

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



11th December 2019

Dear Parents,

On behalf of all the staff and pupils of SHSB, many thanks – in anticipation – for the ‘Christmas wishes’ sent in by so many parents; and to all associated with the school – Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

May I also use this letter to convey profound appreciation to all my colleagues for their outstanding professionalism in their formal paid roles, but also for all that they do – in a voluntary capacity – with lunchtime clubs, trips, activities and residential opportunities. *Much of what is done by our staff is seen as ‘normal’ by our pupils. They are often surprised to discover that these opportunities simply do not exist in many other schools. They are even more surprised when they learn that staff are not paid, or required, to organise and lead so many extra-curricular activities. We ask for your support, as parents, in reminding your son/daughter to show appropriate appreciation for all those extra opportunities that they will have experienced this term at school.*

Term ends on Thursday 19th December, and pupils will be released at 12.30 pm after our final assembly.

Please note that school site will be closed from 1.00 pm on the last day of term. Your child will not be able to remain on the premises after 1.00 pm so please ensure that you have made suitable arrangements for their journey home.

School re-commences after the New Year on **Monday 6th January**. Year 12 students are reminded that our annual assessment cycle includes formal tests in every subject in the early weeks of the new term.

Parents are reminded that the **Year 9 Parents Evening** takes place from 4.15pm on **Monday 13th January**.

As we approach the end of term, we give our very best wishes and thanks to the only colleague who is leaving us at Christmas!

We offer our sincere appreciation to Mrs Smith. It is difficult to separate my personal sense of appreciation from the gratitude that must be conveyed for her impact on so many pupils since 2004, serving as Deputy Headteacher throughout that time. Mrs Smith played an instrumental role in developing the quality of our middle leadership, in promoting critical aspects of professional development, in pressing forward with innovative ICT proposals, in generating a more



comprehensive understanding of effective teaching and learning, as well – more recently – as becoming our own in-house expert on matters related to Ofsted, data and inspection. She can be satisfied that she is leaving the school at a time when each of the principal areas of her responsibility are so very much stronger than they were fifteen years ago. Thank you!

We are delighted to have recruited a new member of staff to cover Mrs Smith's English lessons. Conscious of the need to align teacher expertise with the needs of our classes – especially those preparing for external examinations – we have adjusted the timetable and reassigned teachers for a number of classes, starting in January. Pupils will be issued with amended timetables before the end of term.

Please be aware – in the case of snow – that every effort will be made to keep the school open. A decision will be made as early as possible about any school closure, and notified via BBC Essex and Heart Essex FM.

The school website will be updated and the Wisepay text service will be used for parents. (Previous experience suggests that there will be a time delay in these notifications.) **Assume therefore that the school will be open and that the site will be staffed: appropriate snow and ice clearing equipment has been bought.**

The school will only close if it is deemed genuinely dangerous to encourage pupils and staff to travel. **Local pupils are expected to walk. Late arrival will be unavoidable for some: this should not deter pupils from making the journey to school, although it is reasonable for those from further afield to delay the start of their journey until there is confirmation that the school is open.**

For as long as the school is 'open', any pupil who lives a significant distance from the school and is unable to attend because of transport difficulties should report their absence as usual.

If the school closes during the day, parents will be notified via Wisepay and a notice will be put onto the website.

With our very best wishes for the Christmas season,

Robin M. Bevan
Headteacher