



Southchurch High School

Friday 25 September 2026

The Southchurch Way

A community of opportunity, learning and aspirations

Issue number: 04

Message from the Headteacher

Open Evening – A Wonderful Evening at Southchurch

What a wonderful evening we had at Southchurch last night! We were delighted to welcome so many prospective Year 6 students and their families to our Open Evening. The lovely warm sunshine certainly helped to create a positive atmosphere, but what really made the evening special was the enthusiasm and commitment of our staff and students.

Visitors had the opportunity to see our school in action, meet members of staff, explore our facilities and find out more about the opportunities available to students at Southchurch. More importantly, I hope they were able to experience what makes our school special – the sense of community and belonging that we work hard to create for every young person.

As Headteacher, I am immensely proud of the way our whole school community came together. There was a real sense of energy throughout the evening, and our staff worked incredibly hard to ensure that families received a warm welcome and a genuine insight into life at Southchurch.

I would particularly like to thank our wonderful students who gave up their time to support the evening. They were fantastic ambassadors for the school. Their confidence, enthusiasm, courtesy and willingness to speak to visitors and share their experiences of Southchurch were exceptional.

Our students are at the heart of everything we do, and last night they demonstrated exactly why we are so proud of them.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the evening such a success.

Professional Learning

At Southchurch, we believe that great schools never stand still. Our commitment to professional learning is an important part of ensuring that our teaching continues to develop and that every student receives the best possible opportunities to learn and succeed.

Our staff continue to work collaboratively on developing classroom practice, sharing effective approaches and reflecting on how we can provide the right level of challenge, support and ambition for all our students.

This work is particularly important as we continue to strengthen teaching and learning across the school. Our focus remains firmly on ensuring that students are actively engaged in their learning, understand what they are learning and are supported to achieve highly.

Behind the scenes, there is a great deal of professional learning taking place, and I am grateful to our staff for the time, energy and commitment they continue to give to improving the experience and outcomes of our students.

Student House Leader Interviews

Last Friday, we held interviews for students who wished to be considered for the role of **Student House Leader** for their respective houses.

It was fantastic to see students putting themselves forward for these important leadership roles. Taking on a student leadership position provides young people with an opportunity to develop confidence, responsibility and communication skills, while making a positive contribution to our school community.

A huge thank you to **Miss Gingell, Dragon House Leader; Miss Clark, Phoenix House Leader; Miss James, Griffin House Leader; and Mr Winyard, Pegasus House Leader**, for giving up their time to conduct the interviews.

We were impressed by the students who came forward and by their willingness to take on responsibility and represent their peers.

Those selected will be announced in due course. We look forward to seeing our new Student House Leaders develop their roles and make their mark on school life.

Year 9 Students Explore the Future of Southend

We were delighted to welcome members of the **Bellway Development Team** to Southchurch this week, who worked with a group of our Year 9 students as part of a workshop exploring the proposed new housing development in Bournes Green.

The session provided students with an excellent opportunity to think beyond the classroom and consider how decisions about planning and development can affect the communities in which people live.

Our students were invited to give their **confidential views** on the development proposals, considering both the potential benefits and their concerns about how additional homes and a growing population could affect the local area.

They discussed some important issues, including:

- feeling safe within their community;
- access to different types of housing;
- the importance of open and green spaces;
- transport links and routes;
- affordable public transport; and
- how they would like to see Southend develop in the future.

I was particularly pleased to see students engaging thoughtfully with these questions and recognising that the development of a community involves considering the needs and experiences of the people who live there.

This was a valuable opportunity for our students to understand how planning and development projects work and, importantly, to recognise that **young people's voices can contribute to conversations about the future of their communities.**

Word of the Week

Our **Word of the Week** for next week is: **Acknowledge Verb** – to accept, admit or recognise something, or the truth or existence of something.

For example:

*Please **acknowledge** receipt of my homework.*

We want to encourage students to use our Word of the Week naturally in their conversations and lessons. Students who successfully use **acknowledge** will be rewarded with a Class Charts point.

