



# Prospectus

SHAPE YOUR FUTURE HERE



# WELCOME



**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 in their personal development and academic success. We are also equally proud to be part of the Alban Academic Trust,**

**working with many other local schools, both secondary and primary, to deliver exceptional education for all.**

This prospectus is intended to provide you with important information about the school and to share our ethos and expectations. It cannot replace the vibrancy of day-to-day life at the school and we welcome visits to the school where you can see us in action.

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. We are extremely proud of our school environment and the impressive learning which goes on every day. Our students achieve highly in both their personal development and academic studies.

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

# 02

They love their experience 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 appropriately challenged and inspired. We make sure that all aspects of the curriculum are delivered to the highest possible standards and encourage students to develop their own particular interests and skills throughout their time here with us. We place a particular emphasis on STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) as well as a key focus on the Arts. Outside of the classroom, our extra-curricular provision is vast and students thoroughly enjoy taking part in the wide range of activities on offer.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Gray".

**Alan Gray,  
Headteacher**



# Sandringham School



*"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."*

OFSTED

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# ABOUT US

**Sandringham places a special emphasis on international work and holds the prestigious British Council International School Award.**

Our links with schools in Europe and other continents means students have real opportunities to learn about their world. We also believe that providing significant sporting opportunities has massive benefits for all students, as recognised by 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 House System and our Character Programme, both of which are designed to provide wider opportunities for young people to learn together and develop individually.

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 confident, safe and able to meet the challenges we set.

Sandringham is one of 87 designated school-led centres of excellence for teacher development. The Alban Teaching School Hub is part of the national network of hubs responsible for the world class delivery of teacher development in England. Our overall responsibility is to maximise opportunity and development to teachers at all stages of their development; this work is focused on the golden thread of teacher development from Initial Teacher Training to school leadership. The Teaching School Hub works with all schools in St. Albans, Harpenden, Dacorum, Welwyn Garden City, Hatfield, Three Rivers, Watford and Hertsmere in leading evidence-based teacher development to empower teachers and school leaders and, most importantly, impact pupil outcomes across the region.

We also have an established reputation as an excellent ITT provider. Sandringham leads the Alban Federation to recruit and train teachers for schools across the area. Our work as a hub is integral to the implementation of the recruitment and retention strategy to raise teacher quality and effectiveness. In addition Sandringham School is a designated National Computing Hub and the regional Computing Hub lead for London ensuring professional development and curriculum support for computing at all phases. For more information visit [www.albantsh.co.uk](http://www.albantsh.co.uk)



# A DEDICATION TO LEARNING AND OUR VALUES

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

We also place a special emphasis on international work and hold the prestigious 'British Council' 'International School Award'.

The British Council recognises schools for their awareness, commitment to developing within their school curriculum. This framework offers students the opportunity to pursue international activities across the curriculum, including collaborative work with international partner schools and opportunities to involve the wider community.

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 results.

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 and global values.

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*"My best learning moment this year is when I was in Maths and I just didn't understand multiplying decimal numbers so I put up my hand to ask the teacher. Miss explained it to me and helped me with the question, and then it just clicked and I understood how it worked. I couldn't have done it without my teacher's support and help though!"*

**STUDENT YR7**





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# MISSION STATEMENT

Our belief is that *‘Everybody can be Somebody’* because we:

- *know you are on your own personal journey to realise your full potential*
- *recognise that you are a valued individual in a diverse community*
- *expect you to set no limits and aim high, believing in yourself*
- *encourage you to take ownership of your learning and personal development*
- *will guide you to explore a wide range of world-class opportunities to prepare you for life beyond school*
- *want you to be happy, confident, supported and fulfilled*

# OUR VALUES

## RELATIONSHIPS

- *are inclusive and built on kindness and humility*
- *allow you to lead safe and healthy lives*
- *enable you to learn collaboratively*
- *encourage you to develop your individual character*

## RESPONSIBILITY

- *being a successful and independent learner*
- *modelling high standards of behaviour, conduct and appearance*
- *confidently meeting the challenges of a changing world*
- *making a positive contribution to society*

## RESPECT

- *learning and achievement*
- *yourself and one another*
- *different views, beliefs, identities, and cultures*
- *the environment in which we live*
- *the school rules and regulations: be polite and display mutual courtesy*

# 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. 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 as well as discovering 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 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 ability sets. This gives us the best of both worlds and offers an excellent blend of learning environments. 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 fulfill their potential.

