

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



16th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an absolute delight to welcome Year 13 back to school. They have had an excellent start to the school year and have quickly settled back into the swing of things. The focus for this half term has been 'refocus' and our pastoral programme has been designed to help students get back into good habits. It is great to see them in their roles as prefects, new leaders of societies and generally acting as excellent role models to our younger students, particularly to our new Year 12 cohort.

We have a very busy autumn term with the students writing their personal statements, teachers writing their references and even some interviews starting for our degree apprenticeship students. Students have been given all the information they need for their post 18 options but just to clarify:

UCAS route:

- Completed Pre UCAS forms should be handed into to Mrs Hamilton by 16/11 with student's 5 choices confirmed (this was 27/9 for early entry students).
- Predicted grades have now been issued and these should help students in their final choices. We suggest that students apply for a mix of aspirational, solid and safe choices.
- Students should try to have their personal statements loaded onto Unifrog by this date, allowing their teachers to see this when writing their references. They can give a draft to a teacher, their form tutor, myself or Mrs Hamilton for feedback before this. Advice on personal statements can be found on Unifrog or here: <https://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/post/personal-statement-mindmap>.
- Online UCAS applications were started by all students in the summer term. Students need to add their personal statements to this and ensure the application is ready for the school's 'pay & send deadline' of 6/12 (6/10 for early entry students).
- Mrs Hamilton then checks over every single application ensuring we make the UCAS deadline in January.

Job/Apprenticeship route:

- Students who are looking at apprenticeships do not have these set deadlines, as apprenticeship vacancies get advertised throughout the year, although they can begin looking at vacancies now.
- Students were given the opportunity to take part in a mock assessment centre earlier this term providing them with a real insight into what the recruitment process looks like.
- Students have been shown the apprenticeship search tool on Unifrog or the following website is helpful: <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>.
- The following guides might also be useful:
<https://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/post/helping-your-child-apply-for-an-apprenticeship>
<https://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/post/how-to-help-your-child-apply-for-an-apprenticeship>



We recognise how important parent support is for our students as they make decisions about their future and would ask that if you have any questions regarding the UCAS process, apprenticeships, or employment applications, you contact us by phone or email Mrs Hamilton our post-18 adviser on ceh@shsb.org.uk.

Next half term our focus will be 'understanding others' to enable students to be fully prepared for their life beyond 6th form. We have a lot of interesting topics being addressed in the PSHE programme in Year 13 which has already started with a safe driving session. Students will also be learning about writing CVs and applying for jobs, managing bills, finance and independent living, relationships and consent, managing their workload, stress and mental health and emergency response.

Key Dates:

Thursday 16th November: Pre UCAS form deadline

Wednesday 6th December: School UCAS deadline

Monday 11th December: Year 13 Parents Evening (online – letter to follow)

Wednesday 20th December: Last day of autumn term, students finish around 12.30pm

Wednesday 3rd January: Students return to school

Monday 8th January: Year 13 Mock Exam Week

Wednesday 13th March: Year 13 Student Finance Presentation (in school – letter to follow)

Finally, just a few reminders about some of our expectations:

- All students are expected to be in by 8.30am, even if they have a free period.
- Attendance this year is more important than ever. Please try to avoid booking medical appointments during the school day where possible. We are unable to authorise any absences for holidays during term time.
- Lateness is closely monitored, and students will be issued with a detention to make up the time. If your son/daughter has been late due to circumstances beyond their control, then please do let us know on the day.
- Students are not authorised time off for driving lessons or theory tests, only the practical driving test.

Kind regards,



Mrs Ryan
Leader of Year 13