

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Interim Headteacher: Mrs R V Worth



November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Support in A Level Science

We write in relation to your child's progress in their initial stages of A Level studies in Biology. Following recent assessments and observations in class, we have identified that some students, including your child, may be experiencing challenges in securing a strong foundation in the subject. Starting A Levels is a significant step-up from GCSE, and it is common for students to need time and support to adjust to the demands of these advanced courses. Our goal is to ensure that all students feel confident and supported as they work to master the concepts and skills essential for success.

To help students make the necessary progress, we have outlined some recommended strategies and resources that can support their learning. Additionally, we want to share the steps we will be taking as a department to offer further support and guidance.

Suggested Strategies for Students

1. *Regular Review and Practice*: Students should dedicate time each week to reviewing class notes, practising problem-solving, and revisiting key concepts. We recommend setting up a consistent study schedule to reinforce learning and address areas of difficulty, with one hour of independent study for each hour of formal, taught, lesson time.
2. *Use of Online Resources*: Many online platforms and website, such as AQA and Physicsandmathstutor.com, offer interactive lessons and quizzes specifically geared towards A Level Science subjects. These resources can help reinforce understanding in challenging areas.
3. *Focused Practice with Past Papers*: Working through past A Level exam questions provides valuable insight into exam techniques and helps consolidate knowledge. It can be particularly helpful for students to identify areas where they need further improvement.



School Support for Students

To complement students' independent efforts, we are implementing additional support measures:

1. *Study Resources*: Homework books have been created to make a range of study materials available, including topic summaries, key concept checklists, and guided practice exercises. We encourage students to use these materials as part of their regular review process. Students have been provided these booklets in lessons.
2. *Peer Mentoring*: Students will have the opportunity to meet with Year 13 subject prefects for individual support. During these sessions, mentors will work with students to set achievable goals, provide personalised feedback, and discuss strategies to address specific challenges they may be facing.
3. *Work review*: Students' work checked weekly.

We will review your child's progress again after Christmas and feedback at the Year 12 Parents' Evening on 13 January. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that the *Mid-Course Assessments* will be held in late January.

We are committed to supporting each student as they work to meet the demands of their A Level studies and wish to thank you for your continued support at home. If you would like to discuss your child's progress in more detail or if you have any questions about the support measures in place, please contact us via School Enquiries (enquiries@shsb.org.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Brook
Leader of Biology

Mr D Hill
Leader of Science