Sandy Secondary School

Parents in Partnership
Year 7

What to Expect Evening

2026

Welcome

Miss Karen Hayward

Executive Principal

Mr Andrew Rutter

Head of School

Sandy Secondary School

Our Vision

At Sandy Secondary School, everything we do is about ***empowering our students to shine****.*

We are committed to ***academic excellence****,* ***personal growth****, and creating a* ***safe, inclusive environment*** *where every child can* ***thrive****.*

Together with ***families*** *and our* ***community****, we set* ***high expectations*** *and* ***inspire*** *our students to* ***achieve****,* ***care****, and make a* ***positive difference*** *in the world.*

Our Values

Competitive and Driven

Positive and Resilient

YOUR VALUES

Courteous and Compassionate

Trustworthy and Honourable

Aspirational and Self-Motivated

Sandy Secondary School

Session Aims:

1. Transition and Settling In
2. The Year Ahead
3. The Year 7 Curriculum
4. Teaching and Learning
5. Personal Development
6. Behaviour, Rewards and Expectations
7. Extra Curricular Opportunities
8. Parents in Partnership

1. Transition and Settling In

Mrs Laura Clifton

Associate Assistant Principal (Transition and Gifted and Talented)

Sandy Secondary School

1. Transition and Settling In

Overview

Mrs. L Cross

Vice Principal

Quality of Education - Teaching and Learning

Mr. G Millard

Vice Principal

Culture, Behaviour and Inclusion

Mrs. T Hinson

Vice Principal

Quality of Education

Student Achievement

Sandy Secondary School

1. Transition and Settling In

Pastoral Team

Miss E Broughton
Assistant Principal
Behaviour Attitudes and Pastoral care

Mr G. McAdam
Assistant Principal
Behaviour Attitudes and Pastoral care

Empowering Our Students to Shine

1. Transition and Settling In

Pastoral Team

COURAGE

Miss Frankland and Mrs James
House of Courage

EXCELLENCE

Miss Langdale and Mrs Tyler
House of Excellence

DETERMINATION

Miss Rixon and Mrs Buckley
House of Determination

INSPIRATION

Miss Miller and Mrs Tuffin
House of Inspiration

Empowering Our Students to Shine

Sandy Secondary School

1. Transition and Settling In

Pastoral Team

Pastoral, Safeguarding and Welfare Officer

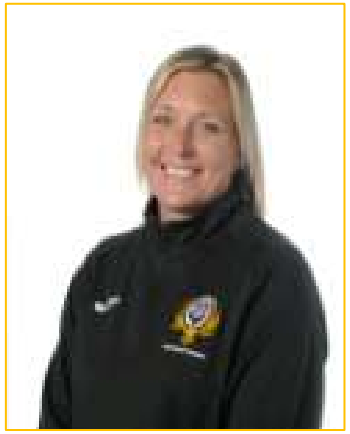
Mrs S Ford

Behaviour Support Worker

Mrs T Harris

Behaviour Support Worker

Mrs S Bloss



<u>Attendance Team</u>

Miss Katie Elder

Ms Joanne Phillips

Empowering Our Students to Shine

1. Transition and Settling In

The Form Tutor plays an important role in supporting the **academic** and **pastoral** needs of our students and will provide them with a familiar face each day…

- They act as a point of contact for parents and students.
- They monitor the academic progress of students.
- They deliver literacy, numeracy and Study 6 input (90 mins per fortnight).
- They deliver the Personal Development (PSHE) and Careers Curriculum (90mins per fortnight).
- They monitor standards of attendance, behaviour and uniform.

Sandy Secondary School

1. Transition and Settling In

- Transition Days
- Welcome Assemblies
- Maps
- Expectations Sessions
- Vertical Tutor Groups
- KS3 Transition Events

- Extra Curricular Clubs
- Year 7 Enrichment Trips
- What to Expect Evening
- Year 7 Settling In Report
- Early Lunch

Patience – Understanding – Care

Sandy Secondary School

2. The Year Ahead

- What to Expect Evening [22-09-26]
- Year 7 Enrichment Trips [12-10-26-14-10-26]
- Year 7 Settling In Report Issued [06-11-26]
- Year 7 Settling In Evening with the Senior Leadership Team [12/11/26]
- Year 7 Christmas Reward Trips [08-12-26]
- Year 7 Progress Reports Issued [12-02-27]
- Year 7 Parent Consultation Evening [04-03-27]
- Year 7 Summer Reward Trip [W/B 12-07-27]
- Year 7 PGL Residential Visit [14-07-27-16-07-27]

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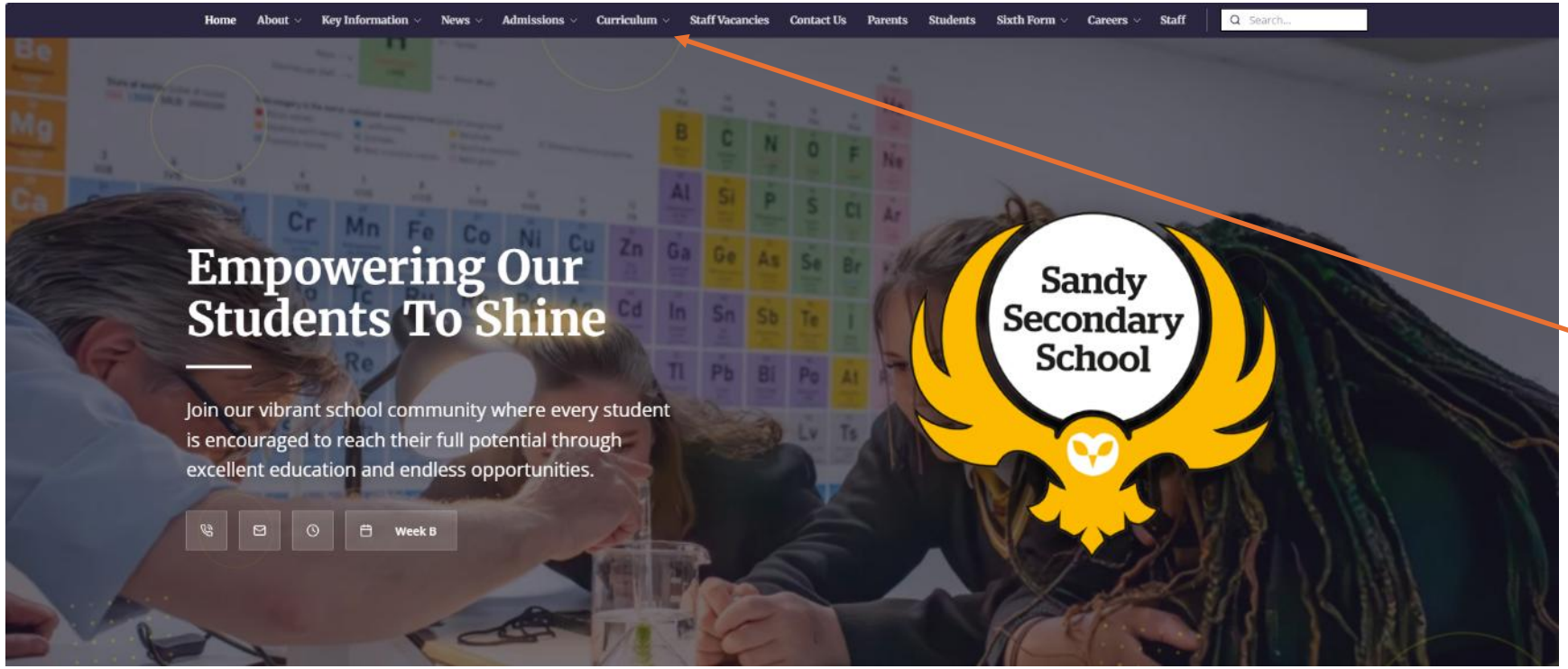
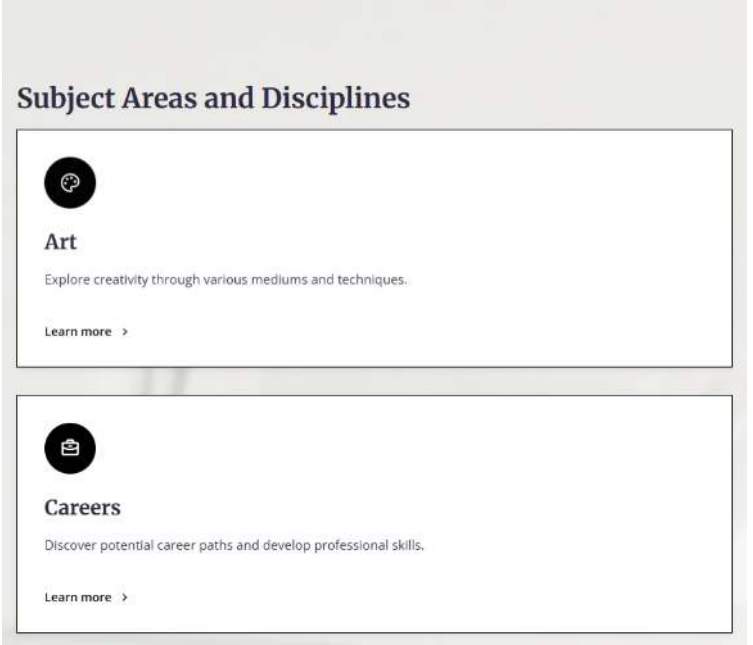
3. The Curriculum



