

# **SANDY UPPER SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SPORTS COLLEGE**



## **Notes for Prospective Applicants 2009-2010**

# SANDY · UPPER · SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SPORTS COLLEGE



Headteacher: David Stevinson B.A.

Dear Colleague

Thank you for your expressing an interest in a position at Sandy Upper School and Community Sports College.

We are a mixed comprehensive school of 820 students between the ages of 13 – 18. We are a Specialist Sports College, which means that we are using our expertise in the teaching of PE to raise standards across the curriculum. We are situated just off the A1 trunk road, 8 miles east of Bedford

The facilities at Sandy Upper School are impressive:

- There is a data projector in every classroom
- There is an international standard athletics track
- We have an Astroturf pitch
- We have a well equipped theatre hall

We know that we are not a perfect school but are working hard at improving everything we do. Since 2007 we have secured a significant improvement in our exam results at both key stage 4 & 5. The percentage of students achieving 5A\*- C at GCSE has risen from 43% to 70%. We perceive learning to be an activity involving humans from cradle to grave, we therefore invest in continuous professional development and expect our staff to make mistakes and learn from them.

Staff appointed to our school will need to be committed to our shared values and to the ideas of comprehensive education. If you are, and if you wish to be part of the excitement and energy of our School, I hope that you will apply for the post and look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Stevinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Stevinson  
Headteacher

**A VIBRANT AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING COMMUNITY ASPIRING TO EXCELLENCE  
COMMITTED TO PROMOTING AND SAFEGUARDING THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN**

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# Mission Statement

We have recently worked with stakeholders to review the vision and values of the School. The newly generated mission statement is:

**“A Vibrant And Supportive Learning Community Aspiring To Excellence”**

## Student Vision 2009

The students created their vision statement which is:

”Sandy Upper School is a welcoming School with a friendly, continually improving community that inspires all. We believe school should be a place where students choose to go. This is being achieved by creating an ethos of equality along with respect and trust in student-teacher relationships. Our School will constantly strive to ensure students and staff have high expectations of themselves and each other.”

## Code of Conduct

- Always have respect for others.
- Respect our school and its facilities.
- Always do your best in everything.
- Come to lessons on time, equipped and ready to learn. Only bring what you need for the lessons.
- Listen to others in class and put your hand up if you wish to speak.
- Be proud of our school and wear the correct uniform.
- Keep to the left in corridors and be polite and courteous moving around the school.

***Our shared values and code of conduct were produced by staff, students, governors and parents and apply both staff and students.***

## Term Dates

<b>Autumn Term</b>	<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009 to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2009</b> <b>Half Term: Week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009</b>
<b>Spring Term</b>	<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010 to Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010</b> <b>Half Term: Week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010</b>
<b>Summer Term</b>	<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2010 to Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010</b> <b>Half Term: Week commencing 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010</b> <b>May Day: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2010</b>

# **SANDY UPPER SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SPORTS COLLEGE**

All maintained schools in Bedfordshire are mixed comprehensive schools with a three tier system - Lower Schools aged 5-9, Middle Schools aged 9-13 and Upper Schools 13-18. Sandy Upper School was opened in 1974.

## **Our Community**

Sandy Upper School and Community Sports College occupies a flat 20 acre site on the northern edge of the town. The School and Community College serves pupils and adults from a large span of north east Bedfordshire as far as Cambridgeshire. It receives pupils mainly from three Middle Schools in Potton, Great Barford and Sandy itself.

Sandy, historically the centre of an important market gardening area, is a small, thriving market town of over 12,000 people, situated just off the A1 trunk road, 8 miles east of Bedford, 22 miles from Cambridge and 50 miles north of London, which is only some 45 minutes away by train. Recent years have seen the rapid growth of housing and of light industries, including hi-tech, on the industrial estates around the outskirts of the town.

The School has a long tradition of links with the local community, both through the curriculum and by means of community service. Ties with the Chamber of Trade and local businesses, including those on the nearby industrial estate, make it possible for up to 250 Year 10, as well as many Sixth Formers, to enjoy two weeks work experience. This is achieved through many agencies extending as far as Stevenage and Bedford. There are links with University of Bedfordshire and Bedford College as consortia activities with local Upper Schools and with partner Lower and Middle Schools in our Learning Community.

## **Our Facilities**

Sandy Upper School has sports facilities based on the Sports Hall, Fitness Gym, All Weather Pitch, a newly built Athletics Track, 2 Squash Courts and a Dance Studio, as well as its own playing fields surrounding the school. Specialist teaching areas include the Music Suite, Language Laboratories, ICT and Business Department, Art Department, Drama Studio and a newly refurbished Theatre Hall and appropriately equipped laboratories or workshops to service the departments of Design Technology (8) and the Sciences (9). Computers and ancillary equipment are spread around the school. We have just installed a wireless network across the school and plans are well underway for the provision of laptops on every floor. In addition, there are five computer laboratories. All staff and students have their own email address and all have access to the school network. All staff have their own laptop for use in and outside school and every classroom has a data projector installed.

