



SANDBACH SCHOOL
OPPORTUNITY, ACHIEVEMENT, EXCELLENCE

THE SANDBACHIAN

2018 - 2019



Headteacher's report

This was the year that the builders moved in! We 'welcomed' the start of the works back in October, having secured record funds for the school to replace the whole of the roof on the Cubbon Bronner block and replace the Rigby building with a new 2 –storey block. The new roof looks fantastic and is finally completed, and so to the much bigger project of demolition and new build. When we arrive back in September the Rigby block will have been demolished. I'm sure we will enjoy watching the process as the new build emerges in the autumn term. We have also secured further funding to replace some of our ancient and inefficient boilers. Our site costs almost twice the amount to run compared to other schools of a comparable size and so finding ways of becoming more efficient is essential in days of such fiscal restraint.

In order to allow for demolition of the block, the design and technology department moved from the Rigby block to the sixth form block. That was only possible because we had been able to take advantage of Sandbach House becoming available to purchase earlier in the year. Located almost opposite to the Lodge on Crewe Road it is a lovely old building with huge potential. Currently we have some classrooms, offices and a huge study space in there all dedicated to the Sixth Form. Year 12 students are enjoying getting use to their new environment.

Despite the challenges of the site we continue to flourish and expand. It has been another exceptional year for sport. The state of the astro turf pitch has left the hockey players often without anywhere to practice yet despite the difficulties they have had unprecedented

success. The U12 were North of England champions and were undefeated throughout the season. The U15s made it through to the last 16 nationally and the U16 were indoor national finalists and north of England champions. Their season culminated in playing in national finals at the Olympic stadium at Lea Valley where they came 3rd. Quite a remarkable feat.

For many years now it has been apparent that the astro turf pitch was coming to the end of its lifespan. The PE department have battled the elements to keep it as playable as possible, but to no avail. Determined that our students should have the facilities that they need, we have joined forces with Notts Sports and Hockey England to commit to a new pitch for summer July 2020. The fundraising starts now! We are very thankful to a group of parents who have set up a parent, student and teacher fundraising group in support of our vision for world class sporting facilities on the site. More volunteers are always very welcome!

Not to be outdone, football also goes from strength to strength. The U15B team became the ESFA schools' national champions for the second year running. The u15A team retained the Cheshire Cup and became the first team to do so. The U18s won the Cheshire Cup. In the last two years all squads have made 10 county semi-finals and 3 national semi-finals. Impressive!



Away from the sports field, other notable achievements have included a team of 4 students from years 8 and 9 making it through to the finals of the Cyber Centurion competition in London. Another success for pupils in these 2 year groups was in the UKMT team maths challenge. This team of 4 successfully navigated the regional final at Keele University to make it through to the national final at Lindley Hall in London. A superb achievement! Two of our yr. 7 students were finalists in the Geographical Association competition titled 'my changing place'. Their work was displayed during the Annual Geographical association conference in Manchester.

We were delighted at the start of the year to be awarded Artsmark Platinum, by the Arts Council, in recognition of the commitment of the school to developing outstanding education provision in drama, dance, music and art. Needless to say, the achievements during this year have continued to demonstrate why we are one of only a handful of schools to gain this prestigious award. The Wind Band won the Cheshire East Schools music competition with another of our ensembles 'The Brass Phats' also making the finals. The drama department's production of Dracula was stunning although a little surreal performed at Christmas time! Having performed at Disneyland Paris and with Simon Wooliscroft of Duran Duran fame, the Big Band were also stunning at the recent Viva Las Vegas evening. On that occasion the second half saw a reunion of old boys from the big band from the last 10 years. It was a reminder of just how many talented musicians have been nurtured through the years by the music department.

Two other awards we picked up during the year were the National Citizen Service gold award for ongoing commitment and participation in the programme and a safeguarding award from Cheshire East for

outstanding safeguarding in the community. The importance of work within the community is something that we have prioritised with students this year. As a school we were named as foodbank heroes for our collection of food for one of the local foodbanks. Yr 8 students sold Fairtrade Rice in support of a child's education in Malawi and currently, in their forms, are finding all kinds of ways of raising money for their chosen charities.

Earlier on this week we had our first parent's evening for the parents of our new yr.7 cohort. The sports hall was full as we welcomed the parents of our largest ever intake of 280 students. Despite the numbers, students were impeccable on their induction days - you could hear a pin drop in their assemblies! Long may it continue! We have been planning all year for their arrival and looking really carefully at the logistics of the year ahead as we cope with both increased numbers on site and restricted access to some areas. Whilst it will be a challenge I have no doubt that the inconvenience will be worth it in the long run.

It is very reassuring to know we are at last being able to address the well-established inherent site issues. I'm very grateful for the support of the governing board and my leadership team as we battle to prioritise the needs of the school with the slim resources that we have. My thanks, as ever, also go to our amazing school staff. It is their loyalty, hard work and dedication which ensure that students have such rich opportunities inside and outside of the classroom. Their ability to continue to do this despite the additional constraints is a real testament to their resilience and determination.



Chair of Governors

Where has this year gone? It doesn't seem five minutes since I was writing here last year reporting on a great set of GCSE grades on the back of a changed curriculum across most subject areas. This year's results have been embedded with 64% of boys achieving an English grade 5 and 61% achieving this benchmark grade in Maths. Physics, Computer Science and Music performed very well in the highest grades of 7-9. A level results were also very pleasing with many Year 13s getting into their first choice university. BTec Sport also had another great year with 100% of the cohort achieving a distinction grade. On behalf of the Governing Board, I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work in helping pupils achieve these grades.

As governors, finances continue to be a major focus for us. We secured successful bids for capital funding and the 2 main projects for new roofs and windows which were completed this year. We have also had new boilers and lighting installed – all of which help keep the running costs, of what is a challenging site, to a minimum.

Those of you who have visited site this year will notice that there was a large presence of builders fencing, the old Rigby Block is being demolished to make way for a new ground floor Design and Technology block and a second floor of nine new Science labs.

Pupils previously attending lessons in the Rigby Block will be learning in the Sixth Form Centre and the Sixth Form have moved into their own bespoke building across the road; a former Cheshire East building. It took just two weeks from getting the keys to having 6th form lessons taking place in Sandbach House – a fabulous achievement made possible by the hard work of our Operations Manager Claire Bennett and her team. I would like to thank them for all the additional work that was undertaken on top of their normal duties.



Alongside the mainstream school we have also made great progress with our special educational needs provision, providing access to education that is envied across Cheshire East and beyond. I would like to thank Mrs Helen Cooper and her team for their dedication and hard work with this cohort of pupils.

We have also been creative in using every part of the school site, the former gatekeeper's lodge on Crewe Road has been turned into a facility for temporary alternative provision for boys and some girls in Cheshire East who find attending lessons challenging. They learn life skills, behaviour management and how to conduct themselves in a group situation. This has been so successful that other schools are now buying places from us. This facility has been the brain-child of David Evans and we extend our thanks to him and his team for this creative and invaluable facility.

It has been an exceptional year for sporting success and you can read all about these achievements in the final pages of this magazine. As Governors we continue to support the extra-curricular program as we believe this is part of Sandbach School's uniqueness and gives our students a well-balanced education not seen in other state schools.

At the Awards Ceremony this year it was wonderful to see the efforts of our students rewarded and I would like to congratulate everyone who received an award, be proud of your achievements, we are proud of all of you. We continue to give our utmost support to the school.

It has been an incredibly busy year for the Head Boy and Girl Team, but one we have thoroughly enjoyed. The sheer amount the team have achieved this year is overwhelming and I couldn't be more proud to have been given the opportunity to lead such a skilled and varied group of individuals. Representing the school as Head Boy has been an amazing way to end my Sandbach School career.