Lots of information about the Year 7 curriculum at Sandy Secondary School can be found on the website in the **Curriculum** section.

3. The Curriculum



- The curriculum should now be starting to feel quite familiar for your child as they follow their **2-week timetable**.

- The core aims of the Year 7 curriculum are to…
  1. Develop **knowledge** and **skills** for future learning.
  2. Provide a **broad learning experience** across a range of subjects.
  3. ***DEVELOP A LOVE OF LEARNING***.

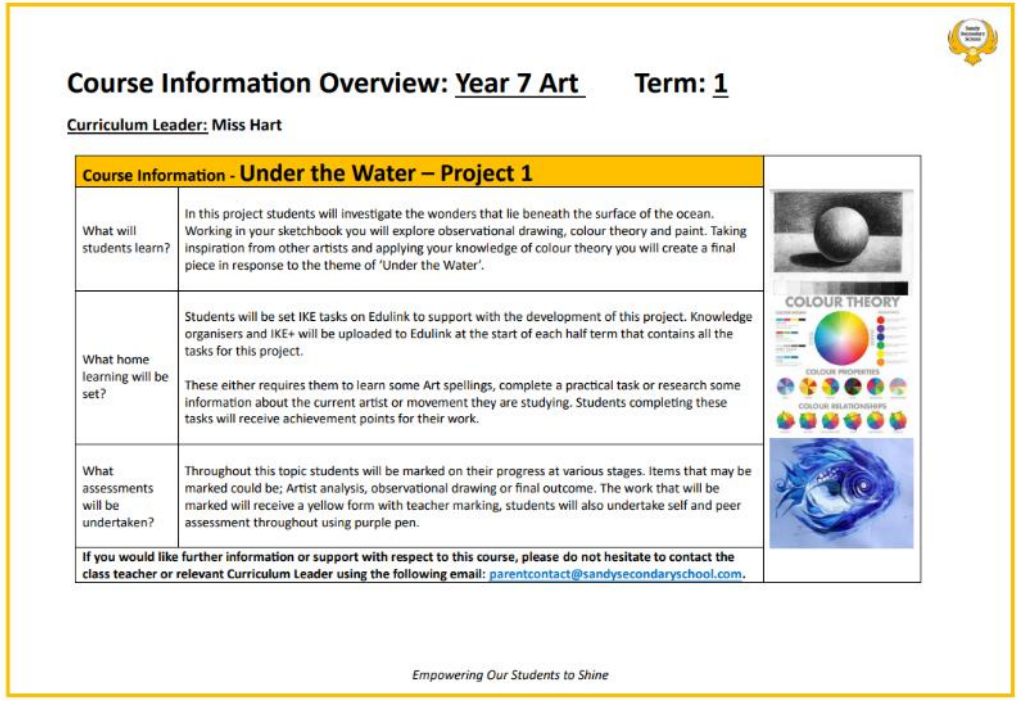
- Students in Year 7 study **16 subjects**: Maths, English, Science, History, Geography, French, Spanish, Art, Dance, Drama, DT, Food, Music, Philosophy and Religious Studies, ICT and Computing and PE.

Sandy Secondary School

3. The Curriculum

What is my child learning and when?

Course Information Overviews can be found on the school website for every subject. These outline what your child will be leaning each term, the home learning that will be set and what assessments they will undertake.



Course Information Overview: Year 7 Art **Term: 1**

Curriculum Leader: Miss Hart

Course Information - Under the Water – Project 1	
What will students learn?	In this project students will investigate the wonders that lie beneath the surface of the ocean. Working in your sketchbook you will explore observational drawing, colour theory and paint. Taking inspiration from other artists and applying your knowledge of colour theory you will create a final piece in response to the theme of 'Under the Water'.
What home learning will be set?	Students will be set IKE tasks on Edulink to support with the development of this project. Knowledge organisers and IKE+ will be uploaded to Edulink at the start of each half term that contains all the tasks for this project. These either requires them to learn some Art spellings, complete a practical task or research some information about the current artist or movement they are studying. Students completing these tasks will receive achievement points for their work.
What assessments will be undertaken?	Throughout this topic students will be marked on their progress at various stages. Items that may be marked could be; Artist analysis, observational drawing or final outcome. The work that will be marked will receive a yellow form with teacher marking, students will also undertake self and peer assessment throughout using purple pen.
If you would like further information or support with respect to this course, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or relevant Curriculum Leader using the following email: parentcontact@sandysecondaryschool.com.	

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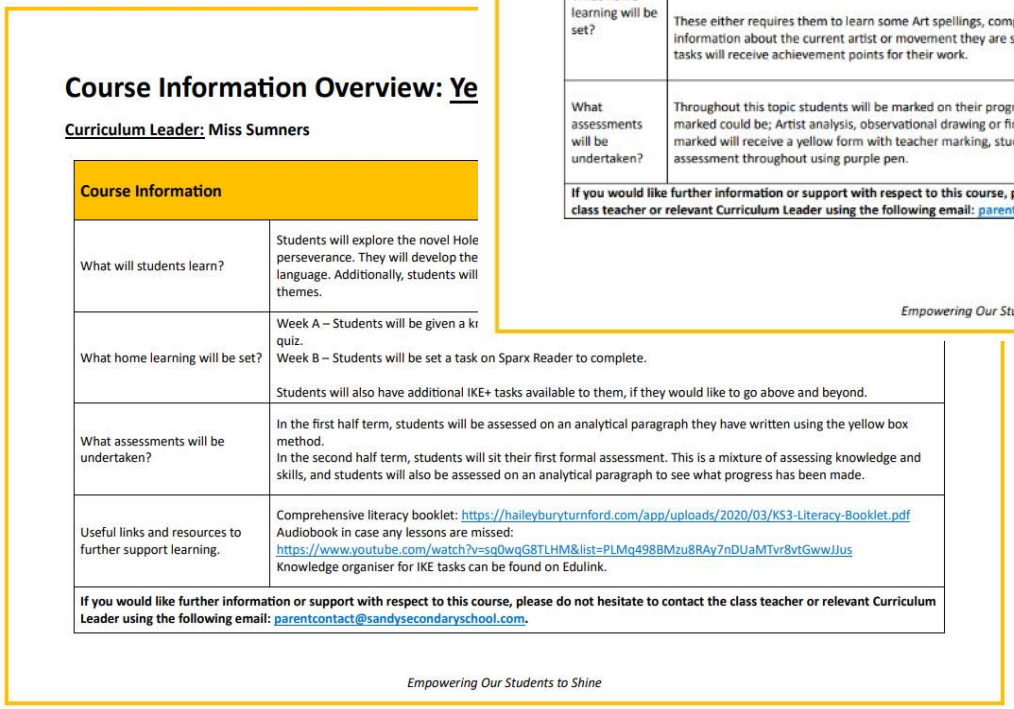


