

Southend High School for Boys

Parent Bulletin

Weeks 1 & 2

8th September 2017



As the Summer holiday comes to an end, **all at SHSB will want to celebrate the overall achievement of students in the external examination results. In a year in which we had our best A-level results in recent year; we also retained our position with some of the strongest GCSE results in South Essex.**

At A-level (A2), more than three quarters (79%) of grades awarded were at B or better; and almost half (48%) at A or A*. Eighty four of the prestigious A* grades were obtained by our Year 13 students – one out of every eight of the grades secured – more than any year before! Forty nine students have achieved 3 or more grade As at A-level – more than our best ever!

The introduction of the new GCSE grades for Maths and English provided a genuine challenge for our most able students. The boys responded well with over half of all Maths and English grades at 7 or better. In other subjects, there were almost 200 A* grades and over 400 A's with well over half of all the grades at these top two levels. Ten of our most consistent performers secured 10 or more A* equivalent grades.

These results reflect the hard work of the students and staff alike, and illustrate **what can be realistically achieved by each and every pupil in the school: setting their sights only on the highest grades.**

It is also important to offer proper thanks to the many members of staff who ensured, through their work in the holidays, that the school is ready for the new term. Extensive work has been undertaken on the premises, in finance, with the computer network, for the timetable, with exam results, in advising students, as well as preparing lessons for a wide range of revised courses.

The school is fully staffed; we welcome several new members of teaching staff:

Mr Medlock - PE

Mrs Garcia – Leader of Spanish

Mrs Childs - RE

The school buildings have had a new lease of life in a number of areas: E10 has been fully refurbished and the Pavilion redecorated. Meanwhile the major building works are still on schedule: the new library, classrooms and pastoral base should be ready for occupation at Christmas. In order to meet various Local Authority Planning conditions, we have been obliged to invest, additionally, in on-site parking. The visitors' car park is finished. The new staff car park is under construction.

At the end of the Summer break, and at the outset of the new school year, may we remind parents of **the importance of full attendance at school**. There is a close connection between regular attendance and success in the classroom; and, although non-attendance due to ill-health is unavoidable, it does matter that any other absences are minimised. In particular **holidays in term-time are undesirable**. Not only do they interrupt the sequence of learning, but they send a potentially damaging signal to pupils: during term-time school study must be seen to have a clear priority over leisure pursuits.

INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS

Attendance

We have been advised by our Local Authority Attendance Officer that pupils arriving significantly late should be marked as absent. Being a school with a very wide catchment area, we are flexible in times of bad weather or poor transport; but we are now implementing this recommendation. In any case, we all naturally want to encourage punctuality as a desirable characteristic; part of our job in preparing our young people for future employment.

Valuables

Our standard advice is that pupils do not bring valuables into school, as we cannot accept responsibility for them. If a pupil *must* do so, then our advice is that the valuables should be kept in a *locker* during the day. We understand that parents may wish their son to have a mobile for contact in case of emergency – we would advise using an inexpensive model for bringing into school. Please be aware that insurance companies may refuse to pay out in cases of loss because the school may be deemed as a ‘public area’ which invalidates some policies.

Personal Accident Insurance - Pupil Fund

I would remind you that **all pupils are automatically covered** in respect of accidents occurring during school time, whilst travelling to and from school and during school-related activities, including sporting events and school journeys in the holidays. Cover is provided for pupils anywhere in the world in respect of *school organised activities*. Full details of the insurance cover and restrictions are available from the school Finance Office. Pupil Fund helps to cover the cost of this arrangement and also of course subsidises a whole host of pupil activities such as lunchtime clubs, entry fees for various competitions, transport for sports activities etc. We are most grateful for the donations of parents towards this vital means of sustaining the school’s rich extra-curricular programme.

Vehicles on site

Parents are reminded that bringing their vehicles onto the school site can represent a significant health and safety risk to pupils. It is also true that the site simply cannot accommodate any more vehicles than those already using it. Parents are also advised that their insurance may be invalid when driving on the school site. **Please arrange to park, drop off and collect your son/daughter at a safe distance from the school where it is legal to park.**

Nut Allergies

We have an increasing number of pupils in the school who have notified us of potential allergies. We have been asked to notify parents and would encourage you to avoid sending in products which contain nuts, including peanuts, in their ingredients.

ADVANCE NOTICE – SCHOOL EVENTS

Harvest service

We will be holding a Harvest Service on **Thursday 5th October** and will be asking parents and pupils to bring in items of produce for distribution to the local homeless. Produce should be brought during the week commencing Monday 18th September. The following items in particular are requested: Long life milk, tinned meat, cook-in sauces, Super Noodles, Pot Noodles, sugar, coffee, tea bags, breakfast cereal, packet pasta and sauce, meal in a tin (eg chilli, sausage casserole, curry, spaghetti bolognese), baked beans, soups, cakes, biscuits, baby food & milk, roll-on deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving foam, tin openers, shampoo. *Please do check the ‘sell by’ date of any food items which you intend to send into school.* Items should be brought to the following collection points: QE2, E3 or E4.

INFORMATION FOR NEW PARENTS

Parental consent – photographs

We ask all parents to give their **general consent** in respect of the child's involvement in **sporting or other regular representative activities**. Schools these days have to be much more careful about exposing children to risk. You may have read in the press that some headteachers have therefore banned the taking of photographs of pupil activities at school or the videotaping of school concerts on account of the risk of such images falling into the wrong hands. Whilst we are circumspect about what and where we publish, it is not our intention to go to these lengths. **I shall assume parental consent for the school to take photographs of their children as individuals or in groups (eg teams, music groups) for legitimate school or publicity purposes**; if any parent wishes to withhold such consent, I should be grateful for such a request to be put in writing to me by Friday, 15th September.

School assemblies - collective worship (& the right to withdraw)

The school provides a mixture of school, year, House and form assemblies, incorporating collective worship and essential information-giving. Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship if they wish; for instance, would any parent wishing to withdraw their child from the Christian element of an assembly, please write (unless you did so at the beginning of last year) to Mrs Worth, Deputy Head by Friday 15th September.

Sex & relationships education

Again, parents have the right to remove their child from sex education if they wish; would any parent considering exercising this right please write to me by Friday 15th September.

FIXTURES

Sat 09/09/17 - Year 7 A,B,C Football vs King John (H)

Tue 12/09/17 - Year 7 A,B,C,D Football vs WHSB (H)

Thu 14/09/17 - Year 8, 9, 10, 11 Football vs WHSB (A)

Sat 16/09/17 - Year 8A,B, 9, 10 Football vs King John (A)

Tue 19/09/17 - Year 7 A,B,C,D Football vs STM (H)

Wed 20/09/17 Year 9, 10 Football vs STM (A); 1st XI vs Plume (A)

Thu 21/09/17 Year 8, 11 Football vs STM (A)

Sat 23/09/17 Year 7A,B, 11 vs Eastwood (A)