

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs R V Worth



October 2025

Year 11 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Dear Parents/Guardians

I am writing to you as your son has recently begun the Non-Exam Assessment Task 1 (Food Preparation). This contributes towards 50% of their final GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition grade.

I feel that it is important to inform parents of the requirements of the Non-Exam Assessments (NEAs) as they are very different from almost all other subjects. While your son has been informed of the requirements of the NEA during their lessons, I am aware that this information does not always get shared at home.

Unlike previous controlled assessment tasks, the NEAs have been designed to measure subject-specific knowledge and skills that cannot be tested by written papers. The assessments have a specific time allowance in which they must be completed, which has been approved by the awarding exam body (AQA). It is therefore essential that students follow these time allowances and meet the required deadlines.

Here are the key dates when your son will need to complete his NEAs:

NEA1 is a Food Investigation task which is **15%** of their final grade. They have been given a task to investigate set by the exam board. They have been carrying out practical investigations and then report on their findings covering research, investigation and analysis. The NEA1 task has already been started, this needs to be completed by Friday 21st November. We will have a day off timetable on the 23rd October to assist in getting this completed in time.

All written work must be completed at school under exam conditions, but pupils should plan their written work at home before their lesson. Deadlines for each section will be put on Satchel and after school and lunchtime support is available, which many of them have been making use of.

NEA2 is a Food Preparation Task which is **35%** of their final grade. This task involves lots of cooking and pupils will need to produce a portfolio to show research, practical skills demonstrated, time plans, nutritional analysis and costings for **all** dishes. This task includes a **3-hour practical exam**.

This exam will take place in the week commencing 26th January with the date to be confirmed later this year. We will be beginning this as soon as the NEA 1 task is completed.



If you have any other enquires about the course or are unsure about the NEA's please do not hesitate to contact me at eat@shsb.org.uk.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Tyler
Leader of Food Technology