We placed particular focus this year on ensuring the emphasis given to student voice by the previous team was continued; gathering valuable insight into the opinions of all year groups across the school and highlighting areas of learning that students felt were most successful. The other primary focus of the team was mental health provision and awareness throughout the school, for both students and staff. As a result of a lot of hard work and many meetings with representatives from Visyon and Sandbach Art Room, each year group now has student mental health ambassadors that work alongside staff counterparts, as well as the launch of "Room to talk" allowing any student to sit and chat with older students should they have any worries or concerns.

Being given the opportunity to lead the student body has been one that we are all incredibly grateful for, it has been an invaluable experience that has allowed us all to develop crucial skills that will stand us in great stead for further education and successful future careers.

I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to lead such a strong team and will never forget the journey we have been on. I wish Will Hopton and his team the best of luck for the oncoming year.

George Higginson



2018-2019 House Championship Review

The House Championship started with the traditional House Road Relay competition. The race was close, with each House leading at different parts of the race. A strong performance over the last few laps saw Ward take victory over the others giving Miss Baccelliere her first taste of silverware for the new school year. Then onto House Tug o' War where Lea House with Mr Roberts at the wheel, claimed 3 out of 6 victories to win the event and join Ward at the top of the standings. A closely fought Leech Bowl competition between Lea and Ward, whose swimmers battled hard gave Lea their second victory of the year. They also ended the first term with the overall lead, going into 2019 as the team to beat.



Starting the new term on top, Lea lost to Craig in House Football. This gave Mr Southern his first victory and hopefully the chance to chase down Lea House. Another victory for Craig House followed in the House Spelling Bee, where they just pipped Mrs Massey's Welles House to overall victory. This result took Craig to the top of the leader board and put the pressure back on Lea House. Ward took 1st place in House Chess to close the gap to the leaders. Craig fought back with victory in House Music to finish a very strong term with a 4 point lead over Lea House.

The final term started with Lea House winning House Table Tennis with Welles taking second place. They followed up this with another win in the House Mathlete competition. This meant that Craig led by 2 points going into the final Sports Day competition where double points were on offer. A competitive sports day saw Lea claim victory against a strong Welles team. Thanks to double points for the final event Lea took the House Championship for the second time in the last three years. Well done to Mr Roberts for leading Lea House to victory in his final year in charge!

1st Lea – 32 points

2nd Craig – 30 points

3rd Ward – 24 points

3rd Welles – 24 points





Stanley Head 2018

Once again, Year 7 spent a day at Stanley Head in September 2018 to develop relationships and friendships with their new classmates and teachers. Activities this year included rifle shooting, fire starting, crate stacking, orienteering and indoor rock climbing. Everything had to be done on a larger scale this year as we took our record breaking intake of 243 students plus staff.

The activities were well planned and testing both physically and mentally. The feedback from the students indicated that they had a positive experience and enjoyed spending time with their peers away from the classroom.

Many thanks to the Stanley Head staff for their organisation and encouragement throughout the day.

Each day was finished off with a lovely home cooked meal courtesy of Flo in the Stanley Head kitchen. All of the boys and staff would like to thank the Stanley Head team for organising such a brilliant day for them. Roll on next year!



Charity

This has been a great year for charity at Sandbach School and there has been a huge effort from many students to raise lots of money for a range of charities.

We have continued our work raising money to support the New Hope Childrens' Centre in Kenya. As well as a non-uniform day in March, Year 7 students worked together to hold a Charity Fair in July. They arranged a hotly contested staff v students netball match, alongside a tombola and cake sale, raising close to £200. The staff narrowly won and students are looking forward to a rematch next year.

Year 8 students have been busy too. Kicking off their charity work with a mile run for Mind during Mental Health Awareness Week, this was followed by a huge effort selling 90 bags of rice for the charity 'Brighter Future' which will provide one student from Malawi the opportunity to go to school for one year. Year 8 capped off the year with a fantastic effort working together in forms to raise money for many different charities. Students became 'teachers for the day'; held bake sales; grouped their spare change; cycled 100 miles in a day; took part in football challenges and enjoyed soaking teachers. Year 8 forms raised close to £3000 for charities such as Time Out; Diabetes UK; CICRA; Toilet Twinning; Alder Hay and Papyrus. A brilliant effort that students should be very proud of.

Students from the older years also took part in fundraising efforts. Students from Year 10 organised a non-uniform day to raise money for sports equipment and five members of Year 13 completed the Three Peaks Challenge in 24 hours raising £450 for EDS UK, an inspiring effort.

Not to be outdone staff also made a contribution to the charity focus. Miss Stevenson ran the London Marathon in April for CRY, a charity which works to reduce the number of young people who suffer from Sudden Cardiac Death raising an amazing £1,150.

Overall a fantastic year. Students of all year groups have worked together to raise thousands of pounds for a range of different charities showing their enthusiasm to help others and in turn developing their own understanding of the world around them.



Music

The 2018-19 academic year was again a very busy one for the Music Department. With no fewer than 25 public performances, 2 foreign concert tours and a prize winning competition performance amongst many highlights.

In the autumn term the Big Band were once again joined by guest vocalist Matthew Ford for two nights in November. The concerts, an annual fixture for 10 years, are always very well supported.

A notable success during the autumn term was for staff members Ian Raisbeck and John Barber. Both were part of Foden's Band's victory at the National Brass Band Championships at the Royal Albert Hall. The trophy even spent a day in Sandbach School!



In December, the school Big Band embarked upon a short concert tour of Paris. As part of the trip the group were invited to perform on the stage at Euro Disney, a fantastic experience for the students and a great reward for all of their hard work.



Christmas Concerts are always a highlight; the annual event in the sports hall was once again attended by over 400 parents who came to watch the full range of musicians that the Department has been developing in addition to the 'Year 7 Spectacular' featuring close to 200 boys singing together.

In the New Year we welcomed students from three feeder primary schools (Elworth C of E, Sandbach Academy and Dingle) for an afternoon of Wind, Brass and Percussion workshops. Now in its second year, the workshops have provided an inspirational platform for the younger musicians to take part in, while giving our own students opportunities to pass on their experience.



Cheshire East School's Competition

Each spring, the Cheshire East School's Music Competition provides schools in our county with the opportunity to enter vocal and instrumental groups to compete against each other in a series of qualifying heats before a grand final held at Crewe Lyceum. Over the past ten years, Sandbach School have won one of the two categories on six of the ten occasions – a record that we are extremely proud of. In this year's edition of the competition, adjudicators selected our Wind Orchestra and Brass Phats to progress to the final.

During the final, both groups performed magnificently. The Wind Orchestra with a programme consisting of Gustav Holst's menacing 'Mars' from his Planets Suite, Oblivion (a Latin American Clarinet solo featuring year 13 student Mark Wheeler) and the main title from 'The Incredibles' film score. The Brass Phats (an 8-piece function band) performed cricket theme tune 'Soul Limbo', Bruno Mars' 'Runaway' (featuring Zak Marmont) and Stevie Wonder's classic hit 'Sir Duke'.

Sandbach School Wind Orchestra were announced as winners of the competition!



Spring and Summer Terms

As Easter approached we welcomed a special guest to perform with the Big Band. Simon Willescroft is a virtuoso Saxophonist who regularly performs with many of the UK's leading pop and jazz artists. His most regular work is being regular Sax player on the Duran Duran world tours! Simon visited in April to perform for one night only with the Sandbach School Big Band. A packed out audience witnessed one of the most memorable gigs that the school has hosted in recent years.

