

Frequently asked questions

What is the ethos of the College?

Everything we do at Crookhorn is underpinned by our four fundamental cornerstones of RESPECT, COMMITMENT, ACHIEVEMENT and RESPONSIBILITY, which are embodied in our Cornerstones Code. **Respect** is how we show respect to each other every day whilst **commitment** is how we commit to the development of ourselves personally and academically. We must learn to take **responsibility** for our own actions and learning and **achievement** is making sure we realise our potential.

Do we have assemblies?

We have regular assemblies. We have an assembly for the House which happens every week and an assembly from a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) every other week.

Is there a House system?

All students are linked to a College House and there are various inter-house sporting competitions. The four Houses are known as Arundel, Goodwood, Petworth and Romsey.

What is a Tutor group?

Every student at Crookhorn has a Tutor group. You will spend the first part of each day with your Tutor group. There will be around 25 students in your tutor group, and you will have a tutor. Their role is to help you with your work, and they are the first person you should go to if you are worried about anything. On a Tuesday you will do a PSHRE (Personal Social Health and Religious Education) lesson instead of tutor time.

Will I be in the same Tutor/House group as my friends?

We try to put people in a Tutor group with some of their friends, but likely not all of them. We do not want you to feel isolated, so we ask your Year 6 teachers who you would work well with. We use that information to help us put together each House group. It may be that your friends are in your House, but not your tutor group as we can't always guarantee that we can place people together. When you are at secondary school you have lots of different lessons in different teaching groups so you will meet lots of new people and make lots of new friends too. If you have a sibling in the College, you will be in the same House but not the same Tutor.

What if I am the only person from my Primary School that is going to Crookhorn?

This often happens. What we try to do is to put children who come to us as the only person from their Primary School together, so there will be people in your House group in the same situation, that you can make friends with. We find that children quickly make new friends at school and your Tutor will look after you and check that everything is going well for you.

How do you find your tutor on day one?

On your first day here, as mentioned, you will be part of a 'Smart Start' 3-day programme. When you arrive you will be directed to the tennis courts, or the main hall and your Tutor will collect you from here.

Do we start back on the same day as everyone else in the College or do we start a day early to get used to the layout?

On your first day here you will be the only year group in the College, alongside some prefects. On this day we run a range of different activities which give you the opportunity to become familiar with how the College works and the site.

**What happens if you are late to College or are late to a lesson?**

If you are walking to College, you will need to be organised so that you are not late to College. You could try timing how long it takes from your house to Crookhorn. Many students arrange to meet friends on route. If you are taking the bus, you do not need to worry if the bus is late – this is not your fault, and you will not be punished if your bus is late. Your Tutor keeps a record of your attendance and punctuality in College. Students should aim to have an attendance of 97% or above. Being late to lessons may happen sometimes in your first couple of weeks as you get used to finding your way around the College buildings. If you get lost, then other staff or older students will more than happy to help you find your way. After a couple of weeks, we will expect you to be used to the College and you will need to be on time for your lessons.

What happens if you get lost when you first arrive at Crookhorn?

Crookhorn is a fairly small secondary school so you will soon find your way around. The College will seem a lot bigger than your primary school, but you will soon get used to it and will be able to find your way around. Please do use the signs along the main concourse which will direct you to the right building. Again, ask any older student or staff who will be happy to help you. If you would like paper copy of a map of the College, please speak to your Tutor when you arrive.

Do you need to bring in lunch money every day?

Children all have an account and parents will pre-load this account with credit, so you don't need money to buy your break and lunch. You pay for your College lunch through this account either through your fingerprint or a card. You will be shown how all this works as part of your induction into the College.

Where do you sit if you have a packed lunch?

If you have a packed lunch, we have a canteen which you can go in to eat your lunch. If the weather is nice, you can eat it outside on the benches around the site. Some students choose to eat their lunch on the concourse (our covered walkway). The choice is yours!

Are there lots of extra-curricular clubs?

We have lots of extra-curricular clubs and we have posted a sample programme for you to look at on our transition booklet. We think it's really important that children have lots of extra-curricular opportunities. This makes lunchtime a really fun and interesting part of the day. There are also a lot of House events which you should take part in.

