DEVELOPING GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP
WHAT IS CRANLEIGH INTERNATIONAL?

Cranleigh International is the term ascribed to Cranleigh’s portfolio of schools located in other countries around the world. Our UK based Cranleigh International office oversees quality assurance, brand consistency and executive governance participation in each school, as well as stimulating vital inter-school linkages at all levels of operation.

Cranleigh International is accountable to the UK School’s Governing Body and makes use of our commercial arm, Cranleigh Education Services Limited. The Cranleigh International teams comprise of a small number of bespoke staff and school governors who work in close association with the schools’ leadership teams, as well as external commercial and government advisors.

Cranleigh International has a school founded in 2014 in Abu Dhabi with partner Aldar Education and two schools in China with partner Cogdel Education, one in the city of Changsha founded in 2020 and one in the city of Wuhan which will open its doors in 2022. In both China and the Middle East, Cranleigh International has entered into legal agreements to open further schools within the Cranleigh International network.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF CRANLEIGH INTERNATIONAL?

There are multiple benefits for all of Cranleigh’s stakeholders to developing and prudently growing an international portfolio of schools. Income returned to Cranleigh UK is a meaningful and increasingly significant tool in diversifying income away from school fee reliance. Cranleigh International income is also a vital contributor to our social purpose mission directly feeding into the Cranleigh Foundation.

At Cranleigh’s schools in the UK and abroad we aspire to develop students who are readied for global citizenship and empowered by an understanding, tolerance and collaboration between cultures their education has given them. The Cranleigh International network lends students the opportunity to collaborate, compete, engage or socialise in-person or remotely with students in different cultures. For our teachers, the professional development opportunities Cranleigh International offers them enrich and career enhancing.

READ MORE FROM CRANLEIGH INTERNATIONAL’S LEADERS

WHAT IS CRANLEIGH INTERNATIONAL’S PURPOSE?

• Cranleigh International fosters environments for global citizenship to flourish in pupils
• Cranleigh International schools are leaders in educational best practice and learning innovation through their territories
• Cranleigh International promotes understanding, tolerance and collaboration between cultures
• Cranleigh International schools prioritise pupil wellbeing
• Cranleigh International schools educate pupils to be Thinking, Being and Giving individuals
• Cranleigh International schools prioritise a creative curriculum, teaching innovative thinking and empathy, rather than teaching to the test
• Cranleigh International schools produce resilient self-believers who contribute to society
FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL
MIKE WILSON

Cranleigh Abu Dhabi was Cranleigh's first venture abroad. The brainchild of well connected Old Cranleighans living in the UAE, it was steered from dream to reality by a team steeped in Cranleigh history.

The key was capturing the Cranleigh ‘feel’ and ethos without trying to replicate a UK school in the Middle East. Based on a philosophy that educates the whole child and a realisation that education is a life-long journey, Cranleigh Abu Dhabi has had a vibrant start to its existence. Our academic results are already amongst the best in the UAE, our sports teams are competitive, and our creative arts have earned us international recognition.

Sitting at the entrance to the Cultural District on Saadiyat Island, Cranleigh now educates over 1,600 pupils from 74 different countries. More than 30 different languages are spoken making Cranleigh a truly ‘international’ school which chimes well with our global motto, Ex Cultu Robur – ‘From Culture Comes Strength’.

FAST FACTS

OPENED
in September 2014 with the class of 2019 being the first to complete A Levels and also become the first Old Cranleighans from Cranleigh Abu Dhabi.

LOCATED
on Saadiyat Island, five miles out of central Abu Dhabi, the school is surrounded by cultural places of interest including The Abu Dhabi Louvre, low density urban development and beaches.

1,600 STUDENTS
attend the school, ranging from age 4 to 18, and covering over 70 different nationalities.

BRITISH CURRICULUM
is taught with senior school students taking iGCSEs, A Levels and EPQs before leaving for a range of universities, predominantly in the UK and US.

AWARDS:
In 2017 Cranleigh Abu Dhabi was voted TES Best New British International School of the Year and in 2019 won the coveted Best British International School of the Year in the Performing Arts category.

