

# A **passion** for sport has turned into a **dedication** to **learning** for Claudia's son at Sandbach School



Sandbach School  
*Opportunity, Achievement, Excellence*



**Claudia and Martin Webb live in Sandbach with their two children. Jake is eleven years old and in Year 7 at Sandbach School.**

## **Hook, line and swimmer!**

When Jake discovered that Sandbach School had a great swimming pool and an established swimming club, nothing would dissuade him from his decision to go there rather than anywhere else. Claudia is a school chef, based at another local school of which she has a very high opinion, and it would have been her preferred choice for Jake. However: "Jake has always been passionate about his sport and especially his swimming," she says, "and when he happened to meet the Sandbach School PE Teacher through an event with his primary school he was totally

hooked. So, we left the final decision to him and are more than happy with how it has turned out."

## **Perfect combination**

Sandbach has a reputation for encouraging its boys in their own individual talents and interests, and for Jake it has been very successful. "Jake is more than happy to be able to get to school for swimming at 7am and to go to the Breakfast Club before school starts. He can swim after school, then go to Homework Club, and then walk home having done his school prep so he can go swimming again later! Basically, Jake is able to combine his extra-

curricular interests with his schoolwork, and it all fits in really well with our family life."

## Additional support

As far as schoolwork is concerned, Claudia is very pleased with the support Jake has been offered, especially in light of the fact that his final year at primary school had let him down somewhat. "Jake is perfectly intelligent but like a lot of boys his age was more interested in sport than classwork," she says. "Unfortunately, in his last year at primary school he had too many supply teachers and his marks were badly affected as a result. At Sandbach, they have a Buddying system, where some of the older students take the younger ones under their wing for certain subjects and Jake was more than happy to accept this as a bonus – especially when one of them turned out to be in the same swimming team!"

## Rising to the challenge

Jake's academic progression was something which was naturally important to Claudia and she has been impressed by how well it was handled at Sandbach School. "Previously, Jake was primarily focussed on his swimming but he is now much more dedicated to getting his classwork done to as high a standard as possible. He has come to realise the importance of studying and enjoys the challenge of achieving good marks. He's really keen to succeed and I believe he has been given this momentum by the supportive and encouraging approach of the school."

## Bringing out the best in the students

Claudia also believes that Jake is now much more confident than he had been previously, and has learned to accept that life will always have its ups and downs. "Jake has adapted amazingly well during his first year at Sandbach School," she says. "He only had a couple of friends from primary school with him when he moved there and it was a big step but Sandbach School has offered so much in terms of opportunity, pastoral care and overall support and it has brought out the best in him. He was disappointed not to be made Swimming Captain, but that has not put him off trying for other positions and he knows there will always be other goals to aim for. He knows that healthy competition is a good thing – and is absolutely up there to compete!"

## A successful leap into the unknown

Claudia has no doubt that she and Martin were absolutely right to allow Jake to follow his heart by choosing Sandbach School. "We were nervous at first because it was an unknown environment to us, but it really is the best thing we ever did. Jake is more self-assured, comfortable there and in a good place academically and emotionally, so we couldn't be happier."

## Children say

**Jake: "I am very happy at Sandbach School, and would recommend it."**



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