

For students who want to make the most of their **skills** and **interests**, Jackie believes they could do no better than Sandbach School



Sandbach School
Opportunity, Achievement, Excellence



Jackie and Richard Pickles live in Sandbach with their children Georgia and Luke, who are 18 and 16 respectively.

A dream come true

Luke and Georgia have to a great extent grown up with Sandbach School where their father was for some years Assistant Headteacher. To go to 'Dad's school' had always been Luke's dream, one which he was able to realise in Year 7 and which has since then lived completely up to his hopes and expectations. Richard left the school before Luke started there but this has not adversely affected Luke's very positive experience.

All out for success

"We spent a lot of time as a family at the school, attending sports events which Richard was organising," says Jackie, "so both the children felt completely at home there. Being very sporty they loved the emphasis Sandbach School places on a wide range of sports opportunities and Luke especially was impressed by the rugby and cricket facilities. Whilst other local schools also offer these, Sandbach School is the one which goes all out to give students the chance to play at such a high level, and in fact Luke has excelled at both, playing in the 1st XV Rugby team and

representing Cheshire Under 12's in cricket. It is most unlikely that he would have got this far were it not for the commitment of the school."

Credit where it is due

Georgia is also a gifted athlete and although she had done well academically at her own neighbouring school she decided to transfer to Sandbach School for her final sixth form year. "She was really pleased that Sandbach School had started to open the Sixth Form to girls," says Jackie. "She had taken several classes there in Year 12 and liked everything about it, including the sporting ethos, and we felt that as Luke had done so well there she should have the chance, too. We have been pleased by how she has been supported in her classwork, such as being given extra time to complete assignments if she's had to miss lessons because of training, and she now hopes to contribute to Sandbach School's impressive display of awards by presenting them with an England vest for pole vault! Even though this is not a sport she can pursue at school, Sandbach School has to take some of the credit for her success because of the continued encouragement and enthusiasm of the teachers."

Making the most of every opportunity

Both Georgia and Luke are fortunate enough to be able to combine academic achievement with their sporting interests and Jackie believes that it is largely because they are so taken with everything the school has to offer. "As well as sport, there are so many opportunities for those who want to grab them, and if a student shows an interest in the arts, for instance, they will be given every chance to make the most of it. The music and drama departments take groups to events all over the world, as does the PE department; Luke was able to play cricket in South Africa and plans to join the rugby tour to Canada next year."

Camaraderie

Jackie feels that it is the team spirit created, not just on the sports field but in the creative and performing arts, which makes a huge difference in how the students engage with their peers and with school life as a whole. "I have seen how boys who had been under-achieving have absolutely flourished when they become part of a like-minded circle of friends, with shared interests and who are working together as a unit. There is a palpable camaraderie which impacts positively on every aspect of their education, and I think that Luke himself would have been a different person had he not been so effectively supported in every way."

A little bit of magic

According to Jackie, however much enthusiasm is shown by students and pupils, the teachers at Sandbach School give the same amount back, and more. Sandbach School not only looks a little like Hogwarts – it is working a bit of magic on its students as well!

Children say

Georgia: "The staff at Sandbach School have enabled my confidence to flourish throughout my two years of learning. I have been embraced into the Sandbachian lifestyle wholeheartedly which is something I will appreciate for years to come, taking the qualities embedded into the next stage of my education."

Luke: "Sandbach School has been a part of my life since I was born, and so I am about as Sandbachian as they come. As a school it has embraced me since day one and has offered me some of the most life changing experiences I will ever encounter; I can't thank the school enough for all it has done for me and for shaping the person I am today."



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