

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome! It was a delight to welcome our students as they returned to school last week. We hope that the holiday time was relaxing, refreshing and productive for all. It was great to hear how they are looking forward to getting back into the routine of school and excited to see what the next year holds.

Exam results: we were, as a school community, able to celebrate very significant success in public examinations in the summer.

[from our public Press Release literature]

At A-level (A2) it has been another very impressive year for our Sixth Form, with over 660 A-levels completed with approximately 300 A/A* grades in total.

- ✓ 110 A* grades, which require exceptional performance, have been awarded to our Year 13 students.
- ✓ 30 students achieved at least 3 A/A* grades

180 pupils at Southend High School for Boys completed almost 1700 GCSE qualifications. Among the highest achievers, twenty pupils collectively secured more than 200 top grades (8s and 9s), reflecting the remarkable consistency and talent across the year group.

- ✓ 1 in 5 grades were awarded Level 9
- ✓ Four students achieved a full set of level 9 across the board.

We are proud to share in this success and thrilled to have supported our students as they progress to some of the country's top universities, embark on international study opportunities, or begin prestigious degree apprenticeships.

School Awards

We are delighted to announce that our **Science Department** has been awarded the prestigious **Prince's Teaching Institute (PTI) Mark** for 2025. This national recognition celebrates excellence in Science education, highlighting our team's commitment to deepening subject expertise and creating enriching opportunities that inspire and engage students beyond the standard curriculum. **We offer congratulations to Mr Hill and the whole team for their work in securing this award.** It is a superb endorsement of their hard work and commitment.



Our School has been awarded **Lead School status for Music across the Greater Essex region**. Working within Essex County Council, schools were encouraged to bid to be recognised as a lead school. We are delighted to be one of only three secondary schools across the county to be selected. We were recognised as a provider of high-quality music teaching, and a champion of best practice within this area. **We wish Mr Worth the very best as he makes links with other schools in the area, seeking to support the music provision in secondary schools across Southend and Castle Point.**



We are very pleased to have been reaccepted into the **Digital Schoolhouse programme** for another academic year. This is due, in the most part, to the engaging and innovative curriculum offered here at SHSB, together with the range of additional opportunities provided for our students. We also enjoy making links with local Primary schools as part of this initiative. **We are grateful to Mr Nzemeke and all the team for making this happen.**



Start of year

We are proud of the strong foundations already in place at SHSB and remain committed to continuous improvement. Below are our key priorities for the year ahead. Some will directly involve parents, while others are shared for your awareness and support.

We will share more detailed information about these priorities throughout the coming weeks.

1. Staff and Student Wellbeing

We begin from a position of strength, with wellbeing already central to our school culture. This year, we aim to build on that success—enhancing access to wellbeing resources, strengthening pastoral care, and supporting staff with time and training to thrive.

We ask parents to support this by encouraging healthy routines at home and communicating with us if wellbeing concerns arise.

2. Outcomes at GCSE and A Level

We are focused on helping every student reach their full academic potential. This includes setting ambitious goals, tracking progress, and providing tailored support. We celebrate both achievement and improvement, ensuring all students are supported to succeed.

We ask parents to engage with progress updates, attend key events, and support students with their studies at home.

3. Curriculum Development and Embedding Formative Assessment

We continue to refine our curriculum to ensure it is broad, balanced, and aspirational. Staff are embedding effective assessment strategies that give meaningful feedback and help students take ownership of their learning.

We ask parents to talk to their children about what they're learning and encourage reflection on feedback received.

4. Behaviour Policy

We are committed to maintaining a respectful, inclusive, and ambitious school culture. Our Behaviour Policy sets clear expectations and is applied consistently across the school.

We ask parents to read the Behaviour Policy and reinforce these expectations at home. Your support is vital in helping students understand and meet our standards.

5. Financial Efficiency and Long-Term Financial Security

With ongoing funding pressures, we are focused on managing resources wisely and securing the school's future. This includes careful budgeting and fundraising through the SHSB Charitable Trust.

We ask parents to consider supporting the school through a donation, if they are able. Every contribution helps.

Support Our School – SHSB Charitable Trust

As government funding continues to decline, many schools are cutting back. At SHSB, we're committed to maintaining the outstanding education our students deserve. The *SHSB Charitable Trust*, launched in April, helps us bridge the funding gap. Thanks to generous donations from parents and supporters, we've made a strong start—but we need your help to continue.

If you're able, please consider making a one-off or monthly donation. Every contribution makes a difference.

More information and donation options are available at: www.shsbcharitabletrust.org

Easy Fundraising

There is another way to support our school while you shop. Easy Fundraising is an app that enables you to shop online and the brands/retailers make donations to the school. All you need to do is download the app, sign up as a supporter of Southend High School for Boys and shop away.



Journeys to school

We were delighted to see over 170 bicycles used for journeys to school on the first full day of term. Cycling remains one of the healthiest, most convenient, cost-effective, environmentally friendly, and safest ways to travel—especially for pupils living within five miles of the school. Many others also choose to walk or combine walking with public transport, which we strongly encourage. Thank you for supporting sustainable travel. We ask that you ensure that your child is travelling to school safely and not taking any risks on the busy roads.

