



# Southchurch High School

Friday 24 April 2026

## The Southchurch Way

*A community of opportunity, learning and aspirations*

Issue number: 27

### Message from the Headteacher

I had the privilege on Monday of presenting our wonderful Student Leadership students with their new lanyards. These students will now be easily identifiable to the school community as they represent their Environmental, Well-Being, and Arts and Culture roles.

This week's Professional Learning for teaching staff focused on an introduction to challenge. It is important that students of all abilities feel appropriately challenged in their lessons because this supports deeper thinking, greater engagement, and sustained progress over time.

Next week's 'word of the week' will be *interpret* (verb): *to decide the meaning of something*. As always, we would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to practise using the word *interpret* over the weekend, ready to impress staff by using it confidently in and around school next week.

On Tuesday we welcomed Niamh from USP College to Southchurch to deliver an insightful assembly to our Year 10 students, exploring the wide range of post-16 courses and pathways available to them. This was kindly organised and supported by Ms Smith, Careers Leader.

A huge thank you, as always, to our amazing Student Leadership Team, together with Mr Naidoo and Mr Patten, for their support of Earth Day on Wednesday. Some of our students took part in the 'Rubbish Fashion' competition for South Essex College, and their fantastic creations inspired others to design eco outfits for the chance to win a goody bag. The Student Leadership Team also organised word searches and bracelet-making from recycled plastic bags during both break times.

Good luck to all Year 11 students taking their Greek, Polish and Spanish speaking exams on Monday, Performing Arts students on Wednesday for their practical GCSE, and Music students on Thursday for their practical GCSE. We hope that students who have already completed their French speaking, Photography, Art and Italian speaking assessments this week feel proud of their efforts and know they did their very best.

Thank you to Ms Smith, Careers Leader, for supporting the visit of Dr Keir Rogers to Southchurch High as part of our Year 8 Into Tech Project. Dr Rogers, a Proleptic Senior Lecturer in Physics at King's College London, is a leading theoretical cosmologist and data scientist working at the cutting edge of cosmology, statistical inference and machine learning. Our Year 8 students were inspired by his engaging talk on how artificial intelligence is transforming scientific discovery and opening up exciting future career pathways in science and technology.

We were also delighted to see our local MP, Mr Alaba, post on social media following a visit by our Student Council to the Houses of Parliament on Tuesday. Mr Alaba commented that the students were a credit to the school, asked excellent questions about his role as MP, and were inspiring to speak with. Please visit our Facebook page to see their photo taken in the historic Westminster Hall. Huge thanks to Miss Langdon for organising the visit, Mr Patten for his support, and of course to our Student Council for their outstanding engagement and leadership.

Finally, as shared on our social media last Friday, we send huge congratulations to Miss Goodine for completing the Boston Marathon in an incredible time of 3 hours and 23 minutes. A truly inspiring achievement—well done from all at Southchurch High.

Mrs Airoll  
Headteacher

### Menu

<b>SWAN'S RESTAURANT</b>		<b>WEEK 1</b>			
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Main Meal</b>	Halal Chicken Korma Curry Served with Boiled Rice & Naan Bread	Homemade Beef Lasagne Served with Garlic Bread	Halal Chicken Fajita Served with Diced Potatoes & Coleslaw	Pork Sausages Served with Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Gravy	Halal Chicken Burger In a Bun Served with Potato Wedges & Homemade Coleslaw
<b>Vegetarian Meal</b>	Vegan Vegetable Sweet & Sour Served with Boiled Rice & Spring Rolls	Vegetable Pasta Bake Served with Garlic Bread	Vegetable Quiche Served with Diced Potatoes & Coleslaw	Vegan Sausages Served with Mashed Potatoes Peas & Gravy	Vegan Bean Burger In a Bun Served with Potato Wedges & Homemade Coleslaw
<b>Extra's</b>	Jacket Potato with Cheese ,Baked Beans or Tuna Mayonnaise Available Monday - Thursday Small Pasta & Sauce Available Monday - Thursday				

### House Points

## HOUSE POINTS

W/C 27 April

### Who is in the lead this week?

Don't forget you get POINTS for attending a club, which contributes to house points!

