



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

12th March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

We have now reached the end of the first week back after lockdown, and I am pleased to report that students' return this week has gone to plan. Well done and thank you to staff, students and parents.

All year groups appear to have settled back into being in school and engaging in face-to-face learning. Over a thousand parents gave their consent to the lateral flow testing, and students had had two tests before their first day back at school. Apart from years 7 and 8 who receive their third test on Monday, all other students will have now had three tests.

On Monday (and Tuesday for years 7 and 8), form tutors will distribute the LFT home testing kits to students during registration. Each student will have enough tests to last for the Easter holidays and one home test on return to school. We will provide a simple way for you to inform the school of your child's result. Along with the staff team, I have been using the home testing kits; the process is straightforward.

Parents' Evening

Thank you to parents for your positive feedback about Year 9 Parents' Evening; we are pleased that the process worked well for you. Year 10 Parents' Evening on 24 March 2021 will use the same online platform.

Year 11 and Year 13 Centre Assessed Grades

Early next week we will lead assemblies sharing the details of our CAG programme. The Senior Team and directors of faculty have spent time looking at the best way to operate a teacher assessed grade system. Yesterday, I attended an online meeting with all the secondary headteachers across Essex, where colleagues shared their ideas. We are confident that we have a system that is fair, stress-free, and provides students with the opportunity to achieve the best grade they can attain. A separate letter containing the details will be sent to Year 11 and Year 13 parents and students next week.

Visiting speaker

We are delighted that Alison Kriel will be joining SHSG students and the Senior Team on Thursday, 18 March 2021. Ms Kriel will be working with school leaders and our Inclusion and Diversity Group, supporting, and challenging us as we aim to deliver best practice and be a beacon of excellence in inclusion and diversity. Ms Kriel's website can be found [here](#) if you are interested to learn more about her.

Health and Safety reminders

I politely remind parents not to park their cars outside the school gates as they drop off or collect their children from school. Some cars have blocked the entrance to school.

As part of our risk assessment and health and safety planning for the return to school, we have followed government guidelines [Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and have stated that students must wear face masks, unless medically exempt. The guidance is clear and sets out a set of actions that schools 'must' take. They are grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection':

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Prevention

You must always:

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the school.
- 2) **Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances.**
- 3) Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.

By following this system of controls, we will effectively reduce risks in school and create an inherently safer environment.

In secondary schools, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. Face coverings do not need to be worn by pupils when outdoors on the premises. In addition, face coverings **should be worn in classrooms** or during activities unless social distancing can be maintained.

We have stated that students not wearing face masks either due to medical exemption or strong parental objection wear a lanyard. This provides a clear system of controls for staff. It also reduces risk as staff do not need to address students not wearing masks in communal areas where conversations with a 2m distance could be difficult.

Please be aware that failure to follow school procedure will result in behaviour points for the student. Lanyards are non-negotiable.

Remote learning during self-isolation

In the instance where students may need to self-isolate, we will now be reverting to provision for remote learning that was in place prior to lockdown. This means that any student who is self-isolating will have work set for them on Teams or SMHW which may include 'live' lessons where appropriate and relevant to do so. In addition, these students will have a live morning registration via Teams and a well-being check at 3.35pm with their tutor via Teams.

Teaching staff will not routinely be posting detailed lesson breakdowns on Teams for students who miss lessons for appointments or short illnesses.

UCAS success

Following support and weekly meetings from SHSG alumni, we have received two further offers of Medicine at Russell Group universities for Year 13 students. Congratulations!

Well done again on a successful return to school. I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey
Headteacher