

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 September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Noel Coward Theatre, London – Thursday 11th December, 2pm

As part of their Drama curriculum, Year 12 & 13 Drama students are given opportunities to experience live professional theatre – a key component of their studies. We are delighted to offer a trip to London's West End to see a performance of Oscar Wilde's timeless comedy *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the Noel Coward Theatre on **Thursday 11th December**.

*Regarded as one of the greatest comedies in the English language, **The Importance of Being Earnest** is a witty and sharply satirical play that explores themes of identity, social conventions, and the absurdities of Victorian society - all through Wilde's signature humour and dazzling dialogue. This is a brilliant opportunity for students to experience a classic text brought to life in a professional setting, enriching their understanding of live performance and performance styles. Starring Olly Alexander and Stephen Fry.*

We will be travelling by train, departing from school at approximately **10:30am**. Students should bring a packed lunch, or they may have time to purchase food at breaktime to eat before departure. While there may be a short opportunity to buy food near the theatre, this cannot be guaranteed. The performance begins at 2pm and will finish at approximately 5pm. We anticipate returning to Prittlewell train station by 7pm. Students must either be collected by a parent at the train station or be permitted to make their own way home from the theatre. This permission must be given via the school's off-site visit form (link below). If no permission is given, an adult will be expected to collect your child from the station.

The total cost of this visit is **£25**, which includes the theatre ticket. Students should also bring money to purchase a train ticket on the day – I will be sending a reminder nearer the time as students may be better to purchase these in advance for ease. The theatre ticket can be paid via **WisePay**, under the "**Trips and Visits**" section. We kindly ask that payment is made by **Friday 3 October 2025**. If you encounter any difficulties accessing your account or are concerned about payment, please contact **Miss Payagala in the Finance Office** as soon as possible. To secure a place on this visit, please also ensure that the school's **Offsite Visit Form** is completed by **Friday 3 October**.

<https://forms.office.com/e/zuVSsZu5hw>

Further information about the production can be found here: <https://www.delfontmackintosh.co.uk/whats-on/the-importance-of-being-earnest>

Finally, please take a moment to review the school's **Code of Conduct for Offsite Visits**, which applies to all students representing the school during external trips and can be found on our website.

Thank you for your continued support of the arts and your child's drama education.

Warm regards,

Mrs A Frost

Subject Leader of Drama

