

Southend High School for Boys

# Parent Bulletin

Weeks 1 & 2

7<sup>th</sup> September 2018



As the Summer holiday comes to an end, **all at SHSB will want to celebrate the overall achievement of students in the external examination results. In a year in which we had record-breaking A-level results (ahead of many competitor schools); we also retained our position with some of the strongest GCSE results in South Essex.**

At A-level (A2) it has been another very impressive year, with four in every five (80%) of grades at B or better – *beating our records from each of the last four years!* Over half of all A2 results (52%) at A or A\* – *our best ever!* Ninety-two of the prestigious A\* grades have been awarded to our Year 13 students – one out of every six (17%) of the grades obtained – *more than any year before!* Fifty students have achieved 3 or more grade As at A-level – *more than our best ever!* Eight students emerged with three A\* grades and one with an astonishing four A\*!

The introduction of the next wave of new GCSEs provided a genuine challenge for our students. The boys responded impressively with two thirds (65%) of all grades at 7 or better. Strong performances secured 265 of the prestigious grade 9s – *almost a quarter of all the results obtained.* Twenty of our most consistent performers gained 9 or more A\* equivalent grades. There was one remarkable individual achievement: ten grade 9s and two A\*s – twelve grades at the highest possible level for one pupil!

These results reflect the hard work of the students and staff alike, and illustrate **what can be realistically achieved by each and every pupil in the school: setting their sights only on the highest grades.**

It is also important to offer proper thanks to the many members of staff who ensured, through their work in the holidays, that the school is ready for the new term. Extensive work has been undertaken on the premises, in finance, with the computer network, for the timetable, with exam results, in advising students, as well as preparing lessons for a wide range of revised courses.

**The school is fully staffed;** we welcome several new members of teaching staff:

Mr Clark	Chemistry	Mrs Tyler	Biology and Food Technology
Mr Smith	Leader of Art	Miss Lovelock	Leader of Drama (fixed term)
Mr Sainsbury	Politics/Citizenship	Miss Schabsky	MFL (German)
Miss Fry	Leader of Politics/Citizenship	Mrs Holland	History (maternity cover)
Miss Adams	Biology		
Mr Zaman	Computing/Math (maternity)		

**The school buildings** have had a new lease of life in a number of areas: the East End showers have had a complete refit; L13 has been fully updated with new 'Windows 10' PCs and the last of the major building works are still on schedule: bike sheds, roof screening and improved provision for our premises/caretaking team.

At the end of the Summer break, and at the outset of the new school year, may we remind parents of **the importance of full attendance at school.** There is a close connection between regular attendance and success in the classroom; and, although non-attendance due to ill-health is unavoidable, it does matter that any other absences are minimised. In particular **holidays in term-time are undesirable.** Not only do they interrupt the sequence of learning, but they send a potentially damaging signal to pupils: during term-time school study must be seen to have a clear priority over leisure pursuits.

## **INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS**

### **Attendance**

We have been advised by our Local Authority Attendance Officer that pupils arriving significantly late should be marked as absent. Being a school with a very wide catchment area, we are flexible in times of bad weather or poor transport; but we are now implementing this recommendation. In any case, we all naturally want to encourage punctuality as a desirable characteristic; part of our job in preparing our young people for future employment.

### **Valuables**

Our standard advice is that pupils do not bring valuables into school, as we cannot accept responsibility for them. If a pupil *must* do so, then our advice is that the valuables should be kept in a *locker* during the day. We understand that parents may wish their son to have a mobile for contact in case of emergency – we would advise using an inexpensive model for bringing into school. Please be aware that insurance companies may refuse to pay out in cases of loss because the school may be deemed as a ‘public area’ which invalidates some policies.

### **Personal Accident Insurance - Pupil Fund**

I would remind you that **all pupils are automatically covered** in respect of accidents occurring during school time, whilst travelling to and from school and during school-related activities, including sporting events and school journeys in the holidays. Cover is provided for pupils anywhere in the world in respect of *school organised activities*. Full details of the insurance cover and restrictions are available from the school Finance Office. Pupil Fund helps to cover the cost of this arrangement and also of course subsidises a whole host of pupil activities such as lunchtime clubs, entry fees for various competitions, transport for sports activities etc. We are most grateful for the donations of parents towards this vital means of sustaining the school’s rich extra-curricular programme.