NAMED
among the Top 100 Private Schools in the world and ranked within the top 5 Private Schools in the Middle East by Spear’s Schools Index.
CRANLEIGH BY NAME, CRANLEIGH BY NATURE

SPORTING SUCCESS: The Cranleigh ‘sport for all’ approach complemented by elite sport development is the framework for sporting provision. The School’s golf scholarship has produced boys and girls now playing in national competitions.

PUTTING ON A SHOW: The 2018 ‘Water in the Desert’ Opera project saw the School partner with the Abu Dhabi Ministry of Culture, gaining local and international recognition.

ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATORS: The School has become a global ambassador for the Dr Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots Foundation, which aims to develop compassionate, environmentally aware leaders of the future.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE: Students as young as Year 8 have enjoyed school trips to under-resourced areas of Cambodia where they have been involved in community projects.

CARING COMMUNITY: The School has recently gained accreditation for both Pastoral and Wellbeing initiatives through the National Children’s Bureau, Abu Dhabi. It was rated as Outstanding in all six categories in its latest ADEK inspection.

CRANLEIGH CONNECTIONS

STUDENT EXCHANGES: A (Covid-19 interrupted) bi-annual music tour has been established since 2016 with Cranleigh UK students next due to visit Abu Dhabi in October 2022. There has also been a small but steady flow of students looking to stay in the Cranleigh Family, in both directions.

STAFF INTERCHANGES: Regular movement of staff between the schools occurs in both directions. The Executive Principal, Mike Wilson, was Head of Cranleigh Prep before moving to lead Cranleigh Abu Dhabi but there are many other examples across the spectrum of teaching age ranges and subjects. In recent years several UK staff, including David Fischer, George Royall and Richard Savel, have also spent time in Abu Dhabi running specialist workshops.

CONNECTIONS AND COLLABORATIONS: Supporting each other at a teacher and student level is important. Amongst other examples, recently students have collaborated on eco projects, competed against each other in the van Hasselt political essay competition and raced against each other in virtual exercise challenges!

HEADS TOGETHER: Open dialogue exists between the leadership at the schools to ensure we maximise the opportunity for sharing best practice. Termly joint SLT s take place and the new platform for curriculum and CPD development is now flourishing, led by Dr John Taylor at Cranleigh School.

LEADERSHIP LINKS: Two of our school governors (Simon Whitehouse and Monica Fisher), sit with James Dale-Adcock on full board meetings of the school with colleagues from Aldar Education, the Abu Dhabi parent company of the school.
CRANLEIGH CHINA

In China, Cranleigh is partnered with Cogdel Education Group which has over 20 years’ experience operating over-subscribed International High School departments associated with the top public schools in large cities including Chengdu, Wuhan, Beijing, Chongqing and others. Over the coming years, a family of Cogdel Cranleigh China schools will be launched, the first of which opened in Changsha in September 2020. Cranleigh’s brand and focus is on the final three years of education in these schools.

FROM THE HEADMASTER CRANLEIGH CHINA CHANGSHA
ADAM McROY

The Cranleigh ethos is central to life at Cogdel Cranleigh Changsha, underpinned by the three tenets of Cranleigh Thinking, Cranleigh Giving and Cranleigh Being. In the classroom, we promote academic excellence through discussion and debate. Cranleigh UK and Cranleigh Abu Dhabi have provided outstanding support and training materials to help us promote an enquiry led learning culture, specifically through the mediums of the HPQ, EPQ and IB courses.

The extended day that a boarding school provides gives the opportunity for students to explore sports, performing arts, academic societies and service on our state-of-the-art campus, which includes an athletics track, 50-metre swimming pool and professional standard theatre. We have developed a strong house system similar to the Cranleigh Abu Dhabi model. Our pastoral provision and wellbeing programmes underpin the lives of all our pupils so they can thrive in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment, preparing them to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, the essence of Cranleigh Being.

FAST FACTS

OPENSED in September 2020 with an initial cohort of 500 students from Grades 1 to 10.
LOCATED in the brand-new Changsha Economic and Technological Development Zone with convenient transport links and abundant green spaces surrounding the campus.
700 STUDENTS attend the school, ranging from age 6 to 18, most of whom are Chinese, but with a growing international student presence.
BRITISH CURRICULUM is taught with senior school students taking GCSEs and A Levels or IB before leaving for a range of universities, predominantly in the UK and US.
AWARDS: The school was authorised as an IB World School for the Diploma Programme in 2021 after only six months of operation.
SPORTING EXCELLENCE: The brand-new campus at Cogdel Cranleigh Changsha has the sporting facilities available for students to participate in a wide range of sports: football, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, athletics and swimming.

