

# 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



18<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you once again for your sustained support, as parents, of our work in school. We have recently received a number of 'thank you' letters from the families of those leaving the Sixth Form after their A-level examinations. The letters are a source of encouragement and frequently reference *not only* the outstanding academic provision in and beyond lessons *but also* the school as a nurturing environment of empathy, vision and leadership. In turn, we are inspired by the growth and maturity demonstrated by our leavers as they progress to further study, employment and adventure.

### National Athletics – national success

The last few weeks of the Summer Term are always full of varied challenging and creative activities. In one fortnight we have had an Art exhibition, a full day of 'mock interviews' for Year 10, lectures on science and creativity for the Sixth Form, overseas trips, curriculum activity days, our School Walk and much more besides! Keep an eye on our social media for regular insights into school life at SHSB.

We will be celebrating a full and varied array of contributions to, and successes in, these events in our run of end of term assemblies – so many pupils deserve a well done for their role in house, subject, school and other activities.

One result, however, deserves special commendation. It was a delight to see our Intermediate Athletics squad return from the national finals as team 'bronze' medal winners – third best in the country. Their success was underpinned and reinforced by a national sixth place position for the Junior squad. Whilst there were some notable individual performances, this level of success is only possible because of the sustained contributions of all in the squad: all those who trained, those who travelled as reserves, those who competed, and the staff who supported them – outstanding!

### School Walk

On Friday, the whole school enjoyed the challenge of completing our biennial school walk, with almost 900 walking the 13km route! The walk was designed to help raise money for projects within school – specifically the provision of improved audio-visual equipment for the school hall.

Many thanks to all those who have contributed so far. It is encouraging to have received 190 payments over the weekend; but there are clearly many more to come. The sponsorship money will match a significant individual private donation and a substantial contribution from the Parents Association. To do this, we



anticipate that each pupil raises a minimum of £25 through sponsorship. Without this kind of self-help, we simply cannot afford to pay for the much-needed improvement of various facilities within the school.

### **End of term/start of new term**

The Summer Term ends on Friday 21 July. We anticipate that pupils will be released, after the final school assembly, **from 12.30pm. There will be no facility to remain on site after this time, so all pupils should ensure they have planned their journeys home accordingly.**

The new term begins for all pupils on **Tuesday 5 September**. Year 7 register at 8.30 am; Year 12 register at 9.30 am in the Main Hall; Years 8-11 & 13 register at 10.00 am. All lessons start Period 2a after break-time.

### **Valedictories**

The end of the Summer Term is often coloured by the need to say 'goodbye' to valued colleagues. As the school extends its active inclusion of pupils with additional needs, the role of colleagues within our SEND team becomes ever more central to our work. We have an impressive team of learning support assistants (LSAs) who work alongside individual pupils. Miss Cullum has been part of that team throughout this year and leaves for further professional opportunities. Mrs Harman joined the school in 2015 and moves on from the school, with a significant legacy of impact in the lives of many of the pupils she has supported.

Our school finance team fulfil an essential role as they contend with the incessant inflow of bills, invoices and payments all of which need to be formally accounted for: from school trips to music lessons, electricity bills to textbook purchases and so much more. Mrs Howley has been at the heart of that team for over seven years: her attention to detail and commitment to her professional work have been invaluable, and will serve her well in her next steps towards a teaching career. Meanwhile, Mrs Jackson retires from her part-time finance role, having served the school with unflinching positivity since 2005. We wish them both well.

We also have three teachers who are 'calling time' on regular classroom teaching. Mr Flamank retires for a second time, having previously stepped away from his teaching job at another school only to be tempted back, on a part-time basis, teaching mainly German in 2018. He has been extraordinarily helpful in adjusting his working week to fit the school's needs and has been utterly dependable in helping to sustain our strength and depth in foreign language teaching. Ms McDonald ends her time, as Leader of Geography, in much the style she has demonstrated throughout her tenure at the school: by flying with a group of students on an exploratory and educational adventure in Peru. She has inspired many pupils to study Geography at University and remained in contact as they have applied their learning in diverse fields, but often with an ethical or sustainability focus; reflecting, in doing so, Ms McDonald's commitment to global issues and Fairtrade in particular.

Mrs Bates is also starting a new phase of adventure beyond a fixed classroom timetable; having taught RE at SHSB, then led the RE department and – more recently – fulfilling a role, as Assistant Headteacher, in the core Senior Leadership Team. The longest serving of those we are saying 'goodbye' to, Mrs Bates has been influential within her own classroom since 2001, has helped shape the provision of RE within and beyond this school for many teachers and pupils, and has played a pivotal role in the professional development of established teachers alongside the critical interactions she has had with a significant cadre of trainee/new teachers – many of whom then stayed at SHSB. The school, as a community and as a learning organisation, is very much richer for her considerable contributions.

### **Summer holiday**

As we approach the end of term, may I extend my very best wishes to all our pupils and families for the holiday period. We would encourage every pupil to take time to rest, to read, to challenge themselves (with something new or different), to sustain fitness, to be bold in adventure, to learn, to foster friendships and extend kindness ... and to do so with a deliberate limitation on 'screen time'!

## **Cycling**

Amongst the range of local activities that may help shape the summer holiday, Garon Park (postcode: SS2 4FA) are hosting a series of six Saturday cycle sport coaching sessions – from 22 July through until 26 August (09:30 – 11:00). These sessions will be suitable for anyone aged 12-15 with their own road bikes or mountain bikes. There will be a variety of skills delivered by the coaches, with a progression pathway either to the Southend Wheelers road cycling programmes, or Hadleigh Park MTB activities. Find out more at <https://www.southendwheelers.org/summerofcycling>.

## **Parents Association**

The school is indebted to the support it receives from the PA. The Committee has provided the following update: “We were pleased to be able to hold our first Father’s Day sale which resulted in £294 profit, so a big thank you to those who supported it. Thank you also to those volunteers who helped serve refreshments at the Year 5 Open Evening and at the parents’ talk for incoming Year 7. We really do value your support.”

There will be further communication from the Parents Association in the autumn term regarding their annual calendar of events - the majority of which happen in the autumn and spring term - and how you can get involved.

Enjoy the sunshine!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Bevan'.

Robin M. Bevan  
Headteacher