

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Robin M Bevan MA MEd PhD FRSA



17 July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

You recently received your son's recent assessment report which shows he achieved between 28 and 39 points of the 52 points required for our Sixth Form entry. This puts him in a precarious position, needing to change three or four of his current subjects to a level 6 or above, within the next year. Based on previous years' data, there is a significant chance that he is at risk of not achieving the Sixth Form entry points without a major change in his study habits.

While achieving this is possible, it requires immediate attention, as your son has not yet mastered the necessary knowledge and skills. 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 have discussed his report and considered ways to support him during his GCSE year.

I strongly encourage you to insist that your son works on his knowledge and skills over the summer, especially in his weaker subjects. Continued revision during the break is essential to ensure he starts Year 11 on solid footing. Many successful students create a revision timetable with their parents' help, incorporating scheduled study time and periods for play and relaxation.

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. If he continues to struggle, we will explore additional tailored support.

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