

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Robin M Bevan MA MEd PhD FRSA



November 28th, 2022

Dear Parent

NACE Challenge Award 2007-2025

As many of you will be aware, Southend High School for Boys has previously been a four-time recipient of the NACE Challenge Award. Last week saw the occasion of our fifth accreditation for the Challenge Award. NACE provides, across the UK and internationally, an authentic and thorough benchmark for the quality of educational provision focussed, in particular, on provision for the most-able.

I am delighted to confirm that we have been approved to receive our fifth consecutive Challenge Award: *the first school in the world to attain the status.*

During their feedback the assessor was uncompromising in describing our school as “one of the best he has ever visited” (an accolade he has only once, previously, preferred on a school): we can take huge encouragement from this objective external review of our provision.

The detailed report will capture many of the aspects of what makes our community so effective in affording opportunities for our pupils to thrive academically and within the context of our wider 2020 vision as “citizens of the world”. We will also benefit from a few simple suggestions that may help us extend or refine elements of our practice and provision.

All staff deserve credit. Particular thanks are due to those who were observed by the assessors, contributed to the discussion or provided material; and, especially, to Mrs Laura March for her extensive work collating evidence for all that we do. Again, this is a real tribute to the whole staff team and pupil community!

Remembrance/Veteran’s Lunch

‘We will remember them’. Sustaining this promise made by those who erected our school memorial organ and boards that name all the pupils and staff of our school who lost their lives in the two world wars, the school marked Armistice Day with a formal act of remembrance. Joined by our local MP, the Mayor of the City of Southend and other distinguished guests: together, we learned more about the real life stories of those whose names were read out, reflected on their sacrifice and



commitment, asked questions of a world in which wars continue to rage, and expressed hope for a more peaceful future.

The following Friday we hosted a number of military veterans for an extended lunch, supported by the British Legion: allowing pupils to learn from the memories of those soldiers, sailors and aviators whose stories are history, but whose messages remain contemporary.

National cross-country finals

This coming Friday, our school will be represented – as it has been uninterrupted across the last quarter of a century – in the national schools cross-country finals. All three boys' teams qualified and will be racing in Leeds seeking success at junior, intermediate and senior levels.

The school also came very close to securing a national final place for our Sixth Form girls' team: an extraordinary level of accomplishment given the relatively small number of students from whom that squad is drawn.

We look forward to hearing results from the finals and send our teams forward with encouragement and best wishes.

Social Media

For the latest public releases of news from the school, please keep an eye on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Southend-High-School-For-Boys-150699331631563/>) or Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/shsforboys/>). These accounts are used for simple celebratory stories suitable for a wide public audience.

(Other school communications will continue to use email to ensure targeted messaging and an easy facility for replies and queries.)

Pupil absences: ill health

Across the last few days, we have had a significant level of pupil (and staff) sickness absence from school. We want to encourage a very high level of attendance: a sustained sense of commitment to learning makes a genuine difference to engagement and to learning outcomes.

However, we would also want to ensure that pupils who are unwell (and not fit to be in school) or obviously infectious (and likely to spread their infection to others) stay at home until their symptoms have passed.

We know, from recent years, that this is an important but delicate balance. Evidence suggests that some are a little too swift to stay at home, whilst others may be too determined to attend and not sufficiently mindful that in doing so they may be frustrating others by 'freely sharing' their infections. There is no simple answer, but – as a general rule – *a 'day at home' when first feeling genuinely unwell tends to shorten the overall length of absence (by promoting swifter recovery) and limits the impact on others (by reducing proximity during the peak infectious period).*

When you report your child's absence, please inform the school on attendance@shsb.org.uk

Christmas

Tickets will shortly be released for the two nights of the school Christmas Concerts: 14th and 15th December. These are expected to be 'sell out' shows, with performances from across the year groups and musical items that evoke a real sense of seasonal anticipation.

Term ends on Tuesday 20th December. Pupils will be leaving the site, shortly before 12:30pm, after our final assembly. There will be no facility for any pupil to remain or wait on-site.

Many thanks for your continued support as we enjoy, in school, the rich variety of learning in classrooms and activities beyond in the final weeks of term.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Bevan', with a small flourish at the end.

Robin M. Bevan
Headteacher