching staff so they all understand the ebbs and flows of Cranbrook life.

At Cranbrook we understand that every boy's needs are different and we are committed to providing them with an all-encompassing social, academic and personal development boarding experience.

Garth Reynolds, Year 12: *"Boarding is about learning new things, getting out of your comfort zone, and finding out what kind of person you can be."*

Charles Rickwood, Year 10: *"The prime location of the School also makes it possible to do such fantastic things as being able to sail on the harbour three times a week. The huge range of activities on offer gives us the opportunity to try so many new things."*

For more information on boarding please read *Boarding at Cranbrook*.



RAWSON

The Houses ensure each and every young man feels known, valued and purposeful.



**Great teachers can inspire young people, action the moments of intervention and create turning points.**





**Cranbrook inspires a generation of global citizens who are knowledgeable about, and inspired to take responsibility for, the sustainability of our world.**

We foster a sense of active responsibility for environmental matters alongside an appreciation of the integrity of differences. Global awareness is a key part of our curriculum.

We have a duty to teach our young men to use the advantages of being part of a well-resourced, supportive school, in the pursuit of the greater good. Many of our students who work with those who do not share the same good fortune find this to be the most rewarding part of their schooling and often continue with these endeavours long after leaving school. Service is a vital element of our provision and various charitable causes and activities are generously supported by students, both in our local community, and overseas. The student service learning team are responsible for planning and organising a range of events to engage with and support our local community and environment.

### **WOLGAN VALLEY**

Our campus at Wolgan Valley is a residential and experiential education site that complements the main Senior School city campus, and allows learning to be undertaken in innovative ways. The aim of this campus is to build a synergy between education and environment to create a quintessentially Australian educational experience linked to the IB Middle Years Programme framework.

Our property at Wolgan Valley is about enriching young people's lives by placing them in the natural environment and demonstrating to students that communities are critically important. These experiences will give our students fresh perspectives.

**Our teachers are our greatest asset; they are dedicated, talented and deeply engaged as practitioners of their proud profession.**

Our teachers admire the potential of all our young men, and play a vital role in enabling them to be the best they can be. They inspire and enable each student to discover and make the most of his talents, to give his best to thrive in the pursuit of excellence.

Whilst our teachers possess a wide variety of different teaching styles, the one component of their teaching which is uniform across all our academic staff, is that they have the vision and ability to harness the passion and energy of the young men in their care, using it to revitalise their classrooms and ensuring all students develop their personal talents to make a full contribution to their studies and school life.

As a school we are committed to identifying, retaining and cherishing all our great teachers. There are no geographical limits to our search for the best teachers, and we recruit from across Australia and internationally. Teachers want to work at Cranbrook because of our unique ethos, strong tradition and focus on respect for individuality and difference.

**“Each boy in the School can aspire to membership in his crucial final year of schooling and will enjoy the magnificence and advantages this College offers. It is designed to make the most of mind and character, and emphasise the centrality of intellectual exchange.”**

Nicholas Sampson, Headmaster

The Year 12 College is an important facility which provides a bespoke working environment for our most senior students as they prepare for the most important end of school assessments.

Bridging the gap between Year 12 and university, the varied individual room layout effectively facilitates concepts of modern collegial learning by Year 12 students. Its rooms incorporate a diversity of learning options, from individual focus study areas to small group seminar and study fellowship seminar learning given by leading educationalists and visiting fellows to strengthen our senior students' intellectual conversation.

A series of Twilight Talks for Year 12 students and their parents are held in the College on topics that both mirror and enhance the curriculum. Lectures, seminars and tutorials are all held in the College, mirroring the teaching and learning style of university.

**Cranbrook's founding mission was to build a school that was the antidote to the clichéd stereotypical schools for boys at the time.**

The ethos of Cranbrook is to understand individuality, appreciate difference and demonstrate gentle strength, companionship, compassion and the fellowship of community.

The School is committed to nurturing the growth of individual boys, and supporting their needs and differences. We recognise that some students require more support than others while there are students with high academic and creative ability whose talents require particular nurture.

Cranbrook's enrichment programme addresses the needs of highly advanced students in order to encourage these students to achieve their potential, and to foster their love of learning and enjoyment of school.

Students with learning difficulties require different types of support to achieve their full potential and our programmes recognise their individual strengths, weaknesses and learning styles. Learning support makes learning accessible to each and every student.

We encourage each student to love giving his best to a range of tasks. We relish difference and want our young men to enjoy their education, make connections between ideas and discover enthusiasm.



