

Sandbach School Newsletter 2024



Autumn Term 1

Headteacher's Blog

Time flies! No sooner has the academic year started than we are at half term! As always we've packed a lot into the 8 week half term both inside the classroom and outside of it.

Huge thanks to the staff and school community who support us so well and without whom we could not achieve half the things that we do!

I was hoping today to be able to write about the detail of our progress figure in last year's exam results, but unfortunately the DFE has delayed their publication. So, watch this space – we're thrilled to have the best ever results to report! More to come in November/December!



Student Success

- Mary Corcoran: Oxford
- Harry Topping: Atkinsrealis
- Ellie Mason: Scholarship Royal Academy
- Mentor Wong: Imperial with 4A*



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **NOVEMBER**

4th - START BACK AT SCHOOL

11th- Remembrance Assembly

13th- Sixth Form Open Evening

20th- Big Band Concert with Matt Ford

27th- Student Vaccinations

27th- Year 13 Parent Revision Evening

29th- INSET DAY

29th- Wind Orchestra Christmas Carols

- **DECEMBER**

5th- Christmas Concert

W/C: 16th- Year 11 Trial Exams Week 1

18th- Christmas Carols at St. Mary's Church

20th- SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 12 NOON

For further events and sports fixtures, please see the school calendar on our website

'Hello Yellow'

First Fundraiser of the Year

On 10th October, the whole school participated in a non-uniform day in aid of Young Minds and New Hope Kenya. Young Minds organised the theme 'Hello Yellow', whereby students wore yellow clothing. Yellow was chosen to promote visibility, unity and openness about mental health in young people. Participation was widespread, especially with Year 7s, who really engaged with the yellow theme.

The other half of donations went to New Hope. New Hope is a children's home and school, providing education for orphaned children in Kenya. Sandbach School has a continued commitment to fund a science teacher's salary and previous donations have funded new computer labs and music lessons.

Josh Lowthian and Jack Parkinson HBGT Charities and Senate Leads



Message from the Heads of Year



Mr Mason- Y7

What a fantastic start we have had to the 2024-25 academic year. The boys who have transitioned from Year 6 into Year 7 have done an amazing job. They have settled down into life at Sandbach School so well.

The boys have tackled the challenges that we have given them and have started their journey to becoming 5-star Sandbachians. The change is so pronounced from Primary School but the boys have listened to what has been expected of them and have worked towards meeting our high expectations.

Lots of boys have taken advantage of the extra curricula activities, which is fantastic to see. The boys have now finished their first set of reviews and you will be receiving their reports shortly.

Next term we will be looking for the boys to continue meeting these expectations and embracing life at school.



Mr Evans- Y8

A great start to Year 8 for all of our students so far this term. They have ventured away from the Year 7 corridor and settled well into new routines and challenges. They have met many new members of staff but still have some familiar faces from last year including the pastoral team who are extremely pleased with how well they have taken to life in Year 8.

One of the many big hits with the Year 8 Extracurricular program has been the CCF with more cadets signing up in Year 8 than ever before. The number of students accessing extra curricular activities is remaining high. It is great to see so many students enjoying the wider Sandbach experience.

Reviews are taking place as we speak, and I am sure all students are doing their best. Thank you for your continued support ensuring the students are in the correct uniform every day and prepped with equipment for every lesson.

Students are really enthused about the new merit system, please enjoy sharing their success whenever they receive them.

Message from the Heads of Year



Mr Shilton- Y9

Year 9 have settled into the qualifications phase exceptionally well. New forms, new teachers and new areas of school has been quite a change, but with it has come an increased maturity and exciting opportunities to try choice subjects in more detail. They have relished in this fresh start and in broadening their school life as a Sandbachian. Review 1 is now complete through Maths, English and Science and this will allow the pupils to build on their knowledge and improve all round, in addition their approach to reviews has been excellent.

The Merits and Awards system is keeping the year team busy as the pupils and form teachers strive for more and more. Furthermore, the uptake to the extra curricular activities has been outstanding, specifically in CCF, the House Events, Sport and Music. Year 9 will move to their other set of choice subjects just before the Christmas break as they continue to develop their interests in working towards the final options process at Easter. Exciting times ahead.