Course Information Overview: Ye

Curriculum Leader: Miss Sumners

Course Information	
What will students learn?	Students will explore the novel Hole perseverance. They will develop the language. Additionally, students will themes.
What home learning will be set?	Week A – Students will be given a kr quiz. Week B – Students will be set a task on Sparx Reader to complete. Students will also have additional IKE+ tasks available to them, if they would like to go above and beyond.
What assessments will be undertaken?	In the first half term, students will be assessed on an analytical paragraph they have written using the yellow box method. In the second half term, students will sit their first formal assessment. This is a mixture of assessing knowledge and skills, and students will also be assessed on an analytical paragraph to see what progress has been made.
Useful links and resources to further support learning.	Comprehensive literacy booklet: https://haileyburyturnford.com/app/uploads/2020/03/KS3-Literacy-Booklet.pdf Audiobook in case any lessons are missed: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sq0wqG8TLHM&list=PLMq498BMzu8RAy7nDUaMTvr8vtGwwJJus Knowledge organiser for IKE tasks can be found on Edulink.
If you would like further information or support with respect to this course, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or relevant Curriculum Leader using the following email: parentcontact@sandysecondaryschool.com.	

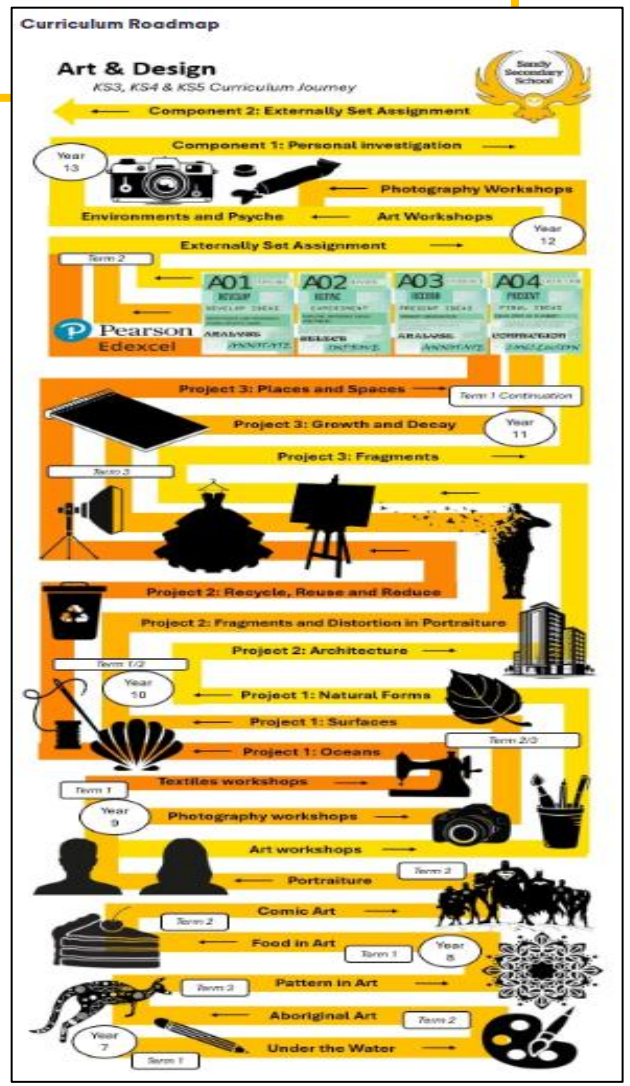
Empowering Our Students to Shine

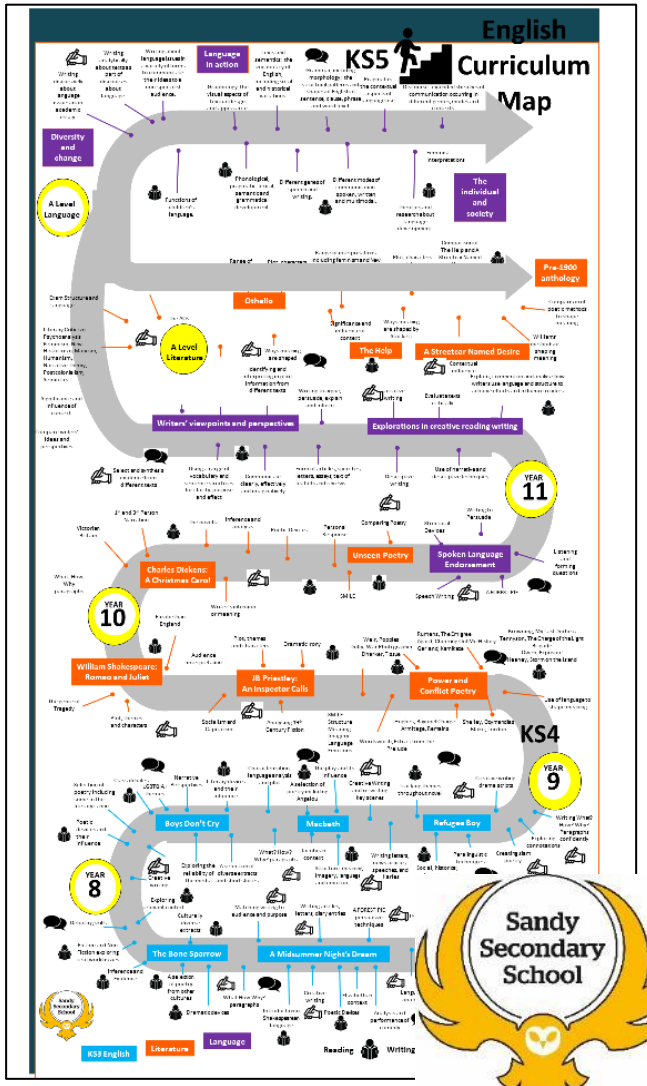
Sandy Secondary School

3. The Curriculum

How does this fit into the 'bigger picture'?

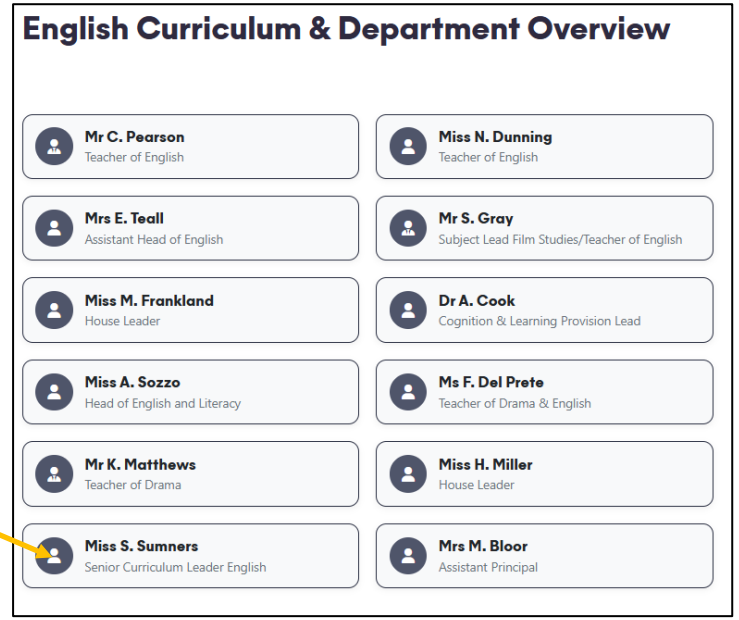
Course Road Maps can be found on the school website for every subject. These outline what skills and knowledge your child will be leaning as they progress through the subject from Year 7-13.

