



Sandbach High School

and Sixth Form College

Our Academy, Our Future

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

8 December 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

At the outset of this my final Headteacher's Newsletter of 2015 I should like to reiterate my thanks to all my colleagues; teachers and support staff alike for their professionalism, commitment and dedication to not just their classroom practice but for the energy invested in such a rich range of extra-curricular activities that offers all our students the opportunity to pursue a variety of interests. A real team effort which is much appreciated.

In addition I should like to thank all our pupils and students for the excellence of their behaviour over the past term. It is fair to say that they have not always been perfect but borrowing a phrase from a well-known Disney Film they have been "practically perfect in every way" typified by the respect shown on 11 November.

Remembrance Day

The conduct and respect on show was impressive – we can all take great pride in the behaviour and attitude of the students with particular thanks being extended to Anna Woods (Year 9) who read so well and to Natasha Brett (Year 11) who played The Last Post on cornet with such clarity and emotion. Mrs Jackson and her team of "event planners" once again ensured excellent organisation putting theory in to practice.

It is also very right that 12 months on we should remember a colleague who lost her fight against cancer, succumbing on Christmas Eve. Mrs Karen Leigh was an inspirational teacher who was loved and respected by so many. Karen may no longer be with us but she is much missed and remains so loved.

Staff leaving

Mrs J Walker - Sixteen years after she joined us she has continued to inspire staff and students alike. However, after much deliberation Mrs Walker has decided to "retire" and a move to Cornwall is imminent. Under her stewardship the LRC has become a haven of infectious creativity and energy, bringing literacy to life and for all that as well as for the support she and her husband have given to D of E, for example, a huge thank you.

Mr J Nicholson - Having successfully led and managed the most diverse curriculum area we have, Mr Nicholson leaves us to take up the position of Assistant Headteacher at Ruskin High School in Crewe. Both as teacher and Curriculum Leader he has shown a calmness and quiet determination that have helped to make the "Social Sciences" area one of the most successful and dynamic areas of school life. We will miss his composure, flexibility and creativity that have proved so pivotal in helping us to remain such a beacon of excellence especially in but not limited to the area of applied learning.

Mrs D Ainsworth - Due to personal reasons we are sad that Mrs Ainsworth has decided to relocate and in so doing take up a position at a Special School, near Derby, where the care and sensitivity that have been so evident here in all her dealings with our students will be put to even greater use. Her drive and determination to see all her students succeed not just academically but personally and socially have established Mrs Ainsworth as a respected colleague and confidante to staff and students alike.

Mrs V Aspinall-O'Dea - Having joined us in September 2011 Mrs Aspinall-O'Dea has proved herself to be a very effective teacher of Science and her contributions to the Science Department in areas such as supporting ISAs and the Science Fair will be missed. We wish her continued success.

Miss C Griffiths - Having joined us in September 2013 Miss Griffiths has supported the work of Psychology and Sociology with great effect, helping to drive forward student outcomes in both areas. In addition she has supported a range of extra-curricular activities. We wish her continued success.

School Roll - Projected Numbers

The number of applications for the rising Year 7 (September 2016) stands at 239 and we will be honouring our commitment to offer places to all those parents who placed us as first preference for their daughter's education. Places remain available – further details are available from Miss C Smith at csmith@sandhigh.cheshire.sch.uk.

Applications for the Sixth Form are now being received and it is especially pleasing to see a strong response from our own Year 11 as well as from external students – the Year 12 intake in September 2016, together with our current Year 12 students, will enjoy our new Sixth Form facilities which despite the unfavourable weather are progressing well – updates available on our web site.

A CELEBRATION OF PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENT EVENING

The re-styled GCSE presentation was most enjoyable, offering the opportunity to celebrate with students, their parents and friends and colleagues last year's successes. One of our former students, Natasha Tipping (Simpson) who is the Deputy Mayor for Sandbach was the Guest Speaker.

This year's Headteacher Award went to Emily Radford, a student who never hesitated when asked to give her best. All the way from Year 7 to Year 11, Emily's reports were an absolute joy to read, not necessarily because of her ability but because of how staff always commented on the dedication that she put into her studies, even those where she did not feel so confident. It was obvious from looking at her Behaviour for Learning grades. One defining factor with Emily has always been how she would contact her teachers to see what she could do better, or how she could help. Emily is not just recognised for her academic success, but for her commitment to our school community, which was evidenced in a wide range of extra-curricular activities in sports and clubs. She was, and continues to be, a wonderful ambassador for our school.

The 2015 Katie Guy Award was presented to Katie Warrington. For a number of years now, this award has been given to students who go above and beyond, both within the classroom and out in the community. The recipients really do carry the Sandbach way in all they do. This year is no different, combining diligence and enthusiasm, Katie is a true role model to the school community and it is especially pleasing to see how she has grown in confidence to become a forthright spokeswoman for the school. Be it charity work, her duties as a Prefect, her work for Childnet or her work on the prom committee, you name it, everything she does benefits everyone. She is an amazing example for us all to follow.