Into the summer term and the annual 'Viva Las Vegas' concert was again a sell-out. For the first time this year there was a change to the format, with the second half of the concert being performed by a reunion band made up of past students from the school. The ex-students, many of whom now work professionally in the music industry, were delighted to come back and play on the same stage where they had begun their musical journeys. The event is fronted by professional vocalists Matthew Ford and Natalie McGrath.

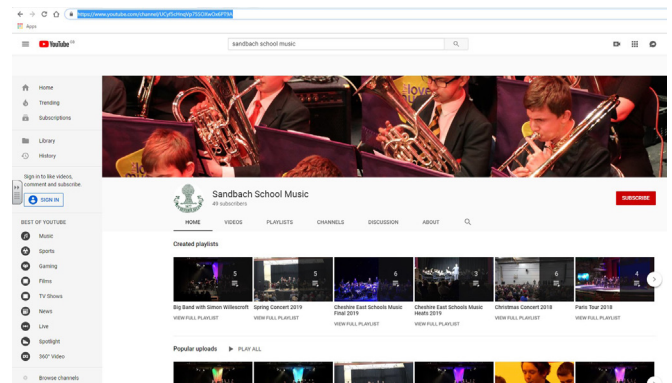
At the end of the school year, we welcomed again Foden's Band to share the stage for the annual Summer Concert. As previously mentioned, Foden's are the current National Champion Brass Band of Great Britain and through Mr Raisbeck & Mr Barber's involvement in the band we have continued to develop strong links which see our students benefitting from the links between the school and the band.

To end the academic year, 40 musicians travelled to Belgium for a concert tour which included performances at Ostend and De Panne as well as taking part in the daily Menin Gate ceremony in Ypres. For our students, it was a great honour to be invited to perform at the ceremony and to lay a wreath in memory of Sandbachians lost in the war.

Launch of YouTube Channel

A new way to follow musical events at Sandbach School launched earlier this year. Our own YouTube channel is online – just search 'Sandbach School Music' on YouTube.

The page allows you to look back at highlights from concerts throughout the past few years. As we add more content to the page we hope that this will prove to be a really good way to remember the successes of our students and inspire our current crop of musicians to greater things.

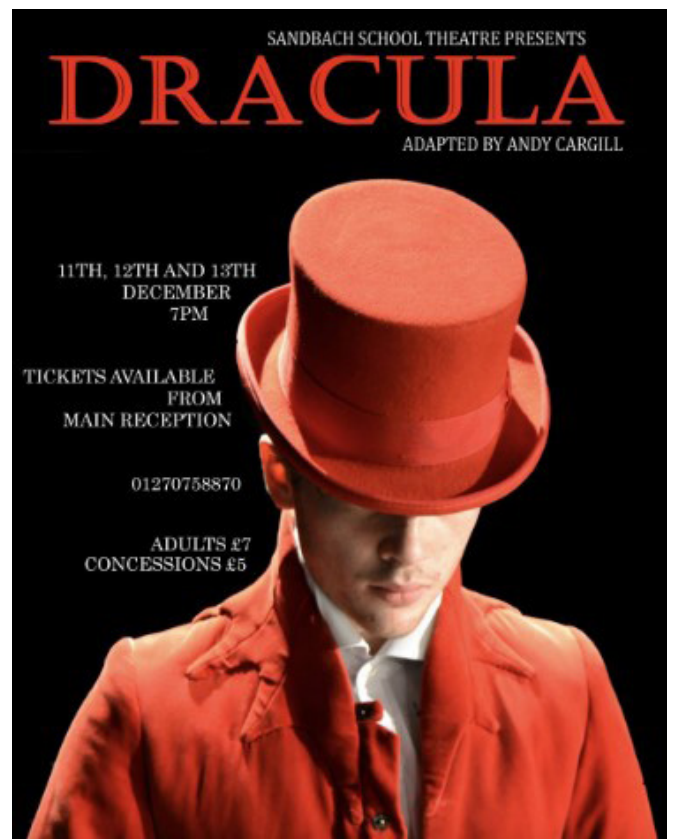


Performing Arts

It has been a busy year in Performing Arts with us staging four productions across the course of the year as well as numerous performances in lessons, for exams and as part of extra-curricular clubs. We started off in October with the Lower School Shakespeare ensemble staging Hamlet. This was a tense production as the cast combined strong characterisation with choreographed fight sequences to create the troubled world of Elsinore Castle. For many of the younger member of the cast this was their first opportunity to tackle Shakespearean dialogue and plot and they worked well as a group in rehearsals to create a fantastic ensemble led by Jack Harris as Hamlet.



In December Sandbach School Theatre staged a production of Dracula in the Theatre Space. The production followed on from the success of A Christmas Carol last year and used the Theatre Space to the same spectacular effect combining projection, movement and large scale staging to immerse the audience into Dracula's world of Transylvania and Whitby. The cast was led by Will Hopton as Jonathan Harker and Ruairidh Walker as Dracula and was joined by Ella Reeder from the High School who gave a fantastic performance as Mina Murray. The rest of the cast was made up of talented performers from all year groups who worked well together to create sense of ensemble in the performance that really enhanced the fast paced action sequences. This was another ambitious production from the school which continues to push the boundaries on contemporary theatre and performance standards.



As soon as Dracula finished, many of the lead members of the cast moved on to National Connections, performing in a new play written by Dawn King especially for the festival. 'Salt' was the story of a young group of apprentices on a ship heading for a new 'Foreign Apprenticeship Scheme'. It was a highly relevant issue to the cast as they themselves started to contemplate their next steps after Sandbach School and the subject material brought out the best in their performances both at the school and in The Quays Theatre at The Lowry. Outstanding performances from Teagan Paton, Sam Sutcliffe and Josh Dunseith amongst the rest of the excellent cast meant that Sandbach School once again showed its professionalism performing on stage to a paying audience.

In our last production of the year, 80 boys from Years 7 to 12 performed in the Sandbach School Performing Arts Showcase. There were many acts throughout the evening including Oliver Twist's 'You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two', STOMP, Year 7 & 8 Drama Club's various tales from Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes and various solo performances to name a few. The audience were on the edge of their seats, curious to see the next act, one minute laughing at Year 8s performance of Sweeney Todd to the next, being extremely moved by Ben Mellor's (Year 7) Refugee monologue. The work showcased during the evening was a strong example of what takes place in both Performing Arts lessons and extra-curricular clubs too. We started rehearsals for the showcase in February and with so many different acts performing, it was a real challenge to piece it all together but in true Sandbach School Performance style, they handled it with complete professionalism and put on an outstanding show to a packed audience of over 150 people.



