



# 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

15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Following the Prime Minister’s announcement last Sunday explaining the Government’s ambition for Year 10 and Year 12 to have some ‘face to face support’ after half term, I sent out an online survey to ask SHSG families to share their questions, views and ideas. Thank you for completing the surveys. Your responses will be considered carefully when the Senior Team and I, in the early part of next week, plan the details of what a return to school could look like.

I thought that you would be interested to see some of the key data emerging from the survey and perhaps how these resonate with your own views and standpoints.

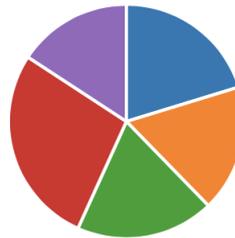
### Survey analysis

Over 400 families completed the online survey. Each question resulted in over 200 comments; for reasons of confidentiality I have not included the comments.

Which year group is your child in?

[More Details](#)

● Year 7	81
● Year 8	70
● Year 9	76
● Year 10	110
● Year 12	63

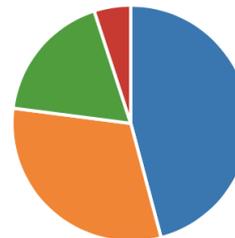


Many families have concerns regarding COVID-19 and sending their child back to school.

I have concerns about the health risks of starting back at school before September 2020

[More Details](#)

● Strongly agree	184
● Agree	125
● Disagree	72
● Strongly disagree	20



Parent comments mainly show concerns around travel, social distancing in school and PPE availability in school. Some parents did comment on the need to get students back into school as soon as possible due to their wellbeing and for exam preparation.

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The significant majority of parents have concerns about travelling to school via public transport.

I have concerns about my child using public transport to get to and from school

[More Details](#)

Strongly Agree	221
Agree	89
Disagree	55
Strongly disagree	32

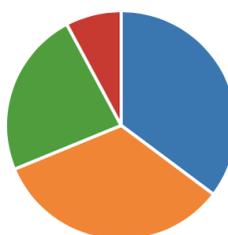


The majority of families expressed concerns about lunch and break times and would be willing to provide a packed lunch and avoid queuing for food in the school canteen.

I have concerns about my child queuing for food at lunch and break times in the canteen

[More Details](#)

Strongly agree	140
Agree	133
Disagree	93
Strongly disagree	31



I would be happy to provide a packed lunch so that my child does not need to queue for food at break and lunch time

[More Details](#)

Yes	383
No	17



### Conclusions

1. Many families consulted have concerns about returning to school.
2. Many families have concerns about travel arrangements using public transport.
3. There are questions raised by parents about the purpose of re-opening and what learning would look like as a result of the restrictions that would need to be put in place (reduced movement, small class sizes, different mixes of students populating classes compared to the usual timetable, possible shortage of specialist teachers in some subjects etc).
4. Parents are concerned about Year 10 and Year 12 learning and preparation for next year's examinations.
5. Parents raised questions about years 7-9 learning experiences if they do not return to school until September.
6. Parents commented on the impact on mental health and wellbeing caused as a result of lockdown.

I may be right in saying that these findings are not surprising. The quicker we get our young people back to school safely, the better. No type of remote learning can replicate learning in school, not to mention the wealth of opportunities and extra-curricular activities that schools offer beyond the classroom.

I will share our provision model next week; we hope to gain more granular detail for secondaries from the Department for Education soon as well. The most likely scenario, considering staff and parent views, is that Year 10 and Year 12 will be in small groups alongside continued home-learning provision.

Safeguarding the health and wellbeing of students and staff will continue to be our priority.

Years 7-9 will continue to be taught remotely. Last month, parents and students kindly completed a survey about remote learning. I shared the analysis and findings from the questionnaires but wanted to inform you that we are also working on ideas about developing this provision further.

### ***EP Languages Championship 2020***

Even though students and staff have been extra-busy with the demands of lockdown, this hasn't stopped the Languages Faculty from entering and winning competitions! SHSG is currently 1<sup>st</sup> in the UK and 4<sup>th</sup> globally, competing against hundreds of schools worldwide in French, German and Spanish. Well done!

### ***Year 11 and Year 13***

This week would have been our official 'goodbye' to Year 13 and 'see you in Year 12' for Year 11s, seeing them start their A Levels and GCSEs. Firstly, I am pleased to inform you that your teachers are ahead of schedule and have completed the grading process along with our departmental and Senior Team checking process. Secondly, on behalf of everyone in the somewhat empty SHSG building, but well-populated SHSG Family, I would like to wish you all the very best – and hope that you continue to enjoy our videos!

Stay safe!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Carey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jason Carey  
**Headteacher**