



SOUTH VIEW SCHOOL

SECONDARY

NEWSLETTER



WEEKLY ROUND -UP

Dear Parents and Guardians



Mr. Stuart
Head of Secondary

It has been a real privilege to begin the academic year as the new Head of South View Secondary School. Our students have made an incredibly positive start, and I want to take a moment to recognise how well they have conducted themselves, both in their behaviour and in their attitude to learning.

This morning, we held our first assembly of the year, with over 400 students filling the hall. It was a powerful moment and a reminder of just how far our school has come over the past five years. The assembly celebrated the outstanding GCSE results of our Year 11 students and gave us the chance to share our new school vision.

At the heart of this vision is a commitment to supporting every student towards *academic excellence* and *personal growth*. This will remain our focus not just for this year, but for many years to come. I could not be more excited to take on the challenge of helping each student achieve more than they ever thought possible, while developing the character, habits, and resilience that will guide them on their journey.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the students, parents and colleagues who have wished me well and shared positive feedback, it mean a lot. Wishing you all a happy and restful weekend.

JUMP AHEAD TO:

[Next week's schedule](#)

[Squads Updates](#)

[Specialist Updates](#)

SPECIALIST UPDATES

ACADEMIC UPDATE



Ms. Joanne McCue
Assistant Head of
Secondary - Academics



Dear Students and Staff,

Welcome back to a brand-new school year! I hope you enjoyed a restful break and return refreshed, ready, and excited for the opportunities ahead. I am delighted to be joining South View School and look forward to seeing each of you grow and succeed this year.

I am fortunate to be working with a dedicated team of Department Heads who are committed to supporting your children's academic journey and helping them flourish. As William Butler Yeats once said, *"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."* This year, let's keep that fire of curiosity and learning burning bright.

This year will bring new challenges, new goals, and new successes to celebrate. Our focus remains on academic excellence while nurturing creativity, resilience, and a love of learning. Remember the words of Nelson Mandela: *"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."* I encourage you to embrace every lesson, every discussion, and every opportunity as a step toward achieving your personal best.

PASTORAL UPDATE



Mr. Michael Macdonald
Assistant Head of
Secondary - Pastoral

I am honoured to take up this post and to build on the outstanding pastoral foundations that Mr. Macpherson has embedded here at South View. We are fortunate to have an incredible pastoral team, and I want to assure you that our focus is always on supporting students to become the very best versions of themselves—not second-class versions of anyone else. Every student's individuality should be recognised, valued, and celebrated.

As we begin this new academic year, my focus in these first few weeks will be on routines. Punctuality is essential, and I ask for your support in ensuring that students arrive to class on time each day. Lesson 1 begins promptly at 7:50am. To reinforce this expectation, we will be introducing a late detention each week for students who need to repay lost learning time due to lateness.

Uniform also remains a key part of our high standards. Students are expected to abide by the expectations laid out in the handbook. Appearance matters, and I would like to remind everyone that only one set of stud earrings is permitted. Bracelets, rings, and necklaces should not be visible during the school day. I understand that over the summer students have enjoyed the freedom of choosing their own style, but now that we are back at school, we expect full adherence to our guidelines.

Finally, as you know, we are moving towards a phone-free environment. If you would like to opt into this initiative, please ensure you have purchased a phone pouch for your child.

I am very much looking forward to working with you all in the months ahead. Together, we can ensure that our students feel supported, proud of who they are, and ready to thrive.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

6th FORM and CAREERS UPDATE



Mr. Carl Burgess
Head of Sixth Form

We are delighted to welcome back our Year 12 and 13 students as they begin an exciting new chapter filled with opportunities for learning, independence, and personal growth. This stage of their journey offers a chance to further develop their skills, embrace responsibility, and prepare for the future with confidence. A special thank you goes to Ms Quick and Mr Gavin for their invaluable support and guidance throughout this first week, ensuring a smooth and positive start for our Sixth Form. We look forward to seeing our Sixth Form community grow even stronger together in the year ahead.



