

Welcome to Sandy Secondary School  
**Year 9 Information Evening**



**September 2022**

# Items we will cover...

1. Supporting Your Child in School
2. Key Dates
3. Attendance
4. Structure of the Day
5. Homework
6. Assessment Calendar
7. Keeping Safe Online
8. Looking After the Body and Mind
9. What You Can do to Support Your Child





**1. Supporting  
Your Child in  
School**

# 1. Supporting your child in School...



Miss K Hayward  
**Executive Principal**  
**Greensand Federation**



Mr G Preston  
**Head of Sandy**  
**Secondary School**



# 1. Supporting your child in School...



Mr A Rutter  
**Vice Principal**



Mr G Millard  
**Assistant Principal**



Mrs L Cross  
**Assistant Principal**



Mrs M Bloor  
**Assistant Principal**



Mrs G Anderson  
**Assistant Principal**



Mrs T Hinson  
**Assistant Principal**



Mrs A Niczyporuk  
**Assistant Principal**



Miss N Mosedale  
**Assistant Principal**



Mrs K Quinn  
**Assistant Principal**



Mr P Waller  
**Head of Alternative Provision**



# 1. Supporting your child in School...

## Our Pastoral Team

- **Mrs Devereux** is our **Behaviour and Attendance Manager**. She oversees the work of the House Achievement Leaders. She is also our Senior Safeguarding Officer.



- **Miss Nodwell** is our **Pastoral, Safeguarding and Welfare Officer**. She works closely with Mrs Devereux in her role. She is also our Senior Mental Health Lead.



# 1. Supporting your child in School...

# Our Pastoral Team

- Sandy Secondary School is divided into 4 Houses - Courage, Determination, Excellence and Inspiration.
- Each House has a **House Achievement Leader** who ensures that every child is happy and supported to achieve their best.



Mr Croft  
**Courage**  
Science and DT



Mrs Hallett  
**Determination**  
English and Humanities



Miss Broughton  
**Excellence**  
Maths, Art and MFL



Miss Burke  
**Inspiration**  
PE, Business and ICT,  
Drama, Music & Dan



# 1. Supporting your child in School...

# Our Pastoral Team

- Each House has a Pastoral Support Assistant allocated to support the House Achievement Leader in their role.
- Miss Nodwell is our Safeguarding, Pastoral and Welfare Officer and our Senior Mental Health Lead.



**Mrs S Ford**  
House of Courage



**Mrs C Tuffin**  
House of Inspiration



**Mrs P Buckley**  
House of Determination

**Vacancy**  
House of Excellence

## Attendance Officers

- Miss L Doke
- Mrs F Thomas

**Miss L Doke**  
Attendance Officer

**Mrs F Thomas**  
Attendance Officer





## 1. Supporting your child in School...

## Concerns/Worries

If you, or your child, has any concerns about school life it is important that the problem is addressed.

- If your child is struggling in a particular subject, speaking to the subject teacher for guidance and support can be an excellent way of accessing advice.
- If your child requires emotional support, then try speaking to the House Achievement Leader or Pastoral Support Worker who can offer advice on study skills and a range of issues that face teenagers in modern society.

**Encouraging your child to discuss any difficulties and problems they may have, can help you to reach a quick and effective solution together.**



## 2. Key Dates

## 2. Key Dates...

2022-2023

A graphic of a calendar page with a red header and the text "IMPORTANT DATES" in large, bold, black letters.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September:** School Photos
- **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October:** Open Evening
- **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>/Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December:** Golden Day
- **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June:** Grade Sheets Issued
- **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July:** Year 9 Parents Evening
- **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>/Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July:** Golden Day



## 3. Attendance

### 3. Attendance...

- Being in school is really important to help your child be happy and succeed at school...
  - Being in school enables them to **keep up to speed** with their learning and **prevents them falling behind**.
  - It **reduces the pressure to catch up** and understand content that they may have missed.
  - It helps them **form and maintain friendships**.

As well as this, going to school helps to develop:

- friendships
- social skills
- team values
- life skills
- cultural awareness
- career pathways



### 3. Attendance...

#### **The evidence:**

- Achieving 90 per cent in an examination or test is a fantastic result, but if your child is at school for only 90% of the year then they will have missed 19 days - almost four whole weeks.

