



Southchurch High School

Friday 16 October 2026

The Southchurch Way

A community of opportunity, learning and aspirations

Issue number: 07

Message from the Headteacher

As we reach the end of another busy and productive half term, I would like to thank you for your continued support of Southchurch High School. It has been wonderful to see so many examples of students working hard, embracing opportunities and contributing positively to our school community. We are proud of the progress our students are making, both in their learning and in the way they support one another.

There is much to celebrate this week, from our staff's professional learning and our House celebrations to exciting careers opportunities and the appointment of our new student leaders. These experiences reflect our commitment to ensuring that every student feels part of our community, has opportunities to develop their talents and is encouraged to aim high.

The Power of Yet

On Monday evening, staff took part in a professional learning session focused on the 'Power of Yet' and the importance of developing a growth mindset in our students.

We explored how important it is for young people to understand that they may not be able to do something *yet*, but that with resilience, hard work, practice and a positive attitude, they can continue to learn, improve and achieve. Learning is not always easy, and making mistakes is a natural part of the process. What matters is how we respond to challenges and the determination we show when things become difficult.

We want our students to have the confidence to try, the courage to ask for help and the resilience to keep going when they face difficulties. By reinforcing these messages in our classrooms, we can help students recognise their potential and take greater ownership of their learning.

Celebrating Our Houses

This week, students in Years 7–10 took part in their House Assemblies, celebrating the achievements of the last seven weeks and recognising the many ways students have contributed to their Houses and to school life

- Tuesday: Dragon
- Wednesday: Griffin
- Thursday: Pegasus
- Friday: Phoenix

The assemblies provided an opportunity to reflect on the successes, effort and participation shown by students across the half term. Celebrating these achievements is an important part of building pride, belonging and a strong sense of community at Southchurch.

Well done to all the students who have contributed to their House through their attitude to learning, participation, achievements and support for others. We look forward to seeing our Houses continue to thrive next half term!

Year 9 Visit to Southend City Council

As part of the Future Ready Programme, facilitated by the Careers & Enterprise Company, a group of our Year 9 students visited Southend City Council's offices at the Civic Centre today.

The Future Ready Programme follows students over a three-year period, giving them valuable opportunities to learn about the world of work, meet employers, explore future career pathways and understand how the skills and knowledge they develop in school connect to employment.

During their visit, students toured the offices and facilities, took part in a Careers Carousel to discover the wide range of roles and departments within the council, participated in group activities and learned more about apprenticeship opportunities.

Experiences such as this help students broaden their horizons and discover career possibilities they may not previously have considered. They also help students recognise that skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving and resilience are valuable across many different professions.

Thank you to everyone involved in organising this valuable experience and to Southend City Council for welcoming our students. We hope the visit has inspired them to think confidently about their futures and the opportunities available to them.

Introducing Our Student Leadership Team

We were delighted by the response to our recent applications for roles within the Student Leadership Team. It is encouraging to see so many students keen to take on responsibility, represent their peers and make a positive contribution to our school community.

Congratulations to all those selected as House Captains and Form Ambassadors, as well as our Anti-Bullying, Social Action, Arts & Culture, Wellbeing, Environment and Youth Health Champions.

These roles provide students with opportunities to develop their leadership skills, share ideas, champion the issues that matter to young people and help make Southchurch an even better place to learn and grow. We look forward to working with our new student leaders and seeing the positive impact they will make.

We are proud of every student who put themselves forward. Taking the initiative to apply for a leadership role demonstrates confidence, ambition and a willingness to contribute, and these are qualities we want to encourage throughout our community.

GCSE Intervention Sessions During Half Term

For some of our students, half term will also provide an opportunity to consolidate their learning and prepare for the important examinations ahead.

If you have received a letter informing you that your child has been invited to attend an intervention session during the holiday, please encourage them to attend. These sessions are designed to reinforce learning, address areas for development and help students feel better prepared for their GCSE examinations.

For our Year 11 students, the focus is on preparation for their GCSEs next summer. For our Year 10 students, these sessions will help build the strong foundations they need for their examinations in summer 2028.

We recognise that attending sessions during a school holiday requires commitment from students and families, and we are very grateful to the members of staff who are giving their time during the half-term break to support our young people. Their dedication reflects our shared ambition to give every student the very best possible chance of success.

Word of the Week: Communicate

Our Word of the Week for the week commencing Monday 2 November is communicate.

Communicate (verb): to share information with others by speaking, writing, moving your body or using other signals.

