

February 2026

Mrs Willmott

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw to a close on the third half term of this academic year, I cannot help but be immensely proud of all that our school community has achieved over the course of the last six weeks. Across all of our sites there has been purposeful learning taking place and our students have had so many opportunities to experience an array of fantastic opportunities, all made possible by my wonderful staff team.

Our primary students have embarked on their swimming journey as you will see further on from Mrs Whitehorn, and they have continued to really embrace multiple learning opportunities from phonics to team building and everything in between. They have also shown their kindness and demonstrated our values of **ready, respectful and safe** as they have warmly welcomed new students that have joined. As the term ends we say goodbye to some students who are moving on to their new schools or are returning to their home schools and we wish them every success as they do so.

Our secondary students have been working equally hard in lessons and visitors have commented on how focussed learning is as they have walked around the school building. In both core subjects as well as vocational and more practical lessons, students have been striving for success, particularly our year 11s who are preparing for their GCSEs and upcoming exams in the summer. A highlight for all has been the boxing lessons in PE with Boxin2Shape with Jay Clarke, a great opportunity for the students to develop their fitness as well as disciplines of self-control and spatial awareness.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you a restful half term break and I look forward to welcoming students back in to school on 23rd February.

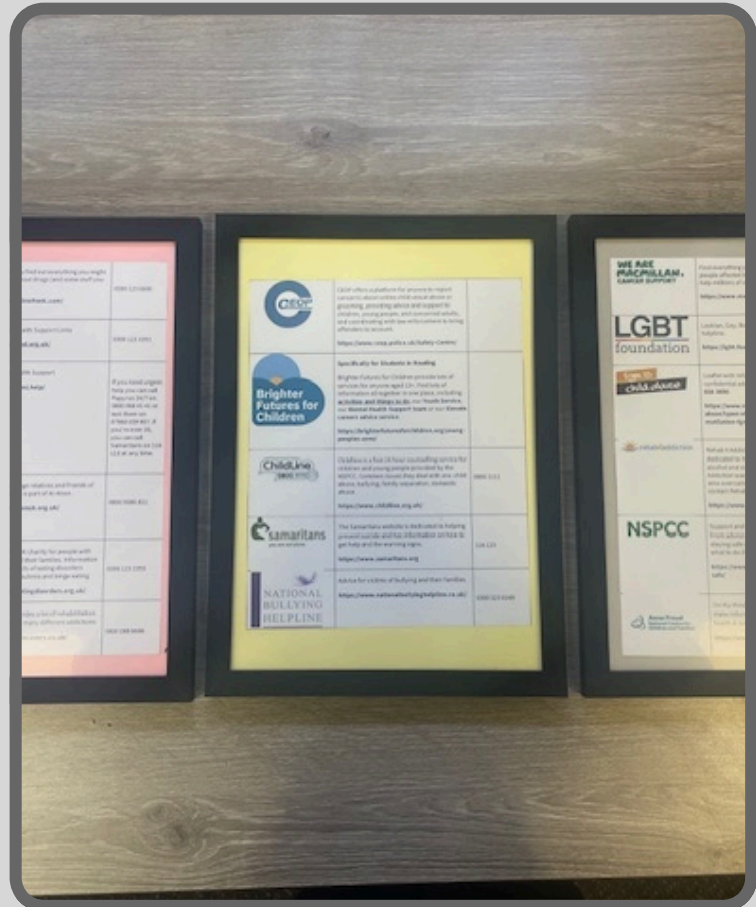


We are proud of the work we have been doing across all of our sites to save energy and improve sustainability. Please continue to work on this at home as well so that we can make positive changes for our planet.

Mrs Baggley – Deputy Head

Ready

At Cranbury College, all students receive intervention on a weekly basis to support them in being ready for their next step. This term students in year 10 and 11 are focusing their attention on identity and self esteem. We recognise that a number of our students require our help to identify and build upon their strengths and consider what positives they bring to the school community and wider community. Students so far have approached this with maturity and honesty and it has been great to see them building their confidence and exploring their personal attributes. Our Key stage 3 cohort have been focusing on Healthy Relationships. They have been engaging in tasks regarding their own relationships, identifying examples of healthy and unhealthy relationships, managing conflict and reflecting on how their findings fit in with school expectations and can help them navigate new relationships moving forward. Staff have commented that there have been some really thought provoking sessions so far with the emphasis constantly remaining on strategies to put into place in everyday situations. Well done to for being so open and honest in your sessions!



