



Southchurch High School

Friday 17 July 2026

The Southchurch Way

A community of opportunity, learning and aspirations

Issue number: 38

Message from the Headteacher

Entering into the spirit of taking part, following England's magnificent win against Norway on Saturday night to reach the semi-finals of the World Cup, we held the Southchurch Olympics on Monday. Students and staff from the school's houses: Dragon, Griffin, Pegasus and Phoenix came together to take part in a fantastic celebration of teamwork, collaboration, determination and community spirit. Students took part in carnival activities, art and quiz challenges, athletics track events and field events, alongside our alternative sports activities including badminton in the Sports Hall, football on the field, netball on the courts and table tennis in the MUGA; representing their Houses with pride, supporting one another and competing brilliantly throughout the day.

A special thank you to the PE Department and, in particular, Miss Waite, whose planning, organisation and commitment ensured the day ran so smoothly. An enormous amount of work goes into an event like this, much of it behind the scenes, and it was evident just how much time and effort had been invested. These events are only successful because staff are willing to work together, and Monday's teamwork was exceptional.

I would also like to recognise our students. They were a credit to the school and demonstrated excellent enthusiasm, resilience, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the day. It was wonderful to see so many students encouraging one another, celebrating success and embracing the opportunity to take part.

Sports Day is an important event in our school calendar. It brings our community together, creates lasting memories for our students and staff and reinforces the values that are so important to us as a school.

After what was an incredible Sports Day, we then hosted a wonderful evening and a fantastic celebration of the incredible talent that exists within our school community at 'Southchurch Sings the Shows'. Our students were exceptional, performing with confidence, enthusiasm and professionalism, and they should be immensely proud of what they achieved. I was equally proud to see so many members of staff taking to the stage, demonstrating not only their musical talents but also their willingness to support our students and create such a memorable experience.

A very special thank you must go to Miss Gingell, whose vision, dedication and countless hours of planning brought the entire event together.

Organising a production of this scale takes an enormous amount of commitment, much of which goes unseen, and the success of the evening was a testament to her hard work and passion. We are incredibly fortunate to have someone with Miss Gingell's creativity and enthusiasm leading events such as this.

Thank you also to everyone who worked behind the scenes, supported rehearsals, helped with the technical aspects of the production, or simply came along to cheer everyone on. This support helped create an atmosphere that celebrated our students and reflected the strong sense of community we have at Southchurch.

Evenings like this remind us that schools are about so much more than academic success. They provide opportunities for our young people to build confidence, develop new skills, express themselves creatively and create memories that will stay with them for years to come.

A huge thank you to Chase High who kindly hosted our students at their Post 16 Options Subjects Taster Day on Tuesday and also to Ms Smith, Careers Leader, for her organisation and support of the visit. We really appreciated the opportunity provided for our students to experience their Sixth Form and gain a greater understanding of the opportunities available to them Post 16. We were delighted to receive feedback that our students represented Southchurch High School so positively. Their behaviour, attitude and resilience are a reflection of the hard work of our staff and the expectations we continue to set for them. During an unexpected evacuation, which lasted some time, it was reported that they remained calm and mature throughout. These situations can be challenging, but it is wonderful to hear that they demonstrated patience and respect throughout.

It is hoped that this local collaboration will continue next term with members of Chase High's Sixth Form Student Leadership Team visiting to speak with our students about life at Sixth Form and the opportunities available.

Thank you to Mr Patten and Ms Langdon for their support and organisation of those students from the Student Leadership Team who attended the Youth Health Champion Workshops that took place on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Thank you to Miss Waite for her support of our students at the u13s Borough rounders tournament that took place on the field opposite Westcliff High School for Girls on Tuesday afternoon.

A number of our KS3 students from Years 7 to 9, celebrated their attendance achievement on Wednesday afternoon. The students enjoyed the facilities at Southchurch Park. Thank you to those members of staff who kindly accompanied the students on their trip.

