



# 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, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

### **New Head Student Team 2025**

We are delighted to announce that a new Head Student Team has been selected for 2025/2026.

Congratulations to Mayah G (12STF) on her selection as Head Student for 2025/2026. Mayah's warmth, creativity and calm leadership shone through in the selection process, which included a panel interview with students, an interview with the Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form and governors, as well as a presentation in assembly. Mayah says, *"I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity to be Head Student. I hope to represent the school with integrity and help others feel safe, happy, and successful. I'm excited to work with the amazing Head Student Team and Senior Prefects, and I'm motivated and committed to doing my best every day! Thank you!"*

Mayah will be supported by the rest of the fantastic new Head Student Team (pictured below), who were selected from our Senior Prefects after a rigorous interview process. They are ready to take position in January 2026 and the handover will be in the Christmas assembly. Congratulations to the whole team: (left to right) Lucy, Mayah, Eliana, Scarla-Lu, Lilyrose, William, Thomas and Willow!



### **Ami Coach Collection – Last Day of Term Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

For families whose children travel to and from SHSG on the Ami coach, please note that collection on the last day of term from SHSG will take place at **12:30pm**. We kindly ask parents to remind students of the change so they are prepared.



## Christmas Lunch Celebrations – Important Information

**Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Days:** *Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025*



We are excited to celebrate our **traditional Christmas lunches** on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025**. Students will enjoy their Christmas lunch in their House groups, and members of the Senior Leadership Team will be serving lunch to celebrate our SHSG family spirit and sense of community.

**Tickets:** Students who have purchased a Christmas lunch will receive their ticket from their form tutor during registration on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

**Please note students must bring their ticket on the day** of their Christmas lunch. Unfortunately, without a ticket, we will not be able to serve the meal.

### House Schedule:

- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December: Athene, Artemis, Aphrodite
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December: Hera, Hermes, Aurora

### Additional Information

- Breakfast Service: A full breakfast service will be available for all students on both Christmas Lunch Days.
- Sixth Form: *Scholars* in the Sixth Form will be open for Sixth Form students from 8.00am to 1.30pm.

### Christmas Jumper Day – Supporting HARP

Students are invited to wear a Christmas jumper on either or both days, regardless of their House allocation. This supports HARP, Southend's homeless charity.

- A £2 donation can be made via ParentPay by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December.
- Jumpers should be worn with full school uniform. To keep things sustainable, if a Christmas jumper isn't available, a borrowed one or a jumper in festive colours is fine. Thank you for supporting both this tradition and a very worthy cause.

### Winter Concerts: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Don't miss our Winter Concerts, taking place on both evenings from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. With over 200 students performing, these events promise to showcase exceptional musical talent and teamwork. Families and staff are warmly invited to join us for this festive celebration of music. Tickets are on sale on ParentPay.

### Performance Ensembles for Each Evening:

Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December
7 Aphrodite	7 Aurora
7 Artemis	7 Hera
7 Athene	7 Hermes 1
Big Band	7 Hermes 2
Chamber Choir	Big Band
Flute Ensemble	Chamber Choir
Guitar Club	Gospel Choir
Novem Consort	Highly Strung
Orchestra	Novem Consort
SHSG Choir	Orchestra
	SHSG Choir

### **Carol Service and Nine Lessons: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

As a reminder, our traditional Carol Service will take place at Holy Trinity Church, Southchurch Boulevard, from 7.00pm to 8.00pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

This special evening will feature carols and festive reflection, followed by refreshments. No tickets are required, but please note that seating is limited.

We look forward to marking the season together as a school community.

### **Year 9 First World War History Workshop**



As part of their study of the First World War (1914–1918), Year 9 explored a conflict that reshaped Europe and British society forever. The war, fought between the Allies and the Central Powers, is remembered for its trench warfare and the profound impact it had on millions of lives.

On Wednesday, students were immersed in history through an interactive workshop delivered by Zeitgeist Tours. The session took them on a journey through the causes of the war, recruitment, propaganda, soldiers' kits, trench conditions, weapons, medicine, and finally the armistice.

