

The Sixth Form Team

Sara Ellis

Assistant Headteacher (In Charge of Sixth Form)

Ofsted has rated us as Outstanding and I am very proud of our student's achievements throughout their time in Sixth Form. This would not be possible without the support of dedicated and caring staff. Our Sixth Form is based around preparing the students for life after Sandon. As such we focus very much on life and living skills and employability as well as functional skills in maths and English. Students have a choice of topic either Hospitality or Horticulture and work towards Entry level or Level 1 qualifications based on their chosen subject.



Kate Lyons

Tutor in Horticulture

I joined Sandon in September 2020 and I'm the Tutor for the Horticulture Class. In Horticulture, we work really hard developing our skills over a range of subjects, specialising in gardening, both in the school grounds growing produce at the allotment or tending other gardens in the Community. We focus on developing our independence skills, communication and being able to work together as part of a team, with the aim that the student can apply these skills in the wider community and in life after Sandon. Students develop their skills in making meals, looking after themselves both physically and mentally and preparing for adulthood. While we work hard we also have a lot of fun, making new friends, trying new things and being part of a fantastic team.



Liz Kennedy-Short

Tutor in Hospitality

I have worked at Sandon School for the last 4 years and I am the Lead in the Hospitality Class. The students and staff work together on a mini enterprise to bake cakes and savoury snacks, which are then sold either through orders or at the local Coffee Shop in town which we run two mornings a week. The students are encouraged to be involved in every aspect of the mini enterprise, from planning and designing the menu's, costings, uniforms and job rotas. The Coffee Shop gives the students the opportunities to work in a real hospitality environment, so they can build on their customer service, handling money and food hygiene skills. Through life and living skills and work based learning we prepare the students for adulthood.



We also have fun activities such as a yearly bake-off competition which is very popular.

Karen Gilroy

Transitions and Work Experience

I am the work experience co-ordinator and transition planner. I work closely with local Employers who provide us with work experience placements for example Downtown, McDonald's and Woodlands Nursery who are among just a few. I support our pupils in their work experience placements, mentoring and chaperoning them helping to build confidence and self-esteem and developing independence. I also provide parent/carers with information regarding the transition from Sandon to further education, employment or independent living.



Sandon Sixth Form

Pupils have a choice of two topics either Hospitality or Horticulture. Once they have chosen their subject they will then work towards Entry Level or Level 1 qualifications in their chosen subject as well as qualifications in functional maths and English as well as other life and living skills.

They visit Grantham College one morning a week where they work towards an Entry Level qualification in Life and Living skills, but most importantly it acts as a stepping stone building student's confidence in accessing and working in a different and much larger environment. In so doing it helps to prepare them for adulthood. The students stay and have their lunch in the College refectory where, with support from our staff, they order their food developing further their independence skills. It is here where they also have the opportunity to meet former students enabling them to build on their social skills.

Horticulture

We offer horticultural qualifications for those who are interested in the horticulture industry or just interested in gardening and working in the outdoors. Students work towards Entry Level qualifications in units based around horticulture as well as life and living skills, which also includes working towards a certificate in getting about safely both on foot or using public transport.



Work involves carrying out practical tasks associated with gardening as well as learning about health and safety. The skills learnt also promote independent living, supporting them in looking after their own home environment.

The Sixth Form have their own allotment in town where they grow fruit, vegetables and flowers, which they sell as part of a mini enterprise project. They also maintain the grounds of a local Care Home for the elderly. Here at break times they meet with some of the residents for a cup of tea and a chat, helping to develop further their communication and social skills.

Students also work on functional skills in maths and English.

Hospitality

The Hospitality qualifications are practical qualifications at entry level and Level 1 for those that are interested in the hospitality or catering industries.

The Sixth Form run a Coffee Shop two mornings a week at the Jubilee Centre in Grantham as well as taking outside catering orders. We have close links with the local community who come and visit the Coffee Shop on a regular basis. This helps to develop further the Student's communication and social skills. Working in the Coffee Shop enables the students to work through Entry Level or Level 1 units in Hospitality thus preparing them for working life. Some of our students have left us and gone into full time employment in the Catering industry. Those students have come back to the café and explained how they have a job, live independently and are living fulfilled lives.



Students work on functional skills in maths and English as well as Entry Level or Level 1 qualifications in units based on life and living skills, which includes travel training, working towards a certificate in getting about safely both on foot or using public transport.

Breakdown of the Qualifications Students can work towards

<u>AIM Qualifications</u> <i>Suite of Skills for working in Horticulture or Catering & Hospitality Industries</i>	<u>Entry 1, 2, 3 and Level 1 Units</u> <i>Each unit has a credit value</i>	<u>Qualifications</u> <i>AIM Award = 3 credits</i> <i>AIM Certificate = 15 credits</i> <i>AIM Extended Certificate = 27 credits</i> <i>AIM Diploma = 37 credits</i>
<u>OCR Life and Living Skills</u>	<u>Entry 1, 2 & 3 Units</u> <i>Each unit has a credit value</i>	<u>Qualifications</u> <i>Award in Life and Living Skills = 3 credits</i> <i>Certificate in Life and Living Skills = 13</i>
<u>English and Maths</u> <i>Students work towards AIM units based on functional skills in English and Maths</i>	<u>Entry 1, 2 & 3 or Level 1</u>	

Work Experience

Students of all abilities take part in some form of work experience. We have Karen Gilroy who supports the students going out on the work placements, especially those students that require extra support. We have work placements which include Downtown Garden Centre, McDonald's, Gregory House, Woodlands Nursery and Belton Aquatics Centre to name but a few.



Work placements are advertised and the students apply for the position they are interested in. They are then invited to an interview after which they take on the role. They work at their placement once a week for 6 weeks. After 6 weeks, the position is re-advertised thus giving students the opportunity to experience different types of work. Each month we have an Award for “Best Employee of the Month”.



We also have work placement visits where the students as a group visit different work settings to gain an understanding of the skills required for roles within that area.

Residential Trips

Whilst in the Sixth Form students have the opportunity to take part in residential trips, such as Beamanor in Leicestershire, during which students take part in team building activities that both challenge and enlighten them. The trips promote independence in a safe environment where everyone is encouraged to do as much as they can.



Another residential trip is to KBZO School in Weingarten, Germany. Here our students join the German students in their lessons as well as visiting local areas such as Lake Constance and the town of Ravensburg. They fly out to Germany, which for some students is a whole new experience. It not only gives the students an understanding of a different culture it helps them to build on communication and social skills, increasing their confidence and self-esteem, preparing them for adulthood.



Moving Forward

In order to ensure that the transitioning from Sandon on to other provisions runs smoothly we are able to advise and support parents as and when required. We have Open Days where outside agencies and organisations are invited to come into school to show what they have on offer or support they can give to parent/carers.

The Prom

At the end of the academic year students are invited to celebrate their achievements and dress up for a Prom. Here students enjoy a buffet with their friends and teachers before dancing the night away.



What do our Students think about Sandon Post 16?

Ryan

“It’s good, cool, calming and informative. I’m treated like an adult.”

Carla

“They help us with our work and they are there if we need to talk”

Robert

“I love my school because it is a really good school to learn new things and have lots of fun with your friends”

Frances

“I love going to school because we get the education to prepare us for adulthood.”

“The Teachers are lovely”

Tyler

“I like school because I like seeing my friends. I like doing all the different work and I like cooking”

Louise

“They help me and they are there if I need someone to talk to”

Jack

“I love it so much! I also like talking to my friends”

Moving on

Pupils that have left us have either gone on to further education, employment or independent supported living.

Sara Ellis

Assistant Head