



Prospectus

The Sandon School
sandon.essex.sch.uk





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01245 473611

Aiming high

ner together

I am delighted to welcome prospective students and their parents/carers to The Sandon School.

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make as a family. As Headteacher, I am proud to lead a school where academic excellence, character development and a strong sense of community go hand in hand.

We want every student to feel known, valued and supported, while also being challenged to achieve their very best. Our vision of **Aiming Higher Together** reflects the partnership at the heart of our school. Students, staff, parents and carers all share a common purpose: helping every child succeed. By working together, we create the support, challenge and encouragement that enables young people to thrive.

At Sandon, we believe that education is transformational. Our role is not simply to help young people achieve excellent qualifications, although these open doors and create opportunities. It is also to help every student grow in confidence, develop character, discover their strengths and become the very best version of themselves.

Guided by our community values, we strive to ensure that every student leaves Sandon with the **knowledge** to succeed, the **character** to contribute and the **confidence** to thrive.

I hope this prospectus gives you a sense of what makes Sandon such a special place. I look forward to welcoming you and your family to our community.

Mr Jon Pead
Headteacher

Join us on a transformational 7 year journey...

At The Sandon School, it is our belief that education is transformational. For every young person, regardless of background, education has the power to transform not simply what they achieve, but who they become.



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The Sandon School

Prospectus

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Teaching and learning

At The Sandon School, excellent teaching is at the heart of everything we do, combining high expectations with engaging, purposeful learning that enables every student to succeed. Our consistent approach to teaching, built around the Sandon Six, ensures that every lesson provides the challenge, support and opportunity students need to find success.

What is the Sandon Six?

The Sandon Six is a comprehensive framework designed to enhance the educational experience of our students. This initiative, together with some key embedded teaching and learning expectations, focuses on six key areas that we believe are essential for fostering a well-rounded, inclusive and effective learning environment that challenges all of our learners.

Clear intent

Clear intent involves defining specific, measurable learning objectives for each lesson and unit. This helps students understand what they are expected to learn and achieve. It also allows teachers to plan and deliver instruction that is focused and purposeful.

Literacy, numeracy and inclusion

Literacy and numeracy are foundational skills that are essential for academic success. Inclusion ensures that all students, regardless of their background, strengths, or abilities, are fully integrated into the school community. This area focuses on the development of reading, writing, key vocabulary, oracy, and numeracy skills, as well as providing targeted support to help every student succeed.

Adaptive teaching

Adaptive teaching acknowledges that students acquire knowledge and skills across the curriculum at different rates and in different ways. Teachers combine an excellent understanding of their class with a range of instructional strategies, such as personalised learning plans, flexible grouping, differentiated tasks, and expertly targeted questioning, to ensure that all students can access and succeed in their learning.

Active learning

Active learning shifts the focus from the passive reception of information to active participation in the learning process. This approach includes activities such as experiments, discussions, problem-solving tasks, and collaborative projects, which help students engage deeply with the material, develop critical thinking skills, build confidence, and retain knowledge more effectively.

