

# 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

Interim Headteacher: Mrs R V Worth



4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

**Welcome!** It was a delight to welcome our students as they returned to school yesterday. We hope that the holiday time was relaxing, refreshing and productive for all. I had the privilege of speaking with a number of students and it was great to hear how they are looking forward to getting back into the routine of school and excited to see what the next year holds.

**Exam results:** we were, as a school community, able to celebrate very significant success in public examinations.

*[from our public Press Release literature]*

At A-level (A2) it has been another very impressive year for our Sixth Form, with over 600 A-levels completed with approximately 300 A/A\* grades in total.

- ✓ 79 A\* grades, which require exceptional performance, have been awarded to our Year 13 students.
- ✓ 51 students achieved at least 3 A/A\* grades.

180 pupils at Southend High School for Boys completed almost 1700 GCSE qualifications. Almost a quarter of these were awarded the highest possible grade 9.

- ✓ 70% – a remarkable 1160 of the grades were at level 7 or above
- ✓ Three of our students achieved a full set of level 9 across the board. Only 145 students across the country were able to match this.

We share in this success and are delighted to have been able to support students in their onward journeys to the country's leading Universities, overseas to study or into high profile degree apprenticeships.



## Journeys to school

It was delightful to have over 170 bikes used for journeys to school on the very first day of term. Cycling represents the most obvious, healthy, convenient, cheap, 'green' and safe way to travel for most pupils within 5 miles of the school. Many others take the opportunity to walk or combine being 'on foot' with public transport. Thank you.

For the very few pupils who arrive by private car: please remember – **no parent should bring a car onto the site for 'pick up' or 'drop off'**. Please also remember it is dangerous (to our cyclists as they enter and leave the site) and illegal to stop on the yellow zig-zag lines outside the gate. Thank you.

## School Photographs

We are looking forward to welcoming Bentleys, the photographers, into school on Friday. Pupils will have both individual and form group pictures taken, which will be available to purchase through the company website. You will receive information about how to purchase the photographs in due course. Please note that in order to accommodate staff photographs, **the school will close 10 minutes early, at 3:20pm to all pupils (Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September)**.

## Extra-curricular activities

There are a huge number of extra-curricular opportunities available to students across the school. A timetable of the activities will be available on the school website very soon and displayed in form rooms. Please encourage your child to get involved. In the Sixth Form, opportunities extend to volunteering, cookery classes and charity engagement. Information about these opportunities will be shared with students in the coming days.

PE practices have started already, with 143 students participating in the early morning cross county training on the first day back. The timetable for each year group has been shared with the students on Satchel One. However, parents should be aware that practices are starting immediately, with some fixtures taking place this Saturday.

**Peripatetic Music** Lessons are available in school, and it is great to see the number of students already involved. Music Lessons start next week, and students will be informed of lessons in due course. There are a small number of spaces still available: please contact Mrs Wightman in the Finance Office ([finance@shsb.org.uk](mailto:finance@shsb.org.uk)) if you are interested in finding out more. Places will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Rehearsals for the various ensembles will begin next week and we encourage all students to get involved if they are interested.

## General Information

The school uses a data information management system called **Go4Schools**. This provides parents with online access to student progress, including details of their child's current grades, progress, behaviour, rewards and attendance. New parents will receive further information about how to log in to Go4Schools in the coming weeks. Homework is set using an application called **SatchelOne**. Parents of new pupils should have brought home an instruction sheet yesterday to show parents how they can log in.

We use **WisePay** as a mechanism to send information from the school. Please note that catering and Stationery accounts can be topped up via WisePay at any time. We encourage you to check the balance and purchases at regular intervals.

All students in Years 7 – 11 will bring home their **Student Organiser** today. Please go through this with your child, as it contains some important information. Please ensure that you read and sign the Home-School agreement (parent and pupil), and that your son signs the Student ICT Acceptable Use Policy.

It is also important that your son familiarises himself with the Code of Conduct, School Uniform Regulations and our Mobile phone code. This information will be made available electronically for students in the Sixth Form.

### **11+ Early Closure**

Parents are reminded to keep a close eye on the school calendar on our website and – in particular – to note that **school will close early, at 1pm, to all pupils on Friday 20th September**, to allow for the preparations required in advance of the 11+ the next day.

### **Harvest assemblies and collection**

For many years the school has made an active commitment, at Harvest time, to collecting and donating food items and other specified goods to HARP, Southend's local charity for the homeless. This year is no different and we hope all pupils will respond to the requests from their tutors: so we can exceed the generosity of previous years, at a time when the need is acute. Thank you.

Please see the list here: <https://www.harpsouthend.org.uk/donate-items-or-food> of suggested and preferred donation items from HARP. Form Tutors will let pupils know when to start bringing items in.

As term progresses, I look forward to writing with news of more school activities and events.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs R V Worth  
Interim Headteacher