## THE CURRICULUM

We are a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate's Middle Years Programme (MYP). The MYP develops active learners and internationally minded young people who can empathise with others and pursue lives of purpose and meaning. The programme empowers students to inquire into a wide range of issues and ideas of significance locally, nationally and globally. The result is young people who are creative, critical and reflective thinkers.

The MYP provides a rigorous framework that integrates powerfully with local educational requirements. The Australian Curriculum and NSW syllabus requirements are fully-delivered within an MYP context. It builds on the knowledge, skills and attitudes developed by the IB Primary Years Programme currently being delivered by Cranbrook Pre-schools and Cranbrook Junior School.

The MYP provides a structure for the nature and purpose of the Years 7-10 curriculum. It comprises eight mandatory subject groups in Years 7-10:

- Mathematics
- English Language and Literature
- Foreign Language
- Individuals and Societies
- Sciences
- Arts
- Physical and Health Education
- Design

To meet the requirements of both the IB and the NESA, in Years 7-8 students will study mandated courses in each of these subject groups. In Years 9-10 students will be able to adopt a more individual pattern of

study with the introduction of elective courses in addition to those that are mandated.

In Years 11-12 we offer the NSW Higher School Certificate as the leaving credential. For the HSC course, only the study of English is mandatory and we offer a wide selection of subjects including:

- Ancient History
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Chinese Continuers
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- Earth & Environmental Science
- Economics
- French
- Geography
- Japanese
- Latin Continuers
- Legal Studies
- Mathematics
- Modern History
- Music
- PDHPE
- Physics
- Visual Arts

We recognise the need to prepare students for a rapidly changing world where technology plays an increasing role in students' everyday lives. Cranbrook Senior School's Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) programme allows each student from Year 7 to Year 12 to use his own laptop to connect to the Cranbrook School network. Using this connection, each boy is able to undertake his learning in a safe and secure environment, and access the wide range of resources and strategies embedded into teaching programmes.

## STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOL DAY

### MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

8.20am–8.40am	<i>House Period</i>
8.45am–9.35am	<i>Period 1</i>
9.40am–10.30am	<i>Period 2</i>
10.30am–10.50am	<i>Break</i>
10.55am–11.45am	<i>Period 3</i>
11.50am–12.40pm	<i>Period 4</i>
12.40pm–1.25pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1.30pm–2.20pm	<i>Period 5</i>
2.25pm–3.15pm	<i>Period 6</i>

### WEDNESDAY

8.20am–9.05am	<i>Period 1</i>
9.10am–9.55am	<i>Period 2</i>
10.00am–10.45am	<i>Assembly/Student Wellbeing Programme</i>
10.45am–11am	<i>Break</i>
11.05am–11.55am	<i>Period 3</i>
12pm–12.50pm	<i>Period 4</i>
12.50pm–1.25pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1.30pm–2.20pm	<i>Period 5</i>
2.25pm–3.15pm	<i>Period 6</i>







We relish difference and want our young men to enjoy their education, make connections between ideas and discover enthusiasm.

## **Cranbrook stretches all students to give their best, be that in a drama production, in one of the many musical ensembles, or on the sporting field.**

Through all these programmes, our students learn life skills in a nurturing environment, where self-respect and respect for others is fostered.

### **SPORT**

Our sports programme is wide and varied, and undertaken in a spirit of genuine education. We play sport because it teaches valuable lessons about resilience, challenge, courage, failure and success.

Sports activities not only keep our students physically fit, increase their energy and stamina, but also promote and enhance mental agility. The concept of healthy body and healthy mind is the focus of our sports programmes throughout the School, from Pre-school to Year 12.

Our coaching is about discipline, team spirit and the realisation that the team can be greater than the sum of its parts. The first teams are not separated elite distanced from the wider cohort, but are teams that are well grounded in the School. We are proud of the fact that Cranbrookians have competed at the highest level and have represented themselves, and their communities, with distinction and humility.

Cranbrook is a member of the Combined Associated Schools (CAS) and involved in the CAS competition on Saturdays.

In addition we hold annual inter-House Athletics and Swimming Carnivals from which students are chosen to represent Cranbrook at higher-level competitions such as the CAS Championships.

Our students enjoy access to expansive sporting grounds, a fitness centre, which includes a gymnasium, indoor and outdoor basketball courts and an indoor pool.

Sports on offer include:

- AFL
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Football
- Rowing
- Rugby
- Sailing
- Snowsports
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Waterpolo

### **THE ARTS**

The Arts at Cranbrook continue to remain strong. They are deeply embedded in the very essence of the School and an intrinsic part of the curriculum.