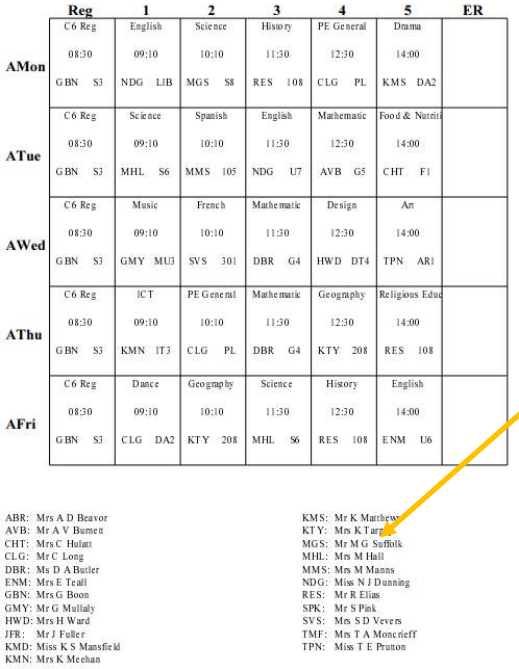




3. The Curriculum

- If you have questions specific to certain subject areas, you will find the list of teaching staff, including **Curriculum Leader**, on the school website.





	Reg	1	2	3	4	5	ER
AMon	C6 Reg 08:30 GBN S3	English 09:10 NDG LIB	Science 10:10 MGS S8	History 11:30 RES 108	PE General 12:30 CLG PL	Drama 14:00 KMS DA2	
ATue	C6 Reg 08:30 GBN S3	Science 09:10 MHL S6	Spanish 10:10 MMS 105	English 11:30 NDG U7	Mathematic 12:30 AVB G5	Food & Nutriti 14:00 CHT F1	
AWed	C6 Reg 08:30 GBN S3	Music 09:10 GMY MU3	French 10:10 SVS 301	Mathematic 11:30 DBR G4	Design 12:30 HWD DT4	Art 14:00 TPN AR1	
AThu	C6 Reg 08:30 GBN S3	ICT 09:10 KMN IT3	PE General 10:10 CLG PL	Mathematic 11:30 DBR G4	Geography 12:30 KTY 208	Religious Educ 14:00 RES 108	
AFri	C6 Reg 08:30 GBN S3	Dance 09:10 CLG DA2	Geography 10:10 KTY 208	Science 11:30 MHL S6	History 12:30 RES 108	English 14:00 ENM U6	

ABR: Mrs A D Beavor
AVB: Mr A V Burnett
CHT: Mrs C Hulatt
CLG: Mr C Long
DBR: Ms D A Butler
ENM: Mrs E Teall
GBN: Mrs G Boon
GMY: Mr G Mullaly
HWD: Mrs H Ward
JFR: Mr J Fuller
KMD: Miss K S Mansfield
KMN: Mrs K Meehan
KMS: Mr K Matthews
KTY: Mrs K Targ
MGS: Mr M G Suffolk
MHL: Mrs M Hall
MMS: Mrs M Manns
NDG: Miss N J Dunning
RES: Mr R Elias
SPK: Mr S Pink
SVS: Mrs S D Vevers
TMF: Mrs T A Moncrieff
TPN: Miss T E Pruton

- If you want to contact a specific **class teacher**, you will find their name on the bottom of your child's timetable.

To contact a member of staff via email, please use parentcontact@sandysecondaryschool.com.

Sandy Secondary School

4. Teaching and Learning

High Quality Teaching

Regular CPD keeps our staff up to date with current educational research and teaching methods. We currently use our Sandy Six to ensure our students experience the highest quality teaching.

Some of our methods include:

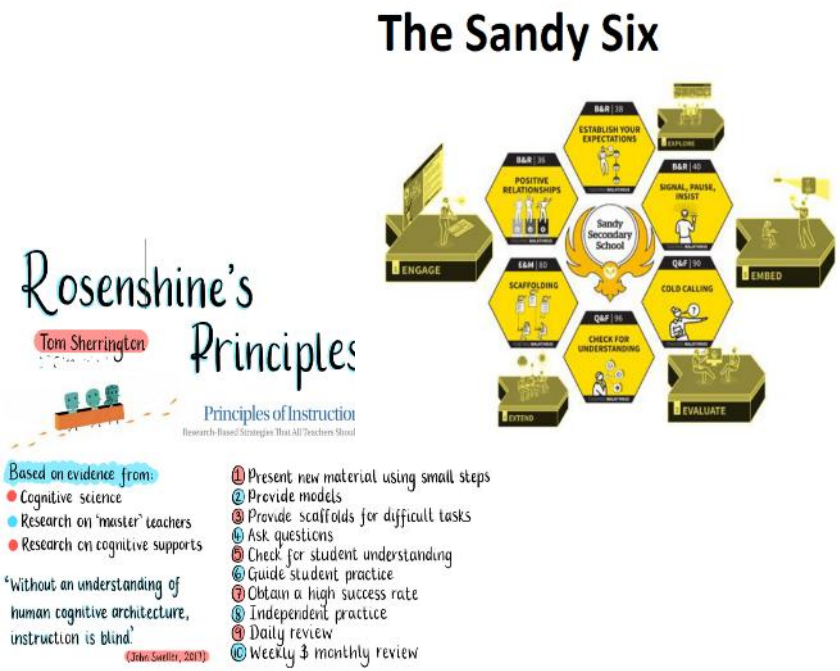
1. Checking for understanding
2. Everyone thinking and ready
3. Setting high expectations
4. Building relationships
5. Scaffolding
6. The use of signal, pause, insist.

This is monitored with regular drop-ins to classrooms, student voice and our robust quality assurance process.

4. Teaching and Learning

Upholding Standards

- Regular whole-school and subject specific CPD.
- Routine lesson ‘drop-ins’.
- Informal monitoring and support for staff.
- Work Sampling.
- Low staff absence.
- High staff retention.
- Student Voice.



4. Teaching and Learning

- Home Learning is **compulsory at KS3** but will remain unsanctioned.
- Home Learning at KS3 will continue to take the form of **knowledge retrieval**, however students will be required to complete their **knowledge quizzes** at home via a specific platform (i.e. Sparx Reader, Sparx Maths, Seneca, Microsoft Teams, etc).
- Teachers will monitor completion, and <u>support will be put into place for those who are not completing it</u>. This will also allow teachers to check for any common misconceptions and address these in lessons.

4. Teaching and Learning

Home Learning Updates
Key Stage 3 – Years 7 and 8

Compulsory
Non-sanctioned

Students will be set **compulsory** Home Learning on Edulink.

Core subjects (English, Maths and Science) set weekly.

Other subjects set fortnightly.

Students to use the subject knowledge organisers to revise over the set key content identified on Edulink.

We will be focusing on a variety of 'Learning Walkthrus' to support students developing independent study skills.

Students to complete quizzes at home on Sparx Reader, Sparx Maths, Seneca or Microsoft Teams dependent on the subject. This will be clearly signposted on Edulink.

Students will still have the opportunity to complete IKE+ activities for 5 achievement points.

Students will be awarded achievement points for completing Home Learning quizzes.

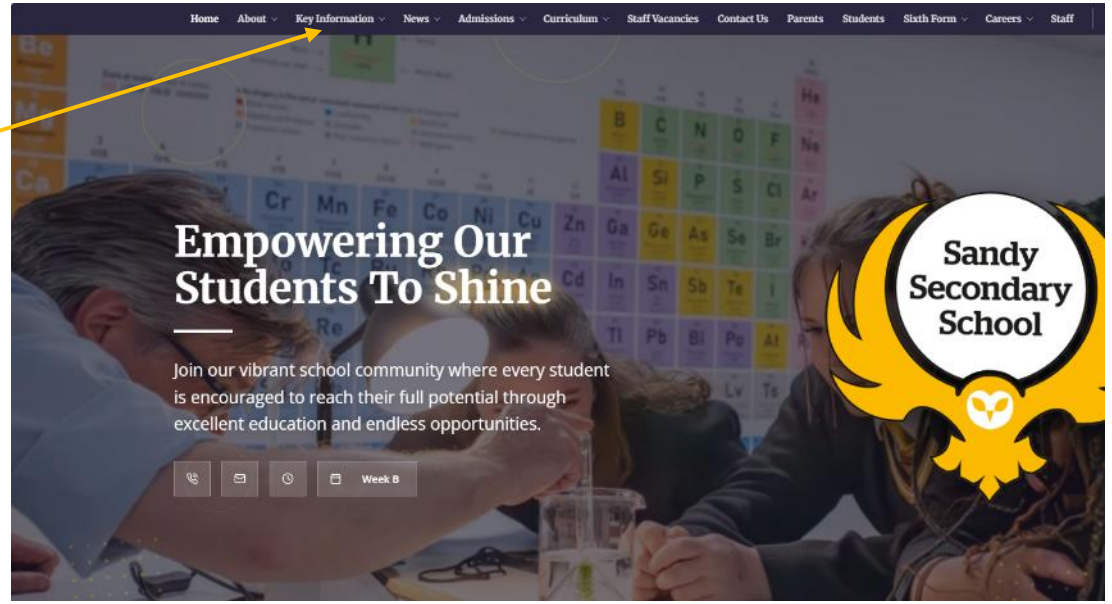
Teachers will follow up with students if not completed and support to complete. Form Tutors will review weekly IKE achievement points and follow up with one-to-one conversations if further support is needed.

