



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

1st May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I hope that you are well, keeping safe and continuing to cope as a family with the challenges of lockdown.

Thank you for completing the online survey. We have had 279 parent responses and 564 student responses. We will be issuing a separate survey for Year 11 and Year 13.

A summary of the questionnaire responses

Students:

- The responses were equally distributed amongst each year group.
- The majority of students have access to a laptop (496), with iPad (285) and desktop (210). Some obviously have access to more than one device. 118 students only have access to a mobile phone.
- The significant majority (344) are following their school timetable.
- The significant majority have established a workable routine, albeit with some difficulty in coping with the challenges of lockdown. 197 are enjoying the independence and have good routines and no difficulties.
- Teacher-student communication is mainly through email (547), Microsoft Teams (196) and Video tutorials (150). Most have a combination of these teaching and learning methods.
- As well as the standard workbooks and worksheets, the types of learning mainly comprise: PowerPoint (543), Web-based platforms (450), and then videoed lessons by teachers (165).
- The significant majority either strongly agreed (186) or agreed (364) that the work was challenging enough. 8 disagreed and 5 strongly disagreed.
- Feedback on assignments from teachers is a combination of whole class and individual responses.

Parents:

- The responses were equally distributed amongst each year group, although Year 7 with 78 were the best!
- Parents reported that, similar to students' responses, the majority are coping quite well and have organised their days to get a good balance of work, rest and exercise (197). However, some parents reported that their child has found some difficulties with home learning and lockdown.
- The significant majority of parents (over 250) reported that their child is receiving the right amount of challenging work.
- All parents reported that their child has access to a computer, or other device, albeit there are many sharing devices at home.
- 94% of parents are happy with the communication we have sent out during lockdown.

I would like to thank all of you for completing the questionnaire and for engaging in learning so well in such challenging circumstances. Furthermore, I would like to thank your teachers for providing such high-quality learning experiences and resources from their homes whilst also looking after their own families.

Clearly, students find it easier to have videoed lessons or even live lessons through platforms such as Microsoft Teams. As evidenced in the questionnaire responses, many teachers are doing this; it is not possible for every member of staff, but where live lessons are taking place we have provided guidance for staff and students. You should find that live lessons are conducted mainly through Microsoft Teams, and on occasion Zoom.

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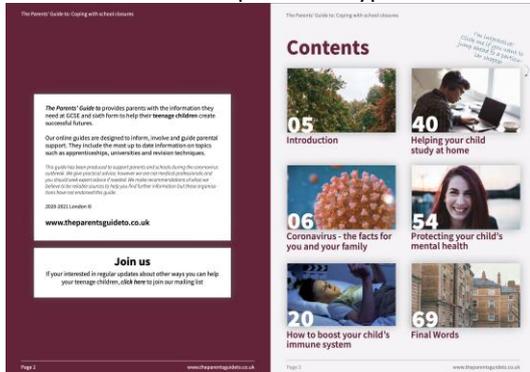
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The questionnaire responses reveal, unsurprisingly, that the lockdown is not an easy situation to cope with. We will continue with our weekly wellbeing checks with students and parents. Please see below the link to the parents' guide to coping with school closures. The picture is hyperlinked to the website.



Next steps

We should hear next week from the Prime Minister when the programme for schools' re-opening will begin. Once we are clear about the number of weeks left, we can then review current home-learning practices. SHSG staff are, however, currently working on our *lockdown legacy*. We are thinking about learning points from the past few months and what we would like to continue doing. The lockdown has been a catalyst for exploring online learning platforms and different ways of communicating and keeping the SHSG family spirit strong, even during school closure. Please let us know what you think would be good practices to carry forward.

Year 7 and Year 12 induction

Year 6 and Year 11 students have the exciting prospect of starting a new chapter in their educational journey in September 2020! We have planned a wealth of activities, information and even tasks to help in this transition for September. We look forward to sending you this information in the next few weeks. I know that all the staff are very much looking forward to seeing the Year 11s in their Sixth Form uniform, ready for the start of their A Level journey at SHSG.

VE day celebration – 8th May 2020

Please remember that Friday, 8th May 2020 is a Bank Holiday. This is a day off for you and the staff setting, marking and completing work! SHSG has continued to stay open, including bank holidays, for key workers' children. Please continue to respond to the key worker emails from school if you need provision for your child.

Lower School Work schedule

Please find attached to this email a schedule of work for years 7-9. We thought that it would be useful for you to have this in one place.

My family and I are still trying to find a routine – it's not easy! I have had to order better games via Amazon, although Monopoly still seems to be popular in our house! We continue to enjoy the weekly 'Clap for NHS Carers' at 08:00pm on Thursdays. It is amazing how quickly a feeling of community is created. On our street, we now have lots of houses with bunting, which of course will work well when marking the 75th anniversary of VE Day; and we now even have someone that entertains us with music on their piano! Perhaps such community events in your areas could provide some inspiration for students for our next Gazette?

Keep safe.

Yours sincerely,

J. Carey
Headteacher

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