

**Sandbach High School**  
and College  
Our Academy, Our Future

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Ofsted Outstanding

# Welcome

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Sandbach High School where we believe we offer an education with a difference.

We are unapologetically ambitious for every child, no matter what their background, prior attainment or needs. Everything we do here is driven by this, so that our students can leave us with the best set of qualifications possible and as well rounded young people, thereby helping to maximise their life chances and future happiness and well-being.

We encourage positive attitudes and aim to provide an environment in which all students feel valued, challenged and secure, and where they can develop the skills and confidence which will serve them throughout their lives.

We are proud that our students have achieved great academic success at all levels and equally proud of the personal development of our students as they participate in the many other opportunities we are able to offer.

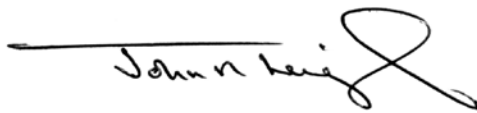
A well established programme of enrichment activities offers the chance for our students to pursue existing interests or develop new ones. Our students have a long standing reputation for

sporting and musical success and we take great pride in their achievements in these and other areas.

Our Academy was graded as 'Outstanding' in 2008 and following a 'no-notice' inspection in November 2017 we are delighted and very proud to have retained our 'Outstanding' status.

Thank you for your interest in our successful, popular and forward-looking school. We very much hope you will want to make it your school and that this is the start of a long and genuine partnership.

We intend to continue to build on our successes and we look forward to the future with eagerness as we work together to help students reach their full potential.



John Leigh  
Headteacher







# Student Life

Students who feel good about themselves are much more likely to believe they can achieve anything. We set them challenging personal targets and we provide the support they need to meet those targets and to exceed them.

Each and every child has a Form Tutor. Each year group is guided by an Achievement Coordinator and an Assistant Achievement Coordinator. Their aim is to ensure that every individual makes progress in their achievement and personal development. The Achievement Coordinators are also supported by Associate Headteachers who lead on all matters pastoral. This way there is always someone on hand to meet a student's needs.

We make sure that students who work hard, help others and show responsibility in their behaviour are properly recognised through our awards system. Commitment and success in all activities including music and sport are celebrated.



## Ready to Learn (r2L) Merit System – Years 7 and 8

This merit point system is designed to encourage students to become independent, resilient and successful learners, able to show that they are 'Ready to Learn' in lessons.

Merit badges are awarded in addition to certificates for the Gold Star and Platinum awards.

## Star Awards – Year 9

For consistent hard work, reliability with homework, equipment etc and a polite and cooperative attitude in class.

## Senior Curriculum Awards – Years 10 and 11

The awards are Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, and Platinum Plus. If a student achieves the highest award she will receive an engraved pen along with her certificate.

## Commendation

Awards are presented in recognition of hard work and encouraging academic progress.

## Attendance Certificates

Are awarded to girls who achieve 100% attendance in a term.

## Full Sports Colours

In the form of a special tie - Years 10 and 11 for excellence in, or service to, a particular sport or sports in general over an extended period of time. Lapel badges are awarded to girls in the lower school who have shown excellence and/or commitment to sport over a long period of time.

## Music Colours

In the form of a special tie are awarded from Year 8 onwards for outstanding commitment to a range of extra-curricular Music clubs.

## Behaviour for Learning (BfL) Awards

Students are given a BfL mark each lesson. The girls with greatest number of 1s awarded in a term from each form will be presented with a certificate and badge.

## Departmental Awards

There are many opportunities to achieve recognition within individual curriculum areas with awards such as, for example, Student of the Term, Geographical Genius or by taking part in departmental competitions. Some awards reflect attainment, others relate to commitment or enthusiasm for a subject.



