



Sandymoor
Ormiston Academy

PROSPECTUS

SANDYMOOR ORMISTON ACADEMY

AMBITION. RESILIENCE. SOCIAL ACTION. PRIDE

“I was nervous about starting
secondary school, but everyone
at Sandymoor was so welcoming.
I felt part of the school from
my very first day”

● Year 7 student



A WELCOME FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus and learn more about **Sandymoor Ormiston Academy**.

At Sandymoor, our core business is simple yet incredibly important: to educate every young mind so that each young person leaves us with a full range of qualifications, a wealth of opportunities and experiences and the confidence, character and skills needed to thrive in the next stage of their lives. We are unapologetically ambitious for every student. We have the highest aspirations for academic success and believe that all young people, regardless of their starting point, deserve the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential.

At the heart of our success are our students. We expect them to embrace our values each day by demonstrating ambition, pride, resilience and a commitment to social action. We encourage them to be polite, hardworking, respectful and caring. In return, they can expect a school that believes in them, nurtures their talents and provides exceptional opportunities for growth and success.

We are incredibly proud of our school community, where every student is valued for their individuality, character and potential. As a smaller school, we know our students exceptionally well and place them at the heart of every decision we make. This enables us to provide a personalised, student-centred education that challenges, supports and inspires. Our students are encouraged not only to excel academically, but also to develop personally, socially

and emotionally. Education at Sandymoor extends far beyond examination results. Whilst academic excellence remains central to everything we do, we believe that preparing students for life requires much more than qualifications alone. Our broad and ambitious curriculum is complemented by a rich programme of enrichment activities, leadership opportunities and wider experiences that develop confidence, cultural capital and character.

We are equally proud of our dedicated staff body, whose expertise, care and commitment help create an environment where students can flourish. Together with our governors, trust partners and wider community, they share an unwavering belief in the potential of every young person. Strong relationships between school and home are fundamental to our success and we value our partnership with parents and carers enormously. By working together, we can provide the guidance, support and challenge our students need to achieve their ambitions.

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions a family will make, and whatever your decision, I sincerely hope you will take the opportunity to visit us, meet our students and staff and experience for yourselves the warm, ambitious and caring community that makes Sandymoor such a special place.

Ms Linsey Hand
Principal



“We are incredibly proud of our school community, where every student is valued for their individuality, character and potential.”

 Ms Linsey Hand, Principal



“Sandymoor has helped our child grow, not only academically but also in confidence, resilience and maturity.”

 Year 11 parent

OUR VALUES

At Sandymoor, everything we do is rooted in the belief that every young person deserves an exceptional education, delivered with both high expectations and genuine care. We are committed to creating a safe, calm and purposeful environment where students can flourish academically, socially and personally. We challenge our students to strive for excellence while ensuring they feel valued, supported and respected as individuals.

Our values are more than words on a page. They shape our culture, guide our decisions and influence how we learn, lead and work together as a community. Through these values, we equip our students with the character, confidence and skills they need to succeed both in school and beyond.

♥ **AMBITION:** Aspire highly, work diligently and embrace every opportunity.

We encourage our students to think big, aim high and believe in their potential. Ambition is about setting challenging goals, striving for excellence and recognising that success is achieved through hard work, commitment and determination. We inspire every student to pursue their aspirations with confidence, knowing that their future is not limited by circumstance but shaped by effort and opportunity.

♥ **RESILIENCE:** Face challenges positively and grow through adversity.

We teach our students that setbacks are a natural part of learning and that character is developed through determination, adaptability and courage. By embracing challenges and maintaining a positive mindset, our students develop the confidence and strength to overcome obstacles and achieve their goals.

♥ **SOCIAL ACTION:** Make a meaningful contribution to others and the wider world.

We believe that education should inspire students to make a positive difference in their communities and beyond. Through volunteering, charitable initiatives, environmental projects and community partnerships, students learn the importance of service, responsibility and active citizenship. Whether supporting local causes or engaging in international projects, we encourage every student to recognise the impact they can have on the lives of others.

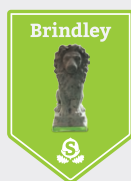
♥ **PRIDE:** Take pride in who you are, what you achieve and how you contribute.