### **Vehicles on site**

Parents are reminded that bringing their vehicles onto the school site can represent a significant health and safety risk to pupils. It is also true that the site simply cannot accommodate any more vehicles than those already using it. Parents are also advised that their insurance may be invalid when driving on the school site. **Please arrange to park, drop off and collect your son/daughter at a safe distance from the school where it is legal to park. If you are visiting the site/reception during the school day, please always use the visitors’ car park.**

### **Nut Allergies**

We have an increasing number of pupils in the school who have notified us of potential allergies. We have been asked to notify parents and would encourage you to avoid sending in products which contain nuts, including peanuts, in their ingredients.

## **ADVANCE NOTICE – SCHOOL EVENTS**

### **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September – lunchtime closure**

On **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September**, school will close to pupils at **1:05pm**. (Pupils will miss just one lesson, period 5, of normal teaching.) The early closure is organised to allow us to prepare to accommodate several hundred candidates for the 11+ entrance examinations the following morning. *There will be no canteen lunch provision for pupils and no facility for pupils to remain on site during the afternoon.*

### **Harvest service**

We will be holding a Harvest Service on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October** and will be asking parents and pupils to bring in items of produce for distribution to the local homeless. Produce should be brought during the week commencing Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

HARP, our local liaison charity, have been very specific about the produce that is need to complement their other collections. **Parents, of pupils from Years 7 to 9**, are asked to bring items **ONLY** from the following list:

UHT milk	tinned meat (ham, corned beef etc.)
instant coffee	curry/chilli etc. cooking sauces
sugar	marmite / peanut butter
fruit squash	tinned meals (curry/chilli etc)
cans/cartons of soft drinks	snack chocolate bars

**In Years 10 & 11**, we will be undertaking a cash collection – please be generous in supporting this – to allow HARP to provide store vouchers to their clients for the purchase of fresh produce, during the year.

HARP have also asked for support in providing fresh clean underwear for their many male clients: **Sixth Form students** (and parents) are asked to contribute by providing small/medium (not larger, thank you!) pants/boxers and socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, soap and shower gel.

### **INFORMATION FOR NEW PARENTS**

#### **Parental consent – photographs**

We ask all parents to give their **general consent** at the start of their child's school career in respect of the child's involvement in **sporting or other regular representative activities**. Schools these days have to be much more careful about exposing children to risk. You may have read in the press that some headteachers have therefore banned the taking of photographs of pupil activities at school or the videotaping of school concerts on account of the risk of such images falling into the wrong hands. Whilst we are circumspect about what and where we publish, it is not our intention to go to these lengths. **I shall assume parental consent for the school to take photographs of their children as individuals or in groups (eg teams, music groups) for legitimate school or publicity purposes**; if any parent wishes to withhold such consent, I should be grateful for such a request to be put in writing to me by Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **School assemblies - collective worship (& the right to withdraw)**

The school provides a mixture of school, year, House and form assemblies, incorporating collective worship and essential information-giving. Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship if they wish; for instance, would any parent wishing to withdraw their child from the Christian element of an assembly, please write (unless you did so at the beginning of last year) to Mrs Worth, Deputy Head by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **Sex & relationships education**

Again, parents have the right to remove their child from sex education if they wish; would any parent considering exercising this right please write to me by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

## **SPORTS REPORT**

### **FIXTURES**

11/09/18 - Year 7 ABCD Football vs WHSB (H)  
13/09/18 - Year 8, 9, 10, 11 Football vs WHSB (A)  
15/09/18 - Year 8, 9, 10 Football vs King John (A)  
18/09/18 - Year 7 ABCD Football vs STM (H)  
19/09/18 - Year 8, 9 Football vs STM (A)  
20/09/18 - Year 10/11 Football vs STM (A)  
22/09/18 - Year 7 AB, 11 Football vs Eastwood (A)