# Student Life

Students enjoy high quality facilities including:

- Eight fully equipped science laboratories
- Design & Technology suites
- Networked computer suites, including multi-media facilities
- Art suite with gallery
- Photographic and darkroom facilities
- Drama studios
- Synthetic turf pitch
- Swimming pool
- Learning Resource Centre
- Music suite including practice rooms
- Dance studio
- Fitness room
- Dedicated Sixth Form College
- Sixth Form common room and cafeteria
- Restaurant
- Well-being Room
- Prayer Room

These and other well-equipped specialist teaching areas help to provide for our challenging, high quality curriculum and a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

## The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Is very popular and presents our students with a balanced non-competitive programme of voluntary activities encouraging responsibility, self-reliance, personal discipline and perseverance.

Its balanced programme develops the whole person – mind, body and soul, in an environment of social interaction and team work.



“ Pupils are well looked after and cared for ”  
- Ofsted November 2017

# Student Life

We believe that a full involvement in school life fosters confidence, self-esteem and positive attitudes so we offer a varied programme of enrichment activities. These take place at lunchtime, after school and in the holidays. We encourage involvement in fundraising and community projects and are proud of our students' record of helping others.

There are many extra-curricular clubs including:

- Drama
- Maths
- Aerobics
- Hockey
- Trampolining
- Debating
- Tennis
- Dance
- Euro
- Science
- Electric Car
- Athletics
- Swimming
- History
- Badminton
- German
- Art
- Technology
- Gymnastics
- Choir
- Band
- Amnesty
- Pupil Voice
- Cricket
- Rounders
- Writers

There is always plenty to do in school! The number of clubs which we offer as extra-curricular activities remains first class and at lunch times in particular the school is a hive of activity with a wide range of clubs and societies for students to get involved in. Alongside the fantastic variety of clubs there are also opportunities for pupils to catch up if experiencing problems in their studies as well as learn new skills or develop existing interests.

Most lunch times the Art block and textiles areas find lots of students engaged in activities whilst the Drama Studio seems to be bursting at the seams with the numbers attending. Old favourites like the Electric Car Club continue to be well supported, whilst newer activities such as Stem Club and Lets get Cooking have become popular.

The list of clubs is extensive and very well attended which shows the skills of our students and their willingness to get involved in the community.





# Student Life

## Sport

All students are encouraged to take part in a level of exercise that will help support a healthy lifestyle. Sport also offers opportunities for developing leadership skills and working confidently with others. Teams compete in athletics, tennis, rounders, volleyball, rowing, cricket, football, swimming, netball, trampolining, badminton and hockey. Many teams and individual students have been successful at District, County and, in some cases, National level in sporting events.

## Trips and Visits

Students enjoy opportunities for educational, adventure, skiing, sporting and cultural holidays both at home and abroad and a variety of other educational visits both locally, nationally and globally. 2018 saw a very exciting and successful visit to Texas, USA!

## Good Citizen Charter

(Compiled with the help of the Pupil Voice Team)

This list applies to everyone in our community – students, staff, and parents.

What you put into life, work or school, you get out - this is your one chance!!

Take ownership of your actions and their consequences.

Be considerate of other people emotionally (remember, good manners cost nothing and really can make a difference) and physically (e.g. be careful in the corridors!).

Be organised and on time - each day is unique, and it's the only chance you get to have it.

Be proud of your school and yourself! Take pride in your uniform/ appearance and your environment (for example, don't litter!).

Respect for every member of our school community - teachers, students, teaching assistants, support staff, caretakers, mid-day assistants...

Respect other people's property.

Make the choice to build people up, not break them down!

Respect all members of the community's privacy including your own. Not every aspect of your life needs to go on Facebook/Twitter (remember future employers seriously look at this, and nothing is ever truly deleted!).

Remember, you only get to live this life once, strive to be happy.



# Student Life

Our school has a strong tradition of excellence in music. Many of our students learn and practise a variety of instruments under the tuition of a team of highly qualified visiting musicians, and may become members of the school orchestra, the concert band, small ensembles, the jazz band, the folk group and the various choirs. There are regular tours to prestigious European venues as well as concerts here in school and the local community.