Pride is reflected in the way our students present themselves, approach their learning and support their school community. We encourage students to take ownership of their actions, celebrate their achievements and demonstrate respect for themselves and others. By showing integrity, striving for their best and representing Sandymoor positively, our students embody the standards and values that make our community so special.

OUR HOUSE SYSTEM

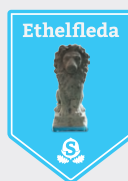
At Sandymoor, we believe that a strong sense of belonging is fundamental to both personal and academic success. Our House System is at the heart of school life, fostering a culture of community, teamwork and healthy competition while ensuring every student feels valued, connected and proud to be part of something bigger than themselves.

Each house has been carefully chosen to celebrate the rich heritage, innovation and achievements of the local Runcorn community:



BRINDLEY

Named after James Brindley, the pioneering engineer whose vision and ingenuity transformed Britain's canal network. The house also reflects the legacy of the iconic Brindley Theatre, a landmark at the centre of the local community.



ETHELFLEDA

Named in honour of Ethelfleda, the Lady of Mercia and founder of the first fortified settlement in Runcorn. A remarkable leader, her legacy reflects courage, determination and ambition.



HARTREE

Inspired by the Hartree Centre in Halton, a nationally recognised hub for advanced computing, digital innovation and scientific research. Hartree represents creativity, discovery and the pursuit of excellence.



VALDEZ

Celebrating the life and achievements of Dom Valdez, whose dedication and compassion helped establish outstanding hospice care within the local community, leaving a lasting impact on countless lives.

Our House System provides students with opportunities to develop leadership, teamwork and character through a wide range of competitions, events and enrichment activities. Students work together across year groups, building lasting relationships while developing confidence, resilience and a sense of responsibility towards others.

Student leadership sits at the core of our house culture. Through representing their houses, organising events and leading projects, students develop the skills and confidence needed to make a positive contribution both within school and beyond. House events encourage participation, celebrate achievement and provide opportunities for students to demonstrate our values of **Ambition, Resilience, Social Action and Pride**.

Together, our houses create a vibrant and supportive community where students are encouraged to challenge themselves, celebrate one another's successes and take pride in belonging to Sandymoor. They reflect who we are as a school: ambitious, inclusive, community-minded and proud of our local heritage.



"The opportunities available here are amazing. From leadership roles and sports teams to international trips, I've been able to grow in confidence and discover strengths I never knew I had."

Year 11 student



“The school has high expectations of what pupils can achieve. Pupils are supported to think deeply about what they are learning.”



AN AMBITIOUS CURRICULUM

Families choose Sandymoor because they want the very best for their children. They want a school that combines academic excellence with the highest aspirations for every young person, and a community where students are challenged, supported and inspired to succeed.

Academic success matters because it opens doors and creates opportunities. However, our vision extends far beyond examination results. We are committed to developing knowledgeable, resilient and ambitious young people who are equipped not only to achieve highly, but also to thrive in an ever-changing world. Through high expectations, expert teaching and a culture of aspiration, we encourage every student to fulfil their potential and aim beyond what they thought possible.

At the heart of our school is an ambitious, carefully sequenced curriculum designed to provide every student with access to powerful knowledge, rich experiences and the very best that has been thought, discovered and created.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum is firmly rooted in the national curriculum and enriched by our local context. Students study a broad and balanced range of subjects including English, mathematics, science, Spanish, history, geography, religious education, the arts, technology, computing, physical education and personal development. At Key Stage 4, students continue to benefit from a wide range of academic and vocational pathways. We believe in keeping options open and do not unnecessarily narrow the curriculum, enabling students to pursue their interests, talents and future aspirations.

High expectations underpin everything we do. We place significant emphasis on continually improving the quality of teaching and learning, ensuring that every lesson provides both challenge and support. Our dedicated teachers and support staff are passionate about their subjects and committed to helping every student achieve their very best.

READING AT THE HEART OF LEARNING

Reading is fundamental to success in school and beyond. Our philosophy of high levels of reading confidence for all children places reading at the centre of school life, recognising that confident readers become confident learners.