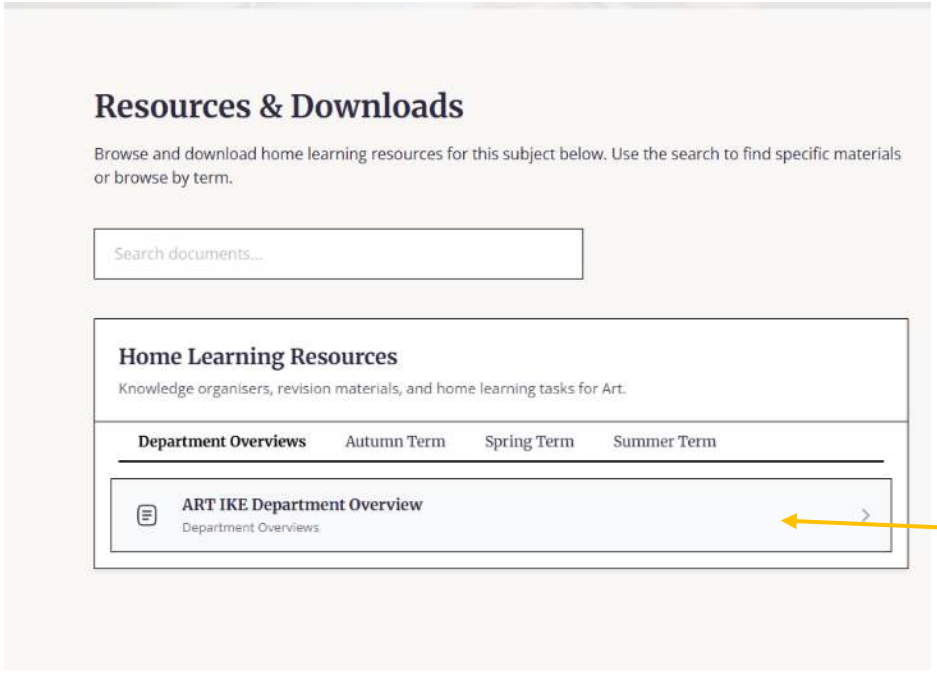
Teachers will use the outcomes from the quizzes to assess whether any misconceptions need to be addressed further in lessons.

Sandy Secondary School

4. Teaching and Learning

Please see the ‘Home Learning’ page under ‘Key Information’ on the school website for further information.





Each subject page will list the Knowledge Organisers to be used for Year 7 Home Learning

4. Teaching and Learning

Edulink: Under the 'homework' tab you will see the list of home learning set. This includes:

- Due Date
- Name
- Subject
- Date Set
- Completion

Due Date	Name	Subject & Class	Available	Submission	Completed	Received
Today 22/09/2025	Tea and Toast practical	Food & Nutrition	08/09/2025 00:00 14 days ago	Not submitted	✗	
In 3 days 25/09/2025	Art IKE+ - @Under The Water' Cover Page	Art	17/09/2025 00:00 5 days ago	Not submitted	✗	
In 4 days 26/09/2025	FRENCH IKE+	French	09/09/2025 00:00 13 days ago	Not submitted	✗	
In 8 days 30/09/2025	Oliver! The Musical - Auditions	Music	08/09/2025 00:00 14 days ago	Not submitted	✗	
In 9 days 01/10/2025	DT - Design Contexts	Design	25/09/2025 09:00 In 3 days	Not submitted	✗	
In 11 days 03/10/2025	ICT IKE 1 - Understanding File Systems	ICT	22/09/2025 08:00 today	Not submitted	✗	
In 11 days 03/10/2025	Student Leadership - APPLY NOW	Other	22/09/2025 07:00 today	Not submitted	✗	
In 14 days 06/10/2025	IKE Holes Characterisation	English	22/09/2025 09:00 today	Not submitted	✗	
In 14 days 06/10/2025	Smoothie Practical	Food & Nutrition	22/09/2025 00:00 today	Not submitted	✗	
In 32 days 24/10/2025	Optional - Literacy Poetry Competition	English	09/09/2025 08:05 12 days ago	Not submitted	✗	
In 32 days 24/10/2025	IKE Plus	History	16/09/2025 00:00 6 days ago	Not submitted	✗	

5. Personal Development

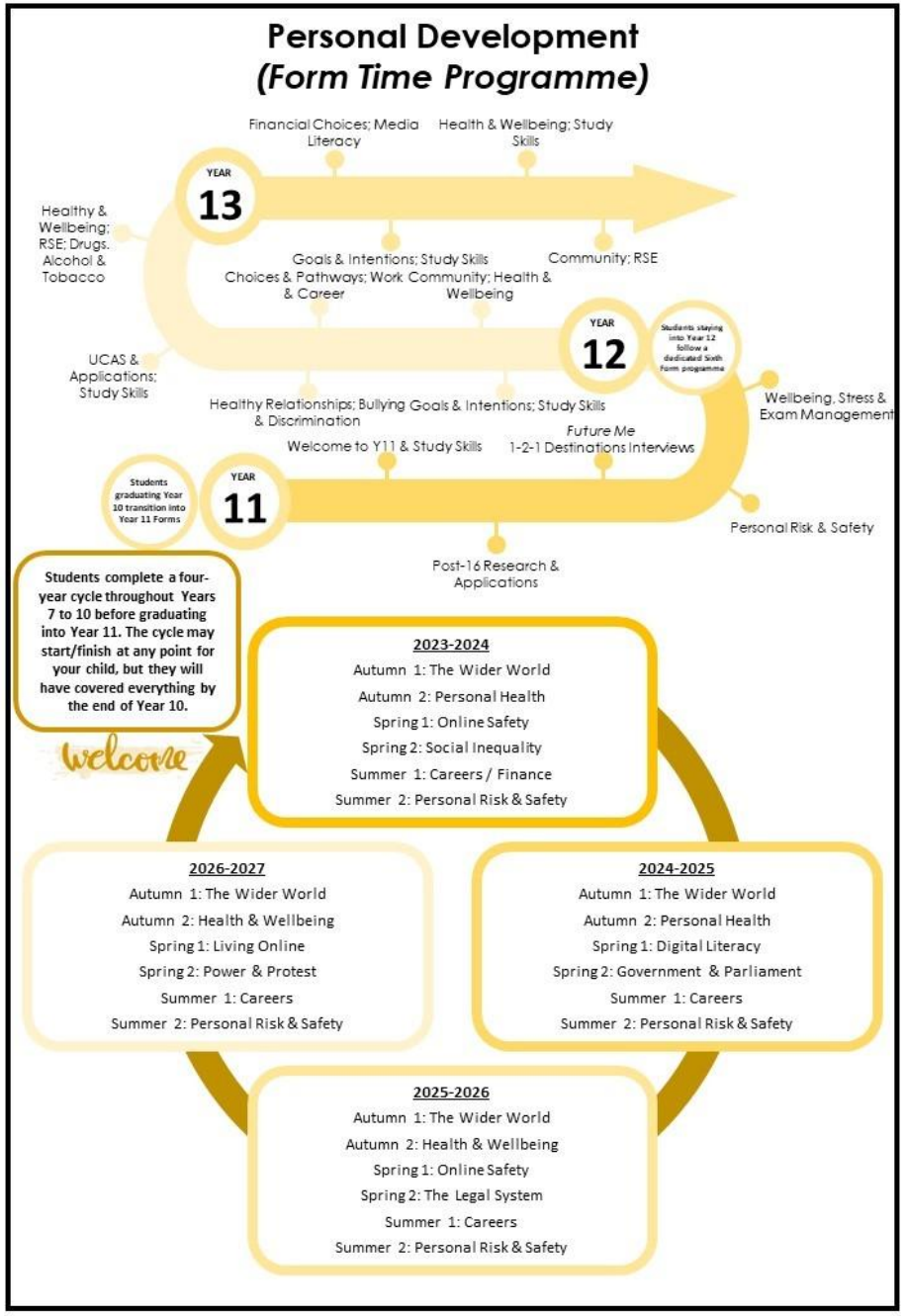
What is 'Personal Development'?

