



Southchurch High School

Friday 01 May 2026

The Southchurch Way

A community of opportunity, learning and aspirations

Issue number: 28

Message from the Headteacher

This week's Professional Learning Journey for teaching staff focused on *Questioning for Challenge*. The session explored how effective questioning can be used to deepen understanding, promote extended student responses, and increase the level of cognitive demand in lessons. Staff considered strategies for improving both the quality and consistency of questioning across subjects.

There was a slight change to our student assemblies this week. From Tuesday to Friday, our House Leaders — Miss Gingell (Dragon), Mr Winyard (Pegasus), Miss Clark (Phoenix) and Miss James (Griffin) — led assemblies with their respective house communities of students and staff. These assemblies focused on strengthening house identity, reinforcing key school values, promoting extra-curricular opportunities and celebrating student participation and achievements within each house.

I had the pleasure of attending the Jack Petchey Speak Out Regional Final at The King Edmund School on Tuesday evening, along with a number of colleagues. Lilian (Year 10) represented the school, delivering a confident and well-structured speech on equality for women. In a strong competition, she achieved 3rd place overall. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects her commitment and courage in public speaking. Well done to Lilian.

On Tuesday, we also welcomed a range of local employers and organisations into school for our Year 10 Careers Carousel, held during the first three periods of the day. Students rotated through a series of sessions, gaining insight into different industries, career pathways, and skills required in the workplace. We are extremely grateful to all visitors for their time and ongoing support, which provides our students with valuable real-world context.

On Wednesday, students in 9B took part in *The Big Idea Workshop* in collaboration with Dell Technologies. The workshop focused on developing technical vocabulary, critical thinking, and an understanding of social enterprise. Students worked collaboratively to explore how businesses can address real-world problems, helping to raise aspirations and develop transferable skills that link directly to future education and employment opportunities.

We were also very pleased to host a Year 8 STEM enrichment event delivered by *Science Made Simple*, supported by the Jack Petchey Foundation.

Students participated in two interactive shows designed to bring scientific concepts to life in an engaging and accessible way. Thank you to Mr Druce for organising the event and to Miss Marley and supporting staff for their contributions on the day.

Next week's Word of the Week is *justify* (verb): to give, or to be a good reason for. Please continue to support your child in using this word in context over the bank holiday weekend to help reinforce their learning.

Well done to all students who have completed GCSE practical examinations in Greek, Polish, Spanish, Performing Arts and Music this week. Good luck to all students taking upcoming GCSE examinations in Health & Social Care (Tuesday am), Citizenship (Thursday pm) and Sociology (Friday am).

A gentle reminder that we would be very grateful for any donations of clean, good-condition school uniform. Items can be dropped off at the Admin Office or handed in at Reception.

Finally, I hope you all enjoy the bank holiday weekend and we look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday.

Mrs Airoll
Headteacher

House Points



Menu

SWAN'S RESTAURANT		WEEK 2			
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Meal	Bank Holiday	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	Beef Burger In a Bun Or Halal BBQ Chicken Wings Served with Potato Wedges & Homemade Coleslaw
Vegetarian Meal	School Closed	Cheese & Onion Slice Served with Mashed Potatoes & Peas or Baked Beans	Vegetable Cottage Pie Served with Vegetables & Gravy	Vegetable Pizza Served with Garlic Bread	Vegan 1/4lb Burger In a Bun Served with Potato Wedges & Homemade Coleslaw
Jacket Potato with Cheese ,Baked Beans or Tuna Mayonnaise Available Monday – Thursday Small Pasta & Sauce Available Monday - Thursday					

Key Dates

04 May	Bank Holiday
12 May	Jack Petchey Awards Evening Palace Theatre - 6.30pm
14 May	Year 10 Parents' Information Evening 6.00pm - 7.00pm
22 May	Year 9 Imperial War Museum trip
22 May	Last day of term
25 May – 29 May	Half Term holiday
1 June	Students return to school

Work Experience Placements

Are you able to help us by providing a work experience placement from 6-10 July 2026?

