



Southchurch High School

Friday 02 October 2026

The Southchurch Way

A community of opportunity, learning and aspirations

Issue number: 05

Message from the Headteacher

High School Musical Watch Party

There is always a real sense of excitement around school when we begin preparing for our annual production, and this year is no exception!

Following the announcement of the cast for this year's production of High School Musical, Miss Gingell hosted a special High School Musical watch party last Friday. It was a lovely opportunity for students involved in the production to come together, celebrate being cast, and start getting to know one another before rehearsals get fully underway.

The audition process was highly competitive, and we were incredibly impressed by the talent, enthusiasm and commitment shown by our students. Auditions can be a daunting experience, so I would like to congratulate every student who had the confidence to put themselves forward.

Our school productions are always eagerly anticipated by the whole school community, and I have no doubt that this year's High School Musical will be another fantastic Southchurch production. There is clearly a great deal of talent, energy and enthusiasm amongst our students, and I am really looking forward to seeing how the production develops over the coming weeks.

A huge thank you to Miss Gingell for organising the watch party and for all the time and energy she is already putting into what promises to be a wonderful show. We will, of course, share more information about the production with families as rehearsals progress!

Introducing Our New Student House Leaders

We are delighted to announce our new Student House Leaders following the recent selection process.

Being a House Leader is an important responsibility. Our House Leaders will play a key role in encouraging participation, building House spirit and helping to make sure that students across all year groups have opportunities to get involved in competitions, activities and events throughout the year.

We were particularly pleased to see students from Years 7 to 10 putting themselves forward for these positions. It is fantastic to see our younger students showing such confidence and willingness to take on responsibility, while our older students will have an important role in supporting and encouraging them.

Please join me in congratulating:

Dragon House - Ruby – Year 7, Diadem – Year 8, Archie – Year 9 and Hannah – Year 10

Phoenix House - Raemi – Year 7, Louie – Year 8, Navjot – Year 9 and Aiden – Year 10

Griffin House - Luca – Year 7, Tommy – Year 8, Oliver – Year 9 and Lasharna – Year 10

Pegasus House - Nick – Year 7, Alisa – Year 8, Joseph – Year 9 and Elena – Year 10

We wish all our House Leaders every success in their new roles. I am looking forward to seeing them working together to build a strong sense of community across the school.

Word of the Week

Our Word of the Week for next week is simplify.

Simplify (verb) – to make a ratio, fraction, or expression as simple as possible without changing its value.

For example:

Simplify $3x + 5x - 2$

Our Word of the Week is a great way of encouraging students to develop their vocabulary and use subject-specific language confidently beyond the classroom.

Students who successfully use the word in conversation or in their lessons will be rewarded with a Class Charts point.

Parents and carers can also help by challenging students to use the word at home – perhaps they can explain what it means and give you their own example!

Flu Vaccinations

Vaccination UK visited the school today to administer flu vaccinations to students whose parents/carers had provided consent.

The vaccination team will also be returning on Friday, 9 October. If you would like your child to receive their flu vaccination ahead of the winter flu season, please make sure that you have completed and returned the necessary paperwork sent to parents/carers via the MCAS App.

If you have any difficulties with the consent process or have any questions about the vaccination programme, please contact Vaccination UK directly:

Telephone: 01245 984145

Email: essex@v-uk.co.uk

Year 7 Transition Celebration Evening

A gentle reminder to our Year 7 parents and carers that we will be holding our Transition Celebration Evening on Thursday, 8 October, from 5.00–6.30pm.

The first few weeks of secondary school are a significant milestone for our youngest students, and we are really looking forward to welcoming families into school to celebrate how well our new Year 7 students have settled into life at Southchurch.

We hope that many of you will be able to join us. We look forward to seeing you!

October Half Term

It is hard to believe that we are already approaching the halfway point of the first term!

There are now just two weeks to go until our well-deserved October half-term break, which begins at the end of the school day on Friday, 16 October.

There is still lots happening between now and then, so we encourage students to keep working hard, attending school every day and making the most of the opportunities available to them. The first half term is always an important period for establishing routines and building positive habits, and we are very proud of the way our students have risen to the expectations of the new academic year.

Your Views Matter

Finally, a huge thank you to the many parents and carers who have already taken the time to complete the parent survey following my letter earlier this week.

I really do value your feedback. As a school, we want to understand what we are doing well, but also where there are things we can improve. Hearing directly from parents and carers helps us to see the school from a different perspective and ensures that we continue to focus on what matters most to our students and families.

