



# 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, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

It has been an uplifting first full week of term, and our school community has returned with remarkable focus, warmth, and purposeful energy. Walking through the corridors and visiting classrooms, I have been immensely impressed by how quickly our students have settled into their academic routines, with our new Year 7 and Year 12 cohorts making an outstanding start to life at SHSG. Alongside this purposeful focus in lessons, our vibrant extra-curricular life is already in full swing. Please find below key updates, celebrated achievements, and important information for the weeks ahead.

### ***Dates for Your Diary: What's Coming Up at SHSG***

The first half term of the year is always an especially vibrant one at SHSG, and the weeks ahead perfectly capture the breadth of life beyond the classroom. Alongside settling into academic routines, our calendar is already rich with activity.

I am particularly looking forward to our **whole school photograph on Wednesday 23 September**. Adding this year's picture to our archive dating back to 1924 is a wonderful tradition, placing today's faces into SHSG history for students a century from now to reflect upon and wonder what they achieved!

Working closely in partnership with parents is vital to our community, and we look forward to welcoming many of you on site very soon:

- **Year 12 Welcome to A Level Evening:** Wednesday 16 September
- **Year 7 Welcome to SHSG – Lower School Evening:** Thursday 17 September
- **Upcoming Information & Consultation Evenings:** Further sessions for Years 7, 10, 11, and 12 will follow shortly.

For our students, the coming weeks balance serious ambition with plenty of fun. September sees the launch of our new Year 12 Agora programme, music auditions, the Year 10 Careers Carousel, and dedicated guidance for Sixth Form post-18 pathways. Moving into October, students can look forward to International Music Day, the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, our Year 12 Nuclear Races, visits to Bletchley Park and Colchester Zoo, and our University & Apprenticeship Fayre. We then cap off the half term with two firm favourites: Year 7 Zombie Night and the SHSG School Birthday.

These weeks reflect everything that makes our school special: academic drive balanced with enrichment, creativity, and our shared SHSG community.

Please find the comprehensive calendar and further details for the entire half term via the link at the end of this letter.

### ***Year 12 Welcome to A Level Evening, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 6pm-7pm***

It has been a pleasure to welcome our new Year 12s to sixth form – they should be commended on the excellent start they have made to their studies. A reminder that next Wednesday, parents and carers of all Year 12 students are warmly invited to our 'Welcome to A Level' event from 6pm to 7pm in the Main Hall. This will give parents advice on how to support their children in the step up to A Level study, and an overview of the key milestones of sixth form. We look forward to seeing you there!

***Year 7 Welcome to Lower School Evening, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 5:45pm-8pm***

As we begin the new academic year, I have been delighted by how positively our Year 7 students have settled into life at Southend High School for Girls. A reminder that our Welcome to SHSG - Lower School Evening, will take place next Thursday. This is a valuable opportunity for parents and carers to hear from the Headteacher, Head of Year 7 and our Directors of Faculty, who will provide key information about the year ahead and how we can work together to support your daughter's success. We look forward to welcoming you.

***Year 7 Parent/Form Tutor Consultation Evening, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September***

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September there will be a virtual Year 7 parent/tutor consultation evening from 4.00pm-8.00pm. This evening will provide you with an opportunity to discuss with your child's tutor how well they have settled into life at Southend High School for Girls.

For the tutor consultation evening we will be using an online platform called School Cloud, which will enable you to book a one-to-one video appointment, lasting four minutes, with your child's tutor. Details will follow via a separate letter on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September regarding how to make appointments.

Please note that this is not an event to report on academic progress and attainment but is focused on reflecting upon how well your daughter has settled into life at SHSG. There will be an opportunity to discuss academic progress later in the year at a consultation evening on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July following the publishing of the end -of-year examination report.

***Sixth Form Picnic***

We were delighted to start a new tradition this year, of a Sixth Form Families' buddy system, which joined up groups of Year 13s with a group of new Year 12 students. The Year 13s welcomed their buddies with an email of tips and advice about making the most out of sixth form. They then met their buddies in person at a huge sixth form picnic, held in the school fields, on Monday and Wednesday this week. Well done to Year 13 for welcoming the new Year 12s so warmly to the SHSG family!

***Student achievements***

Congratulations to Year 9 student Alise who competed in the "English Closed Championships" in judo in London and won a bronze medal. What a fantastic achievement, well done Alise!



In Year 12, Dakota and Elouise represented England at UK School Games at Loughborough University last weekend. Both students thoroughly enjoyed the 4-day multi-sport event which enabled them to experience a mini-Olympic style camp, meeting athletes from all over the UK.

