

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Southend High School for Boys crowned Regional Champions in first student esports tournament**

**14 March 2018** Having battled it out at the regional qualifiers yesterday, it was Southend High School for Boys who came out on top in Kingston. Now the team prepares to compete in the Grand Final of the Digital Schoolhouse Esports Tournament, which is both a competitive gaming and careers education event taking place during the London Games Festival.

Students from Southend High School for Boys (SHSB), joined four other teams from schools across the UK in Kingston, using Blizzard's popular game, Overwatch, to compete for the coveted prize of Regional Champion.

Year 10 students, Harry McDonagh, Adam Gayner and Daniel Blerkom came together to form the victorious team. They commented on their win, saying: "The event was exciting and we're so thrilled to have won at the regional finals. We'll need to keep practicing and working hard for the next stage, though. We're looking forward to the national finals!"

This event ran in parallel to three other regional qualifiers that took place this week across the country, and SHSB now joins the winners from each to battle it out head-to-head at the Grand Final, taking place at Gfinity's London arena, 11 April 2018.

Organised by Digital Schoolhouse, the education programme run by the games industry trade body, Ukie, and powered by PlayStation, the tournament allowed students from the SHSB to meet professionals in a variety of roles within the sector, promoting the importance of computing skills and the wealth of careers available in games.

With powerful sponsors behind the initiative and this event in particular, students and spectators will be given the chance to hear from PlayStation, SEGA, Blizzard, ESL Esports, Warwickshire County Council, XMA-Viglen and Creative Assembly, about why they are getting involved.

Jude Nzemeke, Digital Schoolhouse lead teacher at SHSB said: "The esports competition has provided a superb opportunity for students across all key stages to work together with so much cohesion. Thank you Ukie for providing this platform!"

Shahneila Saeed, programme director for Digital Schoolhouse, said: "SHSB has done well to get to the top of the regional qualifiers in Kingston, but there's more stiff competition to come at the Grand Final in London!"

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“It’ll be a great chance for students to network, improve their teambuilding and problem-solving skills and learn more about the many careers available within the games industry. And we have some great sponsors behind us to share their expert knowledge!”

To register interest in becoming a Digital Schoolhouse, please complete the application: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6CBPBR7>

For more information about the next esports Tournament, visit [www.digitalschoolhouse.org.uk](http://www.digitalschoolhouse.org.uk)

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