

Southend High School for Boys

Parent Bulletin

Weeks 13, 14 & 15

7th December 2018



On behalf of all the staff and pupils of SHSB, many thanks – in anticipation – for the ‘Christmas wishes’ sent in by so many parents; and to all associated with the school – Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!



As we approach the end of term, we give our very best wishes and thanks to two members of staff who are leaving us at Christmas for new roles in other schools.

We offer sincere appreciation to Mr Ashman-Jones who has contributed extensively and with dedication in the Music department. We wish him all the best as he steps up to lead his own music department in a new school. Likewise, Mrs Adams warrants a note of thanks for her sustained, creative and dedicated contributions to the English department.

We are delighted to have recruited two new members of staff in replacement. Conscious of the need to align teacher expertise with the needs of our classes – especially those preparing for external examinations – we have adjusted the timetable and reassigned teachers for a number of classes, starting in January. Pupils will be issued with amended timetables before the end of term. Parents may wish to note consequential changes in the names of some class teachers for music, English and ICT. In every case, the classes will be taught by qualified and experienced personnel.



Wednesday and Thursday evenings (12th and 13th December) will see the hugely popular **evenings of music and carols** playing to packed houses. Over one hundred and fifty performers will be combining to give a full, balanced and uplifting programme of music and readings.

festive jumper/hat day

Friday 14th December - £1 contribution

to be worn as an addition to normal school uniform



Term ends on Thursday 20th December, and pupils will be released at 12.30 pm after our final assembly.

Please note that school site will be closed from 1.00 pm on the last day of term. Your child will not be able to remain on the premises after 1.00 pm so please ensure that you have made suitable arrangements for their journey home.

School re-commences after the New Year on **Thursday 3rd January**. Year 12 students are reminded that our annual assessment cycle includes formal tests in every subject in the early weeks of the new term.

Parents are reminded that the **Year 9 Parents Evening** takes place from 4.15pm on **Monday 7th January**.



congratulations to all pupils who have sustained their daily bike rides

– “every bike on the road is one fewer car” –

**it is the time of year when falling dusk requires lights on bikes
(a perfect Christmas gift: USB rechargeable flashing LEDs)**

guess the number of books in the Christmas tree in the
Hitchcock Library

closes Tuesday 18th December - 50p per guess

Money being raised for UNICEF/Mind



The approach of the Christmas holiday signals for many that one third of the academic year is completed and, measured by school terms, there is some sense in this. Given the length of the Autumn Term and the fact that external exams begin in May, it would be far more salient to note that we are around the halfway mark already for any student sitting GCSE, AS or A2 papers this coming Summer. For very many of our students, the challenge is to remain attentive to study until the end of term, enjoy a restful break, prepare with revision before returning in January, and recommence with energy and diligence.

For a few students, there needs to be a reminder that the approach of the holiday is a signal to ensure that everything has been completed as thoroughly as possible, and not an opportunity to “slowly fade the effort control to zero”. The support of parents is fundamental to helping those who, even in the Sixth Form, still need a nudge from an adult to secure their best. Success is a choice.

In this sense it does not help, of course, that there is an increasing tendency in society to assume that the approach of Christmas should somehow modify endeavour, productivity and professionalism in the workplace. At school, our intention is to reflect a pattern where every day of learning is equally valuable, lessons continue as formally as possible until the end of term, when, yes, in the very last days some transition into holiday is appropriate with our end of term celebrations.

For any student with exams in the months ahead, a scheduled plan outlining periods of revision is worth preparing soon. (Detailed revision plans can follow.) The Year 11 mocks are only of real benefit to those who approach them with the same dedication as the final exam. Only then are the real gaps in understanding exposed, rather than those readily closed with revision. Likewise, for Year 12, the outcomes at AS are pivotal to University applications and grade predictions. It is our challenge, as a school, to create the circumstances in which all thrive!

It is a remarkable feat that every year, for the last twenty-three consecutive years, at least one of the SHSB **cross country teams has qualified for the national finals**. No school can claim a similar track record in the highly competitive boys competition. Indeed, many schools will celebrate extensively on the rare occasions that one team might “make it through” to that level. This year, the finals took place in Suffolk (at Woodbridge School). Junior and Intermediate squads from SHSB had both qualified and knew that they would face tough opposition.

The junior team came 7th in the country: with Sam Riley consolidating his previous achievements with a solid 8th place out of 155 competitors in the race who had travelled from all over the country. Meanwhile **our intermediate squad came 15th** - a strong result.

