



Sandymoor Ormiston Academy

Year 7

Student Guide



Dear Year 6,

I would like to officially welcome you to the Sandymoor Ormiston Academy family. My name is Miss Hand, and I will be your new Principal. We are so excited that you will be joining us and I hope your visit today gives you a glimpse of the incredible journey ahead.

At Sandymoor, we believe in the power of potential. Being part of this team comes with a firm promise from us to you: we will help you grow into a person who believes anything is possible – because it truly is. This is the beginning of your journey, and now is the time to start thinking big, dreaming bigger and working hard to become the very best version of yourself. As an Academy, we all strive to be ambitious in our thoughts. One of the ways you can do this is to plan on grabbing every opportunity our wonderful school offers you with both hands – in the classroom, on the sports field, in the arts, in languages, or wherever your passions lie. Over the next five years, you will be challenged, supported, and celebrated as you discover who you are and what you can achieve.

Some of you may feel a little nervous – and that's completely normal. Moving to secondary school is a big step. But please know this: you won't be taking it alone. Your form tutors, your Head of Year and our fantastic older students are all here to guide you, cheer you on, and make sure you settle in quickly. Sandymoor is more than just a school – it's a community, a family, and you are now a part of it.

We have high expectations of every one of you – of your kindness, your efforts and your behaviour. But most of all, we believe in you. From today, you get to choose the legacy you want to leave. Ask yourself: *What do I want to be remembered for?*

At Sandymoor, we all strive **to be AMBITIOUS in our thoughts, to become stronger through RESILIENCE, to show PRIDE in all we do and say, and to be committed to SOCIAL ACTION.** These values will shape your journey here – helping you to grow, to support others and to become someone you're proud to be.

This is your fresh start. Make it count. Take every opportunity, live by our values and enjoy everything that lies ahead – your journey begins now.

I can't wait to see what you become.

Warmest wishes,

Miss Hand



Our Sandymoor Values

Some of the key values that would be seen within the Pastoral virtue include:

Punctuality
Attendance
Respect
Integrity
Diversity
Empathy
Fairness

Pride

Some of the key values that would be seen within the Enrichment virtue include:

Confidence
Team work
Determination
Independence
Perseverance
Motivation
Leadership

Resilience



Some of the key values that would be seen within the #WeWill virtue include:

Citizenship
Neighbourliness
Inclusivity
Community awareness
Compassion
Humility
Volunteering
Service

Social Action

Some of the key values that would be seen within the Curriculum virtue include:

Reflection
Pursuit of the mind
Desire to learn
Critical thinking
Resourcefulness
Creativity
Autonomy
Curiosity

Ambition

What is a day like at Sandymoor Ormiston Academy?

PRIDE

School starts at 8.30 am when the gates close. You'll line up with your head of year, form and form tutor. Punctuality and attendance are important lifelong skills. Being on time helps your day to start well and sets a clear routine for your day ahead.

From lines, you will go to your form room or to assembly in the sports hall. You have form time for 25 minutes every morning. Your form tutor is your first champion in school and is there to guide and support you through your secondary journey. Your uniform and equipment will be checked to ensure that you are ready for the day.

You'll take part in inter-house activities during morning form, where Hartree, Valdez, Brindley and Ethelfleda compete to gain house points to try to be crowned champions at the end of each term. You'll take part in 'Just Read' and read texts which you may not have come across before, such as, classic literature, exceptional lives, tales of far-off lands and monumental achievements - and PRIDE - where you spend some time reviewing the week. You'll have form time again at the end of the day – but we'll cover that later.

Then, at 8.55am, the bell for period 1 sounds and you'll move to your first lesson of the day...we move on the left-hand side of the corridors and stairwells.



What is a day like at Sandymoor Ormiston Academy?

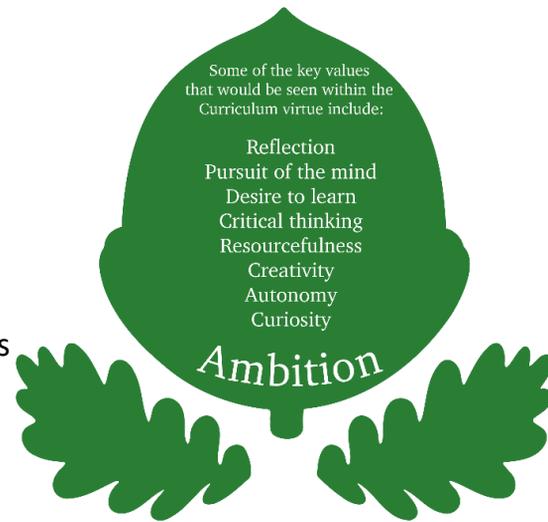
AMBITION

Will it be to the top floor to maths to develop your problem solving and logic skills, or to computer science where you work on digital literacy and computational thinking? You might be going to RE to find out how different religions approach days like today, or to PD to look at the diverse nature of our community and strategies to tackle prejudice in society. Maybe you'll be heading to science to investigate atoms and conduct experiments in the superlab?

