

# 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



February 10<sup>th</sup> 2022

Dear Parent

### School Activities

As we approach the half-term holiday, I am delighted to be writing about some of the many activities that have animated the school in recent weeks. Today, and for the rest of the week, the **house basketball** competition – at lunchtimes – has drawn capacity crowds onto the Sports Hall balcony, with some exceptional contests ultimately determined in the final seconds!

**House music** was another lunchtime highlight with dedicated supporters attending all of the rounds. The final, in the school hall, featuring the best performers in each category – percussion, brass, vocals, etc. saw the eventual victor crowned as Musician of the Year. We are looking forward to confirming that accolade with a performance in a school assembly later in the term.

Over the half-term break, our first overseas trip for two years will be going ahead. We are indebted to the parents of those who had booked places on the **ski trip** for their patience in living through the multiple changes of Covid-restrictions for travellers: England, France and Italy have all adjusted requirements on more than one occasion since the New Year! The staff who have navigated that minefield have been superb: staying abreast of the perpetual changes, steering a very 'narrow path' between the stipulations of the travel company and the conditions of the insurers! All involved considered it to be hugely important to demonstrate and realise our desire to resume, in this and other ways, full and extensive provision of opportunities for all pupils.

Meanwhile, following our normal **assessment calendar** (but enhanced in line with OfQual expectations), students in Years 12 and 13 have been 'enjoying' the opportunity to consolidate and demonstrate their learning in an exam hall environment for the first time in a considerable period. Year 11 have that same opportunity in the days after half-term. Thorough revision, naturally, gives rise to better 'mock' results; but, more importantly, a comprehensive and thorough approach to preparation for these assessments allows every student to see what else they may need to do to be 'at their best' in the Summer. We have been very proud of the serious and dedicated approach adopted by all those involved.

In the weeks following Christmas, the school's attention was drawn to changes implemented by **Greater Anglia** to their timetable. Services used by our pupils, especially those who connected to the Southminster line in Wickford, were subject to serious and unjustifiable reductions – delaying journeys home by almost an hour. After sustained representations – from the school and parents – I am pleased to report the reinstatement of the 'school service'. Thank you to all those who used their 'voice' to secure this change.



Throughout the winter months a high proportion of pupils have continued to travel to school by bike, on foot or using public transport: these remain the best choices for an urban environment. We understand some journeys will be by car and are very grateful to parents who organise drop-off and pick-up in a way that is safe, legal and limits congestion.

However, despite the clear road markings, a small number of parents continue to stop their cars – to drop off pupils – in the morning, on the **zigzag lines** outside the school gates on Prittlewell Chase. This is not only illegal and subject to penalty notice, but also represents a very serious risk to our many cyclists who come along the cycle lane (from the hospital direction) and turn left into the school grounds. Cars stopped on the zigzags impede that manoeuvre and pull off without a clear sight line of the approaching cyclists from behind. There is a related risk at the end of the school day, as vehicles waiting illegally on the zigzags obstruct the visibility line for cyclists emerging from the school grounds.

The issue has been raised by our pupils at the School Council and their concerns are valid. *The school has contacted the local Civil Enforcement Officer team who will be deploying their camera car to assist.*

### **Public Health: Covid absences**

Since the start of term pupil attendance rates have been consistently high – well over 90%. At the start of term pupil absence due to Covid was relatively low. Across the second half of January we saw a steady rise in reported positives. Having sought advice from the local Director of Public Health, no additional mitigations were recommended. I can report a reduced number of Covid absences this week.

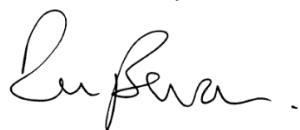
We remain hopeful that we will not need to revert to previous measures, such as the expectation of face-coverings; but it would be premature to suggest that this is not a possibility. Pupils are encouraged and expected to continue home-testing on a twice-weekly basis across the coming weeks.

### **Vaccination**

The school hosted the Essex Schools Immunisation Service on January 28<sup>th</sup> providing a second opportunity for pupils to be vaccinated – either for their first or second dose. We do not currently anticipate a return visit from the team for further Covid vaccinations. There are however local facilities where pupils can receive a vaccination: see below.


*Once again, thank you for your support.*

Yours sincerely



Robin M. Bevan  
Headteacher

**advance notice: dates for  
your diary**



16 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> March	'Grease': live on stage at SHSB
30 <sup>th</sup> March	School Spring Concert

# Walk-in COVID-19 vaccinations

The NHS is coming to your area. Walk in for your  
COVID-19 vaccination

It's never been easier to have your  
COVID-19 vaccine!  
**#GrabTheJab**

All adults and children over 12 years old are welcome

- First, second or booster doses. If you're eligible, come on down and see our friendly team.

Got questions? Want to discuss the vaccine?  
Come and have a no-pressure chat.

***Walk in... no appointment necessary!***  
**#GrabTheJab**

[www.essexcovidvaccine.nhs.uk](http://www.essexcovidvaccine.nhs.uk)



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**Monday 14th February 10am-3pm**  
**St Edmund's Community Hall**

St Edmund's Close, Southend-on-Sea. SS2 4AS

**Tuesday 15th February 10am-3pm**  
**Warrior Square**

(Vaccine Bus in the Car Park by Breast Screening Unit)  
Southend-on-Sea. SS1 2NQ

**Wednesday 16th February 10am-3pm**  
**Havens Community Hub**

138-140 Hamlet Court Road, Westcliff-on-Sea. SS0 7LW

**Thursday 17th February 10am-6pm**  
**Valkyrie Health Centre**

50 Valkyrie Road, Westcliff-on-Sea. SS0 8BU

**Friday 18th February 10am-3pm**  
**Centre Place Family Centre**

Prospect Close, Southend-on-Sea. SS1 2JD

***Walk in... no appointment necessary!***

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