On Sunday 25th November, Southend High School for Boys entered the **regional final** of the ECF Team **Chess Challenge** and won it, pipping Westcliff High School for Boys by 13 points to 12. We now qualify for the National Finals to be held at Imperial College in April. Our star performer on this occasion was Year 7 student, Ethan Yau, who was the only player to win all four of his matches.

On Tuesday 20th November, a four-man team of two Year 10 students (Oscar Blackwell and Oliver Slaughter) and two Sixth Formers (Benjamin Abbot and Matthew Kilgour) took part in a two-round quiz fixture at Westcliff High School for Boys, winning both of their matches. In the first, they competed against one of the two teams sent by Westcliff, which went to a 450 - 450 tie after all questions had been asked. This required a two-round tie-breaker, with the final result being 500-460 to Southend. The second victory against Bishops Stortford College was decidedly less tight, with a final score of 840 to 340 in favour of Southend. Example questions included "Which comedian ran 27 marathons in 27 days for Sport relief?", "What percentage of the vote must a candidate for the House of Commons win to have their deposit refunded?", and "Name one of the two keys raised on a QWERTY keyboard for touch typers". We now advance to the regional final – we are defending champions - probably against King Edward VI Grammar School.

Results

Football

1 st XI vs Beauchamps	Won 3-2	Mellor, Monk, Weston
1 st XI vs Plume	Drew 2-2; Won 4-1 on pens	Reynolds, Weston
Year 11 vs KEGS	Won 5-1	Sweetman 2, Roser 2, King

X-Country

National Final	JB: 7 th – 148pts IB: 15 th – 245pts	Riley 8 th , Shepherd 25 th , Dunn 54 th , Holling 61 st , Cole 74 th , Petty-Mayor 76 th Muller 30 th , Maguire 48 th , Crickmay 59 th , Samuels 108 th , Vapiwala 111 th , Ashley 118 th
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Rugby

Year 9 vs Coopers	Won 21-10	Wooding, Sykes, Farrell 1T each, Faint 3C
Year 11 vs Tabor	Won 44-0	Ikeji 2T, Cotton 2T, Ablorde 1T, Lawson 1T, Havard 1T, Ravi 1T, Jarrett 2C
Year 9 vs Westcliff RFC	Lost 21-15	Johnston, Hoar, Evans 1T each
Year 8 vs KEGS	Lost 10-5	Price 1T
Year 9 vs KEGS	Won 21-12	Sykes, Wooding, Ajetunmobi 1T each, Faint 3C
Year 10 vs KEGS	Won 39-17	Butler 3T, Ogbonna, Holmes, Caswell and Keane all 1T, Malcolm 2C
Year 8 vs FitzWimarc	Won 55-0	Onuoha 2T, Gbajumo 2T, Jeacock 2T, Price 2T

Basketball

Year 9 vs Chase	Won 66-27	
Year 10 vs Chase	Won 33-15	Ogbonna 12
Year 7 vs Chase	Won 68-4	Lay 20, Weir 18
Year 7 vs Cecil Jones	Won 72-6	Lay 14, Nutman 8, Aylward 10
Year 9 vs Gt Baddow	Won 50-38	
Year 7 vs Shoebury	Lost 29-26	
Year 10 vs St Martins	Lost 63-38	Crickmay 10, Mathe 6
Year 7 vs Southchurch	Won 63-9	Nutman 18, Lay 18
Year 8 vs FitzWimarc	Won 83-15	Onuoha 16, Price 13, Nkhoma 13

Fixtures

07/12/18 – 1st XI Football vs Oakwood Park (H) [National Cup]
08/12/18 – Year 8AB Rugby vs WHSB (A)
08/12/18 – Year 9 Rugby vs WHSB (H)
10/12/18 – Sixth Form Basketball vs STM (A)
10/12/18 – Year 8-10 Badminton vs FitzWimarc (H)
11/12/18 – Year 7 Basketball vs FitzWimarc (H)
12/12/18 – 2nd XI Football vs SEC (A)
12/12/18 – Year 11 Basketball vs Chase (A)
12/12/18 – 1st XV Rugby vs Champion (A)
12/12/18 – Year 8/9 Lee Valley Indoor Athletics
13/12/18 – Year 8 Basketball vs Shoebury (A) [Essex Cup]
13/12/18 – Year 9 Hockey vs Thorpe Hall (A)
14/12/18 – Year 10 Rugby vs William Edwards (H) [Essex Cup]
17/12/18 – Year 8 Basketball vs Southchurch (H)
17/12/18 – Year 8 Football vs All Saints (A) [Essex Cup]
18/12/18 – Year 10 Basketball vs King John (A)
18/12/18 – Year 7 Basketball vs Notley (A) [Essex Cup]
19/12/18 – 2nd XI Football vs South Chingford (A)