*“My best learning moment was when we did the Climate Summit for Science Week, it felt so exciting, being a world leader for the afternoon!”*

**STUDENT YR7**



# THE LEARNING CURRICULUM CONTINUED

## 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.*



# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM)

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

Maths, Science and Computer Science occupy a recently built, £3m, new teaching block, including newly refurbished laboratories and state of the art facilities. This, combined with an innovative and highly experienced team, results in an outstanding teaching and learning experience for all students. Using a variety of teaching methods, including an enquiry-based approach, students develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

Each year the school dedicates a week of learning to focus on STEM. This includes welcoming external speakers and experts, running a wide range of workshops for students across all key stages, as well as presenting an exciting and vibrant Science show in the Sandpit Theatre. STEM activities, run by our experienced teams, are regularly incorporated into our Extended Learning Days as well as enabling students go on trips to museums and other local attractions.



# (STEM) CONTINUED

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 studying 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 clubs offering STEM related projects and activities for example:

- Amateur Radio
- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Technology
- Environment
- Science and Engineering

The extended community programme of science lessons and lectures add an extra dimension to interest in the sciences. On the school site we also have a wildlife area including a large pond 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.

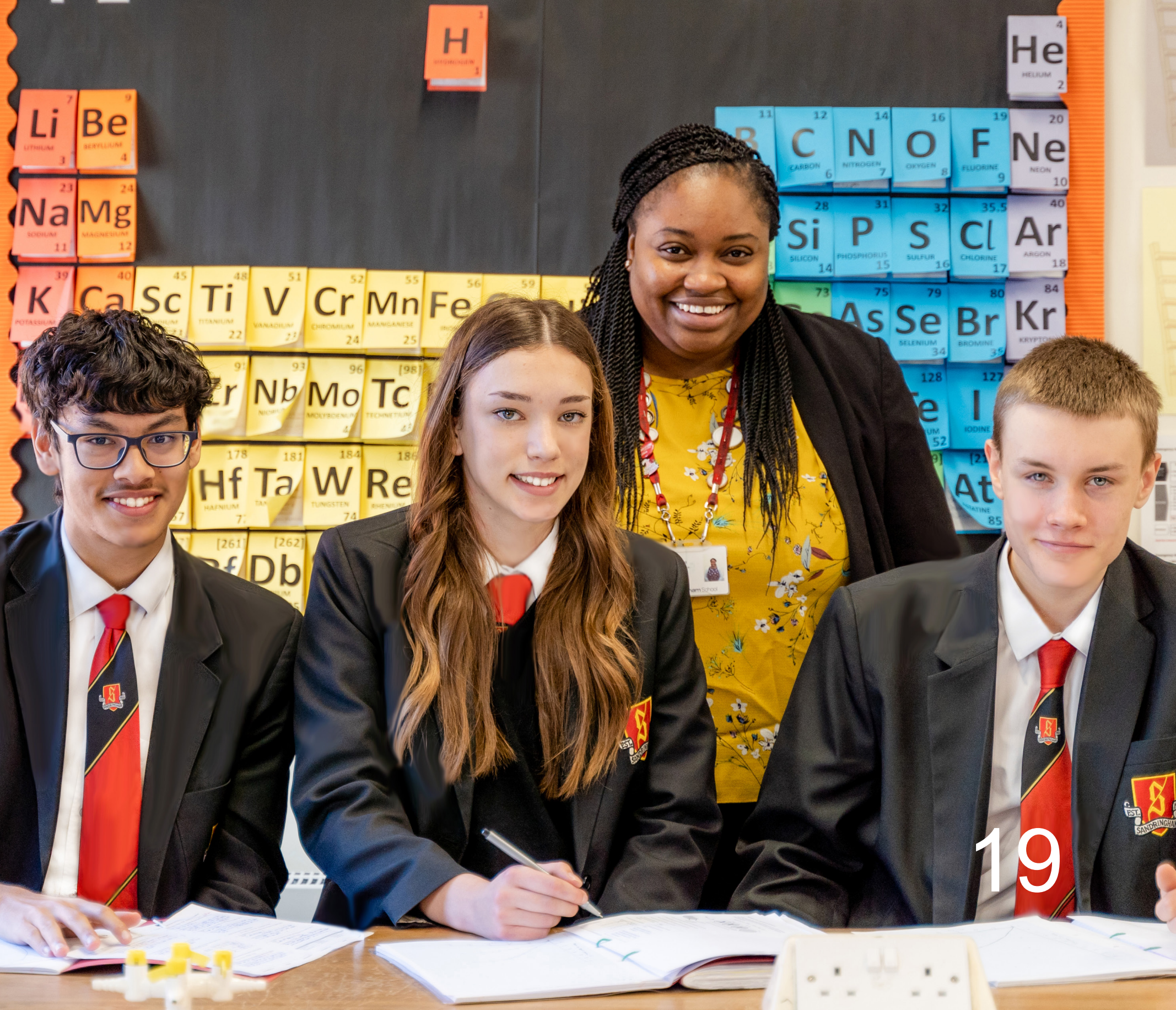
*"My best learning moment this year was when we Learnt how to cypher and decipher a sentence in Computer Science"*

STUDENT YR7

# The periodic table

1 2

3 4 5 6 7 0



# 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 is currently working towards the Artsmark Platinum status which recognises the highest level of arts education. We have always recognised and valued the benefits of a broad education and encompassing the Arts helps 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 266 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.