Respectful

February marks LGBTQ+ Awareness month and therefore at Cranbury College students have been learning about Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation.

During Tutor time, they have considered real life scenarios that may impact them in a working environment and within the community where they will need to show respect, tolerance and understanding regarding people's preferences and choices.

We have followed up our learning with considering the language we use towards each other and how we should be demonstrating our knowledge at all times.

Through this invaluable work that has taken place we hope that students have learnt important skills that they can take with them into their next steps, whatever they might be.

Safe

Each term, students take part in a student voice survey to feed back to the school their thoughts on a range of areas. We are very pleased to note that students at Cranbury College feel safe whilst in school and report a number of staff that they would speak to if they had a concern. Students also fed back that there isn't any area within the school buildings where they feel more at risk and highlighted that they look out for one another and feel staff are here to help them. Students at our Secondary site, did report however, that they at times do not feel safe traveling too and from school and we are currently working on a Travel Plan to roll out to students imminently where we use our minibus to pick students up from a range of pick up points to support here. We will be in touch with all students and parents regarding this in due course.

We have also updated our student support displays and notices around the college to ensure students know how to seek support at all times. These are also on our website and we encourage parents/carers to discuss these with their child and highlight for them that they are there.

Mr Sparks – Assistant Head

Ready

This half term, students have shown strong progress in being ready to learn, with 281 "Ready to Learn" positives, 256 Excellent Classwork awards, 178 Independent Work recognitions and 150 Excellent Contributions to Lessons.

These figures reflect improved focus, effort and engagement across the curriculum. Our enrichment focus on Culture has further strengthened this, as students explored global art, music and cultural customs with curiosity and maturity. They approached discussions with openness and a willingness to learn about the wider world.



Respectful

Being safe means making positive choices and contributing to a calm, supportive environment.

This half term, the vast majority of all recorded behaviour points were positive, highlighting the significant number of safe decisions made each day.

Students have shown improved emotional regulation, stronger responses to routines and safer peer interactions.

During our cultural enrichment sessions, students engaged respectfully in conversations about identity and tradition, demonstrating growing confidence in expressing themselves appropriately.

We are proud that so many of our students are earning recognition for making the right choices and contributing positively to our school community and we can't wait to see what next term brings.

Safe

Respect continues to grow across our school community. Students are showing greater pride in their work, listening more carefully to others and contributing thoughtfully in lessons. Our exploration of culture has supported this development, encouraging students to value different perspectives and traditions. Respect has been evident in improved classroom conduct, peer relationships and engagement during enrichment activities.

To recognise and celebrate the positive behaviour demonstrated this half term, Students who have consistently gone above and beyond in demonstrating our values will achieve Gold, earning a place at Ninja Warrior, recognising exceptional resilience, effort and leadership. Those achieving Silver will attend Bowling, celebrating sustained positive choices, teamwork and responsible behaviour. Students who achieve Bronze will enjoy our Film Day, recognising consistent readiness, engagement and improvement.

Mrs Whitehorn – Assistant Head

Ready

This term, our topic Adventurers, Explorers and Inventors has sparked great curiosity and enthusiasm among the students. They have enjoyed learning about famous adventurers and the impact their discoveries have had on the world. The students explored the origin of LEGO and how a simple idea grew into a globally loved invention. They also engaged in discussions about space exploration and the bravery of astronauts who ventured beyond Earth. Learning about the origin of flight helped students understand how inventors overcame challenges to make flying possible. The class examined how early aircraft were designed and how aviation has developed over time. Students also learned about explorers from the past and how they travelled to unknown lands. They investigated how maps were made in the past and why they were so important for exploration. This topic has encouraged curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking. Overall, the students have shown great enthusiasm and enjoyment throughout the term.

Safe

This term we have been swimming in Bracknell at the Swimarium. The students have shown outstanding participation in their swimming lessons, approaching each session with courage and a willingness to face the unknown.

They have bravely accepted the challenge of swimming and have been fully engaged throughout the program, consistently giving their best effort. By listening carefully to their swimming instructors and following instructions closely, they have steadily developed their skills, confidence, and technique.