This would be the rough equivalent of missing 120 hours of school time, which is the same as studying one full-time GCSE (normally taken over two years).



- Students who miss between 10 and 20% of school (that's 19 to 38 days per year) stand only a 35% chance of achieving five or more good GCSEs, compared to 73% of those who miss fewer than 5% of school days.



### 3. Attendance...

An attendance rate of 96% is generally considered good; this allows children approximately 7 days absence across the school year.

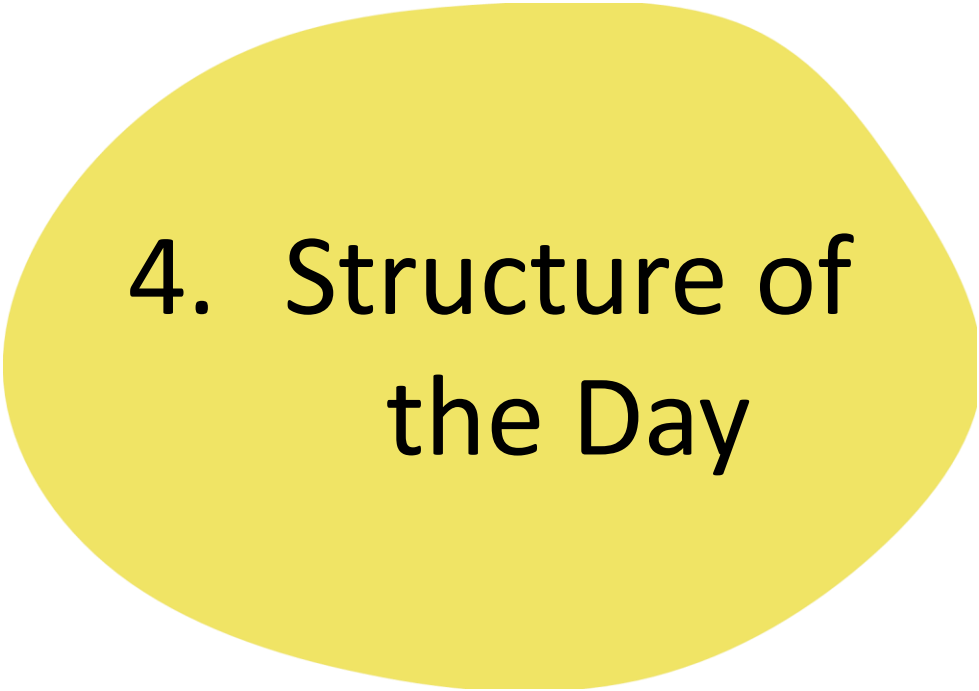
Persistent absence (PA) is defined as an attendance rate of 90% or below.

**Medical or dental appointments:** please try to arrange these outside school hours if possible.

**Covid-19:** For children or young people under 18, they should remain at home and away from other people for 3 days, after which they can return to school if they do not have a temperature.

#### Attendance Ladder





## 4. Structure of the Day



## 4. Structure of the Day...



- 8.25am: Warning Bell- Students are asked to line up
- 8.30am: Final Bell- Students are dismissed into the building.
- **8.30am - 9.10am: Tutor Time.**
- **9.10am - 10.10am: Period 1**
- **10.10am - 11.10am: Period 2**
- 11.10am - 11.30am: Break
- **11.30am - 12.30pm: Period 3**
- 12.30pm - 1.05pm: Lunch 1: Years 7\*, 8 and 9  
(\*Year 7 have an extra 15 minutes lunch)
- **1.05pm - 2.00pm: Period 4**
- 1.25pm: Lunch 2: Years 10, 11, 12 and 13
- **2.00pm - 3.00pm: Period 5**



## 4. Structure of the Day...



### Hints and tips...

- Help your child be organised for the day ahead.
- Make sure they have all their equipment, PE kit, ingredients, etc.
- Discuss whether they have any planned interventions, clubs, etc.
- Encourage them to attend lunchtime and after school interventions.