Example: *As an actor, they could communicate a whole range of emotions.*

Communication is an essential skill in every area of life. Whether students are explaining their thinking in a lesson, listening carefully to others, working collaboratively or expressing their ideas with confidence, effective communication helps them build relationships and succeed.

We encourage families to join us in using our Word of the Week at home. Students who successfully use the word in conversation or in lessons will be rewarded with a Class Charts point. We look forward to seeing how creatively our students use this word next half term!

Wishing You a Happy Half Term

As we come to the end of the half term, I would like to thank our students, families and staff for everything they have contributed to Southchurch over the past seven weeks.

We know that school life can be busy and demanding, and I hope the forthcoming break provides an opportunity for everyone to rest, recharge and enjoy some time together. I would also like to thank our staff for their continued hard work, care and commitment to our students.

We are proud to be a community of opportunity, learning and aspiration, and we look forward to welcoming our students back ready for another positive and successful half term.

A gentle reminder that school reopens on Monday 2 November. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Southchurch High School.

Wishing you and your family a happy, restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Warm regards,

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					

Key Dates

16 October	Last day of term
19 – 30 October	Half Term holiday
02 November	Students return to school
11 November	Remembrance Day Service and minute silence

Year 7


SOUTHCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL

A Community of Opportunity
 LEARNING | ASPIRATION

Year 7

Revision & Attendance

Your child's effort. Their future.

Small steps make a big difference!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We know how important it is for our Year 7 students to build good habits early on. Regular attendance and consistent revision help them to feel confident, make progress and achieve their goals.

We are writing to remind you that the upcoming assessment point will take place from

Monday 16th November to Friday 20th November.

During this week, students will sit assessments in all their subjects.

Monday 16th November to Friday 20th November

Why attendance and revision matter



Build confidence

Regular attendance helps your child keep up with their learning and feel more confident in the classroom.



Develop key skills

Revision helps them remember important knowledge and build the skills they need for future success.



Make progress

Each step of progress brings them closer to their goals and future opportunities.



Achieve their best

Good attendance and revision lead to better results and more choices in the future.



A brighter future

By supporting your child now, you're helping them build the foundations for their long-term success.

Thank you for your continued support – together we can make a difference!

SPORTS NEWS

Fixtures



SPORTS FIXTURES

SUPPORT • PLAY • ACHIEVE

*SAME TEAM
BIGGER THINGS*



WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER



**YEAR 7 & YEAR 8
NETBALL**
v EASTWOOD





THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER



**YEAR 8
BASKETBALL**
v CECIL



GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR TEAMS!

RESPECT • TEAMWORK • PRIDE

Interhouse Competition

Phoenix won our first interhouse competition last week.
Well done to you all!

HOUSE SYSTEM RESULTS

YEAR 8 FOOTBALL COMPETITION



**1st
PHOENIX**



**2nd
GRIFFIN**



**3rd
DRAGON**



**4th
PEGASUS**

Well done to all houses!



SOUTHCHURCH SPORTS CLUBS

MAKE FRIENDS. BUILD SKILLS. HAVE FUN.

*GET INVOLVED.
TRY SOMETHING NEW.
BE YOU.*

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 BEFORE SCHOOL 7:30AM – 8:15AM	Strength and Conditioning Mr Blows		Badminton Miss Waite	Dodgeball Miss Atkinson	PE Coursework Mr Lockwood
 LUNCH 1:30PM – 2:00PM	Y7 Football (MUGA)	Y8 Football (MUGA)	Y9 Football (MUGA) GCSE PE Revision Miss Waite	Y10 Football (MUGA)	Y11 Football (MUGA)
 AFTER SCHOOL 3:10PM – 4:10PM		All Years Basketball Mr Winyard Y7-9 Rugby Mr Blows Y9 Sports Leaders Miss Waite	All Years Cricket Mr Winyard Y7-9 Netball Miss Townley & Miss Waite PE Coursework Mr Blows	Cheerleading Southend Elite All Years Football (boys & girls) Mr Blows, Mr Lockwood, Mr Winyard PE Coursework Miss Waite	All Years Hockey Miss Waite

JOIN IN. STAND OUT. MAKE IT YOURS.

congratulations

Congratulations to Khubaib in Year 7!

He earned a massive 49 points last week for his correct use of the Word of the Week ACKNOWLEDGE.

He received his certificate, chocolate bar, and token for his own book from the vending machine this morning in assembly.