Beyond developing and enhancing artistic skills and talents, students learn the craft of thinking critically and creatively; skills that they will be able to apply to virtually any discipline, area of study or work environment throughout their careers.

Cranbrook has a strong legacy of Old Cranbrookians forging successful careers within the Arts and many becoming household names; from iconic artists to world-renowned actors, playwrights, film-makers and photographers. We pride ourselves, and look to build upon, our exceptional tradition of artistic expression.



## **MUSIC**

The quality and ambition of our Music Department at Cranbrook remains high. It enriches the cultural life of the Cranbrook community and is vital to our character. It is an inclusive Music programme with the strive for excellence at its core. We aim to provide a programme which excites, inspires and encourage students to dream, persevere and achieve; while developing resilience and personal growth.

The musical offerings are broad and varied including Choral, Strings, Woodwind, Brass & Percussion, Jazz, Chamber, Composition and Contemporary Music. These programmes are led by outstanding music educators and visiting artists who work with our students in a series of master classes, rehearsals and concert productions throughout the year. Our facilities also include a world-class recording studio.

Every few years, the Music Department embarks on an International Music Tour which provides an invaluable opportunity for a global perspective on music making.

## **ART**

At Cranbrook art education is supported and recognised as a valuable, vital component of the School curriculum, encouraging creative problem solving, divergent thinking, multiple perspectives and developing technical skills.

Students in the Senior School are actively engaged in the world of art through Open Studio after school, dedicated skills workshops, Photography Club and Film Clubs, after- hours experiences at art galleries and tertiary institutions as well as interaction with visiting artists. The Art Department is always alive with young people engaged in art making late into the afternoon, the last school bell of the day signals a trip to the Art Department for many of them to immerse themselves in and extend their particular creative interests. All these opportunities create an environment where students want to be; discussing, making, critiquing and exhibiting art.

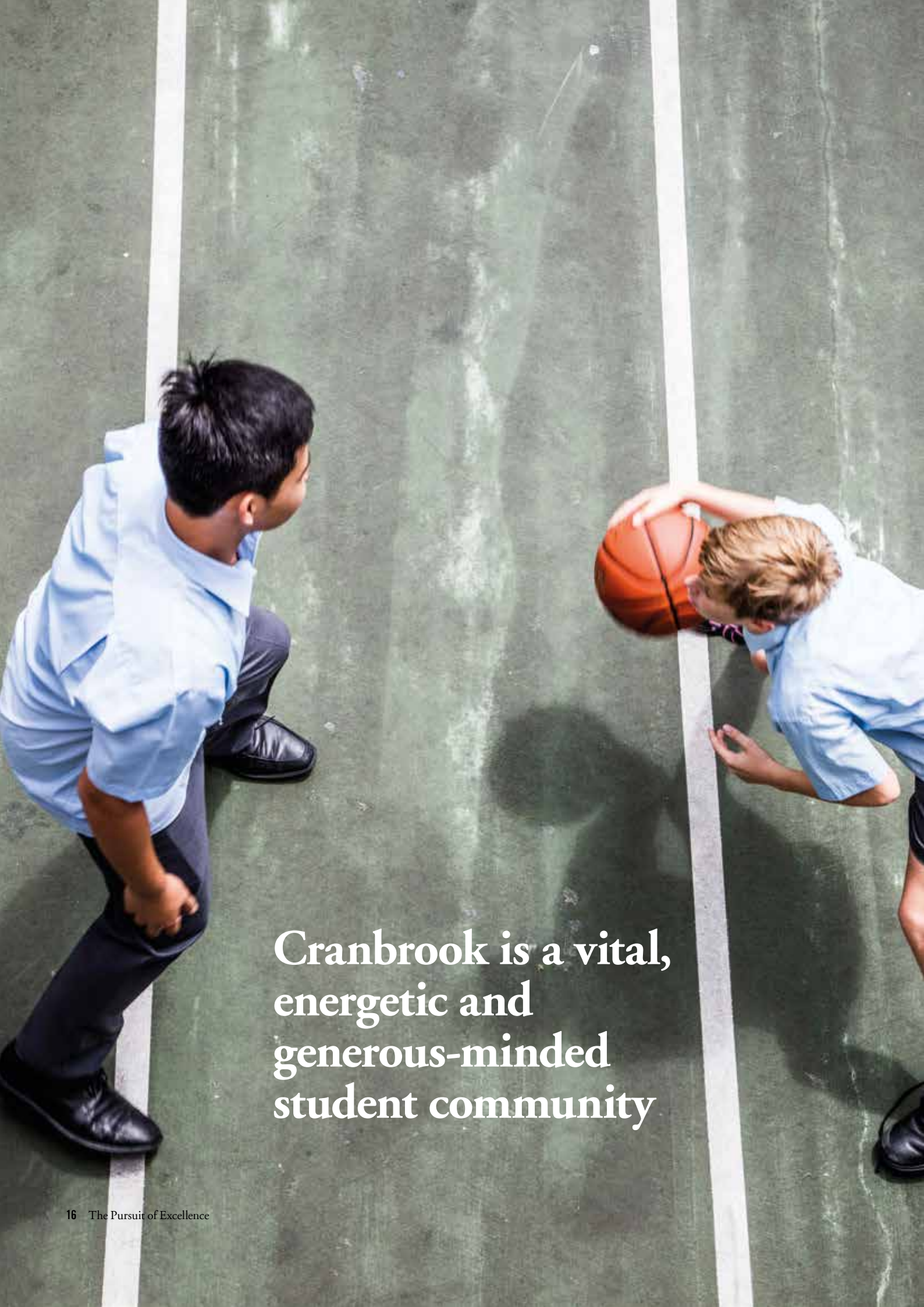
Cranbrook parents include some of Australia's critically acclaimed professionals working in art related sectors, and these talented individuals have been extremely generous in their patronage to the School, providing invaluable networks to both current and former students within key creative industries.

