



Welcome to the first SEND Newsletter of the academic year. We have a new look with lots of useful information to support both students and you, as parents/guardians

Thank you to all of you who have contributed to your child's Personal Achievement Plan with your Parent Views. After half term the Student Views and Targets will be completed.

**Curriculum Information:** Please follow the link that each department has added, along with information regarding the topics and learning coming up in your child's lessons.

<https://www.sandysecondaryschool.com/curriculum>



## Morning Intervention Programme

These sessions will begin again after half term and will run on rotation in the mornings during tutor time. Below is a list of the different interventions we offer:

- **To support wellbeing** - Key worker sessions, SEMH, Growth mindset, Draw and Talk therapy
- **To support communication** - Lego Therapy
- **To support social skills** - Social Studies
- **To support academically** - Reading, Handwriting, Literacy, Maths, sound write



## SEND Referral

Please note that a parent/guardian, teacher or any other educational professional at Sandy Secondary School can request a SEND referral. A child can also refer themselves.

Should you wish to refer a child for an SEND referral or support, then please contact our Assistant SENCO Mrs Alderton on:

[asksenco@sandysecondaryschool.com](mailto:asksenco@sandysecondaryschool.com)



## Areas of SEND and the Graduated Approach

Sandy Secondary School refers to the Central Bedfordshire Graduated Approach to ensure that the correct support is in place for all students, both inside and outside the classroom. Support put in place is designed to help the students access the learning, whilst also supporting them to grow into independent learners for when they transition into adulthood. There are four broad areas of SEND which are referred to in this document, these are:

**Communication and Interaction:** This area of need includes children with Autism Spectrum Conditions and those with speech, language and communication needs.

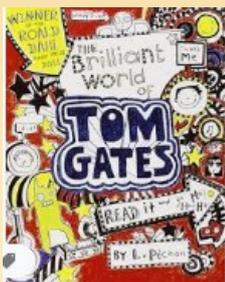
**Cognition and Learning:** This includes children with specific learning difficulties, moderate learning difficulties, severe learning difficulties and profound and multiple learning difficulties.

**Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties:** This includes any students who have an emotional, social or mental health need that is impacting on their ability to learn.

**Sensory and/or Physical Difficulties:** This area includes children with hearing impairment, visual impairment, multi-sensory impairment and physical difficulties.

There are many overlaps between these but, when looking at support in the classroom, these are the different areas which are referred to. Our main aim is to work with students, staff and parents/guardians to ensure that our students are provided the best opportunity to learn.

## Recommended Reading Books



There are lots of books in the Tom Gates series, written by Liz Pichon. These books are fantastic for reluctant readers and children with dyslexia, as the books provide a mixture of text and image. The writing in the books uses a variety of fonts, to keep you interested and eager to read!





## SEND Coffee Morning

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November

**9.30am—10.30am**



Come along to our **FREE** termly SEND Coffee Morning, where you can speak with members of our SEND team, but also speak with other parents/guardians from the local community.

This could be useful if you have a question regarding:

- Interventions
- SEND support
- EHCP provisions
- Exam Arrangements



The event is **free** for parents/guardians to attend, but we do ask that tickets are **booked in advance**, using ParentPay.

Mrs Alderton, our Assistant SENCO and Mrs Robinson, our EHCP Co-ordinator, look forward to meeting you.



## Examinations: Access Arrangements

Access arrangements allow students to access the assessment and show what they know and can do without changing the demands of the assessment. They are agreed before assessments take place. Each arrangement is very much dependant on the individual need of each student.



## What do we do at Sandy Secondary School?

Access arrangements are determined by the individual needs of the student, whilst following the rules and guidelines set by JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications). We are constantly looking at what the most appropriate arrangement is for each student. For all arrangements, there needs to be a substantial amount of evidence in place, so we encourage teaching staff and our Learning Support Assistants to make referrals and keep us updated throughout the school year. We regularly ask for feedback and evidence alongside formal testing. We do not apply any examination arrangements until students are in Year 9 and formal testing for examination arrangements begin in the Spring term from Year 9 onwards. It is really important that whatever examination arrangements are awarded that they match the student's normal way of working, so that they are familiar how to approach the examinations. Before the examination series begin, we will ensure that all students know which arrangement has been applied, so that they are confident in using these in their examinations.