We still have a handful of fantastic students who are eagerly looking for work experience placements in retail or hospitality – and we'd love your support in helping them take this important first step into the working world.

A short placement can make a huge difference in building their confidence, skills, and future aspirations.

If you run (or know someone who runs) a shop, café, restaurant, hotel, or any customer-facing business, and could offer even a few days of experience, we would be incredibly grateful. By saying yes, you're not just offering experience – you're helping shape a young person's future.

If you're able to help, or would like more information, please get in touch with us directly via message or email careers@southchurchschool.com

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

We were thrilled to attend the Southend and Rochford Regional Final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge 2026, where Lillian in Year 10 was representing Southchurch High School with her fantastic speech, 'A Woman's Clothing'.

Lillian spoke eloquently, clearly and with great passion and was awarded third place in the competition. This is such an amazing achievement and we are immensely proud of her. Well done Lillian!



"If you think you can, you can"

Year 10 Careers Carousel

On Tuesday, our Year 10 students had the opportunity today to take part in a Careers Carousel, meeting a range of employers, an FE college, and universities.

Students rotated between sessions to hear first-hand about different career and study pathways, helping to broaden horizons and spark ideas about their futures.

A fantastic opportunity to connect learning with life beyond school! We are so grateful to all of our partners and visitors for giving up their time to speak with our students.



Vending Machine

Our new healthier choice vending machine is proving popular!

Please bring in change if you would like to use this, prices are 60 - 80p. As always, fresh fruit is available from our canteen.

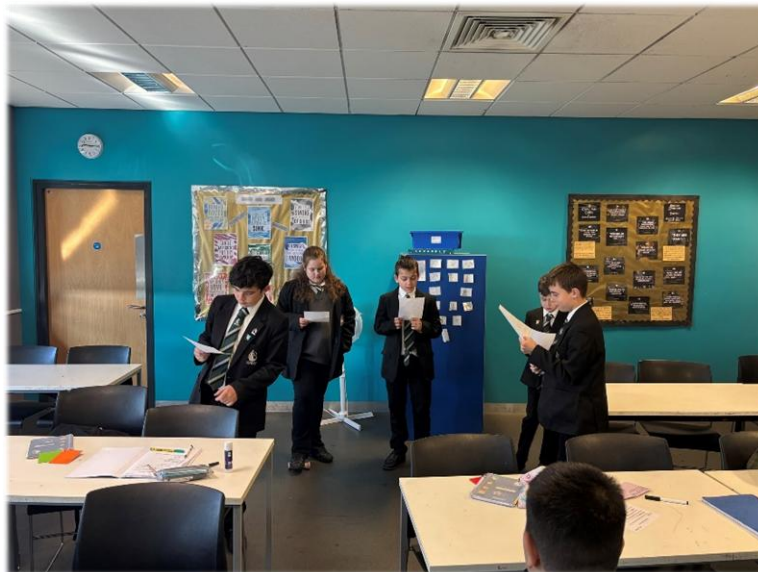


Year 7 English

This week, 7F have been learning about Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream in English.

Today they gave some fantastic performances as we acted out Act 1, Scene 1.

Well done 7F!



SEND

SEND News

One of the most important things for our students to be able to learn in the classroom is for them to have positive behaviours for learning. These help our students to access learning in both the classroom and at home.

In order to consolidate learning we ask our students to complete homework and revision at home. Here are some ways that may encourage positive learning behaviours at home.

The first way to encourage these positive behaviours at home is by helping your child to establish a daily routine for things such as homework or revision. Having this structure can help to improve focus and attention.

Setting clear expectations can help to promote the positive learning behaviours that your child needs to succeed, as well as encouraging them to take ownership of their learning.

Where possible, try to designate a quiet space for your child to study that is away from distractions which allows them to fully focus on their school work.