**You MUST wear your HOUSE BADGE as part of your uniform expectation**

9714

8026

7475

6153

## Key Dates

<b>28 April</b>	Jack Petchey 'Speak Out Challenge' Regional Final
<b>04 May</b>	Bank Holiday
<b>14 May</b>	Year 10 Parents' Information Evening 6.00pm - 7.00pm
<b>22 May</b>	Last day of term
<b>25 May – 29 May</b>	Half Term holiday
<b>1 June</b>	Students return to school



On Tuesday, Mrs Airoll and Mr Patten presented Student Leadership with smart new lanyards for their allocated teams: Environmental, Well-being or Arts & Culture. Look out for events and activities from the individual teams soon!



Also on Tuesday, our Student Leadership Team had an inspiring visit to the Houses of Parliament, exploring the heart of UK democracy.

A memorable day made even more special with a photo in the historic Westminster Hall and the opportunity to meet Bayo Alaba, MP for Southend East and Rochford. We're so proud to see our students engaging with leadership beyond the classroom.



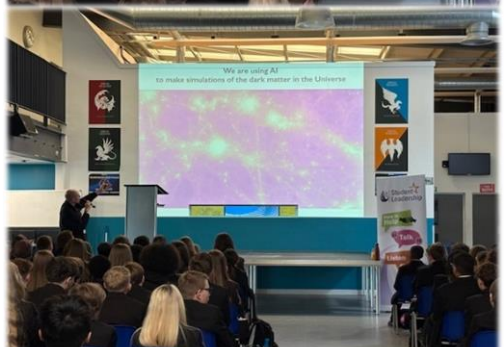
## Into Tech Project

On Monday, we were delighted to welcome Dr Keir Rogers to Southchurch as part of our Into Tech Project.

Dr Rogers, a Proleptic Senior Lecturer in Physics at King's College London, is a leading theoretical cosmologist and data scientist working at the cutting edge of cosmology, statistical inference, and machine learning. His impressive career includes fellowships and research positions at institutions across the world, and he is currently a UKRI STFC Ernest Rutherford Fellow.

Dr Rogers is actively involved in major international collaborations, contributing to ground-breaking research exploring dark energy and the universe through projects such as the Vera C. Rubin Observatory, Euclid, the Atacama Cosmology Telescope, and the Simons Observatory.

Our Year 8 students were inspired by his engaging talk on how artificial intelligence is transforming scientific discovery. He shared insights into how AI is being used to analyse vast amounts of data and push the boundaries of our understanding of the universe—opening students' eyes to exciting future careers in science and technology.



## Careers

It has been a highly productive start to the term for Careers, with a range of valuable opportunities for our students to engage with further education providers and industry professionals.

Our Year 10 cohort began the term with an informative assembly from **Chase High School**, who provided a clear overview of their sixth form pathways and the options available as students begin to consider their next steps.

We were also pleased to welcome Alex and Racheal from the **Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers - REME**, who delivered an insightful presentation on careers within the Army. Students further developed their practical skills through a hands-on engineering challenge, encouraging teamwork, problem-solving and resilience.

On Thursday, a group of students visited **Southend United Community Foundation** where they participated in a football taster session and gained an understanding of the range of post-16 courses available.

To conclude the week, we were delighted to host Caroline from **Doris Jones - Care**, who spoke with our Health & Social Care students about the diverse and rewarding opportunities within the care sector.

We extend our sincere thanks to all of our partners and visitors for their continued support in helping to inspire and inform our students as they explore future pathways.



## WELL-BEING

Childline Calmzone is great for young people and adults as it has excellent ideas and videos on how to help with anxiety, panic attacks or just to help you feel calmer in your day. Lots of young people have told us that the breathing exercise which is on this page (breathe in, breathe out – in time with the video) really is calming and helps a lot.

