

# Headteacher's Newsletter to Parents

3 October 2016

## **Raising money to show support for young people's mental health**

### **Monday 10th October**

**For £1 donation students can wear something yellow with their uniform**



## #HelloYellow



**Sandbach High School and Sixth Form College**  
**Middlewich Road, Sandbach Cheshire CW11 3NT**

[www.sandbachhigh.co.uk](http://www.sandbachhigh.co.uk)

[www.sandbachsixthform.co.uk](http://www.sandbachsixthform.co.uk)

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Dear Parent/Carer

Four weeks into the Autumn Term and the attitudes of and progress made by our students have been really pleasing. I should like to thank my colleagues and our students for such a positive start.

### **Charity of the Year 2016/2017**

Having raised nearly £14000 for Cancer Research in 2015/2016 our efforts this year will be focussed on another charity that is close to the heart of our school. YoungMinds is the UK's leading charity committed to improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people. For many years now we have recognised the importance of providing a supportive environment for all members of our community and that is why we have invested heavily in our own school counsellor and nurse practitioner, supplementing the statutory services such as the School Nurse and CAMHS that are available.

In addition to helping to further raise awareness of the challenges our young people face we would now like to help raise funds for YoungMinds. With this in mind, and to coincide with World Mental Health Day (Monday 10 October), we are joining in the #HelloYellow campaign.

Nearly 80,000 children and young people suffer from severe depression and on average, three children in every classroom in the UK have a diagnosable mental health disorder. We want to help put a spotlight on young people's mental health and get everyone joining in on the conversation.

I am not proposing a non-uniform day rather, and for one day only, an opportunity for everyone (staff and students alike) to wear something yellow such as a yellow scarf, a yellow tie, yellow socks or even yellow lipstick or nail varnish (subject to the girls removing it for the next day) and donating £1. So, let's donate £1, find something yellow and wear it with pride.

### **An early insight in to life in Sandbach College!**

College life has well and truly commenced with the start of the inter-form competitions which saw some impressive performances in the tug-o-war and effective collaboration and cooperation in a range of team challenges. Who will be the form champions this year??

Our Student Subject Ambassadors and Student Leadership Group welcomed our Year 11 in to Sandbach College to showcase what is on offer to them next year when they move into Year 12. They proudly represented their College. They were articulate, professional and really helpful - thanks to everyone involved and a special mention to Nadia Barr, Laura Kirby, Katie Warrington & Caledonia Swindells-McLeod who were brave enough to speak to the whole year group and parents during the welcome speech.

As the in-house deadline for our Year 13 Early Entry UCAS students approaches, it seems only appropriate to wish all our former College students the best of luck as they take up their well-deserved and hard-earned places at University.

The new Sixth Form build is nearing completion. We await mains gas and water connections but for this the contractors require access to Middlewich Road which in terms of being dug up is a very popular road and so we wait on our turn.

## Reports

We constantly strive to improve our communication with parents about the progress that their daughter/son is making, recognising that, in comparison with many schools the opportunities available to parents here are significantly greater than in many other schools and colleges. In response to staff, pupil and parental feedback, and following the correspondence I have had with several parents about how we can develop our approach as we work our way through the transitional period prompted by the move from KS levels and GCSE grades to the New Numerical GCSE Grades (NNGGs), we have made a number of changes to our reporting system.

With effect from the current reporting round:

1. We will no longer report a Progress Indicator.
2. The aspirational target now becomes the only target we include on reports and is renamed the **SHS Target**. This means the removal from the reports of the minimum expected grade. It is recognised that currently this minimum expected grade is, in many cases (current year 10 for example), too low and not in line with our expectations.
3. Attitude to Learning. The present AtL and r2L (Readiness to Learn) systems will be streamlined with the AtL grade renamed as an r2L grade. The grades will still be L E M O.
4. To indicate progress, reports will include the pupil's previous reported grade, for example:

A Year 11 report :

SHS end of Y11 Target	Previous grade	Current grade	r2L
7=	5+	6-	M

For the current year 7 there will be no previous grade on their first report

SHS end of Y7 Target	Y7 Baseline	r2L
3	2-	E

## Employment opportunities

We are looking to recruit Mid Day assistants to help supervise the school between 12.15 and 1.15pm, term time only. In addition to a lunch allowance we are offering a rate of £10 per hour for suitably experienced applicants. If you are interested or know someone who might be please ask them to contact Mrs J Street here in school.