Finally, make sure you celebrate your child's successes both in school and outside of school so that they are motivated to continue with these positive learning behaviours.

Year 8 STEM Event

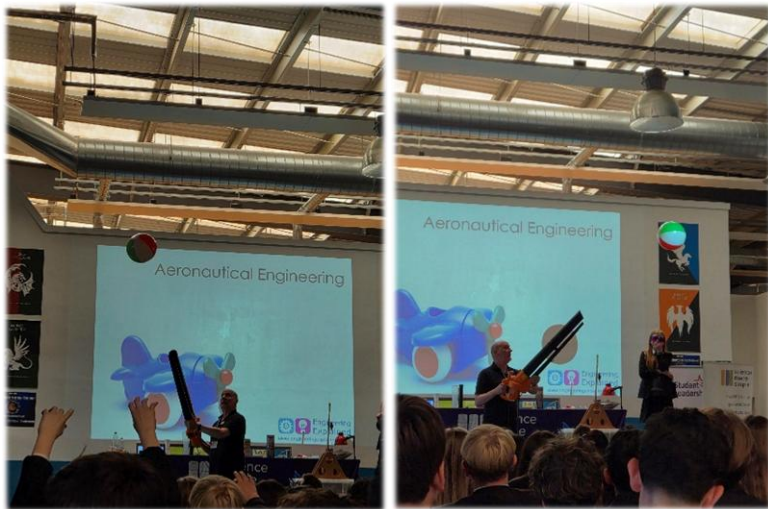
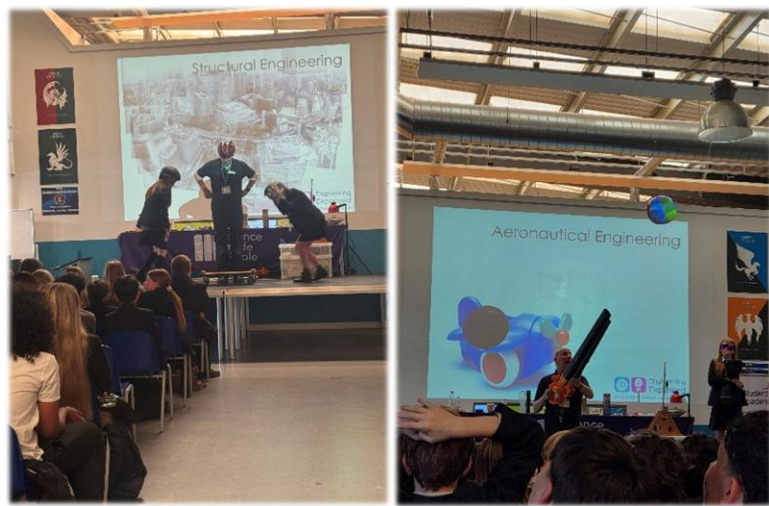
Year 8 pupils recently took part in an exciting STEM event led by David Price from Science Made Simple. The session brought science and engineering to life through two engaging and interactive shows.

The first show explored the electromagnetic (EM) spectrum, helping students understand everything from radio waves to gamma rays. Through demonstrations and clear explanations, pupils were able to see how different types of radiation are used in everyday life, making what can often be an abstract topic both accessible and memorable.

The second show, *A Rough Guide to Engineering*, introduced students to the world of engineering, highlighting how creativity and problem-solving are at the heart of the field. Pupils were encouraged to think like engineers, considering how designs are developed and how challenges are overcome in real-world situations.

Both shows were extremely well received by Year 8, who participated enthusiastically throughout. Their behaviour was exemplary, and they represented the school with pride. The event not only reinforced key scientific concepts but also inspired many students to think more deeply about future careers in STEM.