A huge thank you to Ms Smith for her organisation and support of those students who visited Anglia Ruskin University at Chelmsford as part of the 'Future Ready' programme yesterday. Having previously visited Southend Council, the visit was arranged to offer the students the opportunity to explore a university environment and gain valuable insights into higher education. Students explored the campus, attended informative sessions about university life and took part in interactive activities designed to inspire and motivate students

Further behaviour/attendance rewards trips took place this week, yesterday 15 Year 9 students were treated to a trip to Ninja Warrior at Chelmsford. Thank you to Miss Townley and Mr Blows for very kindly supporting the trip. Today, selected Year 7 students have had the opportunity to experience the same venue, kindly accompanied by Miss Stockman and Miss Caten. Congratulations to all these students on what was a well-deserved treat!

We were delighted to be offered a unique opportunity yesterday for a group of our students, as a reward for their excellent behaviour and attendance, to work alongside Adventure Island and the Sealife Adventure in Southend in the creation of professional promotional photography and videography showcasing education visits and school trips. Students took part in curriculum-linked activities first thing prior to the group travelling to the Sealife Adventure culminating in a visit to Adventure Island, students were able to enjoy both venues as a complimentary education visit. I would like to acknowledge our thanks to the management at Adventure Island and Sealife Adventure for the many opportunities they afford our students. Thank you to Ms Smith for her support of this trip.

Congratulations to the 15 students who successfully completed their Level 2 Community in Sports Leadership award on receiving their certificates at their year group rewards assembly this week.

Thank you to all those Year 10 parents and carers for their attendance at the Parents' Evening yesterday, following their child's mock examinations.

We would be extremely grateful for any donations of any unwanted items of school uniform, clean and in good condition please. Some of our families are in desperate need of assistance with items of uniform.

Sadly, we shall be saying farewell to a number of our colleagues at the end of this term: Miss Fraser, Mr Maxfield, Mr Harvey, Mr Calder and one of our longest standing members of staff, Miss Tuite. All will be sorely missed and we wish each and every one of them all the very best for their next chapters!

As we say goodbye to these members of staff, we are delighted to welcome Miss Oliver, Miss Walsh, Miss Wilson, Miss Tomlinson and Mr Richards to our school community.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for all your support throughout this academic year. We wish you and your families a very happy summer break and look forward to working with you again next year.

We look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Wednesday, 2 September: Year 7 students at 8.15 am and Years 8 and 11 will be expected into school at 11.00 am. Year 7 students will finish their school day on Wednesday, 2 September at 1.20 pm and all other year groups at 2.05 pm.

Have a great summer!

Mrs Airoll
Headteacher

Menu

SWAN'S RESTAURANT			WEEK 2		
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Meal	Macaroni Cheese Served with Garlic Bread	NO LUNCH ONLY BREAK	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
Vegetarian Meal	Vegetable Pizza Served with Garlic Bread	NO LUNCH ONLY BREAK	SCHOOL CLOSED	SCHOOL CLOSED	SCHOOL CLOSED

Key Dates

20 July	House Festival
21 July	Last Day of Term Students finish at 11.45am
02 September	Students return to school Year 7 to arrive at 8.15 am Finish at 1.20pm Year 8 - 11 to arrive at 11.00 am Finish at 2.05pm
17 September	Year 11 Parents' Evening



A massive thank you to A.R. Adams for loaning us a beautiful limousine to ferry some lucky Year 11 students to the prom, in style! It set their evening off perfectly and we're all very grateful!

A.R. Adams Ltd
INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Attendance



A Wonderful Evening of Talent and Celebration

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all the parents, family members and friends who joined us for Southchurch Sings the Shows. Your support and encouragement make such a difference to our students, and it was wonderful to see so many of you there celebrating their achievements.

A special congratulations goes to all the students who performed. Their hard work, dedication, confidence, and enthusiasm shone through on stage, making the evening a truly memorable one. From the first performance to the final applause, the standard was outstanding and every student should feel incredibly proud of what they achieved.

The show was made even more special by members of staff stepping into the spotlight alongside our students. Their willingness to get involved brought plenty of smiles and added to the fantastic atmosphere of the evening.

It was an amazing night filled with talent, creativity, teamwork, and enjoyment. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a success. We are incredibly proud of all those involved and look forward to many more memorable performances in the future.

