

SOUTHBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Our Vision: *Aspiration, Commitment, Excellence*

Our values shape our culture. They are:

Support – everyone needs support to achieve their best;

Challenge – everyone needs to be challenged;

Respect – we respect each other, our similarities and our differences;

Resilience – we know that success doesn't always come easily;

Relationships – we value each other and treat each other as we would like to be treated;

Responsibility – each of us takes responsibility for our own progress and achievement.

The School

Southborough High School is a non-selective academy school for boys between the ages of 11 and 16, and boys and girls post 16. The roll is 861, 138 of whom are in the Sixth Form.

Southborough High is a thriving school which provides a high quality of education in a happy and purposeful atmosphere. It is continually developing and improving and has a very good reputation locally.

Our OFSTED Inspection in February 2023 was very successful and catalogues a range of high achievement by pupils and staff. All applicants are invited to read the Ofsted Report which is available on our school website.

Leaders support staff with their workload and well-being. Staff appreciate the opportunities that they have for ongoing professional development.

The Location

The school is situated on the Hook Road (A243), south of Surbiton, close to the roundabout above the A3 Hook Underpass, known locally as the Ace of Spades. It is served by buses from Kingston, Surbiton, Tolworth, New Malden, Chessington, Epsom and Leatherhead. Junction 9 of the M25 is only a few miles to the south. The school is surrounded by pre and post war suburban housing estates with local parks and

recreation grounds making a pleasant environment. There is a parade of shops near to the school and 'business park' alongside the nearby A3.

The school has a positive and improving reputation. It enjoys strong relationships with the local community and excellent links with local industry. There is community use of the school in that our sports facilities, hall, canteen and classrooms are let regularly.

The Buildings and Facilities

Most of the school was built in the 1950s and exists in one integrated building servicing the needs of the whole curriculum. There is a large hall (with stage) and a separate cafeteria facility. There are two large gymnasiums with changing rooms and associated facilities. We have six Science laboratories, a Food Technology room and three more specialist Design Technology rooms including a preparation workshop. There are three remodelled Art Studios to provide an improved pottery facility and Sixth Form independent study area for Art. There is a Music Suite offering 20 Apple Mac computers and specialist rooms for Media Studies and Information Technology. The Information Communication Technology facilities have been recently refurbished. There is a full range of online resources, including a Virtual Desktop Interface, which enables staff and students to access the school's servers from anywhere in the world. There are interactive whiteboards in every classroom and a state of the art wi-fi network available for all staff and students to use.

Outside, the site includes two large play areas and parking for staff and visitor cars. We have nine acres of playing fields and all weather surface tennis courts which are a four minute walk from the school across the Hook Road. We are also pleased with our recently installed AstroTurf and cricket nets. The school owns two 16-seater minibuses which are regularly used by sports teams, for school journeys and to help links with our local feeder Primary schools.

The Staff

The school employs over 80 members of staff. With the increase in pupil numbers there has been an influx of new staff, creating a positive blend of more experienced colleagues with youth. Both Ofsted and Investors in People remarked upon the happy working atmosphere which is both supportive and collaborative. There is an active and experienced Senior Leadership Team, comprising of the Head, Deputy Head, Senior Assistant Head, three Assistant Heads and the Business Manager. Academic and pastoral matters are viewed coherently and the roles of the tutor, Head of Year and Pastoral Support Officers are pivotal to the process of developing the whole child.

Heads of Faculty lead curriculum areas along with the support of specialist subject teams. Heads of Year and Pastoral Support Officers provide a focus for personal development and academic progress. We are also fortunate to be served by an excellent Learning Support Team, led by our SENDCO, which includes a School Counsellor and many teaching assistants. There are also peripatetic tutors for a range of musical instruments.

The Support Staff play a crucial role in the organisation. There is the Head's PA, Office Manager,, a receptionist, an attendance officer a finance officer and a Website Administrator (all of whom work in the main school office), a librarian, two laboratory assistants, an ICT technician, an Art & Engineering Technician and a resources assistant who provides a comprehensive reprographics service to support learning. There is also a Site Manager and his assistant who maintain the good appearance and cleanliness of our site and buildings.

