

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



December 2025

Dear Parents,

We have now approached the time when your son will be asked to make his option choices, selecting subjects that he wishes to study in Year 9.

Our options booklet is available online (please see the link below) and we recommend that you take the time to read through the booklet to become familiar with the learning journey of each subject. Your son should select subjects that he both enjoys and that he is achieving in.

In Year 9, pupils study English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Studies, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), Physical Education and Games. PSHE and PE Games are non-GCSE courses. All pupils are required to continue studying at least one Modern Foreign Language through to GCSE.

Additional 'optional' subjects are Art, Business and Economics, Citizenship, Computer Science, Design and Technology, Drama, Food Science, History, Geography, Music and PE.

We will be soon starting a series of Drama taster sessions and we have set up a dedicated Year 8 Options area on our website, which includes some presentations on the subjects that your son can choose.

You can use the link below and then add the username and password.

<https://www.shsb.org.uk/page/?title=Year+8+Parents+Area&pid=123>

Username; year8parents@shsb.org.uk

Password; y8access

Our new live system of reporting should also be used as information to help shape his choices, and we hope you'll be able to utilise appointments during parents' evening to consult with your son's teachers regarding the suitability for his option choices. Year 8 parents' evening will be held online on Monday 26th January 2025.

The Year 8 Options booklet can be accessed here: [Year 8 Options Booklet](#). Once you have viewed the booklet and your son is ready to make his choices, please go to this link: [Year 8 - GCSE optional subject choices for September 2026](#) to complete the options form. Please complete the form no later than **Wednesday 11th February 2026**.



It is important that this deadline is adhered to as we need to ensure that all the processes of timetabling can be completed in preparation for the start of the new term. We will do our best to allocate your son his first choice preferences; it is possible, however, that we will not be able to accommodate late applicants.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school by e-mail on enquiries@shsb.org.uk if you require any further guidance or support in relation to the options process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr J L Brandon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr J L Brandon
Director of Key Stage 3