

Sandbach School has given Mark's son the **chance** to make a **career** from a **skill** he didn't know he possessed



Sandbach School
Opportunity, Achievement, Excellence



Mark and Elizabeth Morris live in Sandbach with their four children. Tim is nearly 18 and in his final year at Sandbach School.

Something new to try

Mark and Elizabeth were drawn towards Sandbach School for their eldest son mainly because of its reputation for encouraging excellence in its students. However, they could not have predicted quite how accurate that reputation was in terms of what Tim has achieved in the seven years he has been there. "Tim has played football to a good standard ever since he was very young, and he was pleased that the facilities at Sandbach School allowed him to keep up his participation in the sport," says Mark. "Then, as he is a keen outdoor type, his PE teacher suggested that he try cross-country running and he decided to give it a go."

Running towards success

When Mark arrived to collect Tim after his first race he was astonished to hear that Tim had won. "It was something he'd never done before or shown an interest in so it was amazing to find that he had done so well. After that he just kept on winning, not just in the school team but against other local schools and before long he was representing not just his school but running for the County."

Recognition of talent

Tim joined a local running club to help him make the most of this new-found talent, but Mark has been delighted by the support of the school in promoting Tim's proficiency. "The school recognised that Tim had something special and have been great in helping him to capitalise on it," he says. "He has been given every opportunity to compete and to improve, and they have even provided transport to events if we've been unable to attend ourselves. Most of all, they have hugely boosted his confidence by showing him how good he is, and bringing out his leadership skills by appointing him Team Captain and asking him to help with coaching the younger boys. Tim used to be a fairly quiet and reticent boy, but because of the faith the school has shown in his abilities, that is a thing of the past."

Opening doors

Academically, Tim is a capable student and is taking three A Levels this summer but whatever the outcome he is assured of a place at Leeds Beckett University to study Sports Coaching. "He's been offered an unconditional place so is not under huge pressure but I think he'll do well, anyway," says Mark. "What is so good is that Sandbach School has opened so many doors for him, and I am fairly certain that this would not have been the case had he gone to a school with a lesser commitment to the promotion of sports."

Out of the shadows

During primary school, Mark believes, Tim felt slightly overshadowed by his academic older sister but that it is the opportunities he has been offered at Sandbach School which have helped him acknowledge his own strengths. "Sandbach School has given him a belief in himself and brought out the best

in him, giving him a possibly unique chance to achieve in his own particular field of interest. I also feel that the continuity of the Sixth Form provision has been an added bonus, enabling him to maintain his sport and academic work in familiar surroundings and amongst his friends."

A winning approach

Mark has no hesitation in saying that Tim's younger brother will also be moving on to Sandbach School in a few years' time. "What I most admire about the school is that the students are given every chance to find and to make the most of their own talents and strengths, and that their achievements are celebrated in every way. The school appreciates effort, not just intellectual but in personal behaviour, creativity and on the sports field, and undoubtedly, Tim has benefited from that approach."

Children say

Tim: "Without valuable support from the PE department I would not have considered sport as a career. I am now looking forward to taking up my place at Leeds Beckett University on a Sports Coaching course. Who knows, maybe one day I'll be back at Sandbach School as a sports coach or PE teacher!"

I would strongly recommend students interested in sport to consider Sandbach School. With its excellent PE staff and facilities, success is assured."



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