

# SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

## ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Prittlewell Chase, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 0RG

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Headteacher: Robin M Bevan MA MEd PhD FRSA



November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

By now your son will have begun to consider their options for A level studies, and in the past, SHSB sixth form has been the preferred route for most.

Among familiar subjects that your son will have studied before, there are several new subjects for consideration, such as Psychology.

Psychology is an increasingly popular subject nationwide, and at SHSB, we pride ourselves on repeatedly helping our students achieve results significantly higher than the national average. The department consists of two full time, dedicated subject experts with over a quarter of a century's combined experience in teaching A Level Psychology, as well as extensive experience as part of the AQA Psychology examining team.

One of the concerning trends we have noticed in recent years is that a number of students take A Level Psychology without first gaining an understanding of the subject. Many students find themselves committing to a two-year course without really knowing the demands of the subject, the teachers they will have, or the learning/exam skills they will need. This has regrettably led to numerous occasions where a student struggles towards a low grade for Year 12 before dropping the subject, thus missing out on the opportunity to take a subject in which they may enjoy more and achieve a higher grade.

As a result, this year the SHSB Psychology department will be running several lunchtime taster sessions. These will allow your son to learn more about Psychology, sample a typical lesson, and help them decide whether or not it is a subject that they wish to pursue.

Below are the dates and locations of the taster sessions; all begin at 1.10pm, and students may bring their lunch. There is limited space in the classrooms, so the sessions will run on a 'first come, first served' basis. Please discuss this with your son to ensure they are aware of these sessions. Students are welcome to attend as many sessions as they wish, but anyone considering Psychology at A Level must attend at least one session.

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November – S7 Mr Foley**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November – E11 Dr Frost**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November – E11 Dr Frost**



**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November – S7 Mr Foley**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November – S7 Mr Foley**

Because of the importance of ensuring that any student taking A Level Psychology is fully aware of what the course entails, please note that students will not be permitted to take Psychology at A Level if they have not attended at least one taster session. We firmly believe that this is in the best interests of the student, and therefore we thank you in advance for your support in helping your son make the best decisions for their future.

If you have any concerns, please do contact me to discuss.

Yours sincerely

Mr C Foley  
Director of Key Stage 5 and Leader of Psychology