



**A SPECIALIST SCIENCE SCHOOL**

Headteacher

Debbie Smith B.Ed, NPQH

# 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 September 2013 Ofsted reported that:**

- “Students make good progress in mathematics and English and achieve standards which are above the national average”
- “Teachers know their subjects well and convey high expectations to their students”
- “Exceptional additional opportunities are offered to students and these promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development”
- “The behaviour of students is good. They show high levels of maturity both in lessons and around the school. Students say they feel safe and the school has robust systems to support all students.”
- “The leadership and management of the school are good. The wider leadership team shares the headteacher’s ambitious vision for the school.”

There is a wide range of specialist accommodation, including excellent sporting facilities such as floodlit astro turf and hard court, including tennis areas as well as a gymnasium, sports hall and fitness studio. Our school hall has been refurbished and now meets the standards of a professional auditorium and this, along with a well-equipped Drama studio and music rooms, encourages large numbers of students to participate in school productions and concerts.

The Student Learning Centre is an onsite resource supporting students who from time to time may have difficulty accessing lessons because of illness. The resource also has staff who support students whose social and emotional difficulties require additional help.

We have 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 also enabling parents to support their child with homework and ensures that ICT continues to play a central role in students’ experience of a dynamic and relevant curriculum. In 2012 the school was awarded the ICT Mark in recognition of its good practice.

The Sports Centre 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.

In recent years the school's examination results have improved significantly. In 2014 70.9% of students achieved 5 A\*-C including English and mathematics, and 76.4% achieved 5 or more A\*-C GCSEs.

### **Students and Parents**

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 the welfare and progress of students are 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 weekly news review containing school news and achievements, is online every week.

### **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 (gold award), and the ICT 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 are responsible for the development of whole school policy and meet 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.

**Debbie Smith**  
**Headteacher**

**September 2014**