



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

Friday 8 October 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Year 7 & 8 Colour Run - Monday 4th October

On Monday of this week, Year 7 and Year 8 students participated in the Colour Run. The event was an excellent example of the SHSG family in action, with the lower school led by sixth formers. All students went home covered in red paint, having had an action-packed day.



Parents' Information Evenings

Over the past few weeks, we have run a series of evening events for parents as their child embarks on a new stage in their journey at SHSG. The Year 7 Introduction to Grammar School, Year 10 Introduction to GCSE, Year 12 Introduction to The Sixth Form and A Level evenings have been very well attended; it was also refreshing to be able to invite parents into school, talk face-to-face and not deliver information via Zoom. A key message running through all the events was the ambition we have for our young people and the high value placed on partnerships between school and home to get the best experience and outcomes for your children.

Once we have completed all the information evenings, we will put the slides and handouts on the school website. Please see details of each evening below.

Year 7 Parents' Welcome to Grammar School Evening

Thank you to Year 7 parents for attending the *Welcome to Grammar School Evening* on Monday 4th October. We received very positive feedback and it was great to see parents in school for this event. The evening included an

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introduction from myself and Tami our Head Prefect, plus information on the curriculum from Mr Boney, Curriculum Deputy Headteacher, and all the Directors of Faculty. The Pastoral Team were also involved, sharing information about pastoral systems, safeguarding, and how parents can help to keep their child safe online with social media platforms. The second Year 7 Parents' *Welcome to Grammar School Evening* for tutor groups 7D, 7E, and 7F will be held on Monday, 11th October. Parents have already received a letter regarding this via email.

Year 10 and Year 12 Introduction to GCSE and A Level – Wednesday 6th October

Again, thank you to Year 10 and Year 12 parents for attending these events. Parents received information about the courses, had questions answered on studying for GCSE and A Level examinations, and were signposted to how to support their child over the next two year journey to examinations.

Nuclear Races Year 12 – Friday 8th October

Building on the success of the Year 13 day, and from the Year 12 Information Evening, Year 12 had their chance to go to the Nuclear Races Activity Centre today for their team building event. Just like the Year 7 colour run team building day, we hope that this has helped Year 12s to get to know each other and to build friendships for the next two years.



National Talent Camp Success

We are proud to announce that one of our Year 11 students, Michelle A, has been selected for the NTC Women's Under 16 football training camp at Loughborough University during October half term. We want to share how proud we are of this achievement and wish Michelle the very best in this programme.

Non-Uniform Day – Wear yellow for Young Minds!

Friday 15th October is a non-uniform day in support of *Young Minds*, a mental health charity for children. More young people than ever before need support for their mental health and accessing that support quickly can make a critical difference. As a school we are fully behind *Young Minds'* mission to see a world where no young person feels alone with their mental health. The strong message from *Young Minds* is that if all young people can get the mental health support they need, when they need it, we can stop an emerging mental health need becoming a crisis.

Students must comply with non-uniform day dress code, but we would also like students to wear an item of yellow clothing in support of *Young Minds*. This is open on ParentPay with a £2 donation. More information about *Young Minds* can be found at www.youngminds.org.uk.

Black History Month

Our Equality and Diversity Team have been engaged in lots of work already this half term. Congratulations to Head Prefect Tami and her team this week delivering inspirational assemblies, including a powerful piece of poetry. The assembly and a recording of the poetry reading will be uploaded to the school's website.

Communication

We encourage parent engagement and feedback with the school and appreciate parents taking time to contact us. The school receives huge volumes of emails and calls to staff, so would politely request that parents are mindful that staff are teaching, and support staff have equally very busy roles to ensure that smooth running of the school. Therefore, it is not always possible to get a reply instantly. Moreover, we have a policy in school that emails are not sent after 6:00pm or at the weekends, and therefore would appreciate parents' consideration of the timing of emails. We thank you for your patience and cooperation with this matter.

Lateral Flow Tests

Please be advised that we were due to receive a delivery of LFT test kits last week, but they have not arrived. If your child has run out of test kits that they can obtain them free of charge at their local chemist.

I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Yours faithfully

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

Jason Carey
Headteacher