

# 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



February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

### RE: Lecture at the Royal Institution – *Our Accidental Universe*

The Science Department have reserved tickets to Chris Lintott's lecture, *Our Accidental Universe*, at the *Royal Institution (RI)* on Thursday 21 March 2024. This lecture examines some of our most profound, yet remarkably accidental, discoveries of the universe over the past century. Chris Lintott, BBC Sky at Night presenter and Gresham Professor of Astronomy, will unravel tales of peculiar accidents, remarkable individuals, and the occasional human oversight that have collectively shaped some of the most pivotal celestial revelations. More information on the event can be found on the RI's website: <https://www.rigb.org/whats-on/our-accidental-universe>.

This lecture is being offered to pupils who have attended the after-school *Astronomy Club* with Mr Reynolds to further their interest in the subject and to thank them for their continued engagement. Tickets can be purchased on *WisePay* for £40, inclusive of travel. The party will leave from school at 16:15 hrs and travel together, to-and-from the *RI*, including the short walk down to Prittlewell Station. I suggest pupils bring a packed dinner with them to eat on the train-journey up. At the end of the evening, pupils will need to be collected from Prittlewell Station at 22:00 hrs. I am afraid it is not possible for pupils to disembark at earlier stations on this occasion.

Steeped in over two centuries of tradition, the *Royal Institution* was founded with a purpose to introduce new technologies and teach science to the general public through lectures and demonstrations. As such, whilst students do not need to wear school uniform, they are asked to be respectful of the venue and its history.

Should your son wish to join us for the evening, I would be grateful if you would complete the form below, including a mobile number we can contact them in the event of disruption or an emergency on the evening, no later than Friday 1 March. I will be contactable on a school mobile phone during the evening which I will inform you of closer to the trip date. <https://forms.office.com/e/eFpUK9cvev>.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school's enquires email, [enquiries@shsb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@shsb.org.uk).

Finally, please review the school's code of conduct for offsite visits below:

<https://www.shsb.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=2633>

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Hill  
Leader of Science

