

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

Headteacher: Mrs R V Worth



11th March 2025

Dear Year 12 Offer-Holder,

We are delighted that you have accepted your conditional Year 12 place with us at Southend High School for Boys. This year we are inviting all current Year 11 SHSB students to our induction day on Thursday 3rd July. Attendance is not compulsory, but we would like to see as many of you there as possible so that you get to experience a morning in the Sixth Form. The Further Maths entrance test will also be sat in the afternoon, and we will be in contact nearer the time with further details for this day.

At SHSB, we have a large proportion of students who study A level Mathematics. To support those that do not study A level Mathematics, we are now introducing a qualification across Year 12 called Core Mathematics. This qualification will come in the form of three lessons a fortnight and will result in students being awarded the Core Mathematics certificate at the end of Year 12 after an examination in May.

The qualification itself draws from GCSE Mathematics but focuses on how these techniques are used in other subjects. Students studying any of biology, physics, chemistry, economics, psychology, geography, business and more will benefit from looking at the mathematics behind several key techniques used within these fields. Our Maths department strongly suggest students who are studying these subjects, but have not opted to take A level Mathematics, sign up for Core Mathematics to help support their mathematical understanding.

Generally, the benefits of Core Mathematics are seen to be:

- a. Students do better in their other A levels, on average, having taken Core Mathematics (of course, this largely depends on their other A levels having a mathematical component). Numerically speaking, taking Core Mathematics is seen to be **nearly as beneficial** as taking A level Mathematics for many of these affected subjects.
- b. Students have a greater understanding of the mathematics that they may be using in jobs in the future, such as analysis of data or creation of schedules.
- c. Students get a qualification that they can cite on their UCAS applications in Year 13 and shows a willingness to study further to keep their mathematics at a high level. Students achieving a grade A in Core Mathematics earn 20 UCAS points, 16 points for a grade B, 12 points for a grade C, 10 points for a grade D and 6 points for a grade E.

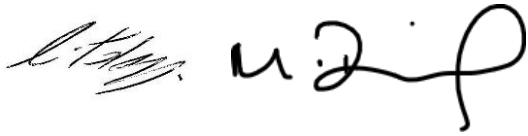


There are a growing number of very successful colleges and Sixth Forms that have started offering Core Mathematics to their students with some very promising results.

We would strongly recommend that all students who do not study A level Mathematics consider this opportunity. At three periods a fortnight, it is not massively intrusive on other A levels being studied and it will offer support for the vast majority of A levels offered at SHSB. The qualification is suitable for all those achieving a Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

If you would like to be considered for this course, please click on the following link and complete the form by **16th March** [SHSB Core Mathematics 2025](#).

Kind regards

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is for Mr C Foley, and the signature on the right is for Mr M S Dowding. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr C Foley
Head of Sixth Form

Mr M S Dowding
Leader of Mathematics