Teach to the top

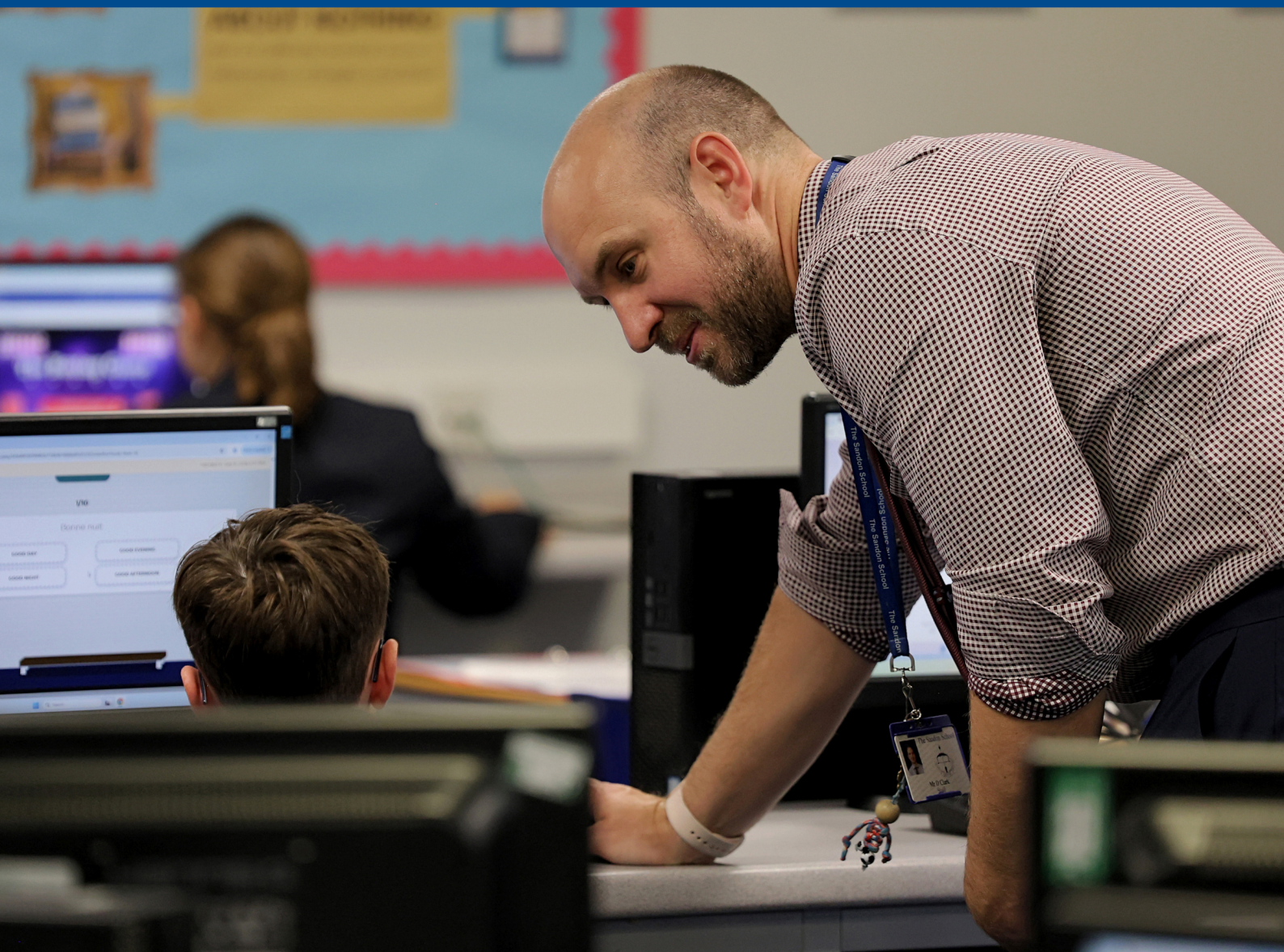
All students are challenged to think deeply, develop ambitious goals, and achieve high standards. Learning is designed with high expectation at its core, introducing complex ideas and rich subject knowledge for every student. Teachers provide appropriate scaffolds and support where needed, enabling all learners to access challenging content, build confidence, and make excellent progress without lowering expectations.

Assessment for learning

Assessment for Learning (AfL) is a formative approach that focuses on using assessment as a tool to support and enhance student learning during lessons. Rather than simply measuring achievement, AfL involves actively identifying students' strengths and areas for improvement, providing timely and constructive feedback, and encouraging reflection. It supports teachers in adapting instruction to meet the needs of learners.

Pastoral Care

At The Sandon School, every child is known, valued and supported. Through strong pastoral care, a focus on wellbeing, and an inclusive culture, we help every student develop the confidence and sense of belonging needed to thrive.



Tutor Groups and Enrichment

Every student has a dedicated form tutor that they see at the start of each day. Form tutors lead our Enrichment curriculum. Shaped by student voice, the programme includes PSHE, careers education, British Sign Language, First Aid, money management, study skills and future pathways, helping students develop confidence, character and lifelong skills.

Pastoral Team Structure

Every year group at Sandon benefits from a Teaching Head of Year, Non-Teaching Pastoral Lead and dedicated Year Administrator. Together, they provide academic guidance, pastoral care and day-to-day support, ensuring every student is known, valued and supported throughout their journey, while maintaining strong partnerships with families.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and sits at the heart of all that we do. We provide a safe, supportive and inclusive environment where every student feels valued and known. Our experienced pastoral and safeguarding teams work closely with students and families to provide guidance and support, promoting wellbeing, respect and positive relationships.

Mobile Phones

Sandon is a phone-free school. By removing the distraction of mobile phones during the school day through our mandatory pouches, students are free to focus on learning, build stronger friendships and engage more fully in school life. The result is a calmer, more connected community where young people can thrive academically and socially.

Sandon SMART

Our SMART values define what it means to be a Sandon student. We encourage every young person to be Successful, Motivated, Ambitious, Respectful and Trustworthy. These values shape our culture, guide our expectations and help students develop the character, and integrity needed to thrive in school, in their community and in the future.