The focus is on nurturing students' growth across academic, social, and emotional strands.

The program supports;

- self-awareness,
- resilience,
- effective communication skills,
- preparing students to face challenges confidently.

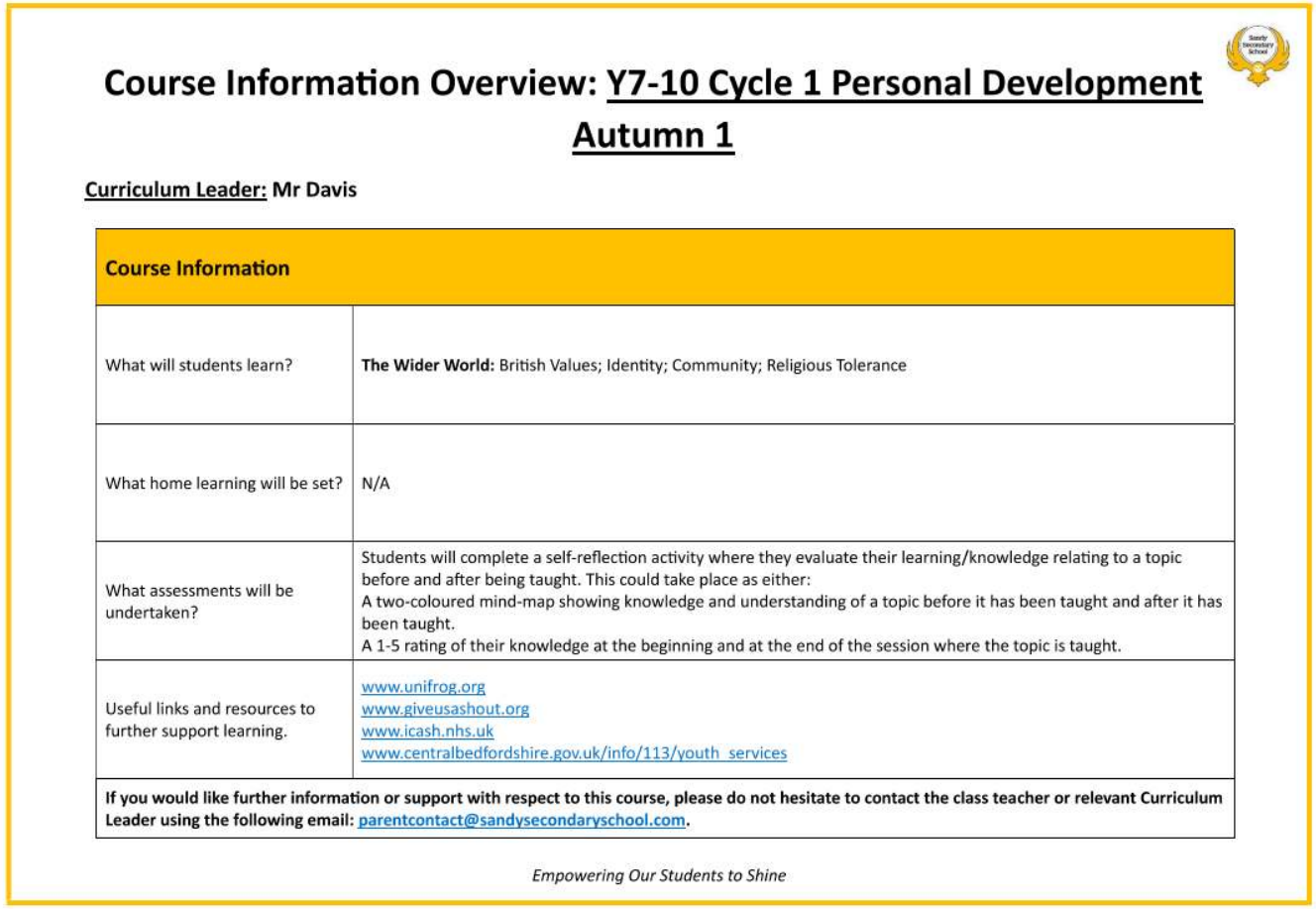
Overall, it aims to equip students with the tools they need for lifelong success and positive contributions to society.



5. Personal Development

Personal Development

You can find the topics being taught each term as part of the 4-year cycle on the school website in the Curriculum folder.



Course Information Overview: Y7-10 Cycle 1 Personal Development Autumn 1

Curriculum Leader: Mr Davis

Course Information	
What will students learn?	**The Wider World:** British Values; Identity; Community; Religious Tolerance
What home learning will be set?	N/A
What assessments will be undertaken?	Students will complete a self-reflection activity where they evaluate their learning/knowledge relating to a topic before and after being taught. This could take place as either: A two-coloured mind-map showing knowledge and understanding of a topic before it has been taught and after it has been taught. A 1-5 rating of their knowledge at the beginning and at the end of the session where the topic is taught.
Useful links and resources to further support learning.	www.unifrog.org www.giveusashout.org www.icash.nhs.uk www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/113/youth_services
If you would like further information or support with respect to this course, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or relevant Curriculum Leader using the following email: parentcontact@sandysecondaryschool.com.	

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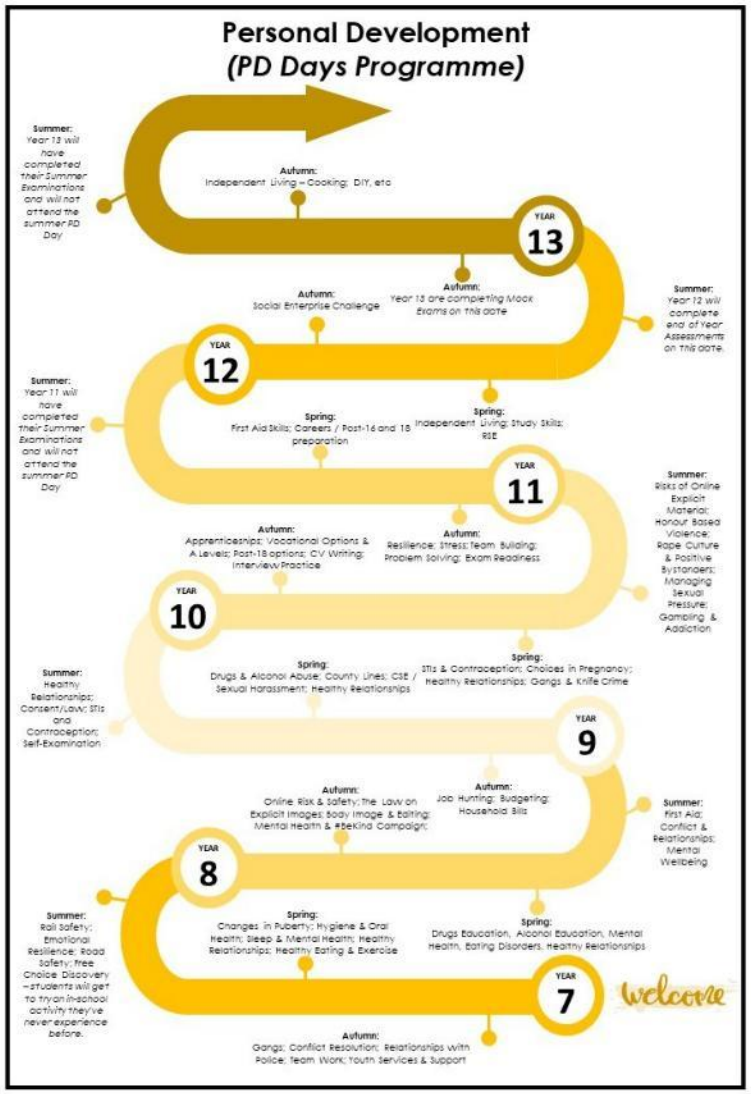
5. Personal Development