Students have the opportunity in participating in Performing Arts shows and productions. In recent years we have been able to put on ambitious stage productions including:

- Bugsy Malone
- Grease
- A Midsummer Night's Dream

Comments from students include:

*I enjoyed getting to meet new people and have fun during rehearsal. It has given me a new experience.*

*I enjoyed learning new skills with the microphones and creating new friendships. I also enjoyed learning how to 'trouble shoot' with the technology!*

*I've enjoyed meeting new people, and gaining further experience in musical theatre. I've also enjoyed learning the dance routines, as they can be quite challenging!*

*I've really enjoyed performing in my first production!*

*It's good fun being in Grease because I enjoy being on stage – it gives you a taste for it if you want to make it your career.*

*As my last big production at SHSSFC I couldn't be more pleased and excited for the outcome. As ever, it's been lovely to be a part of what always becomes a tight-knit cast, and I'm gutted it's my last one! Thanks for all the hard work from the teachers, who always produce the best. X*





# Uniform

Our uniform policy and dress codes have been drawn up in consultation with students, parents, carers, staff and all members of the local community.

By setting the highest expectations in terms of appearance, our students develop a sense of purpose and levels of self-worth that naturally lead to aspiration, ambition and achievement.

We set high standards of behaviour and we expect students to take pride in their uniform. We have an ethos here of mutual respect and thoughtfulness, creating an orderly and safe environment in which bullying is not tolerated.

Highest Expectations  
- No Excuses!



“ Bullying is rare in the school ”  
- Ofsted November 2017



# Pupil Voice

Members of the school council play an important role in representing the student voice and contribute to the decision-making process. Students who feel listened to and those who are given responsibility build their self-worth, engage fully in learning and develop a sense of purpose that all make a positive difference for others. To help nurture this alongside our school council we have:

- Form Reps
- Sports Reps
- Prefects
- Friendship mentors

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# Parental Engagement

We believe that the partnership between home and school is essential if each individual is to enjoy and achieve. We try hard to involve parents/carers in all aspects of their child's participation in the school community. We particularly ask parents/carers to check that homework is completed properly and punctually, in order to encourage good learning and study habits, and to comment in and sign their child's student planner regularly. The level of support we receive from parents/carers is an important factor in helping us to maintain high standards of participation, personal development and achievement.

We will keep in regular contact with parents/carers regarding their child's progress. During the school year there will be a parents/carers' meeting where parents/carers will be able to meet their child's teachers and discuss her progress. Parents/carers also receive at least one full written report as well as briefer progress reports.

We encourage parents/carers to come in to school on a regular basis for open days, special event days, concerts and on many other occasions. Several times a year the Headteacher is available for informal evening 'drop-in' sessions, at which parents/carers are welcome to discuss issues of particular interest to them or their child.

Our 'Gold Award' winning Parental Engagement Group organise workshops for parents/carers that explore ways of supporting learning at home and revision techniques.

For many years we have sought the views of parents/carers through our surveys, inviting comment on many aspects of school life. What we learn from this informs our school improvement planning as we seek to develop opportunities for every student.

We also invite parents/carers to contact us at any time if they have a particular concern about their child as we will always do our best to try to put matters right. Parents/carers are also invited to

become members of our Parental Engagement Steering Team, who meet once every half term to discuss important developments including issues such as teaching and learning and school development priorities.

Most matters can be sorted out by contacting the Form Teacher, Achievement Coordinator or Curriculum Leader, as appropriate. In some circumstances a parent may prefer to contact directly the Headteacher, or a Deputy or Assistant Headteacher. If a problem is urgent and worrying, though, please do let us know and someone will try to help immediately.

Parents/carers can access their child's attendance and progress information via a secure website to get an up to date view of how she is doing in school.

We have an active Parent and Friends Association who work hard to raise funds to support the school's budget—all parents/carers are welcome to join.

More formally, however, and in accordance with the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988 (Section 23), any-one wishing to complain about the curriculum or collective worship should contact the Headteacher for advice.