Year 10 are now fully immersed into their KS4 GCSE curriculum. The Year 10 Geographers are looking forward to their fieldtrip to Salford Quays, while the technology classes are busy with lots of practical's. The first set of reviews are after half term, and this will help the students see their progress in their subjects. As always, its great to see how many boys are involved in sport, music, CCF and GCSE statistics after school.

A large focus for Year 10 is, organising and preparing for their work experience placements, which will be at the end of this academic year, a great opportunity for the students.



Mrs Middlebrook- Y10



Mr Yates- Y11

An excellent start for year 11 this term. It has been very encouraging to see students engaging and contributing to lessons, displaying an excellent work ethic and the quality of work being produced is of a high standard across the curriculum. WELL DONE!

After school intervention has begun with sessions taking place in Business Studies, Art, Technology, Maths and PE to name but a few. This will continue and increase to other curriculum areas as the year progresses. Intervention is also taking place during form time in English, Maths and Science.

Reviews took place over the last few weeks and we are looking forward to seeing the hard work of the boys pay off in their results.

As a reminder, Review 2 takes place on the last week of this term (16th Dec) and first week back after Christmas (6th Jan). Results day for Review 2 will take place on Thursday 30th Jan when parents will be invited in to school to receive the results with students. More details will follow on this. Thank you for your continued support of year 11.

Commemoration Day

On 9th October 2024, Sandbach School held their annual Commemoration Day at St Mary's Church. A day in which we pay tribute to the founders of the school in 1677 and give thanks to those that have helped to achieve the successes of the school as it stands today.

We would like to give thanks to those that helped to make the day a success including St Mary's Church and Revd. Bee Boyd for leading such a significant service for Sandbach School, Richard Fear one of our own Old Sandbachians for speaking to our current Sandbach students, and finally thanks to the parents of our Year 7 students who attended St Mary's Church on the day. We are grateful as a school to have such a supportive community of people surrounding our students and teachers.

We are truly proud, as a school, of our students who conducted themselves in true Sandbachian fashion. Many thanks to our excellent Head Boy & Girl Team for supporting on the day.



Road Relay

HOUSES HIT THE START LINE IN THE SANDBACH SCHOOL HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

With the autumn term in full flow, the first of this year's House events took place on Wednesday 2nd October.

The Road Relay is the traditional start to the House Calendar, and sees two students from each year group represent their houses in a fast and frenetic relay race set at the front of the historic school house. The route takes runners out of the school gates onto Crewe Road, before returning to pass the baton on. It is one of those unique events where Houses compete in squads featuring the full range of years 7-13 running at the same time.

All of the new Year 7 students were out to watch their first ever house event, and the air was filled with excitement as the start pistol was fired.

Lea House (last years Road Relay champions) quickly went out in front, building a commanding lead as Year 7, 8 & 9 runners completed their laps. However, as the race developed through year's 10 into Sixth Form it was Welles House who gradually clawed Lea back, overtaking on the very final lap to take victory. Whilst the overall House Championship is a year-long calendar of event, victory in Road Relay bodes well – for 3 of the last 4 years winners of this event have gone on to win the overall championship!



Road Relay Results 2024:

1st Welles House

2nd Lea House

3rd Craig House

4th Ward House

The next event is another long-standing tradition...
the Tug of War

I Raisbeck House Co-ordinator



Sports Update

FOOTBALL

The football programme has had another strong start to the academic year representing the school in both the English Schools National Cup and the Cheshire Cup. The standard of football being played has again been noticed with several students being offered scholarships at professional clubs. A big well done to everyone involved so far – hopefully another year of success.

SWIMMING

Swimming at Sandbach has had an early start this year with 4 young Sandbachians travelling to compete in the North West ESSA relay gala. The boys performed amazingly and punched well above their weight coming 6th overall in the Junior boys 50m Medley.