Also, we are seeking a full time, permanent Mathematics teacher to join our successful Mathematics Department with effect from January 2017. Again, if you are interested or know someone who might be please ask them to contact Mrs J Street here in school.

## Parent View

In addition to our own annual survey Ofsted are inviting parents to answer 12 key questions about their children's schools via their Parent View website. Parents register to use this at:

<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk> using your own e-mail address.

## Year 7 Family Fun Night 7th October.

The Family Fun Night is a new venture that is being run by the PFA. The idea of the evening is for girls to come along with you and any other members of your family and enjoy a bit of social time together with other Year 7 families. We are aware that there is little opportunity for parents to meet other parents as there may have been at primary school and it is hoped this evening will provide you with an opportunity to meet the new friends your daughter is always talking about and their parents.

The event will take place in the school hall from 7pm until 9pm on the 7th October. There is no entry fee and no tickets are needed, your daughters' form teacher may ask for a show of hands to get an idea of numbers attending, but you do not need to contact school to book a place.

Each form has been set a few challenges that they can win prizes for, one of which is to bring in an item of food to share on a buffet table that they will be responsible for decorating. Your daughter's form teacher will help to organise this and ensure your daughter knows what she needs to bring. Each form has also been asked to make a hamper to raffle off on the evening, again they will organise what items are needed in their form and when they need to bring this in.

On the evening each form will have a table with a buffet of the items they (with your help) have prepared, there will be quizzes and games to get involved in and time to meet other parents and have a chat. There will be a tuck shop and a bar for drinks, and there will be the raffle of the hampers.

Hopefully it will be a most enjoyable evening. Any money raised will go to the PFA, who work hard to buy additional items in school that extend your daughters' learning experience.

And, if anyone is willing and able to spend 30 mins or an hour on the tuck shop or bar on the evening please let Mrs J Unwin know at [junwin@sandhigh.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:junwin@sandhigh.cheshire.sch.uk)

## School Calendar 2017/2018

HOLIDAY DATE	DATE OF CLOSING	DATE OF RE-OPENING
SUMMER 2017	THURSDAY 20 JULY	FRIDAY 1 SEPTEMBER (STAFF)
		MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER (STUDENTS)
AUTUMN HALF TERM 2017	FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER	MONDAY 30 OCTOBER
CHRISTMAS 2017/2018	THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER	WEDNESDAY 3 JANUARY 2018
SPRING HALF TERM 2018	FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY	MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY
EASTER 2018	THURSDAY 29 MARCH	MONDAY 16 APRIL
SUMMER HALF TERM	FRIDAY 25 MAY	MONDAY 4 JUNE
SUMMER 2018	THURSDAY 19 JULY	MONDAY 3 SEPTEMBER (STAFF)
		TUESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER (STUDENTS)

## Overcoats, umbrellas and shoes

Sadly the weather is turning more inclement and I would like to encourage students, as necessary, to reflect on their attire when coming to school in a morning. I am amazed at times just how many turn up in a morning, when the rain is thrashing down or it is exceptionally cold, without an umbrella, wearing no overcoat or wearing very simple "ballet" style shoes offering little protection against the elements. Overcoats, umbrellas and "sturdy" shoes are acceptable whatever your daughter might say!

## Parental attendance on school trips

An important aspect of school life is our rich and varied extra-curricular activity programme which sees students enjoying a range of enhancing experiences during the school day and beyond. We welcome expressions of interest from parents who would like to accompany any of the trips/visits (even if their daughter is not involved) in a supervisory capacity. Already several parents have accompanied a number of trips thoroughly enjoying the time and offering us in turn much needed support to help sustain our programme and hence the opportunities open to our students. Outlined below are some of the forthcoming events and in the school calendar previously circulated and available on the web site additional events are noted. If this might be of interest to you do please let me know.