# 5. Homework

## 5. Homework...

### Homework for Year 9 is now being set on Edulink.

#### Why?

- Homework is a really important part of your child's education.
- Homework **consolidates**, **reinforces** and **extends** what they have been taught in lesson time.

#### What?

- Homework should be **purposeful** and **meaningful**. It will not be set for the sake of it and should help your child progress.

#### When?

- The *Assessment and Homework Overview Booklet* details the regularity of homework for each subject area. This is determined by the number of lessons taught in each subject.

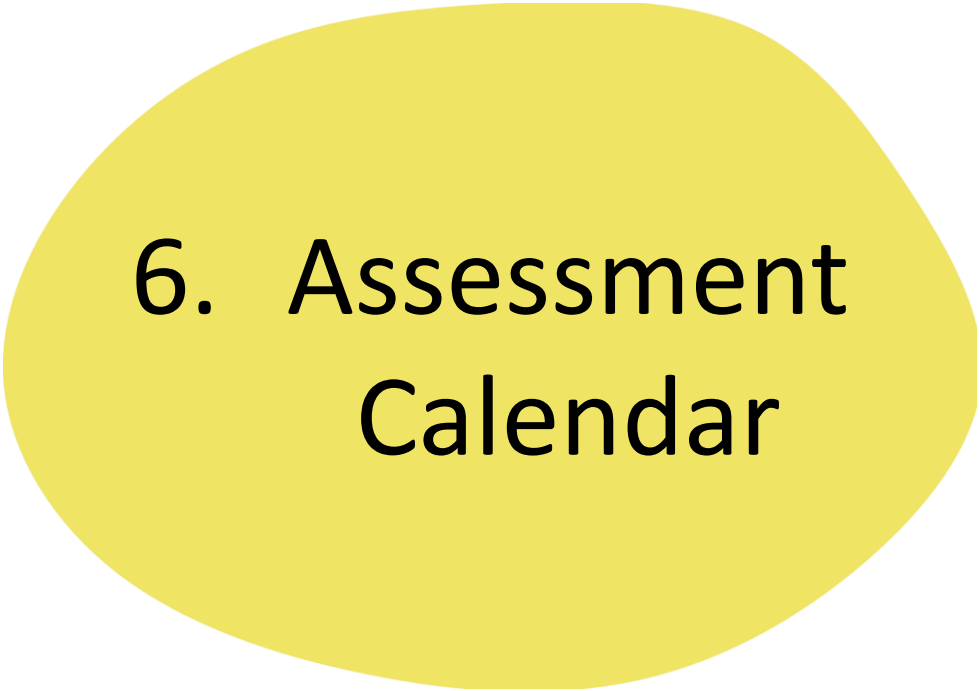


## 5. Homework...

### Where?

- Homework will all be recorded on **EduLink**, along with the due date. Resources and materials connected to the Homework will also be included.
- Sometimes we use other online resources, such as Mathswatch or Seneca, but a record of what has been set will always be on EduLink.





## 6. Assessment Calendar

## 6. Assessment Calendar...

We want to help you to support your child by clarifying the assessment topics for each subject.

- These are shown in the *Assessment and Homework Overview booklet*.
- Assessments and Homework are shown for each subject per half-term.





## 7. Keeping Safe Online



## 7. Keeping Safe Online...

Our first priority is the safety and welfare of our students and we want to work closely with you to ensure this. Online safety is a key issue in this regard...

### Some statistics...

- **1 in 3** young people have **seen something worrying** or nasty online.
- Just under **half of young people** have been exposed to **pornography**.
- In 2020/21 there were over **2,500** Childline **counselling sessions** about online **bullying**.



## 7. Keeping Safe Online...

There are lots of things young people can do to keep themselves safe online...

- Think before you post:  
Don't upload or share anything you wouldn't want your parents, guardians, teachers or future employers seeing. Once you post something, you lose control of it, especially if someone else screenshots or shares it.
- Don't share personal details:  
Keep things like your address, phone number, full name, school and date of birth private, and check what people can see in your privacy settings. Remember that people can use small clues like a school logo in a photo to find out a lot about you.



