



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

Friday, 11th February
2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Year 11 Prom

I am delighted to say that, following an excellent response from students, I can now confirm that the Year 11 Prom will take place at Hylands House in Chelmsford on Monday 27th June 2022. This year, for the first time, the school have taken responsibility for managing and organising the Prom and handling arrangements directly with the venue. The Year 11 Prom Committee have done an excellent job working on the arrangements with the Finance Team; they designed a fabulous poster to promote the event, which is displayed in the school foyer and attached to this email.

During the evening, the students will have exclusive use of Hylands House and the Grand Pavilion, with a red-carpet arrival and a welcome drink in the main house, followed by a hot buffet in the Grand Pavilion with soft drinks included. A photographer will be present as the students arrive and there will also be a DJ, a photographer, and a Magic Mirror to capture some of the fun moments from this special event.

If you would like to confirm a place for your child, please pay a deposit of £20 via Parent Pay by Monday 14th February. Final numbers will be given to the venue early next week. I am sure the students will be looking forward to this occasion to celebrate the end of the school year together.

Year 12 Geography Trip

On Monday 7th February, Year 12 geographers went on a field trip to the different Southend 'Wards'. Students found the trip very insightful and beneficial in helping them to refine their data collection and analysing skills.

Poetry by Heart – Tuesday 8th February

This week, a group of students took part in the Poetry by Heart competition. Students selected two poems from the Poetry by Heart anthology and performed for a live audience. Well done to all those that participated!

Parent questionnaire feedback

Thank you to parents and carers for completing the questionnaire. We had nearly 400 responses; the significant majority of parents rated SHSG as an outstanding school and feel that their children are very much *safe, happy, and successful*, with 93% saying they would recommend the school to other parents. Thank you!

The quantitative analysis from the starred rating and the *strongly agree to strongly disagree* statements were equally very positive. I have included some of my analysis below for your information.

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Registered in England Company No: 07487455

Southend High School for Girls is the trading name of Southend High School for Girls Academy Trust



Questionnaire analysis

1. My child is happy at this school

[More Details](#) [Insights](#)

Strongly agree	149
Agree	203
Disagree	31
Strongly disagree	9



2. My child feels safe at this school

[More Details](#) [Insights](#)

Strongly agree	197
Agree	183
Disagree	7
Strongly disagree	5



3. The school is well led

[More Details](#) [Insights](#)

Strongly agree	133
Agree	230
Disagree	24
Strongly disagree	5



14. The school has high expectations for my child

[More Details](#) [Insights](#)

Strongly agree	201
Agree	161
Disagree	8
Strongly disagree	3
Don't know	19



15. My child does well at this school

[More Details](#) [Insights](#)

Strongly agree	144
Agree	227
Disagree	14
Strongly disagree	7



Emerging themes

The emerging themes from the free text *'even better if'* comments are that there is a perception of the school needing to put greater emphasis on rewarding students, using the achievement points on SMHW. Some parents said that they would like the way we communicate their child's progress on reports to be easier to understand. Other helpful responses for us to consider are reviewing students' use of mobile phones, the feeling that there is possibly too much homework set, and Sixth Formers' 4th A Level.

I have presented the findings to staff and we are now considering how we can improve further, building upon the excellent practice you value, and creating solutions to common *'even better if'* suggestions. Again, thank you for your time completing the questionnaire, and we are delighted that you are so pleased with your child's provision at SHSG.

Student questionnaire

Following on from the parent questionnaire, please find [here](#) the link to the student questionnaire. I will read the responses over half term and would appreciate completion by **Friday, 18th February**. Thank you.

Year 7

I am pleased to say that, after a period of absence, Mrs Symes will be back in her role as Head of Year 7 after half term. Thank you to Mrs Killi for being such an excellent Head of Year for this year group. This will mean that Mrs Killi will step back into Head of Year 9 – so thank you to Miss Trevena for acting as Head of Year 9 and doing such a first-class job.

Whole School Extra-Curricular Provision

Following on from our communications regarding the extra-curricular provision across the whole school, we are delighted to report that this half term the Physical Education Department have managed to offer 37 clubs and activities each week incorporating 12 different sports for all 7 year groups. Only one of these 37 clubs is 'invitation only', so there are plenty of opportunities for everyone to get involved. We have also had multiple fixtures for our 'B' and 'C' teams, and it has been fantastic to see so many students engaging with physical activity and competitive sport. Please continue to support your child and encourage them to get involved. Thank you to Mrs Buscombe and the PE Team for their commitment and work in delivering such a comprehensive programme.

English Creative Writing Blog

Student entries for the Cursed Pen competition can be read on the Creative Writing Blog ['here'](#). The English Department are also starting to publish outstanding pieces of classwork and homework on this blog.

