

Academy Statement



Principle activities

Sandbach School is an 11-18 Comprehensive School for Boys. In September 2011 Sandbach School became one of the first 24 Free Schools, directly funded by the DfE and working autonomously from the Local Authority. The school serves the communities of Sandbach, Haslington, Elworth and surrounding parishes in South Cheshire. In September 2014 there were 1,270 boys on roll (1,023 Main School, 247 Sixth Form).

Sandbach School is committed to maximising opportunities to develop the personal and academic potential of students. The School is determined to recognise the entitlement of all students to a quality and equality of experience, provision, care and support. It endeavours to marry all that is seen as best in terms of educational development with all that is desirable from the traditions of the School. The range of extra-curricular provision is outstanding, encompassing sport, the Arts, Combined Cadet Force and a myriad of clubs and activities. Extra-curricular relations are used positively to enhance in-class dynamic.

Sandbach School is committed to expanding as a community school via adult education, arts programmes, and via the wider use of sporting facilities. Sandbach School is fully committed to working in partnership with schools, community groups and arts organisations across a wide range of scales. Sandbach School also operates 'The Link' community business which helps to bridge wider relationships with the community and also to generate income to reinvest in the school.

The school was last inspected by OFSTED in November 2014. The judgement following this visit was that the school was 'Good' in all areas. The points below were noted by OFSTED during their visit:-

- The sixth form is good and continues to flourish, with sixth form students providing an outstanding contribution to the school.
- Extra curricular opportunities are outstanding and include sporting and musical opportunities along with visits overseas.
- Leaders' and Governors' evaluation of the school's strengths and areas for improvement are accurate and Governors are holding the school to account well.
- Students were observed as behaving well and displaying positive attitudes to learning allowing students to become well rounded individuals.
- Arrangements for keeping students safe are good.
- Attendance rates are above average and rising.
- Student's books and files show a good amount of work has been completed and that the use of marking which identifies strengths, weaknesses and next steps, has been a key contributory factor in the improvements made.
- Due to teachers having increasingly higher expectations for students with special educational needs, this group of students is making progress that is at least as good as other students in the school.
- Younger students are benefitting from the support given to them in reading and writing from older students.
- The gap between disadvantaged students and all other students is closing quickly.
- The curriculum is broad and balanced and teachers make opportunities to promote literacy skills across different subjects, which is improving standards of writing.
- Strong focus on teachers questioning is deepening students understanding and is paying dividends.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Academy Trust's objects ("**the Objects**") are specifically restricted to the following: to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by:

(a) the provision and conduct in or near Sandbach of a day school ("the Academy") for boys or boys and girls offering a broad and balanced curriculum; and

(b) the provision of education through day and evening classes for persons over compulsory school age; including in each case academic, vocational, social, physical and recreational training and associated organised leisure time activities.

The main objectives for 2014/15 have been summarised within the four priorities listed below.

1. Achievement to be increased across all year groups and the gap to be narrowed between the whole school and the Pupil Premium cohort. 90% of students in each group to make the expected level of progress.
2. Improve the quality of teaching and learning across the school. By July 2014 at least 90% of all lessons are

judged to be good or outstanding with no lessons that are judged as inadequate.

3. Attendance and behaviour positively supports students' progress in lessons. 96.5% whole school attendance at the end of the summer term with the gap between the whole cohort and Pupil Premium children less than 2%.

4. Leadership and Management to communicate and embed an ambitious vision for the school by empowering senior, middle leaders and the Governing Body to drive forward high expectations for all students and staff.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

In the Summer of 2014, 76% of students achieved 5A*-C, with 65% achieving 5A*-C including English and Mathematics. 52% of students achieved at least 1 A*-A grade, 16% achieved at least 5.

The performance of our students in maths had elements of outstanding with 85% of students achieving A*-C and 30% (70 boys) gaining an A* or A. This has resulted in almost half the Y12 cohort following 'A level' maths.

English language achieved 73% A*-C; 19% above the national attainment figure for boys.

Other Ebacc subjects also performed strongly; Core Science 76% A*-C; Additional Science 73% A*-C; French 90% A*-C and Geography 75% A*-C. Vocational subjects also had strong performance in the summer particularly BTEC Sport.

The sixth form also had many strong individual A level performances, with an overall 98% pass rate and 54% of results graded A*-B. 37% of students are going on to a Russell group University, a tremendous achievement by all concerned.

Sports - Sandbach School continues to succeed in a number of sporting areas including rugby, football, hockey, swimming and cricket.

International - There were several trips during the year including the regular ski trips and foreign language visits. Destinations visited included Costa Rica, Washington, Hong Kong and Italy, amongst many others.

Investment Performance - The School investments during the year consisted of shares in the COIF Charity Investment Fund. The return on the investments during the year, based on market value was 4.6%.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The company's income and expenditure for the year includes capital income, depreciation and pension scheme adjustments which are accounting adjustments and are figures that are not included when operational budgets are agreed with the Education Funding Agency. The operating deficit excluding capital items, depreciation and pension scheme adjustments for the year ended 31 August 2014 was £0.023m. This was a planned deficit and was a consequence of the school preparing a capital bid involving planning permission applications which will be applied for in December 2014.

Most of the school's income comes from the Education Funding Agency in the form of recurrent grants for the delivery of education. For the year ended 31st August 2014 income received from the EFA totalled £6.25m.

The school also received £0.096m funding from the Local Authority to support children with Special Educational Needs.

The school generated £0.135m of income from the provision of services for sport, adult education and room hire to the local and surrounding communities. A further £0.091m income was generated from adult education.

In addition, the school also received a capital grant from the EFA of £0.180m for refurbishment of the Theatre Space, of which £0.125m was spent in 2013/14. The school also completed a toilet refurbishment programme which was funded by a capital grant from the EFA awarded in 2012/13 for £0.192m. Expenditure totalling £0.032m was made during 2013/14 in relation to this project. During the year ended 31 August 2014, total revenue expenditure of £6.647m was incurred.