Achievement Week

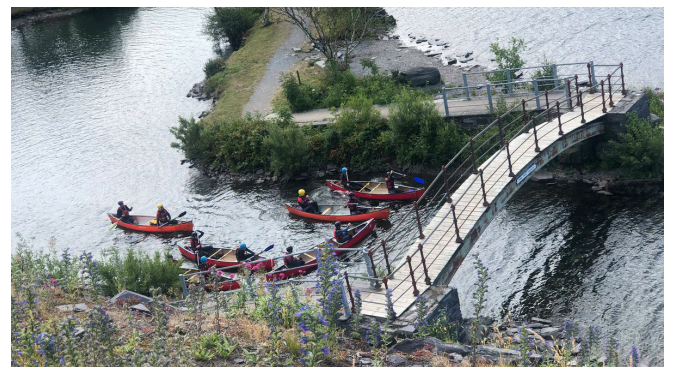
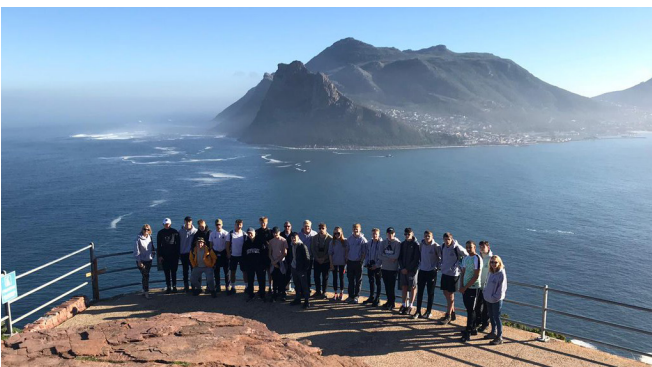
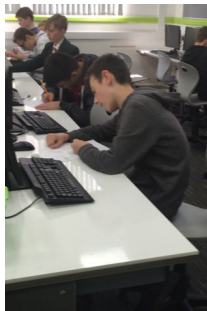
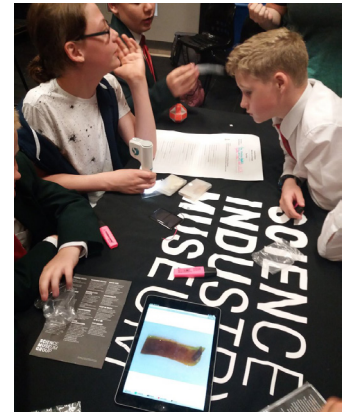
Following on from the successes of the launch of Achievement Week in previous years, 'Achievement Week 2019' offered an even wider range of activities and opportunities than ever for pupils in Years 7-9.

Activities included a Gradbach Peak district residential for Year 7, Senior students visited South Africa for Shark Week and there were Outdoor Activities for Year 7. Other activities included two separate Science Weeks for Year 7, 8 and 9, Maths Week and a Bangor Sports Science Trip, in addition to a Year 7 Sport Week in school.

As can be shown by the range of photographs it was an excellent chance for students to extend their learning beyond the classroom and enrich their education by experiencing new challenges and working as part of a team.

A tremendous amount of organisation went in to the week and every student from Year 7 to 9 participated. A massive thanks to all the staff who volunteered to lead events and book tickets, transport and liaise with parents and pupils throughout the year. Not bad considering the week was launched to students back in October!





Geography

Year 11 Geography Trip to Iceland – October 18

56 students travelled to Reykjavik visiting the Reykjanes GeoPark at Gunnuhver to see the hot mud pots and steam vents. We travelled onto Hotel Borealis where we witnessed the amazing Northern Lights. After an early morning dip in the 'Secret Lagoon' we ventured onwards to the Golden Circle to visit Þingvellir, the famous Geysir landform where we were treated to regular impressive eruptions of hot water and steam and on to the equally impressive Gullfoss; the 'Golden Waterfall'. On Saturday we travelled to the black beaches at Reynisverfi to learn about coastal processes and landforms. We visited two impressive waterfalls the Skógafoss and the Seljalandsfoss. Later the group travelled to the Eyjafjallajökull Volcano Eruption Centre to learn about the infamous eruption of 2010 which sent ash high into the air turning day to night for several weeks and causing chaos for the European air travel industry. On the final day the group visited Hellisheiði Geothermal Power Station followed by lava tube caving under the lava field located in the Blue Mountains.



Sandbach School Plastic Pledge

The theme of Plastic Pollution has been a hot topic the year with Year 7s taking the #SandbachSchoolPlasticPledge to find ways to reduce plastic usage. As part of World Oceans Day we looked at the issues of how plastic is ending up in the Oceans, the damage it is causing and also the ways in which it can be tackled. Students worked on creating a campaign to promote the awareness of the issues with

Plastic Pollution.

Geographical Association Competition – February 19

In February, over 80 students entered the Geographical Association's competition titled 'My Changing Place' with the opportunity to interpret the title and format of their choice. The standard of work produced by our students was exceptionally high. Five pupils from around the country were selected to have their work go through to the final and we are extremely proud to announce that two pupils from Sandbach School were amongst them. Well done to Alexander Head (7D) and Thomas Young (7B) for reaching the final and for having their work displayed during the recent Geographical Association Annual Conference.

Year 10 GCSE Geography Manchester Fieldtrip – June 19

Year 10 students visited Manchester to investigate how and why quality of life varies within urban areas. Students had an introduction to Salford and the issues of multiple deprivation in the inner city. Following an orientation of Ordsall and Salford Quays groups were given time to complete their investigation data collection. Fieldwork



will be used to develop a deeper understanding of UK Human landscapes in preparation for GCSE exams next summer.

Year 9 GCSE Geography River Dane Fieldtrip – June 19

Students in Year 10 visited Wildboarclough to investigate how and why drainage basin and channel characteristics influence flood risk for people



Design Technology

The Rigby Block

After years of service and thousands of pupils through the door, the Rigby Block was closed in May 2019 to make way for a new build with state of the art facilities. Mr Bowyer, Curriculum Leader of Design and Technology explained "The facilities will make a real impact on pupils' education and will help them to realise their potential in Design and Technology. The number of pupils opting for GCSE Design and Technology, GCSE Food and Nutrition and A Level Product Design are higher than ever and we're expecting this trend to continue when the new facilities open in 2020."

GCSE Design and Technology

This year, pupils completed new GCSE and A Level Specifications for the first time. The GCSE Design and Technology has seen a reduction in the weighting for practical work in the final grade and an increase in Science and Mathematics in the exam paper. The more challenging GCSE has been designed to test pupils on Technology in the real world with knowledge of practical applications and processes required. The coursework element now only requires pupils to produce a prototype of an idea rather than a final, fully working piece of work.

The new A Level Product Design has seen a shift in emphasis on the exam, again with more Science and Mathematics included but pupils are also required to sit two final examinations to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.

Both GCSE and A Level pupils have found the new style courses challenging and demanding but have all worked really hard to complete the courses and give themselves the best possible opportunity to achieve a high grade.



Outdoor Learning

The Outdoor Learning Activities have gone from strength to strength this year. The decision was made last July for all Year 7 and 8 Forms to visit and work in the Vegetable Garden during form time. Jobs included planting, harvesting, weeding, leaf-collecting, tying plants up, filling up bird feeders and watering plants. Over four hundred students have been introduced to gardening this year! We now regularly have ten students from Year 7 and 8 attending Gardening Club on a Thursday after school. They have built a greenhouse which was kindly donated and taken care of numerous aspects of garden maintenance.

Students have been able to observe two nesting starling pairs, goldfinches, sparrows, blackbirds, woodpigeons and magpies. We have swifts who have been building nests under the eaves of the roof from wet mud onsite and our own resident mouse which we caught on our Springwatch camera and shared on twitter @sandbachDTfood.

Our Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE classes in Years 9 and 10 have been able to spend some more lessons in the vegetable garden as we have had more time due to moving out of the Technology Block for the demolition. Here they familiarise themselves with the many fruit and vegetable plants we have as well as herbs including oregano, sage, mint, parsley, thyme, basil, coriander and lemongrass.

We are always on the lookout for donations of equipment, seedlings and tools if you find you have an excess of such items at home.



South Africa

This summer more than 20 of our students took the long journey to South Africa to complete the Cape ED marine eco program. Our students were able to get in the water and see things they had never seen before including several species of shark that are only found in this part of the world. They learned free diving skills from qualified divers and gained knowledge from specialised marine biologists about the marine environment and the threats it faces.

The group were able to study a colony of Jackass penguins, swim with cape fur seals, watch the baboon troops take over the car park and go cage diving at the famous seal island.

Although the Great White Shark eluded us on this trip, our students learned from shark biologists the most likely reason for this was due to the Killer Whales which had been seen in the bay over the past few months. It turns out Sharks are not the top predator in the ocean, they get scared too!

