



A Message from our Executive Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term. The nights are now darker and the weather has certainly changed and it seems impossible that Christmas could be fast approaching.

It was **lovely** to welcome all the children back after the half term break, as the two weeks before half term we had several students test positive for Covid-19 along with a really bad dose of heavy colds and a sickness bug within school.

In education, we are truly tied to time. Everything has to be done at such a quick pace and in a set time to ensure we complete all that is needed to be done during the school year. It, therefore, feels like time passes so quickly and now that I have been in education for over 26 years, it seems to be passing even quicker, or that could be I am just getting older.

Additional Bank Holiday

You may be aware that next year is Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the Government have just authorised that all staff in education can have an **additional day off**, as the official Jubilee bank holiday falls in May half term.



We feel that it would be too disruptive to take a day off in the summer term, prior to our students facing examinations. We are also very much hoping we can hold physical transition days for our new Year 7 and 9 students, who will be joining us in September 2022.

We are, therefore, going to add this additional day's holiday to the **end** of our **Christmas break**, so we will now be returning on **Wednesday 5th January 2022**.

Apologies that this could not have been added to our calendar sooner, but we have just received confirmation from the DfE ourselves.

Public Health Guidance

You will have hopefully seen the recommended guidance from Central Bedfordshire Council Public Health, regarding face coverings. We are strongly **recommending** that **face masks/shields** are **worn** in **communal areas** around the school by both staff and students, as well on **school** and **public transport**.

We would also encourage twice-weekly **Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing** and continued **sanitising/hand washing** at regular intervals throughout the day.

Public Health guidance has also changed again. Any student who is in a **household** where there is a **positive** case now **does not need to self isolate**. They should, however, carry out daily LFD testing and also take a PCR test 3 to 5 days after the positive case has been confirmed. If the student is negative, they should come in to school - they do not need to self-isolate.

We will be monitoring the situation very carefully, as we have to carry out risk assessments on everything we do in school. Covid-19 has not gone away and we need to ensure that we continue to reduce the possible spread of this virus.

We will, therefore, be continuing to **limit** the number of **visitors** into our school and, for this rest of this academic year, we will be continuing to operate **virtual parent evenings**. This will be reviewed in the summer term.



Vaccinations

The students' **Covid-19 vaccinations** that took place in school went very smoothly and the students were amazing. If your child was not vaccinated and you would like them to be, we would advise that you use the **online booking service** to make your child an appointment with a walk-in clinic, as we do not know when the nursing team will be returning. We are also still **awaiting a date** for the **flu vaccinations**.

Year 11 Mocks

We have had a very busy two weeks back. Students in **Year 11** have been undertaking **mock examinations** and have, on the whole, been exceptional, embracing the new routines and regulations/requirement of the examination boards. It is also their first taste of taking examinations in this way, outside of the classroom for them.

I was very lucky, recently, to have **Hot Chocolate Friday** with a number of students in **Year 11**, who we wanted to recognise for continually meeting our **expectations**. They were a delight to be with and they should be extremely proud of themselves, for their positive attitudes, as I know we were certainly proud of them.

Richard Fuller MP—Visit

On **Friday 5th November**, our **local MP, Richard Fuller**, visited the school to see the fantastic work completed by the whole school ahead of the climate change summit, **COP26**.

 Mr Fuller was presented with some excellent **displays of student work** which identified the issues on climate change together with potential suggestions that we could all do to make a huge difference in **protecting our earth** and the **environment**.

Our **Year 13 Geography** students then presented a highly thought-provoking presentation of solutions that could make a huge difference across the school and our local community to support improving our environment.

This was followed by a question and answer session led by our Head Boy and Head Girl and a brilliant performance from our Dance Company, comprising students from Year 8 upwards, which showed their interruption of climate change, which was outstanding.



I would like to especially **thank Ms Saunders** for organising the drop-down sessions within school and for all of the activities our students undertook, as well as **Miss Mosedale** for her work with the **Dance Company**.

