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www.cranbrookschool.co.uk

PHYSICS TEACHER

(Full-time post)

School Information

Cranbrook School is a mixed state grammar school with 872 pupils aged 11-18 years, including around 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 11 or 13, and in Year 10 they start their two-year GCSE courses in nine or ten subjects, though the sciences start their GCSE course in year 9. Most students then qualify for the Sixth Form, this being supplemented by a healthy intake into Year 12 from other schools. All Sixth Formers follow a two-year GCE course, leading to A level exams in Year 13.

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 well-stocked library and lecture theatre. Sports facilities include a large sports hall, dance studio, gymnasium, weights room, heated outdoor swimming pool, squash courts and extensive playing fields and facilities for the boys' and girls' games - hockey, rugby, cricket, netball, tennis and athletics – as well as an astro-turf pitch. The school also possesses a purpose-built Performing Arts Centre which houses a drama studio and music practice rooms, and a Sixth Form Centre which was recently refurbished to very high standards and features a large and sound-proofed study area as well as informal seating and kitchen facilities. The school boasts an Observatory and Science Centre named after Dr Piers Sellers OBE, a former student and 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 the voluntary CCF (combined cadet force) and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, 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 South America, Portugal, Nepal, Southern India and The Battlefields of Flanders. These visits have been for sports tours, cultural exchanges, adventurous activities and to work on projects.

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.

Cranbrook School welcomes ECTs and has a number of experienced mentors on our staff, all ECTs and their mentors are offered additional training through Kent Teach to help ensure a positive experience during their ECT year.

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. Our School Self Evaluation process includes a focus on ways to improve staff and student performance. A series of groups, led by different members of staff, investigate and report back on specific areas of interest. Our most recent Ofsted inspection (2022), and Ofsted boarding provision inspection (2025) rated as 'Good' and 'Outstanding' respectively.

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.

Cranbrook is very proud of its outstanding boarding status underpinned by its vibrant boarding community fully involved in the co-curricular activities within the school. This includes a programme of activities for the boarders remaining on site at weekends. Cranbrook has approximately 240 boarders shared across six houses each with its own ethos and identity and a marked sense of house pride. The facilities for our boarders are excellent, with the in house catering often highlighted for particular praise. As a school we have a long tradition of providing a full fixture programme on weekends and a variety of trips and activities on Sundays for which a number of staff give up their time. The boarding life of the School offers both staff and students many new and enriching experiences 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 our website at www.cranbrookschool.co.uk.

PHYSICS AT CRANBROOK

The Physics department consists of three full-time teachers and two who teach part-time or also teach in other departments. Most science teaching at Cranbrook is done by subject specialists although some staff enjoy the opportunity to teach in more than one discipline, especially in the younger age groups. Physics is ably supported by our own experienced physics lab technician, and the technicians in all three sciences work well to assist each other during any particularly busy periods.

There are three dedicated and very well-resourced physics labs and science has nine well-equipped labs in total, all with interactive whiteboards and projectors. The vast majority of teaching takes place in these labs, allowing a great deal of opportunity for practical sessions to help students absorb concepts. The physics department has its own 'base' in a large prep room with space for teachers to work or mark, networked computer access and a printer (plus our own simple but very functional photocopier!)

We teach in mixed ability classes from Years 7 through 11.

Year 7 and 8 typically have class sizes of 30. The school operates a two-week timetable and these years have three 55-minute periods of physics per fortnight. All of their physics lessons occur in the main physics labs, an experience that they very much enjoy.

Class sizes in Year 9 and 10 are typically 25 to 30 students. Year 9 receive four physics lessons per fortnight and Year 10 receive five lessons per fortnight, all of 55-minute duration.

We usually allow a choice of route in Year 11: most Year 11 students continue with separate science GCSEs; a minority of around 15% to 20% follow Combined Science GCSE in Year 11 instead. Year 11 classes vary more in size, depending on the split between separate and combined science, but separate science sets typically contain 30 students and combined science sets contain around 18 students. In either case, they receive five 55-minute lessons per fortnight of physics teaching.

Physics is a most popular choice for A level. Depending upon exact numbers, we typically have 2 sets in each of Year 12 and Year 13 and we aim for around 14 to 18 students per set. Year 12 receive nine 55-minute lessons per fortnight and Year 13 receive ten such lessons.

We follow the AQA Physics courses at both GCSE and A level.

Year 12 and 13 study predominantly in a 'flipped-learning' style: basic concepts are studied outside the classroom, allowing valuable lesson time to be devoted to advanced concepts and details rather than broad strokes. Our sixth form students enjoy the ability to set their own pace and not be constrained by the class as a whole and we are increasingly employing variations on this approach in the lower years.

Our exam results are consistently very pleasing and we usually rank among the top subjects in the school every August.

Our results in the Summer 2025 examinations were 70% 7-9s at GCSE (29% grade 9) and 82% A*-B at A Level (100% A*-D). A large number of our Year 13 physicists choose to study Physics, Engineering, Medicine or other STEM courses at university and every year we support students to apply to Oxbridge often with success!

The department typically offers a range of extra-curricular activities that link with our own interests, such as robotics, STEM and engineering clubs. The school has its own observatory that was built to house a 22.5" reflector (the 'Alan Young' telescope) and a thriving local science and astronomy club runs weekly viewing evenings open to all staff and students. There are monthly science lectures linked to this club that cover a range of topics. The department runs several trips including to A Level Live: Physics at the Emmanuel Centre and

to the University of Sussex to see their Physics department. Other trips include the Science Museum, Herstmonceux Science Centre and New Scientist: Live.

We have a real drive to increase the number of girls taking up Physics at A Level and pursuing STEM subjects at university. We have developed our own 'Girls in STEM' strategy and focusing on giving opportunities to girls in Year 10 and 12 beyond the classroom. We also have close links to the local primary school with pupils often visiting us in the summer months to take part in a science lesson.

ROLE PROFILE: CLASSROOM TEACHER – PHYSICS (Main Scale)	
Job Purpose	To be an active member of the Physics department, facilitating and encouraging learning across all years groups which enables students to achieve high standards at all key stages as measured by appropriate performance indicators.
Accountability	Teaching and Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and teach lessons of a very high standard to the students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Following designated programmes of study and prepare students for any necessary assessments ◦ Providing information/comments on student progress as required ◦ Monitoring students in accordance with agreed departmental strategies • 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. • Contribute to the corporate tasks of development, record keeping, monitoring, evaluation of lessons and maintenance of materials. • Participate in the application of the departmental homework policy which includes the setting, marking and monitoring of homework. • Work closely with the Head of Department. • Engage in professional development in relevant areas.
Personal Qualities	Self-Awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An awareness of one's own feelings, strengths and weaknesses. Confident in the job, and with self-belief but open to feedback. Social-Awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to empathise with the feelings of others and willingness to adapt to the needs of colleagues and students. Self-Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to adapt to situations whilst remaining calm and positive, sets challenging goals with positive expectations and a sense of optimism. Relationship Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to lead by example, providing support and stimulation, is not afraid of change and remains objective.
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good Physics-related degree is required. • Knowledge and understanding of subject area(s). • Undertake reasonable tasks as directed

The Application and Appointment Arrangements

We look forward to receiving your application completed as fully as possible. Please do not send an additional CV.

Within your application please include a statement which should outline your interest in the role of Physics teacher, and what you can bring to the Department.

Mrs S Gleadow
Head's PA
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The closing date for applications is **Monday 26th January 2026**

Interviews will be held in the week commencing **Monday 2nd February 2026**