Wellbeing

Student wellbeing is a key priority at The Sandon School. We recognise that young people achieve their best when they feel happy, supported and connected. Through our dedicated pastoral team, wellbeing programmes, mentoring opportunities and access to specialist support where needed, we help students build resilience, confidence and positive mental health. We aim to create a caring community where every student is encouraged to reach their full potential.



A curriculum for

We recognise our responsibility to prepare students for an ever-changing future, equipping them with the resilience, confidence, and skills needed to thrive in careers that may not yet exist.

Our ever-expanding curriculum offer includes a vast range of subjects, taught by expert teachers and subject specialists, who work to develop far more than an understanding of examination specifications. Through a rich and ambitious curriculum, students build knowledge, curiosity, creativity, character, and a lifelong love of learning.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum provides students with a broad and balanced education, ensuring they develop strong foundations across a wide range of disciplines while discovering new interests and talents. Our KS3 offer includes:

Art
Computing
Drama
Design Technology
English
Enrichment (PSHE)

Ethics, Philosophy and Religion
Food Technology
French
History
Geography
Mathematics

Music
Physical Education
Spanish
Science
Textiles



For the future

At Key Stage 4, students follow a broad and balanced curriculum that combines compulsory core subjects with a range of option choices. This allows students to build on the foundations established in Key Stage 3 while exploring subjects that reflect their interests, strengths, and aspirations. Through a supportive options process, students receive guidance from teachers, tutors, and careers advisors to help them make informed decisions about their future.

Our comprehensive careers programme ensures students understand the pathways available to them, enabling them to choose courses that keep future education, training, and employment opportunities open.

Our KS4 curriculum offer includes:

Art and Design
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Child Development
Combined Science
Computer Science
Creative iMedia
Curriculum Skills
Design and Technology
Drama

English Language
English Literature
Enterprise and Marketing
Film Studies
Food and Cookery
Food and Nutrition
French
Further Mathematics
Geography
Health and Fitness
Health and Social Care

History
Music
Performing Arts (Dance)
Photography
Physical Education
Physics
Psychology
Religious Education
Sociology
Spanish
Textiles

Sixth Form

Curriculum

At The Sandon School Sixth Form, students can choose from over 25 qualifications, including A Levels and vocational pathways, allowing them to build a programme that reflects their strengths, interests and aspirations. Supported by expert teaching and outstanding guidance, students are challenged and supported to excel academically.

Careers

Our dedicated careers and UCAS support programme provides personalised guidance at every stage of Sixth Form. Through expert advice, university and apprenticeship support, employer engagement and tailored application guidance, students are empowered to make informed decisions about their future and leave Sandon confident, ambitious and ready for the next step.

Community

Community is at the heart of Sixth Form life at Sandon. Students make a meaningful contribution through roles such as Reading Partners, Peer Mentors, Subject Support Ambassadors and the Head Student Committee. From leading sustainability initiatives to supporting charitable causes, students develop leadership skills, strengthen our community and make a positive difference to others.





Higher Education Destinations

Anglia Ruskin University	Nursing (Adult) Nursing (Child)
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Cardiff University	Accounting and Finance History
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Loughborough University	Automotive Engineering Graphic Design Physics Psychology
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Oxford Brookes University	Photography
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The University of Edinburgh	Fine Art
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The University of Brighton	Contemporary History Law Sports Journalism
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The University of the Arts London	Fashion Imaging Fashion Journalism
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University of East Anglia	Accounting and Finance Artificial Intelligence Business Management Economics and Finance Law with Criminology Media Studies
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University of Essex	History and Heritage Physiotherapy
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University of Exeter	Law
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University of Kent	Biology Psychology
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University of Leeds	Marketing
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University of Manchester	Economics Zoology
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University of Nottingham	Economics Industrial Economics
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University of Reading	Art and Psychology Economics Food Science Sociology
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University of Southampton	Law
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University of Surrey	Biochemistry
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University of Sussex	Computer Science
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University of York	Law
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A Sandon education is built on three pillars that shape every student's experience. Together, they ensure that every young person achieves academically, feels a strong sense of belonging and embraces opportunities beyond the classroom.



SANDON BELONG

A PLACE WHERE EVERY STUDENT
FEELS KNOWN AND VALUED.

At Sandon, we foster an inclusive community where every student feels a genuine sense of belonging.

Through exceptional pastoral care, positive relationships and a culture of kindness and respect, students are empowered to thrive both personally and socially. From our highly personalised transition programme for 'Year 7' students to our dedicated SEND provision, we ensure that every young person is known, supported and valued throughout their Sandon journey.



