

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



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Dear Parent/Carer,

First, congratulations to your son on his recent assessment report achievement, where he secured the 52 points required to enter Sixth Form. Reaching this standard at this stage of Year 10 is a fantastic accomplishment, demonstrating his successful development of the knowledge and skills needed for next year's examinations. Your son should have received feedback on his Year 10 exam performance by now, highlighting areas for improvement. I hope you've had the chance to discuss his report and consider ways to support him through his GCSE year, which can be stressful for many students.

While this achievement is impressive, it's essential not to become complacent as there is still much work to be done before the GCSE examinations. With six weeks off, it's easy to lose some of the hard-earned knowledge gained this term, potentially starting Year 11 on the back foot.

To avoid this, I strongly suggest your son dedicates some time to keeping schoolwork fresh in his mind over the summer. While not suggesting spending the entire holiday studying, allocating some time to recapping his Year 10 studies would be a sensible option to prepare for the challenges of Year 11. Many successful students arrange a revision timetable with their parents, which helps them stay on track.

Effective learning involves three key steps: reviewing the curriculum specification (available online) and revising the content, testing understanding, and revisiting the material later. The school provides access to online resources that can help your child achieve this.

1. GCSEPod

GCSEPod is ideal for learning and revision. It covers every GCSE subject, broken down into smaller topics or 'pods' as specified by the exam boards. Each topic includes instructional videos and written resources to teach the necessary content and skills. Students should review each GCSE 'Pod' for each subject to recap material covered in class. To access GCSEPod:

- Visit www.gcsepod.com and click "Login" in the top right corner.
- On the left of the next page, click "Get Started" under "New to GCSEPod?"
- Select "Student" and fill in the details using your full name as registered with the school.
- Start accessing the content!



2. Seneca Premium

Seneca Premium is a powerful assessment tool with quizzes and rapid-fire testing on nearly every aspect of the GCSE curricula. Our previous students highly recommend this software. We've enabled access to the premium service for all students to aid in their revision. Students can use it to revisit studied content and ensure retention. If struggling, they should return to GCSEPod for further instructional help. To access Seneca Premium:

- Visit www.senecalearning.com and click "Sign Up" in the top right corner.
- Click "Login with Microsoft" and use your school email address and password.
- Start accessing the content!

If your son uses these resources and other revision tools over the summer, he should see significant benefits by the first data collection in the new term, putting him in a good position for Year 11. We will focus on revision techniques during classes and tutor times and offer Evening Workshops for both students and parents to provide the tools for success next year.

Uniform

Many of our students will purchase new shoes ahead of the new term which should conform to our school uniform code of 'plain black formal shoes'. Many retailers sell black trainers as school shoes, but brands like Nike and Adidas often do not meet our regulations and are not permitted. Additionally, our school policy includes no facial hair, no hoodies or sweaters other than a plain black school jumper, and no jewellery, including piercings.

I wish your son and his family a wonderful summer break and look forward to starting a successful Year 11 in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Nzemeke
Director of Key Stage 4
Southend High School for Boys