CAREERS UPDATE

This year, all year groups will be exploring a wide range of career pathways and university opportunities as part of our commitment to preparing students for their future. From early career awareness to in-depth guidance, students will be supported in understanding the many routes available to them and the skills needed to succeed. For our Year 13 students, this term marks an important stage as they finalise their choices, allowing us to begin the application process together. We are excited to support every student on their journey and look forward to celebrating their achievements along the way.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

DATA AND ASSESSMENT UPDATE



Mr. Ryan Bladen

Assistant Head of Secondary
Data and Assessment

As we begin an exciting new academic year, I am delighted to be writing to you in my new role as Assistant Head of Secondary for Data and Assessment. I look forward to working closely with students, staff, and parents to ensure that our approach to assessment truly supports teaching, learning, and, most importantly, the progress of every student.

Our philosophy of assessment moving forward is clear: we will not assess simply for the sake of it. Instead, assessment will be purposeful, informative, and designed to provide meaningful feedback that helps students understand their next steps and enables teachers to tailor their teaching more effectively.

In the coming weeks, our **Year 7 students** will complete their **CAT4 baseline tests on Friday 12th September**. This is the only year group that will undergo CAT4 testing this year, as it provides us with valuable insight into each student's verbal, quantitative, non-verbal, and spatial reasoning abilities. The results give teachers an additional tool to support learning, plan interventions, and ensure that every child is both challenged and supported appropriately.

To ensure smooth running of the tests, all Year 7 students will need to bring their **laptop, charger, and headphones** on the day.

I am very much looking forward to the year ahead and to seeing how we can use assessment not only to measure attainment, but to genuinely enhance learning for all.

ENTERPRISE AND TECHNOLOGY UPDATE



Miss Elizabeth Charlton

Head of Enterprise and
Technology

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning students to SVS. A huge congratulations to our Y12 students on some excellent IGCSE and BTEC results, your hard work and dedication paid off.

I am incredibly excited for the launch of our new A Levels in Business, Economics and Computer Science. These courses offer our Sixth Form students fantastic options that have excellent progression into Higher Education and future employment opportunities.

As well as subject masterclasses, I am excited to announce a new ECA which is 'Marketing Masterclass'. This will be delivered by Miss Mariya aimed at our KS3 pupils who do not yet have the option to study business. This will give them a flavour of the subject and foster their creative and entrepreneurial abilities.

I look forward to the year ahead and to see our KS4 and KS5 learners flourish.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

LITERACY UPDATE

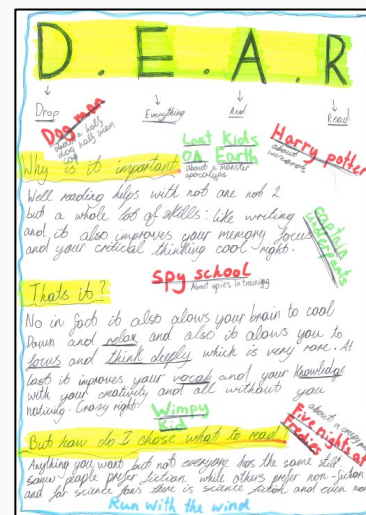


Mr. David Archibald
Head of English &
Literacy Coordinator

As we begin the new academic year, we are excited to continue building a strong culture of reading across our school. Literacy remains at the heart of everything we do, and we have a number of initiatives running to inspire, challenge, and support our students as readers and writers.

- **DEAR (Drop Everything and Read):** Each week, students dedicate time to reading. This week, they have also been writing book reviews and creating suggested reading lists to share with one another.
 - **Targeted Intervention:** Tailored support is in place for students who benefit from additional guidance to strengthen their reading and writing skills.
 - **Buddy Reading System:** Older students will be working alongside younger ones, helping to foster positive reading habits and peer encouragement.
 - **Literacy Thursdays:** Every Thursday during form time, students take part in literacy-focused activities to embed good routines.
- **The Oryx Oracle (School Newspaper):** We are delighted to relaunch our school newspaper as an extracurricular activity. *The Oryx Oracle* gives students the opportunity to develop their journalism, editing, and creative writing skills while contributing to a collaborative publication.
 - **KS3 Wide-Reading Programme:** Students in Years 7–9 are encouraged to explore a diverse range of texts, broadening their reading experiences and nurturing a lifelong love of literature.

