

# 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



23 February, 2023

Dear Parent

### School organ: centenary 1923-2023

It is one hundred years since the school organ was first installed: a memorial gift, from former pupils, in recognition of students and staff who had lost their lives in the 1914-18 world war. Pupils in school now were thrilled to see a world-class performance on that same organ in one of our recent assemblies. The skilled addition of a 'camera feed' – to display on our big screens the 'action' on the manuals (keyboards) and pedals – helped the audience properly grasp the level of dexterity involved. The organ continues to be an unusual, but nonetheless iconic, aspect of our school community life. Further details about the history of the organ can be found on the [Old Southendian Organ Society \(OSOS\)](#) website: not many pupils or parents realise that it was originally constructed in the former school buildings on Victoria Avenue, subsequently moved to Prittlewell Chase and then shortly thereafter the casualty of a bombing raid that saw the school hall seriously damaged.

OSOS is also hosting a series of centenary concerts: more details are on the attached flyer.

### Dates for the diary

Tickets are selling quickly for the forthcoming production performances of a **Midsummer Night's Dream** on Thursday 9 and Friday 10 March. Please be sure to use the booking system to secure your seats sooner rather than later. **The Spring Concert** – one night only – will almost certainly sell out. Tickets will be released nearer the time, but – once again, for your diary – Wednesday 29 March.

### Industrial Action – proposed next 'strike' day – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

The National Education Union, which represents a high proportion of the teaching staff at this school, has proposed a day of 'strike' action on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. As Headteacher, I am working to determine any revised arrangements that may prove necessary. I will be writing to all parents with relevant details, in a separate letter, as soon as the implications are fully clear. Our contingency plans are likely to be very similar to those adopted previously.

Yours sincerely

Robin M. Bevan  
Headteacher





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1923 – 2023

*years of the*  
**War Memorial Organ**  
*at Southend High School for Boys*

*A series of concerts to celebrate the centenary*

*Saturday 25th February 2023, 2:30pm*  
**Adrian Lucas** *A Centenary Celebration*

*Saturday 22nd April 2023, 2:30pm*  
**A Southendian Showcase**

*Saturday 22nd July 2023, 7:00pm*  
**John Dixon** *Organist and Composer*

*Saturday 9th September 2023, 2:30pm*  
**Richard McVeigh** *An Organ Spectacular*

*Saturday 11th November 2023, 2:30pm*  
**Francesca Massey** *A Concert for Remembrance*

*Saturday 2nd December 2023, 3:00pm*  
**Christmas with Cantare**



**The Old Southendian  
Organ Society (OSOS)**

*A registered charity in England and Wales (1173343)*



**Tickets available via [www.osos.org.uk](http://www.osos.org.uk)  
including early bird discount options**  
Southend High School for Boys,  
Prittlewell Chase, SS0 0RG