

Profile



TEACHER PROFILE:

ABIGAIL MCFARLANE

Our new Pre-School Coordinator, Abigail McFarlane, has almost a decade of experience in early childhood education behind her. Her understanding of a broad range of curriculums ensures she is bringing the best aspects of each to our St Michael’s and St Mark’s campuses. From Montessori schools to the UK’s Early Years Foundation, Abigail knows exactly what it takes to build solid foundations for our youngest Cranbrookians.

PRE-SCHOOL COORDINATOR

ABIGAIL WAS APPOINTED PRE-SCHOOL COORDINATOR at the start of the 2023 academic year. In this time she has harmonised successful transitions into the School, several orientation and welcome events, excursions and community catchups. It was this complete immersion of becoming part of the Cranbrook School, and working alongside a like-minded team who go above and beyond for all the children and family that Abigail was most looking forward to.

It was instantly clear to Abigail that our St Mark’s and St Michael’s campuses are havens of compassion and comfort, which celebrate the smallest personal developments of our Pre-School students. She is inspired everyday by the staff who surround her, with their utmost dedication in fostering their students throughout their entire learning journey and making sure they are well equipped for their passage into the Junior School.

“I aim to create a safe, fun-loving environment to allow children and staff to grow to become the best version of themselves” says Abigail.

Through a coeducational early learning environment, our Pre-School students are comfortable and familiar with environments of the real-world. It is by normalising these interactions between boys and girls from their earliest days that our students can be best equipped for the world beyond the shelters of St Mark’s and St Michael’s.

“Our students benefit from a coeducational environment as it builds solid foundations for developing respectful and meaningful relationships throughout their entire life” says Abigail.

For Abigail, it is watching the children’s learning journey from start to finish that is the most rewarding aspect of working in early childhood education. Additionally,

she has developed a deep appreciation for celebrating not only the big things, but the smallest steps of progress too. Whilst the highlights of a pre-schooler’s learning journey may not be as distinguished as those of the Senior School, they are just as significant and praised by the Pre-School staff.

St Mark’s and St Michael’s follow the International Baccalaureate’s Primary Years Programme (PYP) curriculum, as an introduction into the style of learning for the years of schooling ahead of them. As our Junior and Senior School offer the IB’s Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP) and the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP), students starting their Cranbrook journey from a Pre-School campus can be guaranteed consistency across their education.

“The PYP allows children to take responsibility for their own learning, as the curriculum is child-centred from the very first stages. Children building their foundational knowledge from as early as Pre-School allows them to be confident learners and sets them up for success in the future” states Abigail.

Alongside her well-equipped and passionate Pre-School staff, Abigail is eager for what lies ahead of St Mark’s and St Michael’s. “To develop our Pre-School to be the best it can be” is Abigail’s overriding goal within her new role.

By fostering our youngest students in preparation for not only the next step of Junior School, but also towards becoming insightful, engaged and curious citizens, her devotion for our youngest Cranbrook students is undoubted. ■

THE LITTLE THINGS IN LIFE
ABIGAIL MCFARLANE



FAVOURITE HOBBY

Watching live sport and exploring beaches.

FAVOURITE BOOK TO READ TO PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

We’re Going on a Bear Hunt or The Hungry Caterpillar.

