



SANDRINGHAM

Shape your future here



Sandringham School

'Everybody can be Somebody'



A very warm welcome to Sandringham School

I am delighted to welcome you to Sandringham School. We are very proud of our learning environment and the high standards of achievement reached by all students at the school in their personal development and academic success.

Sandringham is a high performing school, graded Outstanding by Ofsted, which challenges students to achieve more than they think is possible. Our aim is simple – to be a World Class school where our students receive the best education possible. This prospectus is intended to give you some important information about the school and to reflect our ethos and expectations. It cannot replace the vibrancy of day-to-day life at the school and we strongly recommend that you take time to see us in action. Visitors are always welcome.

Sandringham is a really happy place to be. Students are incredibly well-mannered, look after one another and enjoy being here.

They love the experience both in and out of the classroom and as a result, leave as well-rounded individuals with the skills and abilities to take on the world. We believe that every child can succeed in life if challenged and inspired appropriately. We make sure that all aspects of the curriculum are delivered to the highest standards possible and encourage students to develop their own particular interests and skills throughout their time at the school. We place a particular emphasis on STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) as well as a key focus on cultural activities in the Arts. Our High Starters programme is extensive and designed to challenge and inspire students at the highest level.

“This is an outstandingly effective school, in which students attain high standards and make excellent progress. It prepares them exceptionally well for the next stages of their life.”



Sandringham was one of the first schools in the country to gain the prestigious World Class Schools Quality Mark recognising not only outstanding academic performance but also the significant wider skills developed in our students.



We also place a special emphasis on international work and hold the prestigious Gold International School status. Our links with schools in Europe and other continents means students have real opportunities to learn about their world. And of course, we believe that by providing significant sporting opportunities has massive benefits for all students, as recognised our Platinum Sports Mark award.

Our blend of traditional values combined with creativity and innovation offers a rich environment for progress. The quality of teaching and breadth of curriculum ensures students consistently achieve the best possible standards in their public examinations. We also believe it is essential to provide opportunities for young people to take responsibility for leading their learning thus strengthening their independence and maturity.

A strong academic curriculum supported by outstanding personal development and extra-curricular provision, helps Sandringham students develop as individuals with the necessary skills to be successful in adult life. The holistic development of young people is central to our ethos and culture. Two examples of this include the extensive House

System and our Character Programme. Both of these are designed to provide wider opportunities for young people to learn together and develop their unique characteristics.

All our students are expected to work hard and behave in an exemplary fashion. This is achieved through clear expectations and a comprehensive rewards system that encourages students to do well and ensures they feel safe and able to meet the challenges we set.

As an outstanding school, we have achieved many accolades over the years. We were one of the first schools in the country to gain the prestigious World Class Schools Quality Mark recognising not only outstanding academic performance but also the significant wider skills developed in our students. Sandringham is one of the National Teaching Schools in England which involves training and developing of the very best teachers across Hertfordshire through the Alban Teaching Schools Alliance. We also lead the Alban Federation and train teachers of the future as a designated Initial Teacher Training awarding body. We are a Research School for the region, promoting work between academics and professionals in education.

Most recently, we have been designated as a national Computing Hub, supporting other schools to enhance computing science in the curriculum and an EdTech Demonstrator School, showcasing how technology can best be used to facilitate learning.

We have helped establish the Alban Academies Trust, a multi-academy trust set in St. Albans for schools in the primary and secondary sector to work together to improve educational outcomes for young people. This is an exciting development and should enable all young people to receive the highest quality state education possible.

Sandringham School makes a significant difference to the lives of young people and we very much look forward to welcoming your son or daughter to the school and helping them to be successful in the future.

Alan Gray
Headteacher



“Sandringham teachers are so dedicated with a real passion for their subject” Parent

A dedication to learning

The purpose of the school is to be a learning community where young people and adults share the search for knowledge, truth and pursuit of excellence.



Our **vision** is that **'Everybody can be Somebody'** because we:

- believe in you not only as you are but also what you might become
- know unrecognised talent lies latent in all of us
- want you to be able to achieve even more than you hoped to achieve
- know that personal motivation is a critical factor in achieving success
- should all be able to experience the excitement of learning and euphoria of success

Our **values** are to:

Have Respect for ...