We look forward to another year of celebrating books, sharing stories, and seeing our students grow as confident and enthusiastic readers. We also encourage families to support at home by talking about books, sharing your own reading, and helping students to make reading a regular habit.



ENGLISH UPDATE

It has been a pleasure to welcome students back for the new academic year, and I am excited to share with you some of the key focus and opportunities within the English Department this term.

- **KS3 Homework:** Students in Years 7–9 will continue with a structured homework programme, which includes weekly spelling practice, Quill online activities, and participation in our KS3 Wide-Reading Programme. These tasks are designed to strengthen core literacy skills and foster a love of reading.
- **Year 11 Coursework:** Our Year 11 students are now working on their coursework. It is important that they begin the year with a clear and organised approach, so we strongly encourage them to set up a personal study timetable to balance their commitments effectively.
- **English Breakfast Club:** From next Thursday, we will be running an *English Breakfast Club* for Year 10 and Year 11 students. This will take place every Thursday morning from 7:15am and will provide extra support with English skills in a relaxed and welcoming environment.
- **A Level English:** Our A Level students have made an excellent start, engaging enthusiastically with their set texts and beginning to develop the independent study habits that are so vital for success.

We are very proud of the commitment our students have already shown, and we look forward to supporting them as they continue to grow in confidence and ability throughout the year.

SPECIALIST UPDATES

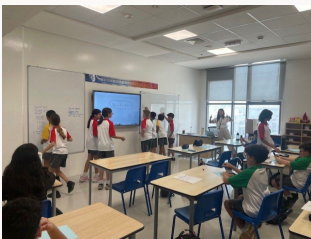
MATHS UPDATE



Ms Jo Griffin
Head of Maths

Welcome back! The Maths department is off to a positive start as we embark on a new academic year, all focused on developing students' progress and achievement in mathematics. We are thrilled to be back and excited for the journey ahead.

A special welcome back to our returning staff members, Ms. Hughes and Mr. Gaby. We are also incredibly excited to introduce the newest members of our team: Mr. Moodliar, Ms. Houston, and Mr. Afkhami. Their unique skills and passion will undoubtedly be a huge asset to the department, and we are delighted to have them on board.



Our Year 7 students have begun their high school careers with an engaging Inquiry task designed to sharpen their problem-solving skills. Following this, they've sat their baseline test, which will help us understand their current strengths. Next week, they will be placed into their permanent maths groups, ready to begin the core curriculum with Basic Number Skills. This approach will ensure a smooth and effective start to their high school education.

Meanwhile, our students in Years 8 through 13 have jumped straight into their schemes of learning with impressive determination. The Maths team has been impressed by the excellent attitude, enthusiasm, and effort from day one. It is this level of commitment that we believe will foster a genuine love of learning and lead to excellent progress for all students throughout the year..

Finally, a truly humongous congratulations to all the students who received their GCSE and A-Level results this summer. We were absolutely delighted to see the very good results you achieved in Maths. Your hard work and perseverance paid off, and we are incredibly proud of everything you accomplished.

Year 9 and Year 10 – Modular IGCSE for Mathematics

Last year Pearson Edexcel introduced a modular specification for the Maths IGCSE. Year 9 and 10 will now follow this specification. We've already begun working on **Module 1** with both year groups and have explained the key benefits of this approach:

- **Clearer Structure:** We know exactly what topics will be in each module.
- **Reduced Exam Load:** Students can sit exams before Year 11, potentially reducing their final exam stress.
- **Retake Opportunities:** Students will have the chance to resit modules to improve their grades.

The plan for each year group is as follows:

Year 10: The aim is to complete Module 1 and take the GCSE exam at the end of Year 10. They will then complete Module 2 and sit that exam at the end of Year 11.

Year 9: They will complete Module 1 and take the exam in November of Year 10. Module 2 will be completed in Year 11. The most able students in this year group may also have the opportunity to study for a **Further Maths** qualification.

If you have any questions about the modular IGCSE, please contact Ms. Griffin joanna.griffin@southview.ae

SPECIALIST UPDATES

SCIENCE UPDATE



Mr. Philip Mutton
Head of Science

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone back to a new term. As the newly appointed Head of Science, I am delighted to be joining such a vibrant school community and I am very much looking forward to the year ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back our fantastic science teaching staff, Miss Khanom and Miss Khan, who continue to bring so much expertise and enthusiasm to the classroom. We are also thrilled to introduce some new members of our team - Mr McCullough and Mr Bebawy, who will be teaching Physics, and Mrs Millet, who will be teaching Biology. Each of them brings a wealth of experience and fresh ideas, and we are excited to see the positive impact they will have on our students' learning.