Year 8 PUP Exams

Congratulations to Year 8 who have successfully completed a fortnight of PUP (performance under pressure) assessments, concluding with Languages listening assessments, all of which have been introduced to Key Stage 3 in order for students to become accustomed to the high expectations and various organisational challenges required for completing GCSE examinations. Staff were hugely impressed by the calm and determined manner which Year 8 presented through the sessions, tackling up to three exams each day, including three days in the Sports Hall under formal conditions.

Well done to all Year 8 students and we look forward to seeing how you have performed. Results will be published via the Parent App and email on Monday 7th March.

PE News

Year 7 have demonstrated good determination and commitment whilst preparing for their first athletics season at SHSG. Recently, they competed in the first round of the Lee Valley Indoor Athletics Championship. It was fantastic to see our Year 7 students competing in a range of indoor sporting events, including the 60m sprint, 60m hurdles, 200ms, 800ms, high jump, long jump, shot put and relay. The students represented the school brilliantly, not only demonstrating their sporting capabilities, but also their sportsmanship and excellent team spirit. The event was a wonderful opportunity to see students working together and competing with a real sense of community spirit, particularly as for many this was their first ever athletics competition. Due to our high numbers of participation, we were able to enter multiple teams. Both teams will now progress to the semi-final taking place on Wednesday 9th March.



Last week, the swimming team took 1st place in the Coopers Coborn Swimming Championship. This was a lovely opportunity to see such superb efforts from our students competing in their chosen swimming events and for representing the school with such pride. Well done to all involved! We look forward to the Borough Swimming Gala taking place in March.

SHSG Years 7 and 8, and Years 9 and 10 basketball teams played their first Borough League games this week. Well done to all involved. We are excited to see what the next games bring and with new basketball kits to come!

The netball teams are also continuing to progress with the Year 7s taking multiple wins in their recent Borough League games and the Essex Cup group stage. They have now qualified for the 'Sweet 16' stage of the Essex Cup which will be played Monday 21st February against St Martins. The U14s also took the win against Passmore's Academy in the Essex Plate and will progress through to the next Knock Out round.

A huge well done to Chloe B, Shiloh O, Lilianna T and Daisy W who represented Essex in a tough race on Saturday at the SE Inter Counties Cross Country in Reigate.

Congratulations also to Chloe B for winning her qualifying round, which progresses her to the National Biathlon Final. A brilliant achievement!

To keep up to date with fixtures and results, follow the PE Department's page on Twitter (@SHSGPE) and Instagram (@shsg_pe) as well as our main official SHSG school account on Instagram (@officialshsg) and Facebook (@officialSHSG).

Term and Holiday Dates for 2022/23

Please find attached the term and holiday dates for the next academic year, which include the non-pupil days highlighted in green. This is also on our website.

Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday

Further to my previous letter, an additional holiday on Monday 6th June has been allocated to schools to take account of the fact that the extra bank holiday falls within half term. On this day, there are some exams taking place and those students sitting the exam will be required to attend school. The following exams will be taking place:

- Morning - GCSE German and GCSE Chinese
- Afternoon - A Level English Lang and A Level Economics

Students who are affected will receive further information shortly.

Summer 2022 examinations – information from Dr Jo Saxton, Ofqual Chief Regulator

Please find below a letter to students from Ofqual's Chief Regulator:

Dear students,

In my job as Chief Regulator of qualifications I get to meet many students, teachers and parents from different parts of the country. Speaking to students like you, who are getting ready for formal exams and assessments, it's clear to me that you want life to get back to normal and that you would like as much certainty about what is going to happen as possible.

For that reason the exam boards have, this week, published for you 'advance information' on their websites. This is subject by subject, specification by specification, specific outlines of the focus of questions across many of your summer exams. [We've added a tool on our website which shows you what is available for each subject.](#)

These materials are just one of the ways we are working to make sure that, despite the disruption caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, your exams and formal assessments are less daunting.

You will also get formulae sheets for GCSE maths exams and updated equation sheets for GCSE physics and combined science exams, so you won't have to memorise as much.

As well as advance information and formulae sheets, you will be supported by generous grading, which will provide you with a safety-net to protect you from just missing out on a grade.

We will also publish videos, infographics and other materials to help those of you who have been prevented from ever sitting a formal exam, to know what that feels like.

You can find more information at the following official sources:

- [Rolling update](#)

- [Ofqual Instagram](#)
- [Ofqual blog](#)

Gazette

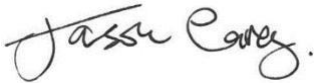
The latest Gazette has now been uploaded to our website, you are able to view it [here](#)

Key Dates

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.

A reminder that students return to school on **Monday 21st February 2022**. Have a wonderful half term break.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Carey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jason Carey
Headteacher