- learning and achievement
- each other: valuing different views, beliefs and cultures
- our community: supporting activities and presenting a positive image of the school
- the environment: keeping it clean and tidy and fit for learning
- the school rules and regulations

Take Responsibility for ...

- making significant progress and being a successful learner
- setting high standards of behaviour, conduct, appearance and attitude
- being independent learners and leaders, taking initiative and supporting others
- meeting the challenges of the future and being confident in all that you do
- making a positive contribution to society

Develop Relationships which ...

- are strong between each other in and out of school
- allow you to lead safe and healthy lives and look after the well being of each other
- help you think creatively and rationally and be enthusiastic about learning
- help you know and value other people

We believe in developing students' capacity to learn so that they become more and more independent as they progress through the school. Students who understand how they learn and are engaged by subjects, achieve high levels of success. This principle underpins our teaching and learning across all subjects. We also believe that students learn more powerfully when they have the opportunity to deliver learning themselves; student participation in lessons is a regular feature of our work.

Staff at Sandringham incorporate a wide range of learning approaches into their teaching and undertake regular training to ensure they consistently deliver lessons of the very highest standard. Extensive use of new technologies is used to enhance learning with students using their tablet devices as a normal component of lessons. Most importantly, the strength of relationships between students and staff allows everyone to succeed in their learning.



“My child has got off to a flying start at Sandringham. They have made many good friends and joined lots of clubs.”

Parent

The learning curriculum

Our curriculum at Sandringham consists of a varied and exciting range of subjects designed to meet the needs of all of our students and help them to reach their full potential.



Our curriculum at Sandringham consists of a varied and exciting range of subjects designed to meet the needs of all of our students and help them to reach their full potential. All students study a compulsory core curriculum of academic subjects. At each key stage, these are complemented and enhanced by a wealth of other subjects and modules that enable all students to develop existing talents and discover new ones.

We take pride in personalising the curriculum to ensure that the interests and talents of students are met even before they start with us; liaising closely with primary schools to give every student the best possible start at Sandringham. The year 7 induction programme begins in the summer of year 6 and students quickly become confident members of the Sandringham community. In the senior school, our well-established and highly successful post-16 partnership with Beaumont and Verulam Schools provides sixth form students with access to an unparalleled range of courses and subject expertise.

All students are able to use technology to support their learning across the school, and the blended learning environment provides a powerful base to enhance learning at all levels.

To deliver the appropriate levels of stretch and challenge, students are taught in both mixed attainment groups and sets. This gives us the best of both worlds and offers an excellent blend of learning environments to suit everyone. Our High Starters programme provides a rich and challenging extension to the curriculum for students with particular strengths, whilst those students with special educational needs are nurtured and supported so they too can fulfil their potential.

We aim to provide a curriculum which:

- Is as **rich, inspiring** and **broad** as possible to allow students to widen their horizons in each subject.
- Provides the **depth** that enables students to **master** the key knowledge and skills essential for each subject.
- Is **well designed, inclusive** and carefully **sequenced** to provide all students with a rigorous foundation for future progression.
- Engenders **high expectations** and **challenge** in order to build students' **perseverance** and **self-belief**
- Provides students with opportunities to take their curriculum **beyond the classroom** to develop their **love of learning, independence** and **creative thinking**.
- Offers students a wide range of opportunities to **own** and **personalise** their curriculum in order to develop existing **talents** and **interests** and discover new ones.
- Enables students to maximise their **potential**, achieving the highest levels of academic success leading to the widest range of **pathways**.
- Raises students' **aspirations** and equips them with the knowledge and skills to flourish in their **future careers**.
- Will support all students to become **confident and erudite** and are able to **lead, persuade** and **challenge** others.
- Fosters the development of students' **character, personal development, health and wellbeing** preparing them to make a valuable contribution to **society**.



“Sixth formers are wonderful role models for younger students, through their responsibilities in the school, the day-to-day support that they give to younger students and their involvement in community activities.” Ofsted

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)



Through an extensive investment in the teaching of science, technology and maths, we aim to increase students' interest and achievement in these important areas of the curriculum.

Using a variety of teaching methods including an enquiry based approach, students develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

Science and maths are delivered by an innovative team of staff in an outstanding learning environment. Science occupies a suite of newly refurbished laboratories and part of a recently built £3 million teaching block, with state of the art facilities. Maths also occupies this new teaching block together with computer science, resulting in a vibrant and exciting place to learn and study.

