

# SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

## ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Robin M Bevan MA MEd PhD FRSA



March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Dear Parent,

As this letter is being prepared, the school hall is filled with the vibrant activity that precedes our **Spring Concert**, tonight! Staff and pupils have worked tirelessly to be ready and the final rehearsal is providing a delightful glimpse of the anticipated quality – one not to miss!

The Concert follows an exceptional period of student activity. Many families were able to enjoy the outstanding performances of **Grease**, a long-awaited return to the stage after a three-year hiatus in formal productions! This was followed by our **Charity Week** activities: a huge 'thank you' is warranted to all our parents for helping support the events, providing the 'cash' and enabling sums well in excess of £7,500 to be raised for our chosen charities. It was exciting and rewarding to see this aspect of our school work resuming with such commitment and leadership from within the Sixth Form cohort.

The past weekend brought further challenges, adventure and success across many year groups. First, we were thrilled to have our **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme** students – from Year 11 – able to spend two nights under canvas and complete their 'expeditions' following routes in the rural areas of South East Essex. They impressed and set a high standard for the Year 10 group that will be following on in the Summer Term.

On the same Saturday, five school teams graced the local **Borough football finals**. The 'knock out' competition is open to squads from each main school year, 7-11. It is an extraordinary achievement to see the green colours of the SHSB players in every one of the five finals. And it was a delight to be able to share with them, as they won four out of the five matches – two of which had to extend into extra-time, but were contested with determination to the end. Many of the same pupils are also featuring this week in **South East Essex Cup finals** (Years 8, 9, 10 and 11); whilst the Year 11 team anticipate an Essex County Cup semi-final after Easter.

Exceptional success has also been forthcoming for some of our rugby players. Yesterday, at Barking Rugby Club, the school enjoyed participating in the **Year 10 Essex County Cup**, beating Brentwood School 20-12. (Brentwood had scored their 2nd try to make it 12-10 to them with only 8 minutes to go, but a 3-point penalty and a last-minute converted try meant that SHSB won by 8 points.) This is only the second time the school has had a rugby team winning the Essex Cup: a great achievement.



## End of term – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Following the same end of term pattern that the school followed at Christmas, the last day of the Spring Term will culminate with a final assembly from 11:30. **We expect pupils to be leaving the site from 12:15.** There will be no facility for individual pupils to remain on-site after 12:30. Please ensure that appropriate transport arrangements are in place to ensure your son/daughter can make a safe journey home, ready to enjoy the holiday period.

**Term resumes on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April**, immediately following the Easter bank holiday. This will be a normal school day, with lesson starting at 08.30.

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### ‘Saying goodbye’

It is with natural sadness, genuine appreciation and authentic best wishes that we say ‘goodbye’ to a small number of staff as the term comes to an end.

**Mrs Miller** has been with us for only a very short time, stepping in to assist with our Learning Support provision for SEND pupils. She moves on to work, in a similar role, in a local Special School where her expertise and professionalism will be valued as highly as they have been here. Leaving the same team, but for retirement, we express similar thanks to **Mrs Harp**. Our Learning Support Assistants are not often ‘centre stage’ in the work they do, but are nonetheless central in the lives and trajectories of individual pupils. Mrs Harp leaves a precious legacy of impact and support.

Finally, our best wishes go to **Mr Zaman** who has enjoyed two periods of employment at the school and now travels overseas to continue his professional teaching career. He first joined the school, to cover a temporary vacancy, for one year in 2016/17. He was a valued contributor to the teaching of ICT and Computing, with clear expertise and an approach that was appreciated by many of our students. When a permanent vacancy arose, Mr Zaman rejoined the school – at our invitation – in September 2018. He has contributed significantly; Computer Science at GCSE has extended considerably and our A-level cohorts have quadrupled in size! His work in the school has been transformative and has been highly valued. We wish him well!

Yours sincerely



Robin M. Bevan  
Headteacher