

# SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

## ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Prittlewell Chase, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 0RG  
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Headteacher: Mrs R V Worth



13<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Welcome back!

It has been wonderful to welcome Year 12 students back into school this week following the exam period. We are incredibly proud of the maturity, resilience, and commitment they have shown throughout the exam season, and we would like to thank you for your continued support in helping students feel prepared and confident during this busy time.

We also hope students found Future Focus Fortnight a valuable use of time out of school for post-18 preparation. It has been fantastic to see so many students engaging positively with opportunities beyond the classroom. We hope those who completed work experience placements had a valuable and worthwhile experience, and that other students were able to use the time productively by exploring their subjects in greater depth through the super-curricular booklets shared with them and were able to begin looking into their post-18 plans further. Just a reminder that we do ask students to log their reflections on Unifrog under notes to reference writers.

### Post 18 preparations

The summer term is an important and exciting one for Year 12 students as they prepare for their post-18 pathways and the transition into Year 13. Alongside beginning Year 13 content in their subjects, students will start work on their UCAS applications and take part in a comprehensive personal development programme to support their future plans.

Students have already attended the Post-18 Information Event in April, and Mrs Hamilton has continued to share a wide range of opportunities with them over recent weeks. In addition, tutor time this term will focus on preparing students for life beyond Sixth Form. They will take part in employability skills sessions, complete our Neuro-Inclusion programme, and engage in a series of targeted post-18 preparation activities, including UCAS Fair preparation, researching university choices (external speaker), personal statements (external speaker), and an Oxbridge workshop, as well as an exciting opportunity for students considering apprenticeships to participate in a mock apprenticeship application process culminating in a mock assessment centre.

### Results & Subject Choices

A report containing final Year 12 subject grades, along with UCAS predicted grades, will be shared with students via Go4Schools on Friday 22nd May. After grades are issued, students will be asked to complete an online form confirming which subjects they would like to continue into Year 13. It is important to note that all subjects must be continued until Monday 8th June at the latest. Students are not able to drop a subject before receiving their final Year 12 subject grades, so that they feel fully informed and supported



in making the best possible choices for Year 13. Predicted grades should be used to help students make informed decisions regarding their final five university choices.

All students must continue with at least three subjects, although they may choose to continue with all four if they wish. Students are advised to continue only with subjects in which they achieve at least a Grade D in their subject grade (not predicted grade), and to select their strongest three subjects. Any students who do not achieve at least three Grade Ds in their subject grades will be invited into school after half term for a supportive meeting with a member of the Sixth Form team to discuss the options available to them.

### **Attendance**

As you can see, we have a busy term ahead and attendance is essential to ensure students do not miss key information, guidance, and opportunities. We fully understand the importance of visiting university open days and supporting students in making informed choices, and the allocation of authorised time is designed to accommodate this. Students are allowed three authorised days for university open days; however, we encourage attendance at weekend events and during school holidays wherever possible.

### **Preparations for September**

Once we return in September, students applying to university will be asked to complete their personal statements and finalise their online applications by the school deadline of Friday 4th December. For early applicants (Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science, and Dentistry), the deadline for completed applications is Friday 2nd October.

Apprenticeship applicants are not bound by fixed deadlines, as opportunities arise throughout the year. Support will continue to be available during the autumn and spring terms.

Parental support makes a real difference. If you have any questions regarding UCAS, apprenticeships, or employment opportunities, please feel free to contact our Careers Lead, Mrs Hamilton, at [ceh@shsb.org.uk](mailto:ceh@shsb.org.uk).

### **Key dates**

Please remember that the full calendar can be found on the school website but here are some key dates coming up:

- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – last day before half term & end of Year 12 grades published
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June – able to stop attending lessons if opted to “drop” a subject
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June - UCAS Discovery Trip – (deadline for payment is 31<sup>st</sup> May)
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June – non pupil day & Year 5 open evening
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June – late start 9.30am following open evening
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July – final day of the summer term, students dismissed around 12.30pm.
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – first day of the Autumn term

It has been an absolute pleasure working with you and your child this year. We are very proud of all that Year 12 students have achieved so far and look forward to seeing them continue to develop and thrive in Year 13.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Ryan  
Head of Sixth Form