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*"My best learning moment of this year was when I went around to two primary schools doing a play of Wizard of Oz. I was nervous, but my teacher told us that we had worked hard and it didn't matter if we messed up. I learnt that Sandringham isn't about doing well, it's about doing the best YOU can do."*

**STUDENT YR7**



# INTERNATIONAL FOCUS AND EXTENDED OPPORTUNITIES

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

We also aim to support students to understand and recognise 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 Farafenni Senior School in the The Gambia, West Africa and link with Anderson College in Singapore for Sixth Formers.

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 in the Rhineland, Germany.





# INTERNATIONAL FOCUS AND EXTENDED OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED

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, Burkina Faso, Nepal and Ecuador. Lower and upper school ski trips add to a fully comprehensive offering for all students.

We run Extended Learning Days throughout the year which focus on extended projects, stimulating critical thinking, creating links across the curriculum and further developing knowledge.

These dovetail with our curriculum to ensure coherent and powerful learning experiences.

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*"My best learning moment was when I went to The Peak District and learnt to persevere and climb Thorpe Cloud after walking for nearly 8 hours."*

**STUDENT YR7**



# DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

**The values of meeting challenges and being an independent learner are also 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.

**BRONZE (AGED 14+)**

**SILVER (AGED 15+)**

**GOLD (AGED 16+)**



# 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.**

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. This time allows 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.



# DEVELOPING CHARACTER: ENCOURAGED, SUPPORTED AND CHALLENGED

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

**TOLERANCE**

Our Student Leadership Teams 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 our work in the classroom.

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*"My child is thriving at Sandringham. They are challenged and engaged."*

**PARENT OF YR7 STUDENT**



# SANDRINGHAM SPORT AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

**Our aim is to ensure students are fit, healthy and take pride in their health and wellbeing, consequently strengthening 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 vocational qualifications in 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 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, 2 dance studios, 2 drama studios all available for students to use.

Annual sports tours for students allows 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.



# 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 Actors Company*



# THE SIXTH FORM AT SANDRINGHAM

**We have a fantastic Sixth Form with over 500 enthusiastic and articulate students enjoying first class teaching and facilities dedicated to post-16 learning.**

The Sixth Form is a vibrant community which offers a huge range of opportunities and experiences. We are confident that we can support students fully so that they can pursue the next best step for them, whether it is at University, securing an apprenticeship or employment. There is full support for applicants applying to competitive courses and degree level apprenticeships, including specialist support for Oxbridge and Medicine applicants, in addition to a full careers education programme for all students.

Sixth Form students have full access to a very wide range of courses through our own curriculum and the long-established BeauSandVer Education Trust, our post-16 consortium with Beaumont and Verulam schools. We offer A Level courses together with other level 3 vocational subjects.

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 use throughout the day. Specialist subject and pastoral staff support and encourage students to become responsible, independent learners.

A structured programme of tutorials and progress monitoring supports each student to fulfil their potential.

Sixth Form students contribute actively to the wider life of the school community. They arrange and run events with younger students, demonstrating impressive leadership and motivation – particularly through the House System. The Head Students, Senior Prefects and House Captains play a key role in school life.

The Sixth Form sets high expectations and lots of challenges, but enables equally high rewards at the end. We love to see our students thrive as they finish their school careers and head off to adventures beyond!

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*“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**



# CAREERS HUB



# Periodic Table

These are the 118 currently known and officially named elements that make up the periodic table (IUPAC 2016).

The periodic table arranges the elements, with their atomic physical and chemical properties, in order of atomic number and fits them into a logical pattern. Eighteen columns divide the elements into groups with closely related physical properties. Rows list elements in order of mass and are called series or periods. Properties of elements change in a systematic way through a period.

**Atomic number**  
The atomic number is equal to the number of protons in the nucleus.

**Relative atomic mass**  
The ratio of the average mass of the various isotopes (forms) of an element to one twelfth of the mass of a carbon-12 atom in its ground state. A number in brackets indicates that all isotopes of the element are unstable, i.e. radioactive.



“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

# ACHIEVING SUCCESS

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

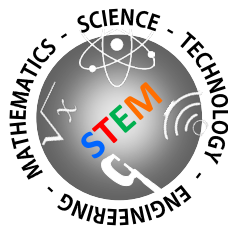
We have a very strong reward system which celebrates all levels of success and encourages students to do their very best.

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 real pride in their own achievements and to respect the achievements of others.





# Sandringham School

*'Everybody can be Somebody'*

Headteacher - Alan Gray

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