Sixth Form Open Evening

Please be aware our Sixth Form Open Evening will be taking place on **Thursday 25th November**. This will run in a very similar way to October's Open Day, where tickets must be booked online, in advance, via **Eventbrite**. This will enable us to limit the number of visitors on site and assist with social distancing. Please see the letter containing the booking link, which was emailed to all Year 11 families and is also on our **website** and **Edulink** noticeboard, as well as our Facebook page.

We would also ask that, if you wish to attend, you **wear a face mask/shield** and if possible, carry out an LFD test beforehand, to help us make the event



as Covid safe as possible. Unfortunately, if you do not have a ticket for this event we will not be admitting you.

Remembrance Day

We were very pleased to welcome the **Reverend Phil Macauley**, from **St Swithuns Church** in Sandy, and **Mr Roger Sparks**, from the **Royal British Legion**, as they joined us for our **Remembrance Day services**, which took place on the hard courts at the back of the school. We were very proud of our student cadets representing **The Royal Air Force, The Royal Navy, The Army, The Fire & Rescue Service**, as well as **girl guides** and **scout units**. They all represented the school in a perfect manner and I was very proud of each and every one of them.

This year, we divided the services into the lower year groups at 9.30am, with the Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form at 10.30am.

As a whole school, we all **observed the official 2 minute silence at 11.00am**. I have to say I was extremely impressed by the conduct of all of our students, as we remembered those who have fallen and were a credit to you, as parents/guardians, as well as the school, as they stood in silence in immaculate uniform.



The Bike Doctor

We have also been very lucky to have **The Bike Doctor** in school for two days. He offered to service student bicycles for free and made any repairs needed, to ensure they were road worthy.

Given that the mornings and nights are getting darker, we would ask that you do check continually that your child's bike is **road worthy** and that they have **working lights**. We would also strongly recommend that they also wear a **helmet** and where possible something that is **highly visible** or **reflective**.

Christmas Appeal

We would like to be able to help families who are struggling, especially during Christmas and to also recognise individuals who have helped others. We emailed a letter home to all families, earlier this week, asking for **nominations** from you to help us with this.



Please do tell us who we can **help** or **recognise** for their **generosity**, as we really do want to **support** in any way we can.

TikTok

It was with great sadness last week, that I had to write to you regarding disturbing and totally inappropriate videos on **TikTok**. We had to report these to the police as they incited hate and we will not tolerate such attitudes.

We are continuing to be alerted to inappropriate material on this site. I would, therefore, ask for your continued support for us and your child, by **checking** which **social media sites** they are accessing and discuss with them what is appropriate and inappropriate and how such material should be used.

Road Safety

Could I ask that you discuss, with your child(ren), the importance of **road safety**, especially as the darker nights are rapidly closing in.

There have, unfortunately, been several incidents recently where students have crossed the road near the school, **without looking**, or they have been looking at their **mobile phones** whilst crossing the road and, therefore, not aware of surrounding traffic.

We would urge you to please ensure that students are careful when crossing the road and not constantly looking at their mobile phones when they are out and about.



New Dining Area

The new, outside, covered and enclosed **dining area**, in our memorial garden, is nearly complete and will be ready to open in the **next two weeks**. This will increase our dining area capacity and provide additional seating for students across the school.

Final Note

I would like to take this opportunity of welcoming two new members of staff to our administration team. **Mrs T Fuller** and **Mrs J Stewart**, have recently joined us as morning and afternoon **receptionists**, respectively and I am sure you will join me in wishing them the very best as they settle into their **new roles**.

Our **students** have been **exceptional** over the last few weeks and are now getting used to being back in school full time. We very much hope we will not have to return to remote education as we all prefer **face-to-face learning**.

I know this has not been an easy time for any of us and that we still have to live with some limits, due to Covid-19 being very much still around, but our **students** and **staff** are **working together** to ensure that we all are able to progress and develop, as well as re-build our school community.