# Inclusion

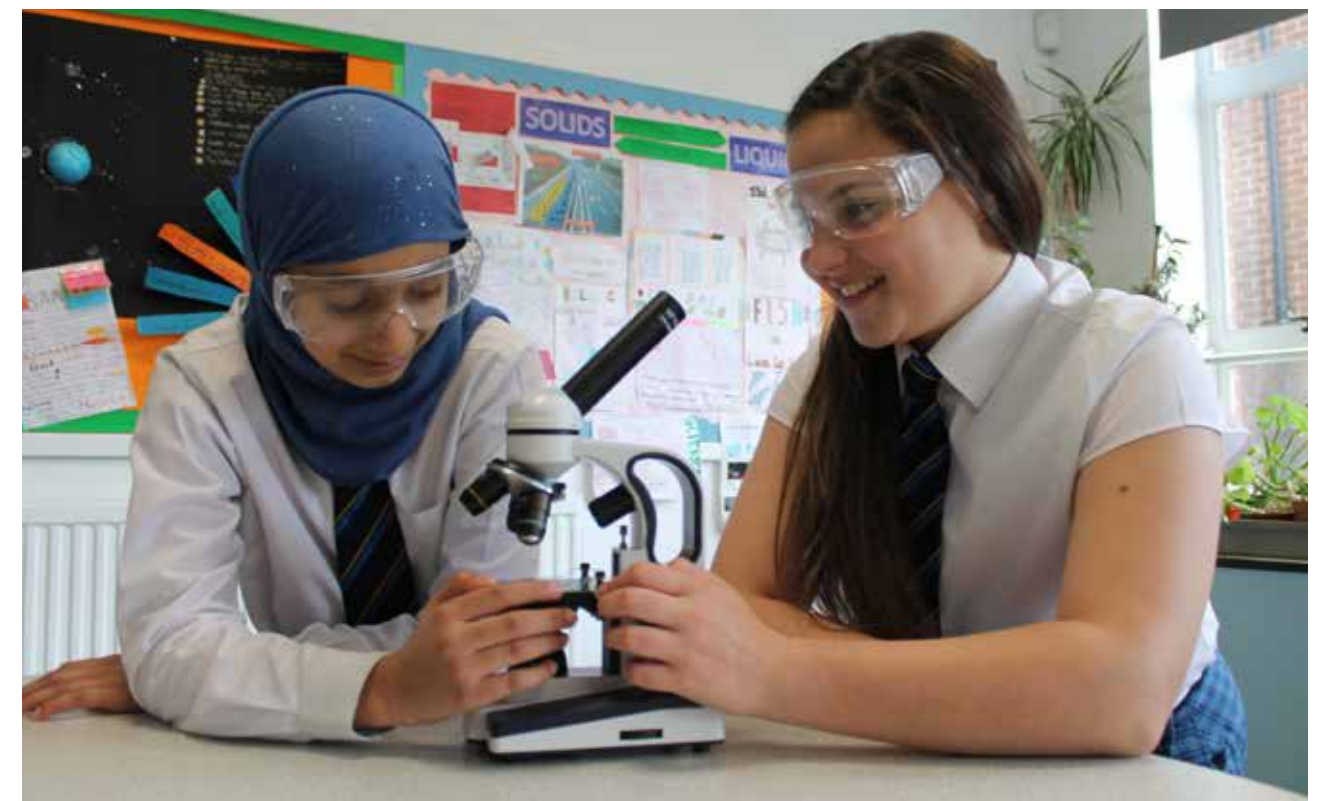
For us, inclusion begins in the classroom and we aim to provide quality classroom experiences in which all students' needs are recognised and provided for. We have made every effort to make sure the school buildings are accessible and welcoming to everyone, including those with disabilities. To help everyone enjoy and achieve their best we offer a range of additional support and opportunities.

Students with additional needs are given suitable additional help and support—sometimes within normal lessons, or perhaps by withdrawal for small group or individual tuition—and have their progress closely monitored. Every curriculum area produces appropriate learning materials to ensure that the full curriculum experience is available to all students.

