



# 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

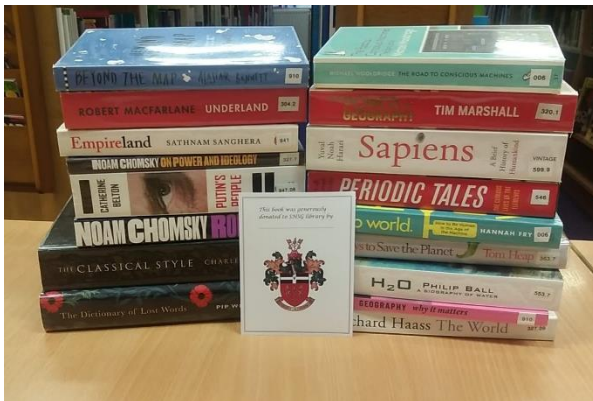
10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

### **School Library - Amazon Wish list**

Thank you to everyone that has so far bought books for the school library. A reminder that the list is held on Amazon but, of course, there are other excellent booksellers, or you may be able to source a good second-hand copy. We are not fussy; we would just like to add these books to our shelves. Click the link [here](#) to see the whole list. You will see there is a “buying this item elsewhere” button which will take the item off the main list, if this is what you choose to do. Please include your name in the ‘this is a gift’ option and we will add a book plate to recognise your generous gift to the school. Of course, if you prefer, you can be a ‘Secret Santa’ and send your gift anonymously. We are so grateful for your generosity.



### **Year 9 PUP Exams**

Well done to Year 9s for their excellent work in the Performance Under Pressure (PUP) examinations.

Part of the challenge this week was for the Year 9 students to practise sitting the examinations in the proper examination hall and to follow the protocols that will apply when they sit their GCSEs and A levels. Mr Boney and Miss Trevena were both extremely impressed with the way that the whole year group stepped up to this additional challenge. The hope is that now they have sat examinations in this format, they will find the next time easier and, before long, formal examinations will be second nature to them.

Parents will receive a PUP results report after Christmas and an EDPM. Both will be useful in helping to choose GCSE options. In January, Mr Boney will provide parents and students with more information regarding the option process. However, if you wanted an overview of how the options process will work you can find it on the website link [here](#).

Telephone: 01702 588852

Email: [office@shsg.org](mailto:office@shsg.org) | Web: [www.shsg.org](http://www.shsg.org)

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### ***A Level Subject Fair***

Year 11s enjoyed a very well organized and presented subject fair, run and led by sixth form subject captains. The event was held in the Assembly Hall where subject captains from a range of A level courses presented information about their subjects. Year 11s were able to ask questions and see examples of high-quality work. The feedback from Year 11 was very positive. More information will be provided to help Year 11 make their A Level choices. In January, students will be guided through the process of choosing their A Level subjects for Year 12. Last year's Year 11s all secured their first choices as a result of this process.

### ***Christmas Concerts***

Thank you to Miss Ryan, Mr Peugniez, Mr Lodge and all the students for putting on such a successful and festive Winter Concert. There was great support on both nights from staff, parents, families, and friends. We all enjoyed a wide range of musical performances, including the Year 7 tutor group Christmas songs, led by sixth form music captains, ensembles, big band, and Novum Consort.

I would also like to thank the Parents' Association for all their work in organising the raffle, refreshments, mulled wine, and Christmas puddings.

### ***Christmas Lip Sync Battle***

The House Captains have organised several events in the run up to Christmas. Thank you to them and Mr Cannon for organising this year's Christmas-themed lip sync battle. In particular, I would like to thank Esther O and Keziah Q for hosting both events, along with Ella C as the main organiser of the event.

There was a great deal of talent on stage, not forgetting Mr Cannon, Mr Peugniez, and Miss Trevena! The event is always particularly successful as it is led by students and, of course, stars students. In the lead up to Christmas, it was a lovely way to bring different year groups together. Crowd participation singing Christmas songs was also impressive!

I would like to congratulate the Science Faculty for their winning performance of a Christmas medley! All money raised from this event will be donated to HARP, a local charity to support people sleeping rough in Southend. Students have also been encouraged to collect donations for the local foodbank. These items will be transported to the foodbank at the beginning of next week in time for Christmas.

### ***Christmas Jumper Day***

Christmas jumpers had their special day today, including mine. Thank you to everyone for supporting this fund-raising initiative for [Save the Children](#). We have currently raised £1,150. Further donations can be made via Parent Pay. Congratulations to Mr Andrews for wearing the most impressive staff Christmas jumper. His jumper design presents Rudolph sporting an SHSG scarf!

### ***Reminder Buses on last day of term***

Stephensons Bus Company and Maymist Coaches will pick up from school at the normal time on the last day. Please complete the form [here](#) by Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December if your child needs to stay behind in order to catch their bus/coach at the end of the day. They will be supervised by staff until this time and must stay on site. *Please note that you do not need to complete the form if your child travels home by other means of transport.*

### ***Reminder return to school testing in January***

The Department for Education have informed schools that all students will need to test for COVID-19 before returning to school. Therefore, we plan to organise **testing on site on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. Parents may choose, however, to test their child at home instead.

If you would like your child to come into school on the above days to undertake their COVID test, please complete the form [here](#) by Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Alternatively, as stated above, students can test at home and register results online via Test Register in the usual way.