SANDON SUCCESS

A PLACE WHERE EVERY STUDENT
ACHIEVES THEIR POTENTIAL.

A challenging curriculum and high academic expectations inspire our young people to achieve their potential and develop the knowledge and skills to succeed. Our comprehensive intervention programmes ensure that students receive the guidance, support and challenge they need to excel. Excellent outcomes are about more than results; they are life-changing opportunities. By securing strong qualifications, we help students unlock future pathways and fulfil their ambitions.



SANDON BEYOND

A PLACE WHERE OPPORTUNITIES
BROADEN HORIZONS.

Our extensive super-curricular programme encourages students to explore new interests, develop character and discover hidden passions. Through our acclaimed lecture series, a wealth of enriching educational and adventure visits, volunteering opportunities and wide-ranging careers, learners are inspired to go beyond expectations, broaden their horizons and become the very best version of themselves.



Super-curricular at Sandon

At The Sandon School, education is about more than what students learn. It is about who they become. Our super-curricular programme challenges students to be adventurous, explore, create, compete, lead and gain independence. Through these experiences, they develop confidence, character and ambition, discovering talents, passions and possibilities that will shape their future.

CHELMSFORD CROWN COURT – COLCHESTER ZOO – EMIRATES STADIUM
GLOBE THEATRE – INTERNATIONAL SKI TRIP – MADRID – MILAN – NUCLEAR RACES
PARIS – SCIENCE MUSEUM – THE GREAT GATSBY, LONDON – THE SOMME
THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG, LONDON – UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
WARNER BROTHERS STUDIOS – WIMBLEDON TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Trips and Visits

Our extensive programme of trips and visits brings learning to life beyond the classroom. From cultural experiences and theatre visits to universities, museums, sporting venues and international travel, students have opportunities to explore new places, deepen their knowledge and broaden their horizons. These memorable experiences build confidence, independence and curiosity, while creating friendships and memories that last a lifetime.

Electives

Our electives programme is an important part of the Sandon experience. With more than 30 clubs running before school, at lunchtime and after school, students have countless opportunities to pursue their interests, discover new passions and connect with others. From sport, music and drama to computing, board games and horse riding, these experiences enrich learning, strengthen belonging and help every student flourish.

Student Leadership

We believe leadership is built through service. As Peer Mentors, Prefects and Senior Prefects, students take on meaningful responsibilities that develop confidence, character and influence. By supporting others, leading initiatives and shaping school life, they strengthen our community while gaining the skills and experiences that prepare them to lead beyond Sandon.

Independent Curriculum

Our Independent Curriculum supports students and parents with practical ideas to inspire learning beyond the classroom. From wider reading and podcasts to museums, lectures and academic experiences, it provides families with accessible ways to enthuse, motivate and challenge young people. Students can follow their interests, deepen subject knowledge and develop curiosity, independence and aspiration.

Lecture Series

Our Higher Education-inspired Lecture Series introduces students to the intellectual curiosity and academic thinking associated with university study. Through challenging lectures delivered by staff, academics and visiting speakers, students explore fascinating ideas beyond the curriculum, encounter new disciplines and engage with complex thought-provoking questions.

Careers

Our comprehensive Careers Programme supports students to make confident, informed choices at every stage of their journey. From choosing GCSE options to exploring Post-16 study, apprenticeships and future careers, students receive personalised guidance alongside employer encounters and a valuable work experience placement during key stage 4.

Hear from our Year



“

I made friends really quickly and my teachers are really nice.

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The teachers know you well and help you when you get stuck.

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There's always someone to talk to if you're worried about something.

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I've already been to 6 different clubs. I don't know which to choose!

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It already feels like I've been at Sandon for ages.



What our parents say

'I've been so impressed with the school. The small touches such as a card from the headteacher to the students over the summer, the taster days in the holidays were so beneficial, the email to parents from the head of year was a lovely touch. The colour run was so fun for the children.'

'I think the school have set up an incredible transition period. My daughter was anxious prior to starting. We had a few tears and wobbles, but all the staff have been amazing and she has settled brilliantly. I am so proud of her.'

'I am so pleased with the transition process this year. I have felt in the loop every step of the way and I really appreciate it. Thank you.'

'My son has really enjoyed starting Sandon. It's lovely to see him happy and enjoying his lessons, making new friends and all the extra clubs. The enhanced transition plan has supported well with his SEND needs.'



For further enquiries please
contact our team at
enquiries@sandon.essex.sch.uk

