

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Dear Parent

School Events

The final few weeks of the Spring Term contain a number of authentic highlights for all our pupils. Charity week(s) proved to be an exceptional success with funds raised for Great Ormond Street and the local cancer support charity, Gold Geese. Many thanks to all the pupils, Sixth Form Committee members, staff and parents who contributed in any way to the events!

The recent performances of Midsummer Night's Dream were outstanding: for an insight into what you may have missed, or to cement your audience memories, take a look at our school social media for a gallery of images taken by our student photographers.

This week, we have the 'one night only' Spring Concert on Wednesday, any remaining tickets can be purchased via WisePay in the normal way.

Meanwhile, House competitions have continued apace with sporting efforts in rugby and hockey alongside a new event – House Science – featuring a series of scientific puzzles in the context of an 'escape room' format. A brilliant example of ingenuity in competition design and variety in the context of extended learning for some of our 'more able' pupils.

More Able & Talented register

Across every subject and year group, opportunities are provided – within and beyond the classroom – to provide additional challenge for the most able. Every year the school identifies students for our More Able and Talented Register. This process takes into account a variety of sources: national tests and internal examinations, teacher and departmental assessments and nomination, class observation, work completed by students, independent assessments and information received from external bodies such as other schools and organisations attended. During this week, you will see on Go4Schools whether your child has been identified as MAT or EA (exceptionally able) in the subjects he/she takes. You can see this information in the "at a glance" tab or the student profile at the top of their Go4Schools page. If your child has not been identified it does not mean that they aren't working and performing well in their subjects – the MAT register highlights the students who are currently showing the very highest level of aptitude in subjects and therefore will be a minority of pupils in each subject.



It is our wish at Southend High School for Boys for all students to enjoy all aspects of their learning and to perform the best they can in all their studies. If your child has been recognised in a subject, this is very commendable and of course, he/she may be attaining highly in other subjects too, due to effort and enjoyment in his/her work. We have very much embraced the ideas of Growth Mindset (highly regarded research on this has been undertaken by the academic, Carol Dweck), which seeks to encourage all students to have a desire to learn and understand that intelligence can be developed. Our More Able and Talented Register is not to be seen as a fixed label of your child, but as an indicator of where they are showing and benefitting from the Growth Mindset attitudes required for excellent learning. These indicators include embracing challenge willingly, persistence in the face of setbacks, understanding that effort is the path to mastery and being able to learn from critical feedback.

Looking ahead

Term ends this Friday, 31 March, with our celebration assembly. Pupils will be heading home from 12:20pm. As usual, at the end of term, there is no facility for pupils to remain on site after this time. Please make sure appropriate arrangements are in place for every pupil to make their journey home, at the earlier time.

The Summer term starts on Monday 17 April and we are all looking forwards to a period of concentrated lesson provision in advance of the formal public examinations for Years 11-13 and our internal year group exams for Years 7-10.

During the Easter holiday, all pupils will benefit from setting aside a proportionate amount of time for revision. Specific revision approaches vary between subjects but research evidence is very clear: re-reading, note-taking and 'highlighting' only ever provide a first-level superficial engagement with study materials. Pupils are strongly advised to practise sample questions, to complete writing tasks, to use flash-cards or adopt visual techniques (in which information is recalled and re-presented in diagrammatic summary).

Valedictories: staff 'goodbyes'.

The Easter holiday also sees us saying 'goodbye' to a number of staff members. First, after a relatively brief period of teaching with us, we offer our very best wishes to Miss Paterson who has been a valuable addition to our teaching team in Modern Foreign Languages.

Having been on the staff since 2015, Miss Young is also moving on from the Geography department to a promoted role in another school. A significant proportion of the school will have benefitted from her expert, enthusiastic and well-resourced subject teaching: not only in her own lessons, but in her shared contributions to the team. Perhaps an even higher proportion will be indebted to her for her skilled pastoral leadership, most recently of Year 7: it is a pivotal role in the school and her positive reassuring guidance will have assisted many pupils and families. She is also leaving a legacy of voluntary commitment to our extra-curricular programme: *thank you*.

Finally, I should add a profound word of thanks to our Finance Manager, Mrs Gherghinciu, who has relocated and taken up a similar role in a new school after 14 years of dedicated and professional service to SHSB. Her work will have been largely hidden from pupils and parents, but managing the extraordinary array of transactions in the context of a £7m annual turnover is a significant professional responsibility. Again, thank you!

Yours sincerely



Robin M. Bevan
Headteacher