

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Prittlewell Chase, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 0RG

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Headteacher: Robin M Bevan MA MEd PhD FRSA



Re: Post-16 Choices & Information

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you to all of you who could join us for our Year 11 Parents Briefing either in-person or virtually. I hope the evening was informative and provided some helpful hints on helping your son to achieve success in the coming year. If you were not able to join us, you will find the resources from that evening on our school website at the following link:

<https://www.shsb.org.uk/page/?title=Key+Stage+4&pid=67>

As promised on that evening, I am writing to you today regarding the Post-16 choices your son will need to make in the coming weeks. These are the subjects he will study at A-Level should he join the Sixth Form at Southend High School for Boys. As explained on our evening, your son has a guaranteed place at our Sixth Form should he meet the entry requirements. These are outlined in our school policy, but the expectation is 52 points from his best 8 GCSEs, as well as a 5 in Maths and English, with only subjects at a Level 6 or above contributing towards the total. He will also need to achieve a minimum of a Level 6 in the subjects he wishes to study at A-Level.

Your son must choose four from the following options, however if he chooses Maths & Further Maths, he can choose to either study four in total or five in total:

Art & Design <input type="checkbox"/>	English Lang & Lit <input type="checkbox"/>	Mathematics <input type="checkbox"/>
Biology <input type="checkbox"/>	OR English Lit <input type="checkbox"/>	OR Maths & Further Maths <input type="checkbox"/>
Business Studies <input type="checkbox"/>	French <input type="checkbox"/>	Music <input type="checkbox"/>
OR Economics <input type="checkbox"/>	Geography <input type="checkbox"/>	Physical Education <input type="checkbox"/>
Chemistry <input type="checkbox"/>	German <input type="checkbox"/>	Physics <input type="checkbox"/>
Computing <input type="checkbox"/>	Government & Politics <input type="checkbox"/>	Psychology <input type="checkbox"/>
Design & Technology <input type="checkbox"/>	History <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious Studies <input type="checkbox"/>
Drama <input type="checkbox"/>	Music Tech <input type="checkbox"/>	Spanish <input type="checkbox"/>



Details around each of these subjects can be found in the Sixth Form Prospectus on the school website via this link:

<https://www.shsb.org.uk/site/data/files/documents/46E8350E784B3DF990811F5C8D4096AC.pdf>

In order to help him make these important decisions, we have put a programme of activities in place to inform his choices. I will detail these in this email, but hope that you can use this information to discuss his choices with him. We find that a collaborative approach results in our pupils making carefully considered decisions and enjoying their post-16 study far more. To help him make these decisions, we have put the following provision in place for our students in Year 11:

Sixth Form Open Evening

Scheduled for Thursday 11th November at 17:30, this evening provides students and parents an opportunity to experience this school from a Sixth Form perspective. It allows the opportunity to ask questions, engage with A-Level material, speak to current Sixth Form students and get a feel for what life is like over in our Sixth Form block.

Careers Interview

Your son will have, or have already had, a careers interview with our Careers Advisor Mrs Murphy, guiding him through possible options for his post-16 routes. Together they will explore the best route into their chosen careers and discuss subjects that they may wish to consider. The summary of this meeting will be emailed directly to your son and he is encouraged to share this with you at home.

Post-16 Tutor Time Tasks

Each Form Group is currently being provided with a set of tasks to complete during tutor time using our Unifrog software, and incredibly detailed programme detailing Post-16, Post-18 and career information. They will be guided through the different options available if they choose Sixth Form is not right for them, as well as the multiple routes into many careers that now exist. They are asked to complete a worksheet in each session which they are asked to bring home and discuss with yourselves. Having these conversations around possible options helps them to make good decisions now and improves outcomes.

PSHE Lessons

Alongside the tutor time activities, they are also having Post-16 sessions within PSHE. The idea of these is to give them more time to look and discuss potential options and prepare them with skills that are useful in the world of work.

Assemblies

We are planning for Leaders of Department within the school to present their subject to students, giving them more information about the difference in their subject at A-Level, and a closer look at what they will be studying. Some subjects change dramatically or have specific content that is vastly different to GCSE, which makes this opportunity very helpful when choosing possible options.

The final piece of our Post-16 puzzle is ensuring that all students have alternative options should they not meet our entry requirements. Unfortunately, each year we see some students who have not put a

contingency plan in place which makes results day even more challenging. Please spend some time researching alternative options (this will be a task done during tutor time) and maybe visiting some other Open Evenings, and ensure an alternative option is secured. I would hope that this will not be necessary but it is useful to make these arrangements now.

The link for making your son's final options choices will be sent to you on Friday 5th November, just ahead of the Sixth Form Open Evening. This will also be accompanied with more information helping your son to make his Post-16 choices. Once again, the deadline for completion is Monday 6th December.

As always, the Key Stage 4 Pastoral Team is here to support your son through this year and if there is anything we can help with, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Lewis Baines
Director of Key Stage 4
Southend High School for Boys