Is the work really difficult?

The work at secondary school is a continuation of what you have been learning at Primary. Some of the learning will be a recap of work you have already done at Primary. The teachers have planned the curriculum to build upon your learning at Primary so that it is both accessible but also gives you the right level of challenge.

Will we be in sets?

No. You will be in mixed attaining sets for all your subjects. All students study Spanish as part of the curriculum.

How much independent study (homework) will you get?

You will be set homework through the 'itslearning' portal which will always tell you how long to spend on the homework and what date it is due in. If you find you have too much, please let your tutor know who will support you.

How can I stay organised to keep on top of all my work?

When you go to secondary school you have to be quite organised to remember to pack the right books, remember your PE kit and bring the correct equipment. Your Tutor will help you with organising this. Make sure you get into good habits early on such as packing your bag the night before and making sure you have looked at your timetable which will be printed out for you. You will be able to see what homework you have been set and can help you stay on track with your work.

What type of laptop would you recommend getting to do College work on?

We have a College site laptop scheme which allows you to purchase a laptop and bring it into school every day. Please go onto our website for further details.

Are we allowed to bring our mobile phones to College?

Yes, but they must be switched off and in your school bags at all times. The College has a strict policy for any students who get their phones out.

Is it true that secondary school teachers are really strict?

We have high standards at Crookhorn and expect students to behave really well and wear their uniform correctly. The main difference at secondary school is that you will have a lot more teachers because you have specialist teachers for each subject. You will find that we all have the same consistent high expectations for behaviour, attitude, and work.

What are detentions given for?

Detentions are given for people that do not follow the rules within College. The vast majority of our students do not get detentions and visitors to Crookhorn often comment on how well-behaved students are within school. Students can be given a detention which lasts for 15 minutes and normally happens immediately on that day. For more serious incidents, a 30-minute detention will be set for a future day.

How will our parents know how we are getting on?

We have a computer system known as 'Class charts' where staff record good things you are doing and can also record some of the consequences that you may incur as well if you fail to follow the Cornerstones. Your parents can get this information as soon as it goes on the system. This means your parents always know what has been happening in your College day. We also give out rewards for students who try hard or complete high standards of work – we call these Positives points. You will get badges when you have reached certain amounts points. We also have regular celebration assemblies in our Houses where we celebrate your successes both individually and as a collective group of students.

Are the older students scary?

Not at all. Our older students are very welcoming to our younger students. In each of the Tutor groups, we have older students who will look after you. The older students will seem quite big as you were used to being the oldest children at primary school. However, you will soon get used to them and some of you will already have older brothers and sisters in College. What's important is that you treat everyone politely and respectfully and if you do that you should find you get the same treatment yourself.

Are there bullying issues at Crookhorn?

Every school has to deal with bullying of some form or another and we would be wrong to say it never happens. However, bullying is very rare at Crookhorn and is mostly to do with fallings out and



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friendship groups. Nevertheless, Crookhorn takes bullying very seriously and always strives to deal and resolves any issues that take place as quickly as possible. The most important thing for us is that all students feel safe here at College and if you feel concerned in anyway you can report this matter immediately by pressing the 'I need support' button in the student zone in itslearning.

The highly experienced pastoral staff are used to resolving these issues and we instil in our students the importance of speaking out if they both experience or see bullying.

Who do I go to if I have a problem at Crookhorn?

Your Tutor is the first person you should speak to if you have any issues at Crookhorn. You also have a Head of House who is solely responsible for your House group as well as members of the Pastoral team. There are students in each House who are called 'Welfare captains' who you can speak to as well. You can also click the 'I need support' button in the student zone in itslearning. We also have members of staff responsible for safeguarding in College who are able to help you with your worries, concerns or moments of crisis.

If you have any other questions, then please email admin@crookhorn.hants.sch.uk. We would love to hear what you are currently getting up to. We would love to hear how you are getting on during Year 6. If you have done some work that you are really proud of then please get your parent to e-mail this to us from a parental e-mail address so that we can see what you have been doing and get to know you a little better.