

Southend High School for Boys

# Parent Bulletin

Weeks 5 & 6

5<sup>th</sup> October 2018



*Our Parent Bulletins routinely contain a mixture of announcements, notices of events and items that celebrate the achievements of our community. We start this edition with a simple celebration of the continuing level of demand for places at the school ...*

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Last weekend, we hosted the annual 11+ entrance examinations at the school on the Saturday. I am very grateful to all the staff and students who assisted 'out of hours' and appreciative of parents who accommodated our slightly early finish on the Friday. **We had the largest ever cohort of candidates for the 11+ ... the school, as test centre, was fully booked even before the Summer holidays!** The level of interest suggests that SHSB remains hugely popular: the education and experiences that we offer, within a clearly defined ethos, are highly sought after. **This school remains pre-eminently the first choice for the vast majority of local families and boys** who represent all aspects of the extraordinary diversity present in the Southend community. We can look forward, already, to seeing the new intake next September.

In that context **we were delighted to welcome into school the parents of all the new boys** in this September's Year 7. They enjoyed the opportunity to learn from experienced school leaders about how, as parents, to sustain and maximise the learning potential of their sons. There was an opportunity to meet and hear from the Form Tutors. This was followed by an introduction to the Governing Body, the Old Southendian Association (OSA) and the Parents Association (PA).

The PA were very pleased to recruit a new 'posse' of willing volunteer helpers; but **we do need more parents – willing to give a few hours of their time, each year – to offer their help.** Please email [enquiries@shsb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@shsb.org.uk) if you can help whether 'supervising a disco', 'selling fund-raising gifts' or 'organising events' ... every volunteer and every pound raise counts!

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**The school is thriving: it is larger than ever, more popular than ever and delivering an education and experiences that are consistently amongst the best in the country. Many parents find themselves puzzled and dismayed by the way in which the school has been treated under successive funding regimes.**

As your Headteacher, and with the support of school's Governing Body, I consider it my professional and public duty to speak out on issues that have a significant bearing on the quality of education and care that we are able to provide. Parents can be reassured that this is done *only after* having sought, to no avail, to address the issues through correspondence and meetings *and also* that it is done without any party political alignment. Last Friday, I joined with almost 2000 other school leaders – the largest ever gathering of England's headteachers – for the lobby in Parliament Square. Our collective voice needs to be heard. As some parents will be aware I was invited to be part of a panel on BBC2 that morning (available on iplayer from 0915).

I was asked beforehand to give a reason why I was attending the lobby. This is what I wrote, *"Every year since 2012, at Southend High School for Boys, our school income has been reduced. Every year, costs have risen. We've exhausted every possible efficiency measure. We've campaigned every way we know. Our expert voice is still not being heard. As Headteachers, we have a public duty to let it be known when school funding is being cut so severely. Children in every school across the country are feeling the consequences. It's time we were listened to."*

## Southend High School for Boys – *funding briefing*

School funding continues to attract national media coverage. [The Guardian \(click to read\)](#) summarised the situation in an authoritative article in September 2017. There are several key messages:

- “the finances of very low-funded schools are [still] insufficient to provide the service that your child needs”
- “parents and carers need to be clear that schools in very similar socio-economic areas will continue to have entirely different levels of funding”
- “the new formula will improve funding for schools that are currently the worst off”, but
- “Local Authorities use different formulas to distribute funding in their area. For example, a secondary school pupil with low previous results would attract £2,000 in extra funding in Birmingham, compared with just £36 in Darlington”, and
- “school[s] in ... Crawley or a tough part of Barnsley will receive millions of pounds less than schools from similar socioeconomic areas in London or Manchester”

The comparable statistics make for stark reading, “a secondary school in York would get an average of £4,700 per pupil in 2018-19, compared with £6,450 for a pupil in Greenwich, London – nearly £2.5m a year less for a school with 1,400 students. Second worst off among secondary schools were those in Barnsley, where schools get an average of £4,729 per pupil, followed by Leicester, with £4,730”.

The variations are highly significant, but so is the fact that these are averages. The differences *between* local schools remain substantial and indefensible. The data for Southend High School for Boys is so dramatic that many supporters of the school respond in disbelief.

- every year since 2012 our ‘per pupil’ income has been reduced:

2012/13	£	4,958
2013/14	£	4,775
2014/15	£	4,718
2015/16	£	4,688
2016/17	£	4,587
2017/18	£	4,562

- taking into account inflation, the school has been expected to sustain the equivalent of £1 million in annual revenue cuts;
- even with the new formula, by 2019/20 our income will still be below the level it was in 2012.

Class sizes have increased. Contact time with teachers, for the Sixth Form, has decreased. The school has grown from 950 pupils to 1300 with almost no increase in staffing.

