



# 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, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

## ***An Unforgettable Experience in the Canadian Rockies***



*Sporting our pink hoodies in the restaurant!*

Our 2026 ski trip to Jasper, Canada was unforgettable. We were proud to take 63 students from Years 10 and 12, every one of whom should feel immensely proud of the progress they made both on and off the mountain. From developing confidence on skis to supporting one another as part of a team, it was inspiring to witness each student's growth over the course of the trip. Beginners progressed from their very first turns to confidently tackling black runs, while our more advanced skiers refined their technique, ventured off-piste through the trees, and even hiked to reach areas of fresh powder.

We were also exceptionally fortunate with the conditions, enjoying spring skiing in Canada at its very best, with 57cm of fresh snowfall and consistent blue skies throughout our stay.

Beyond the slopes, students took part in a full and exciting evening programme. Highlights included attending an ice hockey match, an energetic swim session complete with slides and diving boards, shopping and dining in Jasper, a campfire and scenic walk around Lake Annette, a visit to Lake Louise in Banff, and a final stop at CrossIron Mills Shopping Mall in Calgary.





My sincere thanks go to our fantastic students, who were an absolute pleasure to take away and represented the school superbly, and to our dedicated staff, whose professionalism, commitment, and hard work made this outstanding trip possible.

### **Gazette**

The Gazette provides a wonderful round-up of the many events, activities and achievements from the Spring term, and I encourage you to take a moment to read it via the link ['here'](#).

### **Year 11 Individual and Form Group photographs – pre-registration – 21<sup>st</sup> April**

#### **IMPORTANT – REGISTER TO VIEW SCHOOL PHOTOS**

Carmel Jane Photography will be visiting our School on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026, to take the Year 11 Individual & Group Photos. All parents are requested to pre-register directly with Carmel Jane for instant access to your 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](http://www.carmeljaneshop.co.uk)
2. Enter your unique code: JRN344YCWS
3. Include your child's full school register name.

Photographs are being taken in the gym. Students will need to leave lessons and go to the gym when it is their form group's allocated time listed below.

#### **Timetable:**

<b>Form Group</b>	<b>Time Slot</b>
<b>11 APHRODITE</b>	<b>09.00</b>
<b>11 ARTEMIS</b>	<b>09.30</b>
<b>11 ATHENE</b>	<b>10.05</b>
<b>11 AURORA</b>	<b>10.35</b>
<b>BREAK - 11.05-11.25</b>	
<b>11 HERA</b>	<b>11.25</b>
<b>11 HERMES</b>	<b>11.55</b>

### ***Creativity, Debate, and Cake: Shakespeare Week at SHSG***

This week, we have been celebrating William Shakespeare's birthday with a vibrant programme of Shakespeare-themed activities across the school. All Key Stage 3 classes took part in a specially designed lesson exploring the Histories, Comedies, and Tragedies, deepening their understanding of Shakespeare's enduring influence and range as a playwright. Throughout the week, students also extended their learning at home by researching Shakespeare to complete a themed crossword challenge.

On Wednesday, our Debating Society considered the contemporary relevance of Shakespeare's work, engaging thoughtfully with the question of why his writing continues to resonate centuries later. Thursday saw us mark the Bard's birthday in the most fitting way possible — with cake. Students produced an impressive array of imaginative entries for our 'Bakespeare' House competition, combining literary insight with creativity and skill.

Congratulations go to Annabelle G (7HRM), our overall winner, for her outstanding cake inspired by Hamlet's famous soliloquy. Well done also to our runners-up: Emily B (7HRM), Jessica N (9HRM), and Isla H (7ATH). Together, their entries captured the spirit of Shakespeare Week and reflected the enthusiasm, creativity, and academic curiosity of our students.



**Can you solve the Shakespearean Maths Problem?**

The Mathematics Department incorporates a weekly challenge question into our registration programme to strengthen students' problem-solving skills and to foster a genuine love of mathematics. Students engage enthusiastically with these challenges and are rewarded with three achievement points when they successfully solve the problem.

In light of the English Department's focus on Shakespeare this week, the Mathematics team set a specially themed question inspired by the Bard. For families and students who enjoy a mathematical challenge, we would encourage you to have a go at solving it together at home.