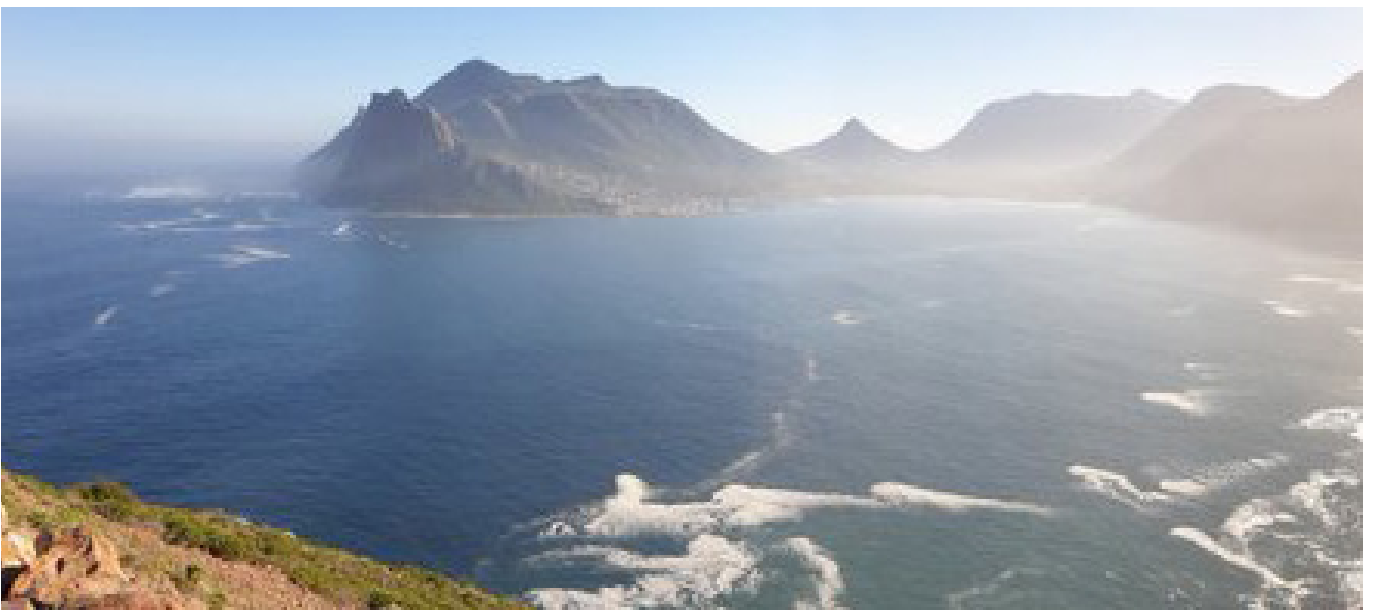
The program was focussed mainly on the ocean but the group did get out to see the sights of Cape Town including a hike up Table Mountain - I am sure there are still several people now who are still recovering but the views were incredible. The group got to stand at Cape point, the southernmost tip of Africa and see where the two great oceans meet. They also learned about Able Seaman 'Just Nuisance' the only dog to ever be formally enlisted into the Royal Navy!

An important part of the trip was the students working together to cook meals for each other which turned into quite the competition! Mrs Burns will maintain that her group's carbonara was the best but there was a mean chicken curry and the classic bangers and mash to contend with.

Several students commented that it was the best school trip they have ever been on and the words incredible and fabulous became an everyday occurrence. It is safe to say the trip was a huge success and I would like to thank all the staff and students who took part in the most magical and outstanding trip I have ever been part of!

Mr Jevons





Enrichment Day

Enrichment day was a great success and enjoyed by students across all year groups. The day allowed all students to participate in activities that are different from their usual lessons allowing them to learn about and experience a wide range of topics.



Year 7 were involved in 'fit for life' activities, these included yoga, balance, fitness tests, swimming and reaction timing. This allowed all students to see the benefits in fitness in their lives.

Year 8 completed a series of workshops about choices, they were given the opportunity to be involved in a range of workshops, delivered by specialist speakers. Workshops covered a wide variety of subjects, including, vaping, drugs, alcohol, fitness, crime, and social media. Huge thanks go to the specialist visitors who delivered the sessions including the police, drugs and alcohol counsellors, victims of crime, prison officers and prisoners and a yoga teacher.

Year 9 completed a forensic Science themed day, they were given the opportunity to don the white suits and complete a range of tasks to solve a genuine mystery in school. Tasks completed, were chromatography, fingerprint analysis, blood analysis and



mathematical problem solving to find the perpetrators.

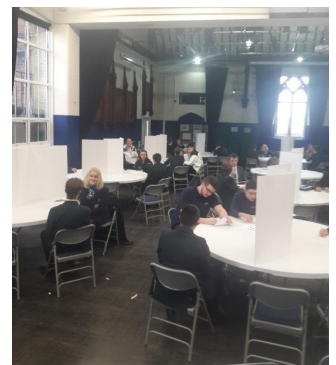
Year 10 completed a variety of activities with an international theme, with Brexit on the horizon and international themes constantly in the news, students were given the opportunity to participate in a range of activities which showcase the diversity in different cultures. Students made African tribal masks, tried their hand at making and tasting the delicious delicacies of Italy, or they got into the South American carnival spirit with some Samba drumming. With drums still ringing in their ears students headed off to solve an international themed escape room and to look at the opportunities that international careers could offer.

Year 11 students took part in an employer assessment centre and interviews day to help develop their work related learning and employment skills. The day was well supported by a wide range of employers from different companies and industries. Employers all did a brilliant job of coaching the students on the day and provided one-to-one feedback about their 'employability' and interview skills.

Year 12 headed off to what career live exhibition at the NEC, where they met with university staff, employers and providers of higher level apprenticeships.

Year 13 students prepared for their final examinations and completed a range of workshops based around life skills. Sessions were designed to help improve their study skills, giving them a range of revision strategies, others to relax them and help focus on their studies with activities such as stress busting and Tai Chi. Whilst others such as make do and mend and budgeting were designed to help support them as they make the move away from home to university.

Overall it was hugely productive day!



Art

Another very busy but exciting year in the Art Department. Alongside stunning pieces created as part of GCSE and A Level projects, here are some of the activities and events we have been part of throughout this year - a highlight being the "Award Winning" exhibition we created for the Cheshire Show.



Visit to Local Artists - Entrepreneurs Network

In November we worked with the talented print artists based at the Entrepreneurs Network in Stoke. An exciting new venue in the town centre that, alongside commercial printing, acts as a hub for local artists. www.ntrprnrs.com

Our Sixth Form Art and Graphics students thoroughly enjoyed the day working with the artists and created professional looking screen prints as part of their coursework projects.

Year 12 – Manchester Culture Trip

In February, Sixth Form Art, Graphics & Creative Media students travelled to Salford and Manchester. Students were lucky enough to be shown around Quay House at Media City by BBC Manchester Radio presenter Mike Shaft. On the unprecedented personal tour he showed them different areas including the BBC Breakfast studio, Radio 5 Live and local radio recording studios. They were also lucky enough to witness Mike talking with guests during an 'as-live' recording. He explained the process of editing the recordings and how they'll get to air, as well as the roles of Researchers and Producers working on his show. It was an amazing first-hand experience of working in the Media industry.

The students then visited the Imperial War Museum North and Manchester City Art Gallery. With pieces on display ranging from traditional painted masterpieces to more modern Banksys, this was an exciting opportunity for students to see artworks close up and at full scale. Providing a rich range of ideas and sources for them to explore as part of their individual projects back at school.

Winning prizes at The Cheshire Show!

The Art Department were privileged to be asked to return to exhibit at the Cheshire Show this year after our successful debut last year. We were situated in the 'Schools Out' tent.

