



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

14th January 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

A Level Taster Day

On Wednesday 12th January, Year 11 students sampled five A Level lessons instead of their usual timetabled lessons. This is the final part of the programme of activities to support students in selecting their A Level subjects.

You may be interested to learn about the types of activities involved in the taster lessons, especially as younger year groups will experience these types of lessons in the future. Students engaged in A Level sessions that included: discovering imaginary numbers in Further Maths; investigating the independence of horizontal and vertical motion in Physics; completing a challenging A Level titration practical in Chemistry; analysing the different use of language between genders in English Language; studying research methods in Psychology; and producing products to a design brief in Design Technology - as well as many other exciting and challenging activities.

Thank you to all the staff members involved in the planning and delivery of the day.

Before the end of this month, Year 11 students will select their A Level subject choices that we will use to build our timetable for next academic year. We hope Year 11 students have found this day and all the activities to prepare them for A Level useful.

Sickness and appointments during the school day

A polite reminder that parents and students are expected to adhere to the school's policies at all times. If you are contacted because your child is unwell during the school day, as stated in the school's attendance policy, you must please collect your child from school within a reasonable timescale. We are unable to allow students to stay in the medical room for the day as they would be unsupervised. If your child has an appointment during the school day, a written request to your child's Pastoral Support Officer three days in advance of the appointment is needed. Students in Year 7-11 must be collected from reception by a parent/carer. Years 12-13 may leave unaccompanied. A full copy of the school's attendance policy can be found on our website [here](#).

Year 12 Virtual Parents' Consultation Evening

Parents of Year 12 students will have been sent a letter regarding the Year 12 Virtual Parents' Evening this week. A copy of the letter with full instructions on how to book can also be found on our website [here](#).

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Message from the Parents' Association

We would like to thank everyone who provided items for the Christmas hampers last year, which were a huge success. If you have any unwanted Christmas presents that would be ideal for raffle prizes this year, please ask your child to drop off at the PA table in reception or alternatively contact SHSGparaffle@gmail.com. Your ongoing support is much appreciated.

The Platinum Pudding Competition

Fortnum & Mason are holding a competition to invent a Jubilee Pudding for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The winning pudding will be an important part of the celebrations marking Her Majesty's 70 years as Monarch. Find out how to enter this competition [here](#).

Key dates

The calendar on our website is regularly updated and contains key dates of activities/events that are taking place in school. A full list can be found [here](#). There is also the option to download/sync the calendar to your mobile phone from the website.

DfE Covid updates

Please find as a separate page on this letter the most up to date information from the Department for Education.

Wishing you wonderful weekend.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue 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

Please see the guidance on [COVID-19 vaccination: resources for schools and parents](#) for further information and resources on the vaccination programme.

Update on progress of the 12 to 15 year old COVID-19 vaccination programme

Phase 2 of the in-school vaccination programme for 12 to 15 year olds began on Monday 10 January. If your school age immunisation service (SAIS) provider has not already been in touch with you, they will make contact shortly to confirm when on-site vaccinations will take place. In support of this, we have updated the [“how to” guide for schools](#) with information and resources, including a template letter that can be used to communicate with parents.

Vaccines remain our best weapon against this virus. We have seen uptake increase nationally to 50.6%, however there is substantial variation between regions. Therefore, whilst waiting for confirmation of an on-site visit from a SAIS team, we encourage schools to continue signposting parents to book out-of-school vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the [NHS booking system](#).

The benefits of the vaccine are clear:

- It is estimated that a 60% vaccine uptake among healthy 12 to 15 year olds will reduce confirmed cases of COVID-19 in this group in the period up to 31 March 2022 by 33%. This equates to a reduction of 110,000 school days absent in this age group due to confirmed COVID-19 cases.
- Research shows that those who do become infected 3 weeks after receiving one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or AstraZeneca vaccine are between 38% and 49% less likely to pass the virus on to their household contacts than those who are unvaccinated.

Please see the guidance on [COVID-19 vaccination: resources for schools and parents](#) for further information and resources on the vaccination programme.

Reminder on the temporary suspension of confirmatory PCR tests in education and childcare settings

On Tuesday we updated you on the temporary pause of confirmatory PCR tests. As a reminder, you are only asked to take a follow up PCR test after a positive LFD test if you:

- wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment
- have been advised to take a PCR test because they are in a clinically vulnerable group
- have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme
- have received a positive day 2 LFD after arriving into the UK

If anyone has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, they are strongly advised to take a PCR test, not an LFD test. If someone with symptoms has already taken an LFD test for any reason and the result is positive, they do not need to take a follow-up PCR test.