

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



November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you about concerns regarding your son's/daughter's progress in AS Religious Studies. At this stage in the course, our records show that their combined grade across the course is currently a D grade or lower, which is below what we'd expect to see at this stage, even allowing for some challenges with the transition for GCSE to advanced studies. This letter is to offer you some context to the course your son/daughter is studying, outline some expectations that we have and some ways in which we can encourage and support them to improve from their current level of attainment.

As you may know, the AS qualification for RS has 3 distinct units, they are: Philosophy of religion, Religion and Ethics, and Developments in Christian Thought (DCT). Each of the three units are taught by a separate member of staff—Philosophy (Mr. McCague), Ethics (Mrs. Hathaway), and DCT (Dr. Wilkins). Each unit of study contributes equally to the final qualification, each accounting for 33% of the overall grade. Consistent effort across all three areas is crucial to ensure a balanced and successful outcome.

Our teachers are dedicated to providing well-structured and resourced lessons to support each student's success. To fully benefit from these lessons, we expect students to:

- Attend each lesson punctually and come prepared with the necessary materials.
- Take a full and active part in all lessons, challenging themselves intellectually.
- Complete a 30-minute homework assignment for each hour of lesson time. These assignments are essential to reinforce lesson content and cover the curriculum adequately.
- Utilise private study periods effectively to consolidate their learning outside of class.

For DCT, there is also a ninth independent study period, which is thoroughly planned and integral to completing the course on time. Students are expected to approach this period seriously, as it forms an essential part of their study routine.

It's important for students to communicate openly with their teachers if they encounter any difficulties with lesson material or homework. We encourage them to seek clarification when needed to build a deeper understanding.

Success in Religious Studies requires dedication beyond class attendance; effective use of homework time and private study is vital to achieving the necessary progress in these AS-level studies. We ask for your support in discussing the content of this letter with your son/daughter and encouraging them to adopt the habits necessary for a successful transition from GCSE to AS-level work.



Thank you for your cooperation and support as we work together to help your child reach their potential.

If you have any further questions, please get in touch by emailing enquiries@shsb.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mr. F S McCague
Leader of Religious Studies