This term, students can look forward to hands-on experiments and lots of learning opportunities to use their inquisitive skills. The energy and enthusiasm I have seen in this first week in lessons has already been inspiring, and I can't wait to see what our young scientists achieve this year!

Warm regards,

Philip Mutton

Head of Science

SPECIALIST UPDATES

ARABIC A UPDATE

السادة أولياء الأمور الأفاضل،
تحية طيبة وبعد،



Mr. Abdelhamed Kerba
Head of MOE Subjects.

يسعدنا أن نرحب بعودة أبنائنا الطلبة إلى عام دراسي جديد، راجين لهم بداية موفقة عامرة بالجد والاجتهاد، ومكحلة بالنجاح والتميز. لقد استهللنا هذا الأسبوع الأول باستقبال طلابنا والترحيب بهم، وتهيئتهم نفسياً للعودة إلى أجواء التعلم، كما أجرينا اختبارات قراءة تشخيصية للتعرف على مستوياتهم وتحديد احتياجاتهم التعليمية، إضافة إلى مراجعات سريعة للمهارات الأساسية التي تعزز تقدمهم في المقررات الجديدة ويسعدنا أن نعلمكم بأننا سنباشر تدريس المنهاج ابتداءً من الأسبوع القادم، حيث ستكون البداية مع نص شعري يتيح للطلاب توظيف مهارات القراءة والتحليل والتذوق الأدبي. وفي إطار التزامنا المستمر ببناء بيئة تعليمية فاعلة، فإننا نحرص على أن تكون هذه المرحلة الأولى من العام الدراسي منطلقاً نحو تعلم أكثر عمقاً وتفاعلاً، قائماً على المتابعة الفردية لكل طالب، وتعزيز ثقته بنفسه، ودعمه بما يحقق له أفضل مستويات التقدم. كما يسعدنا أن نرف إليكم خبر ترقية الأستاذة فاطمة بنافع لتولي محام رئيس قسم اللغة العربية في المرحلة الثانوية، متمنين لها التوفيق والنجاح في مهامها القيادية الجديدة، بما يسهم في تطوير العملية التعليمية والارتقاء بمستوى أبنائنا الطلاب. إن تعاونكم المستمر معنا ومساندتكم لأبنائكم يمثل ركيزة أساسية في هذه الرحلة التعليمية المليئة بالفرص والتحديات، ونؤكد على شراكتكم الفاعلة معنا لتحقيق الأهداف المنشودة.

مع خالص التقدير،
فريق اللغة العربية

ARABIC B UPDATE

Dear Parents,

Warm greetings,

We are delighted to welcome you and our students to a new academic year, one we hope will be filled with learning, progress, and success.

The first week was dedicated to orientation, where students became familiar with classroom routines and expectations, while also organizing their notebooks to prepare for the year ahead. In the coming week, lessons will begin in earnest, focusing on:

- Building vocabulary through new words.
- Studying essential grammar rules.
- Practicing a range of language structures to enhance communication.

We kindly ask for your support in encouraging your children to review their lessons regularly, as home reinforcement is vital to their success.

We are also pleased to announce that **Ms. Fatima Banafea has been appointed Head of Arabic in the Secondary School**, and we look forward to the positive impact her leadership will bring.

Together, with your support, we are confident this year will be rewarding and successful for all our students.

With sincere regards,

The Arabic Language Team

SPECIALIST UPDATES

ISLAMIC



Mr. Abdelhamed Kerba
Head of MOE Subjects.

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Dear Parents,

Warm greetings,

On behalf of the Islamic Education Department, we are delighted to welcome you and your children to a new academic year at South View School. We pray that this year will be filled with learning, growth, and blessings for all our students and their families.

We are pleased to announce that **Mr. Hossam Bekhiet has been appointed as the Head of Islamic Education in Secondary School**. With his dedication, experience, and passion for teaching, we are confident that he will continue to enrich our students' learning journey and further strengthen the department.