Youth Health Champion Scheme

On Tuesday and Wednesday, 16 students completed the first exam and training for the Youth Health Champion Scheme. When finished, they will all receive a GCSE level equivalent qualification.

They will also be running projects across the school next term to help our students become healthier and know where to access key support services.

A highlight of the workshops was being able to meet and question Krishna, Southend City Director of Public Health. He will be taking our students suggestions back to the council this week.

Well done to all involved!

congratulations

They did it! Determined to end Mr Patten's 4-week reign as the Word of the Week champion, Miss Townley and Miss Goodine completely smashed it!

Miss Townley awarded 167 points and Miss Goodine 133 points to students over the course of the week. That's 300 times students have used the WOTW correctly, just for them! This week's word is AGREEABLE - will anyone on the Southchurch staff be able to match such an outstanding point score? Tune in next week to find out!



congratulations

Interhouse Competition - Alphabet Challenge

Last week, our Interhouse competition was the alphabet challenge! Students were given a category & had to give an answer in order of the alphabet.

Phoenix were extremely competitive & their wonderful House Captain Ella went through to the final against the other houses!

These regular lunchtime challenges are great entertainment and help build the house team spirit.



House Festival



MCAS – Dinner Money

We would like to remind you that our payment system will be changing during the summer holidays.

iPayimpact will be deactivated on 17 July, and the new Dinner Money module will be available in your MCAS app by 17 August at the latest. Any money already paid towards trips will automatically transfer to the new system, so you don't need to take any action.

Please see the MCAS Guide and the Dinner Money letter for more information.

MCAS | Southchurch High School



Year 10 Work Experience

We are so grateful to **Adventure Island UK** for giving our students such a wonderful work experience placement!



E-Scooter Safety

The Southend Safeguarding Partnership (SSP) is supporting an awareness campaign led by Essex Police regarding the use of privately owned e-scooters.

Recent incidents across Essex have highlighted concerns relating to e-scooter-related collisions, anti-social behaviour and criminal offences. From a safeguarding perspective, the inappropriate use of e-scooters can expose children and young people to serious physical harm, including road traffic collisions and injuries involving pedestrians, vehicles and other road users.

Many parents and carers are unaware that privately owned e-scooters:

- Cannot legally be ridden on public roads, pavements or cycle paths.
- May only be used on private land with the landowner's permission.
- Can be seized by police if used unlawfully.
- May result in fines and penalty points for the rider (even if they don't own one yet!)
- Can create legal consequences for adults who knowingly allow illegal use: Parents, grandparents or guardians who allow illegal use could also be committing an offence.

Sports Day

The whole school came together for a fantastic celebration of teamwork, collaboration, determination and community spirit. Students from all year groups represented their Houses with pride, supporting one another and competing brilliantly throughout the day.

Our Houses — Dragon, Griffin, Pegasus and Phoenix — showed outstanding teamwork as they battled it out to earn those coveted Class Charts points. The energy, enthusiasm and encouragement from students and staff made it a truly memorable day. A huge well done to everyone who took part!





With Summer Holidays starting next week, we know that this can cause a lot of anxiety for some of our students with special educational needs.

For some of our students with SEN they will be looking forward to a break from the overwhelm that school causes for them, and a break from the daily routine. However, for many of our students with SEN a break from the daily routine can be a huge cause of anxiety.

We know that lots of our families tell us that keeping a routine in place through the holidays has really helped their children adjust to the holidays and then adjust to coming back to school. This might mean keeping your morning routine through the holidays and slightly tweaking it to make it more relaxed, as well as keeping a regular bedtime routine in place so that your children do not have big adjustments to make when they return to school in September. Having regular times throughout the day that things happen, can also be a helpful way to keep a routine in place, whether that be with regular times that activities take place or regular times for mealtimes to happen.

To aid the transition back in to school you may also find it helpful to complete a small amount of schoolwork or revision each day, in order to keep some of the school routine. We know that this won't work for every child and, as always, you know your child best.

Have a lovely summer!

