

Southend High School for Boys

Parent Bulletin

Weeks 9 & 10

9th November 2018



The school marked the annual day of remembrance, with a formal service with music and reflection in the morning; together with a shortened version for Years 7-9 in the afternoon. A particular emphasis was laid upon the 100th anniversary of the 1918 armistice.

The reading below was delivered by the President of the Old Southendian Association.



I do not know your name

*I do not know your name, but I know you died
I do not know from where you came, but I know you died*

*Your uniform, branch of service, it matters not to me
Whether Volunteer or Conscript, or how it came to be
That politicians' failures, or some power-mad ambition
Brought you too soon to your death, in the name of any nation*

*You saw, you felt, you knew full well, as friend and foe were taken
By bloody death, that your life too, was forfeit and forsaken
Yet on you went and fought and died, in your close and private hell
For Mate or Pal or Regiment and memories never to tell*

*It was for each other, through shot and shell, the madness you endured
Side by side, through wound and pain, and comradeship assured
No family ties, or bloodline link, could match that bond of friend
Who shared the horror and kept on going, at last until the end*

*We cannot know, we were not there, it's beyond our comprehension
To know the toll that battle brings, of resolute intention
To carry on, day by day, for all you loved and hoped for
To live in peace a happy life, away from bloody war*

*For far too many, no long life ahead, free of struggle and pain and the gun
And we must remember the price that was paid, by each and every one
Regardless of views, opinions aside, no matter how each of us sees it
They were there and I cannot forget, even though I did not live it*

*I do not know your name, but I know you died
I do not know from where you came, but I know you died.*

Each year, we read a page from the memorial books: one list of names from World War I and another selection from World War II. The lives of those we remember are made all the more real when we know something of their time at school, their home address, and – sadly – their cause of death.

Amongst those remembered this year were:

Able Seaman Sidney Arthur Roberts

Nelson Battalion Royal Naval Division

Died 13 July 1915, aged 23

Shorefield Road, Westcliff on Sea

Sidney's fate was closely linked to that of his school friend Kenneth Vidler with whom he joined the school, enlisted, and died in the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign. He was a keen footballer playing for the school, the Westcliff Institute and for West Norwood. Two days after he was killed, and before his parents had even been informed of his death, two letters from him were published in the Southend Standard describing the campaign:

'I occasionally see a Johnny Turk trying to snipe someone. As I wrote the last word the dirt from a bullet striking the top of the trench has gone into my tea whilst a monster shell burst overhead'. Days later he was seen to be shot in the shoulder and with a broken leg: stretcher bearers were sent for but fighting was so intense that his body was never found.

Laboratory Technician Philip James Sayers

British Explosives Syndicate

Died 10 May 1916, aged 21

57 Stromness Place, Southchurch

Philip attended Science Evening classes at the school and, by the time he was 16, was working there as a Laboratory Technician. His death is not counted on the nation's roll of honour as he was a civilian working in the explosives factory in Pitsea. In this explosion an assistant technician was killed instantly but Philip died of shock and burns later in the day. The official investigation supposes someone dropped a test tube, but that is probably a contemporary story to cover up how many accidents were happening in explosives factories due to an unstable batch of gun cotton that was around at that time.

Second Lieutenant Harold George Scott

52 Squadron RAF (Also Essex Regiment and Ox and Bucks Light Infantry)

Died 30 July 1918, aged 24

'Braemar', 110 South Avenue, Southend on Sea

On leaving school in 1908 Harold began training as an architect. He volunteered at the outbreak of war, serving in 1915 in Gallipoli as a private in the Essex Regiment, and was wounded twice. He was later given a commission in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, but then volunteered for the Royal Flying Corps after Southend was bombed on 12 August 1917. He remarkably survived four years before being declared 'missing presumed dead' whilst flying over the Somme area on 30 July 1918. He was an observer on a RE8 taking part in a bombing raid over Martinputsch. The role of the newly-formed RAF had recently changed from being almost entirely reconnaissance, to one of bombing the retreating enemy and destroying their ammunition dumps and supply lines. German fighter pilots were fighting very hard to defend those lines and dumps and four planes from 52 Squadron were lost that day.

STOP PRESS!! STOP PRESS!! STOP PRESS!! STOP PRESS!! STOP PRESS!! STOP PRESS!! STOP PRESS!!

For the 37th consecutive year: undefeated since 1982 – Southend High School for Boys has retained the Borough Cross-country Championship trophy. Impressive individual performances and exceptional team outcomes – more details in the next Parent Bulletin.

