



# SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

## Year 8 Curriculum – 2025/26

### Summary

SUBJECT	AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER
English	<p><b>The Marginalised:</b></p> <p>Core Text (Fiction): <b>“Of Mice and Men”</b> – taught over 14 weeks. Lessons to integrate elements of both language and literature and focus upon the following core knowledge: implication and allusion; use and effect of language, structure, and form; subject literacy (e.g. use of relevant terminology); selecting quotation and evidence; presentation of ideas and perspectives; developing a critical voice; text and context.</p> <p>Topic Assessment: <b>two tasks</b> (of different type) to be completed and marked during the term.</p>	<p><b>Progress + Protest:</b></p> <p>Core Text (Fiction): <b>“To Kill a Mockingbird”</b> – taught over 13 weeks. Lessons to integrate elements of both language and literature and focus upon the following core knowledge: implication and allusion; use and effect of language, structure, and form; subject literacy (e.g. use of relevant terminology); selecting quotation and evidence; presentation of ideas and perspectives; developing a critical voice; text and context.</p> <p>Topic Assessment: <b>two tasks</b> (of different type) to be completed and marked during the term.</p>	<p><b>Growth + Identity:</b></p> <p>Core Text (Fiction): <b>“Boys Don’t Cry”</b> – taught over 13 weeks. Lessons to integrate elements of both language and literature and focus upon the following core knowledge: implication and allusion; use and effect of language, structure, and form; subject literacy (e.g. use of relevant terminology); selecting quotation and evidence; presentation of ideas and perspectives; developing a critical voice; text and context.</p> <p>Topic Assessment: <b>two tasks</b> (of different type) to be completed and marked during the term.</p>
Maths	Estimation, Indices, Standard Form, Probability, Polygons, Ratio, Linear Equations, Linear Inequalities, Area, Scatter Graphs.	Simultaneous Equations, Circles, Percentages, Functions and Sequences, Transformations, Straight Line Graphs - Gradient & Intercept, Pythagoras Theorem.	Quadratic Graphs, Statistics, Solving non-linear equations, Bearing and Scale Drawings, Volume and Surface area, Speed/Distance/Time and Travel Graphs.
Science	<p><b>Biology:</b> Reproduction  <b>Chemistry:</b> Atomic Structure  <b>Physics:</b> Newtons Laws of Motion  <b>Biology:</b> Inheritance &amp; Selection</p> <p>How Science Works: Data Analysis Skills</p>	<p><b>Chemistry:</b> Bonding &amp; Structure  <b>Physics:</b> Electricity  <b>Biology:</b> Microbes  <b>Chemistry:</b> Acids &amp; Bases</p> <p>How Science Works: Investigations into <i>Voltage, Current &amp; Resistance</i> and <i>Testing Indigestion Remedies</i>.</p>	<p><b>Physics:</b> Heat Transfers  <b>Biology:</b> Ecology  <b>Chemistry:</b> Water &amp; Solution  <b>Physics:</b> Engineering Physics</p> <p>How Science Works: Investigations into <i>Insulation</i> and <i>Variation</i>.</p>
French	Consolidation of present and near future tense, Introduction to perfect tense, Activities and Interests, Family, School, Travel, Home and Abroad Work on pronunciation. Translations from English to French. Analysis of short literature texts.	Extension of Speaking and Listening Activities, Activities at home and abroad, Interchange of present, perfect and near future tense.	Speaking and writing about food, school and shopping. Oral examination. Reflexive verbs Travelling abroad. Using conjunctions
Spanish	Describing places and location. Saying what someone is like at the moment. Saying what someone is like in general. Saying what people have Saying what people do. Saying what people do and don't do. Numbers ( 1 to 12) and talking about more than one thing. Saying what there is around you and describing it. Talking about the location of things. Describing a place. Giving and wanting (festive season and family).	Describing family. Describing some natural wonders of the Spanish-speaking world. Asking and answering questions. Talking about what you do with others (rural life). Talking about what people can do. Contrasting what people must, can and want to do Places and locations. Saying what people are like today vs in general.	Describing activities (travel). Describing what people do. Describing what people do (technology). Describing people and possessions. Describing when and where people go. Describing future plans.
German	Introduction, numbers, months, age, birthdays, family members, pets, colours, characteristics, hobbies, likes, dislikes, present tense	School, time, Hometown, going on holiday, Berlin	Basic holiday activities, Food and drink, house and home

