

Lorraine believes that Sandbach School is the only one which could provide her sons with just the right **work/life balance** she was looking for



Sandbach School
Opportunity, Achievement, Excellence



Lorraine and Derek Myers live in Sandbach with their sons Jack, 18 and Harry, 16.

Weighing the options

Lorraine and Derek were open-minded when it came to choosing a secondary school for their sons. They had considered several options before making their eventual choice, including mixed-sex settings as well as considering private, but it was Sandbach that ticked most of their boxes. "What we have found over the years is that the general feeling we had about Sandbach at the start has been reinforced in many ways," says Lorraine. "Although Jack and Harry have had different experiences there, they are positive ones and we have had no cause to regret our decision."

Wide-ranging opportunities

Whilst first impressions may mean a lot, Lorraine believes it is important to look beyond these to the educational provision offered. "The school building itself is very beautiful and imposing but what we appreciate more is the forward-thinking and enriching ethos behind the physical facade. This is a school where learners are given wide-ranging opportunities should they wish to take them, and where their skills and talents are nurtured. It seems to bring out the best in the boys, even demonstrating that they might have gifts they were not aware of themselves."

Nurture and encouragement

This is certainly true in Harry's case as he is an active member of the Swimming Team, the Brass Band and the Theatre Group, as well as making the most of various Additional Study Clubs to keep his classwork up to scratch. "This year he will be playing saxophone at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival as well as performing and also spending three weeks in New Zealand with the Theatre Group; those are amazing opportunities for someone his age. We are so impressed with the way the School places so much emphasis on extra-curricular subjects and is pro-active in encouraging the boys to take part."

Element of trust

Any doubts Lorraine might have had about Harry missing out on his schoolwork while he is in New Zealand have been quashed by his teachers' assurance that the boys will be given every chance to keep up while they are away. "They will be expected to continue with their studies and trusted to do so," she explains. "As Harry is so involved with his music and theatre interests, the school has been quick to notice when balancing school work with other commitments has threatened to affect Harry's grades and has put measures in place to redress the problem, so I am not concerned that his work will suffer."

A wider social circle

Sandbach School also offers its students the invaluable chance to widen their social circle due to its catchment areas and this is something Lorraine thoroughly endorses. "To be fair, it took both Jack and Harry a little while to settle completely when they joined in Year 7, but that was because they were used to a familiar, local and mixed-sex Primary. It didn't take long for either of them to make new, good friends alongside the ones they were already acquainted with and for me that is another major bonus."

More than just a pretty face

Although Jack has made the decision to continue his studies at a college, his overall progression was very positive, says Lorraine, and that was why she and Derek felt Sandbach School to be the right place for Harry, too. As far as Lorraine is concerned, Sandbach School offers precisely the right work/life balance that she wanted for her sons: a solid academic education together with the promotion of individual talent, alongside a peer group which reflects the world they are growing up in. "I don't believe they would have had any better opportunities than the ones Sandbach has offered anywhere else and as a teacher myself, I know what I am looking for," she says. "Sandbach School is more than just a pretty face; it is expanding, moving forward and striving to improve all the time."

Harry says

"Throughout my five years at Sandbach School I have developed both in confidence and academically. The opportunities that have been offered to me have supported my social life and have enhanced my knowledge on subjects that I hope to pursue. They are even more enjoyable and have been helped along as many of the activities I take part in are alongside boys who I am very good friends with. I can't wait to enter the 6th form and to push myself further, enabling me to take advantage of anything more that the school has to offer in my final years at Sandbach School. Hopefully, what I have taken advantage of throughout my school life so far will help me to achieve a place on the 'Head Boy Team' or even Head Boy."



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