Students had the opportunity to wear authentic kit, handle artefacts from the era, and gain a deeper understanding of life on the front line. Highlights included re-enacting the Christmas Truce, simulating a gas attack, mining operations, and stretcher bearing.

The Zeitgeist team praised Year 9 for being such an engaged and enthusiastic audience. A huge thank you to our students for their energy and curiosity and for making this workshop such a success!

### **Year 12 Psychology in Action Conference**

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November, Year 12 Psychology students attended the Psychology in Action Conference, an inspiring event that explored how psychological research impacts real-world settings. The day featured engaging talks from professional researchers and lecturers on topics including mental health, behaviour, and forensic psychology. Ivanna, a Year 12 student, reflected:

*"One of the speakers, Dee Anand, a forensic psychologist, was particularly inspiring as he offered insight into his professional field and how psychological knowledge is used within the justice system to support the rehabilitation of offenders. Another speaker, Professor Angelica Ronald, addressed common myths surrounding autism and ADHD—topics that are increasingly discussed in modern society. Patrick Fagad, an applied behavioural scientist specialising in how brands and campaigns influence human behaviour, helped students understand that psychology is not only relevant in clinical contexts but is also central to areas such as business and marketing. Overall, the conference was both inspiring and informative, encouraging students to think more deeply about future pathways in psychology."*

This event gave students a valuable opportunity to see how psychology shapes society and professional practice, and to consider the diverse career paths available in this fascinating field.



### **'Gold' Achievement at Southend Music Festival**



Congratulations to Sivataruniya P (7 Hermes 1) on her remarkable success at the Southend Music Festival, a prestigious competition celebrating expressive poetry performance through voice modulation and delivery.

Competing against ten other entrants and performing before a panel of five judges, Sivataruniya captivated the audience with her interpretation of *"A Magic of Awareness"* by Anam Thubten Rinpoche.

Her exceptional performance earned her the Gold Medal. Reflecting on her achievement, Sivataruniya shared that performing for five judges significantly boosted her confidence and strengthened her public speaking skills. Well done, Sivataruniya, on this outstanding accomplishment!

### **English Lunchtime Lecture**

The English Department is excited to announce our lunchtime lecture on the Gothic. Our speaker is Claire Qu, a DPhil reader at Oxford University. She will outline gothic tropes and explain how she has examined their impact on our culture, both literary and otherwise. Students from Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 are encouraged to come along at lunchtime to B5 on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

### **LAMDA Acting and Public Speaking**

We are pleased to advertise the opportunity for students at SHSG to take part in a LAMDA Acting and Public Speaking club that will be led by Leanne Johnson. Further details are on the attached letter.

### **Year 11 A Level Subject Fair**

Today all Year 11s had the chance to visit the A Level subject fair and discuss A Level subjects with the Year 13 Subject Captains. This was a fantastic opportunity to finalise subject choices in advance of Year 11 selecting their subjects in registration time on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. It also gave students who are already decided on their options a chance to gain top tips about how to hit the ground running in Year 12. They also met representatives from the Head Student Team and House Captains to learn about these exciting Sixth Form leadership roles. Many thanks to our outgoing Year 13 Subject Captains for doing such a great job of representing the subjects they love.

### **Flu Immunisation Catch-up Session**

The Flu Immunisation Team are returning to school on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025** for a second time to vaccinate any children who were absent or did not receive the flu vaccination on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Parents who have not yet responded to the e-consent form are still able to register their CONSENT or DECLINE for the flu vaccination. The E-consent link to do this is <https://eastanglia.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/Essex>

### **Mental Health & Wellbeing at SHSG**

At SHSG, we often talk about how to look after our health in lessons and in tutor time. 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.uk/mental-health-wellbeing). 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 following links: [Lower and Middle school SHSG Mental Health Board \(padlet.com\)](https://www.shsg.org.uk/mental-health-wellbeing) [SHSG Mental Health Board \(padlet.com\)](https://www.shsg.org.uk/mental-health-wellbeing)

### **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**