There is a lift giving access to all floors. This was been installed by the LEA under the Disability and Disablement Act allowing access to all the school facilities for disabled staff, students and members of the community.

## **Our Organisation**

We teach five one-hour lessons each day. In addition there is a daily twenty minute tutor period which may be spent with Form Tutors or in assembly.

The School is organised by departments with every area being led by a Subject Leader. Large departments also have a Head Teacher. The School employs a Professional Tutor and an Academic Focused Study Support Coordinator.

Every student is placed in a form group when they arrive in Year 9; the expectation is that they remain in this group with this form tutor until the end of Year 11. Non teaching Year Coordinators are the first point of contact for parents and play a pivotal role in the pastoral care. They are line managed by the Key stage Managers who in turn report to the Deputy Headteacher.

The SLT consists of the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher and three Assistant Headteachers. SLT members are linked to subjects and act as mentors and line managers.

All staff meet together daily.

The Student Support Team are based centrally in the Learning Centre. Four Cover Supervisors are in post who arrange for the cover and supervision of students. The student support team includes the Education Welfare Officer, who is based at the School.

School uniform is strictly maintained and the upholding of high standards of behaviour is given as much prominence as sound learning and academic achievements. Tutors meet their forms daily aiming for close, active links with their students.

## **Curriculum**

There has been a review of the curriculum to develop new approaches to the 14-19 Curriculum and personalised learning. In the Main School (Years 9-11) the academic curriculum aims at meeting the requirements of the National Curriculum and offers a wide range of GCSE and applied subjects. In addition some students follow NVQC Level 1 or 2 and Young Apprentice in Diploma courses at other sites. A combination of AS and A levels may be taken in the Sixth Form as well as GCSE Btec courses. A broad General Studies programme, and Community Service, is also fundamental to the Sixth Form provision.

In conjunction with the work of the curriculum areas, much importance is attached to Guidance and Mentoring (G&M) which includes Personal Health Education, Enterprise and Citizenship. This is conveyed through three approaches, namely the daily tutor periods, as an integral part of the subject departments' schemes of work and as an explicit programme of cross curricular activities, extending throughout all years in the school. In addition there is a lesson of G&M each week.

## **Extra Curricular Activities**

The school has a programme of residential experiences. There are regular visits to France and Spain and there is an impressive range of musical and sporting activities. The quality of instrument playing is of the highest order, and our sporting reputation is acknowledged throughout the County and beyond. Staff and students of Sandy Upper School have every opportunity to develop their skills and interests both inside the classroom and within the institution as a whole.

Sixth Form Students participate in the Young Enterprise Programme fully supported by the local business community.

## **The Governing Body**

Sandy Upper School has an active and committed 16 strong Governing Body which meets twice each term.

Cllr John Gurney is the Chair and Mr Paul Sanderson is Vice Chair and there are three committees which meet twice each term:

Standards	Chair, Mr Paul Sanderson
Business	Chair, Mr Richard Banks

The Governors have established a link scheme to curriculum areas which means one governor has detailed knowledge of an individual curriculum area's developments.

## **Other Information**

### **Lesson Times**

08.40	Student Registration/Assembly
09.00	Period 1
10.00	Period 2
11.00	Morning Break
11.20	Period 3
12.20	Period 4
13.20	Lunch
14.05	Period 5 (including student registration)
15.05	End of School

## Department Areas

<b>Departments</b>	<b>Leader</b>
Design Technology	Mr John Bonson
English	Dr Kathy Warren
Music	Mr Chris Phelps
PSHCE	Mrs Natalie Renfrew
ICT	Mr Charles Kilby
Maths	Mrs Alison Bagg
MFL	Mrs Lisa Champion
PE, Sport, Health & Fitness	Mrs Lisa Reynolds
Science	Mrs Tracey Hinson
Business	Mrs Lorraine Kelly
Art	Miss Natalie Roberts
Drama	Mrs Lyndsey Hammond
Geography	Mr Andrew Laming
History	Miss Abigail King
RE	Mrs Joanne Freeman

## Senior Team

<b>Name</b>	<b>Post</b>	<b>Overall Responsibility</b>
Mr David Stevinson	Headteacher	Standards/Budget
Mrs Andrea Twiggs	Deputy Headteacher	Pastoral/Curriculum
Ms Elaine Boyd	Assistant Headteacher	14 – 19 Education
Miss Gill Clayson	Assistant Headteacher	Diversity & Challenge
Mrs Ros Watts	Assistant Headteacher	Student Performance

## Key Stage Managers

Mr Nat Baker	Key Stage 3
Mr Les Corr	Key Stage 4
Mr Ben Matthews	Key Stage 5