## 7. Keeping Safe Online...

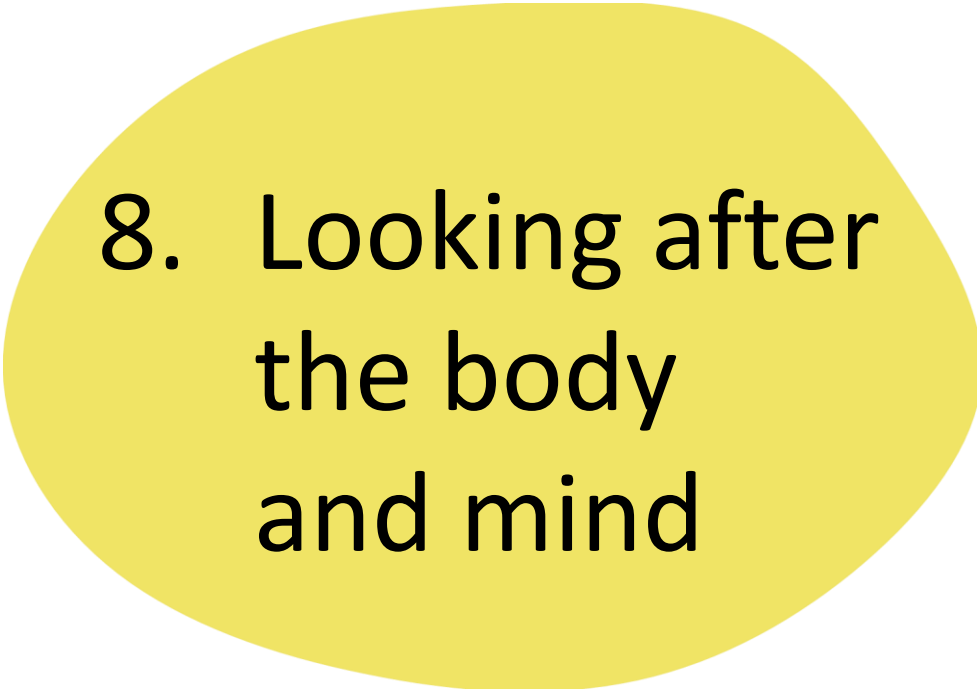
- Watch out for phishing and scams:  
Phishing is when someone tries to trick you into giving them information, like your password. Never click links from emails or messages that ask you to log in or share your details, even if you think they might be genuine. If you're asked to log into a website, go to the app or site directly instead.
- Think about who you're talking to:  
There are lots of ways that people try to trick you into trusting them online. Even if you like and trust someone you've met online, never share personal information with them like your address, full name, or where you go to school. [Find out more about grooming.](#)



# 7. Keeping Safe Online...

- Keep your device secure:  
Make sure that you're keeping [your information and device secure](#).
- Never give out your password:  
You should never give out your password or log-in information. Make sure you pick strong, easy to remember [passwords](#).
- Cover your webcam:  
Some viruses will let someone access your webcam without you knowing, so make sure you cover your webcam whenever you're not using it.





8. Looking after  
the body  
and mind

## 8. Healthy Body and Mind...

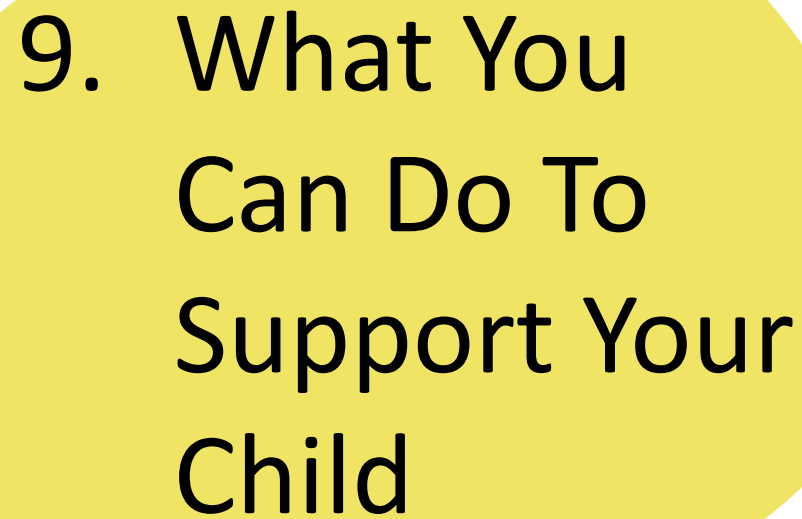


Keeping healthy and looking after the body and mind is really important in keeping children happy and in enabling them to achieve their best.