You might be heading to the middle floor to English to learn about ancient Greek myths and the ancient origins of literature, or to Geography to explore the uniqueness of the UK or to History to decode the mystery of the ancient body. Maybe you're heading to creative arts and have a lesson on typography in technology, or tertiary colours in art. You might be performing in drama or interpreting graphic scores in music?

You might be heading to the ground floor to Spanish to learn about the language and culture of one of Europe's most vibrant countries. Maybe you head to technology to begin your practical in the food rooms, or to shape your projects in design. Maybe you've got PE this morning and are heading to the changing rooms to change in to your kit, ready to sharpen the skill you've been working on in badminton.

Wherever you're heading, you'll need to be switched on to learning something new and applying your learning in class and at home. The curriculum at Sandymoor is ambitious and designed to stretch and challenge you from the minute you step in the door!



What is a day like at Sandymoor Ormiston Academy?

RESILIENCE

Phew – that was only lesson 1! At 9.45am you move to lesson 2, and then....break time! A quick check with your fingerprint that you've got your cashless system topped up and it's time for a snack – bacon butties, toast, crumpets, even a pain au chocolat are available at break time in the sports hall for year 7. Head outside and get some fresh air!

Organising your time is important again here, being ready to move to lesson 3 and being on time, ready to learn. As you head to lesson, the door is held open for you to pass through and you're courteous and polite in saying thank you as you head through. Lesson 3 is a subject you've not studied in this much depth before and it's making your brain think in different ways – you dig deep and show your resilience here and keep trying to work through the task you have. The teaching assistant in the room notices you're struggling and gives you some time to discuss and attempt your challenge...yes! You've worked it out! You receive a praise point on Synergy for your resilience! Your parents and carers can see these straight away! Well done! You feel proud of yourself and take your confidence into lessons 4 and 5.

Heading to lunch you have your food in the forum today, but, have a chat with your friends and decide that you'll try the warehouse for lunch tomorrow. You're also going to head to a lunchtime enrichment club, today it's library club to have a game of Boggle!

On to period 6 and when the bell sounds at 3pm, afternoon form begins. Today it's 'Debate mate' and you take part in the motion that "This house believes filters should be banned on social media!" and before you know it, the bell sounds for the end of the day...



What is a day like at Sandymoor Ormiston Academy?

SOCIAL ACTION

Or is it? No, today is the option you've chosen for enrichment. Perhaps you're auditioning for OAT's Got Talent and are off to Cheerleading club to rehearse your routine, or maybe you're heading to coding club, or art, dance, drama, cooking, debating club, or heading to the minibus for your football match against a local school. Maybe you're going to eco-club, or to book club

Being active citizens and demonstrating all our values is central to who we are at Sandymoor. You thank the adult running the enrichment club and head home, ready for something to eat to fuel your brain and restore your energy. It's spellings homework tonight, you've been set 15 key words to learn for next week, so you're going to get started tonight after tea... what did that word "denouement" mean again?

Get thinking about how you can support our annual Shoebox of love appeal in December; as we provide presents to our local homeless shelter at Christmastime. We will be encouraging you to collect toiletries and warm hats, gloves and scarves so that we can make someone's Christmas.

We believe in showing social action all of the time, whether it be being the best member of our local community or being an ambassador of the school in external activities.



What is a Sandymoor Scholar?

Sandymoor Scholar

Building 'Character for life' at Sandymoor Ormiston Academy

Instilling Moral Virtues

Pastoral

Assemblies
Theme of the week
Tutor programme
Sandymoor Champions
Sandymoor Leavers
House system
Rewards
Behaviour for Learning

Instilling Performance Virtues

Enrichment

Enrichment activities
Residentials
Leadership teams
Additional qualifications
Competitions
Careers and work experience
Sports events/fixtures
Sandymoor 100
Oracy 50

Pride

Respect
Integrity
Diversity
Empathy
Fairness
Attendance
Punctuality

Resilience

Confidence
Teamwork
Determination
Independence
Perseverance
Motivation
Leadership

Social Action

Citizenship
Neighbourliness
Inclusivity
Community awareness
Compassion
Humility
Volunteering
Service

Ambition

Reflection
Pursuit of the mind
Desire to learn
Critical thinking
Resourcefulness
Creativity
Autonomy
Curiosity

Shoebox Full of Love
Fundraising
Volunteering
Theme days
Student voice
Parent forums/PTA
Primary liaison/Buddies

#WeWill

Instilling Civic Virtues

Academic curriculum
PSHE/RSE
Careers
British Values
SMSC
Religion and Philosophy
Just Read
Subject Pledges

Curriculum

Instilling Intellectual Virtues

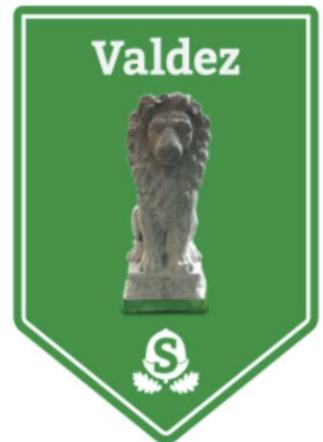
Character isn't part of the plate, it is the plate

How is our school day organised?

