

Parent/Carer Community Newsletter

22 January 2026 at 5.30pm

Welcome by Carol, Staff Governor, who explained that the evening would set out guidelines covering Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) and up-coming Year 11 exams along with some general information for Year 11 parents and carers.

PPEs, Important Dates and Exam Guidelines

9 March 2026 PPEs (Years 10 and 11)

GCSE Exam Dates - need to arrive by 8.30am – exam will start at 9.00am

14 May 2026	9.00am start – Maths non-calculator – 1 hour 30 minutes
22 May 2026	9.00am start – English Language paper 1 – 1 hour 45 minutes
3 June 2026	9.00am start – Maths paper 2 – calculator – 1 hour 30 minutes
5 June 2026	9.00am start – English Language paper 2 – 1 hour 45 minutes
10 June 2026	9.00am start - Maths paper 3 calculator – 1 hour 30 minutes

GCSEs Results Day 20 August 2026

Exam Guidelines

- No student is to leave the exam setting for the first hour of the exam and if a student removes themselves this will be the end of their exam- except for the toilet
- Please could you ensure your young person is dressed appropriately
- The following are NOT permitted within the exam room: hoodies, jackets, hats, scarves, watches and earphones/airpods
- Students are not allowed to communicate in any way with others once in the exam room and once the exam has started.
- Students are not permitted to use their notes in the exam room.
- Students are not permitted to walk around in the exam room.

Subject teachers (Maths and English) set out the format of GCSE exams and examples of past papers were available for information.

Maths

Paper 1	Maths Non- Calculator, 1 hour 30 minutes
Paper 2	Maths Calculator, 1 hour 30 minutes
Paper 3	Maths Calculator, 1 hour 30 minutes

English

Paper 1	Exploration in creative reading and writing 1 hour 45 minutes
Paper 2	Writers' viewpoint and perspectives 1 hour 45 minutes
	Non-exam assessment: Spoken Language

Year 11 students are currently working towards the following qualifications:

<u>Course:</u>	<u>Qualification:</u>
English Language GCSE	GCSE
Mathematics GCSE	GCSE
Mathematics GCSE	Entry Level GCSE
Functional Skills English	Entry Level GCSE
Vocational Studies	BTEC Level 1 Introductory to Vocational
ICT	BTEC Level 1 Introductory to ICT
King's Trust	Award, Certificate, Diploma

Post 16

Below are the remaining open evenings, however colleges might be open to tours if you contact them directly.

South Essex College – Southend Campus:	12 March 2026	5pm – 8pm
South Essex College – Thurrock Campus:	25 March 2026	5pm – 7pm
South Essex College – Centre for Digital Technologies:	10 February 2026	5pm - 8pm
South Essex College – Construction and Engineering:	3 February 2026	5pm – 7pm
TCHC Basildon – vocational courses	19 February 2026	10am – 2:00pm

A brief outline was given of the school's careers programme:

- The recent Industry Day was a success
- All students have the opportunity of a 1:1 meeting with Steve Cooper, Southend Careers Adviser
- Year 11 students should get in touch with the college after receiving GCSE results to follow up from the application and arrange enrolment – remember to include **all** qualifications.

Once applications have been made it is essential to check emails regularly as all communication from colleges/training providers will be via email and it is important not to miss any interview or taster day invitations.

Revision and Wellbeing

It is a difficult time and being prepared is the best way to navigate the GCSEs.

Cramming last minute does not serve a purpose, but revision from this point onwards supports the learning. Pupils forget 80% of what they learn if they don't revisit it within a week.

Why revision feels hard:

- Pupils often re-read or highlight, but that is passive.
- Real memory builds through retrieval, application and active engagement

What Works?

- Flashcards - quotes, key vocabulary.
- Mindmaps - what do you know? What don't you know?
- Teach somebody else- become an expert!

Useful Contacts

Exams Officer	Kirstyyoung@ymca.southend.sch.uk
Maths	KristianFullJames@ymca.southend.sch.uk
English	JoSayer@ymca.southend.sch.uk
Functional Skills	AgnesFrazer@ymca.southend.sch.uk
Safeguarding	DonnaMerry@ymca.southend.sch.uk
Careers	jeanholmes@ymca.southend.sch.uk
SEND	SabahWallace@ymca.southend.sch.uk

Useful Websites for English and Maths Revision

Functional Skills course:

<https://learn.passfunctionalskills.co.uk/login>

Log in details shared for maths revision platform- please contact KristianFullJames@ymca.southend.sch.uk for further information.

Maths:

<https://corbettmaths.com/>

<https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/>

Scroll through and log on to what you want to revise

Mathswatch: <https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>

Next meeting: Wednesday 17 June 2026