

Online School Spotlight



Crimson Global Academy's bold move to a 4-Day school week

This term's *Online School Spotlight* shines on Crimson Global Academy (CGA), a world-leading Cambridge online school that's redefining what modern learning looks like. In Term 1 of 2025, CGA made headlines—and won hearts—with the introduction of a revolutionary 4-day academic week. The response from students, parents, and educators has been overwhelmingly positive, with early indicators showing remarkable outcomes in both academic and personal growth.



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"At Crimson Global Academy, we've embraced a more dynamic model of learning that reflects the changing demands of our world," says Ronan Kearney, Deputy Principal at CGA. "Transitioning from a five-day to a four-day academic week has created space not only for academic excellence, but for growth beyond the classroom."

Fridays reimagined: a new space for purpose and passion

So, what happens on Fridays now? Instead of traditional lessons, CGA students dive into an enrichment-focused experience. Many spend the day involved in internships, community service, leadership development, or CGA-led excursions and clubs. It's part of the school's LIFE programme—*Lifelong learning, Interacting with others, Focus outward, Exploration and self-agency*—a cornerstone of the initiative that integrates personal growth and global citizenship into the CGA culture.



From financial literacy workshops to service-learning projects and passion pursuits, Fridays are fast becoming the favourite day of the week for students and parents alike. It's all about building *future-ready individuals* equipped with more than just strong academics.

Meeting the needs of a high-achieving, multifaceted student body

CEO Penelope Barton explains the philosophy behind the move: "We know that CGA appeals to students who need flexible scheduling to accommodate sports, performing arts, entrepreneurship, or other external commitments. These students value CGA's global timetable and multi-mode learning where they can join a small live group class, schedule in 1:1 classes with a teacher, or learn asynchronously with class recordings."

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One shining example is New Zealand-born, US-based CGA student Oliver, who relocated to the United States to pursue a prestigious music programme. His father, Kenny, shared their experience:

"Having the four-day school week really helps as it provides students like Oliver extra time to focus on his music commitments. In addition, the flexibility around the learning is also a big advantage, because his music schedule can be at times very intense, especially during competitions and travel to the various venues. It enables him to catch up on missed work by using the recordings, and being able to access all the notes online helps also."



The results speak for themselves

The shift has proven to be more than just popular - it's working. A recent school-wide survey revealed:

- 89.7% of students felt more focused during lessons
- 85.9% said they were staying on top of their academic workload
- 88.5% reported higher productivity in meeting personal learning goals
- 79.3% of caregivers noticed reduced stress levels in their children
- 84.6% of teachers expressed optimism about the long-term benefits.

Teachers have also gained from the new structure, with additional time for planning, mentoring, and professional collaboration. Parents—many of whom live globally mobile or remote lifestyles—now enjoy more quality time with their children on Fridays, supporting broader learning and social engagement.

"We're not just preparing students for exams," says Kearney. "We're preparing them for life."

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