



A SPECIALIST SCIENCE SCHOOL

Headteacher
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Sandhurst School

the opportunity to succeed

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OUR SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

Sandhurst School challenges, supports and inspires every individual to achieve their best; a sense of belonging is encouraged, responsibility is shared and everyone is valued.

Background Information

Sandhurst is an 11-18 mixed comprehensive school, situated on the south eastern fringe of Berkshire at the borders with Surrey and Hampshire. Established in 1969, it serves the largely residential areas of Sandhurst, Owlsmoor and College Town, all of which have grown significantly since the school opened. A number of our students are drawn from the nearby Royal Military Academy. We have a friendly and supportive school which aims to encourage its students in the pursuit of excellence and the development of intellectual, social and moral qualities.

In March 2009 Ofsted reported that:

- Students enjoy school, and appreciate the way they are involved in helping to maintain the school's ethos
- Behaviour is good, and incidents of disruption or poor behaviour are very rare
- The school is calm; students are respectful of one another and of visitors
- Teachers have good relationships with students, and are successful in creating a motivating classroom atmosphere in which learning is enjoyable

The school has benefitted from a thorough refurbishment programme. Apart from the rolling programme of classroom and corridor refurbishment throughout the school:

- Renovations to six science laboratories, the Technology workshops and the Humanities classrooms
- Six new floodlit hard court play areas
- A complete renovation of the library and establishment of a community learning centre extension and refurbishment of the dining hall
- A complete refurbishment of the school hall which now meets all the standards of a professional auditorium for public performance.

We have set high standards in improving our working environment, both internally and externally, and we are committed to maintaining them.

The school was awarded specialist school status (in science) in September 2003 and achieved redesignation in July 2009. This was a landmark in the school's history and we are very proud of this achievement. This has enabled us to develop further the science block – creating a new laboratory, a new science preparation area and a new presentation area (for use by all departments).

Although specialist school status has brought immense benefits to the school, we still remain Sandhurst School, providing a broad and balanced curriculum to all our students and serving our community.

There is a wide range of specialist accommodation, including Gymnasium, Sports Hall, Science laboratories, Language Suite, Drama Studio, Music Suite.

A floodlit astroturf surface greatly enhances our sporting facilities and we have regular sporting fixtures. Large numbers of students are regularly involved in school drama productions and variety concerts, and a number of other activities take place, depending on student and staff interests. New activities are always encouraged.

We have recently completely renewed our ICT facilities and infra-structure. We have 3 curriculum ICT teaching rooms, 3 other small PC rooms and an open area for independent use of computers. All other subject areas have mobile laptop trolleys served by the school's extensive wireless network. Additionally, every classroom has a digital projector and every teacher has a laptop.

The school's virtual learning environment, Sandhurst Digital Campus, is a valuable resource for learning and will ensure that ICT will continue to play a central role in students' experience of a dynamic and relevant curriculum.

Further Education and the Youth & Community Service have buildings on site and facilities are readily available to the local community.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning are organised through subject departments. Subject leaders, together with the Senior Leadership Team, enjoy a collaborative approach to curriculum development that ensures we can successfully combine new approaches with existing good practice. Over the past few years we have extended the range of pathways available to students and our priorities at present include personalising learning to meet the needs of every student. We believe that the keys to addressing this are harnessing the potential of new technologies, genuinely listening to the student voice and placing AfL firmly at the heart of our curricular plans.

High priority is given to supporting students with special needs, in mainstream classes wherever possible.

Students and Parents

The current student population has risen in the past few years from 930 to 1080.

The School is organised on a House basis with four Houses, each with a Head of House and deputy. The Heads of Houses with the House tutors are responsible for the welfare and progress of the students. Students remain in Houses in the Sixth Form, but this area is overseen by the Post-16 Learning Manager.

Parents' meetings are held regularly. There are year group evenings when subject teachers meet parents and annually there is a student review day when students, and their parents, come into school to discuss their progress with tutors. Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they have any concerns and to work in partnership with us to achieve success for their children.

School uniform is compulsory for Years 7-11. The Sixth Form do not wear uniform, but are expected to dress neatly with no extremes of fashion.

A newsletter, containing school news and achievements, is published every two or three weeks and has a wide circulation. Recent editions are enclosed in the pack of information.

Staff Development

We place a high priority on the professional development of our staff and we always look to meet the training needs of individuals. Each year all staff will be expected to review their work and discuss their ideas for the future. The school has been awarded the Investor in People national standard, and the Inclusion Quality Mark.

Committees and working parties are used to involve staff in the development of the school in addition to the subject and pastoral team meetings.

High professional standards in both conduct and appearance are expected of all staff.

The school has a no-smoking policy.

Senior Leadership Team

The Senior Leadership Team, consisting of the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and 3 Assistant Headteachers, is responsible for the development of whole school policy and meets twice weekly.

A comprehensive School Development Plan is prepared annually and monitored consistently throughout the year. Each subject and pastoral team contributes to the improvement plan by drawing up an annual action plan which is similarly monitored throughout the year.

The School

We have high expectations in standards of behaviour and appearance but at the same time we are sensitive to the needs of all those who work here, staff and students. It is a friendly environment but there is a purposeful working atmosphere. A good humoured professional approach is adopted by the staff which sets the culture and ethos for the students. A culture of mutual respect is encouraged and support through teamwork is a feature of the school.

We have a good school and we always seek to improve what we do. Teachers are encouraged to take initiatives and to contribute to development activities. We also have a highly committed support staff.

It is a lively community where people enjoy their work.

The Authority

Bracknell Forest Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children/young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff to share this commitment. All staff employed by the Council in contact with children/young people or vulnerable adults must be aware that a Criminal Record Bureau check will be undertaken.

Bracknell Forest Council – Working for Equality. We welcome applications from all sections of the community

From 1 April 1998, 6 Unitary Authorities replaced Berkshire County Council and this school became part of Bracknell Forest Borough Council. Bracknell Forest Council is responsible for maintaining 14 nursery classes attached to primary schools, 33 primary schools, 6 secondary schools and 1 special school.

Andrew Fletcher
Headteacher

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