Our arguments have been very clear: *you cannot continue to take money from the least well-funded schools and expect them to absorb those reductions indefinitely.* The solution is fairer redistribution or increased levels of public expenditure.

Last year, I wrote that, ***“We are meeting with representatives of the Local Authority and national Government. For as long as our arguments are being heard, we will continue to campaign quietly.”*** The quiet phase is over. ***“It is absurd that one of the country’s most successful schools, delivering one of the most financially efficient public services, is on the cusp of viability. We are not asking parents to campaign, yet!”*** In a few weeks’ time we will relaunch our facility for parents to donate to our Pupil Fund, but only – and rightly – for extra-curricular provision. Lessons, teachers, welfare provision, resources and administrative staff should all be funded equitably from the public purse. We may need you, as parents, to speak out too ...

**Robin M. Bevan**

## Results

### **Football**

Year 7 A vs Eastwood	Drew 3-3	OG, Foster, Toluwalaju
Year 7 B vs Eastwood	Drew 4-4	Larcombe, Clarke, Fadina, Young
Year 11 vs Eastwood	Lost 5-2	Sweetman 2
Year 7 vs Shoebury [EC]	Drew 1-1 (aet) – Lost on pens 4-2	Agyemang
1 <sup>st</sup> XI vs Gable Hall [NC]	Won 3-0	Colvill, Barrett, Camm
Year 9 vs Greensward [EC]	Won 3-2 (aet)	Vapiwala, Witts, Acquah
Year 7 A vs Forest	Lost 3-1	Weir
Year 7 B vs Forest	Won 2-1	Benns, Otuorimuo
Year 7 C vs Forest	Won 6-0	Nwosa 2
Year 8 A vs Forest	Won 5-0	Bryslan, Fiddes, Shepherd, Graham, Hyams
Year 8 B vs Forest	Lost 4-1	Carter
Year 8 C vs Forest	Won 5-0	Rodd 3
1 <sup>st</sup> XI vs STM	Won 2-0	Mellor, Reynolds
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI vs Shoebury	Won 4-3	Satkunanathan
1 <sup>st</sup> XV Rugby vs Coopers	Won 38-0	Marron 2T, Clarke 1T, Smithson 1T 4C, Awala-Shaw 1T, Fix 1T

### **X-Country**

Lee Valley Event	Year 7 - 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Year 8/9 – 1 <sup>st</sup> place	Petty-Mayor 4 <sup>th</sup> Nwosa 6 <sup>th</sup> Clarke 7 <sup>th</sup> Maguire 1 <sup>st</sup> Riley 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vapiwala 10 <sup>th</sup>
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### **Fixtures**

04/10/18 – Year 11 Football vs Cecil Jones (H) [SEE Cup]  
05/10/18 – Year 7-10 Cross-Country vs Eastwood & Shoebury @ SHSB  
06/10/18 – Year 8 Football vs Eastwood (H)  
06/10/18 – Year 9 Football vs Eastwood (H)  
06/10/18 – Year 10 Football vs Eastwood (H)  
08/10/18 – 1<sup>st</sup> XI Football vs Coopers (A) [Essex Cup]  
09/10/18 – Year 9 Football vs Thorpe Hall (H) [Borough Cup]  
09/10/18 – Year 10 Football vs Cecil Jones (H) [Borough Cup]  
09/10/18 – National Cross Country Cup 1<sup>st</sup> Round @ King John School – Years 7-10  
10/10/18 – Year 8 Football vs Shoebury (A) [Essex Cup]  
10/10/18 – 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Football vs Palmers (A)  
10/10/18 – Year 12 Rugby Tournament @ Champion  
11/10/18 – Year 11 Football vs STM (A) [Essex Cup]  
13/10/18 – Year 7 AB Football vs Barking Abbey (H)  
13/10/18 – Year 8 Football vs Barking Abbey (H)  
13/10/18 – Year 9 Football vs Barking Abbey (A)  
13/10/18 – Year 10 Football vs Barking Abbey (A)  
15/10/18 – Essex Scratch Golf Championship @ Thorpe Hall  
16/10/18 – Year 8 Football vs Eastwood (H) [Borough Cup]  
16/10/18 – Year 7 Football vs Southchurch (H) [Borough Cup]  
17/10/18 – 1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby vs Barking and Dagenham (H)  
17/10/18 – 1<sup>st</sup> XI Football vs Havering College (A) [1<sup>st</sup> Division Cup]  
18/10/18 – Year 8 Football vs Shoebury (A) [SEE Cup]  
18/10/18 – Year 9 Football vs WHSB (A) [SEE Cup]  
18/10/18 – Thorpe Hall Cross Country Relays – Years 7-11