PUTTING ON A SHOW: In our first semester of operation, the school hosted a Shakespeare Festival for the British Consulate with performances from students of all ages. The second semester saw the world premiere of Harry Potter and the Lost Hat of Cranleigh, which was written, directed and performed by students in Grades 7 and 8 for members of the local community.

ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATORS: In 2021, the school was nominated for the Students for Sustainability Award at the British School Awards in recognition of ‘a genuine and deep awareness of sustainability issues’ among the student body. We were the only newly established school to receive a nomination in any category.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE: One of the school’s mottos is ‘We inspire agency in everyone’. This means that students are empowered to take ownership of their own experience at the school. Students are encouraged to be active participants in the Student Union and are given numerous chances to demonstrate leadership skills, whether it be planning the annual Christmas party or proposing a new co-curricular activity.

CARING COMMUNITY: The Cranleigh Giving aspect of the school ethos means that we expect all students to perform voluntary service during the academic year. This could take the form of litter picking in the area around the campus or visiting a local care home to entertain the residents. The focus of all such activities is giving back to the community and developing a passion for service.

CRANLEIGH BY NAME, CRANLEIGH BY NATURE

CRANLEIGH CONNECTIONS

STUDENT EXCHANGES: The first Cranleigh student visit to a Cranleigh China school has been postponed due to the pandemic, but it is hoped exchanges and visits will be a feature of the connection between Cranleigh UK and Cranleigh schools.

STAFF INTERCHANGES: Former Cranleigh School Deputy Head, Andrea Grifiths, leads Cogdel Cranleigh Changsha school building its setup phase and first semester of operation. Cranleigh UK and Cranleigh Abu Dhabi staff will have opportunities to visit and learn from their China through the Cranleigh Family of Schools.

CONNECTIONS AND COLLABORATIONS: Cranleigh China students have collaborated with their counterparts in the UK and Abu Dhabi on environmental projects, World Book Day celebrations and photography competitions, as well as exchanging videos on several topics during the pandemic period.

HEADS TOGETHER: Head of Cranleigh Cranleigh Changsha, Ailson McRory and members of its leadership team are members of the Cranleigh School’s Learning and Teaching Innovation Committee led by Dr John Taylor at Cranleigh School. Ailson McRory also has direct open dialogue through James Dale-Adcock and Martin Reader.

LEADERSHIP LINKS: Cranleigh China operations and strategy are overseen by the Cranleigh China Management Board (Chair: Monica Fisher (Cranleigh School Deputy Chair of Governors), James Dale-Adcock and Dr John Taylor sit alongside three Cogdel Education representatives on the Board). Board decisions are fed into the Cranleigh School governance system by means of the Governing Body Cranleigh International Committee and full Governing Body meetings.
Schools are rightly scrutinized regarding their motivation for moving into the international school market. Cranleigh International welcomes this scrutiny as it is at the heart of the rigorous and multilateral decision-making process undertaken by the school’s Governing Body before international projects are approved. Our purpose at Cranleigh International’s schools is to develop global citizens who are empathetic and understanding of different cultures, who are resilient self-believers who contribute to society. These societies may have restrictions which we find uncomfortable and operate under regimes which are not obviously aligned to Cranleigh’s ethos, but Cranleigh School and Cranleigh International firmly believe in the power of education as a force for positive change within society.

An absolutely essential element to the success of Cranleigh International schools to date has been the quality operating partner in situ. Aldar Education are a large independent education operator in Abu Dhabi with over 40 schools under their stewardship. Cranleigh Abu Dhabi is the premium plus school in their portfolio. In China, Cogdel Education operate a wide variety of higher and further education platforms including a number of highly regarded International High Schools, as well as Cogdel Cranleigh School Changsha and Cogdel Cranleigh High School Wuhan.

It is for this reason that medium term growth plans for Cranleigh International focus on further schools with both our current partners. Cranleigh International aspire to open further schools in China with Cogdel and in March 2022 signed a new agreement with Aldar Education to open schools in the Middle East beyond Abu Dhabi.