Personal Development Days

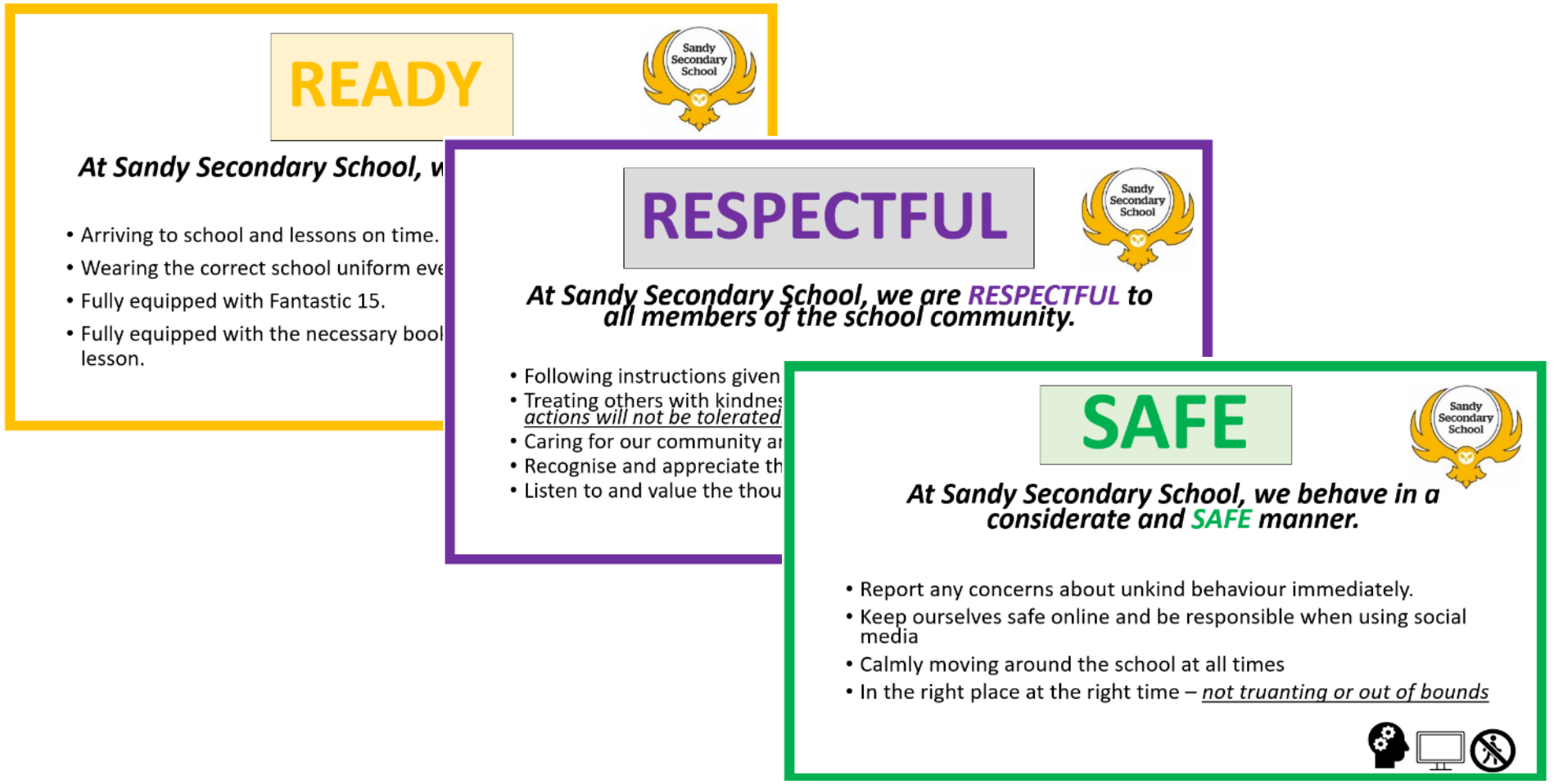
We also run three Personal Development days throughout the year. These allow us to focus in much greater depth on some of the core themes of Personal Development:

Year 7: **Examples of some of the topics covered…**

- Autumn: Teamwork, gangs, conflict resolution, youth services and support
- Spring: Changes in puberty, hygiene, health, sleep and mental wellbeing
- Summer: Road and rail safety, emotional resilience



6. Behaviour, Rewards and Expectations



Our approach to behaviour is based on 3 simple principles…

1. **Ready:** Ready to learn with the correct equipment and appropriately dressed.
2. **Respectful:** To our peers and to the staff. We will be caring and listen to the ideas and opinions of others.
3. **Safe:** We will act in a way that keeps ourself and others safe.

6. Behaviour, Rewards and Expectations

Positive Behaviour Actions and Rewards	Points
100% attendance all year and never late to school or lessons	20
Exceeding all subject target grades for the year	
Attaining target grade or above in at least 6 subjects for GCSE or 3 for Key Stage 5 (awarded by achievement team)	10
Leadership. Representing the school at important events e.g. Awards Evening/Open Evening	
100% attendance for the year	
Attaining no less than 1 grade below Minimum Expected Grade (MEG) in at least 6 subjects for GCSE or 3 for Key Stage 5	5
100% attendance and never late in one half term	
Exceeded MEG in assessment	
Effort/Achievement for IKE +	
Zero behaviour points for the term	
Has consistently displayed the school value of being Driven	
Has consistently displayed the school value of being Compassionate	
Has consistently displayed the school value of being Trustworthy	
Has consistently displayed the school value of being Positive	
Has consistently displayed the school value of being Self-motivated	
Has consistently displayed the school value of being Courteous	
Has consistently displayed the school value of being Competitive	
Has consistently displayed the school value of being Honourable	
Has consistently displayed the school value of being Aspirational	
Has consistently displayed the school value of being Resilient	
Lead an assembly	
Student attained MEG in subject assessment	3
SLT Star award	
Peer mentor work (per week)	
Lead a community event	
100% attendance in one half term	
Zero behaviour points for a half term	
Tutor star of the half term	
Subject Praise postcard achieved	
Participation in events out of school hours	
Attended a School Council meeting	
Effort/Achievement in IKE	
Helping others/ Peer mentor work (per week)	
Producing consistently good work	
Achievement outside of school (sport/music etc.)	
Helping others/ Peer mentor work (per week)	
Achievement outside of school (sport/music etc.)	

To maintain a positive learning environment and build positive relationships with our students, it is vital that we recognise and reward their achievements.

