

Southend High School for Boys

Interim Headteacher Mrs R V Worth

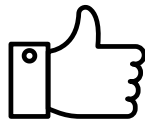
September 2024



Half Termly Newsletter

Welcome to the first of our Half Termly Newsletters where we aim to share key information with you, with contributions from our SLT Team. This half term Mr March talks about positive behaviour and the school's expectations. The newsletter also provides information and reminders that we hope you will find useful.

Promoting Positive Behaviour



At SHSB, we are committed to fostering a positive learning environment, where students are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour. We aim to nurture self-regulation by providing the support and conditions that help students develop self-discipline and respect for others.

At the start of each lesson, teachers greet students at the door, check their uniform, and ensure they are prepared for learning with the necessary materials. Students begin lessons calmly and remain silent while attendance is taken.

During lessons, students are expected to follow a "One Voice" rule, which ensures only one person speaks at a time, unless group discussion is instructed. Participation is encouraged, with students raising hands to speak, though teachers may also call on students directly. We expect students to stay seated unless given permission to move, and phones are not allowed unless required for the lesson.

At the end of each lesson, students review their work and receive homework instructions. Teachers will also ensure uniforms are neat, before dismissing students calmly.

Rewards and Sanctions

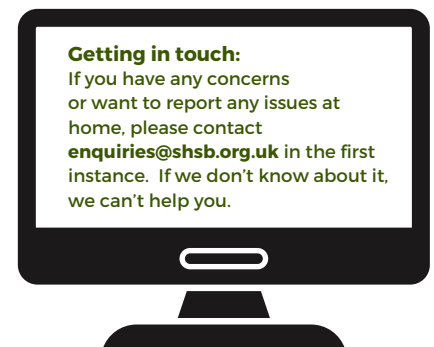
We believe in reinforcing positive behaviour and aim to give at least two House Credits per lesson. These are logged in Student Organisers and using Go4Schools.

For misbehaviour, sanctions are applied consistently and will always involve a discussion with the student, to promote self-reflection. Our focus is to help students learn from their mistakes and make better choices - removal from lessons is always a last resort.

Together, we aim to cultivate a respectful, positive, and disciplined community, supporting and guiding students to make responsible decisions.

Mr March

Director of Inclusion and Support



Getting in touch:

If you have any concerns or want to report any issues at home, please contact enquiries@shsb.org.uk in the first instance. If we don't know about it, we can't help you.

Reporting your child's absence

May we remind parents of the importance of full attendance at school. Please see Mr Nzemeke's note on attendance below. If your child is absent from school, parents must report the absence on the first day (and every other subsequent day) by using option 1 when calling the school and leaving a message after the beep. Please give details of the reason for your child's absence. Just saying that your child is ill is not a valid reason, please elaborate on the illness. Alternatively, you can email attendance@shsb.org.uk.

Key Dates for Diary this half term

- 1st October - Non Pupil Day
- 2nd October New Year 7 Parents' Reception
- 16th October Year 8 Options & Data meeting
- 23rd October Year 9 Options & Data meeting
- 28th - 1 November - Half Term break

Food Allergies:

Please note that we have a number of pupils who have severe nut allergies. For this reason, we are a nut-free school. Please ensure that your child does not bring in any food containing nuts or their derivatives.



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SHSB Needs you!



Thank you all who have supported our minibus fundraising appeal. It is great to announce that we have now closed the minibus appeal and will shortly be purchasing a minibus. However, we still need your help.

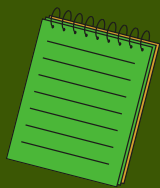
Per Pupil funding is now 20% below the value it was in 2014. For the last two years, the school has spent more than it has received and reserves are depleted.

Our next fundraising campaign is focused on computers for the school. In 2025 Windows 10 is coming to an end and we will need to replace all of our computers to enable the updated software to work.

