



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 6th January 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

Please find below some updates for the start of term.

Exam preparation assembly

This week, Year 10 and Year 11 have had assemblies with Mr Carey about mindset, achieving mastery, and how to respond to challenges and prepare for events such as examinations. Part of the assemblies included a Ted Talk from climber, free-soloist, Alex Honnold. If you are interested, please find the clip [here](#).

Year 11 Parents' Evening

A reminder that the Year 11 Virtual Parents' Evening is taking place Thursday 12th January. The booking system is now open to parents which can be accessed [here](#).

Year 13 PPEs

Congratulations to Year 13 students who have sat their PPEs this week. Despite the disruption from the train strikes and the subsequent difficulties getting to school on time, Year 13's attendance has been outstanding, and the exams went smoothly. Well done! The PPEs will continue for the next two weeks; we wish all the students the best of luck!

Sixth Form and A Level Taster Day

Year 11 will have their second A Level Taster Day on Wednesday 18th January 2023. We hope this will give students one final opportunity to sample potential A Level subjects and firm up their options for Sixth Form next year. A personalised timetable will be sent to students ahead of the day.

As a reminder to parents/carers with any children that do not currently attend SHSG but may wish to join our Sixth Form in September, the deadline for applications is 31st January 2023. Full details are available on our website [here](#).

Launchpads and Familiarisation sessions

Our popular Year 5, 11+ Launchpad and Familiarisation sessions will be starting this term. We still have some limited spaces on some of the launchpad sessions. Should you have a child that will be looking to take the 11+ this year, this is a great opportunity for them to get a flavour of SHSG grammar school life. More information on how to book can be found on the link [here](#). The password to access our dedicated launchpad page is **SHSG2024!** Alternatively, you can email office@shsg.org.

Attendance and Punctuality

As we head into a new year, we want to take the opportunity to remind parents about the importance of attendance and punctuality to school. The vast majority of our students have an excellent attendance record and the school's total attendance is well above national and local rates. It is well known that attendance has a significant impact on student progress and the school expects all pupils to attend every day and to arrive on time. Please note that requests for leave of absence during term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.



The DfE categorises attendance below 90% as persistently absent. To ensure the highest levels of attendance for our school community, when a pupil is in danger of becoming persistently absent, parent/carers will receive a letter informing them of their child's current level of attendance. Targets are then set during a 6-week monitoring period. Should there not be a significant improvement during that time, parent/carers are invited to the school for a supportive meeting, often involving the Local Authority's Attendance Officer, to discuss how we can work together to improve the student's attendance.

We understand that from time to time that students will fall ill; however, please remember that your child should only be kept at home if it is necessary. If you are concerned about your child's level of attendance, please get in touch with their Pastoral Support Officer. Please continue to report any absences to the absence line on 01702 583081 or office@shsg.org.

Term dates

We understand that parents are keen to start booking holidays. The term dates for the next academic year are published by the school in January once the INSET days (non-student training days) have been set. Once these are confirmed, the calendar will be published on our website and attached to a Friday parent letter.

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](#).

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey
Headteacher