Also, congratulations to Miss Tomlinson, who has won the coveted trophy and chocolate bar for being the member of staff to award the most Word of the Week points for the correct use of the word SIMPLIFY - a HUGE 140 points across the week!



World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day was on 10 October, so we acknowledged it on Friday last week with activities at breaktime, including the Southend Quiz and mindful colouring.

Students could also speak to our Youth Health Champions!



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WITH SCHOOLS PLUS



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Whatever you're planning, we've got a space for you! Hire our school facilities with Schools Plus all year round, during evenings, weekends and school holidays. With spaces available for dance, football, worship, events, tuition, celebrations, sports, fitness and so much more. Get in touch to book, on the details below.



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WELL-BEING

Every act of kindness counts

Science shows there are many ways that helping others can boost happiness.

From small acts like a friendly smile, a few kind words, helping with bags, offering up our seat, to regular volunteering - there are lots of different ways we can be kind. It's not all about money - we can give our attention, time, knowledge, ideas, energy or support. We can give the benefit of the doubt too.

Reflection: What's an act of kindness you could do today?

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS



hold the door



leave a basket of balls at the dog park



buy school supplies for a teacher



donate old clothes to charity



check in on loved ones



compliment a stranger



plant wildflowers



read a book with your child



give someone a "just because" gift



pay for the person behind you



make cookies for a neighbor



give a coworker kudos



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



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

T1 Rugby

SOUTHEND RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

T1 RUGBY

MONDAYS • 6:30 PM

The new non-contact game

NON-CONTACT
Safe, inclusive and fun

FUN
Exciting game for everyone

INCLUSIVE
All ages, all genders, every ability

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME
Join in, belong, be part of it



Library Corner

Word of the Week:

Participate

verb

Definition: To take part in or become involved in an activity



This week's theme is: Halloween

Key date: 31st October

Did you know?

- The Celtic festival of Samhain, which means end of summer.
- Halloween comes from the "All Hallows Eve", the evening before All Saints Day.
- The first pumpkins were made from turnips.

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

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

Words can go in any direction in the wordsearch puzzle.

Blood Vampire
Candle Witch
Cat
Ghost
Howl
Midnight
Mummy
October

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

LIBRARY INITIATIVES



Spooky Stories

Thank you all for participating in our spooky stories at break on Friday!

We enjoyed listening to the stories you told, if not now a bit afraid of the dark!!

Accelerated Reader

Well done to all our students who have read books and quizzed this half term on Accelerated Reader,

We have now reached

Over 2 Million Words Read!

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!

Half Term Reading

If you are looking for something *spooky* to read over the holidays here is a great list of books to read, just click on the link below.

[Horror stories for children and teens | School Reading List](#)

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.

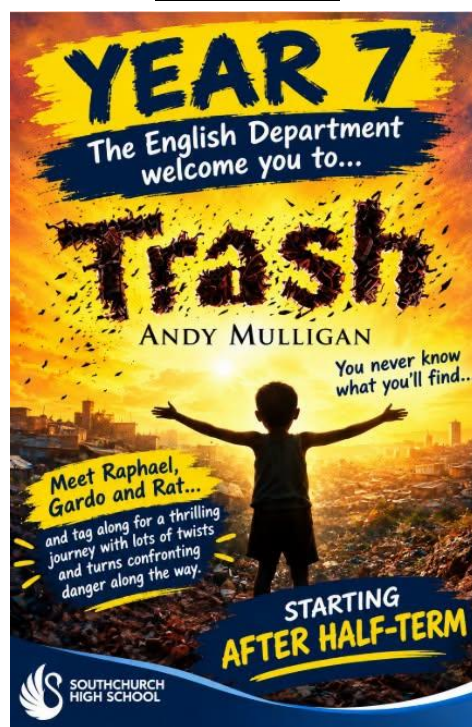


Spooky Stories

Some of our students have been telling their spookiest stories in the library at breaktime today!



Year 7 English



THANK
YOU!

A big thank you to Mr Sheehan who has raised around £1,500 towards our Southchurch High School musical, securing some fantastic donations and support from local businesses.

Serenity Lofts have very generously donated an amazing £500 to sponsor the musical!!

We are so grateful to everyone who has contributed!!

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DESIGN | BUILD | TRANSFORM

TRANSFORM YOUR HOME INTO A DREAM SPACE

MORE SPACE | MORE COMFORT
MORE VALUE

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FOLLOW OUR WORK FOR INSPIRATION