

Celebrating Women Leaders at Cranbrook



CRANBROOK SCHOOL



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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?

I have worked as an English teacher at Cranbrook for eight years, and I have taken on various leadership roles during that time. I joined the School as Head of English, went on to take on the role of Literacy Coordinator, and I am currently Director of Professional Learning.

What do you love about your job and the School?

Teaching is a joy. It is a huge privilege to support young people on their journey as they discover and grow both academically and personally. I also love how teaching gives me the opportunity to prioritise my own learning, provides an outlet for creative expression and enables me to collaborate with colleagues.

Cranbrook's leadership team have created a culture where people feel they belong. Consequently, the staff body at Cranbrook is incredibly collegial, and it is a pleasure to work with such talented

individuals who are committed to the shared goal of maximising educational outcomes for the students we serve.

What changes within the education sector for women do you hope to see continue to happen in the future?

I have been fortunate to work with many inspirational female leaders throughout my career in education, but women remain underrepresented in school leadership nationally. According to an AITSL report in 2021, "While the majority of Australia's teaching workforce is female (78%), men are slightly over-represented at all levels of leadership, including middle leadership roles (33% male, 67% female)." Furthermore, in 2018, the Teaching and Learning International Survey Australia report revealed that while 62% of Year 7 – 10 teachers were women, just 40% of secondary school principals were women.

After having my two children, I benefited immensely from flexible arrangements that enabled me to work part time, rather

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than taking a career break. I hope to see more schools dismantling the barriers that hinder women's participation at senior levels and normalising flexible work.

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

One of my first English lessons at Cranbrook was disrupted by a gigantic huntsman that crawled down the wall, raced across the floor and disappeared beneath a desk. Amid the screaming, one heroic Year 7 student stepped forward, wielding his lunchbox. He skilfully captured the spider then released it into a nearby flowerbed, while the rest of the class watched on from the classroom window.

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

1. Observe as many other teachers as you can.
2. Get to know your students as individuals.
3. Dedicate significant time to lesson planning.
4. See any failure as a learning opportunity.