



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, 5th January 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Happy New Year! On behalf of the SHSG community, we hope that you enjoyed the Christmas holidays and have returned to school refreshed and ready for the new year ahead.

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Launchpad 'Be a Mathmagician'

The SHSG Launchpad events are an opportunity for Year 5 students to come into Southend High School for Girls and experience a taster of life at our school. Each event is theme around a faculty in the school; there is always something new and exciting to try out. The 2023-2024 Launchpad events commence on Saturday 6th January with the Maths faculty and their 'Be a Mathmagician' Launchpad event. This is a jam-packed morning of magical mathematics where the Year 5 pupils learn maths techniques, like those that will be required for the 11+, to create illusions and predictions that defy explanation! There are a limited number of places available for future Launchpads events, however if you know of anyone who might benefit from coming along but may not have heard about the events, more information can be found at the end of this letter. We provide concessions for pupil premium students and find that there is a strong correlation between those Year 5 students who come to the launch pad events and those that end up joining the school at the start of Year 7. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the maths department for giving up their weekend to allow this to happen and to the other faculties who will be putting on similar launchpad events throughout the term.

Uniform reminder

As we begin the new term, I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/students of the uniform expectations. Wearing the Southend High School for Girls school uniform correctly and with pride is an important part of our school culture. The full uniform policy can be found here [30SP-Uniform-Policy-June-2023.pdf \(shsg.org\)](https://www.shsg.org/30SP-Uniform-Policy-June-2023.pdf) The section on page 6 concerns hair, make-up and nails. Often, we find after the Christmas party season students begin to blur the lines between what is acceptable and what isn't. Students should be reminded that uniform and meeting our high expectations are non-negotiable.

Year 11 device use in PPE Revision Lessons

The return to school from the Christmas break marks the start of the Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) for Year 11 and Year 13 students. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate both year groups on their conduct and attitude in the first couple of days. These trial exams are a critical part of their preparation toward the real exams in the summer. Within the Year 11 students' examination timetable the students have lessons for focussed silent revision. We have made the decision to allow students to use their personal electronic devices to access the multitude of online revision materials, websites and applications available. It is important to note that staff will be monitoring this privilege during lessons, and should any student be found to be accessing apps and/or content that is not for the purpose of revision they will immediately have this privilege withdrawn.



Mental Health & Wellbeing at SHSG

If you need support or information about how to cope with your emotions, you can visit the school website and look at [Mental Health & Wellbeing - Southend High School for Girls \(shsg.org\)](http://shsg.org).

There, you will find some articles, videos, and useful links. The school has also put together a Padlet for Lower and Middle School and one for Sixth Form for you to browse. Please find the links below:

[Lower and Middle school SHSG Mental Health Board \(padlet.com\)](#)

[SHSG Mental Health Board \(padlet.com\)](#)

Welcome to new teachers

A warm welcome to our new members of staff.

Miss	Rebecca	Ford	SENDCO and Associate SLT
Mrs	Diane	Sossou	Physics Teacher
Mrs	Elsa	Nathan	Spanish Teacher - maternity cover

Our trainee teachers:

Mr	Ioan-Irineu	Fartan	RE
Mr	David	Francis	MFL

The members of staff below will also be joining us over the next few months:

Mr	Alexander	Clarkson-Hull	Chemistry Teacher
Miss	Bethany	Logan	Physics Teacher
Miss	Sophie	McNeil	Chemistry Teacher

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](#).

Wishing you all a restful weekend!

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey
Headteacher



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Southend High School for Girls Launchpad 2024!

The SHSG Launchpad is a series of events aimed at providing ambitious Year 5 children with a flavour of SHSG grammar school life. Each event will provide a taster of the subjects and topics that students engage in each day here at SHSG. They will also provide an opportunity to become familiar with some of the skills that your daughter will need to demonstrate in the 11+. The Launchpad starts as a series of Saturday schools followed by four after school 11+ familiarisation sessions. Sign up for the Saturday schools that your daughter would like to attend and/or the 11+ familiarisation sessions. Information how to book can be found at the bottom of this flyer.

Launchpad Saturday schools – 9.30am - 12.30pm

Teachers and Sixth Form Students invite you to join them in the following sessions:

	6th January 2024 – Be a Mathmagician with the SHSG Mathematics faculty! Patterns and Problem Solving: Be there or be squared... An exciting opportunity to go beyond classroom learning and see the beauty, power and creativity of mathematics. You will learn how maths can be applied to understand magic, how through simple rules and algorithms the most magnificent of patterns can be created and how to apply and develop problem-solving skills to a wide range of activities.
	13th January 2024 - Express Yourself! The Creative and Performing Arts faculty invite you to take part in a morning of creative expression trying your hand at Art, Music, Drama and Technology. The sessions will be active and hands on, giving you the opportunity to explore the full range of creative facilities that we have at SHSG.
	10th February 2024 – Wanted: Adventurers to settle new lands! As climate change makes previously uninhabited islands in the Arctic Circle habitable ... Be part of the Humanities and Social Sciences faculties as you create your new society! Do we need religion? Do we need money? Do we need laws? Where should we live? How can we be sustainable? Come and work with us to design the perfect place to live.
	20th April 2024 - The SHSG Spirit! The problem with being such an old school is all the ghosts... Join the SHSG English faculty for a morning of creative storytelling, featuring live theatre, puns, mystery, creative writing and, yes, ghosts! Friendly ones, of course, with exciting stories to tell. It's just a shame they're so forgetful.
	11th May 2024 – Raise the bar! Athletics and fitness workshops with the Physical Education faculty. The session will incorporate several different athletic disciplines that cover both track and field events, as well as some fun, fitness-based activities.
	8th June 2024 – Lost in translation! Travel the solar system with your own friendly alien, whilst learning basic introductions and descriptions in Spanish and German; then harness your spirit of adventure to help you tackle a range of activities that will get you using the language that you have learned.
	22nd June 2024 – Mission to Space! Let our Biology, Chemistry and Physics departments help you to investigate moon rock, balloon rockets and creatures from outer space in an action-packed morning of practical experiments!

Launchpad - 11+ Familiarisation Sessions

SHSG will also be running the extremely popular 11+ familiarisation sessions again this year. These consist of a meeting (**parents only**) to talk through the 11+ process followed by two Maths and two English sessions for students.

- **Tuesday 7th May 2024 (6pm)** – Parents' 11+ familiarisation meeting (parents only)
- **Monday 13th May 2024, Wednesday 15th May 2024, Monday 20th May 2024 and Wednesday 22nd May 2024, 4pm-5pm** - 2 x Maths and 2 x English sessions.

Due to the popularity of these sessions, places are limited and subject to availability. There is an administration fee of £10 per Saturday School session and £30 in total for the four 11+ familiarisation sessions.

To apply for a place on the Launchpad sessions and/or the 11+ familiarisation sessions, please go to our website www.shsg.org/year-5-launchpad and enter the password **SHSG2025!** Places will be free to children who qualify for Pupil Premium funding. Information can also be found on the website page. If your child does not qualify for Pupil Premium, but require financial assistance, support may be available. Please contact us at office@shsg.org.