

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



June 13, 2022

Dear Parent,

As the second half of the Summer term started last week, we were very pleased to **welcome Anna Firth MP to the school for her first visit**, having been elected to replace Sir David Amess in the local constituency. She has a long association with the local area as well as experience as a school governor at one of the Kent grammar schools. Her support for our provision will be important in the coming months and years.

Anna enjoyed hearing about the school and was inspired by the work underway to expand the inclusion of able pupils with SEND through the Autism Resource Base. The building work continues on schedule – more information about the ARB can be found on the website:

<https://www.shsb.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1608>

Together with the Chair of Governors, I was able to raise **on-going concerns about school funding levels**. Although there have been increases in the total schools budget at national level, our income at school level has suffered from sustained reductions in 'real terms'. We provided Anna with a detailed briefing, including the following table that compares the core funding provided to the school, each year, since 2012 with what would have happened had that income been index-linked, rising in line with inflation.

	ACTUAL (NOR modelled as fixed)			CPI	TRACKING INFLATION (from 2013)			REAL-TERMS	
	INCOME per pupil		TOTAL INCOME		INCOME per pupil		TOTAL INCOME	TOTAL (GAIN/LOSS)	
	11-16	post-16	(NOR: 900 + 400)		11-16	post-16	(NOR: 900 + 400)		
2012/13	£ 4,958	£ 4,000	£ 6,062,200	2.42%	£ 4,958	£ 4,000	£ 6,062,200		
2013/14	£ 4,775	£ 4,000	£ 5,897,500	1.95%	£ 5,078	£ 4,097	£ 6,208,905	-£ 311,405	-5.0%
2014/15	£ 4,718	£ 4,000	£ 5,846,200	0.71%	£ 5,177	£ 4,177	£ 6,329,979	-£ 483,779	-7.6%
2015/16	£ 4,688	£ 4,000	£ 5,819,200	0.50%	£ 5,214	£ 4,206	£ 6,374,922	-£ 555,722	-8.7%
2016/17	£ 4,587	£ 4,000	£ 5,728,300	1.79%	£ 5,240	£ 4,227	£ 6,406,796	-£ 678,496	-10.6%
2017/18	£ 4,562	£ 4,000	£ 5,705,800	2.74%	£ 5,334	£ 4,303	£ 6,521,478	-£ 815,678	-12.5%
2018/19	£ 4,800	£ 4,000	£ 5,920,000	2.00%	£ 5,480	£ 4,421	£ 6,700,167	-£ 780,167	-11.6%
2019/20	£ 4,800	£ 4,000	£ 5,920,000	1.31%	£ 5,589	£ 4,509	£ 6,834,170	-£ 914,170	-13.4%
2020/21	£ 5,000	£ 4,188	£ 6,175,200	0.83%	£ 5,663	£ 4,568	£ 6,923,697	-£ 748,497	-10.8%
2021/22	£ 5,150	£ 4,188	£ 6,310,200	4.84%	£ 5,710	£ 4,606	£ 6,981,164	-£ 670,964	-9.6%
			£ 59,384,600				£ 65,343,478	-£ 5,958,878	

The school has responded well to the challenges created across this decade of decline, but parents will understand that rising costs – especially with utility bills – are now creating additional and significant pressures for all schools, especially those like SHSB which are amongst the least well-funded in the country.



We also raised questions with Anna about the Secretary of State's **recent policy announcements regarding the proposed inclusion of all schools into Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs)**. Although some schools have thrived within that organisational model, at present there is no compelling case – in terms of benefit to pupils, to the school, to the community or to the wider school system – as to why our school should take the step to join or form a MAT. Whilst the advantages are far from clear, there are also considerable concerns related to the loss of local governance accountability, a potential diminution of the school's identity and vision, as well as fears related to the possible end of institutional leadership embedded within the school community. These are concerns, which would be shared by many parents: they were heard and understood.

Anna will be returning to visit the school, again, in the near future.

As the season of public examinations draws towards a close, and Covid has receded, we are able to enjoy a full programme of Summer activities for the first time in three years.

The school is closed to pupils on Thursday 23 June. During the day we will be hosting a variety of staff training workshops. In the evening, helped by hundreds of pupil volunteers, we will be inviting Year 5 pupils and their parents to enjoy a full Open Evening.

After the late finish, pupils return to school on **Friday 24 June for a late – 09.30 (Period 1b) – start**. This day will also be the celebration day for our Year 11 pupils at the end of their GCSE examinations.

On Thursday 30 June, we welcome prospective Sixth Form students from other schools for their induction day. Friday 1 July is equally busy as we welcome those in Year 6 who have secured a place for next September, for their first formal visit to the school.

Individual pupils will be involved in a very wide variety of supplementary activities: lectures and coding days in Maths and Science, theatre trips in Drama, off-site 'residential' activities with Space Camp and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, team entries through to the National Athletics finals, careers provision for Year 10 on their interview day, University taster days, a UCAS super-fair for all of Year 12, house cricket, house cycling finals, museum trips, the school's Art exhibition ... and, as term closes, the 'Big Bike Ride' for all pupils in Years 7-9, the marathon walk, Sports Day and the Music Tour to Europe. This is not a complete list, but it is exceptional to see the breadth of opportunities spread over only six weeks! Term finishes on Thursday 21st July.

We look forward to the weeks ahead and welcome your continuing support for our provision of these educational opportunities, consistent with our declared purpose – "to create the circumstances in which others can thrive"!

Yours sincerely



Robin M. Bevan
Headteacher