

DRAFT



Meeting of Cranbrook School and Association of Boarders at Cranbrook (ABC)

28th September 2023 at 6pm (via Teams)

School: David Clark (Head)
Karen Radford (Bursar)

ABC reps: Gigi Bromage (President - GBr) Georgina Stephenson (Vice-President – GS)
Marie-Claire Erith (ME) Fiona Wilson (FW)
Guy Bignell (GB) Vicki Sturgeon (VS)
Selene Brett (SB)

Item		Action
1.	Apologies Guy Bignell and Vicki Sturgeon.	
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2023 The minutes were approved.	
3.	Matters arising Covered under agenda items.	
4.	Head's update <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Head visited all Houses last term, and is now visiting one a week. Good spirit, some structural weaknesses and concerns. Cranbrook is lucky with its facilities and surroundings. The Head was a boarder and worked in a boarding school - he is committed to making Cranbrook the best boarding school in the country. Dave Carney is also visiting boarding houses and wants to get involved.The ABC delighted that the Head is keen and enthusiastic. A few areas need to be improved and fixed that are not expensive.The Head is desperate to fill boarding - wants to make sure that Cranbrook is 'out there'. Looking at a two-year strategy to fill boarding, with a waiting list. With a change of government private boarding schools' fees could go up by 20%. The school is also specifically targeting prep Heads so that they can inform their parents of the Cranbrook option. Cameron Jones has been recruited for marketing.How do we balance weekly boarding with full boarding, as there is a divide?There are a number of local boarders who love to stay at weekends - we do not do exeats. School Captains are tasked with two objectives: to blend Year 12 & 13 together and blend day and boarding.	
5.	Road Safety Educate students where to cross, not on the bend. Also use the Scott path and avoid the road. School Lodge an issue - white line used to identify the damage. Try and get students to stop and think before crossing.	KMB
6.	Boarders early return after main holidays We are looking to open one of the houses from mid-morning.	DJC
7.	Boarders early return to Houses at weekends.	
8.	Fireworks night Fundamentally difficult to obligate students to do things, a good number of students want to attend but some do not want to go. It was agreed that those who want to go will pay.	

9.	Boarders weekend parties The Head has asked the HOBHs for the current rationale, which is based on a few students getting drunk. This is going to change and will be launched by October, so students can go out on a Friday and come back on a Saturday (return time currently being discussed). Information will be sent to boarding parents at half term.	DJC
10.	Gym slots Wednesday is a girls-only night which they like, as some find it intimidating being with boys in the weights room. Boys want to go at the same time. Also, the gym is consistently open late. The girls' slot is sacrosanct. Rota is 8.30 to 10.00, and the weights room can be open after school too. DJC and DXC are both on the rota. Prep time is 7.00 to 8.30, so it cannot open earlier. We might need to be mindful of having a boys-only night.	
11.	Girls and boys football Ant Tomlinson (Development Officer and great football fan) has met with Kent Football Association. Girls' football is in place with Blubery and Scott, and boys' football is happening in 6th form games and informally in school clubs. The School is trying to put formal coaching in place before half term. We are also looking to make other sports available, eg. table tennis and badminton.	
12.	Floodlights – Planning is going in. Momentum was lost over the summer with the extensive works, but is now very much at the forefront.	
13.	Filling boarding beds The Head is tasked with this.	DJC
14.	Internet speed in Scott The Head has spoken to the Scott girls - the Sixth Form Centre is open to study in the evening. Scaffolding on Barham House for window refurbishment could still be impacting on the signal.	
15.	Coach House: It is open two nights a week.	
16.	Pantomime: We are looking to bring it back. With DJC.	DJC
17.	Appeals: The school is not happy with the process and it looking to improve it.	
18.	Discrepancies across Boarding Houses: DXC is wedded to consistency and will be liaising with all boarding houses. We are aware and challenging it inconsistency to ensure fairness for all boarding students. There need to be more activities for girls in the Houses – this is an area that can be improved.	
19.	Snack budget: This has been devolved to Houses for them to manage. The budget has not been reduced, but it is now down to the Houses to manage it. The budget is ample to provide a mid-morning snack as well as food post-prep.	
20.	Food portions: Discussed – this is not an issue.	
21.	Any other business Christmas drinks event for boarding parents – to be organised.	DJC
12.	Date of next meeting Doodle to be circulated, so dates for the spring and summer terms can be set well in advance.	BS