Congratulations to Rose H in Year 10 who has been selected for the Arsenal football Academy. This is an incredible achievement, and we wish her all the best as she embarks on this pathway within elite level football.

## **Moana Jr. Auditions!**



Reminder that Acting and Singing auditions are Monday 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2026 from 3.30pm to 5pm in the Hall and Dance auditions are Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2026: 3.30pm to 5pm in the Drama Studio.

To sign up to attend the auditions, please complete the following form: [Moana Audition Sign Up Form – Fill in form](#)

Students only need to sign up for one of the acting/singing dates but can attend both the acting/singing and dance auditions if they want to. Year 8 - 12 students should sign up using their school email account. Year 7 students can access the form through a parent email. **The deadline for submission is Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm.**

Backstage roles will be allocated at a later date.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### **School Nurse Drop-in**

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September, the school nurse will be visiting SHSG. Students can drop-in without an appointment to see the nurse during break and lunch time for advice on a range of health issues. Appointments are also available by referral through the Pastoral Support Officers in school. The school nurse will return to SHSG on 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> November for further drop-in sessions.

More information about the school nursing team and the services they offer can be found here: [School Nursing – Livewell Southend](#). Children and parents can also text the school nursing team for advice on the numbers below.

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

We are pleased to share an additional opportunity for students interested in developing their confidence, communication and performance skills. Following the success of the current programme, a new LAMDA Acting and Public Speaking Club run by The Drama Centre will be launching on Tuesdays after school. Delivered by experienced LAMDA teachers, these sessions help students build essential life skills through acting, public speaking and performance, while also working towards nationally recognised qualifications. Places are limited and can be booked online via the following link: [Southend High School for Girls LAMDA Tuesdays | Pebble](#). Full details are included at the end of this letter.

### **PE Fixtures**

These fixtures may be subject to change and all details are posted on the respective PE extra-curricular Microsoft Teams page. If your child has not been added to their year group page, and needs to be, please ask them to speak to a member of the PE department. Thank you.

- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September: Year 8 Netball Home v Thorpe Hall School
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September: U14 and U16 Netball Pre-County qualifying tournament at FitzWimarc

Please be aware that for safeguarding reasons we cannot accommodate spectators on site for matches. Many schools apply this policy so please check with the opposing school directly.

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

At SHSG, we place a strong emphasis on wellbeing and emotional health, discussing both regularly in lessons and tutor time. Should students or families ever need guidance or support, extensive resources are available on our school website via our Mental Health & Wellbeing page. In addition, students can explore our tailored Padlets for Lower and Middle School and the Sixth Form:

[Mental Health & Wellbeing - Southend High School for Girls \(shsg.org\).](#)

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

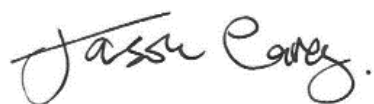
[SHSG Mental Health Board \(padlet.com\)](#)

**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](#).

We wish you a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Yours faithfully,

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

Jason Carey  
Headteacher

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I am delighted to share that our **LAMDA Acting and Public Speaking Club** at Southend High School for Girls will be opening a second class after the October half-term!

Due to the popularity of the **Thursday** class, which is now sold-out, we have decided to offer the same class on a different day of the week in order to allow as many students as possible to attend.

These sessions will take place on **Tuesdays** from **3:30pm to 4:30pm** and will be delivered by our wonderful team of teachers.

### What is LAMDA?

LAMDA classes give students the opportunity to work on acting, voice, and communication skills in a structured and inspiring way. Students learn how to speak with clarity, engage an audience, interpret text, develop character and present themselves with assurance in both creative and academic settings.

LAMDA qualifications are widely respected because they help students develop essential life skills. They strengthen confidence, communication, resilience and independent thinking. Higher level grades can contribute to university applications through UCAS, giving students a valuable boost in competitive admissions.

Every student will get the opportunity to take a LAMDA exam, at least once per academic year.

To ensure the highest quality experience, the group is limited to **only 20 students**. This allows each learner to receive individual coaching, detailed feedback and a personalised pace of progression. The commitment and focus developed in these classes also complement the Skills section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

If your daughter is looking to grow in confidence, prepare for future interviews, develop leadership qualities or simply enjoy the challenge of acting and communication work, this club will be an excellent fit.

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**Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm**

**Term: November 3rd - December 15th**

**Book here:** <https://pbbl.uk/3SRYX9K>

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch. We would be delighted to welcome your daughter to classes.