Why not challenge your child to use the word at home too?

A Final Message from Me

It has been another busy and productive week at Southchurch, and there is a great deal to be proud of. From welcoming perspective Year 6 families, to developing student leadership and giving our young people opportunities to have their voices heard about the future of their community, there is a clear thread running through everything we do: **our student's matter.**

We want every student to feel that they belong at Southchurch, that they are known and valued, and that they have the opportunity and support to achieve their ambitions.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community.

Community. Opportunity. Aspiration.

Mrs Airoll

Headteacher

Menu

SWAN'S RESTAURANT WEEK 1

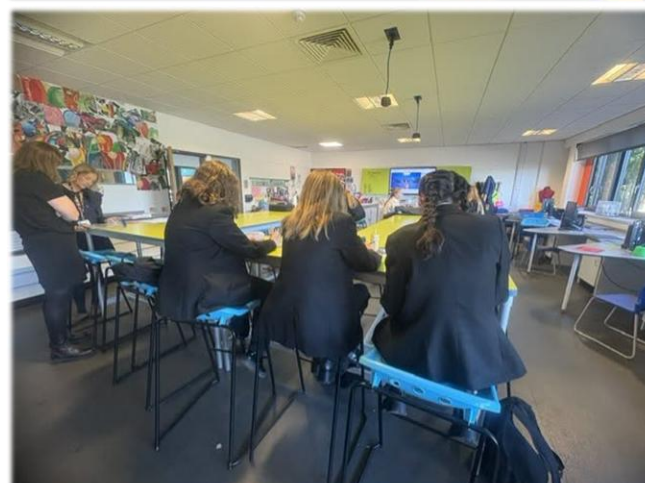
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Meal	Halal Chicken Korma Curry Served with Boiled Rice & Naan Bread	Homemade Beef Lasagne Served with Garlic Bread	Pork Sausages Served with Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Gravy	Halal Chicken Fajita Served with Diced Potatoes	Halal Chicken Burger In a Bun Served with Potato Wedges & Coleslaw
Vegetarian Meal	Vegan Vegetable Sweet & Sour Served with Boiled Rice & Spring Rolls	Vegetable Pasta Bake Served with Garlic Bread	Vegan Sausages Served with Mashed Potatoes Peas & Gravy	Vegan Nuggets Served with Diced Potatoes & Baked Beans	¼lb Vegan Burger In a Bun Served with Potato Wedges & Coleslaw
Extra's	Jacket Potato with Cheese ,Baked Beans or Tuna Mayonnaise Available Monday - Thursday Small Pasta & Sauce Available Monday - Thursday				

Key Dates

02 October	Flu Vaccinations
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

Art Club

Our lunchtime art club is in full swing with shell drawings today. Don't forget to get your loyalty card signed to work towards a treat!



Open Evening

We held our Open Evening last night and would like to thank all who came to see us!





