

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Robin M Bevan MA MEd PhD FRSA



2nd March 2022

Dear Parent,

Following the half-term break, it is very encouraging to see superb levels of attendance, participation and dedication across the school. I would like to pay tribute to Year 11 who have just completed their period of formal assessments showing exceptional resolve throughout: they deserve credit for that resilience, praise for their successes and encouragement to learn from any disappointments.

I would also want to give recognition to **students who occupy so many roles of leadership and influence within the school**. Thank you – for example – to the Charity Committee (see below), to the authors and editors of the Southend Spectator, to the School Council that has just produced an excellent report based on almost 900 pupil survey responses regarding our timetable structure, to the Equalities Committee whose positive practical suggestions are helping enhance our provision even further ... and to those involved in the Fairtrade Committee which secured excellent local press coverage this week (<https://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/19954717.southend-comes-support-fairtrade-fortnight/>).

Non-pupil day – 23rd March 2022

In a change to the school's published calendar, we have made the decision to have a full non-pupil day on March 23rd. It was already confirmed in the school diary as a non-pupil afternoon with lessons ending at lunchtime for an afternoon of staff development.

The change is being made to facilitate the very considerable obligations that have been placed on teaching staff to run two qualification/assessment systems in parallel: although we have every reason to believe examinations will take place as usual in the Summer, teachers are still required to be in a position to generate a full, evidence-based, verifiable set of teacher-assessed grades. For our school, this involves the collation of assignments to support over 3500 individual grade submissions: a challenge that necessitates additional time for rigorous moderation.

Sponsorship/advertising opportunity – Formula 1 – funding request

We have five student teams involved in the fabulous F1 in Schools – STEM challenge:

“F1 in Schools Ltd is a social enterprise working with committed industry partners to provide an exciting yet challenging educational experience through the magnetic appeal of Formula 1. F1 in Schools is the only truly global educational programme that raises awareness of STEM and Formula 1 among students and school children in every region, in every country, on every continent.” (from <https://www.fiinschools.co.uk/about.html>)



The teams will be building a model cars and **every vehicle has space for advertising company logos on the wing or on the top, as well as in the design portfolio and pit displays.**

The regional finals will be live streamed on Youtube attracting around 1000 views. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctOLipYUC8g>. If they proceed to the National final, the number of views is around **10,000** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lPE1fx479ko>.

We are urgently looking for five local businesses or individuals willing to sponsor the cars: £125 buys the full advertising for one team (and covers all the costs of the competition). A shared approach could be adopted in response to lower contributions. Please reply immediately, as there are only limited numbers available to enquiries@shsb.org.uk.

World Book Day – 3rd March 2022

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 have the opportunity to be actively involved in this year's World Book Day through an organised visit from the established author – Chris Priestley. There is little doubt that sustained reading (from paper as well as on screen) is one of the most secure predictors of future success and, indeed, of well-being. Please continue, as parents, to celebrate, model and encourage reading for pleasure at home.

Charity Week – from 7th March 2022

Charity Week starts next week. Students can purchase Golden Tickets (£10) via Wise Pay or pay for events at the door as they enter. Golden Tickets have a unique number which enters them automatically to the daily raffle draw.

We are also holding a Quiz Night on Thursday 10th March from 6pm. We would like to welcome families and friends of up to 10 people per table. You can purchase tickets (£4 per person) via Wise Pay or at the door. We have had to limit the number of tickets to a maximum of 70. Thank you to businesses, parents and colleagues who have already offered raffle prizes. Raffle prizes on the night include lunch for four people at a restaurant in Leigh on Sea and 5x free car 'health check'.

We have a **non-uniform day** for our students on the last day of Charity Week. If students would like to take part, parents are asked to contribute towards a collection for the British Legion via Wise Pay.

Inter-Schools (ESU MACE) debating competition

On Monday evening, our Sixth Form team won the East of England Regional Final in the ESU Mace Competition and got through to the National Finals Day of their competition. In doing so, they knocked out The Bishop's Stortford High School for Boys who were the overall winners in 2021.

"They have been phenomenal, this is the third year they've taken part in the competition and are doing a brilliant job. Previously getting knocked out in the first and second rounds has just led to them refining their approach and taking on the feedback to continue improving, so this is really well deserved."

More Able and Talented Register

Across every subject and year group, opportunities are provided – within and beyond the classroom – to provide additional challenge for the most able. Every year the school identifies students for our More Able and Talented Register. This process takes into account a variety of sources: national tests and internal examinations, teacher and departmental assessments and nomination, class observation, work completed by students, independent assessments and information received from external bodies such as other schools and organisations attended. You can now see on Go4Schools whether your child has been identified as MAT or EA (exceptionally able) in the subjects he/she takes. You can see this information in the "at a glance" tab or the student profile at the top of their Go4Schools page. If your child has not been identified it does not mean that they aren't working and performing well in their subjects – the MAT register highlights the students who are currently showing the very highest level of aptitude in subjects and therefore will be a minority of pupils in each subject.

It is our wish at Southend High School for Boys for all students to enjoy all aspects of their learning and to perform the best they can in all their studies. If your child has been recognised in a subject, this is very commendable and of course, he/she may be attaining highly in other subjects too, due to effort and enjoyment in his/her work. We have very much embraced the ideas of Growth Mindset (highly regarded research on this has been undertaken by the academic, Carol Dweck), which seeks to encourage all students to have a desire to learn and understand that intelligence can be developed. Our More Able and Talented Register is not to be seen as a fixed label of your child, but as an indicator of where they are showing and benefitting from the Growth Mindset attitudes required for excellent learning. These indicators include embracing challenge willingly, persistence in the face of setbacks, understanding that effort is the path to mastery and being able to learn from critical feedback.

The Queen's Helicopter Flight – 1st March 2022

The school was honoured and more than a little excited to be asked to provide the landing site for G-XXEB, the helicopter of the Queen's flight, on the occasion of the visit of The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall to mark the formal commemoration of Southend's new 'city' status. Although this was not, in any official sense, a school visit from Charles and Camilla; it was nonetheless due to be a very special and memorable occasion. Unfortunately, the weather prohibited the flight. There will be a cohort of pupils from the school who will, well into the future, be able to recount the day when the (as yet uncrowned) King Charles III very nearly dropped in to school and interrupted lunchtime football!

Covid update

In line with the updated national guidance, the school continues to operate a variety of simple risk mitigation measures including classroom ventilation.

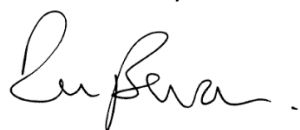
As has always been good practice, pupils who are unwell should not attend school especially if they are likely to spread an infection. It is also sensible and helpful to allow an adequate period of recovery: typically at least one full day of 'feeling fine' before returning, rather than struggling back in a depleted state.

Those who suspect they may have Covid are encouraged to undertake an LFT. If this is positive, then the recommendation is a minimum period of 'isolation' of five days which can be ended after that period with two successive negative LFTs, twenty-four hours apart. *The school has a residual stock of LFT kits which can be obtained on request from pastoral leaders.*

Ukraine

Southend High School for Boys is proud to be a diverse, welcoming and supportive community. We have pupils of direct Ukrainian heritage as well as those from the republics of the Russian Federation. It is an exceptionally difficult time for those with family and friends so deeply impacted by recent world events. Our school remains a place of empathetic support for all those in our care and we extend that warmth of kindness to their families too.

Yours sincerely



Robin M. Bevan
Headteacher