RUGBY

The U12s have started strong with over 80 boys attending regular training session, a huge thanks to Mr Butler, Mr Ellershaw, Mr Lyons & Mr Mason on making their beginning to Sandbach Rugby as positive and enjoyable as it can be.

Our U13s continue to grow, picking up some excellent victories week in week out with a massive squad of players, playing in both teams.

The U14s have taken huge strides this year, being led by Mr Cargill and Mr McGarrigle.

The U15s have had a busy start to the year with lots of games, along with this a large training squad means competition for places.

The 2nd XV have had a constant flow of strong performances with a strong addition of year 11 players filling the team.

The 1st XV have played some excellent Rugby throughout the first half of the season, noticeable achievements, beating Kings School Macclesfield in the Cheshire Cup quarter Final, and progressing through to round 3 of the national plate competition.

Thank you to all players, staff and supporters for their contributions so far this year.



NETBALL

The senior netball squad have started very well with strong performances by the squad, with big wins against Priestley College 50–36 and St Christopher's 6th form 43–27. The standout game was against a competent Wilmslow High School, which saw the team come out on top in a very tight contesting, winning 29–27 girls have also beat a very strong. The squad finish off the half term with a friendly match against Alsager High School.

Congratulations to Ruby Stewart who have been selected for the Cheshire U17 Netball squad and also who is travelling to Phoenix, Arizona, to compete in the USA Netball Open Championship to help raise the profile of netball in America, good luck Ruby!

CROSS COUNTRY

The first event of the year was at Alsager High School where over 45 boys represented the school, 31 of those being year 7s. For some of the boys this was their first opportunity to represent and compete for Sandbach School. Stand out performer on the night was Alex Austin (Year 7) who won the minors race in a close competition in which he pipped his opponent on the home straight.

The first English Schools Cross Country saw stand out performances from Charlie Smith (Year 8) who finished 1st in the Junior Boys and Fin Nixon who finished 4th place in the race. The boys now qualify for the next event which is to be held in Bromsgrove later in the year.

HOCKEY

The Year 7 hockey team have made a fast start to their hockey life at Sandbach School. They have won multiple games with over 30 students representing school. All of the Year 8, 9 and 10 teams have made a solid start, all having competitive games against Calday Grange Grammar School, Newcastle Under-Lyme School and Kings School, Macclesfield and look forward to their up-and-coming cup fixtures after half term.

The senior teams have made a promising start to the season with the up-and-coming Cheshire Schools Cup matches. It has been fantastic to see Francesca Davies, Franzisca Callwood, Lexie Micklethwaite and Matilda Harrison who have transitioned extremely well into the senior set up.



Sports Achievements

FOOTBALL

U13

Hubert Szczeplocki – Crewe Alex Academy
Bayley Walklate – Stoke City Academy
Maxwell Powell – Manchester United Academy
Jayden Rafael Moreno Pinto – Port Vale Academy

U14

Jimmy Rogerson – Stoke City Academy (Rep Wales)
Cameron Palin – Stoke City Academy
William Douglas – Port Vale Academy
Harvey Griffiths – Port Vale Academy
Oscar Roberts – Crewe Alexandra Academy

U15

Toby Scarlett – Crewe Alexandra Academy
Finley Nixon – Stoke City Academy (England Trials)
Max O'Reilly – Stoke City Academy
Samuel Palmer – Port Vale Academy
Kaelin Barry - Owen - Wrexham Academy

U16

Ethan Jackson – Preston North End Academy
Zlatan Etuhu – Crewe Alexandra Academy
Lucas Connell – Stoke City Academy
Harry Robinson – Shrewsbury Town FC
Indy Stoller – Shrewsbury Town FC

HOCKEY

Freddie Davies – England U18 Squad
Oliver Miller – Sutton Coldfield Talented Academy
Archie Brassington – Timperley Talented Academy
Archie Macdonald – Timperley Talented Academy

Sixth Form Update

Note from the Director of Sixth Form



The Sixth Form has got off to a flying start this academic year.

Our Future Pathways Programme started for Year 12 students with a visit to, and tour of, Liverpool University. We also have a large number of students who have signed up to our Aspire Programme. These students are already planning to apply to the very best universities including Oxford and Cambridge. The programme also supports those students intending to study Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.