Throughout this academic year, our Islamic Education team will be working diligently to provide meaningful learning experiences, instill Islamic values, and support students in their academic and spiritual growth. We kindly ask for your continued partnership by encouraging your children to stay engaged, complete their assignments on time, and participate actively in class.

We look forward to a productive and successful year ahead, built on strong collaboration between home and school.

With best regards,

Arabic & Islamic Education Department

SOCIAL STUDY

أولياء الأمور الأفاضل،

تحية طيبة وبعد،

يسرنا أن نرحب بطلابنا في عام دراسي جديد، آمليين لهم التوفيق والنجاح، ومليين بالعلم والإنجاز.

نود أن نطلعكم على بعض المستجدات الأكاديمية:

سيتم تدريس مادة الدراسات الاجتماعية لجميع الطلبة الناطقين بالعربية في الصفوف من السابع وحتى العاشر.

كما سيتم تدريس مادة التربية الأخلاقية لجميع الصفوف حتى الصف الثالث عشر، لما تحمله من قيم ومعاني نبيلة تعزز شخصية أبنائنا الطلبة.

ويسعدنا أن نعلن أن الأستاذة إلهام بكري قد تم تعيينها رئيسة قسم الدراسات الاجتماعية على مستوى المدرسة، واثقين أن قيادتها ستسهم في إثراء تعلم الطلبة وتعزيز الهوية الوطنية.

في مادة الدراسات الاجتماعية نغرس معاً قيم الهوية الوطنية والعربية، ونطلق تحت شعار: "من المهارة إلى الصدارة".

وقد استمع طلابنا لرسالة صاحب السمو الشيخ محمد بن زايد آل نهيان، حفظه الله، التي هنأهم فيها بالعام الدراسي الجديد وبثت فيهم الدافعية وحب العلم، كما عبّروا عن امتنانهم بكتابة عبارات شكر.

كما استكشفوا خريطة الإمارات ومعالمها، وتعزفوا على محاور المادة ورسائلها المهمة.

ونغتتم هذه المناسبة لنهدي خالص التهاني إلى المرأة الإماراتية في يومها (28/8/2025)، فهي ركيزة المجتمع الإماراتي، ومبدعة في شتى المجالات، ومصدر فخر لنا جميعاً.

للاطلاع على الدروس، الأنشطة، والواجبات بشكل مستمر. Teams نذكركم بمتابعة منصة

نسأل الله أن يكون عامًا دراسيًا مثمرًا يحقق فيه أبنائنا التقدم والنجاح.

مع خالص التقدير،

SPECIALIST UPDATES

MFL UPDATE



Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick
Head of MFL

I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to a new academic year. I hope you and your families had a restful summer and are ready for the exciting opportunities ahead. Firstly, I would like to welcome Ms. Ana Castro to the MFL department who will be teaching Spanish to our students from Y8-Y12 and French to our Y7 students.

Secondly, last year was an exceptional one for the MFL Department. We are delighted to share that our GCSE students achieved outstanding results, with 100% pass rate and many achieving grades at the very highest level. These results are a testament to the students' hard work, resilience, and enthusiasm, as well as the ongoing support from parents/guardians at home.

This year, we are looking forward to building on that success. This year, we are excited to have our first-ever A-Level Spanish cohort. In our MFL lessons, students will continue to develop their confidence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, while also exploring the culture and traditions of French- and Spanish-speaking countries. Our aim remains to inspire a love of languages and to help every student achieve their full potential.

Thank you, as always, for your support. I look forward to another successful year ahead in MFL.

Mr. Fitzpatrick / Mrs. Gómez / Ms. Castro

PERFORMING ARTS UPDATE



Ms. Charlene Rock
Head of Performing Arts

Happy New School Year!

We have been excited to welcome back our classes into the Performing Arts Department this week after a long summer and are ready to get straight back into performing.

A huge congratulations to our GCSE students in Art and Drama for a fantastic set of results and we are sure that their success will continue as we begin our first ever cohort of A Level students in Art and Design with Ms. Sweeney and Drama and Theatre Studies with Ms. Rock.

This year will see another first with our Year 11 GCSE Music students completing their exams lead by Mr Themis as well as some other fantastic opportunities for our instrumentalists and singers.