In a very short time, they have made excellent progress in areas such as water safety, stroke development, and endurance. As a result of their commitment and positive attitude, most students are now confidently swimming in the deep end of the pool.

Respectful

The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in our carousel activities and exploring a wide range of cultural arts and foods. They were excited to learn about traditions from different cultures and eagerly shared their own ideas and experiences. Through these activities, the pupils embraced a variety of art techniques and experimented with new materials and styles. They showed creativity and confidence when trying unfamiliar approaches to art. The pupils also demonstrated respect and curiosity when learning about foods from different cultures. They listened carefully and asked thoughtful questions about cultural differences and similarities. This helped them develop a deeper appreciation for the diversity within our school community and beyond. They showed kindness and openness when working together during the activities. The pupils have come to understand that everyone's culture is valuable and worthy of respect. They now recognise that inclusion for all is the best way forward.



Miss Kendall – School Business Manager

Ready

The staff and students at Cranbury College continue to show a strong commitment to sustainability and promoting a future. The Energy Sparks 'reduce your use' competition, led by Mrs Biggins from our Sustainability Team, is well underway across both sites. With just two weeks to go, staff and students are working hard to reduce our energy use, and we will keep you updated as the competition progresses and announce the winning site soon.

We are also pleased to share that sustainability has been a running focus as part of our tutor work, this has been delivered by Ms Clarke from the Sustainability Team, helping students develop their understanding of energy use, the environment, and how small actions can make a big difference.



Respectful

As you may have seen in the weekly Headteacher's update, we are delighted to celebrate the achievement of our Level 2 RHS Gardening Award, gained for the school through the hard work and dedication of Miss Lock from the Sustainability Team. This award recognises our commitment to caring for our environment and respecting nature through gardening and outdoor learning, which has been a running project at our ILP Hub. Miss Lock was recognised for this hard work recently and was invited to complete a Maiden Erlegh Trust 'Team Talk', to hear more about her work in horticulture please follow the link here - [Team Talks: Miss Lock](#).

Another big thank you also goes to our Admin Team, who have shown great environmental responsibility by donating and recycling excess printer toner, helping to reduce waste and support sustainable practices.

Safe

During Energy Saving Week, students took part in an incentive to encourage safe and sensible energy use around the school, earning themselves Sustainability points for activities such as turning of devices and lights when not in use.

Congratulations to the winners:

- Daryl R from Primary
- Harry P from Secondary

We hope they enjoyed their prizes and well done to everyone who took part and helped promote safe, responsible energy habits across our school.

Mrs Syed – Associate Senior Leader

Ready

This term we have introduced a new timetable for both key stage groups introducing functional skills Maths and English.

KS3 have been learning the core skills of Math's and have been focusing on developing their skills in multiplication and division. We will continue to further develop their skills with these topics through starter activities and retrieval tasks.

KS4 students continue to develop their knowledge and skills in all areas of the curriculum. Year 11 have been focusing on revision for the upcoming mock exams for functional skills and GCSE subjects. The students have show maturity and focus whilst working collaboratively helping each other overcome barriers to learning. Year 10 have been following the functional skills English and Maths curriculum and both year groups have been working hard and making good progress across all aspects of their learning overall. We look forward to more hard work next half term!



Respectful

We have incorporated the universal intervention offer into our timetable for all years groups this term. KS3 have been working on self esteem and identity and KS4 have focused on anger management.

It is hoped that through these intervention lessons the student's mental health and well being will continue to develop in a positive way, and they will show an understanding of appropriate behaviour and social skills, increased resilience and boost their academic success.

It is extremely important for the students to learn how to transfer the skills and knowledge learn in these intervention lessons in to real life situations so that they can employ the relevant skills when needed but also so that they can understand the value in engaging in the learning taking place. This is an area we will continue to focus on next half term and beyond so that our students feel empowered and prepared for their next steps.

Safe

As a whole school we have been working on being more sustainable, so naturally we have adopted this at the ILP hub.

The students are actively more aware of putting the rubbish in the correct waste bins, turning the lights off when they are not needed and ask for the heating to be turned off when it is warm enough.

The building is old and it does tend to get quite cold, but the students are aware of this and will close the outside door to keep the heat in, so everyone keeps warm. It will be interesting to see if the building gets too warm in the summer months and the best ways we can sustainably keep the building cool enough.

