



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

5th June 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

You will by now have received the letter sent to all parents on 1 June 2020 from Public Health England advising that an individual at Southend High School for Girls has recently been diagnosed with Tuberculosis (TB). They are receiving treatment and are no longer infectious. PHE have identified specific cohorts of staff and students to be tested and have informed them. If you have any queries, please telephone the TB service on 01702 546251, as mentioned in the email and letter sent out earlier this week.

PHE have requested the school site to be used for screening and testing during the week commencing 15 June 2020. This, of course, was the week when years 10 and 12 were to return to school. As a result, we have had to move this date back to the week beginning 22 June 2020.

Although we have lost a week in this way, added to the fact that the Government have stated that only 25% of years 10 and 12 can be in school at any one time, we still want to offer some high-quality provision in school.

I wrote to you last Friday, 29 May 2020, the day after the Prime Minister announced that years 10 and 12 would return to school on 15 June. I asked if you would complete an online questionnaire to help us in planning the logistics around numbers entering the school site each day, as well as timetabling staff and rooms. Thank you for completing this survey. 77% of Year 10 and 75% of Year 12 stated that they would like to return to school.

In my letter last week I referred to the following Government guidance, which sets out a range of measures to protect children and staff: [Guidance for secondary school provision from 15 June 2020](#).

Following this guidance and completing a robust risk assessment, we have put a provisional plan in place for face to face teaching for Year 12 and also for core and some option subjects for Year 10 for the week commencing 22 June 2020. Please email the school with your child's name if you wish them to attend school. Year 12 should be emailed to: sixthform@shsg.org and Year 10 should be emailed to: cpxon@shsg.org. In this way, we can try to ensure that the provision is as personalised and purposeful as possible.

The guidance for students returning to school states that clothing should be washed at the end of each day. In the questionnaire there was an even distribution of responses preferring non-uniform, uniform, and having no strong opinion. Therefore, to make things easier for parents, students can wear non-uniform. This must be smart and professional. They may wear school uniform if they wish, but do not need to wear a blazer (or tie for year 12).

Over the past week, the news has focused on the Black Lives Matter campaign, calling for 'sustainable transformation in communities'. As a school, it is not our role to be political, but it is our responsibility to educate and to respond to current affairs reaching beyond the curriculum, especially if we believe that events could impact on our students' and families' lives.

Telephone: 01702 588852

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

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We recognise that some of our students may be going through a tough time and therefore wish to do three things. Firstly, to recognise that recent events could very well have impacted on you. Secondly, on a pastoral level, to offer support. We are there for you if you need us. And thirdly, on an educational level, to help you to consider and respond in an intelligent and informed way. Essentially, we will do our best to keep you safe, happy and successful as our three guiding principles state.

With this in mind, I invite parents to read the email on Monday 8 June, which will be sent to your child's year group by their Head of Year. I also remind students to be very mindful about expressing their opinions on social media sites. Many schools across the country have expressed concern about students making themselves vulnerable in this way and we want to safeguard our students at SHSG.

I wish you all a good weekend.

Stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Carey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Jason Carey
Headteacher