Students read regularly across the curriculum and are exposed to a rich range of challenging and culturally

significant texts. Reading ages are assessed and monitored to ensure appropriate support and intervention where needed. Through dedicated reading opportunities, vocabulary development and the use of Sparx Reader, we encourage all students to develop reading fluency, broaden their horizons and foster a lifelong love of reading.

HOMEWORK AND INDEPENDENT STUDY

We believe that learning should not stop when the school day ends. Independent study and regular homework are essential in helping students reinforce knowledge, develop self-discipline and build the habits required for future success.

Homework is carefully planned to complement classroom learning, deepen understanding and encourage students to think critically about their subjects. Through online platforms such as Sparx Learning, Dr Frost Maths, MathsWatch and

LanguageNut, alongside subject-specific tasks and independent study activities, students are expected to engage fully with their learning beyond the classroom.

By developing strong organisational skills, resilience and independence, our students become confident learners who are well prepared for examinations, further study and the demands of adult life.

ENRICHMENT

At Sandymoor Ormiston Academy, education extends far beyond the classroom. Our enrichment programme provides students with a wide range of opportunities, experiences and challenges that help them develop new interests, discover hidden talents and build the skills needed for future success.

Through a rich variety of activities, clubs, events and leadership opportunities, students broaden their horizons, develop their character and deepen their understanding of themselves, others and the world around them. We encourage every student to think critically, contribute positively to their community, pursue their passions and celebrate both their own achievements and those of others. This includes a wide range of school-based clubs such as tennis, creative writing, STEM, coding and Eco Club, alongside opportunities that promote social action and personal growth, including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and our life-changing partnership with Camps International. Through this programme, students have

the opportunity to participate in expeditions to Kenya, and previously Tanzania, where they contribute to conservation and community projects while developing independence, resilience and cultural understanding. Students also benefit from a wealth of curriculum enrichment experiences, including visits to Iceland, Sicily, the River Alyn, the First World War Battlefields, Liverpool Empire Theatre, Chester Zoo, Move It and Comic Con. Opportunities for character and resilience development are further enhanced through team-building experiences at Rock and River and Manley Mere, while our ambition-led careers programme includes regular engagement with colleges, universities and future pathway providers.

Our enrichment offer is designed to inspire curiosity, foster confidence and equip students with the knowledge, experiences and aspirations that will enable them to thrive in school and beyond.



“Students are challenged to excel and supported every step of the way.”

Year 10 parent

“From the moment we visited Sandymoor, we could see the sense of community and belonging. The staff genuinely care about every child and want them to succeed.”

 Year 8 parent



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

At Sandymoor Ormiston Academy, we believe in celebrating success and recognising the achievements, effort and positive contributions of our students. Our rewards system is designed to reinforce our core values of **Ambition, Resilience, Social Action** and **Pride**, encouraging students to strive for excellence in all aspects of school life.

Students earn reward points for demonstrating positive attitudes to learning, consistently meeting expectations and making a meaningful contribution to the wider school community. Weekly VIP rewards recognise students who have exemplified exceptional effort, respect, kindness and commitment, while those who achieve the highest number of reward points are celebrated and recognised throughout the school.

At the end of each term, students have the opportunity to access a range of reward events, competitions and

educational visits. These experiences provide meaningful opportunities for students to celebrate their success while reinforcing the link between hard work, positive behaviour and achievement.

We also recognise sustained excellence through our prestigious **Sandymoor Champion** status. Awarded to students who consistently embody our values and uphold the highest standards throughout the year, this recognition reflects a commitment to both personal and academic excellence. Sandymoor Champions proudly wear their Sandymoor Stars as a symbol of their achievement and contribution to the academy community.

Through celebration assemblies, reward events and enrichment opportunities, we aim to foster a culture where success is recognised, effort is valued and every student feels inspired to achieve their very best.

“What stands out most is the strong balance between high expectations and genuine care for students’ wellbeing.”

Year 7 parent



“Sandymoor is a school where everyone is encouraged to aim high. My teachers challenge me to achieve my best and always support me when I need help.”

Year 8 student



“Pupils benefit from carefully crafted opportunities that enhance their personal development. They understand how to make safe decisions, form positive relationships and embrace difference.”