## **DRAMA**

Cranbrook is particularly proud of its traditions in drama. Drama is an integral and thriving part of the School's fabric, and the boys participate in a wide range of productions from Shakespeare to the Improvised. From small student directed productions to full-scale theatrical events, Drama provides students with an extraordinary number of opportunities, and audiences with unforgettable experiences.

Such is the strength of the dramatic talents of our students, many of them have had opportunities to perform in productions with neighbouring girls' schools and are involved in state festivals and competitions.

Our excellent teaching drama practitioners coupled with our Artists-in-Residence programmes, in which external industry experts work with the boys to develop and enhance their dramatic works, has ensured ongoing outstanding performances and productions, of which we are very proud.



**Cranbrook is a vital,  
energetic and  
generous-minded  
student community**



## BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

### A holistic approach is very important in the education of young men.

It is important to provide opportunities for all our students to pursue their interests across a range of areas. Through the co-curricular programme students grow in character, confidence and self-esteem.

Cranbrook students are encouraged to develop their talents, interests and skills through participation in physical, academic, scientific and artistic pursuits. Co-curricular activities help to round-out our students' education and facilitating their academic studies.

We offer an extensive range of co-curricular activities from the arts to the sciences, music to sport, providing our students with the encouragement to support their individual interests. Participation in these programmes aims to develop skills in leadership, performance, creativity and decision-making.

Activities include robotics, dance, orchestra, rock bands, debating, chess, drama and public speaking.

#### CRANBROOK IN THE FIELD

The compulsory outdoor education programme, Cranbrook in the Field (CITF), enables students from Years 7-10 to become immersed into the environment which allows them to develop inner strength, character and resolve. The programme is designed to encourage the boys to challenge themselves, build resilience, take responsibility and to support each other. The programme ensures the boys develop a respect for the environment and for each other.

The programme is sequential and age-appropriate. This year the Year 7 programme is held at Namadgi National Park (ACT), Year 8 in the Kosciusko National Park (NSW) and the Year 9 course at the stunning Cranbrook Property in the Wolgan Valley. The Year 10 course is the most rural and is out on the Cooleman Plains in the Kosciusko National Park. The programme allows the boys to learn through genuine experience, whether it be working together to prepare and cook group meals, undertaking an art making course or navigating their group to their next destination.

CITF also provides boys in the older years with the opportunity to lead groups of students whether as mentors in Year 10 whose responsibility it is to support and guide a Year 7 group through their first CITF or as a Year 11 CITF leader who supports the mentors and assists in the design and development of the programme.

The programme plays a major part in our educational provision and is an essential component of the Cranbrook experience.

#### DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an international youth development programme. Students at Cranbrook Senior School can participate in the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

Being voluntary, flexible, non-competitive, balanced, progressive, challenging and most of all enjoyable, participation in the scheme provides an opportunity for students to achieve personal excellence and build self-esteem, self-confidence, self-reliance, self-motivation and respect for others through their involvement in service, skill, physical recreation and expedition activities.

**Cranbrook School**

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