I would like to **thank** the **students** for the way they are **adjusting** and I would also like to **thank** the **exceptional staff** at the school, all of whom go above and beyond in what ever role they have across the school to ensure the students have the best possible opportunities to fulfil their full potential both academically and socially. I am **incredibly proud** of both the **staff** and **students**

Have a good weekend.

Miss K Hayward
Executive Principal

SEVERE NUT ALLERGY

As some of you are already aware, we have a student with a severe nut allergy and they may not be the only student in the future who has this condition.

A nut allergy is a major issue, as it can create all kinds of serious side effects for the young person if eaten or touched, such as itchininess, urticaria, swelling, eczema, sneezing, asthmas, abdominal pain, drop in blood pressure, diarrhoea, cardiac arrest and Anaphylaxis may occur.

Our school staff have been trained and the appropriate medication is kept in school. However, to avoid any such incident occurring with nut allergies and the affects they can have within seconds, **we are no longer allowing nuts of any kinds, or nut related products, into school.** This also **includes** food **cooked** in **nut oil** and such things as **Nutella, Reese's products, peanut butter, peanut puffs**, etc. Please note that many **cereal** bars also contain **nuts**, so these would not be allowed in school. We would ask that also be aware that **wrappers** from nut products should not be brought into school.

We would be extremely grateful for your support on this matter.



Miss K Hayward



Sandy Spotlight

Achieving excellence beyond belief

Issue 3, 12th November 2021

Remembrance Service: 11th November 2021





Wellbeing webinars

Bringing together Talking Therapies and emotional health events for people across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes.

If you are looking for advice and support for your mental health and wellbeing, join Wellbeing Webinars led by experts from the three local mental health Talking Therapy teams.

Upcoming Nov webinars

- 08 Nov - Get active
- 08 Nov - Food 4 thought
- 10 Nov - Winter blues: don't be SAD
- 12 Nov - How to be compassionate to yourself
- 13 Nov - ACT-ing in line with new values (mindfulness)

To book your space visit
<https://mktalkingtherapies.nhs.uk/blmk-events>



Registered charity number: 1068724



Sandy Spotlight

Achieving excellence beyond belief

Issue 3, 12th November 2021

Football Development Centre Sandy Sports Centre – SG19 1BL by 4 Corner Coaching



Individual skills

UEFA coaches

Team play

High Quality Football Coaching by very experienced coaches
who supplement your own club sessions.

Developing - **Technical skills** – **Physical skills** – **Psychological skills** – **Social skills**

Date - Friday 12th November 2021

£4 per session – 5 week block of Development

Times/ages: 5-6pm = 5 - 9 years & 6-7pm = 10 - 16 years



**UEFA B coaches – Youth Award Level 3 - Enhanced DBS - Safeguarding
BFAS (Basic First Aid for Sport)**

**Contact: Natasha – 07957980492 – natasha@4cornercoaching.co.uk
www.4cornercoaching.co.uk**





Sandy Spotlight

Achieving excellence beyond belief

Issue 3, 12th November 2021

Girls Only Football Development Centre by 4 Corner Coaching



Individual skills



UEFA coaches



**High Quality Football Coaching by very experienced coaches
who supplement your own club sessions.**

Developing - Technical skills – Physical skills – Psychological skills – Social skills

Date - Friday 12th November 2021
£4 per session – 5 week block of Development
At Sandy Sports Centre – SG19 1BL.