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

At Sandymoor Ormiston Academy, Personal Development is a central part of the curriculum and is designed to ensure that all students are equipped with the knowledge, skills and character needed to lead safe, healthy and successful lives. The programme supports students from Years 7–11 in developing confidence, resilience and an understanding of their responsibilities as active citizens.

The Personal Development curriculum addresses a wide range of important topics, including emotional wellbeing, healthy relationships, online and personal safety, careers education and preparation for the world of work. Students are encouraged to think critically about social and political issues while developing an understanding of democracy, citizenship, law and the role of public institutions within the United Kingdom.

A key feature of the academy's offer is its commitment to developing students' character and cultural capital. Through community projects, charitable initiatives, visits, enrichment activities and engagement with external organisations such as the NHS, police and local charities, students are

encouraged to make a positive contribution to society and understand the importance of social action.

The programme promotes Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development alongside British Values, fostering respect, tolerance and appreciation for diverse cultures and backgrounds. Students learn to value equality, celebrate differences and develop the skills necessary to thrive in modern Britain.

Career education is also embedded throughout the Personal Development offer. Through the academy's links with the Liverpool City Region Careers Hub and a wide range of CEIAG (Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance) opportunities, students are supported to make informed decisions about their future education, training and career pathways.

Through this comprehensive Personal Development programme, Sandymoor Ormiston Academy aims to develop well-rounded, responsible and ambitious young people who embody the academy values of Ambition, Resilience, Social Action and Pride and are fully prepared for life beyond school.

CAREERS

Sandymoor Ormiston Academy provides a comprehensive and high-quality careers programme designed to inspire students and help them make informed decisions about their future. The academy's vision is to create a culture where "dreams are within reach", ensuring that every student is prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Careers education is delivered through Personal Development lessons, assemblies, tutor time and bespoke careers events. Students benefit from independent careers guidance,

one-to-one interviews with qualified careers advisers, visits to colleges and training providers, annual careers fairs, university engagement opportunities and work experience placements for all Year 10 students.

As a member of the Liverpool City Region Careers Hub, the academy works closely with employers, universities, apprenticeship providers and careers professionals to broaden students' aspirations and support progression into further education, apprenticeships and employment. The school is also proud to have achieved the Quality in Careers Standard.



PASTORAL CARE AND GUIDANCE

At Sandymoor Ormiston Academy, the care, wellbeing and personal development of every student are at the heart of everything we do. We believe that students achieve their best when they feel safe, valued, supported and known as individuals. Creating a positive, inclusive and nurturing environment is therefore central to our vision and an important part of ensuring every young person flourishes both academically and personally.

As a school where every child is known, our pastoral system is built upon strong relationships, high expectations and genuine care. Students are supported by a dedicated team of tutors, pastoral leaders, learning mentors and safeguarding staff who work closely together to provide guidance, encouragement and individual support throughout their time at Sandymoor. We pride ourselves on building strong partnerships with families, recognising that students achieve most when school and home work together.

Our comprehensive pastoral programme plays a vital role in developing the whole child. Through dedicated tutor time, assemblies, reading, character education and personal development activities, students are encouraged to reflect on their growth, celebrate their successes and develop the values that will serve them throughout their lives. This aligns closely with our commitment to developing character through our core values of Ambition, Resilience, Social Action and Pride.

The safety of our students is always our highest priority. Our experienced safeguarding team works proactively to ensure that every young person receives the support they need to overcome challenges and succeed. Alongside academic guidance, students have access to wellbeing support, mentoring and specialist services where appropriate, ensuring that barriers to learning are identified and addressed quickly.

"At our school, I've learned that I can be whatever I want to be when I grow up. My teachers help me discover my talents and believe in myself."

Year 8 student



“We are unapologetically ambitious for every student. We have the highest aspirations for academic success and believe that all young people, regardless of their starting point, deserve the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential.”

 Ms Linsey Hand, Principal

OUR BUILDING

We are extremely proud of the facilities we offer at Sandymoor Ormiston Academy. Our purpose-built building has been thoughtfully designed to provide an inspiring and engaging environment where students can thrive academically, creatively and physically. Students benefit from exceptional learning spaces and specialist facilities that support our ambitious curriculum and extensive enrichment programme.