Our lessons are 50 minutes long and we have a one-week timetable.

	Years 7 & 8		Years 9, 10 & 11
Form	8.30am – 9am	Form	8.30am – 9am
Period 1	9am – 9.50am	Period 1	9am – 9.50am
Period 2	9.50am – 10.40am	Period 2	9.50am – 10.40am
Period 3	10.40am – 11.30am	Break	10.40am – 10.55am
Break	11.30am – 11.45am	Period 3	10.55am – 11.45am
Period 4	11.45am – 12.35pm	Period 4	11.45am – 12.35pm
Period 5	12.35pm – 1.25pm	Lunch	12.35pm – 1.25pm
Lunch	1.25pm – 2.15pm	Period 5	1.25pm – 2.15pm
Period 6	2.15pm – 3.05pm	Period 6	2.15pm – 3.05pm

What is our House System?



Our building is divided into houses. Each form is assigned to a house and competes across the year in a range of activities to gain house points. The House Cup is awarded at the end of each term based on the activities that have taken place during the term.



Brindley House: Named after canal engineer James Brindley who designed the Bridgewater Canal which runs begins in Runcorn and stretches for 39 miles – it changed the way goods could be transported around the Northwest during the Industrial Revolution.



The Hartree Centre is a high-performance computing, data analytics and artificial intelligence research facility based in Daresbury – underneath the tower you can see standing above the horizon.



Ethelfleda was an Anglo-Saxon and the daughter of King Alfred the Great. She became known as the "Lady of the Mercians", when she took over the ruling of Mercia. She founded the settlement of Runcorn and planned and led expeditions against the Danes – all at a time when women had very little power.



Dominic Valdez founded Halton Haven Hospice, which provides help to relieve the sickness, suffering and distress of people suffering from cancer and other terminal illnesses in Runcorn, Widnes and the surrounding areas. Dominic Valdez is a pioneer of social action in our local community.

Messages from our current year 7

It's weird moving from class to class – not like in year 6. You need to have your timetable with you so you know where you are supposed to go next!

Year 7 have our own area for breaktime, which is great – you can buy snacks at break too!

The TAs are always there to help too.

The outdoor adventure trip was amazing! We got to do some mad activities and try new things.

We get to do so many different subjects, in one day you might have English, Spanish, performing arts, technology, RE and maths!

You'll love it!

I've made loads of new friends – I still have my friends from primary school though.

I was the only one from my primary school. I've made lots of friends here!

There is always someone to talk to.

The teachers know their stuff!

Everyone is really helpful – if you're lost, or unsure of anything, someone will always help you.

What is our uniform like?

Items of uniform required

Navy Sandymoor blazer

Plain white shirt

Navy and grey knee length Sandymoor tartan skirt or charcoal grey trousers, or tailored charcoal grey shorts.

Navy or grey socks / Tights (no patterns or stripes)

Sandymoor tie

Plain black, smart shoes (not trainers)

A Black, Navy or Grey school bag for equipment

Navy religious or medical head coverings
Navy hair accessories

Plain, navy V neck jumper which shows the knot of the tie (optional)



PE kit

Sandymoor logo T-Shirt (compulsory)

Plain navy blue or Sandymoor logo shorts

Plain navy blue PE leggings or tracksuit pants (optional but recommended for outdoor lessons in winter). Plain navy blue base layer may also be worn.

Plain navy blue, full or quarter zip training top (optional but recommended for outdoor lessons in winter). Items with the academy logo are available if you prefer.

Navy sports socks

Trainers (non-marking soles)

Football / Rugby boots when appropriate

Making new friends

You will meet lots of new people when you start at Sandymoor Ormiston Academy. Some of these people will be in your form, some will be in your subject classes, others you might meet during enrichment clubs.

Secondary school is a great opportunity to get to know new people and make new friends.



Ready to learn

Everyday you must have the following equipment:

- Planner
- Pencil and eraser
- Pens – black or blue, and green
- Ruler
- 180 protractor
- Compass
- Scientific calculator
- Water bottle (this can be filled at school)





Brindley

Hartree

Ethelfleda

Sandymoor
Grammar Academy
Inspiring Excellence