

Southend High School for Boys

Parent Bulletin

11th January 2019



In previous bulletins, we have emphasised the importance of how parents manage the journey to and from school. This bulletin is devoted to a number of key reminders.

Please be aware – in the case of snow – that every effort will be made to keep the school open. A decision will be made as early as possible about any school closure, and notified via BBC Essex and Heart Essex FM.

The school website will be updated and the WisePay text service will be used for parents. (Previous experience suggests that there will be a time delay in these notifications.) **Assume therefore that the school will be open and that the site will be staffed: appropriate snow and ice clearing equipment has been acquired.**

The school will only close if it is deemed genuinely dangerous to encourage pupils and staff to travel. **Local pupils are expected to walk. Late arrival will be unavoidable for some: this should not deter pupils from making the journey to school, although it is reasonable for those from further afield to delay the start of their journey until there is confirmation that the school is open.**

For as long as the school is 'open', any pupil who lives a significant distance from the school and is unable to attend because of transport difficulties should report their absence as usual.

If the school closes during the day, parents will be notified via WisePay and a notice will be put onto the website.



We actively encourage pupils to use public transport, to walk if they are 'very local' and to cycle if they live within 5 miles of the school. There is little reason for most pupils to be driven to and from school on a regular basis. Alternatives to car transport are, generally, healthier, cheaper and quicker.

For all road users, but perhaps most relevant to those who cycle, there is a new website (for video footage from dash cams and helmet cams) promoted by the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) - <https://saferessexroads.org/extraeyes/> - students from SHSB were involved in the focus groups that informed this new initiative.



Parents who do drop off or collect their sons by car from school are reminded that they must do so considerately and legally: you are setting an example to your son. It is encouraging that parents have acknowledged the importance of the zig-zag yellow markers: it is illegal and dangerous to park in those zones (not least as the sight line becomes obscured for our many cyclists leaving the site). In recent weeks these areas have been kept clear. However, I am sorry to say **that I must remind parents that extended waiting on double yellow lines is unacceptable as is parking across the driveways of residential properties.** Misjudged parking, even if only for a few minutes, exhibits a profound disregard for others and causes the school considerable effort in addressing complaints and pacifying our local residents.



Finally, a look back – a number of years – to the last time we had significant snowfall. On that day, more than 800 pupils made the journey to school, with some walking from Benfleet and Rayleigh. Their efforts were rewarded with a valuable day in school and our congratulations. At that time, the Parent Bulletin carried the following report:

*The recent snow and icy conditions demonstrated, once again, that so many of our pupils seek to emulate the school motto: **forti nihil difficile** - for the determined nothing is difficult.*

Congratulations to all those pupils who conducted themselves as they would on a normal school day: calmly, sensibly undertaking their journey to school.

*Congratulations to all those pupils and parents who made extensive efforts to attend in difficult circumstances. It is very encouraging that pupils persisted with their journeys even if that meant arriving late. In some instances individuals chose to walk several miles to complete their journeys. These may seem like exceptional efforts: but exceptional efforts should be our norm. **There is a close correlation between the efforts made to overcome difficult weather, the support of parents in achieving that, and the attitudes displayed by those same pupils in school.***

We understand that for a very small minority there was no option but to remain at home, where there is reliance on specific 'contract bus' services.

A small number of pupils did not live up to our expectations. A few were delayed because the local bus services were suspended, but returned home and did not attempt their journey again. Some, living as close to the school as Leigh, appear to have had parental support for an effort-less non-attendance! I would ask whether such an approach supports or undermines the priorities we want SHSB pupils to have?

Parents are asked to encourage attendance, even if delayed, on every occasion when it is possible. On 'snow days' please contact the school to alert us to any absence: delayed journeys and late arrivals do not need to be notified.