### Top tips to help...

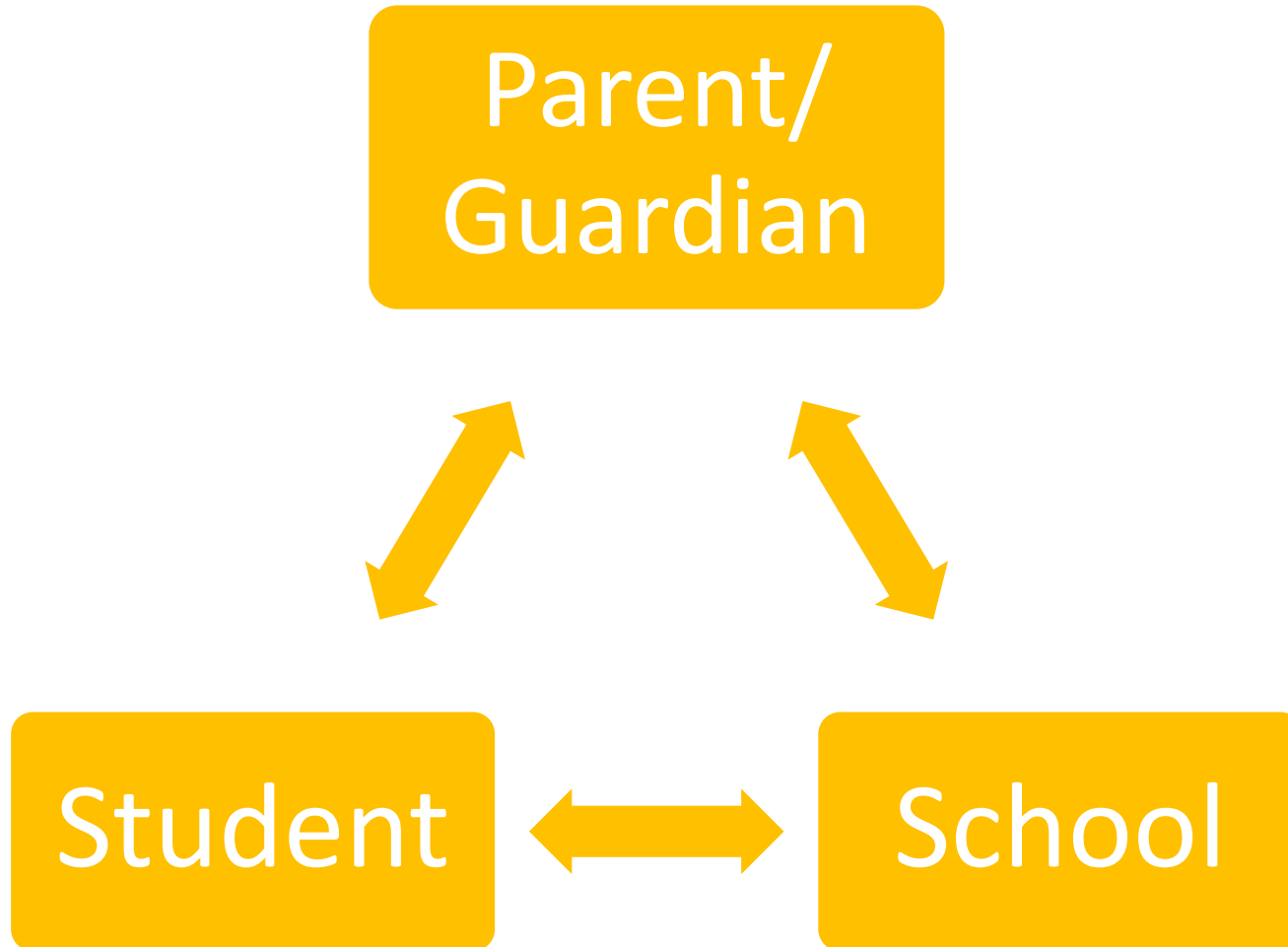
- Bed time routines are important. They should have a minimum of 8 hours of sleep and should avoid using their phone before bed.
- Drink plenty of water and avoid energy drinks and those that are high in sugar or caffeine.
- Exercise has been proven to reduce stress, enhance energy and enhance performance - aim for 60 minutes moderate or vigorous activity per week.
- Regular breaks - avoid working for long periods of time without having a break.
- Reduce screen time and take regular breaks.





