

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



January 13th 2022

Dear Parent

Start of term: activities

May I open this letter by wishing all of our families a 'happy New Year' in anticipation of a year when, we all hope, we can all enjoy a very much more 'normal' experience of school and home life.

In that vein, I am delighted to be able to report a very smooth and productive start to the Spring Term. We have already, in the opening fortnight, enjoyed the first rounds of our House Music competition, a variety of school sporting fixtures, the usual extended and engaging breadth of lessons and clubs, as well as the Year 13 A-level mid-course assessments.

January 18th – school closure for pupils

May I also remind all parents that, in line with our published calendar, next Tuesday – January 18th – is one of our scheduled non-pupil days. Classroom colleagues will be benefitting on-site from a range of developmental workshops focussed on issues ranging from student mental health to the characteristics of the most effective homework. The Tuesday is a 'holiday' for all pupils, but may – for some – be an excellent opportunity to complete any outstanding school tasks or review recent learning.

I am hopeful that future letters from the school will focus predominantly on our academic and extra-curricular provision; but – of necessity, for now – the remainder of this letter is dedicated to a variety of Public Health messages.

Public Health: Covid absences

Since the start of term pupil attendance rates have been consistently high – well over 90%. We continue to manage with a relatively small number of pupils reporting positive test results – yesterday, for example, just 13 students (spread evenly across the year groups) were in statutory self-isolation. Although we have experienced increased staff absence from Covid, the scale has been both limited and manageable. See below for information on 'close contacts' and testing.

Face-coverings

Thank you to all parents for a supportive stance with regard to the revised guidance and recommendation that pupils wear face-coverings, for a limited number of weeks, in classrooms and communal areas within the school. We have seen a very high level of compliance and understand that there will be individual exemptions.



Home-testing

Thank you also for your role in supervising home-testing for all pupils twice before the return to school. Our online data capture system allowed us to confirm an exceptionally high rate of testing. The decision to manage this process, with your help, through home-testing allowed us to resume all lessons for all pupils on the first day of term.

Pupils are encouraged and expected to continue home-testing on a twice-weekly basis across the coming weeks.

Vaccination

The school is hosting the School-Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) on January 28th, providing a second opportunity for pupils in Years 8-11 (and those who are aged 12 in Year 7) to be vaccinated – either for their first or second dose. A separate letter sent to all parents provides the details, including the mechanism for consent, which is managed and determined exclusively by the immunisation team.

There are also local facilities where pupils can receive a vaccination: see below.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Bevan', followed by a period.

Robin M. Bevan
Headteacher

[from Public Health: Southend]

The small number of children who have been identified as contacts of the confirmed case(s) will have guidance from NHS test and trace.

We strongly advise that if your child may have been in close contact with a confirmed case within their class/group, that your child carries out a lateral flow device test (LFD) every day for 7 days.

All schools are working very closely with Southend Public Health and continue to follow all local and national public health advice.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19

Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) include a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at [Main symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

All parents are advised to continue with the routine twice weekly asymptomatic Lateral Flow Device COVID-19 testing of those aged 5 and above in the household.

Temporary government changes from 11th January 2022

Anyone who receives a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result should report their result on [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result](#) and must self-isolate immediately but **will no longer need to take a follow-up PCR test except where they have symptoms.**

After reporting a positive LFD test result, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace so that their contacts can be traced and must continue to self-isolate.

Anyone who develops **one of the three main COVID-19 symptoms** [Main symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) should stay at home and self-isolate and **take a PCR test.** They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test.

What to do if you live in the same household / or are a close contact of someone who has tested positive or symptomatic awaiting a test result for COVID-19.

- You may not be required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. **You are strongly advised to take a lateral flow test every day for 7 days**
- Any close contact or member of the household who is 18 years and 6 months or over and has only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine or has not received any dose of the COVID-19 vaccination will still be required to self-isolate. Please read the [stay at home guidance](#) which provides information on this.

Walk-in COVID-19 vaccinations

Help keep your friends and family safe
Come and see us now and **#GrabTheJab**

Westcliff Library

649 London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea. SSO 9PD

Thursday 20th January 2022. 10am-3pm

*1st dose, 2nd dose & Booster
Pfizer vaccinations
for all eligible 12 years plus*

Walk in... no appointment necessary

Normal library services will not be available on this day.
Please use the drop box (to the right of the front door) to make
returns.

www.essexcovidvaccine.nhs.uk



Working to make
lives better
www.southend.gov.uk