Geography	Global issues and conflict, Physical World – geology tectonics and climate.	People in the UK – a demographic study. Challenges and opportunities – poverty, waste management, energy issues.	World Cities – a look at urban geography and its implications for the world. Weather and climate, including a local microclimate study on site.
History	Slavery and Empire. The Industrial Revolutions	World War One.	World War Two.
Art & Design	<b>Art reflects our love and devotion</b> Byzantine iconography, contemporary portraiture and the cult of celebrity.	<b>Art helps us learn from the past</b> The Renaissance, questioning the importance of originality, proportions and perspective.	<b>Art captures light and dark</b> The Baroque era, Chiaroscuro painting, photography and how to create dramatic effect in Art.
RS	Ultimate questions about humanity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is a human?</li> <li>• Dualism – do we have a soul?</li> <li>• Religious views on humanity</li> <li>• Materialism &amp; humanism as a way of life</li> </ul> The existence and non-existence of God: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ontological argument for the existence of God</li> </ul>	The existence and non-existence of God: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The teleological argument for the existence of God</li> <li>• Challenges to believing in the existence of God – the problem of evil</li> </ul> Morality and ethics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does it mean to be moral?</li> <li>• Principles and rules</li> <li>• Divine command theory and the Ten Commandments</li> </ul>	Morality and ethics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilitarianism – can we be 'good without God'?</li> <li>• Virtue ethics</li> </ul> Buddhism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is a Mandala and how is it symbolic?</li> <li>• The life of Siddhartha Gautama and enlightenment</li> <li>• Dharma – 3 fires and 4 noble truths</li> <li>• Nirvana and Skandhas</li> <li>• 8 fold path</li> <li>• Living a moral Buddhist Life</li> </ul>
PE	Games: Cross-Country; Football, Hockey, Rugby on rotation PE: Basketball, Table Tennis	Games: Football, Hockey, Rugby on rotation PE: Gymnastic Sequences, Badminton, Indoor Athletics	Games: Athletics – track events, Cricket, Softball PE: Athletics – field events, Cricket
Design & Technology	Mobile phone point of sale stand.	Electronics	Model Racing Buggy
Food Technology	Practical lessons - Quorn stir fry, goujons, burgers and wedges. Theory - Focus is on a balanced diet and sources of protein.	Practical lessons - Mac n cheese, quiche, cheesecake. Theory - Focus on food hygiene and temperature guidelines in food	Practical lessons - Calzone, muffins. Theory - Focus is designing foods for others which are healthy and meet the Eatwell Guide.
Computer Science	Viruses, copyright-plagiarism, health and safety, Python programming.	Database – Introduction, creating and setting up a database, data validation, queries, forms, reports and Web Development - html.	Hardware, software, binary, hexadecimal, Python Drawing, Boolean Logic.
Music	Blues – structure, improvisation, performance Jazz – improvisation, harmony	Popular Song composition, ensemble performance	Music for Film – composition, sonority, motif, development
PSHE	All topics come under one of three headings: Living in the Wider World, Relationships and Healthy Living. Topics are: Emotional Literacy, Anger management, Peer Pressure, Consent, Selfies, Sexting, Puberty, LGBT and Homophobia, Relationship Types, County Lines (Drug gangs) Knife Crime, Body Image, Self-Harm, Prejudice and Discrimination, British Values - Tolerance, Stress, Gambling, Personal Safety and First Aid, Careers.		
Citizenship	Autumn-Spring: Democracy and the UK political system Voting, Parliament, Government, Political parties  Spring –Summer: UK Law, crime and punishment Crime, justice system, legal case studies, preventing crime		