## G8Way3 (Parent Portal)

One of the more common requests the school receives relating to G8Way3 is the ability for parents to be able to view homework in order to support their daughter's progress. With effect from the start of the new term we have introduced an electronic Homework Diary attached to G8Way3 enabling students and parents to view homework online. It is envisaged that this will enable students to better plan and manage their workload and allow staff to access more easily information to offer any support that may be necessary. All students at Sandbach High School are able to access G8Way3 and the school network (Remote Access) using their username and password either in school or at home, providing they have access to the internet. There may be a small number of students who do not have internet access outside school (either via smart phone, tablet or PC) and for students where this is genuinely the case the existing arrangement of recording homework in the student planner will continue. In addition to viewing homework in G8Way3, parents can access information relating to their child's attendance, BfL grades, assessments and timetable. Parents can also update their own or their child's personal details directly by accessing the link to the Data Collection Sheet. Access to G8Way3 can be requested by emailing [helpdesk@sandhigh.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:helpdesk@sandhigh.cheshire.sch.uk).

## Headteacher Surgeries - Air your thoughts?

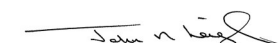
Periodically I hold surgeries when I make myself available for parents to come along and share with me any matters/issues that might be of concern to them and/or positive reflections on the work of our school. To this end I will be available for "drop-in sessions" in my room as follows. No appointment necessary, simply come along and share your thoughts.

Monday, 10 October between 5.00 pm and 6.30 pm

Wednesday, 12 October between 5.30 pm and 7.30 pm

I look forward to seeing you at one of the above surgeries or alternatively at one of the forthcoming events. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at [jmleigh@sandhigh.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:jmleigh@sandhigh.cheshire.sch.uk) if you would like to raise any matters at all.

Yours sincerely



J M Leigh

Headteacher

Do you know where your daughter is, with whom and what she is doing? Please can I remind parents to reinforce to all their children the importance of being vigilant over personal safety both in terms of their physical security as well as their virtual safety when accessing the internet/social media sites? There are some very unpleasant characters in the world, and as many parents already do, we need to ensure that the safety of our children remains a priority both when in sight as well as out of sight.

A useful link for further information on helping to sustain safety in the virtual world is: [http://www.theparentzone.co.uk/parent/information/digital\\_parenting](http://www.theparentzone.co.uk/parent/information/digital_parenting)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 5 October	Parental Engagement KS3 English Information Evening	6.30pm—7.30pm
Thursday 6 October	Common Room Restaurant Open	7pm
Friday 7 October	Year 7 Family Fun Night	7pm—9pm
Monday 10 October	Headteacher's Surgery	5pm—6.30pm
	Assessment Information Evening	6.30pm—7.30pm
Wednesday 12 October	Headteacher's Surgery	5.30pm—7.30pm
	Year 11 Parents' Evening	4.30pm—7.30pm
Monday 17 October	Meet your daughter's Achievement Coordinator	8.30am—11am
		2pm—4pm
Tuesday 18 October	Year 13 Parents' Evening	4.30pm—7.30pm
Wednesday 19 October	Parental Engagement KS3 Maths Information Evening	6.30pm—7.30pm
Thursday 20 October	Autumn Music Concert	7pm
Friday 21 October	INSET DAY (school closed to students)	

The Common Room Restaurant OPEN

6 October  
Sitting 7pm  
£12.50

**Fully Licenced Restaurant open to the public serving top quality meals cooked and prepared by students (under supervision).**

Excellent value for money bistro style cuisine with 3 courses.

Specific dietary requirements must be requested on booking.

To book a table:

email: [commonroom@sandhigh.Cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:commonroom@sandhigh.Cheshire.sch.uk)

Telephone: 07876 872880 or 01270 756897

*Berliner Potato Soup  
with homemade focaccia bread*

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*Pan Fried Duck with Port and Red  
Berries Jus*

*Dauphinoise Potatoes*

or

*Spinach and Ricotta Cannelloni (V)*

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*White Chocolate Panna Cotta  
with honeycomb and raspberry sorbet*

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*Tea and Coffee with Baklava*