Other Award winners:

Subject	Name	Subject	Name
Art	Aprillia Degg	History	Nadia Barr
Business Studies	Bethany Shelton	ICT	Emma Pearson
Catering	Emealia Stringer	i-Media	Jessica Wilberforce
Child Development	Rosie Fife	Mathematics	Annabel Elleray
Dance	Lauren Ratty	Music	Shelley Robinson
Drama	Shelley Robinson	Physical Education	Ocea Birtles
Engineering	Lydia Duncan	Product Design	Katie Warrington
English Language	Chloe Samples	Religious Studies	Katherine Brunsdon
English Literature	Katie Coleman	Core Science	Jasmine Lawrence
Food & Nutrition	Emily Radford	Additional Science	Olivia Simon
French	Sophie Tonge	Triple Science	Emilia Rusbridge
Geography	Lauryn Buckley-Benbow	Spanish	Emma Bache
German	Caitlin Jenkinson	Statistics	Catriona Cody
Graphics	Emma Shepherd	Textiles	Francesca Clarke
Health & Social Care	Tanaya Pepper	Travel & Tourism	Emily Bone
PROGRESS	Emealia Stringer	ACHIEVEMENT	Katie Coleman
100% attendance 5yrs	Annabel Elleray	100% attendance 5yrs	Bryony Crank

Governors

Further to recent requests for expressions of interest from potential Governors I am pleased to confirm that we have two new Parent Governors: Mrs Cathryn Houghton who has a daughter in Year 10 with a second joining Year 7 in September and Mr Ben Hunt who also has a daughter in Year 7 with another due to join us in due course.

Parent View

Parent View In addition to our own annual survey Ofsted are inviting parents to answer 12 key questions about their children's schools via their Parent View website. Parents register to use this at <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk> using your own e-mail address.

Extreme Weather Conditions

As we enter winter and weather starts to turn very unpleasant I should like to remind parents and students that it is very rare for us to close. Should the weather become so extreme or the site too dangerous then we will post on our website and twitter account confirmation of the decision to close. We will do this as soon as is practicable and would ask you on these difficult occasions to be patient with us and to monitor our website or tune in to Radio Stoke for updates.

Ladies Night

Students following the Applied Business course raised just under £900 on behalf of the Cervical Cancer Trust, a charity chosen because it was close to the heart of one of the team members.

There were 12 Sandbach/local businesses in attendance, all of whom contributed to hosting the event and therefore fund raising for the charity. It was also pleasing to receive the support of 8 male students adding a twist to the ladies night! They waited on, sold raffle tickets and hosted the bar (those over 18!). Performances from the schools Jazz band and Chloe Ravenscroft as a solo artist went down an absolute storm! Canapés were the ideal accompaniment to the activities...allowing plenty of time to 'shop till you drop' through the night!

Sports results

Our sportswomen continue to excel with some very impressive results on the football pitch, for example. Similarly our cross-country runners won the School's League title whilst our Year 11 netball team were recently crowned Champions having beat all other local schools and on the way to their title they only conceded 8 goals.

Our Poultry Farm - Rare Breed Hen



The rare breed hens that Mr Waring and his poultry farmers are raising are **Cream Legbars**. They lay a very attractive blue egg.

The poultry club will be rearing these along with cross breeds...

Cream Legbar Cockerel crossed with:

Copper Marran (Rare breed) Dark brown egg

White Leghorn (Rare breed) White egg

Warren (Commercial hen) Normal brown egg you see in supermarkets.

This will help the students learn about selective breeding and dominant & recessive genes.

PFA – growing in strength but needs your support

The PFA is looking for anyone who can spare a few hours to support our fund raising events. The money raised goes back into supporting our students through the purchase of equipment etc. Perhaps you are able to donate prizes for raffles? Or could help the PFA through a charity matching scheme? May be you are willing to help at events by selling raffle tickets? You do not have to commit to helping at every event, or attending every meeting, just be willing to lend a hand and offer some ideas or suggestions of ways we can fundraise.

The next meeting will be on January 20th 2016. 5.30pm - 6.30pm at school. Please come along and support them if you can. Alternatively email junwin@sandhigh.cheshire.sch.uk to express your interest, and let the PFA know how you can help.

Mid-Day Assistants

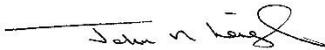
If you are interested in or know someone who might be interested in the role of Mid-Day Assistant (£6.73 per hour) please contact Mrs J Street at jstreet@sandhigh.cheshire.sch.uk.

Christmas by Candlelight Journey

I hope that you will be able to join us on the 'Christmas by Candlelight Journey' on Wednesday 9 December. The evening will include a tour around the school which will only be powered by candlelight. Our tour guides will take you on a journey where you will hear a variety of Christmas tales and music, and the evening will end with refreshments and carol singing. The story has been written by some of our Year 7 students. Tickets cost £5 and are available from main reception.

In addition I should like to invite you to join us for our Annual Carol Service which starts at 7pm in St Mary's Church, Sandbach.

Yours sincerely



J M Leigh
Headteacher

Forthcoming events

Tue 8 December	Uniform Sizing Event (sizing only, uniform can be purchased on-line)	3.15pm – 5.30pm
Wed 9 December	Christmas by Candlelight (or if inclement weather Monday, 14 December)	7pm
Tue 15 December	Annual Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Sandbach	7pm
Fri 18 December	End of Term	Finish at 3.15pm
Mon 4 January	Start of Term	