



Southend High School for Girls

An Academy Grammar School

Southchurch Boulevard, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 4UZ

Headteacher: Mr J Carey MEd (Cantab), BA (Hons), LLE, NPQEL

19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

SHSG Closure

Further to the Government announcement yesterday, we are writing to inform you that Southend High School for Girls will be closed **from the end of the school day on Friday 20th March 2020** until further notice. This is for all pupils except for children of frontline key workers and for those in various vulnerable categories. Following the Government's urgent guidance on social distancing, unless you are a frontline key worker, I am afraid the school will not be able to offer your child school-based learning and that all work will be done online.

The Secretary of State for education, Gavin Williamson, announced along with the Prime Minister that:

- Schools will be closed from Monday, 23rd March 2020 until further notice.
- Schools will stay open for key workers' children and for those in various vulnerable categories.
- A Level and GCSE examinations will not take place, but that 'children will get the qualifications they need.' The 2020 performance tables will not be published.
- There will be a national voucher system for children eligible for FSM.
- Ofsted is suspending inspections.

School leaders met with Year 13 and Year 11 today to reassure them as best as possible about next steps. As soon as we have information and some clarity from the Government about grades and places at University, we will inform you. We are particularly mindful about the wellbeing of these students; they have worked incredibly hard and shown commitment and a passion for their subjects. Every member of staff is very proud of them.

In order that we can plan staffing and keep students safe, you will receive a survey to ascertain how many pupils we will need to accommodate in school if their parents are key workers and need to send their children to school. We require this information by 12pm on Friday 20th March. We are currently waiting for clarification on the definition of 'key worker' from the Cabinet Office. We also anticipate that both parents/carers will need to be key workers. With this in mind, if your contact details or address has changed, please inform office@shsg.org as a matter of urgency.

I hope that you, your friends and loved ones are well and coping in these challenging times. My team of staff and I will continue to update you. On behalf of the SHSG family I wish you and your families good health and best wishes in this challenging time.

Kind regards,

Jason Carey
Headteacher

Telephone: 01702 588852

Email: office@shsg.org Web: www.shsg.org

Registered in England Company No: 07487455

Southend High School for Girls is the trading name of Southend High School for Girls Academy Trust

