

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Robin M Bevan MA MEd PhD FRSA



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Dear Parent/Carer,

You should have recently received your son's recent assessment report, showing he achieved between 40 and 51 of the 52 points required for our Sixth Form entry. This puts him in a strong position, needing to convert just one or two more subjects to a level 6 to secure his place at Southend Boys for post-16 study. I congratulate him on his achievement with a reminder that there is a bit more work to be done. His report highlights the subjects he needs to focus on, and feedback from his Year 10 exams should clarify areas for improvement. I hope you've had the opportunity to discuss his report and consider ways to support him through his GCSE year, which can be stressful for many students.

While your son is in a good position at the end of Year 10, it's essential he maintains his focus and hones his skills to meet the Sixth Form entry requirements. With six weeks off, it's easy to lose some of the hard-earned knowledge acquired this term. Having a conversation about practical steps to prepare for Year 11 is crucial. This will allow time to create a study plan for the holidays.

For his benefit, I encourage your son to spend some time over the summer working on his knowledge and skills, especially in subjects he finds more challenging. Continued revision throughout the break is essential to keep him progressing and prevent him from falling behind at the start of Year 11. Many successful students create a revision timetable with their parents' help, balancing scheduled study time with necessary breaks. While not suggesting he works all summer, a few hours a week recapping past material will be very beneficial.

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