We provide the students with breakfast and they have been using the food waste bins for their leftover as well as using their water bottles that we gave them, this reduces our plastic waste consumption.

Mr Alcock – Curriculum Lead

Ready

This half term, students have shown a clear improvement in their readiness to learn. Across the school, lessons are more focused, with students completing more work and engaging more deeply with what they are being taught. When staff visit lessons and talk to students about their learning, they are increasingly able to explain clearly what they have been working on and why.

The introduction of our star chart reward system has been particularly effective. Students earn stars for completing their classwork each lesson, which they can exchange for small rewards such as stationery or snacks. This has helped to motivate students, reinforce positive learning habits, and ensure that valuable lesson time is used productively.

Looking ahead, Year 11 students will be sitting their mock GCSE examinations during the first two weeks of March, alongside Functional Skills English and Maths assessments. In vocational subjects, students continue to work towards AQA awards throughout the year, as well as BTEC and NCFE qualifications.

Safe

Consistent staffing and clear lesson structures across the curriculum continue to play a vital role in creating a calm, safe, and well-regulated learning environment. Knowing what to expect in lessons helps students feel secure and ready to engage with their learning.

Visitors and new members of staff have frequently commented on the purposeful and calm atmosphere across the school. When students are not ready to learn, they are supported through structured options such as the reset room or the gym, where they can take time out with the guidance of the inclusion team before returning to learning.

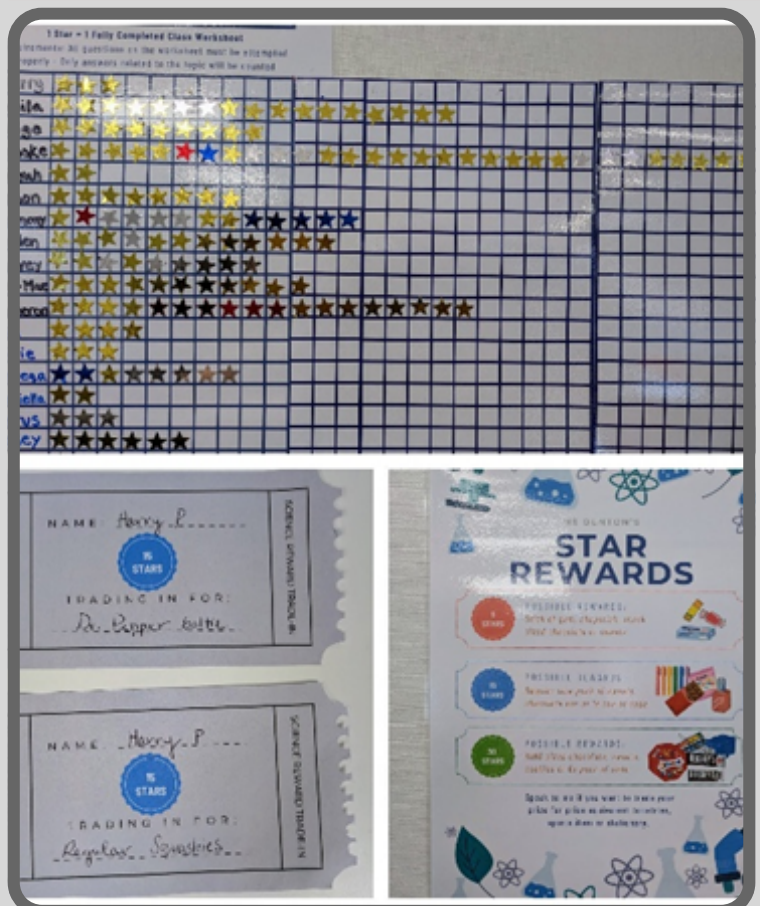
As we look ahead to next half term, staff are working carefully to plan lessons with smooth, routine starts so that we can make the most of our precious learning time and continue to build on the positive momentum we are seeing across the school.

Respectful

Students have continued to demonstrate respectful attitudes towards both staff and one another. Lesson engagement has improved, with students arriving at lessons expecting to learn and understanding the importance of being “ready to learn”.