Useful helpline details

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

Optimistic October 2026



MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY

1 Write down three things you can look forward to this month

FRIDAY

2 Find something to be optimistic about (even if it's a difficult time)

SATURDAY

3 Take a small step towards a goal that really matters to you

SUNDAY

4 Start your day with the most important thing on your to-do list

5 Be a realistic optimist. See life as it is, but focus on what's good

6 Remind yourself that things can change for the better

7 Look for the good in people around you today

8 Make some progress on a project or task you have been avoiding

9 Share an important goal with someone you trust

10 Take time to reflect on what you have accomplished recently

11 Avoid blaming yourself or others. Find a helpful way forward

12 Look out for positive news and reasons to be cheerful today

13 Ask for help to overcome an obstacle you are facing

14 Do something constructive to improve a difficult situation

15 Thank yourself for achieving the things you often take for granted

16 Put down your to-do list and do something fun or uplifting

17 Take a small step towards a positive change you want to see in society

18 Set hopeful but realistic goals for the days ahead

19 Identify one of your positive qualities that will be helpful in the future

20 Find joy in tackling a task you've put off for some time

21 Let go of the expectations of others and focus on what matters to you

22 Share a hopeful quote, picture or video with a friend or colleague

23 Recognise that you have a choice about what to prioritise

24 Write down three specific things that have gone well recently

25 You can't do everything! What are your three priorities right now?

26 Find a new perspective on a problem you face

27 Be kind to yourself today. Remember, progress takes time

28 Ask yourself, will this still matter a year from now?

29 Plan a fun or exciting activity to look forward to

30 Identify three things that give you hope for the future

31 Set a goal that brings a sense of purpose for the coming month



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



SPORTS NEWS



SOUTHCHURCH HIGH

Christmas FAYRE

STALLS ★ FOOD ★ CRAFTS ★ GIFTS

4 December 2026 | 5-8PM | Southchurch Blvd

SOUTHCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL

SPORTS FIXTURES

MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER TO FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER

MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER	No fixtures
TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER	No fixtures
WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER	No fixtures
THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER	Y7 Football v St Thomas More (Home)
FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER	No fixtures

GOOD LUCK!

congratulations

Congratulations to Leo who competed in the last Forza competition of the year this weekend and won two silver and two bronze medals!

This is the first time he has won a medal in every category he entered and he finished 5th out of 49 competitors in division two.

Well done Leo!!



Also, congratulations to Mr Merritt (Taylor) for being our staff Word of the Week winner last week!

He awarded a whopping 169 points to students for the correct use of JUSTIFY. A fabulous achievement!

This week's word is BELONGING - who will be next week's winner?



Southchurch Clubs

SOUTHCHURCH 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	Running Club, Mr Blows	PE Coursework Mr Lockwood	Badminton Miss Waite	Dodgeball Miss Atkinson	
BREAKTIME 11:00AM - 11:30AM	Library Club All Years	Library Club All Years	Library Club All Years	Library Club All Years	Library Club All Years
LUNCH 1:30PM - 2:00PM	Formula 1 Miss House, A130 Library Club All Years Y7 Football (MUGA)	KS3 Art Mrs Derbyshire, A020 Y8 Football (MUGA) Basketball Mr Blows	Code Miss Gibbons, C002 KS3 Maths, MAAT Science Mr Druce, A116 GCSE Art Mrs Wallace, A020 Finding Your Voice - Poetry Performance Miss Gingell, Drama Library Club All Years Y9 Football (MUGA) GCSE PE Revision Miss Waite	GCSE Art Mrs Wallace, A137 A020 Library Club All Years Y10 Football (MUGA) Table Tennis Miss James	Games Miss Reddish, C001 Just Dance Miss Alexander, A135 GCSE Art Mrs Wallace, A020 Karaoke Mr Summers, Drama Library Club All Years Y11 Football (MUGA)
AFTER SCHOOL 3:10PM - 4:10PM	Library Club All Years	Library Club All Years Basketball All Years Mr Winyard Y7/8 Rugby Mr Blows Y9 Sports Leaders Miss Waite	Y11 DT Catch Up Miss Reddish, C004 Fashion & Textiles Mrs Derbyshire, C004 Library Club All Years All Years Cricket Mr Winyard Y7-9 Netball Miss Townley & Miss Waite PE Coursework Mr Blows	DofE Mrs Langdon, A137 School Musical (Cast) Miss Gingell, Drama Library Club All Years Cheerleading Southend Elite All Years Football (boys & girls) Mr Blows, Mr Lock- wood, Mr Winyard PE Coursework Miss Waite	School Musical (Cast) Miss Gingell Drama All Years Hockey Miss Waite

Breakfast Club is everyday from 7am-8:15am with FREE food available!

Year 10 Work Experience

Our Year 10 students had their Work Experience assembly this week, where they were introduced to the programme and the arrangements for finding their placement.