Times/ages: 6-7pm = 10 - 15 years

UEFA B coaches – Youth Award Level 3 - Enhanced DBS - Safeguarding
BFAS (Basic First Aid for Sport)

Contact: Natasha – 07957980492 – natasha@4cornercoaching.co.uk
www.4cornercoaching.co.uk





Sandy Spotlight

Achieving excellence beyond belief

Issue 3, 12th November 2021

Academic Calendar: 2021-2022

Sandy Secondary School Academic Calendar - 2021/2022 - SET FINAL



School Holiday	Bank Holiday	ADDITIONAL BANK HOLIDAY	Pupil Day	Training Day
Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22
Mon 6 13 20 27	Mon 4 11 18 25	Mon 1 8 15 22 29	Mon 6 13 20 27	Mon 3 10 17 24 31
Tue 7 14 21 28	Tue 5 12 19 26	Tue 2 9 16 23 30	Tue 7 14 21 28	Tue 4 11 18 25
Wed 1 8 15 22 29	Wed 6 13 20 27	Wed 3 10 17 24	Wed 1 8 15 22 29	Wed 5 12 19 26
Thu 2 9 16 23 30	Thu 7 14 21 28	Thu 4 11 18 25	Thu 2 9 16 23 30	Thu 6 13 20 27
Fri 3 10 17 24	Fri 1 8 15 22 29	Fri 5 12 19 26	Fri 3 10 17 24 31	Thu 7 14 21 28
Sat 4 11 18 25	Sat 2 9 16 23 30	Sat 6 13 20 27	Sat 4 11 18 25	Fri 1 8 15 22 29
Sun 5 12 19 26	Sun 3 10 17 24 31	Sun 7 14 21 28	Sun 5 12 19 26	Sat 2 9 16 23 30
Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22
Mon 3 10 17 24 31	Mon 7 14 21 28	Mon 7 14 21 28	Mon 4 11 18 25	Mon 2 9 16 23 30
Tue 4 11 18 25	Tue 1 8 15 22	Tue 1 8 15 22 29	Tue 5 12 19 26	Tue 3 10 17 24 31
Wed 5 12 19 26	Wed 2 9 16 23	Wed 2 9 16 23 30	Wed 6 13 20 27	Wed 4 11 18 25
Thu 6 13 20 27	Thu 3 10 17 24	Thu 3 10 17 24 31	Thu 7 14 21 28	Thu 5 12 19 26
Fri 7 14 21 28	Fri 4 11 18 25	Fri 4 11 18 25	Fri 8 15 22 29	Fri 6 13 20 27
Sat 1 8 15 22 29	Sat 5 12 19 26	Sat 5 12 19 26	Sat 9 16 23 30	Sat 7 14 21 28
Sun 2 9 16 23 30	Sun 6 13 20 27	Sun 6 13 20 27	Sun 10 17 24	Sun 8 15 22 29
May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	
Mon 2 9 16 23 30	Mon 6 13 20 27	Mon 4 11 18 25	Mon 1 8 15 22 29	
Tue 3 10 17 24 31	Tue 7 14 21 28	Tue 5 12 19 26	Tue 2 9 16 23 30	
Wed 4 11 18 25	Wed 1 8 15 22 29	Wed 6 13 20 27	Wed 3 10 17 24 31	
Thu 5 12 19 26	Thu 2 9 16 23 30	Thu 7 14 21 28	Thu 4 11 18 25	
Fri 6 13 20 27	Fri 3 10 17 24	Fri 1 8 15 22 29	Fri 5 12 19 26	
Sat 7 14 21 28	Sat 4 11 18 25	Sat 2 9 16 23 30	Sat 6 13 20 27	
Sun 1 8 15 22 29	Sun 5 12 19 26	Sun 3 10 17 24 31	Sun 7 14 21 28	

Term 1 - 73 days
Term 2 - 59 days
Term 3 - 63 days = 195 days

Pupil contact will amount to 190 of the 195 days. Schools will be closed on five of the 195 days. These five days will enable teacher training to take place in accordance with Teachers' Conditions of Service.

Training days set as follows: Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd September 2021 (2 days), Friday 26th November 2021 (1 day), Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st July 2022 (2 days).

The law requires that a parent ensures that their child receives a full and efficient education. If you enrol your child at a school, then you must ensure that they attend regularly. Regular school attendance is defined as being in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school and means that is the school is open for 190 days, then this is what your child is expected to attend. We know that excellent school attendance has a positive effect on pupil outcomes.

