



Sixth Form FAQs

What would a typical day look like and what are free periods like?

In the morning, you will have time with your form before lessons begin. Most students come in and spend a bit of time catching up in the Sixth Form Common Room before Form Time and you can also then grab some toast and a coffee in preparation for the day ahead! Form Time is still important in Sixth Form, as your Form Tutor will be a good source of support throughout your Sixth Form journey and will also help you make judgements about pathways beyond Cranford including university, gap years or career options. You will usually have between two or four lessons a day and several free periods. We suggest you use your free periods for independent study either in the quiet study room on the top floor of the Sixth Form, or in the library. The Sixth Form common room is also available as a place to study or relax and you can opt to use the Sixth Form gym in your free periods or get involved in supporting activities in Junior School if timetables permit. You will have much more freedom in Sixth Form and we hope you will enjoy this level of elevated responsibility but we also expect our Sixth Form students to be very much part of our school community and be ambassadors for Cranford. It is a really exciting time and you will definitely get more out of it, the more you involve yourself.

Can you change a subject if you don't enjoy it?

Yes! We want you to be happy and enjoy your Sixth Form experience and would do everything possible to facilitate a change in subjects if you aren't enjoying a particular A level. We would ask that any reservations you have about a subject are discussed as early as possible within the first four weeks of term so we can make a quick change. Above all, we don't want you to worry; we understand that selecting A levels may seem like a big decision and we are here to support you.

Is the timetable the same?

The structure of the day follows the same timings as the current Senior School timetable, obviously with the benefit of more free periods!

Is there one scholarship per subject?

The school does not award one scholarship per subject. All Year 11 pupils will sit a core paper as part of the Sixth Form Assessment process and can also elect to enter for a scholarship. The combined results of the core paper and scholarship are reviewed and decisions of who will receive a scholarship are made based on this. In some instances, there may be two or three scholarships awarded in one subject, and none in another.

Does my sport scholarship carry over?

Yes. If you have a scholarship that you were awarded on entry into Senior School, it will carry over into Year 12 and 13. You are also welcome to sit for another scholarship if you would like.

Will I be at a disadvantage if I take three humanities subjects or three science subjects?

No – unless you are set on pursuing something at university that requires a certain subject set. A levels are designed to challenge you and are a significant step up from GCSEs. We would therefore advise you to select the subjects you most enjoy, even if that is three similar subjects.

Is an EPQ encouraged?

We would encourage anyone considering an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) to pursue one. It is a great opportunity to research a project or topic you feel passionate about encourages you to work independently. It has the added benefit of earning you a qualification that looks great on your personal statement for a university application and may also give you additional UCAS points. Cranford is able to support you through the EPQ, but you need to be prepared to study and research your own ideas.

**Are there fixtures?**

Yes! Fixtures will continue on a weekly basis, with teams playing local schools. The fixtures will take place primarily on a Thursday afternoon, which will be protected time to allow those looking at playing competitive sport the opportunity to do so, without impacting lessons. We expect sixth form students to have access to 6-8 fixtures each term against our normal range of local school competitors that you will be familiar with from this year.

Will sport lesson continue?

We have a core sports programme in Sixth Form, which is led by the PE department and supported by external coaches. This includes lessons in Hockey, Football, Tennis, Cricket and Netball.

Is there going to be rugby?

We have a Rugby Club that runs weekly, coached by a specialist. This is a sport we are developing and fixtures are lined up for this academic year and this will continue next year.

How often do you do extra enrichment activities?

Students in Sixth Form will have 2 hours of enrichment weekly, which supplements the sports programme. This may involve activities on or off site. The enrichment programme has previously included golf, climbing, fitness, yoga, badminton, mental health qualifications, cooking for university sessions, to name just a few. We can also accommodate student choice where there is interest in a particular activity and are always keen to hear suggestions from students about what activities you might like to see running.

Do we go on school exchanges?

There are no exchanges planned currently, but we are keen to explore this as part of the Sixth Form offering moving forward.

Can you leave in your free lessons?

Yes, you may sign out during free lessons, but we do expect you to return to school, unless your free is during Period 5 or 6, in which case you may go home (pupils need to sign out at the main office).

Do we get help in learning how to properly revise?

We offer study support sessions and early in Year 12, all pupils have an offsite conference on Study Skills. The Teaching team are also always available to provide support and offer guidance in how to structure notes to help make revision easier.

Are there resources for pupils interested in pursuing a career in medicine eg UCAT prep?

Yes. Dr Hill leads this provision and there are extensive resources and support available in school to help you in selecting your course, preparing for admissions tests, tackling interviews and building work experience.

Any tips from moving from Year 11 to Year 12?

Ahead of making your final A level choices, make sure you look at all the modules involved in each subject, so you know what is involved. Take all the opportunities presented to you at Sixth Form. It is a brilliant two years, both academically and personally. The relationships you have with staff who already know you well develops even further, due to the smaller teaching groups and due to the fact you are focusing on subjects you are naturally more interested in. Above all, have fun. As with anything, the more you put in, the more you will get out of it.