

Celebrating Women Leaders at Cranbrook



CRANBROOK
SCHOOL



Abigail McFarlane

Pre-School Coordinator

In celebration of International Women's Day 2024 on Friday 8 March, we are proudly profiling our female leaders at Cranbrook as part of our commitment to championing diversity and fostering inclusion in education. This year's theme, 'Count Her In: Invest in women. Accelerate progress', underscores the importance of celebrating the invaluable contributions of women in the teaching profession. By spotlighting female educators, we are sharing their inspiring stories, and showcasing the diverse perspectives they bring to the classroom, whilst instilling a sense of belonging and empowerment for us all.

How long have you worked at Cranbrook and in what role/s?

This year is my second year at Cranbrook, as Pre-School Coordinator. Overseeing both campuses, leading two different teams of staff, and coordinating the running of all services and programmes is a job that I love. I work closely with the families and the children and enjoy building relationships with them from the beginning of their learning journey.

What do you love about your job and the School?

Building connections from the very beginning and seeing how the children grow and thrive at the end of their pre-school journey is so exciting. Early education is a story, and a passage that children go on, and to be a part of that and to make a difference in their education from an early age is special. For me, coming into a school with such like-minded staff members, teams and the leadership team, really aligns with my vision for education. The care of the children always remains at

the forefront of this vision and everything that Cranbrook celebrates matches my philosophy. The experiences that Cranbrook offers not only to the staff but also to the students and families are extraordinary.

How has the education sector changed for women in your time in teaching?

From the beginning of my teaching journey, 10 or 11 years ago, starting as a young teacher I felt very daunted as there was a lack of accessibility for women in education. Nowadays, the teaching profession is more accessible and welcoming to women, and this is crucial to the future success of the sector. It allows women to explore their passion, and if you have passion and you believe in what you want to do, the education sector is moving rapidly more and more into this mindset. The changes happening within this sector make it easier for women to feel heard, but also for women to explore their voice and be comfortable in expressing their opinions. The way the world is moving, and becoming more open-minded, educated, and inclusive towards women within all working environments.

cont...

What changes do you hope to see continue to happen in the future?

I hope that women have more of a voice and it continues to become easier for women to use their voice. I also hope the conversation about that naturally happens and does not focus on gender specifics and that the female voice becomes the norm.

What's your funniest/most memorable moment of teaching at Cranbrook?

This is difficult, but to pick one moment it would be the end of last year. My first year completed with Cranbrook is my most memorable moment. The staff and parents were so thankful and welcoming and being a part of the Cranbrook community was so special. Within my first term of being there, our pre-school went through the Assessment and Rating process by the Department of Education and received 'Exceeding'!

What advice do you have for anyone starting their career in teaching?

When you get really wrapped up in the busy life of a teacher and the education system itself it is important to reflect on why you are doing what you are doing. Your passion and why you started teaching should be reflected on in the moments of overwhelm, and it is important to not lose sight of that.

