

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Robin M Bevan MA MEd PhD FRSA



July 14, 2022

Dear Parent,

Thank you once again for your sustained support, as parents, of our work in school. We have recently received a number of 'thank you' letters from the families of those leaving the Sixth Form after their A-level examinations. The letters are a source of encouragement and frequently reference *not only* the outstanding academic provision in and beyond lessons *but also* the school as a nurturing environment of empathy, vision and leadership. In turn, we are inspired by the growth and maturity demonstrated by our leavers after a challenging few years for us all.

National Athletics – national champions

The last few weeks of the Summer Term are always full of varied challenging and creative activities. In one week we have had students completing their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions, an Art exhibition, a full day of 'mock interviews' for Year 10, lectures on science and creativity for the Sixth Form, our Big Bike Ride and much more besides! We will be celebrating a full and varied array of contributions to, and successes in, these events in our run of end-of-term assemblies – so many pupils deserve a 'well done' for their role in house, subject, school and other activities.

One result, however, deserves very special commendation. It was a delight to see our Intermediate Athletics squad return from the national finals as national team champions – best in the country. Their success was underpinned and reinforced by a national bronze medal position for the Junior squad. Whilst there were some notable individual performances, this level of success is only possible because of the sustained contributions of all in the squad: all those who trained, those who travelled as reserves, those who competed – outstanding!

Summer Uniform

For several weeks, all pupils have been advised to adopt our Summer uniform – blazers are not required (jumpers/hoodies not to be worn as an alternative). In the recent heat, we have extended these arrangements to allow pupils to remove their ties and undo their collar, although we do ask them to have their ties in school ready to be worn on request. These provisions allow all the pupils to be comfortable in the higher temperatures. Individual event arrangements are being communicated, including what to wear, for our various special events – Big Bike Ride, Sports Day etc.

In the last few years, we have been able to enhance many aspects of the school site. The rooms on the south facing facades are equipped with air conditioning that is working well to mitigate against the sunshine. The library also benefits from air conditioning: every pupil has access to a cool place at break-time and lunchtime if they need to come inside from the field or playground.



End of term/start of new term

The Summer Term ends on Thursday 21 July. We anticipate that pupils will be released, after the final school assembly, from 12.30pm. **There will be no facility to remain on site after this time**, so all pupils should ensure they have planned their journeys home accordingly.

The new term begins for all pupils on **Tuesday 6 September**. Year 7 register at 8.30 am; Year 12 register at 9.30 am in the Main Hall; Years 8-11 & 13 register at 10.00 am. All lessons start Period 2a after break-time.

Valedictories

The end of the Summer Term is often coloured by the need to say 'goodbye' to valued colleagues. First, although she moved on a few weeks ago, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Ms Moghabghab who provided valuable assistance in the library, on a part-time basis, since 2015. Her calm demeanour, enthusiasm for reading and expertise/experience in the law proved to be a genuine asset to the school: the latter being deployed as she helped to coach winning teams in the local and regional 'moot' court case competitions.

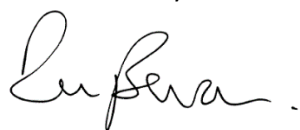
Mr Miller also moves on this Summer to a promoted role in another local school. He, too, joined our staff in 2015 and has been a significant and professional contributor to the work of the Mathematics department. He has gone 'above and beyond' in a number of ways, not least as the co-ordinator and host of our Summer School activities. We wish him well and express sincere thanks for all that he has brought to his classroom and beyond.

The last of our 'goodbyes' is to one of the longest-serving colleagues on the staff of the school. When meeting former students, his name is frequently amongst the first to be mentioned. Almost always with a comment about how it was that Mr Cornall, through skilled judgement and careful encouragement, turned a wayward tendency into productive endeavour! He was at the helm of pastoral provision for Years 10 and 11 for many years, serving on the Senior Leadership Team until Summer 2021. However, his contributions in the classroom – Business Studies, Politics and Economics – since 1988 also deserve words of appreciation and praise. He will be very much missed.

Summer holiday

As we approach the end of term, may I extend my very best wishes to all our pupils and families for the holiday period. We would encourage every pupil to take time to rest, to read, to challenge themselves (with something new or different), to sustain fitness, to be bold in adventure, to learn, to foster friendships and extend kindness ... and to do so with a deliberate limitation on 'screen time'! Enjoy the sunshine.

Yours sincerely



Robin M. Bevan
Headteacher