There is a great emphasis placed upon staff development. An up to date induction programme exists for all new staff (including newly qualified teachers).

Staff are also encouraged to contribute to the development of the school by joining taskforces in support of Priorities on the School Improvement Plan. Appraisal is fully operational in the school involving all staff. There is also an active staff social committee. Our supportive Governing Body includes two teacher representatives. There are three Governor Committees – Curriculum and Achievement, Children Families and Community, Resources Personnel and Finance. A Staff Handbook is published each year on line. It provides 'everyday' guidance on school policy. There is also a 'School Policy File' which is continually under review. All staff maintain and use a 'Teacher Planner' which is regularly monitored by line managers.

The Curriculum

Southborough provides a wide range of learning opportunities to suit students of all interests and abilities. The school places a high value on academic achievement whilst providing a challenging overall programme specifically designed to address the needs of boys. Raising the performance of boys is a key objective of the school.

Teaching and learning takes place via faculties: English & Drama, Mathematics & Computing, Science, Music, Art & Technology, Humanities, Modern Foreign Languages, SEN, PE and Business Studies.

Homework is expected of all students according to a published policy and annual schedule. The school uses the Show My Homework app to set and monitor homework.

A wide variety of extra-curricular activities is on offer. They are co-ordinated by teachers and all staff are expected to make a contribution according to their own interests and skills. This aspect of school life is welcomed and valued highly by staff, students, parents and governors alike.

Organisation of Pupils

Years 7-9

We are a 4 or 5 form of entry school. The normal range of National Curriculum subjects is taught. Most teaching takes place in mixed ability groups. PDT is delivered

via one lesson per week. There are extended registrations/tutor periods during the week, Year assemblies and Key Stage assemblies.

Years 10-11

All pupils take Maths, English, Science and Core PE. Students then make choices of a suitable curriculum involving a range of traditional GCSE subjects, BTECs and other non-GCSE courses which include the Prince's Trust xl club. GCSE results are steadily improving: 46% of boys gained grade 5 or above in English and Maths in 2022 and 2022 Progress 8 score was -0.2.

Years 12-13

The sixth form provides a stepping stone to Higher Education or work in a positive and supportive atmosphere. It is regarded as a privileged section of the school community. We are able to offer a wide range of AS and A2 level courses, and BTEC level 2 and 3 pathways in order to meet the range of abilities of students. In addition all students participate in PDT (tutorial) and enrichment activities. Sixth Form Mentors carry out a range of duties including providing help for younger pupils. In recent years all students wishing to move into Higher Education have been successful in achieving that aim; indeed, 80% of leavers in 2020 went on to Higher Education, while all other students went on to either further training or employment.

Communication

All students have three interim reports, in addition to an important Aspirations Day, and a main report each year. Parental contact is encouraged at all levels starting with the tutor.

The school has an effective website and active Twitter and Facebook accounts. There is also a weekly Griffin newsletter which serves to inform parents and pupils of more immediate events and activities for the forthcoming week. There are also open evenings; the annual Arts Exhibition; termly concerts; frequent drama productions and special curriculum and information evenings. There is also an annual Prizegiving and a school based awards scheme which credits pupils with Certificates for high levels of performance. There is a lively PTA called FOSH, Friends of Southborough High. The School Council is made up of student representatives from each tutor group, which meets twice a term.

Support

The academic and pastoral system in the school will provide excellent support and guidance. In addition, we are assisted by the services of an Education Welfare Officer, a School Counsellor, an Education Psychologist and a School Nurse. The Local Authority provides a School Improvement Partner inspector. New staff follow a full induction process in order to settle in, whether new or experienced in the profession, teacher or support staff.

THIS IS A SCHOOL GOING PLACES: COME AND JOIN US.
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