M. Druce Key Stage 3 Science Lead





kooth

Kooth is an online **mental wellbeing** community for young people

Here are some of the features young people can access on Kooth:

- 
Magazine
 The Kooth magazine shares personal experiences and tips from young people and our Kooth team
- 
Discussion Boards
 Young people can start or join a conversation with our friendly Kooth community, with lots of topics to choose from
- 
Chat
 Young people can chat with our helpful team about anything that's on their mind
- 
Daily Journal
 Young people can view their daily journal to track feelings or emotions and reflect on how they're doing

Kooth is an NHS approved online self-help service which offers free, confidential online counselling service for young people in Essex.

You will need to make an account online and/or download the App to access it. There are other activities on Kooth which you can join in, it isn't just counselling.

Take a look at their 2 minute video which will explain what Kooth has to offer: <https://www.kooth.com/video>

Students who have used this service have said it has been helpful.



Meaningful May 2026

MONDAY



4 Send your friend a photo from a time you enjoyed together

TUESDAY



5 Let someone know how much they mean to you and why

WEDNESDAY



6 Look for people doing good and reasons to be cheerful

THURSDAY



7 Make a list of what matters most to you and why

FRIDAY

1 Do something kind for someone you really care about

SATURDAY

2 Focus on what you can do rather than what you can't do

SUNDAY

3 Take a step towards an important goal, however small

11 Look around for things that bring you a sense of awe and wonder

12 Listen to a favourite piece of music and remember what it means to you

13 Find out about the values or traditions of another culture

14 Get outside and notice the beauty in nature

15 Do something to contribute to your local community

16 Show your gratitude to people who are helping to make things better

17 Find a way to make what you do today meaningful

18 Send a handwritten note to someone you care about

19 Reflect on what makes you feel valued and purposeful

20 Share photos of 3 things you find meaningful or memorable

21 Look up at the sky. Remember we are all part of something bigger

22 Find a way to help a project or charity you care about

23 Recall three things you've done that you are proud of

24 Make choices that have a positive impact for others today

25 Ask someone else what matters most to them and why

26 Remember an event in your life that was really meaningful

27 Focus on how your actions make a difference for others

28 Do something special and revisit it in your memory tonight

29 Today do something to care for the natural world

30 Share a quote you find inspiring to give others a boost

31 Find three reasons to be hopeful about the future



Library Corner



Word of the Week:

INTERPRET

Verb

Meaning: To decide the meaning of something.

This week's theme is: World Press Freedom

Key date: 3 May

Did you know?

- The novelist and journalist Daniel Defoe was sent to prison for his political writing.
- From 1275 until 2009, critics of the government in England could be prosecuted for "seditious libel."
- Julian Assange's visitors during the seven years he spent avoiding extradition in Ecuador's London embassy included Lady Gaga and Pamela Anderson.

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

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

Acting	F	Q	Z	M	E	R	A	C	J	C	W	N	M
Censorship	M	C	W	M	D	F	I	I	S	Z	E	W	O
Edit	D	R	E	N	T	I	D	E	M	W	S	Y	D
Freedom	I	H	O	N	S	V	E	Y	S	F	C	A	E
Journalist	L	L	S	V	S	Z	M	P	A	Z	W	I	E
Media	Y	A	K	I	I	O	A	S	V	R	E	C	R
Newspaper	S	G	C	B	L	P	R	A	Z	C	K	A	F
Political	K	B	I	I	E	B	X	S	I	H	C	C	X
Publish	P	E	S	R	T	Q	U	O	H	S	G	T	I
Voice	M	U	J	I	B	I	V	P	U	I	L	I	Q
	J	O	U	R	N	A	L	I	S	T	P	N	O
	H	Z	S	G	I	V	A	O	P	X	O	G	I
	M	A	C	V	R	A	Z	F	P	O	M	E	W

LIBRARY INITIATIVES

Your local library needs you!

Would you like to volunteer at your local library?

Are you 14 and over?

Come to the library during break, lunch or after school to find out more information regarding the Summer Reading Challenge Volunteering opportunities.

Or apply online at

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

Applications need to be in by

Monday 1st June 2026



Important Information

- 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

