



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

21 January 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Year 10 Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Day

On Wednesday, 19th January the whole of Year 10 spent the day being trained in public speaking. The day culminated with each student having the opportunity to deliver a speech (without notes) to their peers. The Jack Petchey trainers were incredibly impressed by the quality of our students' work, with one trainer commenting: *'Thank you for the opportunity to train six fantastic groups of students! The school should be so proud of everyone who took part. The students raised the bar and jumped over it!'*

All the trainers mentioned that they had one of their best days so far working with schools this year!

One student in each of the six groups was nominated by their trainer to participate in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Competition. These students are Sophie P - 10A, Isla G - 10D, Ananya S -10D, Isabel O-I -10D, Connie H -10E and Alexa S - 10F. Massive congratulations to these students.

Well done to everyone involved - and many thanks to all the staff who helped to make this day a success.

Creative Writing Group Competition

The SHSG Creative Writing Group are launching their spring writing competition. The competition has been designed by students and asks them to write a story that finishes with this line: *"They drifted out to sea, seeing their gaze reflected in the water"* and email it to gmcgarvey@shsg.org by Friday 11th February. Any student who wants help with their competition entry is welcome to come to room B6, Wednesday week A, where the Creative Writing Group meet.

Music Department Primary School Visit

On Tuesday of this week, two of our A Level musicians performed in a Year 3 assembly at Hamstel Junior School, the first of a series of assembly performances that will take place over the Spring Term. Niamh and Urbi performed with confidence and maturity and took part in a short Q & A session with the headteacher pupils. They were really interested in finding out how Urbi moved her fingers so quickly, and how Niamh managed to breathe whilst also playing the clarinet! This may have been the first time many of the Year 3s had heard live instruments; we felt privileged to have this opportunity. SHSG musicians said that they can't wait to go back and perform to the other year groups, and perhaps inspire some of the next generation to start their own musical journeys.

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Drama Performances in February 2022

We are delighted to announce two Drama productions and to invite you to attend.

Firstly, SHSG Young Actors Company presents *Rose Coloured Glasses* on Wednesday 2nd February with performances at 16.30 and 19.00. Tickets cost £2.50 and are available on ParentPay with all proceeds going to SHSG Drama Students' fund. More information about this event can be found [here](#).

Secondly, students will be performing in *The Comedy of Errors* on Tuesday 22nd, Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th February 2022. More information about this event can be found [here](#) and tickets are available on ParentPay.

We look forward to seeing you at these events.

County lines speaker

Year 7, 8 and 9 students enjoyed a presentation on county lines by an external speaker today. The speaker will be returning to school on Friday 28th January to speak to years 10, 11, 12 and 13. Parents may wish to discuss the content of the assembly and their child's learning about county lines at home. Government information can be found [here](#).

Extra-Curricular and key dates

The latest booklet with our full range of school clubs and activities can be downloaded from our website [here](#) for parents. A new quick link for students has also been added on the student page [here](#).

The calendar on our website is regularly updated and contains key dates of activities and 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.

Artists in Residence

Media Studies students have been showcasing their work during lunchtime this week. There were display boards with completed work and work in progress on their laptops. Students explained the creative process from brief to realisation. Well done to all students involved in this fantastic work – and thank you!



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 a wonderful weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Jason Carey
Headteacher

Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation. Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available.

Facemask update following the Prime Minister's announcement of the end of Plan B

The Prime Minister has announced that all Plan B measures will be removed in England, with a full return to Plan A by Thursday 27 January. In education and childcare settings, this means:

- From Thursday 20 January, face coverings are no longer recommended in classrooms and teaching spaces for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above. They were introduced in classrooms at the start of the spring term as a temporary measure.
- From Thursday 27 January, face coverings are no longer recommended in communal areas for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above.