**Year 7 and 8**  
Gather information  
(teacher/TA feedback,  
observations)



**Year 9**  
Staff to be provided  
with a list of students  
who qualify for  
examination  
arrangements.  
Examinations evidence  
to be gathered  
(including formal staff  
feedback and testing).



**Year 10 and 11**  
Staff to be provided with a list of  
students who qualify for  
examination arrangements.  
Letters home to parents/guardians  
to inform of examination  
arrangements.  
Parents/guardians to complete Data  
Protection Sheets, if applicable.  
School to complete Form 8, if  
required.  
All examination arrangements to be  
applied for by March 2023.



## Information shared by the Occupational Therapy Team

### **What is Occupational Therapy?**

Occupational therapy improves health and well-being by enabling people to participate in activities of daily living that are important to them.

The Luton and Bedfordshire Paediatric Occupational Therapist service support children and young people to engage and participate as fully as possible in childhood occupations (activities) such as:

- Play
- Eating
- Self-care e.g. washing, cleaning your teeth, toileting
- Dressing
- School and life skills eg. writing and alternatives to recording information and using scissors.
- Managing at school eg. getting around the class / school, supportive seating, specialist toilet seats
- Hobbies and leisure activities.

### **We see children and young people:**

- Aged up to 18 years old or 19 for a child with SEND if in fulltime education
- With a Luton or Bedfordshire GP
- Present with functional difficulties that are not in line with their overall developmental abilities (this includes academic attainment levels).

Our approach is based on supporting parents/carers and schools to be aware of sensory processing difficulties and how to adapt the things around the child, such as the environment, the child's activities and our expectations and responses. We cannot change the sensory experiences of children but would aim to increase participation and help you manage the impact of these at home and in the classroom.

Our Sensory processing resources are available on our website, including our training video.

Also Included on our website page is our [service statement](#) which explains the service we provide, how we can support and help, and clarification over the offer for sensory challenges.

### **Where can I go for more information?**

You can find all our contact details, and information on referring to our service on our website page: [www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/BedsandLutonOT](http://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/BedsandLutonOT).

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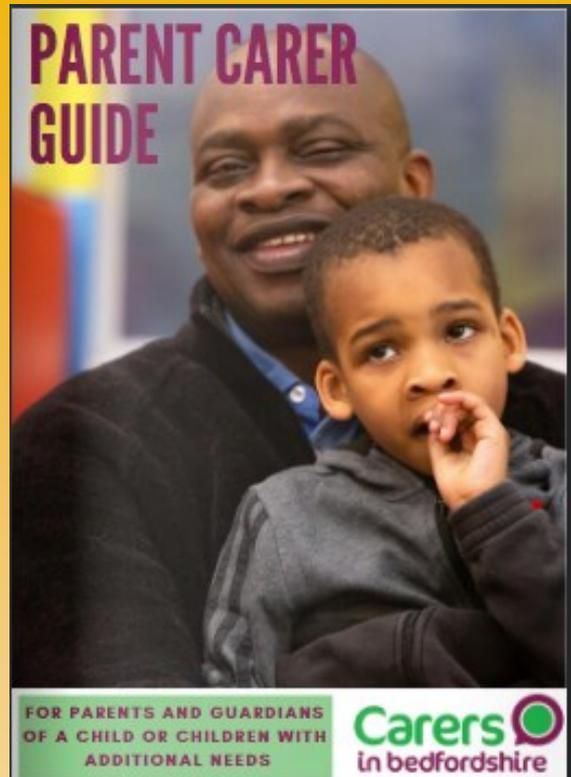
# Sandy Spotlight

Achieving excellence beyond belief

SEND Autumn Edition

October 2022

Carers in Bedfordshire have created a guide to support families and signpost to external help. Here is the link:  
<https://en.calameo.com/read/006942995ebcdf7780bda>



Autism Bedfordshire are offering a 5 week training course to parents. Please contact the number on the information leaflet for more information.



