



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

26th March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I write to inform you about school updates and to provide recent information from the DfE.

Secretary of State's Letter

The Secretary of State for Education has today written to children and young people to recognise the impact of the disruption they have faced over the past year and to thank them for their resilience. He outlines his continued commitment to supporting children and young people to recover from the disruption now that they have returned to school.

The letter also highlights the importance of coronavirus (COVID-19) testing and the vital role this plays in helping to prevent the virus spreading. The Secretary of State's letter can be found [here](#).

Hares about town

Students have engaged in the local 'Hares About Town' charity for Havens Hospice. It is a 'spectacular public art event in partnership with Wild in Art that will weave its way across Southend on Sea from July for 10 weeks in 2021.' Each faculty has been responsible for a Hare sculpture. The decorated hares will join others, individually designed by a local artist, and sponsored by a business.

Eventually, the sculptures will be auctioned to raise vital funds for a local Havens Hospice charity. More information about this charity initiative can be found [here](#).

Year 11

This week there has been a growing sense of excitement and realisation around what will soon be the culmination of Year 11: Form groups have taken photos in the school grounds as part of yearbook preparations and the prefects are organising the orders of leavers' hoodies. This is not just about exams, but the celebrations that will follow.

The Year 11 Team met to discuss ideas for the final day (Thursday 20th May) and have agreed that we want to plan something really special that recognises students' achievements and contributions to SHSG over their time here. On the final day, we hope that students will continue the traditions of decorating their blazers, selfies by the school sign and spending some quality time together in their forms and as a whole year group throughout the morning, before being dismissed at lunch. More information about the plans will be coming after Easter.

Please note that on Monday 19th April, we have a professional photographer visiting the school to take portraits for Year 11 and a whole year group photo as well.

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Year 11 and Year 13 Exam Board Assessment Timetable

Year 11 and Year 13 have now been sent their EB1 and EB2 assessment timetable. GCSE and A Level students have been positive in their feedback about our approach to *Teacher Assessed Grades* and have continued to work hard preparing for the EBs. Good luck - we are confident that you will do well.

Year 7 PUPS

Well done to Year 7s for completing your examinations this week. These are, of course, the first experience Year 7 have had of examinations in a grammar school. We call them PUPS – performance under pressure, as they help students to consolidate their learning, and to build their examination preparation skills and resilience, ready for future GCSEs and A Levels.

New timings for the end of the day – summer term

When students return after Easter, we will be changing the end of school times to the following:

YEAR GROUP	LEAVING TIME
Year 10 (usual exit) Year 7 (coming out of the small gate by sixth form rather than the students' entrance)	<u>3:20PM</u>
Year 9 and year 8 (usual exit)	<u>3:25PM</u>
Years 11, 12 and 13 (usual exit)	<u>3:30PM</u>

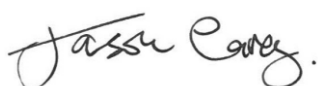
The staggered end times have worked well throughout the year. Still working within our risk assessment and COVID-19 health and safety guidelines, we have made slight adjustments to the end of school timings to give students more learning time during Period 5.

NHS Heroes

Well done to all students and staff for raising money on the non-uniform day today in recognition of the incredible work of the NHS!

On behalf of all the staff, I wish you an enjoyable Easter break, and look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday, 12 April 2021.

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey
Headteacher