If you would like to share your views and have not yet completed the survey, please use the link provided in my letter or scan the QR code included in this newsletter.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. Your views are important to us and will help inform our continued work to make Southchurch a community where every student is seen, supported and given the opportunity to achieve and aspire.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Airoll
Headteacher

Menu

SWAN’S RESTAURANT

WEEK 2

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Meal	BBQ Pulled Pork Served with Boiled Rice & Lentil Crisps	Homemade Steak Pie Served with Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Gravy	Roasted Halal Chicken Thighs Served with Roast Potatoes, Vegetables & Gravy	Macaroni Cheese Served with Garlic Bread	Halal Chicken Burger In a Bun Served with Potato Wedges & Coleslaw
Vegetarian Meal	Korma Vegetable Curry Served with Boiled Rice & Naan Bread	Cheese & Onion Slice Served with Mashed Potatoes & Peas or Baked Beans	Vegan Cottage Pie Served with Vegetables & Gravy	Potato Skins with Peppers, Red Onion & Cheese Served with Salad	Vegan Spicy Bean Burger In a Bun Served with Potato Wedges & Coleslaw
	Jacket Potato with Cheese ,Baked Beans or Tuna Mayonnaise Available Monday – Thursday Small Pasta & Sauce Available Monday - Thursday				

High School Musical

On Friday, the cast of this year’s school production of High School Musical got together for the very first time and watched the movie that started it all!

Our cast cannot wait to get started on this fantastic show. We’re so excited to see the characters come to life on stage!

We are looking forward to sharing this journey with you all... we’re all in this together!



Key Dates

08 October	Year 7 Transition Celebration Evening
09 October	Flu Vaccinations
16 October	Last day of term
19 – 30 October	Half Term holiday
02 November	Students return to school

Parent/Carer Voice Questionnaire

We would really like to hear your views about Southchurch High School because they matter to us!

Please scan the QR code to complete a short questionnaire about our school. It will close on Monday, 12 October 2026.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us!



Year 7 Transition Celebration

SOUTHCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR 7 TRANSITION

CELEBRATION EVENING

2026

THURSDAY 08 AT 5-6 PM

OCTOBER

Prosecco & Nibbles

An evening to celebrate your children and their transition to secondary school - with awards, speeches and showing off the best of Southchurch talent!



Be part of something bigger

Meaning matters for a fulfilling and happy life.

We all matter and can make a difference to something bigger, beyond ourselves.

Psychologists certainly agree that meaning matters for happiness and there are actions that can help us find or create it.

We are all part of something bigger

Reflection: Think of all the ways you are connected to and make a difference in the world around you. For example, the farmers that grow the food you eat; the people you pass by or say hello to in your local area; the people in your school; the people you care about and who care about you; the doctors and nurses; the rubbish collectors and park keepers that help keep our environments pleasant; the insects and plants that grow in your garden or window box and the birds that feed on them.

What is meaning?

- 1) Understanding - of the world around us, how it works and how we fit into it.
- 2) Mattering –that we can make a difference in some small way;
- 3) Purpose – a sense of direction in life – aiming for a goal. It doesn't have to be a big one.

Meaning matters for happiness

People who have a sense of meaning in life tend to experience more frequent and stronger positive emotions and feel more positive about the future.

Reflection: Think of a time when having a sense of meaning or feeling connected to something bigger helped you overcome a challenge or cope during a difficult time?

How do we find or create meaning?

One of the best places to start is by helping others. It can take our mind off what we're missing and help us to focus on something bigger than us.

Meaningful daily moments

Meaning can be found in simple moments day-to-day as well as in life's bigger experiences and events. Thinking of what you feel grateful for is a good place to start. It helps us appreciate what we have and value most.

Useful helplines

Childline 0800 1111

<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/>

Samaritans 116 123

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

Young Minds

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/find-help/i-need-urgent-help/>

Shout Text YM to 85258



SAMARITANS

YOUNG MINDS
fighting for young people's mental health

Lunchtime Clubs

The students have been enjoying our lunchtime clubs this week.

They have had lots of fun at Library/chess, Code and Science club.

They can also attend Maths, GCSE Art or Poetry!



Chase High School Sixth Form

On Monday, we were delighted to welcome **Chase High School** to Southchurch, who delivered an informative and engaging assembly for our Year 11 students.

The team shared information about the courses and opportunities available at Chase High School, as well as details of their upcoming Open Event on Thursday 8 October, from 4:00–7:30pm.

A special thank you to the Chase High School team and their Year 13 students for taking the time to speak with our students and share their experiences. It was a fantastic opportunity for our Year 11 students to learn more about their post-16 options and ask questions about life at sixth form.



Running Club

At 7.30am on Monday, our students showed great effort at our Running Club.

Our Personal Development and PE departments have an Instagram account @schs_pe_pd. Please follow for all our sporting fixtures and PD events!



