

# SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

## ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs R V Worth



3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents,

I am writing this letter to encourage further collaboration between home and school to enable your son / daughter to achieve the greatest possible improvement and progress in English following the recent Mid-Term Assessments (MTAs).

**Following the MTAs, it is evident that a structured and purposeful programme of independent revision and exam practice is essential from now until the Public Examinations. Indeed, the MTAs revealed weaknesses in your son / daughter's ability to apply and demonstrate their learning under examination conditions.**

As you will appreciate, the English Department at SHSB takes your son / daughter's education extremely seriously and we think it would be appropriate to outline here our own (continuing) contribution to the education and progress of your son / daughter. As you know, your son / daughter has benefitted (since they started Year 12) from engaging and well-structured lessons delivered by subject specialists; access to high-quality educational resources – both in lessons and outside lessons; a wide range of research-led teaching strategies / pedagogy to cater to individual needs; safe, respectful, and inclusive classroom cultures; opportunities for collaboration and peer learning; regular teacher feedback identifying individual strengths and weaknesses; opportunities for additional help and / or 1-2-1 tutoring.

Nevertheless, the recent MTAs have highlighted weaknesses in your son / daughter's present position in English and, consequently, we recommend the following:

- A structured and purposeful programme of independent revision and exam practice. Routines will help your son / daughter remain on track and avoid stressful last-minute "cramming".
- Your son / daughter should work at home without distraction – for example, mobile phones are likely to cause unhelpful breaks in concentration and a quiet and organised study space free from distractions is essential. Notifications should be turned off and apps can be used to block other intrusions.
- Your son / daughter would benefit from working "against the clock" at home – in other words, working under timed conditions to replicate the examination experience.
- It is vital "active" learning / revision strategies are employed – your son / daughter will have extensive experience of such retrieval and recap exercises from school.



- I recommend your son / daughter “chunk” their work at home – breaking larger tasks down into more manageable “chunks” and tackling them one at a time.
- Students should take regular breaks to stay fresh and avoid burnout – 25 minutes of focused work followed by a 5-minute break is a popular strategy.
- It is always possible for students to work at home and then bring that work to teachers for advice and guidance – sadly, many students do not take advantage of this opportunity. Seeking help when needed is a sign of strength and students are encouraged to speak to classmates or teachers.

Once again, we trust that home and school will work together over the next few weeks to encourage your son / daughter to focus upon the greatest possible improvement and progress in English.

I thank you for your understanding and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

ACG Cass  
Leader of English