



# 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 October 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

## House Assemblies

The House System has been an important part of SHSG for many years and past students visiting the school are always keen to say which house they belonged to. This year we have decided to develop the whole concept of the houses further. House assemblies are timetabled into the assembly rota each half term. House Captains and a member of the Senior Team lead the assemblies, celebrating achievements with year 7s to Year 13s together. Each house assembly starts with its own inspirational song! As the year progresses, we will build in musical performances and other ways to celebrate student talents and achievement.

Our new rewards system is linked directly to the houses with rewards points going to the houses. In the summer term there will be a day trip for the winning house. I look forward to sharing more on the houses throughout the year. We hope that, especially after a year of isolation and year group bubbles, this focus on the houses will bring students together and help to build our family ethos.

House assemblies this half term:

Date	House	House Captains
Tues 12 Oct	Artemis	Megan O and Sydney W
Weds 13 Oct	Aphrodite	Martha C and Esther O
Thurs 14 Oct	Athene	Lizzie B and Keziah Q
<i>Next Week:</i>		
Tues 19 Oct	Aurora	Ella C and Erin D
Weds 20 Oct	Hera	Georgia W and Sophie E
Thurs 21 Oct	Hermes	Mkiyah P-G and Ebonie-May B

## Matilda – Years 7 & 8

On Wednesday and Thursday this week a cast of Year 9 students, along with sixth form musicians, performed the abridged version of the West End musical, *Matilda* to Year 7 and 8 students. Mr Peugniez directed the show and was thrilled by the performances and commitment the students gave. This had begun as way of bringing together a group of Year 9 students and musical theatre enthusiasts. Some of the students involved have previously performed in professional shows, and others had demonstrated a passion for theatre, setting up a Musical Theatre club at SHSG. The Musical Theatre club will relaunch after the half term for Years 7-9.

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Over the last two years there have been several cancelled shows and lost opportunities; *Matilda* is part of reviving what has always been a thriving performing arts culture in school. Indeed, this week's performances demonstrate just what high-quality musicians, actors, and performers we have at SHSG. Well done to all the students and staff involved!



### ***National Biathlon finals***

On Saturday, 16 October five students are competing in the National Biathlon finals at Bath University. We wish Skye, Jasmine, Charlotte, Grace and Chloe lots of luck with their events and congratulations on making it to the final!

### ***Remote provision reminders***

Parents may find the reminders below helpful if your child is absent:

- If your child is self-isolating, normal remote provision will be made available.
- If your child is absent with COVID, work will be made available in the Microsoft class Team and/or SMHW, allowing your child to work independently if they are well enough to do so.
- As per our policy, teachers will post work when it is convenient for them to do so; this might be later in the day due to teachers having full teaching days. Work will be followed up once your child returns to school.
- Your child has been asked not to contact their teachers directly asking for work as it is unmanageable for teachers to be able to reply individually to all the emails they receive during a full teaching day. Your child should continue to check their class MS Teams and SMHW regularly for posted work.

If you have any significant concerns, please contact the relevant Head of Year in the first instance. We ask for your support with this as we are continuing to learn day by day as new issues arise with COVID.

### ***Public Health England information***

Please find a joint letter to parents of secondary school and college students in England on COVID-19 testing and vaccines from the Secretaries of State for Education and for Health and Social Care [here](#). COVID Vaccinations are taking place on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 for those students whose parents have requested them. A separate letter will be sent to parents on Monday with the relevant details.

### ***Lateral Flow Tests***

Your child will get another pack of LFTs in school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October which will last them for the next three and a half weeks, taking them up to Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**Parents' Association Christmas Puddings**

Back by popular demand, the PA will be offering you the opportunity to purchase their Ultimate Christmas Plum Puddings and Ultimate Sticky Toffee Puddings. All proceeds raised will go to the Parents' Association, which in turn will support the school. Information on how to order can be found [here](#).

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

Yours faithfully,

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