OUR FACILITIES INCLUDE:

- **Floodlit 3G all-weather sports pitch**, providing a high-quality training and competition venue throughout the year.
- **Multi-purpose sports hall**, offering professional-standard space for a wide range of sports, competitions and enrichment activities.
- **Professional-standard dance studio**, equipped to support both curriculum learning and performance development.
- **Specialist drama studio**, providing a dedicated creative space for performance, rehearsal and public speaking.
- **Floodlit tennis courts**, enabling year-round coaching, recreation and competitive sport.
- **State-of-the-art music suite**, featuring Apple Mac technology and industry-standard music software.
- **Dedicated music practice rooms**, allowing students to refine their performance skills individually and collaboratively.
- **Newly-refurbished science laboratories**, designed to support practical investigation and scientific enquiry.
- **Specialist design and technology facilities**, enabling students to develop creativity, innovation and technical expertise.
- **Modern ICT and digital learning resources**, supporting students in developing the digital skills required for future study and employment.

These facilities help create an environment where students can excel both inside and outside the classroom. Whether competing in sport, performing on stage, creating music, conducting scientific investigations or developing digital expertise, our students have access to facilities that rival those found in much larger schools and provide the foundation for outstanding achievement and personal growth.

OUR ACCREDITATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

At Sandymoor Ormiston Academy, we are proud of the recognition our students, staff and wider school community have received. While awards and accreditations do not define us, they provide external validation of our commitment to academic excellence, personal development and the exceptional opportunities we provide for every young person.

Over the last twelve months, our students have achieved remarkable success across a range of local, regional and national competitions. We are proud to celebrate winners of **Young Fashion Designer of the Year**, **Ormiston's Got Talent** and **Young Artist of the Year**, demonstrating the creativity, talent and ambition that thrive throughout our school community.

Our commitment to preparing students for successful futures has been recognised through the prestigious **Gold Careers Mark Award**, reflecting the high-quality careers education, guidance and employer engagement opportunities available to all students. This work ensures that every young person is supported to make informed choices and pursue ambitious pathways beyond school.

We are equally proud of our commitment to student wellbeing, sustainability and healthy lifestyles. Sandymoor has been awarded the **Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction** for our outstanding environmental work, driven by students who actively champion sustainability and social action within our local community and beyond. In addition, we have achieved the **Healthy Halton Gold Award**, recognising our dedication to promoting positive physical, emotional and mental wellbeing across the academy.

Our excellence in sport and physical education has been recognised through the **Gold School Games Mark**, reflecting the breadth of sporting opportunities available to students and our commitment to participation, competition and healthy living.

These achievements reflect more than success in competitions and accreditation programmes. They represent the culture of ambition, resilience, social action and pride that sits at the heart of Sandymoor. They are testament to the dedication of our students, the expertise of our staff and the strength of our partnerships with families and the wider community.



“Being part of Sandymoor feels like being part of a family. Teachers know us as individuals and genuinely care about our success and wellbeing.”

Year 9 student



ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER



“Pupils enjoy attending this friendly and warm school.”



OUR TRUST

We are proud to be part of Ormiston Academies Trust, one of the oldest and largest school trusts in the country.

We are one of the few national trusts in the school system with our schools spread across England in diverse locations such as Lowestoft, the Isle of Wight, Grimsby, Runcorn and in the West Midlands. Together, we support more than 30,000 pupils across over 40 schools, spanning primary, secondary, alternative provision, and special schools.

Across our Trust, we are united by a shared belief that every child can thrive, regardless of their background. Our mission is to ensure every child has excellent learning opportunities, inside and outside of the classroom, which enrich their lives and afford them choice and opportunity in the future.

“We believe that all children can succeed and we’re committed to breaking down barriers to learning and participation, wherever they exist.”

● Tom Rees, CEO Ormiston Academies Trust



“Pupils develop their interests and talents through the rich offer of extracurricular clubs and activities that take place during and after the school day.”

 Ofsted



Sandymoor
Ormiston Academy

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