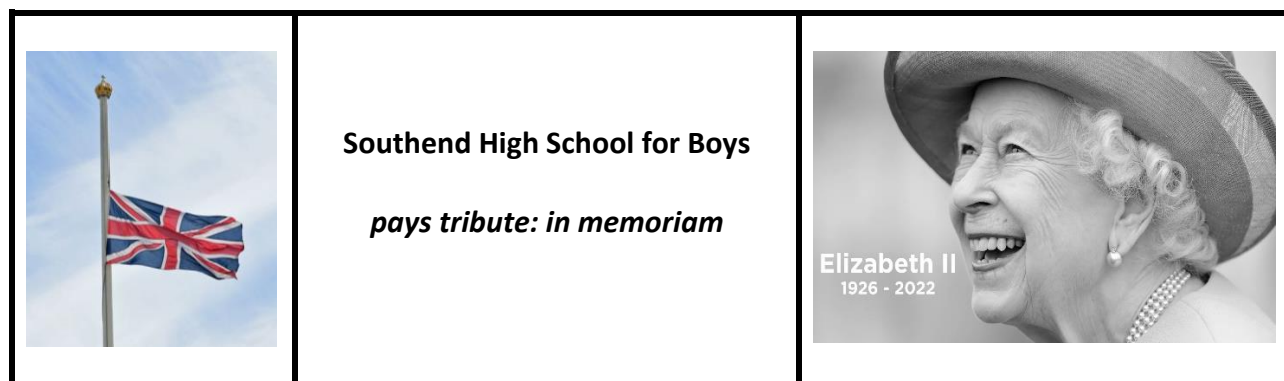


# SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

## 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



September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Dear Parent

**Welcome!** It was a delight to welcome a full return to school at the beginning of this week. We trust that the holiday time was relaxing, refreshing and productive for all our families. Nonetheless, we know that most pupils, at the end of six weeks, find it is very good to be back in school: enjoying lessons, cultivating friendships and becoming immersed in the additional activities that 'complete' the school experience.

We were, as a school community, able to celebrate very significant success in public examinations.

*[from our public Press Release literature]*

At A-level (A2) it has been another very impressive year for our Sixth Form, with our largest ever entry for A-level. Almost 700 A-levels completed with more A\*-B grades than the school has ever secured.

- ✓ Well over half (57%) of all A2 results at A or A\* - 396 A/A\* grades in total!
- ✓ 156 A\* grades, which require exceptional performance, have been awarded to our Year 13 students – approaching one out of every four of the grades obtained.
- ✓ 78 students have achieved 3 or more grade As at A-level and there are 20 students with three or more A\*!

175 boys in Year 11 completed more than 1600 GCSE qualifications. Over one-third of these were awarded the highest possible, grade 9. Over three quarters – a remarkable 1200 – of the grades were at level 7 or above. Twenty of our most consistent performers secured over 200 A\* equivalent – 8's and 9's – between them!



## **Absence/Public Health**

It is very good to be starting a new school year, welcoming our pupils and beginning our full calendar of activities *without* having to make reference to any new Public Health announcements or restrictions! Let us all hope that this remains the case; but – in the meantime – please remember that *whilst we do encourage full attendance, it is important that pupils who are unwell do take the necessary time at home for their own benefit and to protect the school community*. All parents will have received new detailed guidance on reporting pupil absences, please use the email addresses specified.

## **Social Media: school posts**

Please do take the opportunity to follow the school's social media accounts. There is so much fabulous activity every week, within the school. We cannot write about it all, but we do post significant events, stories or successes on social media. For most parents, the [Facebook account](#) is the obvious place to follow these stories.

## **School funding**

The 'cost of living crisis' is real and we know that the impact of rising bills is having an effect in many homes. It is also having an unanticipated and profound impact on school budgets. As Headteacher, one of my roles is to advocate publicly for our school and the resources we need.

In that capacity, I helped contribute to Daily Telegraph article on school funding earlier in the Summer which has now been widely quoted and extensively misquoted! If you have seen the headlines, please rest-assured that I never announced a 'three day week' for this school, in fact I actually stated categorically that *"... Reduced time in the classroom is not an option that we have considered at my own school and not a step I can ever imagine having to take ..."*

Our school budget for 2022/23 increased by £300k (with a turnover in excess of £7m), however cost increases are already very much ahead of this figure; and we were only able to balance the books last year by drawing on more than half (£200k) of our reserves.

I am very pleased that our local MP, Anna Firth, has taken the issue seriously: raising the question of school budgets, energy bills, and unfunded pay changes in the context of historic austerity restrictions. She received a promising reply from the (then) Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change. We can only hope that urgent action will follow to avert the otherwise unavoidable deficit budgets and depletion of reserves.

## **Journeys to school**

It was delightful to have over 180 bikes used for journeys to school on the very first day of term. Cycling represents the most obvious, healthy, convenient, cheap, 'green' and safe way to travel for most pupils within 5 miles of the school. Many others take the opportunity to walk or combine being 'on foot' with public transport. Thank you.

For the very few pupils who arrive by private car: please remember – no parent should bring a car onto the site for 'pick up' or 'drop off'. Please also remember it is dangerous (to our cyclists as they enter and leave the site) and illegal to stop on the yellow zig-zag lines outside the gate. Thank you.

## 11+ Early Closure

Parents are reminded to keep a close eye on the school calendar and – in particular – to note that **school will close early, at 1pm, to all pupils on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September**, to allow for the preparations required in advance of the 11+ the next day.

## Harvest assemblies and collection

For many years the school has made an active commitment, at Harvest time, to collecting and donating food items and other specified goods to HARP, Southend's local charity for the homeless. This year is no different and we hope all pupils will respond to the requests from their tutors: so we can exceed the generosity of previous years, at a time when the need is acute. Thank you.

Please see the list of suggested and preferred donation items from HARP.

*As term progresses, I look forward to writing with news of more school activities and events.*

Yours sincerely,



Robin M. Bevan  
Headteacher



**HARP Morrisons**  
Southend's Homeless Charity  
**Food Drive 2022**

**Urgently Needed:**

- Coffee
- Sugar
- Pot Noodles/Supernoodles
- Tinned meals (curry/chilli etc.)
- Breakfast cereals
- Baked beans

**Also Welcome (not urgent):**

- UHT Milk
- Tinned fruit
- Mayo
- Tinned new potatoes
- Multi-packs of small packs of crisps
- Snack chocolate bars
- Ketchup, BBQ, brown sauce
- Cans & cartons of soft drinks
- Instant mash
- Rice pudding
- Microwave rice pouches

**Needed:**

- Tea
- Biscuits
- Rice
- Pasta sachets
- Marmite & peanut butter etc.
- Cooking sauces (chilli, curry, etc.)
- Cup-a-soup
- Tinned veg
- Ground pepper, herbs & spices
- Gravy, stuffing & stock cubes
- Tinned meat (spam, corned beef, ham)
- Pasta & pasta bake sauces
- Fray Bentos meat pies & puddings
- Cooking oil
- Tinned pasta, ravioli, macaroni
- Spaghetti
- Tinned fish including tuna

[www.harpsouthend.org.uk](http://www.harpsouthend.org.uk)  
Charity No. 1098126