9. What You  
Can Do To  
Support Your  
Child

## 9. Supporting Your Child...





# 9. Supporting Your Child...

## Role of the Parent:

- A key role is to support the school, as like you, we only want the best for your child.
- By having a positive relationship with the school you are playing a vital role in helping your child to achieve their potential.
- At home you will play a number of roles which may include...
  - Cheerleader
  - Councillor
  - Motivator
  - Coach
  - Information gatherer
  - Project manager
  - Supplies coordinator



## 9. Supporting Your Child...

- In your role, you are not fully expected to know the details of the school curriculum, the subjects your child is studying or be an expert in any subject area, but your input will still make a huge difference.

### **Ideas to support:**

1. Respond positively when they ask you for help, ask exactly how you can help and if you can't help immediately, say when it is convenient.
2. Be prepared to be told that your help is not required (this can be disheartening) - but don't take this to mean that you shouldn't do anything at all.
3. Try to attend any parent consultation evenings and read all letters, newsletters and booklets which are sent home.



## 9. Supporting Your Child...

**Your child's working environment outside school can be one of the biggest factors impacting on their success.**

- Everybody is different but, as a general rule, your child needs to be away from distractions like TV, mobile phones and social networking sites.
- They may also need some space to store textbooks and exercise books so that they can be organised for the day ahead.
- Keeping up to date with communication - using Edulink to check:
  - Homework that has been set and the due date.
  - Achievement Points.
  - Behaviour Points.
  - Letters that have been sent home.



## 9. Supporting Your Child...



### Top Tips in Year 9

- Support with **exemplary behaviour** and **focus** – Year 9 is a critical year for your child’s future.
- Coursework deadlines vary for each subject. Make sure you are aware of ALL coursework deadlines. Urge your child to complete coursework to the **highest standard** and not to leave everything to the last minute.
- Students should be doing **homework every night**. If they say they don’t have any, then they should be revising!
- Encouraging your child to attend intervention after school, where appropriate.



## 9. Supporting Your Child...

### Revision

Revision is essentially 'relooking' at information that you have learnt previously. The aim is that you know the information you will be tested on and can remember it for the examination. Knowing something depends on understanding it.



## 9. Supporting Your Child...

### Aim of Revision

- The aim is to reduce the amount of information relating to a subject to a series of key points, any of which you can expand upon in an examination answer.
- The key point, phrase or word prompts your brain to retrieve the information stored in it.
- At the end of your revision for each topic or sub-topic, aim to end up with a card or A4 sheet with the KEY points for that section.



## 9. Supporting Your Child...

### Helping with Revision

- Help them to get organised
- Plan a revision timetable with them
- Help them to stick to this revision timetable
- Quiz them on the notes they have made to help them remember
- Make sure they have regular breaks
- Provide a quiet, focused and purposeful space to work



## 9. Supporting Your Child...

Most students are motivated to work hard because they want to do well, but little things can also help to motivate them.

### At school we...

- Issue achievement points which result in rewards, badges and certificates including...
  - Trips
  - Cinema Vouchers
  - Hot Chocolate
  - Lunch with the Executive Principal
  - Assemblies





# Thank You

We very much appreciate your attendance this evening and we look forward to continuing to work closely with you in the near future.

- Should you wish to discuss any issues or concerns about your child and their experience of school, then please do not hesitate to make contact with us.
- We understand the importance of good communication and are always happy to help.