We have established a challenging curriculum in science and maths to meet the needs of all students, with large numbers following triple science at GCSE and many opting for A-level maths and sciences in the Sixth Form.

We strongly promote STEM subjects at university and have significant numbers of students entering science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) courses at undergraduate level. In particular, we have been very successful in supporting students to study medicine and actively promote this key career amongst our student population.

There are many additional activities offered to enrich the STEM subjects with clubs in amateur radio, computer science, maths, technology and the environment as examples. There is also a science and engineering club with projects such as rocket making. The extended community programme of science lessons and lectures add an extra dimension to interest in the sciences. We also have a wildlife area including a large pond on the school site that is used by students from Sandringham and local junior schools.

Our STEM programme of additional activities is co-ordinated by senior staff and provides an inspirational environment to stimulate interest. For example, we were selected to be the first school to make live contact with astronaut Tim Peake on the International Space Station, sent a high-altitude balloon into near space and every student was involved in planting over 2,000 trees in Heartwood Forest. We have developed links with outside agencies including the UK Space Agency, Transport for London, Airbus Defense and Space, York University, Engineering Development Trust, GSK and Setpoint Hertfordshire to support our STEM provision.



“Sandringham is a fantastic school and my child is very happy here.”

Parent

The Arts at Sandringham

Our aim is to help students develop their self-confidence, emotional intelligence and motivation through participation in the Arts.



Sandringham has a very strong record of achievement in the Arts, both performing and visual and currently holds Artsmark Platinum status recognising the highest levels of arts education. We have always recognised and valued the benefits of a broad education encompassing the Arts to help young people acquire the critical skills of communication, working in collaboration and problem solving. We are proud of the rich cultural experiences we are able to offer all students through a range of classroom, enrichment and super curricular activities and projects.

All students study art, music, drama and dance at KS3 and many students select at least one of these subjects at KS4. We also have many students completing their bronze and silver Trinity College Arts Award qualifications. A number of students go on to study one or more of the arts subjects at A-level and then opt to follow undergraduate courses in the arts at University.

With an outstanding reputation for Arts teaching we are able to recruit the most talented staff who provide exceptional learning to students at Sandringham and to many local schools through our extensive outreach programme. This work was recognised at the National Teaching Awards in 2014 when the arts team won the Silver Award for Outstanding Team of the Year. There are a wealth of arts activities run each year and many of these take place in the SandPit theatre: a truly stunning 280 seater air-conditioned auditorium which provides a professional standard venue within which young people can learn, practise and perform. The opportunity to be involved in whole-school productions brings students of all ages together and gives them a sense of pride and satisfaction in their achievements. The vibrant Artsweek which takes place each summer is a culmination of the wide range of artistic opportunities open to our students.

Students benefit significantly from this curriculum and become articulate, motivated and flexible learners.





Our curriculum at Sandringham consists of a varied and exciting range of subjects designed to meet the needs of all of our students and help them to reach their full potential.

Shape your future here



“Students’ personal development is outstanding. The school does a wonderful job in ensuring that its initiatives allow for the broadest development opportunities.” Ofsted



St Albans
CANTEEN



International focus and extended opportunities



We aim to provide a rich and diverse range of activities that expand the horizons of our students, motivate them and develop their talents. All students are encouraged to participate in clubs, teams, workshops, visits, performances and other active.

We also aim to support students to understand and deal with the global nature of our world. The majority of students follow at least one foreign language (French, German or Spanish) to GCSE level. Our International Status means we are linked with schools in Europe, with regular exchange visits taking place to Annecy in France, Quickborn in Germany and Seville in Spain. These are amazing opportunities for students to experience everyday life and culture in our neighbouring countries as well as improve their linguistic skills. We also have a well established link with a school in the Gambia, West Africa and link with Anderson College in Singapore for Sixth Formers.

There is an extensive range of trips to all parts of the globe. A team building trip to the Peak District is run in the third week of term for all new year 7 students; in year 8 the students spend a week in Brittany, France or a week in the Rhineland, Germany. There are subject specific trips for examinations students at KS4 and A-level such as the geography trip to Iceland or the computer science trip to Silicon Valley, California. We run many international visits and music tours, and Sixth Formers have the opportunity of a once in a lifetime trip to an exotic destination such as Borneo, China, Costa Rica, Bakino Faso, Nepal and Ecuador. Lower and upper school ski trips add to a fully comprehensive offering for all students.