### Parent/ Carer Workshop

## 5 Week Training Course

#### A Course for Pre-Diagnosed & Newly Diagnosed Families

This course is aimed at families who are new to the diagnosis and will focus on how you can better understand and support your child when considering the many different aspects of autism. The course is open to two members of the family and you will need to sign up to all five sessions.

**Dates:** Saturdays 12th, 19th, 26th November & 3rd, 10th December 2022  
**Venue:** The Rufus Centre Steppingley Rd, Flitwick, Bedford MK45 1AH  
**Time:** 09:45 arrival for a prompt start at 10:00, till 13:00  
**Age:** For parents/ carers of children aged 3-11 years  
**Cost:** £15 per person. Maximum of 2 people per household  
**Additional info:** Refreshments will not be provided however there is a café onsite, or you are welcome to bring your own

**Week 1:** Diagnosis Journey  
**Week 2:** What is Autism  
**Week 3:** Sensory Needs  
**Week 4:** Communication  
**Week 5:** Behaviour & local support

**To book:**  
☎ 01234 214871  
✉ [enquiries@autismbeds.org](mailto:enquiries@autismbeds.org)





## Have you seen our Diagnosis Support Pack?



Our [Diagnosis Support Pack \(DSP\)](#) has been coproduced by families for families following a diagnosis of a neurodiversity, and contains information, resources and signposting in a variety of media (video's,

infographics, animations), split into 14 sections - from sleep to medication, and lots more.

The DSP covers the following topics:

1. [Introduction](#)
2. [Positives of Neuro-diversities](#)
3. [Holistic Approach](#)
4. [What to expect at your appointment](#)
5. [Sleep](#)
6. [Medication](#)
7. [Talking about a diagnosis](#)
8. [Sensory Processing Needs](#)
9. [Mental Health](#)
10. [Supporting Social Communication Development in Autism](#)
11. [Best Practice Guide – for professionals](#)
12. [Contact Information and Resources](#)
13. [Jargon Buster](#)
14. [Printable resources and links](#)

Families have described the experience of their child receiving a neurodiversity diagnosis (e.g. Autism or ADHD) with mixed emotions and following the lengthy diagnosis process are left with little information, or understanding of 'what next?'

They told us that a 'one-stop shop' for information, resources and signposting following a diagnosis would be useful, and they would like this information to be accessible and from a trusted source.

The pack has been co-produced with the help of parents, young people, local Parent Carer Forums, CAMHS, Education Psychology and other key partners.



All pages have been made easy to follow, with links that that guide you through the pack. As well as making the pack informative and useful, it was really important to us that the pack uplifts people and celebrates neurodiversity. We know many families find receiving a diagnosis a challenging time but empowering messages and having positive role models are so important to help parents/carers and young people on their journey.

The weblink to the Diagnosis Support Pack is: [www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/dsp](http://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/dsp) or by scanning on this QR Code.

We have designed some posters and we welcome your help in promoting this pack by displaying our poster in areas that is used by staff and families. If you have a parent/carer newsletter/email, please can we ask that you help us to promote this pack by including this information about the Diagnosis Support Pack too.

**This information has been shared with us from  
Bedfordshire Children's and Health Services**



## GENERAL INFORMATION

There are lots of useful websites, which share information to support you and your children. On this page, we have shared some websites which you might like to look at.

**Central Bedfordshire Local Offer** and **Bedford Borough Local Offer**. Both of these resources share information for families about local clubs as well as links to support services available.

Central Bedfordshire Local Offer: <https://localoffer.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/centralbedfordshire/directory/home.page>

Bedford Borough Local Offer: <https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/home.page>



**Kooth** is a fantastic resource which supports young people and their mental wellbeing. Kooth offers free, safe and anonymous support. <https://www.kooth.com/>.