The Cheshire Show Society met to decide the theme, and Sheep was chosen to be the stimulus. Here at Sandbach School we decided to turn our sheep theme into 'Super Sheep'. On the run up to the show Year 7 pupils worked very hard to produce a variety of 2D and 3D bright and vibrant work that looked fantastic.

On show days a dedicated team of Year 7s worked tirelessly manning the stand. Pupils spoke eloquently to members of the public about Sandbach School and the work that they had produced showing enthusiasm and the highest level of conduct. Demonstrating fantastic team work and high levels of confidence as they helped children as young as two to create squidgy sand sheep and bookmarks.

The quality of the pupils' work and their exemplary conduct did not go unnoticed by the Show judges and our stand won a rosette for 'Best Secondary School Stand' and a trophy for 'Best Exhibit'!



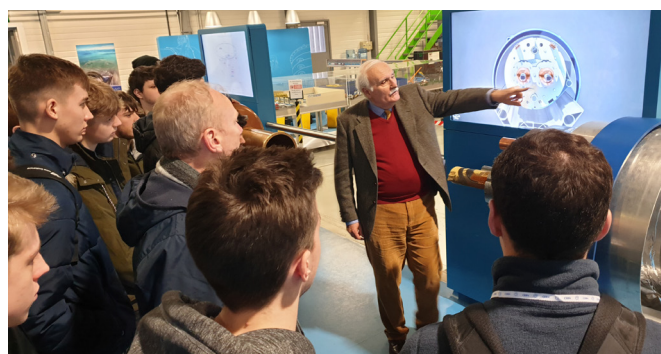
Science

It's been another busy year for the Science Department here at Sandbach School. Mrs Jennings has run a hugely popular Coding Club seeing over 40 of our younger students participating on a weekly basis, learning how to code. In fact Mrs Jennings says they are so good at coding that they help her when she gets stuck! STEM club has also been another popular club giving students the opportunity to conduct fun science practicals that we don't always have time for during lessons. Examples include making polymer worms, making their own telescopes and learning about polymorphism!

The annual Physics trip to CERN in Geneva was another great success where students got to learn all about particle accelerators with how they work, and what the benefits of smashing particles together at nearly the speed of light has to offer.

The Year 12 Biologists were also treated to a residential trip to complete important ecology field work, directly supporting their studies in A-Level Biology.

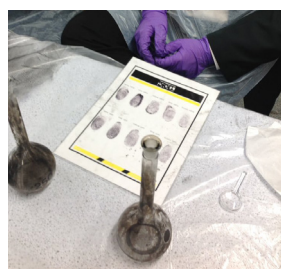
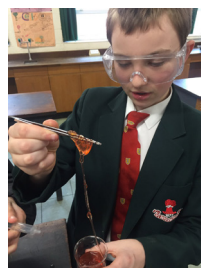
The Science Department got in to full swing on the Enrichment Day too, re-creating CSI where students had to solve crimes using science to provide evidence. Students conducted finger printing, advanced chromatography and others techniques to try to work out who murdered Mr All2n....



Students have continued to impress us all year with their amazing effort in lessons and at home. We tasked students to create a physical model of 'Solids, liquids and gases' and were really impressed with the models made!

As we wind down to the summer holidays, we look forward to the results of the GCSE and A-Level examinations. Both the students and staff have worked tirelessly towards these examinations, and we would like to wish the students good luck for their results.

Don't forget to check out our Twitter Feed (<https://twitter.com/sandbachscience>) – it had lots of updates and photos of some of the outstanding things we do in Science!



English

Debating our Socks off!

Our Debating Club is continuing to grow and our students are working hard on expanding their speaking and listening skills. We are currently working with other schools to develop local debating links and we are hoping that some of our fantastic students will visit other institutions to teach some less experienced speakers how to debate.

We have a very strong group of dedicated debaters who have grown from strength to strength in both their ability to hold a developed debate, and their own self-confidence.

Our open morning in September saw some of our lead debaters holding live, on the spot, mini debates with prospective Year 5 and 6 students. Proving themselves to be excellent ambassadors for the school, they also helped some of the less confident primary students to have a go at a quick debate and encouraged them to take part.

This year, we also elected our new executive committee: Owen Woodward, Roman Askey, Adam Salt, Matt Harrop and Jack Harris. They have done an excellent job so far at leading the club, welcoming and engaging new members, and raising the profile of debating at Sandbach School.

Introducing: Creative Club!

September 2019 saw the introduction of a new club at Sandbach School: Creative Club.

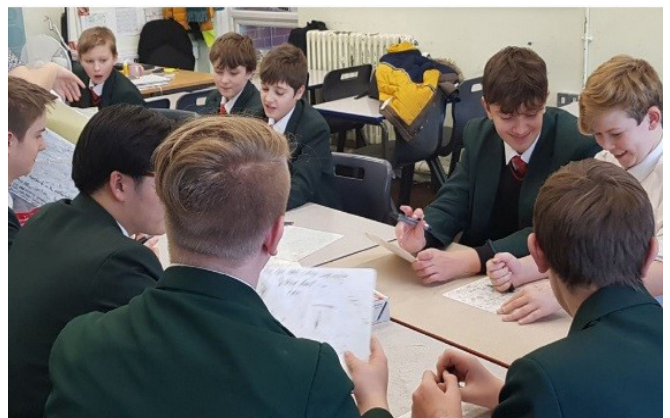
Wanting to give some of our creative boys an opportunity to express themselves and play around with language outside of the classroom, Miss Halsall welcomed boys from all age groups to have fun with English.

The boys involved thoroughly enjoy attending every week; they work in groups and on a one-to-one basis to present their creative ideas (fiction and non-fiction) and get some feedback. They are currently working on entering some writing competitions and developing a creative writing display, showcasing their best pieces of work.

Looking to the Future

Over the course of the next academic year, the English Department has some exciting things planned! As well as entering more competitions in our debating and creative clubs, we will be taking Year 8 students to visit the Warner Brothers Studios in London to explore the Harry Potter tour; here, the boys will learn about set design and how cameras are used to gain the most effective images.

Later in the year, we have planned visits from authors, actors and theatre groups – in particular, our GCSE students will experience productions of Jekyll and Hyde, Romeo and Juliet, and An Inspector Calls.



History

The History Department have had a very busy year! Our Year 7s began by exploring the History of Sandbach and Sandbach school, looking at artefacts in the museum, including the old uniform, and going on a historical tour of the town centre with their teachers as part of Commemoration Day.

The KS3 History Club has been an excellent new addition to the Department this year. They have explored some of the conspiracy theories behind the assassination of JFK and the 1969 moon landings, as well as an investigation into weaponry over time.

Mrs Kane and Mr McGarrigle took a group of Politics students on a trip to Washington DC in February 2019. Highlights included a visit to Mount Vernon, George Washington's house, a night time race through the capital to watch a budget debate and vote in Congress and a moonlight tour of the great American monuments. This was a great and memorable trip.

In March, the History and RS departments took some Year 10 students on a Rewards trip to the Imperial War Museum of the North. They had a fantastic day exploring the museum and finding out interesting facts about different types of warfare.

The Y12 Politics students had the excellent opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament in May of this year. The group toured Parliament including both chambers, had a tour of the Speaker's house, met the local MP Mrs Fiona Bruce and had a private question and answer session with Speaker of the Commons John Bercow in his private state rooms. They even bumped into Boris Johnson!



Duke of Edinburgh

This year set off with both Year 10 and Year 9 pupils showing off their expedition skills.

24 Year 10 pupils have completed their DofE Bronze Award. All Year 10 pupils have gained new skills, keeping fit and giving up their time to help others. Pupils also managed to develop their expedition skills, being able to navigate, cook, erect a tent, first aid, and lead others over a two day one night expedition. The Year 10 final expedition took part over the Peckforton Hills, this also included an exploration of Beeston Castle.

