



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

16th July 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

This is my final weekly letter of the year. I have included the usual updates and information, but will begin with a brief message of reflection and thanks to you all. I have broken down other key information such as the start of term, for example, into a few attachments for ease of reference.

In my office I have a book about SHSG's illustrious history, full of stories, news reports, photographs and quotations from students and staff going right back to one of the first school birthday celebrations! Looking back at SHSG's one hundred and seven years' history, there are a number of momentous occasions that the school has experienced. Reading about life in school during 1914 – 1918, and 1939 – 1945 is fascinating. It feels like we are now writing a new chapter together, the Great Pandemic 2020 – 2021.

I am certain that, just as we look back with fascination about life for SHSG in the war years, in a hundred years' time I want future students, parents and staff to understand the courage, commitment and levels of care demonstrated by our school and community – our SHSG Family.

Our students have demonstrated commitment and resilience and responded brilliantly to the disruption of self-isolation and the challenges of remote learning. Our staff have been dedicated and tenacious and showed the lengths they will go to, ensuring that we deliver on the promises set out in our principles that students are safe, happy and successful. Our parents have supported us on this journey through their regular messages of encouragement and appreciation. They have helped with home learning and been patient and empathetic in the two busiest periods of self-isolation pre-Christmas and in June. Receiving regular words of appreciation from parents and students had a significant and positive impact on staff. Throughout the pandemic this year we have been a great team together; our school has met the challenge of the Japanese proverb: *'fall seven times, stand up eight'*. 7回落ちる、8回立ち上がる. Well done!

The new school year

The new school year begins, for pupils, on **Monday 6th September**. We do not know exactly what the start of term will look like but our intention is that all pupils will be able to start, together, on the first day. I have included in this email the initial programme for the first week. Things may change as we progress through the summer. I will continue to keep you informed and updated throughout August as and when more information is provided by the Department for Education (DfE).

The Department for Education has advised secondary schools that every pupil will need to have been Covid-tested before returning to the classroom. This may take place on-site in the days before the start of term. There could instead be a phased return to school. We are working with Public Health (Southend) and the Local Authority, with further meetings scheduled to take place during the holidays, to establish how this testing might best be facilitated. Keeping students and staff safe, we really hope that the start of term will be as much a return to normal as possible. Parents can expect to receive a letter, in due course, from the school to confirm these details.

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SCHOOL



Test kits

Students have been given test kits with 7 tests in each box. They need to use four tests for the next two weeks. This is because we are required to continue to track and trace students until Thursday 22nd July.

The remaining 3 tests are to be used the week before returning to school.

If parents require test kits for the rest of the summer holidays they can be obtained from local pharmacists and some community centres such as Libraries: [Find a rapid lateral flow test site in your area - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/covid-19/rapid-lateral-flow)

Programme for the first day (subject to DfE directive on on-site lateral flow testing)

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
8.00-8.30	Arrival					Arrival	
8.30-9.00	Registration					Registration	
9.00-10.00	Assembly					Tutor time	
10.05-11.05	Tutor time					Assembly	
11.05-11.25	Break	Arrival				Break	Arrival
11.25-12.00	Tutor time	Tutor time				Tutor time	Tutor time
12.00 -12.25	Lunch	Remote whole school assembly					Remote whole school assembly
12.25-1.25		Lunch					
1.25-2.25	Tutor time						
2.25-2.30	Movement time						
2.30-3.30	Period 5						

Tutor group bases

Please find attached tutor group bases for September. On return to school on 6th September 2021, students (not Year 7 and Year 12) will go directly to their tutor base.

Let's Do London campaign

Congratulations to Matilda who was asked by the London Mayor's Office, along with her family, to join Sadiq Khan in launching the *Let's Do London* campaign. The campaign includes a month of free art activities planned for Trafalgar Square in August. Matilda joined the National Gallery in a photo shoot to launch the *Family Friendly* activities and helped to paint a skyline of London. Information about the campaign and activities can be found [here](#).

Kung Fu in the holidays

The CEO of Meridian Kung Fu (UK), Sifu Steve Carpenter, has written to offer SHSG students free session vouchers during the summer holidays to help keep students active and hopefully prepare them for a positive return to school in September. I have attached the details to the email.

Attachments with this week's letter

Please find attached in the email the documents below.

1. FAQs for the start of term
2. Tutor group bases
3. Pastoral Team updates for September 2021
4. Parent calendar and a list of important dates
5. Kung Fu invite!

Today, we said farewell to some of our colleagues as they are leaving for new adventures either in their career or personal life. We are sad to say goodbye to Rachel Hill, Lena Servis, Becky Foster, Charlotte Garnham, Andy Barnett, Sarah Dowie, Helen Hodson, Rebecca Harvey and Kerry-Anne Collins.

On behalf of everyone at SHSG I would like to wish them all good health and much happiness for the future.

Again well done for your superb commitment and work throughout this year. Have a lovely summer!

Yours faithfully,

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

Jason Carey
Headteacher