Teacher:

- Written/Verbal praise
- Achievement Points
- Postcards home
- Phone calls home

Whole School:

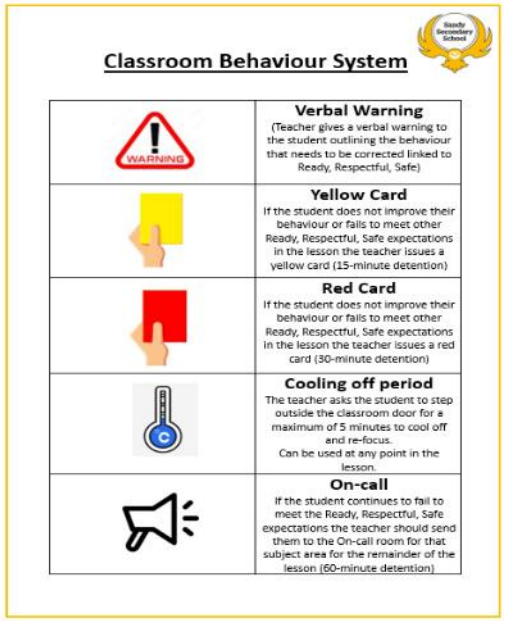
- Half-termly celebration assemblies
- Badges, certificates and sweets for Achievement Points
  - Bronze – 150
  - Silver - 300
  - Gold - 400
  - Platinum - 500
  - Sandy Owl – 600
- Reward Trips- Autumn and Summer Terms
- Hot Choc Fridays

6. Behaviour, Rewards and Expectations

Negative Behaviour choices	Points & Sanction
Late to school	-1 Break detention 15 minutes in Theatre Hall
Incorrect/missing uniform	
Missing Fantastic 15	
Banned items	
Littering	
Late to Lesson (including form time (if not already late to school))	-1 15 minutes with class teacher
Missing equipment/kit	
Yellow card (Contravening RRS)	
Red Card (Contravening RRS)	-3 After School detention 30-minutes with Class Teacher in department areas. This must be recorded in the student's diary. AP House detention outside of lesson time.
Second missing PE kit	
Failure to attend a 15-minute detention	
Failure to complete compulsory IKE activities	
3 Lates in a week	
Repeated Failure to complete compulsory IKE activities	After School detention 60 minutes after school detention with Curriculum Leader. Phone Call home to parents for information. AP House detention if outside of lesson time
Persistent Lateness to Lesson	
Inappropriate language*	
On call	
Internal truancy	
Continued failure to produce work of an acceptable standard	
Boisterous behaviour*	
Repeated interruption of others' learning	
Joining in or interfering when other(s) are being reprimanded*	
Out of bounds*	
Continued failure to comply with uniform policy*	
Using mobile phone*	
Unsafe behaviour*	
Failure to attend 30-minute detention	
Unkind or offensive comments*	
Showing staff a repeated lack of respect	-10 After School Detention 90- minute SLT detention Monday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday. House AP/CL must recommend GMM to approve
Continuous lateness to school	
Threatening /physical behaviour	
Refusal to hand over mobile Phone	
Inappropriate use of social media or mobile phone	
Refusal to go on-call	
Swearing with intent to cause offence	
External Truancy/Repeated Internal Truancy*	
Smoking/Vaping in the vicinity of the school	
Failure to attend 1 hour detention	

There is a clear behaviour chart which outlines our consistent approach to managing instances of poor behaviour.

There is a stepped approach to how we manage some behaviours in the classroom:



When detentions are set, these must be completed in line with our Behaviour for Learning Policy. With the exception of 15-min detentions, we will always give 48 hours notice of the date of a detention.

6. Behaviour, Rewards and Expectations

- We have a very ambitious attendance target because we know that high attendance is critical for you child to enjoy and achieve.
- Our attendance target is 98% and the vast majority of our students are able to successfully meet this target.
- When attendance becomes a concern our attendance team will be in contact to discuss how we can support your child.

Target:
98%

Current:
97.5%

Sandy Secondary School

6. Behaviour, Rewards and Expectations

<u>90% attendance</u>

means you are missing ½ a day per week of school

1 month of school across two years

80% attendance

means you are missing 1 day per week of school

2 months of school across two years

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6. Behaviour, Rewards and Expectations

Reward Trips

7. Extra Curricular Opportunities

Extra-curricular activities boost **confidence, skills, wellbeing, and academic success**, while fostering **teamwork, resilience, and a stronger sense of belonging** in school.

7. Extra Curricular Opportunities

Students at Sandy Secondary School will be provided with lots of opportunities to broaden their horizons…

We have a huge number of clubs and arrange various of trips and visits:

- PE clubs, Performing Arts, Chess Club, Music clubs, Craft Club, etc.
- Ski Trip, Disneyland Paris, Belgium, London, etc.

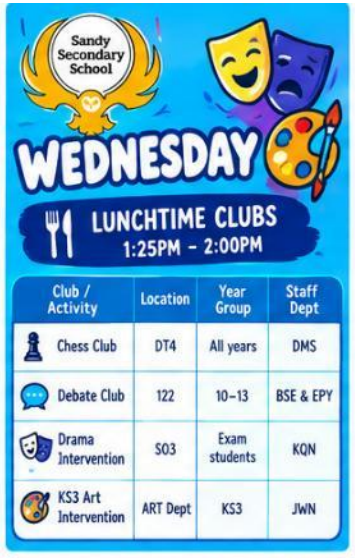
We have a very active **School Council** that regularly consult with staff to make positive changes to the school.

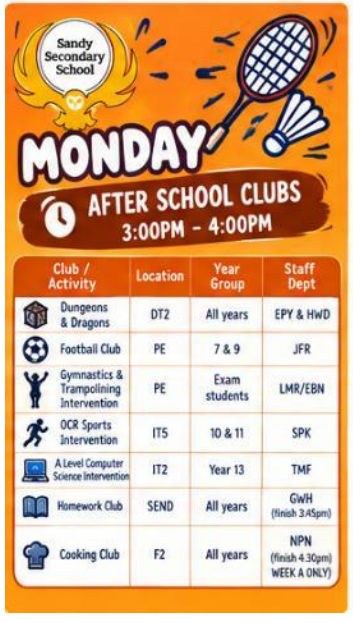
They are elected from their peers and are recognised by the School Council badge.

We regularly **praise** students and **celebrate** their achievements:

- Proud table
- Achievement Assemblies
- Rewards Trips
- Achievement Points
- Badges
- Hot Choc Friday

7. Extra Curricular Opportunities





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7. Extra Curricular Opportunities

Extracurricular Challenge

- Clubs challenge
- Attend 30 extra curricular session
- Get their card signed each time
- Win a prize for completion

Clubs Challenge

Name: _____

Tutor Group: _____

Completion Signature: _____

"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out."

Attend 30 extracurricular sessions to complete the Clubs Challenge. Each box represents one session. Get your final signature from your form tutor once all boxes are filled! Then see Mr Clifton to collect your Prize.

8. Parents in Partnership

Research shows the significant impact that parental involvement can have in children's education…

- "Parents play a crucial role in supporting their children's learning, and levels of parental engagement are consistently associated with better academic outcomes." EEF+1
- "Evidence from the EEF's Teaching and Learning Toolkit suggests that effective parental engagement can lead to learning gains of +3 months over the course of a year." ERIC+2
- "Parental engagement has a **positive impact on average of 4 months' additional progress**." EEF+2

- "Parental involvement, both at home and at school, can translate into long-lasting benefits for children from early childhood through adult life. Research shows that parental involvement in children's learning is strongly associated with children's socio-emotional development, later reading proficiency and academic success, student engagement and enjoyment of reading, high school completion …"

8. Parents in Partnership

Top 10 Tips for Supporting your Child at Home…

- ✓ Establish **routines** early.
- ✓ Show **interest** in learning.
- ✓ **Support** with home learning.
- ✓ Encourage responsibility and independence.
- ✓ Prioritise **reading** and literacy.
- ✓ **Communication** with school.
- ✓ Support friendships and wellbeing.
- ✓ Monitor technology and online safety.
- ✓ Celebrate effort and progress.
- ✓ Stay Positive and Patient.

8. Parents in Partnership

How can we support communication with you at home about school life?

Information:

- **Key Information Videos**
- **Settling in Evening**
- **Parent Consultation Evening**
- **SLT Surgeries**
- **Sandy Spotlight**
- **Letters and Communication Home**

8. Parents in Partnership

We very much appreciate your attendance this evening and we look forward to working closely with you over the coming months and years ahead to support your child...

- Should you wish to discuss any issues or concerns then please do not hesitate to make contact with us.
- We understand the importance of good communication and want to work in partnership with you.

Sandy Secondary School

Parents in Partnership
Year 7

Thank You