## Pupil Premium

The Pupil Premium is specific additional funding provided to support the educational needs of certain students. Where necessary, students benefit from a more personalised support programme. As a school we have chosen to use these funds to deliver additional support both through the school time-tabled day and after-school support groups.

School Lunches. ....



“ It is easy to see the strong, clear and mutual respect between pupils and teachers ”  
- Ofsted November 2017



# Community Links

Our involvement in the local community has traditionally been strong. Students do much local charity and environmental work, sometimes as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, and for many years have organised a Christmas lunch and concert for senior citizens from the Sandbach area.

*At Sandbach High School, we believe wholeheartedly in the traditional values of hard work and kindness.*

The Common Room Restaurant is open to the public. The licensed restaurant offers high quality food prepared and served by students under supervision at very competitive prices.

In addition, we often join with the Leisure Centre, local schools and community groups in arranging sporting, arts and leisure projects. There is an active community programme which involves local primary and secondary schools.

## Charities

The students give generously of their time and effort to raise money for a wide range of charities.



# Ethos and Values

At Sandbach High School, teachers, support colleagues and governors aim to provide a secure and caring environment in which learners are prepared for full independent lives when they leave us.

Alongside respect for themselves and others the development of the sensitivity, confidence and self-esteem of our learners means that only the highest standards are acceptable throughout all aspects of school life.

As a school that has enjoyed a continuous period of success we aim to avoid complacency by maintaining a community where students and staff feel valued, challenged and secure, and where there is a strong commitment to comprehensive and inclusive education.

We aim to build on our current record of success and popularity by sustaining our commitment to the achievement of each individual's potential and excellence in all spheres.





# Our Curriculum

We are passionate about excellence in education, giving students the very best start in life. We teach a highly challenging academic curriculum for all students. Our students are members of a school community where their teachers are all experts who love their subjects. By setting the highest expectations in terms of learning, behaviour and attendance, our students develop a sense of purpose. As a result this is a school that provides a happy, calm and confident environment is peaceful and calm in lessons and in corridors.

Our extensive curriculum is broad and balanced, giving all students the opportunity to develop their potential. A wide range of learning and teaching strategies is used to involve students actively in the learning process. Progress is carefully assessed and monitored.

"They take pride in their work and pay good attention to accuracy. Their attitudes to learning are excellent. They show very high levels of self-motivation"

## Religious Education

Religious Education is taught as a separate subject in Years 7-9 and as part of the Religious and PSHCE programme in Years 10, 11 and the Sixth Form. It is also offered as an examination subject at GCSE and A level.



## Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

A programme of PSHCE is presented by form teachers during lessons set aside for the purpose. The PSHCE courses, covering a wide range of topics, are devised on a year group basis. Sixth Form students follow their own Personal and Professional Development programme. An occasional Alternative Curriculum Day supplements the PSHCE programme.

## Sex and Relationships Education

Sex and Relationships Education is provided at various stages, through science, religious education and PSHCE. This includes not only the facts of human reproduction but also the personal and moral issues.

We aim to make assemblies, Religious Education and Sex Education acceptable to all, but parents/carers can ask for their child to be withdrawn if they so wish.

## Assemblies

Each student takes part twice weekly in our programme of vertical assemblies and/or Year and Form assemblies.

# Our Curriculum

## Key Stage 3 (Years 7 to 9)

At the start of Year 7, students are placed in appropriate groups for lessons, using information from primary schools to ensure appropriate levels of challenge and support. Setting is then introduced gradually, as each subject requires.

All students study:

Art, Design and Technology, English, French or Spanish, Geography, History, Mathematics, Music, Performing Arts, Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education, Physical Education, Religious Education, Science, Computing.

## Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

Our experienced teachers provide students entering Key Stage 4 and College with careful guidance in their choice of traditional and vocational subject, so that each student's personalised learning programme suits his or her interests and talents.

