

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Prittlewell Chase, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 0RG
(01702) 606200 enquiries@shsb.org.uk www.shsb.org.uk

Headteacher: Robin M Bevan MA MEd PhD FRSA



August 23rd, 2021

Dear Parent

Start of Term: school re-opening

School re-opens to pupils on Thursday 2nd September. We know that our pupils and parents are eager to see a 'normal' programme of schooling resume as soon as possible. In line with our established approach, we will have a slightly staggered start on the first day *only*; to allow us to welcome our new pupils first, before others arrive on site. The end of the school day will be 15:30 for all pupils in Years 7-11.

Thursday 2nd September:

Year 7: arrive for registration and tutor time – 08:30 start.

Year 12: arrive and register in the Main Hall – 09:30 start.

Years 8-11 & 13: arrive for registration and tutor time – 10:00 start.

Lessons for all year groups will begin at 11:00 (Period 2a) – timetables have been sent separately; please ensure your son/daughter has any necessary equipment/kit as required for lessons on the first day.

Travel: please avoid transport to school by car – if this is unavoidable then please ensure you find a safe place, at a good distance, from the school for 'drop off'. Never stop on the zigzag.

The school continues actively to encourage **cycling to school**, for all those within a 5 mile radius, following carefully considered routes which can be practised this week, if needs be. Cycling is healthier, cheaper, quicker ...

For new parents: a simple reminder, please, not to congregate at the school gates at the start of the school day. Once your son is on site, please leave him to enjoy his time in school!



Public Health: Covid guidelines

The Department for Education issued guidance for all schools in July indicating that **every pupil needs to have completed two lateral flow tests** before returning to school. In August this guidance was updated and strengthened with clear protocols for managing 'positives': asymptomatic close contacts are no longer automatically required to self-isolate, **but must instead obtain a PCR test** at the earliest opportunity.

Following discussions with local Public Health officials – balancing the risks of disruption due to individual infection and/or outbreaks *as against* the importance of limiting disruption to learning; and recognising the challenges of a widely-dispersed pupil population – **every pupil must complete the required two lateral flow tests at home: once, on Thursday 26th August, and then, a second time on Tuesday 31st August.**

- all test results must be logged online, for every pupil: even if the test result is negative;
- every pupil was provided with home-testing kits before the holiday: please use these first;
- testing kits are readily available from local pharmacies – if you need a testing kit, please do not travel to the school if you can obtain one local to your home;
- testing kits can be collected from school on Thursday 26th August between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- *if any pupil needs assistance in self-administering the test, especially for those in Year 7 who may not have tested before, please email enquiries@shsb.org.uk and attend the school site at 11 a.m. on Thursday 26th August. Pupils can attend unaccompanied for this purpose. There is no requirement to attend the school site, if the test can be undertaken competently at home.*

This programme of self-testing is for one simple purpose: to protect our school community from further transmission of Covid and, as a result, ensure uninterrupted educational provision from the start of term. **We need every family to support us: every pupil must undertake two tests before term resumes.**

We are also actively encouraging our 16+ students to make an informed decision about attending a local clinic for vaccination: in Southend, there is a walk-in facility at the Civic Centre, but this is not the only option.

At the start of term, I will write again with news from the Summer: exam results, new staff appointments and plenty to look forward to for the term ahead. The challenges of the last year have been considerable – with careful attention to the detailed information given in this letter, we can anticipate a full programme of school activities.

Yours sincerely



Robin M. Bevan
Headteacher

