



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 September 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Welcome!

Firstly, it gives me great pleasure to welcome our new 'SHSG Family' members in my first letter of the year. The Year 7s and Year 12s have had a full induction programme including assemblies and have settled in well. We also welcome those students who have joined other year groups. I have included below some pictures of their first days at SHSG.



The senior team and I have been very proud this week of our Years 8-11 and Year 13 students who have been great role models by helping new Year 7s and Year 12s to find their way around school. These acts of kindness are unprompted by staff and echo the family ethos of the school. On behalf of all staff at SHSG I wish students a successful year ahead.



Ofsted Inspection

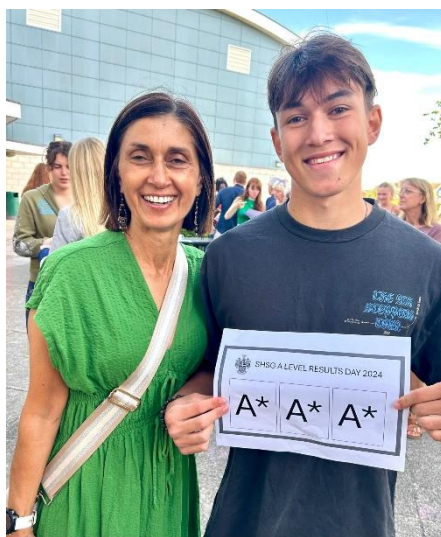


'Pupils flourish and excel at Southend High School for Girls' Ofsted July 2024

On Wednesday morning in my welcome back assembly, it was a real pleasure to be able to announce to staff and students our Ofsted inspection outcome. Our inspection took place on 2nd and 3rd July 2024, but due to the summer holiday break, was not published until the first day back this term. The outstanding judgement reflects the school we know and love so well. I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents, carers and students for your part in the process and for your commitment to SHSG. Our students are very impressive young people and are the best ambassadors for the school. They were a credit to the school, as always, during the inspection process, speaking to the team and telling them about life at SHSG. In addition, I would like to thank all the staff and the governors. As noted in the report, our students receive exemplary support and *'outstanding provision'*. Other areas noted by inspectors were the *'highly ambitious curriculum'* and that students *'achieve very highly'*. The inspectors looked at broader curriculum areas as well and commented on the *'exemplary careers education'*, and the *'vast range of clubs, trips, visits, and visitors'*. Perhaps one of the most important comments and findings was the value that students place on being part of SHSG. The inspection team in the report noted that *'Pupils see the school as a family. They look out for and support each other'*, and that staff *'provide exceptional support for pupils' well-being'*. In short, our *safe, happy and successful* principles underpin the report. I have included the inspection report as an attachment to this letter; it is also available on the school's website.

GCSE and A Level success

You will most likely have seen via school communication and in the local press that we celebrated SHSG's best ever A Level and GCSE results this summer. At A Level, 77% of grades were A* - B, 40% A* - A, and 10% A*. At GCSE, 74% of grades were 9 - 7, 51% grades 9 - 8, and 22% grade 9. Congratulations to our students – and thank you to all the staff involved in helping our young people achieve such first-class outcomes. Below are some photos from the results days.



New staff welcome

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce and welcome new staff that have joined SHSG:

Teaching staff:

Mr Prior Lead Practitioner in Science and Associate Assistant Headteacher

Mrs Hockley Music Teacher

Mr Durell	Classics & History Teacher
Mr Wong	Biology Teacher
Mr Howard	Maths Teacher
Mrs Creasey	D&T Teacher

Support staff:

Miss Gadd SEND Support Assistant

In addition, we also have five trainee teachers:

Miss Connor
Miss Manley
Ms Pontius
Mr Patten
Ms Gingell

Year 7, 10 & 12 photographs – Wednesday 11th September

Please see the below message from our school photographers, Carmel Jane.

IMPORTANT – REGISTER TO VIEW SCHOOL PHOTOS

Exciting news! Carmel Jane Photography will be visiting our School on the 11th of September 2024, to take the Individual photos for Years 7, 10 & 12. All parents are requested to pre-register for instant access to their child's photographs once they are ready, pre-registration is required for every photo shoot.

Register in 3 easy steps in less than a minute:

1. Head to www.carmeljaneshop.co.uk
2. Enter your unique code : JRKKB4AYN8
3. Include your child's full school register name.

Parents who pre-register will receive an exclusive 10% discount code for digital prints! This will be sent via email by Carmel Jane Photography once the photos are ready.

Don't miss out - pre-register today!

Increase to the cost of Meals

Please be aware that with effect from 1 September 2024, the cost of a Main Meal in the school canteen will increase from £2.95 to £3.25.

Our main meals are cooked on the premises and made using fresh ingredients by our own staff. Due to rising costs and to continue to provide the best quality of food and service to our pupils, it has been necessary to increase the price of a Main Meal, and we hope that you will agree that the meals still offer good value for money. Please note that for any pupils in receipt of the FSM (Free School Meals) Allowance, this will also be increased to £3.25 per day. Many thanks for your support and understanding.

Nut and Egg free school

Please be reminded that the school is a nut free and egg free school. If you could please ensure that students do not bring nuts or eggs into school as part of their packed lunch that would be very helpful.

Supporting children going back to school

Please find attached a leaflet providing some guidance to parents around supporting a child with their return to school.

Mental Health & Wellbeing at SHSG

At SHSG, we often talk about how to look after our health in lessons and in tutor time. We have recently explored the field of Positive Psychology and we found out that research has shown that being kind, generous with our time, spending time and money on experiences rather than material things are strong predictors of our future wellbeing. However, we also acknowledge that life can get pretty tough sometimes.

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 \(shsg.org\)](https://www.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 \(padlet.com\)](#)

Key Dates

I thought it would be useful to remind you of the remaining non-student (INSET Days) for this year:

- Tuesday 1st October 2024
- Monday 21st July 2025
- Tuesday 22nd July 2025

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](#).

Have a lovely weekend!

Yours faithfully,

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

Jason Carey
Headteacher

