

# SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

## ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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16 October 2023

Dear Parents

### Harvest collection

I want to begin this third letter of the school year with a profound expression of grateful thanks.

In our recent school assemblies we have been thinking about how each of us, individually, can be 'at our best'. We have focussed on 'preparation for learning' and how thinking ahead into every lesson makes new content and ideas more readily accessible, easier to remember and more enjoyable.

We have also been explicit about the fact that being 'at our best' can mean telling our friends to stop if they've gone too far or are being unkind: "leave it out", "that's out of order" ... or sometimes, just saying "No!".

However our over-riding theme has been about the practical expression of empathy: we are not 'fully human' unless we are kind. Today we saw a magnificent demonstration of that kindness, in the context of a very real 'cost of living' challenge for many families, as together we passed over an astonishing 58 crates of food products (and sanitary items) to the helpers at HARP.

Your help with our harvest collection is really appreciated.

### Parents Association/minibus appeal

I also want to thank our volunteer Parents Association who work tirelessly in support of the school. This week they transferred accumulated funds raised across the last few years, granting a £15,000 contribution to kickstart our fund-raising for a third school minibus.

Many schools have access to a single minibus, some have two, we need three! Regular sports fixtures, in particular, fielding multiple teams on the same night, generate a substantial transport demand. At present, we find ourselves booking 'third party' minibus coaches, several times a month and the cost – across a year – would more than offset the depreciation/maintenance/running costs of a third minibus.

We will shortly be launching a dedicated funding appeal for the remaining £25,000: please keep an eye out for the details, how to donate tax-efficiently, how you will be able to contribute a 'little every month' (which soon adds up) ... but only, please, for those who can afford to do so.



### Looking ahead: dates to note

**Sixth Form 'Open Evening'** – on Thursday 2 November, we have our 'Open Evening' for prospective Sixth Form students. We have, in the past, welcomed well over 1000 visitors onto site ... so please be aware of the fact that **school will close to pupils at 1pm that day and, the following day, Friday 3 November we have a late start, at 09:30, for all year groups.**

Once again, a word of thanks is due to all those students who will be helping at the Open Evening, with a late finish and our premises team who will be barely off the site, locking up, before the cleaners start at 04:30!

**Remembrance** – our annual act of remembrance, at school, calls to mind the challenging narratives of conflicts across the world: the tension that exists between the futility, devastation and loss as against the service, heroism and virtue that may also take centre stage. We remember especially the individual stories of the boys and men named on the school memorial 1914-18, 1939-45 who walked the corridors, played on the sports field, learned in the classrooms and shared in the traditions and values of the school.

The remembrance assembly takes place on the morning of **Friday 10 November**: all pupils in Years 10 and above arrive at normal time to take their seats at 08:30. **Pupils in Years 7-9 should arrive no earlier than 10:30**, for lessons at 11:00: their service is in the afternoon.

Christmas may still seem a long way into the future, but experience suggests that parents – who clamour for the limited tickets – value knowing the dates of our **Christmas Concerts** well in advance. Set aside the evening, mark it in your dairies: **Christmas Concerts – Wednesday 13 December & Thursday 14 December.**

**Half-term activities:** we know how valuable it is for parents to have half-term activities sign-posted to help ensure that the mid-term week-long break is as rewarding, refreshing and engaging as possible. Attached is a flyer from one local approved provider at Garon Park: three cycle sport sessions – a great opportunity.

Once again, many thanks for your continued support and encouragement.

Yours sincerely



Robin M Bevan  
Headteacher