Our Year 13 students are busy preparing for their first set of mock exams which take place after half term. They are also applying for university courses and competitive apprenticeships. Many of these students have benefitted from the Employment Readiness Programme which ensures that they have the competitive edge required to apply for degree and higher-level apprenticeships.

The Head Boy & Girl Team have also been very busy, organising the non-uniform day in aid of Young Minds and the New Hope Orphanage in Kenya.

Finally, preparations are underway for our Open Evening on 13th November. It is always a popular event and we are looking forward to meeting lots of Year 11 students and parents.

Biggest Intake Yet!

A record number of students have joined us from different schools, making up nearly one third of our Year 12 cohort. We are really pleased with how well our Year 12 students have settled into Sixth Form life and how quickly they have developed some excellent study habits.

SANDBACH
SCHOOL SIXTH FORM

DEVELOPING OUTSTANDING PEOPLE

OPEN EVENING
WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

SUBJECT STALLS FROM 4.30PM • PRESENTATION AT 6.30PM



DT Club

Year 8 D&T club is well underway and well attended. The students have collected old food tins from the refectory and are designing and making plant pots as part of the departments upcycling project.




Guys & Dolls Rehearsals



Rehearsals for our annual Whole School Musical, Guys and Dolls, started this term. Both students and staff have worked really hard to get through half of the first act this half term. We have a good size cast of 35 students, ranging from students in Year 7 to 13. We are also delighted to have welcomed girls from Sandbach High School and Alsager School who have joined the cast and have got stuck in straight away. Whilst the acting and singing rehearsals have been taking place in the theatre space every Monday and Thursday, our concert orchestra have been busy rehearsing the accompaniment to the show over in the music department and are sounding fantastic. We are really looking forward to see how the show progresses over the next half term. We hope to be performing a short snippet of the show in our school Christmas concert on Thursday 5th December.

**Dates of the show are: 10th-12th February 2025.
We look forward to seeing you there!**

European Day Of Languages



To celebrate the European Day of Languages on Thursday 26th September, we created a vibrant video showcasing the diverse languages spoken by both our staff and students, highlighting our rich cultural backgrounds. You can search @MFLSandbach on X to take a look.

During form time, we hosted a fun quiz where students had to identify different languages, with the winning team (11A) achieving an impressive 89% and winning a tub of celebrations to share out.

To top off our celebrations, the refectory offered a delightful European-themed menu that everyone enjoyed. Overall, it was a fantastic celebration of our linguistic diversity and community spirit!

A huge thanks to Mr. Richardson for his efforts in creating the fantastic video, and to Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Coull for designing the amazing selfie board. We also want to extend our gratitude to the refectory team for putting together such a delicious European-themed menu. Your hard work made our European Day of Languages celebration a memorable success!

Academic Achievements



Our new merit system has started to gain momentum!

Students in years 7-11 will be awarded merits for the following categories:

- +1 Praise Point
- +2 Success Merit
- +5 Five Star Sandbachian
- +5 Leadership Merit
- +5 Golden Ticket
- +5 Zero Cautions
- +10 Senior Leadership Merit

Students will then be awarded certificates every half term with prizes in the refectory and entry into a prize draw at the end of each term.

Parents will be informed if their son has received a merit by our daily email updates.

Year Team Contacts

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HOY: Simon Mason

SSC: Liz Brookes

E: YearTeam2024@sandbachschool.org

T: 07704645333

8

HOY: Sion Evans

SSC: Tom Lyons

E: YearTeam2023@sandbachschool.org

T: 07594 876 769

9

HOY: Adam Shilton

SSC: Rachel Harrop

E: YearTeam2022@sandbachschool.org

T: 07594 876 768

10

HOY: Laura Middlebrook

AHOY: Liam Kettle

E: YearTeam2021@sandbachschool.org

T: 07594 876 778

11

HOY: Ollie Yates

SSC: Connor Sutton

E: YearTeam2020@sandbachschool.org

T: 07594 876 777