As a Core Curriculum all students study to GCSE level:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- A Modern Foreign Language
- GCSE
- Art Catering Computing
- Child Development Dance
- Drama Engineering Food
- French German Geography
- Graphics Health & Social Care
- History I Media Computing
- Music Physical Education
- Product Design Religious Studies
- Science Spanish Textiles

## Applied Learning Subjects

Business Studies, Travel and Tourism  
Every student takes part in non GCSE PE, RE, PSHCE and Citizenship Education and Careers.

Students receive careers education and guidance from the beginning of Year 9 until they leave school.

Individual interviews take place in Years 10 and 11 and parents/carers are invited to attend.

A work experience programme is an important part of the Year 10 curriculum and is also offered to all Sixth Form students. We have developed sound links with local industry and commerce, representatives of which support our governing body.

Through first class links with local firms, national businesses and the community, students benefit from opportunities to experience the world of work and appreciate.





# Sandbach College

...is what you make of it. We encourage involvement in all aspects of the organisation and running of the College. So if you want to be part of the Student Leadership Group, organise social activities, run sports teams or be an observer attending school governors' meetings, there will be a way for you to make your mark.

Your time in the College should help you prepare for your future, whether it is university, apprenticeships or employment. Your studies are the main route to your dream but what you do outside lessons will also influence your chances of success.

## Your life beyond lessons

All work and no play makes it difficult to fill in application forms! We will offer you a range of activities, from driver training to Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Want an activity we don't currently offer?  
Help us set it up!

## Your Academic Success

The right choice of courses is important. Full details of the courses on offer can be found on our website. They range from Travel and Tourism to BTEC Level 3 Hospitality and Catering to A Level History or Law. We will help you select the most appropriate courses for your chosen path.

Once you have started your courses we will provide you with support in your subjects and via your form tutor. In return we expect you to maintain high standards of:

- Commitment
- Attendance
- Punctuality

The transition between Year 11 and College can be challenging. We will work with you to make it a success.

Likewise, we will help you prepare for academic success after you leave us. We have an excellent record of assisting students into successful post-18 study and employment.

## Your future

The College has links with local universities and colleges as well as higher education organisations further afield.

Support for your future will include:

- Advice and information on higher education qualifications
- Access to university & college information events
- Access to Apprenticeship Fairs and Events.
- Professional careers guidance





# Achievement

Our expectations of students and staff are exceptionally high, and we take this approach because we care very much about our students' future and their long term happiness.

We focus hard on student achievement.

We believe in all our students and we expect that each one of them is capable of making rapid and substantial progress.

We achieved a Progress 8 score of XX in 2017, placing us well within the top 10% highest performing schools nationally.



“ Pupils' behaviour around the school is exemplary ”  
- Ofsted November 2017

# Admissions

## Admissions Policy

An Information Evening is held during the Autumn term for all prospective Year 7 students and their parents/carers together with a Saturday morning open session towards the end of the Summer term for Years 4, 5 and 6. This gives an opportunity for you to see the school and meet staff. All students who are offered places are invited to spend four days in school in the summer term. This helps them to feel comfortable in their new surroundings and to get to know each other and their teachers.

We maintain close links with our main partner primary schools. Students coming to us from those schools are visited by a senior member of staff during the summer term.

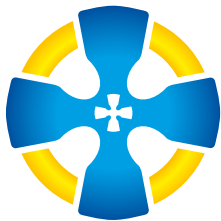
Parents/carers have the opportunity to express the wish that their children attend a particular secondary school. Decisions on actual admissions are then made by the school. For all admission queries please contact:

[csmith@sandhigh.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:csmith@sandhigh.cheshire.sch.uk)

Quite often new students arrive during the course of the school year. Their parents/carers, and the students themselves, are welcomed and shown around the school by a senior member of staff who is responsible for making all the necessary arrangements for admission.







# Sandbach High School and College

Our Academy, Our Future

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Top 10%  
Nationally