We run six Extended Learning Days throughout the year to add to the excitement of learning and stimulate deep learning provided through extended projects. These dovetail with our curriculum to ensure coherent and powerful learning experiences.

The values of meeting challenges and being an independent learner are partly delivered through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This is a core feature of activity in years 10–13 with large numbers of students completing awards at Bronze, Silver and Gold level and adds significant value to the development of students' leadership skills as well as being great fun.



“My child is thriving at Sandringham. They are challenged and engaged.”

Parent

Developing character: encouraged, supported and challenged



We believe that students learn best when they are in an environment in which they feel safe and secure. Students find it easy to settle into life and learning at Sandringham and consequently make exceptional progress.

Developing character and resilience is a key feature of our work with students.

Students' learning is supported through a highly developed pastoral system which enables them to work within clear boundaries. Students are allocated a tutor group on arrival and have the stability of working in this group as they progress through the school. The tutor and Performance Director for the year group play a vital role in supporting and encouraging each individual and are the first point of contact between school and home. Tutor time allow tutors to monitor the progress and wellbeing of their students and to provide individuals with the mentoring, support and guidance they need. Our comprehensive academic mentoring, based on rigorous assessment each term, allows the tutor and Performance Director to have a clear picture of

each student's progress across the curriculum. Annual Parent Teacher Consultation evenings and a Learning Review Day allow teachers, students and parents to meet to reflect upon successes and set targets for the future.

Within tutor groups, students experience a dynamic programme of Personal Development education. This structured curriculum focuses on important areas of life including being responsible citizens, building relationships, being informed about future careers and living healthily. In addition, all students are allocated to a House and take part in regular House activities throughout the year. This adds the important element of 'competition' to events and provides students with the opportunity to take pride in representing their House and to work collaboratively with students from other year groups.

Our exciting Character Programme provides all students with opportunities to become involved in activities that enhance their personal qualities and will enable them to become even more confident in their outlook. The six character traits are aspiration, initiative, confidence, resilience, integrity and tolerance.

Our Student Leadership Team meet weekly, adding a significant extra dimension to the life of the school. They are responsible for advising on development of the campus, help to appoint staff and represent the views of students at staff meetings. More importantly, they have a powerful input into learning at Sandringham where students work with staff to improve what we do in the classroom.



“Nothing is left to chance in this school, which is reflected in the exceptional care, guidance and support of students.” Ofsted

Sandringham sport and healthy lifestyles



Our aim is to ensure students are fit, healthy, take pride in their appearance and consequently strengthen their self-confidence and leadership skills.

Meeting personal challenges, working as part of a team and staying healthy are core values that we develop through a comprehensive PE curriculum and programme of sports activities.

All students follow a programme of Physical Education and Sport through to the end of KS4, culminating in a level 2 qualification; either GCSE or BTEC PE or Dance. In addition, many students will also follow one of the various sports or dance leaders programmes and carry out significant work leading sport with younger students. We have an exceptional team of staff in this area who provide high-quality learning experiences and run numerous sporting teams for all ages.

Sandringham has a rich history in sporting success and continues to perform at a very high level, taking part in all major competitions on a district, county, regional and national level. We are fortunate to have a wonderful heated indoor swimming pool which adds to the quality of provision and gives students the opportunity to improve their swimming ability, life saving and other water related activities. We also have a magnificent indoor sports centre that allows students to learn and perform to the highest level and a new full-sized flood-lit 3G astroturf further enhances opportunities for students. In addition, we have 6 tennis courts, 4 netball courts, 2 football pitches, 2 rugby pitches, a fitness suite and 2 dance studios, all available for students to use.

Annual sports tours for girls and boys allow the opportunity of competing outside their national environment.

The profile of health and fitness is further enhanced by two key events each year; 'Fit for Life' week where everyone (including staff) take on a personal fitness challenge and sample different activities, and the whole school 'Charity Run', where all students (and staff) enjoy a five-mile jog around the local countryside in aid of charity.



“The quality of teaching in the Sixth Form is outstanding. The balance between independent learning and teacher led learning is just right for our child.” Parent

The Sixth Form at Sandringham

We have a fantastic Sixth Form with over 400 intelligent and articulate young adults enjoying first-class facilities dedicated to post-16 learning.



