

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



March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Cambridge Debating – National Finals Day – Saturday 21 March 2026

I am delighted to inform you that your child has qualified to represent Southend High School for Boys at the National Finals Day of the Cambridge Schools' British Parliamentary Debating Competition, taking place at the University of Cambridge Student Union on Saturday 21 March 2026.

This is a prestigious national competition hosted by the University of Cambridge. Having successfully progressed from their Regional Heat, our students have earned the opportunity to compete at the final stage against leading schools from across the country. The event provides an excellent opportunity for students to further develop their public speaking, critical thinking and analytical skills while engaging with a highly competitive debating environment.

Competition Venue and Timing

- Venue: Cambridge Student Union, 9A Bridge Street, Cambridge, CB2 1UB
- Meeting point: Leigh-on-Sea train station
- Meeting time: 05:15
- Departure train: 05:26 from Leigh-on-Sea

Students and staff will travel via West Ham, transferring onto the DLR to Stratford before taking the 06:22 train from Stratford to Cambridge.

The precise finishing time of the competition depends on how far teams progress through the rounds.

Current estimates are:

- Approximately 18:00 if the team does not progress to the National Championship Debate.
- Approximately 22:30 if the team progresses to the National Championship Debate.

If the event runs later into the evening due to progression in the competition, dinner will be provided by the Cambridge Students' Union. Lunch is provided for the students irrespective of performance.

Further details can be found here: [Cambridge Schools 2025-26 – Cambridge Union Debating](#)



Travel Arrangements

Students will travel by train under staff supervision for the duration of the journey and while in Cambridge. The group will walk between the station and the Cambridge Student Union venue.

Supervision

Students will be supervised by:

- Mr O Randall (Trip Leader)
- Mr L Randall.

The school Code of Conduct applies throughout the trip. Students are representing the school at a national academic competition and are expected to demonstrate exemplary behaviour at all times.

Costs

There is no cost to students. Train travel and competition entry is being covered by the school.

Medical and Safeguarding

If your child requires medication (for example an inhaler or EpiPen), they must bring it with them on the day. Staff will carry a first aid kit and the venue has appropriate emergency procedures in place.

Parental Consent

Please complete the Microsoft consent form by Wednesday 18 March 2026 to confirm your child's attendance.

[Cambridge Debating – National Finals Day – Saturday 21 March 2026 – Fill in form](#)

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

Contact

If you have any questions regarding the visit, please do not hesitate to contact me at OXR@shsb.org.uk.

Thank you for your continued support as our students participate in this outstanding national debating competition.

Yours sincerely,

Mr O Randall
Trip Leader (Debating Lead)