We often hear superb examples of our pupils acting commendably (giving up seats, helping others in need, showing courtesy) on their journeys to and from school, occasionally we discover that some of our pupils don't reflect the same behaviour on their journey to and from school, as they do on the school site. Please talk with your child about behaviour on the bus or train, if they travel by public transport, and ensure they understand that the same standards of behaviour apply whenever they are representing the school. Pupils, and parents, have sometimes been surprised that our jurisdiction covers pupils' journey times and we will take appropriate action, including removing season tickets or even excluding from school, if that were ever to be necessary.

For the small number of pupils who arrive by private car, please remember: **no parent should drive onto the school site for drop-off or pick-up** unless by prior arrangement with the ARB or Main Office. It is also both dangerous and illegal to stop on the yellow zig-zag lines outside the school gates. **These areas must remain clear to protect our cyclists and pedestrians as they enter and leave the site.** While it may seem quick and convenient to stop briefly, the safety of our students must come first. Please expect to be challenged if you stop illegally. Thank you for your cooperation with this important safety request.



Extra-curricular activities

We're excited to offer a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities for students across the school once again this year. A full timetable of activities is now available on the school website and displayed in form rooms. We strongly encourage all students to get involved and make the most of what we have on offer.

In the Sixth Form, students can take part in volunteering projects, cookery classes, and charity initiatives. Details of these opportunities will be shared with students over the coming days.

PE practices are now in full swing, with an impressive number of students from all year groups taking part in early morning cross-country training on the first full day of term. Timetables for each year group have been shared via Satchel One, and parents should be aware that practices are already underway, with fixtures beginning immediately. It was fantastic to see our new Year 7 teams in action last Saturday against King John, and we wish all our teams the very best for the term ahead.

Last year brought tremendous success across football, rugby, basketball, and cross-country competitions, and we look forward to celebrating this year's achievements as they unfold.

Peripatetic Music lessons have begun this week, and it's wonderful to see so many students already signed up. Lesson times have been communicated directly to students. A small number of places remain—if you're interested, please contact Miss Payagala in the Finance Office at finance@shsb.org.uk. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Rehearsals for our various ensembles also begin next week, and we warmly encourage all interested students to get involved.

Parental Consent

Photographs: Schools have an obligation to protect children from risk and some headteachers have therefore banned the taking of photographs of pupil activities at school. Whilst we are circumspect about what and where we publish, it is not our intention to go to these lengths. I shall assume parental consent for the school to take photographs of their children as individuals or in groups (eg teams, music groups) for legitimate school or publicity purposes (eg social media); if any parent wishes to withhold such consent, I should be grateful for such a request to be put in writing by email to enquiries@shsb.org.uk by **Friday 26th September**.

Sex and Relationship Education: Parents have the right to remove their child from sex education. This is taught from Year 10 onwards. If your child is in Year 10 or above, and you are considering withdrawing them from sex education, please email enquiries@shsb.org.uk by **Friday 26th September**.

School Assemblies – collective worship and the right to withdraw: The school provides a mixture of school, year, house and form assemblies., incorporating ethical reflection, world issues and occasional religious themes alongside essential information-giving. Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from 'collective worship' if they wish: for example if a parent wishing to withdraw their child from the Christian element of an assembly they would need to email enquiries@shsb.org.uk by **Friday 26th September**.

General Information

As many of you know, our school uses a data management system called *Go4Schools*. This platform gives parents secure online access to key information about their child's education, including current grades, progress, behaviour, rewards, and attendance. New parents will receive a letter with guidance on how to access the system in the coming weeks.

Homework is set using *SatchelOne*, our dedicated homework platform, which students and parents can access at any time to stay informed and organised. New parents should already have received log in details.

We also use *WisePay* to communicate important information and manage payments. Please note that catering and stationery purchases can be made at any time via WisePay. We encourage parents to check balances and monitor purchases regularly to ensure everything is up to date.

All students in Years 7 – 11 have been given a **Student Organiser**. Please go through this with your child, as it contains some important information. Please ensure that you read and sign the home-school agreement (parent and pupil), and that your son signs the Student ICT Acceptable Use Policy.

It's also important that your son familiarises himself with the Code of Conduct, School Uniform Regulations and our Mobile phone policy. This information has been made available electronically for students in the sixth form.

11+ Early Closure

Parents are reminded to keep a close eye on the school calendar and – in particular – to note that **school will close early, at 1pm, to all pupils on Friday 19th September**, to allow for the preparations required in advance of the 11+ the next day.

Harvest assemblies and collection

For many years the school has made an active commitment, at Harvest time, to collecting and donating food items and other specified goods to HARP, Southend's local charity for the homeless. This year is no different and we hope all pupils will respond to the requests from their tutors: so we can exceed the generosity of previous years, at a time when the need is acute. Thank you.

Please see the list here: <https://www.harpsouthend.org.uk/donate-items-or-food> of suggested and preferred donation items from HARP.

As term progresses, I look forward to writing with news of more school activities and events.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs R V Worth
Headteacher