Students have been given a guidance pack, which includes important information for students and parents/carers, including a letter explaining the work experience process and how you can support your child.

Students are expected to take responsibility for securing their own placement by contacting suitable employers directly. They can use the school's list of potential employers for ideas, or approach other suitable businesses.

Important deadline: Once a placement has been secured, details must be uploaded to Unifrog by Friday 18 December 2026.

We encourage students to start thinking about their placement and contacting employers as soon as possible, as securing a placement can take time.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our students make the most of this valuable opportunity!

We welcome any local businesses to get in touch if you could accommodate a student 5 - 9 July next year.

Library Corner



French Word of the Week:

Belonging

Noun

Definition: A sense of fitting in or feeling like you are an important member of a group.

This week's theme is: Yom Kippur

Key date: 20-21 September

Did you know?

- On Yom Kippur, many choose to wear white clothing such as a *kittel*, symbolising the purity of forgiveness, the clothing of angels, and a burial shroud.
- Jews mark Yom Kippur by fasting for 25 hours. They traditionally don't wear make-up, perfume or leather shoes on Yom Kippur either.
- The ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are named The Days of Repentance, or Days of Awe.

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

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

Amend
Atonement
Balance
Community
Forgiveness
Holiday
Hopeful
Tradition

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

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.

Accelerated Reader House Challenge

Which house will read the most words on Accelerated Reader this year?

Remember to keep quizzing during break and lunch, every book you read and quiz on helps towards your house getting closer to this years winner!



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.



Year 9 Workshop

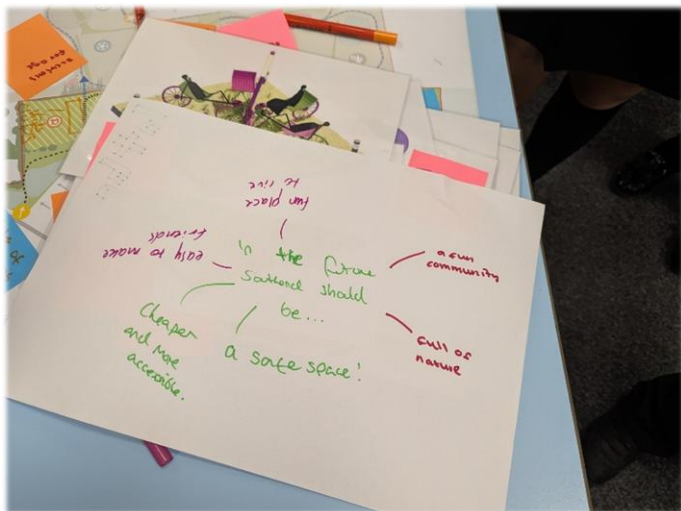
We welcomed the Bellway development team into school today to work with some Year 9 students.

They took part in a workshop, giving their views about the proposed new housing development in Bournes Green and how the scheme could add a sense of belonging for the people living there.

They shared their views on the development proposals and offered both positive comments and their concerns on the local area and how it could be impacted by the extra homes and people.

We discussed the way we wanted to see Southend change in the future with key ideas being it needed to feel safer, have access to a variety of housing types and open spaces. We also noted the need for more transport routes and affordable public transport.

Students presented their views confidently to our visitors and learnt a lot about public planning and development projects.



D of E Award Sign Up

DE | THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

BRONZE AWARD

SIGN UP NOW!

YEAR 9 STUDENTS

Take on a new challenge, gain valuable skills and create memories for life!

CHALLENGE YOURSELF EXPLORE NEW HORIZONS

COLLECT A LETTER FROM MRS LANGDON

COST £60

EXPEDITION	VOLUNTEERING	PHYSICAL	SKILLS
Plan, prepare and complete an adventure in the great outdoors.	Make a difference in your community and support others.	Get active and improve your fitness and wellbeing.	Build confidence, learn new skills and grow as an individual.

THE BRONZE AWARD...
More than just an award – it's a journey!

Be part of something bigger!