



# 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

7 January 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

Please find below some updates for the start of term.

### **Covid-19 update**

Thank you to parents and students for completing your Covid tests before the return to school. We have been fortunate in that our numbers of staff and student absence due to Covid has continued to be low and learning has not been impacted. All parents are advised to continue with the routine twice weekly asymptomatic Lateral Flow Device COVID-19 testing (of those aged 5 and above) in the household.

Please note the temporary government changes from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 that anyone who receives a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result must self-isolate immediately but will no longer need to take a follow-up PCR test except where they have symptoms. They should report their result in the usual way via the school's test register site; this will also take you to the government's [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result](#).

After reporting a positive LFD test result, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace so that their contacts can be traced and must continue to self-isolate.

Anyone who develops one of the three main COVID-19 symptoms [Main symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test.

### **Year 11 PPEs**

Last term, Mr Boney and Mr O'Brien set out the year ahead for Year 11. In next week's Year 11 assembly they will be reflecting on the milestones that have already been achieved and the next steps that will be happening this term. The notable milestones achieved include:

- Formal PPE1 examinations have been sat, papers marked and feedback provided to students.
- Yr11 PPE1 Results Day has been held and therefore students have had a chance to experience how a results day might feel.
- Yr11 online Parents' Evening has taken place.

The next steps are around working to complete the courses and at the same time acting on the learnings from the PPE1 examinations. Fortunately, due to some additional government funding, we are able to access a wider range of support initiatives this year.

Firstly, we have an excellent 'in-house' question analysis system that will be used to help student zero-in on their strengths and areas for development within each subject. Secondly, we have a tutor time programme that links to the *Inner-Drive Personal Development* company who delivered the support sessions before the PPEs and, using

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feedback from the recent student questionnaire, we will be providing some more guidance on revision planning and revision techniques. Finally, we have a programme of targeted tutoring sessions that will be provided for students both during and after school, either face to face or online. These will be launched with the students next week and I will update you once they are up and running.

Parents and students will find it helpful to know that the Department for Education will be making a decision regarding the summer 2022 examinations in early February. All the information coming out now very much supports the view that it will be a business-as-usual year with examinations taking place in the summer. I will write again in the future with confirmation of this, but in the meantime, it is full steam ahead!

### ***Year 11 'A Level' Taster Day***

On Wednesday next week, Year 11 students will take part in the final activity - the second *A Level Taster Day* - to support their A Level choices, ready for September 2022. Following this, in a registration period before the end of January, students will select their A Level subject choices.

Over the last six months, Year 11 have been taking part in a variety of activities to support them in selecting their A Level subjects. This began in the summer term of Year 10 with an A Level Taster Day. Since then, Year 11 have been able to speak with our Sixth Form subject captains at our Subject Fayre. Year 11s have also received presentations from heads of Department about A Level courses and have had a tailored careers' consultation with our Careers Advisor. We hope Year 11 students enjoy the experience of participating in A Level lessons next week.

Wishing 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**

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