

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



17th March 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to bring an important concern to your attention regarding the rise of gambling among some of our students, particularly in connection with the Cheltenham Festival.

We have become increasingly aware that a number of students have been engaging in gambling, in some cases involving large sums of money.

This is a worrying trend, not only because many of these students are underage, but also because gambling can quickly become problematic or even addictive. In addition to the financial risks, we have also seen this impacting students' focus in lessons. Some have been watching races on their phones and laptops during class time, which is disrupting both their own learning and that of others. With exams just two months away, it is vital that students remain fully engaged in their studies.

We urge you to discuss this matter with your son or daughter to ensure that gambling is not becoming an issue for them. If you have any concerns or need further guidance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Our priority is the wellbeing of our students, and we appreciate your support in reinforcing the importance of responsible behaviour. Below are the links to several resources that you may find useful

Gamble Aware <https://www.gambleaware.org/>

GamCare (National Gambling Helpline) 0808 8020 133 - GamCare provide support to anyone affected by gambling. They offer phone and online support, as well as a helpline which is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

NHS National Gambling Clinic - The NHS National Gambling Clinic provide support for those aged 13 to 18 who are experiencing gambling harms, and people 18 or over in London and the Southeast. Their free services include therapy, group sessions and post-treatment support

<https://www.cnwl.nhs.uk/services/addictions/national-gambling-clinic>

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C. Foley

Head of Sixth Form