It is a time of opportunities and experiences: academic, social and cultural and we aim to help students successfully complete their formal education before moving on to university, apprenticeships or employment.

Sandringham Sixth Form is open to any student who reaches our entrance criteria, regardless of where they live or which school they have attended. Sixth Form students have full access to a very wide range of courses through our own curriculum and the long-established BeauSandVer Educational Trust, our post-16 consortium with Beaumont and Verulam schools. We offer A-level courses together with other level 3 vocational subjects. This ensures there is something to suit anyone who wishes to join the Sixth Form.

Students benefit from a wide range of specialist resources, including: dedicated teaching and seminar rooms; PC suites; and three large study areas in the Sixth Form Learning Centre. There is also a dedicated Starbucks café for sixth form to use throughout the day. Specialist subject and tutorial staff support and encourage students to become responsible,

independent learners. A structured programme of tutorials and progress monitoring engages each student in fulfilling their potential in their chosen specialist areas.

Sixth Form students play a unique and valuable role in the school, contributing actively to the wider life of the school community. They arrange and run events with younger students, demonstrating tremendous leadership and motivation – particularly through the House System. The Head Girl, Head Boy, Prefects and various House and Sports Captains play a particularly key role in school life and competition is fierce for these positions of responsibility.

We encourage all Sixth Form students to participate in enrichment activities that develop personal skills and there is a very robust Careers Education and Guidance programme which helps them prepare for Higher Education and the workplace. Part of this includes a specialist programme for Oxbridge and Medical entrants. The vast majority of our Sixth Form students move onto university and we strongly support them to apply to the best universities in the country.

Equally, there is a bespoke programme for those wishing to secure the very best apprenticeships or competitive employment opportunities.

The Sixth Form is pre-university style culture with extremely high expectations and challenges, but equally high rewards at the end. It probably constitutes the best days of school at Sandringham for many students.

“Sixth formers are wonderful role models for younger students, through their responsibilities in the school, the day-to-day support that they give to younger students and their involvement in community activities”



Extra curricular opportunities

At Sandringham, we encourage all students to get involved in the extra curricular life of the school.

Whether they are cultivating a particular talent and competing against the best or simply taking part for fun, the activities that students enjoy beyond the classroom help create the buzz of daily school life. The following list includes just some of the extra curricular opportunities we offer:



- Amateur Radio
- Art
- Ballet
- Basketball
- Book club
- Choir
- Chess
- Choreography
- Christian Union
- Cookery
- Computer science
- Conservation
- Contemporary dance
- Debating
- Design and technology
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Football
- Geography
- Gym
- Home learning
- History
- Hockey
- Jazz band
- Musical theatre
- Netball
- Science reading group
- Rock school
- Rugby
- Sanctuary lunch club
- Science
- Sinfonia
- Street dance
- Swimming
- Creative writing
- Theatre technicians
- Trampolining
- Warhammer
- Young Actor's Company

Achieving success

Recognising and rewarding achievement is central to our philosophy for success and supports our core value of respect for learning.



We have a very strong reward system which celebrates all levels of success and encourages students to do their very best.

We provide a termly report to parents on their child's progress and exceptional effort is rewarded with a special letter of congratulation from the Headteacher.

Throughout the year, students receive commendations for excellent work which contribute towards various levels of awards presented in year assemblies. We also monitor attendance closely and, each term, special prizes are given to students for exceptional attendance. At the end of the year special prize-giving assemblies are held where students receive public recognition for their achievements through a variety of awards and trophies. We invite parents to these assemblies to celebrate the achievements of their children. In December, an annual awards evening is held for students past and present to receive their examination certificates and other prestigious school awards.

To further promote and celebrate success, staff nominate students on a termly basis for a Roll of Honour board and students receive congratulatory letters for their achievement. Staff send postcards home when a student has completed work to a high standard; we have recently introduced postcards for staff, where students can thank their teachers for their hard work! The Character Programme supports students to improve wider aspects of their personal attributes which is a vital part of life at secondary school.

Our rewards take many forms; it is important that effort and achievement of all kinds are treated as noteworthy. A special award celebrated each Friday is the Headteacher's Commendation, which is presented to any student who has worked exceptionally hard during the previous week. We encourage students to take a real pride in their own achievements and to respect the achievement of others.



Sandringham School

'Everybody can be Somebody'

Headteacher - **Alan Gray**

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