We have been particularly pleased with how students have supported one another during assessments. Some students require access arrangements, such as using a laptop, and their peers have shown maturity and understanding that these adjustments support individual needs and may not apply to everyone.

We are also working with students to take greater responsibility at the end of lessons, including tidying learning spaces and remaining in the classroom until dismissed by the teacher. This is an area of ongoing development, and students are responding positively as expectations become more consistent across the school.



Meet our School Advisory Board Members

Charlotte Thackeray (Chair)

Charlotte joined the SAB at Cranbury in early 2025 becoming Chair later that year. She currently manages Widening Participation and Social Value at the University of the Built Environment (an online university with the head office based in central Reading).

She got involved with the SAB when the University collaborated with the Governors for the Schools charity as part of their volunteering opportunities. She has loved being a part of the Cranbury community and is very proud to be a member of the SAB team!

Since leaving University Charlotte has worked in politics and the University sector, primarily delivering outreach in schools.



Meet our School Advisory Board Members

Claire Willmott (Headteacher)

Claire began her teaching career in Surrey and worked across the Trust in a variety of roles and a variety of settings, as well as leading their Alternative Provision strategy before moving to Cranbury College and Maiden Erlegh Trust in 2023.

Claire says it is a privilege to be the Headteacher of Cranbury College, a school which gives students a second chance to achieve success. She lives in Bracknell with her husband and she has four children, two who are grown-ups and two who are still small and keep her very busy! In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, enjoying the theatre and reading.



Meet our School Advisory Board Members

Laura Mathews (Vice Chair)

Laura is Headteacher at Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre in Reading. She has worked in mainstream secondary schools across the country, from Burnley to London to the Isle of Sheppey.

After working as Safeguarding Lead at the West London Free School, Laura took a break from education to work for the charity Jamie's Farm: an amazing organisation who work with students at risk of social, emotional or educational exclusion. It was this that sparked the interest in supporting vulnerable students in our community and led her to become a governor at Cranbury College. Laura is the SEND Link SAB Member at Cranbury College.



Meet our School Advisory Board Members

Jonathon Farrell

Jonathon joined the School Advisory Board to contribute to the local community, where he lives and works. He moved to Reading five years ago, to join the soon to be established Trade Remedies Authority (TRA). He currently works as a lead investigator, where he leads complex international trade investigations, analyses evidence and makes transparent, evidence-based recommendations to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade. In his role, he has significant exposure to compliance, governance, performance and risk management.

Jonathon has a Bachelors degree in Politics, a Masters in International Relations and a Diploma in Accounting and Business. He is passionate about education, and keen to apply his professional skills and enthusiasm on the School Advisory Board, to support and enable quality education outcomes.



Meet our School Advisory Board Members

Helen Gasson

Helen is the Safeguarding Link Governor at Cranbury College and has held this role for over three years. With more than 13 years' experience in children's safeguarding, Helen is passionate about ensuring that every pupil feels safe, supported, and able to thrive. In her role, she works closely with the school's leadership to monitor and strengthen safeguarding practices, helping to ensure that robust systems are in place to protect all pupils.

Helen regularly visits the school and has been pleased to see how its welcoming atmosphere has developed over the years, supporting pupils to feel safe, respected, and valued. She is committed to maintaining a culture where children feel heard, understood, and empowered to engage with their learning in a safe environment. As a parent of two children, Helen also brings a personal perspective to her role and an understanding of the importance of pupil wellbeing.

Outside of her work as a governor, Helen enjoys walking in the countryside, photography, and exploring new places.



Meet our School Advisory Board Members

Julie Syed (Staff SAB Member)

Julie enjoys working at Cranbury College because every day offers the chance to make a meaningful difference in young people's lives. The school's supportive community, dedicated staff, and commitment to helping students thrive make it a genuinely rewarding place to be.

Being a staff member on the SAB adds an extra layer of purpose for her - she finds it fascinating to help shape the strategic direction of the college, support its long-term vision, and work collaboratively to ensure every student has the opportunities they deserve. Contributing to both the everyday experience and the bigger picture is what she says makes her role both interesting and fulfilling.



Meet our School Advisory Board Members

Si Chan

Si is an enterprise architect, specialising in helping organisations transform themselves and their way of working using technology alongside effective processes.

A father of two, he is passionate about ensuring every child has the opportunity to have an education that sets them up for future success.



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