### Groundwork Luton and Bedfordshire

offer targeted youth work to young people aged between 11 to 18 years old. The services they offer range from 1-1 support and groups work support.

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/hubs/east/services/>



**Autism Bedfordshire** is an excellent resource which offers support and guidance, to break down barriers to social participation. They have specialist trained staff who will help build young people's confidence, self-esteem and social skills. <https://www.autismbedfordshire.net/>



**Ambitious about Autism** have created a wide range of easy-reads, templates, top tips and posters that families and young people can download. More information can be found at <https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/information-about-autism/coronavirus-and-autism/resources?fbclid=IwAR1KoAfs4c0UWUI7n5KQA45AgSl1YA3XB1d8d2EBaSgcFNcDtjgMO6bPmA>

**Outside-iN** offer support and advice for families and young people with ADHD and ASD. They offer training, coaching and support with social skills, communication skills, emotion management, anger management and lots more! <https://outsidein-solutions.com/>





## GENERAL INFORMATION

**SNAP Parent Carer Forum (PCF)** are a pro-active group of people who work with education, health, social care and many other organisations to help influence and improve local services for children and young people. You can find out more, and join the group following this link: [https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/15/special\\_educational\\_needs\\_and\\_disability\\_-\\_local\\_offer/138/support\\_for\\_parents\\_and\\_carers/2](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/15/special_educational_needs_and_disability_-_local_offer/138/support_for_parents_and_carers/2)



**Carers in Bedfordshire** offer support for anyone who cares for another member of their household. There are lots of different groups, activities and support online. They offer a community for you to share common experiences with each other, receive peer support and peer mentoring. <https://carersinbeds.org.uk/>

**Bedford Open Door** are a charity offering free and confidential counselling for young people aged 13-25. This support can be received over the phone or online. <http://www.bedfordopendoor.org.uk/>



Central Bedfordshire SENDIASS team offer **information, support and advice** for parents and guardians of children and young people with Special educational needs and disabilities.

The service is available to support children in educational settings. You can contact their telephone helpline between 9.00am-3.00pm Monday to Friday on 0300 300 8088 alternatively you can email them at [sendiass@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

[https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/15/special\\_educational\\_needs\\_and\\_disability\\_-\\_local\\_offer/141/central\\_bedfordshire\\_special\\_educational\\_needs\\_and\\_disability\\_information\\_advice\\_and\\_support\\_service](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/15/special_educational_needs_and_disability_-_local_offer/141/central_bedfordshire_special_educational_needs_and_disability_information_advice_and_support_service)

For more information about what Central Bedfordshire have to offer, please check out the local offer website at: [https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/15/special\\_educational\\_needs\\_and\\_disability\\_-\\_local\\_offer](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/15/special_educational_needs_and_disability_-_local_offer)



## Central Bedfordshire Diagnosis Support Pack

The diagnosis support pack is for families following a neurodiversity diagnosis and contains information, resources and signposting in a variety of media. It is split into 14 different sections .

The pack has been co-produced with the help of parents, young people, parent carer forums, CAMHs and Education Psychology.

For more information please follow the web link below or scan the QR code.

<https://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/beds-luton-community-paediatrics/diagnosis-support-pack>



I've received a neurodiversity diagnosis (e.g. Autism or ADHD) for my child?  
How do I get help - what next?

The **DIAGNOSIS SUPPORT PACK** is an online '*one-stop shop*' for information, resources and signposting for families.



Scan me

[www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/dsp](http://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/dsp)



If we can offer any further support and guidance, please contact us at

[asksenco@sandysecondaryschool.com](mailto:asksenco@sandysecondaryschool.com)

We are always happy to answer any questions you might have!

The team members are:

**Mrs Smith:** SENCO

**Mrs Alderton:** Assistant SENCO

**Mrs Walton-Smith:** Learning Support Manager

**Mrs Robinson:** EHCP Co-ordinator

**Mrs Wild:** EHCP Administrator

