

# 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



February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Re: ESU MACE Regional Final – Monday 9th March 2026

I am delighted to inform you that your child has been selected to represent, support or shadow Southend High School for Boys' debating team at the Regional Final of the prestigious ESU MACE competition on Monday 9th March 2026.

This is the largest schools' public speaking competition in the country and reaching the Regional Final is a significant achievement. Following our successful progression in the previous two rounds, this event represents an exciting opportunity for our students to compete against other leading schools and further develop their public speaking, critical thinking and teamwork skills. One successful team will advance to the National Final.

### Competition Venue and Timing

- Venue: St Joseph's College, Ipswich
- Departure from SHSB: 14:00
- Return: Students will either be collected from the venue by a parent/carer or return to school by minibus, depending on the preference indicated on the consent form.
- The competition is scheduled to finish at 20:30, meaning that students can either be collected at this time from the venue or will likely arrive back to school between 21:45-22:15 (exact time TBC depending on traffic).

Students who are not collected from the venue will be dismissed from school upon our return to Southend High School for Boys.

### Travel Arrangements

- Students will travel by school minibus via the A127, A130 and A12. All students will be supervised throughout the journey and at the venue.
- Seatbelts must be worn at all times and students are expected to follow all staff instructions while travelling and during the competition.



## **Supervision**

Students will be supervised by:

- Mr O Randall (Trip Leader)
- Mrs S Whiffin
- Mr C Ingoldby (Minibus Driver)

The school Code of Conduct applies throughout the trip. Students are representing the school at a high-profile regional event and are expected to demonstrate exemplary behaviour at all times.

## **Costs**

There is no cost to students. The minibus travel cost is being covered by the school.

## **Medical and Safeguarding**

If your child requires medication (e.g. inhaler, EpiPen), they must bring it with them on the day. A first aid kit will be carried by staff and the venue has appropriate first aid and emergency procedures in place.

For safeguarding reasons, students will only be permitted to leave directly from the venue if a parent/carer has indicated this clearly on the consent form and is physically present to collect them.

## **Parental Consent**

Please complete the Microsoft consent form by Monday 2 March 2026 to confirm:

- Your child's attendance
- Whether your child will be collected from the venue or return to school

If we do not receive consent, your child will not be permitted to attend.

[ESU Mace Competition Offsite Form - 9th March 2026 – Fill in form](#)

## **Contact**

If you have any questions regarding the visit, please do not hesitate to contact me at [OXR@shsb.org.uk](mailto:OXR@shsb.org.uk). Thank you for your continued support as our students compete in this outstanding national public speaking competition.

Yours sincerely,

Mr O Randall  
Trip Leader