On the evening of November 1st, we held our prospective **Sixth Form open evening**. Very many thanks are due to all who contributed to a hugely successful evening. **We received the largest number of visitors ‘on record’, welcoming over 700 families!** The number of students from other schools was quite remarkable given the number of places we have to offer. It is a great tribute to all in the school community: staff, students, parents and former pupils that this degree of interest and enthusiasm has been secured. Our own boys from the current Year 11 attended with a great level of seriousness. For many of them: seeing the number of other visitors has made them realise the value of securing a place in the Sixth Form here and the need to sustain or renew their own efforts.

Year 7 Parents Evening takes place on Monday evening, **19th November** at 4.15-6.45 pm, and provides an excellent opportunity to hear a report on progress since arriving at the school. The challenge for some pupils is to lift their sights beyond the ‘acceptable’ to producing what is their ‘consistent best’. The most impressive gains, in Year 7, are secured by pupils who recognise that dedicated effort determines success: natural aptitude may make it easier for some, but the highest performers in any discipline practise hard and are intolerant of anything below their best.

Results

Football

2 nd XI vs SEEVIC	Lost 5-1	Al-Rahim
Year 7A vs Gt Baddow	Won 1-0	Toluwalaju
Year 7B vs Gt Baddow	Won 6-0	Fadina 3, Currie, Young, OG
Year 8 vs Gt Baddow	Won 3-2	OG, Graham 2
Year 9 vs Gt Baddow	Won 3-0	Atkins, Clarke, Witts
1 st XI vs STM (National Cup)	Won 2-1	Reynolds, Mellor
1 st XI vs Anglo European (Essex Cup)	Won 2-1	OG, Camm

X-Country

House Championships	Troy overall winners	Year group individual winners: 7: Holling (Athens) 8: Riley (Tuscany) 9: Maguire (Troy) 10: Muller (Sparta) 11: Samuel (Tuscany) Sixth Form: Riley (Tuscany)
Borough Championships	Overall winners!	Year 7: 1 st Year 8: 1 st Year 9: 2 nd Year 10/11: 1 st Sixth Form: 1 st

Rugby

Year 11 vs Anglo European	Won 35-5	Ikeji 3T, Ravi 2T, Ablorde 1T, Lawson 1T
Year 10 vs Colne	Won 58-0	Holmes 3T, Harris 2T 2C, Ogbonna 2T, Mathe 1T, Butler 1T, Harkes 1T 1C, Regan 1C

Basketball

Year 11 vs St Benedict's	Lost 71-22	McAllister 8pts, Cotton 4pts
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Badminton

KS3 tournament	Won	Pearson/Young 1 st Gopalakrishnan/Manthorp 2 nd
KS4 tournament	Won	Pearson/Edwards 1 st

Fixtures

09/11/18 – Year 8/9 Rugby vs FitzWimarc @ Southend Rugby Club
09/11/18 – Year 10/11 Rugby vs FitzWimarc @ Rochford Rugby Club
10/11/18 – National X-Country Cup Regional Final @ Woodbridge School
13/11/18 – Year 8 Basketball vs Chase (H)
13/11/18 – Year 11 Basketball vs Cecil Jones (A)
13/11/18 – Year 8 Football vs Forest (H) [Essex Cup]
14/11/18 – 1st XI Football vs Gable Hall (A)
14/11/18 – 2nd XI Football vs Champion (H)
14/11/18 – Lee Valley Indoor Athletics Championships (Year 8/9)
15/11/18 – Year 8 Basketball vs KEGS (A) [Essex Cup]
15/11/18 – Sixth Form Basketball vs STM (H)
17/11/18 – Year 8 Rugby vs Gt Baddow (A)
17/11/18 – Year 9 Rugby vs Gt Baddow (A)
17/11/18 – Year 10B Football vs Brentwood (A)
20/11/18 – Year 9 Basketball vs Cecil Jones (A)
20/11/18 – Year 11 Basketball vs St Martins (H)
21/11/18 – 1st XV Rugby vs KEGS (H)
21/11/18 – 1st XI Football vs King John (H)
21/11/18 – 2nd XI Football vs FitzWimarc (A)
21/11/18 – Sixth Form Netball vs WHSB (A)
22/11/18 – Year 9 Basketball vs Chase (H)
22/11/18 – Year 10 Basketball vs Chase (A)
23/11/18 – Year 7 Basketball vs Chase (A)
23/11/18 – Year 8 Rugby vs FitzWimarc
24/11/18 – Cross Country National Final @ Woodbridge