

# 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



December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Dear Parent

During this week we were delighted to be able to host large audiences for both nights of the school's **Christmas Concert**. Thank you to every parent who attended or supported the event in any way: the quality of the music was exceptional and the dedication of pupils and staff, in rehearsal and performance, genuinely remarkable.

It is an extraordinary feat that every year, for the last twenty-five consecutive years, at least one of the SHSB **cross-country teams has qualified for the national finals**. No school can claim a similar track record in the highly competitive boys competition. Indeed, many schools will celebrate extensively on the rare occasions that one team might "make it through" to that level. This year, the finals took place in Leeds. Junior, Intermediate and Senior squads from SHSB had all qualified and knew that they would face tough opposition. It is a credit to our Senior Girls that they came within a 'whisker' of being at the nationals, too.

**The Junior team came 2nd in the country, the Intermediate squad came 10<sup>th</sup> and the Seniors secured 5<sup>th</sup> – an astonishingly strong set of results.**

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**Term ends on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**, and pupils will be released at 12.20 pm after our final assembly.

**Please note that school site will be closed from 1.30 pm on the last day of term.** Your child will not be able to remain on the premises after 1.00 pm so please ensure that you have made suitable arrangements for their journey home.

School re-commences after the New Year on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January**. Parents are reminded that the **Year 12 Parents Evening** takes place from 4.30pm on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January**.

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*The approach of the Christmas holiday signals for many that one-third of the academic year is completed and, measured by school terms, there is some sense in this. Given the length of the Autumn Term and the fact that external exams begin in May, it would be far more salient to note that we are around the halfway mark already for any student sitting GCSE, AS or A2 papers this coming Summer. For very many of our students, the challenge is to remain attentive to study until the end of term, enjoy a restful break, prepare with revision before returning in January, and recommence with energy and diligence.*



*For a few students, there needs to be a reminder that the approach of the holiday is a signal to ensure that everything has been completed as thoroughly as possible, and not an opportunity to “slowly fade the effort control to zero”. The support of parents is fundamental to helping those who, even in the Sixth Form, still need a nudge from an adult to secure their best. Success is a choice.*

*In this sense it does not help, of course, that there is an increasing tendency in society to assume that the approach of Christmas should somehow modify endeavour, productivity and professionalism in the workplace. At school, our intention is to reflect a pattern where every day of learning is equally valuable, lessons continue as formally as possible until the end of term, when, yes, in the very last days some transition into holiday is appropriate with our end-of-term celebrations.*

*For any student with exams in the months ahead, a scheduled plan outlining periods of revision is worth preparing soon. (Detailed revision plans can follow.) The Year 11 mocks are only of real benefit to those who approach them with the same dedication as the final exams. Only then are the real gaps in understanding exposed, rather than those readily closed with revision. Likewise, for Year 12, the outcomes at AS are pivotal to University applications and grade predictions. It is our challenge, as a school, to create the circumstances in which all thrive!*

Finally, we are aware that for some families there have been recent challenges securing journeys to and from school: industrial action has had an impact, as has the unexpected snow. We would like to express our thanks to all those who made alternative arrangements, working together, showing determination, in order to be present in school. We know that this is not always possible, but the value of time in school warrants the additional inconvenience of delayed or alternative routes.

On behalf of all the staff and pupils of SHSB, many thanks – in anticipation – for the ‘Christmas wishes’ sent in by so many parents; and to all associated with the school – Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!



Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin M. Bevan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robin M. Bevan  
Headteacher