Fixtures



TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER



**YEAR 8
FOOTBALL**
v ST THOMAS MORE



**YEAR 8
NETBALL**
v THORPE HALL



THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER



**YEAR 9
FOOTBALL**
v CECIL JONES

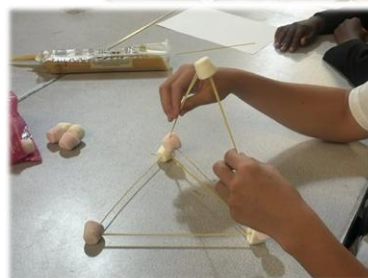


GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR TEAMS!

RESPECT • TEAMWORK • PRIDE

Team Building

Our new Student Leadership Anti Bullying Ambassadors and House Captains got together this week to do some team building exercises and share ideas for future events.



Library Corner



Word of the Week:

Acknowledge

verb

Definition: To accept, admit, or recognise something, or in truth or existence of something

This week's theme is: World News Day

Key date: 28 September

Did you know?

- For the first time in 2026, social media and video networks became the most widely used source of news globally.
- Over 80% of journalists now use artificial intelligence in their daily workflows.
- Global trust in news fell to an all-time low of 37% worldwide this year, hitting its lowest level ever recorded since tracking began in 2015.

				3	2	9		
8	2	6	4		9		1	5
4				5				
6	5			9				1
	4	2					6	
	1	7						
1	3		7					
	8		9	4				2
	6		5					

Fill the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9 by 9 box contains the numbers 1-9

Find the word in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction. Words can share letters as they cross over each other

Global
Journalist
Media
News
Platforms
Politicians
Social
Video
Worldwide

A S J Y L V E A X L P L W
X O S M X I S H A O B L O
Z V Z M E D P I L I I L R
Y O H H R E C I P F Y A L
L H T Q F O T O W T J I D
F V F R S I F P B A I D W
T G R Z C X Z T S L O E I
J R H I G K E F A M B M D
H X A F I Q L N U L S P E
T N L Y T E N B E D P P E
S V Y D O P R O K W V Q Q
T S I L A N R U O J S B I
N F C G L O B A L J T H O

LIBRARY INITIATIVES

Welcome to the Library

Miss Watson and Ms Strover would like to remind you that the library is open everyday during break & lunch and Monday-Thursday after school. The Library is a calm, quiet place to come and sit and read in one of our comfy reading areas or to enjoy boardgames; such as chess and scrabble.



Chess Champions



Do you want to learn a new skill? Improve your logic, concentration and problem solving? Then learn how to play chess! Chess runs everyday during all of our opening hours. If you decide to play a competitive game, the winners are added onto our Chess Champions leader board!

After School Club: Monday-Thursday

The Library is open to all students after school to enjoy the same activities that we have running at break & lunch.

Students have access to the computers for study or coursework. These activities run until 4.30pm

Please note that we are closed after school on Fridays.

Important Information

Accelerated Reader

Remember to quiz each book you finish on Accelerated Reader to add to your word count. There are prizes for all students who climb our ladder and reach the word count goals. See the librarians for your login details.

Teams Page

Remember to check the library teams page for updates and announcements, news articles and Accelerated Reader leader board information.





SOUTHCHURCH
HIGH SCHOOL

OUTSTANDING OCTOBER

1 OCTOBER 2026 – 16 OCTOBER 2026

**100%
ATTENDANCE**

ACHIEVE **100% ATTENDANCE**
AND YOU WILL RECEIVE:

-  AN **INDIVIDUAL PRIZE**
-  ENTRY INTO A **PRIZE DRAW**

BE HERE. BE READY. **BE OUTSTANDING.**



SOUTHCHURCH
HIGH SCHOOL

WINTER WINS

* 2 NOVEMBER 2026 – 18 DECEMBER 2026 *

**100%
ATTENDANCE**

ACHIEVE **100% ATTENDANCE**
AND YOU WILL RECEIVE:

-  AN **INDIVIDUAL PRIZE**
-  ENTRY INTO A **PRIZE DRAW**

Brave the Cold. Be Bold. Be Here.



SOUTHCHURCH
HIGH SCHOOL

COLLECT THE BADGES

ATTEND TODAY, **ACHIEVE TOMORROW.**

TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
 100% BRONZE 100% IN TERM 1	 100% SILVER 100% IN TERM 1 AND 2	 100% GOLD 100% FOR THE WHOLE YEAR

 **THREE TERMS. THREE BADGES. ONE OUTSTANDING YOU.**

BE HERE. BE READY. **BE OUTSTANDING.**

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day

Show your support

FOR OUR UNIFORMED SERVICES



SCOUTS GUIDES CADETS BOYS' BRIGADE ST JOHN'S CADETS

Please see
 **Mrs Langdon**
for a letter to wear your uniform
to school on Remembrance Day

By wearing your uniform, you will be
showing your respect and support for
all those who serve in our armed forces
and uniformed services, past and present.

LEST WE FORGET