Our new cohort of 45 Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh boys took part in a number of training sessions to prepare them for their practice expedition skills. The boys explored Bickerton Hills and enjoyed fantastic views of Bickerton including Kitty's Stone and Maiden Castle. Some fun and spectacular elements throughout included seeing wild horses, cows and shoes being stuck in the mud! Good team work and navigation skills were shown by all boys. These skills will help with their final expedition in September.

24 Year 11 Bronze DofE boys have completed their award this year and had fun celebrating their award with a celebration breakfast which was enjoyed by all.



75th Anniversary of D-Day – Sandbach School Remembers

To mark the 75th anniversary of the start of the D-Day landings Sandbach School CCF held a short Remembrance parade and laid a wreath in the school's memorial garden. Fifty cadets were able to be involved, this was a great turnout as there were many others who were sitting A Levels, GCSEs and internal school examinations. Form tutors have spent some time reflecting on the events of 75 years ago and the school observed a minutes silence at 10:40 this morning.



Major Sykes, Sandbach School CCF's Contingent Commander said the following words:

You will be aware if you have been watching TV over the last few days that it is 75 years ago today that Britain and the allied forces invaded the beaches of Normandy to start and reclaim France and most of Europe from the German invaders. Thousands of aircraft brought in airborne troops, thousands of ships and landing craft brought hundreds of thousands of troops to the beaches. At this very moment 75 years ago today many of our ancestors were fighting their way through heavy machine gun fire to establish a foothold in France. Many thousands did not return home, they gave their life so that

we can live in a free society. These were men and women who had relatives at home, mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers. Many were very young, some of them the same age as our senior cadets. Others were married and had children.

When Captain Norman Skinner landed on Sword Beach 75 years ago he carried in his pocket a letter for his beloved wife Gladys and their daughters, a reminder of home and the cause for which he was risking his life.

Captain Skinner, of the Royal Army Service Corps, never made it back - killed the next day by a direct hit on his foxhole.

In his letter the former insurance worker from Hillingdon, west London, told his wife: "My thoughts at this moment, in this lovely Saturday afternoon, are with you all now.

"I can imagine you in the garden having tea with Janey and Anne getting ready to put them to bed.

"Although I would give anything to be back with you, I have not yet had any wish at all to back down from the job we have to do."

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.**

-Minute Silence-

**When you go home, tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.**

Today, we the members of the Sandbach School community remember the sacrifice made by our ancestors so that we can have what we have today.

Staff who witnessed the parade were moved by the words and by the manner in which the cadets conducted themselves.



Sports Review

This time last year the boys had produced an outstanding set of individual and team performances that Sandbach School could be very proud of.

We described it as 'a wow year' one that we hoped would serve as a form of inspiration to future cohorts of Sandbachians but particularly those joining us in Year 7. The 2017-18 sporting year was always going to be a tough act to follow. Where do you go after appearing in 4 National School Team Finals in four different sports in one academic year? . . . you ease down a bit and compete in 3 National Schools Finals!! As in previous years team or squad achievements during the past sporting year include District, County, Regional and National Schoolboy titles.

Cross Country

Our Cross Country Squads again made their way through the district and county level competitions but at regional level we could not quite pull it off on the big days. 3 Minor Boys represented Cheshire Schools Cross Country. With 3 Intermediate Boys claiming County Schools Vests and 2 of whom ran at the English Schools Team Finals.



Swimming

In the swimming pool our swimmers finished the season at the Sutton Trophy Relay Gala where they finished second overall as the Senior Boys swept all before them to take two titles and setting new competition records in the Medley and Freestyle Relay events. Charlie Briscall of Year 10 was a member of the Intermediate Boys squad. During the season he has been an ever present in the school swim squad often he would swim in every event. Sometimes he was the only member from his year group representing the squad. With an outstanding attitude and approach towards representing the school, Charlie was presented with the Head teachers Trophy for Swimming.

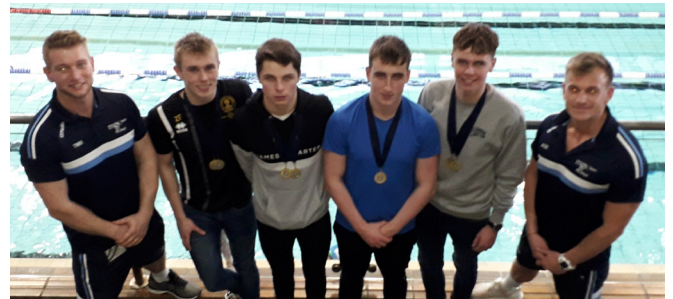
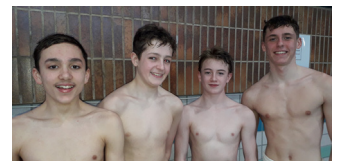


Table Tennis

Our Table Tennis Squads excelled once again with the Under 16s teams taking the Cheshire County Schools Silver and Bronze Medal spots and the A Team qualified for the Regional Schools Team Finals in Blackburn. 2019 will see the school launch a Junior Club.



Badminton

In Badminton our Under 16s entered the Cheshire County Schools Competition for the first time. The A Team returned to Sandbach as County Schools Champions and took part in the North West Regional Finals at Sport City Manchester. Not a bad debut season!



Track & Field Athletics

Much of the competitive season was effected by the monsoon summer.

However the Athletics Squads reached 2 Regional Finals in the English Schools Track & Field Team Cup with the Junior Boys competing in the Regional Athletics Final at Blackpool, one step and just 20 points away from our first ever National Schools Team Athletics Final.

The last outing of the season saw the squad travel to the Shropshire Invitation Relay Championships where they swept aside all opposition in emphatic style to win the Salop Relay Cup.

Nine of the Squad were selected to represent Cheshire Schools at either the coveted Mason Trophy County Competition or in the County Schools Championships.

One of the Squad Raif Serif was selected to take part in the English Schools Track & Field Championships in Birmingham.



Rugby Football

Our Under 12s excelled and turned out 4 teams on some Saturday mornings!!

The Under 15s had high hopes of success and enjoyed a National Cup run that took them to the last 16 in the competition.

Under 16s reached the Cheshire County Schools Plate Final at Chester Rugby Club. An excellent match that took place on a blanket of ice and snow that would have put many off sport for some time.

The Senior Squad enjoyed a brief run in the NatWest Plate Competition and can still boast pathway players selected to represent: Cheshire County, the Scottish Exiles, Welsh Exiles, RGC, North of England Trialists and Sale Sharks. Senior Captain Alex Bishop led by example at all times. The Sevens season was washed out almost completely.

The end of the Summer Term sees Peter Allen move on from the PE Department and the school. Mr Allen has been at Sandbach for 5 Years. An excellent classroom practitioner making significant contributions to both the core curriculum and the teaching of academic PE in the classroom. He also led the Rugby Programme for 4 of those years. A period that saw him lead a major overseas tour to Canada and enhance the number of boys playing competitive rugby during years 7 and 8. We wish Peter all the very best as he leaves us to take up a new challenge as Head of Physical Education at the Grange School in Runcorn.





Cricket

Cricket also took a weather rest for much of 2019, however, the Under 12s qualified for the Cheshire Schools Plate Final. The Under 13 and under 15 Squads won the Cheshire County Schools Plate Finals. The Under 15s earned a place in this year's National Schools Cricket competition where they travelled to Harrogate to take on the Yorkshire Schools Champions in round one; an agonising last over defeat having been knocked out of this year's County Schools Cup when they suffered a last ball defeat.

While the sun did shine the Sandbach School First XI took on and defeated Sydney Grammar School who visited us from Australia. Year 11 cricketer Jack Kesteven notched 101 not out (retired) on the Front Square and received the Headteacher's Trophy for cricket.



