



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

17th December 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week as we break up for the Christmas holidays.

Carol Service at Holy Trinity – Tuesday 14th December

Thank you to our wonderful Music Department for organising the Carol Service. The singing from the choir and Novum was beautiful and set the tone for a festive last week in school as we prepared for Christmas. It was lovely to have staff, governors, students and parents singing together. SHSG has many traditions and the Carol Service is certainly one of those very special events.

PE Cross Country Final

On Saturday 4th December, both the Junior Girls and Intermediate Girls competed at the ESAA National Cross-Country Final in Newquay, Cornwall. It is a huge achievement to qualify for the National Final and all runners performed very well, despite competing in possibly every weather condition possible, from sleet and hail stones to 40mph winds! The Junior Girls performed exceptionally well placing 4th in the country! Well done to Chloe B 21st, Annalise B 25th, Shiloh O 35th, Niamh S 58th, Chloe F 90th, Yasmin R 107th. The Intermediate Girls also performed well in 26th position. A special mention must go to the top scorer, Liliana T who came 40th in the country. Well done also to Georgia L, Sophia R, Abigail M, Darcy D and Charlotte H-P. Congratulations to all those that took part!



Studying in the USA

On Monday evening, Year 11 and 12 students and parents were invited to attend a webinar hosted by Dr Jason Smith from UES Education to gather some information regarding post 18 study in America and world wide universities. Dr Smith included a lot of interesting and relevant information, including how to choose universities, the ACT and SAT testing, the timeline for applications, and top tips for preparation. More information can be found on their website [Expert US Admissions: SAT ACT Tutors, College Apps | UES Education](https://www.ueseducation.com/expert-us-admissions-sat-act-tutors-college-apps)

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Department for Education Guidance

From 14th December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 has been introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take an LFD test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Once notified by Test and Trace as a close contact students are strongly recommended to take a LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [online reporting system](#) and to their setting (via TestRegister). If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow [national guidance](#). This approach should also be adopted over the Christmas holiday and on return in January.

Test kits were available in Form rooms on Monday 13th December 2021. We encourage all students to continue to test, and importantly to report those test results, twice weekly. We would also encourage students to take a Lateral Flow test before returning to school and log their results on TestRegister in the normal way.

Fosters School wear

Please note that Fosters School Wear will be closed from 23rd December 2021 and will be re-opening on 4th January 2022.

Diabetes UK Competition



A selection of year 10 students organised a competition for the chance to win a £50 voucher of their choice! The competition is to guess how many marbles are in the jar. The two people closest to the number will win the prizes. All funds raised will be donated to Diabetes UK. The organisers will be in the foyer, during break times, to take guesses. It is £1 per guess and entries can also be made via ParentPay. Thank you and good luck!!

Christmas Dinner – Thursday 16th December

We would like to thank our fantastic canteen staff and all those that helped serve in excess of 550 Christmas dinners. The festive atmosphere was enjoyed by students and staff.



Christmas Whole School Virtual Assembly

On this final day of term we conducted a whole school virtual assembly. The assembly was broadcast to all tutor groups and provided an opportunity for heads of year to celebrate achievements in their year groups, and Mr Cannon to celebrate house achievements. In addition, we officially announced the new Head Student, Gracie and her team. Students and staff witnessed the SHSG long-standing tradition of the outgoing Head Student, Tess, handing over her badge and Head Student book. Nobody has ever read the contents of the book apart from each head student!

Reminders for Return in January 2022

Please note that Monday 3rd January is a bank holiday.

Students in Year 11 will be in lessons and Year 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.**

Key dates

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

Gazette

The December Gazette can now be viewed and downloaded from the website [here](#)

Wishing you peaceful Christmas and best wishes for 2022.

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