We emailed information to parents and students at the start of the week about arrangements for the first week back in January. Information is attached to this email and the letter can be downloaded from our letter library on the website [here](#). The key information from the letter is included below:

Monday 3rd January 2022 is a bank holiday.

The Department for Education have informed schools that all students will need to test for COVID-19 before returning to school. Therefore, we plan to organise testing on site on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th January 2022:

- Years 7-9 on Tuesday 4th January 2022 (KS3)
- Years 10-13 on Wednesday 5th January 2022 (KS4/5)

Students in Year 11 will be in lessons and 13 will be undertaking their PPEs on Tuesday 4th January and Wednesday 5th January. On those two days Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will have work set to undertake at home. Please note that there will be no live lessons on these two days. **On Thursday 6th January 2022 all students will return to school.**

### ***C2C Travel***

Following the recent government announcement in relation to the Omicron Variant and the re-introduced restrictions on public transport, the Head of Security at the C2C have asked us to communicate with our community and relay the expectations in terms of how students should travel and behave when using the service. Students currently travel in the same 2 or 3 carriages along with members of the public. Whilst social distancing is not a requirement, this can bring students into conflict if not wearing mask – which is a requirement. The C2C ask that students support the service in utilising all the carriages and that movement between carriages are restricted to a minimum. The C2C also expect students to wear face masks and comply with government advice.

### ***Remote provision – snow days***

We thought it prudent to plan and communicate in advance for any potential snow days. Wherever possible, we will keep the school open. However, in the event of a school closure due to snow, parents will be informed by text and on the school website. Remote provision will be provided as follows:

1. On the first day of closure, work will be provided on Teams and/or Satchelone for students to complete independently. There will be no live lessons or live registrations.
2. From day two, usual remote provision, as per our school policy for a national lockdown, will take effect.
  - All students will have a 'live' morning registration via teams with their tutor at 8.35am; there will be no 'live' check in at the end of the day with tutors.
  - A blended approach to remote teaching will take place which may include 'live' lessons where appropriate and relevant to do so via Teams, but as a minimum, starting off and ending a lesson 'live'.

Any student requiring support with being able to access remote provision should ensure that it is brought to the relevant Head of Year's attention.

### ***Christmas holiday – Free School Meals***

We have just received notification from Southend Borough Council that they will be funding Free School Meal Vouchers for the Christmas holiday period. Please look out for these vouchers which will be emailed to you directly. You will receive a £30 voucher for each qualifying child. If you have any questions, or any difficulties in opening or accessing the vouchers, please contact Mrs Croysdill in the Finance Office who will be happy to assist.

### ***Key dates – the week ahead***

I have attached a flyer that we will produce regularly and send with my weekly letter. The flyer will contain key dates of activities/events that are taking place in school. I hope that you find this useful.

Yours faithfully



Jason Carey  
Headteacher

## **Information for all education and childcare settings on implementing Plan B of the COVID-19 Response:**

### **Autumn and Winter Plan**

On Wednesday 8 December, the Prime Minister announced the implementation of [Plan B of the COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan](#), to reduce pressure on the NHS. Plan B sets out a number of additional measures across society to control transmission of COVID-19.

The Government is clear on the critical importance of not disrupting the education of children and young people and the Government will prioritise keeping all education and childcare settings open. The measures set out below will support this.

### **Attendance**

School attendance remains mandatory and all the usual rules continue to apply. Enabling children and young people to attend their education setting regularly continues to be a national priority. As usual, schools are able to grant leaves of absence for pupils in exceptional circumstances.

### **Face coverings**

Face coverings should be worn by pupils and students in year 7 and above (which would be children who were aged 11 on 31 August 2021), staff and visitors in communal areas, unless exempt. This is a temporary measure. Pupils and students in year 7 and above in these settings must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school, college, or higher education provider. We do not recommend that pupils and staff wear face coverings in classrooms, unless their Director of Public Health advises them to temporarily do so in one of the circumstances described in the [Contingency Framework Guidance](#).

### **Wrap around provision**

Schools and early years settings should continue to offer their usual before and after-school activities, including wraparound childcare. These activities provide valuable childcare for working parents and carers and promote the wellbeing of children and young people.

### **Working from home**

We expect all education and childcare settings, including further and higher education providers, to continue to provide face-to-face teaching, and staff should continue to attend their place of work if required in order to deliver this. Teaching and learning should not be moved online as a result of the work from home guidance. Following expert clinical advice and the successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine programme, people previously considered to be particularly vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), and high or higher-risk are not being advised to shield again.

Children and young people previously considered CEV should attend their setting and should follow the same [COVID-19 guidance](#) as the rest of the population. In some circumstances, a child or young person may have received personal advice from their specialist or clinician on additional precautions to take and they should continue to follow that advice.

### **Testing**

We strongly encourage all those involved in education and childcare settings to continue regular testing (LFD not PCR) and reporting their results, and to encourage pupils and students in year 7 and above to test and report their results.

Settings are strongly encouraged to ask parents, guardians and other visitors to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test before entering the setting.

### **Isolation**

All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will continue to be required to self-isolate and asked to book a PCR test.

The Government plans to introduce Daily Contact Testing as soon as possible as an alternative to self-isolation for contacts of positive Omicron cases who are fully vaccinated or under the age of 18 years and 6 months.

### **January return**

We have recently asked all secondary schools to provide an on-site test for pupils on return in January. Testing in school helps to boost participation and will help reduce transmission after a period of mixing over the holidays.