We need you! Please know that every penny makes a difference. You can contribute a one-off donation, or make regular monthly payments. We will also be organising charity events in school to raise money, so watch this space! In the meantime, please visit <https://app.goodhub.com/shsbfundraising> or click on the QR code to donate.



Student Organisers - Key Stage 3 and 4



Your son's student organiser includes a number of items that require attention:

- Please ensure that both you and your son read the Home-School Agreement
- Please read through the Student ICT Acceptable Use Policy with your son and ensure that he signs it
- Please also read with your son the Code of Conduct, School Uniform Regulations, the School Rules, and the Mobile Phone Code to ensure that he understands what is expected of him.

Travelling to school



We often hear superb examples of our pupils acting commendably (giving up seats, helping others in need, showing courtesy) on their journeys to and from school, occasionally we discover that some of our pupils don't reflect the same behaviour on the way home, as they do on the school site. Please talk with your child about behaviour on the bus or train, if they travel by public transport, and ensure they understand that the same standards of behaviour apply whenever they are representing the school. Pupils, and parents, have sometimes been surprised that our jurisdiction covers pupils' journey times and we will take appropriate action, including removing season tickets or even excluding from school, if that were ever to be necessary.

School Photographs

Schools have an obligation to protect children from risk and some headteachers have therefore banned the taking of photographs of pupil activities at school. Whilst we are circumspect about what and where we publish, it is not our intention to go to these lengths. I shall assume parental consent for the school to take photographs of their children as individuals or in groups (eg teams, music groups) for legitimate school or publicity purposes; if any parent wishes to withhold such consent, I should be grateful for such a request to be put in writing by email to enquiries@shsb.org.uk by **Friday, 11th October**.

Sex and Relationship Education

Parents have the right to remove their child from sex education. This is taught from Year 10 onwards. If your child is in Year 10 or above, and you are considering withdrawing them from sex education, please email enquiries@shsb.org.uk by **Friday 11th October**.

School Assemblies - collective worship and the right to withdraw

The school provides a mixture of school, year, house and form assemblies, incorporating ethical reflection, world issues and occasional religious themes alongside essential information-giving. Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from 'collective worship' if they wish: for example if a parent wishing to withdraw their child from the Christian element of an assembly they would need to email enquiries@shsb.org.uk by Friday 11th October.

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Attendance and Punctuality

As we begin the new term, we are emphasising the critical importance of regular attendance and punctuality. Following updated guidance from the Department for Education, we aim to ensure that all students attend school consistently and on time, as these factors are vital for both academic success and personal growth.



Why Attendance and Punctuality Matter

Regular attendance maximizes learning opportunities, helps establish a consistent routine, and supports the development of social skills through peer interaction. Students who attend less than 90% of school are considered persistent absentees, which can significantly impact their learning. Punctuality, on the other hand, ensures students don't miss important instructions at the beginning of lessons and prevents disruptions for both them and their peers. It also builds time management skills and reduces anxiety caused by late arrivals.

Responsibilities of Parents, Schools, and Authorities

Parents are responsible for ensuring their children attend school daily and arrive on time unless there is a valid reason, such as illness. Establishing a solid morning routine is key to preventing lateness.

Schools will actively promote a culture of punctuality and attendance. Staff will monitor attendance patterns and intervene early when needed, offering support to students and families facing challenges.

Local Authorities will collaborate with schools and families to address systemic issues affecting attendance. From 2024-25, they will enforce new regulations requiring penalty notices for students who miss 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons within 10 weeks. This primarily applies to term-time holidays or parents who fail to engage with attendance support efforts.

Supporting Students with Attendance Challenges

Students facing medical, personal, or other barriers to attendance will receive tailored support. This includes individualised plans for those with special educational needs or medical conditions, and collaboration with social services for children in care or with social workers.

By working together – parents, students, school staff, and local authorities – we can ensure consistent attendance and punctuality, which are key to academic achievement and future success.

For more details, consult our school attendance policy or contact us at enquiries@shsb.org.uk. You can also refer to the Department for Education's updated School Attendance Guidance here: [School Attendance Guidance](#).