Great Waking Rovers Football Club

Great Waking Rovers Football Club is delighted to announce the launch of their new Women's Team for the 2026/27 season!

The new team is focused on player development and is open to girls aged 14 through to 16+ who are looking to continue their football journey in a positive, supportive, and ambitious environment. The open age women's team (age 16+) will compete in the Essex County Women's League this season, with home matches kicking off at 2:00pm.

Great Waking Rovers is a club steeped in history and sits proudly at the heart of the local community. Fortunate to have an excellent home ground at Burroughs Park, providing a fantastic environment for players to develop and enjoy the game whilst also providing a pathway for younger players into the women's game once they turn age 16.

Training sessions take place every Thursday from 7:00pm to 8:30pm and are led by qualified male and female coaches committed to helping players improve both on and off the pitch.

If you are interested in learning more about the opportunities available, please get in touch!

Call Louisa Jones on 07723 367103

Free School Meals

A gentle reminder, further to the letter sent on 22 June, that the Government has revised the eligibility arrangements for Free School Meals. Schools are now required to apply an end date of 31 July 2026 to existing entitlements, and families **must now reapply** to ensure your eligibility continues from September.

If your family is affected by this change, I would kindly ask that you complete and return the form with the original letter **as soon as possible to avoid any interruption to your child's entitlement**. Should you require any assistance with the application process or require another form to fill out, please do not hesitate to contact the school via email: [**info@southchurchschool.com**](mailto:info@southchurchschool.com)



Try out new things

Being open to new experiences and learning fuels our wellbeing.

Learning is not just for school, but for life.

Find your hobby

Our hobbies can be a source of pleasure and a great way to learn, build competence and confidence and connect with others who share our passion.

Top tips

- 1) Find a regular time to get engaged in a hobby that takes some skill.
- 2) Minimise distractions and get stuck in.
- 3) Try going just beyond your comfort zone on something that you are curious about or interested in.

Reflection: What's a hobby you'd love to try?

When could you try it?

Get curious & creative

Cultivating our curiosity can help us think and act more flexibly and stretch our familiar boundaries, which can boost our resilience.

Activity: Try noticing something new. On a journey you take regularly – perhaps to work, college or to the shops – find three things which spark your interest that you haven't noticed before. What can you find to be curious about these?

Exploring, learning and happiness

It can help us build connections with others with shared interests

Reflection: What's something new you've tried or learnt recently? What's something new you can try or learn this week?

Library Corner



Word of the Week:

THEORY

Noun

Definition: A formal statement of rules which a subject is based.

This week's theme is: Bastille Day

Key date: 14 July

Did you know?

- The French National Day is the anniversary of the Storming of the Bastille on 14 July 1789.
- A major event of the French Revolution.
- The Fête de la Fédération that celebrated the unity of the French people on 14 July 1790, celebrations are held throughout France.
- It has been reported as "the oldest and largest military parade in Europe" is held on 14 July on the Champs-Élysées in Paris in front of the President of the Republic, along with other French officials and foreign guests.

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

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

Bonjour
Hello
Merci
Thank you
Oui
Yes
Non
No
Bon
Good

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

LIBRARY INITIATIVES

Thank you

Miss Watson and Ms Strover would like to say a big thank you to all our students who have spent time enjoying the library space this year, we cannot wait to see you all again in September.

Accelerated Reader Awards

Congratulations to every year group for taking part in the Accelerated Reader quizzes, we have a new total of



17,700,575 Words read.

	Total Words Read (since September)
YEAR 7	10,864,186
YEAR 10	3,022,046
YEAR 8	2,130,674
YEAR 9	890,482
YEAR 11	793,575

Summer Reading

While schools may closed over the summer, public libraries are open. They are free to join and have a huge selection of books to borrow, so make sure you head down to your local library over the holidays to keep up with your reading, and don't forget to take the quizzes on Accelerated Reader when you come back in September.

Important Library News

End of year polite notice !

Please return all library books by Monday 20th July .

If you have not been able to return your book back to the library before the end of summer term can you please keep it somewhere safe and return it at the beginning of term in September.



Thank you