We have some exciting plans for ECAs this year as well as a Secondary School Musical for all year groups. Keep your eyes peeled for announcements coming soon!



I would like to welcome Josephine Parker to the team. Ms. Parker brings a wealth of experience in Drama and Art from the UK as well as the UAE and is keen to get stuck in with our Drama students in yr 8-10 and our Art students in yr 7-8. Ms. Parker has been impressed with her classes so far and is looking forward to meeting the rest of our SVS community.

Performing Arts UPDATES

- Band ECA will start next week – **Tuesday 2nd September, 2025**
- Choir and Junk Kouture will begin the week **of Monday 8th September**
- School Musical details will come out soon- please look out for more information next week.

Arts Faculty ECAs

Term 1

2025/2026

Day	Lunchtime	After school
Monday	(NS) – Prop/Set - show – invite only Show rehearsals – invite only (JP)	Show rehearsals- invite only (JP and CRO)
Tuesday	Band (TGO) Junk Kouture (NS)	
Wednesday	Choir (CRO and Tessa)	Show rehearsals – invite only (CRO)
Thursday	Band (TGO)	

don't forget to



FOLLOW US ON
INSTAGRAM!

@artsatsvs

PE UPDATES



Ms. Michelle Rowcliffe
Head of Department -
Secondary

It has been fantastic to see the students back in action this week and we look forward to the sporting year ahead.

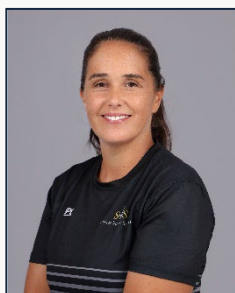
This term we will be focusing on football and volleyball in Years 7, 8 and 9. Years 10 and 11 will be participating in fitness training in the new gym as well as a selection of team games each week. Year 11 GCSE PE students will be focusing on fitness testing in their practical lessons to form the basis for their coursework and the year 10 GCSE PE students will be refining their netball skills.

Mrs Michelle Rowcliffe



PE & SQUAD UPDATES

INTRODUCTION



Mrs. Sonia Teodoro
Director of Sport

Ms. Michelle Rowcliffe

Head of Department -
Secondary

Dear Parents and students,

I am delighted to welcome you to a new and exciting sporting year at SVS. Sport is an integral part of our school community, and we are committed to providing every student with opportunities to develop their skills, build resilience, and experience the joy of teamwork and competition.

This year, we are proud to continue expanding our sports provision, offering a wide range of activities and competitions that cater to all levels of ability and interest. We are also excited to see our students represent SVS in local and international events, where they will not only showcase their talents but also embody the spirit of our school. None of this would be possible without your continued support and encouragement, for which we are truly grateful.

I look forward to celebrating many successes with you throughout the year, both on and off the field.

PE Uniform Expectations

Please ensure that students come to PE lessons in the correct PE uniform, including proper footwear. For safety reasons, **jewellery of any kind (including earrings, watches, and bracelets)** must not be worn during lessons. Thank you for your support in helping us keep students safe and prepared for active participation.

TRIAL SESSIONS

SWIMMING TRIALS

FRIDAY, 5TH OF SEPTEMBER
7AM

Boys and Girls
Year 7 to Year 10

JOIN NOW

Further information with the PE department

SOUTH VIEW SCHOOL

SQUAD TRIALS

U12 & U14 Girls Football - 01/09/2025, 7am, Astro. (Y7 to Y9)
U16 Boys Basketball - 01/09/2025, 7am, SMPH. (Y10 & Y11)
U16 Boys Football - 02/09/2025, 7am, Astro. (Y10 & Y11)
U16 Girls Basketball - 02/09/2025, 7am, SMPH. (Y10 & Y11)
U12 & U14 Boys Football - 03/09/2025, 7am, Astro. (Y7 to Y9)
U16 Girls Football - 04/09/2025, 7am, Astro. (Y10 & Y11)

What to bring:

- PE kit, suitable shoes and water bottle.
- Normal school uniform (to change afterwards)

don't forget to
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SOUTH VIEW SCHOOL

www.southviewschool.com

admissions@southview.ae

+971 04 589 7904