Hockey

Last year our 1st XI Hockey team played in the Independent National Schools Cup Final for the first time: This year our hockey squads claimed no less than 12 County, Regional, Divisional or National Team Honours. The Under 12s led the way taking 3 competitive titles. However, we cannot shy away from the achievements of the Under 16s. Crowned County Schools Champions, North West Schools Champions, North of England Champions and securing a National Schools Finals place in both the outdoor and indoor England Hockey competitions. I'm sure you will all agree an unbelievable achievement: the Under 16 England Hockey Indoor Finalists and the Under 16 England Hockey Outdoor Finalists.



Football

The Under 12s reached the last 8 of the National Schools FA Cup.

The Under 13s and 14s were Cheshire Cup semi Finalists.

Zuko Mankazana of the school Under 14 squad and Stoke City Academy has just been placed on stand by for the England Under 15 Training Squad.

The Under 15s were Cheshire County Schools Cup Winners retaining the title they won as Under 14s as they defeated a very strong Calday Grange Grammar School in the Final 2-1.

Under 15 B team - you may remember last year these boys were English Schools Football Champions. A once in a lifetime experience, we all said. This year they reached the Final of the National Schools FA Cup again held at West Bromwich Albion's Hawthorns Stadium. They are National Champions again!! Having beaten Hampton School in the Final with an empathic first half performance winning 4-0. Ben Potter was awarded Playstation Man of the Match in the Final. Our County Schools Champions and National Schoolboy Champions again!

Awards Day

The Dight Bursary and Cup is awarded to an individual or individuals who have attained excellence and achievement in their sport.

Who has gone above and beyond and epitomises everything that Sandbach School and Sandbach School Sport stands for. This year the Dight Bursary was awarded to Raif Serif. He has been selected for Cheshire Schools to run at the English Schools National Cross Country Championships. And he represented Cheshire Schools again at the English Schools National Athletics Championships held at Birmingham Alexander stadium.

The Dight Bursary allows a number of further awards to be made in support of achievement and excellence in Sport: these were awarded to: Year11 hockey player and Under 16 and Under 18 Goalkeeper Will Gibbon, who has represented his school in 2 National finals this year and his club side Bowden HC are National Under 18 hockey Champions.

From Year 12 newly appointed 1st XV Rugby Captain Ed Vitta, Ed is the Cheshire Under 17 fly half or centre, Captain and Performance Pathway Player.

Also from Year 12 Captain of Football Cameron Newton, Cheshire Under 18 Squad member, North of England Trialist and Performance Pathway Player. Cameron is currently considering a University football scholarship pathway in the USA.

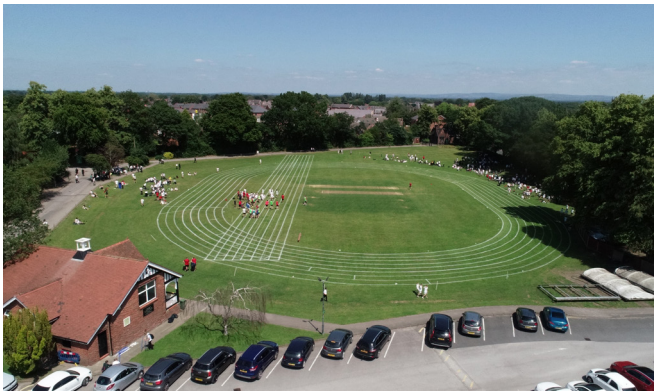




Sports Day

Blessed with excellent weather and a refined schedule due to the impact of the weather on all qualifying competitions the track events saw Year 8 Ethan Pender take the Under 13 (Year8) 300 metre record with a time of 45.00 seconds. Impressive given that we are currently running on a 200 metre track. This was the only record to fall on the day in Track or Field and Ethan took the Sports Day Victor Ludorum Trophy for 2019.

Following Sports Day on Wednesday July 3rd the School celebrated its sporting achievements at a Sports Awards Evening for Hockey, Football, Athletics and Cricket with over 300 guests attending.



Alumni

Rugby playing Old Boys have hit the headlines this summer with Nick Allsop, Joe Gammage and Josh Longson (all members of the Twickenham 2010 National Vase Winning Squad) all representing Cheshire Rugby as they completed their domestic season unbeaten. Nick then played at Twickenham (again) in the Bill Beaumont Cup Final against Cornwall. Meanwhile Cameron Crampton was representing Lancashire in the same competition.

Sale Shark and former 1st XV Rugby player Ewan Ashman has had an outstanding debut season as a professional sportsman. Ewan has appeared in the match day squad for the Sharks as a 19 year old and having been selected to represent Scotland Under 20s in the World Championships in Argentina where he finished the competition as the 'leading try scorer' across the whole competition!



Old Sandbachians Association

Joseph Riley (1945-50)



OSA President

I was elected President of the Old Sandbachians Association for a second time at the AGM and Annual Dinner in 2018; I was previously President in 1975.

While the OSA Dinner this year was most enjoyable, with about 50 attending, in the period after the war and up to the 1970s between 150 and 200 Old Boys would attend! In the afternoon there would be a Rugby match between the School 1st 15 and a team from Old Boys.

There have been many changes since I was a student at Sandbach School, and I remember 1975 was a year of great change when it was decided that the school would become a Boys Comprehensive School.

During this year I attended the School's Carol Service at St Mary's Church when all the lessons were given by pupils of the school. It was well attended and I thought it was the best ever.

I also took part in our Annual Golf day at Sandbach Golf course. This was held in glorious weather and was a most enjoyable day.

The Old Sandbachians Association is a great way to keep in touch with old school friends and often to reconnect with former classmates and we are very keen to recruit new members, both younger and not so young Sandbachians, wherever they are in the country and indeed worldwide. We welcome your support.

Edmund Finney born October 1931

Youngest of 5 children born to John Alfred and Mary Jane Finney sadly passed away on 25th May 2019.

Edmund was awarded a scholarship to Sandbach School in 1943 and matriculated in 1958. He then joined staff at the Trustees Savings Bank Sandbach and was eventually appointed Manager, he was later

transferred to the Chester Branch as Manager.

He married Marjorie Leech in 1956 at Sandbach and their son Alistair was born in 1961. "Eddie" is succeeded by his wife and son and elder brother John.

It is with sadness to report the death of Colin Eastwood on 25 June 2019 aged 86. Colin achieved a 1st Class Honours degree at Manchester University and came to Sandbach School as Head of English in 1964 until 1970.

He was a very popular member of staff, an inspirational teacher and a wonderful colleague. He was personable, friendly and had a keen sense of humour. The school drama productions during his tenure were outstanding and memorable. He later served as a School Governor with pleasure and distinction.

On leaving Sandbach School he became Head of the English Department at Padgate College of Higher Education until his retirement.

Apart from his considerable academic achievements Colin was a fine sportsman. He was a very good footballer, cricketer and a keen golfer. He was a loyal member of Sandbach Golf Club and was Club Captain in 2017.

Throughout his life he was also a very keen walker and climber. He has walked in the Himalayas, Morocco and the Alps but especially in Scotland and his beloved Lake District.

Away from his prowess in physical activities Colin had a wide range of other interests. His knowledge of literature and classical music was encyclopaedic, and he was a first-class amateur photographer.

He was also a very committed Christian, an extremely active member and lay reader at St. Peter's Church, Elworth.

He was a keen supporter of the Old Sandbachians Association and recently gave an amusing and stimulating speech at the annual dinner.

Sandbach has lost an exceptionally gifted person.





SANDBACH SCHOOL

OPPORTUNITY, ACHIEVEMENT, EXCELLENCE



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