There are 5-minute mindfulness videos, the finger hugging one is good. There are lots of other great ideas on this page.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>



## Interhouse Competition

**GAME OF HOUSES**  
INTERHOUSE COMPETITION

# LAST PERSON STANDING

CATEGORY CHALLENGE



Each day students from ONE House will compete to go forward to the FOUR House challenge on FRIDAY

Running all week of 27th April, earn points for your House!

Mon - Dragon House – Drama studio  
Tue - Griffin – A034  
Wed - Pegasus – Drama Studio  
Thur - Phoenix – Drama Studio



## Earth Day

Wednesday was Earth Day! We recognised this by focusing on sustainable fashion to coincide with a Rubbish Fashion competition for South Essex College some of our students are entering.

We used their fantastic creations to inspire others to design their own eco outfit for a chance to win a goody bag. We also had word searches and bracelet making from plastic bags.



## SPORTS NEWS

# Super 1s



**ESSEX**  
Berkeley  
Foundation



**ALL DISABILITIES WELCOME**  
**AGES 8-16**

**FREE INCLUSIVE MULTI-SKILLS CRICKET SESSIONS**



**WHEN:**  
EVERY Friday  
5PM - 6PM

**WHERE:**  
Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre,  
Garon Park  
Eastern Ave,  
Southend-on-Sea  
SS2 4FA



**CONTACT:**  
 **BRADLEY DONOVAN**  
 [Bradley.Donovan@essexcricket.org.uk](mailto:Bradley.Donovan@essexcricket.org.uk)



**LORD'S TAVERNERS**  
Empowering young people through cricket

[www.lordstaverners.org/super1s](http://www.lordstaverners.org/super1s)  
Registered Charity No. 306054 | OSCR No. SCO46238

# Library Corner

Word of the Week:

*Hypothesis*

Noun

Meaning: An idea or explanation that you can test through an experiment or investigation.

This week's theme is: Earth Day

Key date: 22 April

Did you know?

- The Amazon rainforest has the highest biodiversity of all forests, but deforestation and rising temperatures threaten this ecosystem.
- In the earth's history, there have been five mass extinctions, when over 75% of species disappeared.
- Freshwater habitats make up less than 1% of the planet's surface, but they support nearly 10% of all known animal species.

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

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

Earth	P	V	H	W	S	D	O	R	W	N	R	I	E
Ecosystem	H	T	R	A	E	P	E	P	O	O	E	C	Q
Extinction	K	U	O	J	B	U	H	I	J	I	D	C	A
Habitat	D	H	L	V	S	I	T	O	E	T	U	X	N
Pollution	M	O	A	E	J	U	T	C	N	C	J	L	
Protect	I	E	V	Z	L	S	B	A	Y	N	E	V	M
Recycle	C	F	T	L	S	X	T	J	T	I	F	N	Z
Reduce	K	B	O	S	X	E	P	R	O	T	E	C	T
Reuse	U	P	B	H	Y	P	I	K	B	X	D	Q	U
Species	G	M	Z	I	H	S	C	N	E	P	F	K	
	E	F	S	N	L	Q	O	W	E	C	W	P	V
	E	L	C	Y	C	E	R	C	I	P	G	U	J
	X	N	O	S	W	M	N	Y	E	H	S	Y	Q



## 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

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We are looking for volunteers aged 14+ to help children take part in the Summer Reading Challenge 2026 in libraries in Southend during the summer holidays

INTERESTED? AGED 14+?

APPLY NOW AT: [www.southend.gov.uk/SRCVolunteer](http://www.southend.gov.uk/SRCVolunteer)

If you are unable to apply online, please visit your local Southend Library to collect a form. For further information, email: [librarydevelopment@southend.gov.uk](mailto:librarydevelopment@southend.gov.uk)

CLOSING DATE: 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE

Apply now to ensure the success of your choice!

Your local library needs you!

Would you like to volunteer at your local library? Are you 14 and over?

Come to the library to find out more information regarding the Summer Reading Challenge Volunteering opportunities .

Or apply online at

<https://www.southend.gov.uk/SRCVolunteer>

