

So **many options** but only one choice: Sandbach School has given Ruth's boys every **opportunity** she could have hoped for



Sandbach School
Opportunity, Achievement, Excellence



Ruth and Kevin Egerton live in Middlewich and have three sons. Josh, 14 and Ollie, 12, attend Sandbach School, and nine year old Will will join them there in three year's time.

Almost a foregone conclusion

It can be difficult to put a finger on exactly what appeals to a parent or to a child about a particular school but in the Egerton's case it was Josh who had the casting vote. "We looked at quite a few possibilities and liked several of the options open to us," Ruth says. "In the end, Kevin and I both had a gut feeling about Sandbach and Josh's eye popped out of his head when he saw the swimming pool so that was it – decision made! Josh has been swimming competitively since he was about eight and we felt he should follow his heart to Sandbach School!"

Living up to expectations

Having visited the school on a couple of occasions prior to making their final choice, Ruth, Josh and his brothers all liked what they saw. "We felt very welcomed by the staff and by the overall atmosphere. In some ways I was surprised that it was Josh's first choice as few of his primary school friends were going to move there with him, but what he saw convinced him that he would fit in and enjoy it. It really has lived up to his expectations, as well as to ours".

Taking notice of gender differences

The fact that Sandbach School is a single-sex school didn't factor particularly in their choice but has, believes Ruth, possibly been a plus point. As well as being sporty, Josh is also really into drama and being able to take part in productions such as dance, without the potential inhibitions he might have had in a mixed setting, has worked really well. Ruth also has the impression that the school appreciates the inherent differences between boys and girls, and how they function psychologically. "Evidently, boys tend to work better in the mornings so the main curriculum is delivered then, with fewer academic subjects taking place after lunch. As the school day starts at 8.30am this approach means that they get the best out of the boys academically. It certainly seems to work as far as Josh and Ollie are concerned."

Extra-curricular opportunities

Both Ruth's boys are consistently doing very well in all their subjects so she is able to appreciate the additional activities in which they also love to take part. "I am amazed by the dedication of the teachers who run so many after-school clubs. Between them, Josh and Ollie swim, take part in as many other sports as they possibly can and Josh loves his participation with the Combined Cadet Force (CCF). The staff put in a great deal of time putting these opportunities in place and it is so good for the boys to have this extra outlet for their interest and energy."

Home/school communication

When children move from primary to secondary school it is often the case that parents can feel distanced from the day to day involvement they have been used to. For this reason, Ruth

appreciates the excellent home/school communication provided through the Homework Planner and the Insight website the school maintains. "It's a bit like Big Brother, as I can always find out what homework has been set, when it's due in and even what they have had for lunch! But the most important thing is that if I ever have any queries it is a quick way to contact the boys' teachers and I will almost invariably get a response within an hour or so. As a working parent, it is important to me that I can stay in touch and be completely involved with my children's schooling."

Not just a number

Whilst the on-line system is a useful way of keeping in touch, it does not replace the all-important face-to-face contact such as at Parents' Evenings. "Even though I might only meet the boys' teachers on Parents' Evenings, I can see immediately that they know both Josh and Ollie well. It is very reassuring to know that my boys are seen as people in their own right and that they are not just a number! We feel very fortunate indeed that we have found a school of this quality more or less on our doorstep."

Children say

Josh: "I like the way that the students are respected and the teachers are fair in dealing with difficult situations."

Ollie: "I like the extra curricular activities and the House system."



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