Success is a choice. Let's make this year one of growth and success!

Mr. J Nzemeke

Director of Key Stage 4; School Attendance Champion



As part of my role as a teacher at SHSB, I've had the privilege of being involved with our school's Bee Society and its honey production. Over the past few months, I've enjoyed hearing stories from the boys about how their families have used and enjoyed our honey at home. These little moments have sparked an idea that I'm excited to share with you.

I am considering developing a small book that brings together interviews, stories, and recipes from our school community – both parents and students – who have used honey from our school apiary. My aim is to look beneath the surface and understand the many ways families enjoy and integrate this honey into their lives. Whether it's a favourite recipe or a special memory linked to our honey, I believe this project could highlight the sense of connection we all share through our school's beekeeping efforts.

If you and your child have enjoyed using our honey and would be interested in sharing a recipe, story, or memory for this project, I would love to hear from you. This book would be a celebration of both our community and the unique ways in which something as simple as honey can bring us all together. Please feel free to let me know if you would be interested in being part of this social project. Your contribution, no matter how small, would help make this idea a reality. Please send your contributions to enquiries@shsb.org.uk

Thank you for considering this, and I look forward to hearing from you!

Mr R Brooks

Bee Society and Geography

Teacher

BOOKING NOW OPEN! YOUTH VOICE DAY

If you are a young person aged 11+ living in Essex (Including Southend and Thurrock) or an adult working with young people we want to hear from you! Join us for an exciting day of young people's presentations, workshops, information fair, fun activities, FREE lunch and FREE Youth Voice Goodies!

HOSTED BY ESSEX BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS & ESSEX COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY YOUTH SERVICES
SUPPORTED BY ESSEX VIOLENCE AND VULNERABILITY UNIT AND ESSEX POLICE

SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2024

9.45AM - 3.30PM - SIGN IN FROM 9.15AM

ARU CHELMSFORD



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK SCAN OR FOLLOW THE LINK

<https://forms.office.com/e/0UzgFpaGLw>



For more information or to help with booking please contact Jess at jpease@essexboysandgirlsclubs.org
01245 264783

THE ESSEX YOUTH VOICE DAY

12.10.24

'SAFETY IN ESSEX'

9.45AM - 3.30PM
ARU CHELMSFORD

Running order

9.15-9.40; Arrival, Sign In & Goodie Bags

9.45-10.05; Welcome and introduction to the day

10.15-11.00; Attend a workshop and discussion around your chosen theme, what needs to change and how things could be changed, so that young people can feel safer in their communities

Themes are:
1.) Early intervention and support for mental health
2.) County lines - Drugs, Violence and Serious Crimes
3.) The creating and sharing of violent videos for social media
4.) The rise in vaping among young people
5.) Feeling unsafe because of differences such as gender & race

11.15-12.00; Attend a creation station for a chance to produce something creative around your chosen safety theme. Learn how to use your voice in a different way which can be used in your presentation to explain the issues or solutions to Essex leaders later in the day

Creation stations are Using your Voice through:
1.) Art work 2.) Spoken word 3.) Music
4.) Creatively & confidently sharing stories & own personal experiences

12.00-12.50; Eat a Yummy FREE LUNCH, enjoy activities and browse the information stalls

13.00-13.45; Back to your original workshop rooms to work on your group presentation for Essex leaders using your views and creative pieces

13.55-15.30; Presenting to leaders in Essex about your topic; the issues and how you think things should be changed so young people feel safer.
Followed by a discussion with Essex leaders about how to make changes

15.30; Home time!

What's the point?

This is a really important (but fun!) event for young people aged 11-24yrs living in Essex (including Southend & Thurrock)

to have their say about issues and concerns that make them feel unsafe in their communities,
AND to help Essex leaders understand what needs to change in order for young people to feel safer, and how these changes could be made.

Your views will be taken seriously to implement positive change around safety concerns that will impact everyone in Essex!

IN COLLABORATION WITH