*In The Tempest, Prospero sends Ariel to carry out two magical tasks on the island.*

*Ariel completes:*

- X tasks for Prospero*
- Y tasks for the shipwrecked sailors*

*Ariel reports that:*

- Together he completes 28 tasks*
- He completed 4 more tasks for Prospero than for the sailors*

*Write two simultaneous equations based on the information and solve for x and y.*

### ***U13 Footballers Reach the National Quarter-Finals***

On Wednesday, our Under 13 football team travelled to Comberton Village College, Cambridge, to compete in the last 16 of the ESFA National New Schools Cup — a prestigious national competition featuring the very best school teams in the country. Reaching this stage alone is a remarkable achievement, and our students rose to the occasion superbly.

The opening 35 minutes were fiercely contested, with both teams demonstrating quality and determination in an intense, high-tempo encounter. Under sustained pressure, our girls showed outstanding resilience, discipline, and composure, earning a well-deserved 1–0 lead at half-time thanks to a moment of individual brilliance from Sophia K.

The second half saw the team truly assert themselves. Playing with confidence and cohesion, they produced some excellent football across the pitch, marked by intelligent passing, purposeful movement, and relentless effort. This was a complete team performance. Hannah S was exceptional in goal, making several vital saves to secure a clean sheet, while Charlotte G led the defence with authority, expertly organising the back line and maintaining discipline throughout.

As confidence grew, so did the scoreline. The match concluded with an emphatic 5–0 victory, securing our place in the last eight teams in the country. Sophia K completed a superb hat-trick, with further goals from Katie W and Maya S, capping off an outstanding performance.

This result represents a significant sporting achievement and is a testament to the skill, commitment, teamwork, and determination of every player involved. The team should be immensely proud of reaching the national quarter-finals — a rare and exceptional accomplishment. We wish them the very best of luck in the next round.



### ***Continued Success in the Biology Olympiad***

Building on last year's record-breaking results, this year's cohort of students has once again delivered an outstanding performance in the highly prestigious Biology Olympiad. Students in Years 12 and 13 demonstrated exceptional scientific knowledge, analytical skill, and resilience, achieving an impressive total of two Gold, three Silver, and fifteen Bronze awards.

In addition, 10 students were Highly Commended, with a further 13 students receiving Commendations, reflecting the consistently high standard of work across a large and committed group of entrants.

Verity VB and Luke R achieved Gold awards. Afraa K, Ella S, and Louise D were awarded Silver, while Lauren H, Jalyn N, Zahra Y, Edie B, Rida K, Maisie M, Louise W, Charlotte W, Erin E, Beatrice B, Chloe C, Wania F, Rugile V, Mia M, and Eliana C secured Bronze awards. These results represent a significant academic accomplishment and place our students amongst the highest-performing Biology students nationally.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mrs Clarkson-Hull for organising this opportunity and for her continued commitment to enabling students to challenge themselves and achieve excellence beyond the classroom.



### ***Opening Doors to Oxford and Cambridge***

We were delighted to recently welcome the Outreach team from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, who delivered a highly successful visit for our students. The team has kindly shared a [sign up link](#) enabling students to join their mailing list and receive regular updates throughout the academic year. These include a wide range of opportunities such as taster lectures, webinars, application workshops, and subject-specific events, all of which are free of charge and designed to support students considering highly competitive university pathways.

In addition, Ms Casson will be hosting the Oxbridge Pathway Club in the Media Studio on Tuesday 28th April at 12.30pm. This session is open to all students in Years 10 and 11 who are interested in learning more about studying at Oxford or Cambridge and in developing their academic profile and confidence at an early stage.

### ***Young Professionals Summer Conference: Sixth Form Students***

We would like to draw students' and families' attention to a forthcoming careers conference aimed at Sixth Form students, taking place on Saturday 18th July (2.00–6.00pm) at Friends House, Euston, London.

The conference offers students the opportunity to engage directly with leading employers across a range of sectors, including business, finance, law, engineering, and technology. Participants will also hear from industry speakers and take part in a series of practical careers workshops, designed to support informed decision-making and next steps beyond school. All attendees will receive a professional LinkedIn headshot alongside a range of careers resources.

The event is led by Dan Miller, Founder and CEO of Young Professionals, who was also a recent contestant on BBC's *The Apprentice*. Tickets cost £26 and can be booked via the link provided [here](#).

### **Lost Property**

Many items have accumulated in lost property including coats, PE bags, items of uniform and water bottles.

If your child has lost something, please ask them to come and look in lost property in reception before by **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April**.

Items not claimed by this date will be disposed of or donated to charity.

### **PE Fixtures Week Beginning Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

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 member of the PE department. Thank you.

- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April: U15 Tennis Home v Beauchamps
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April: Year 7-10 Athletics Away v Eastwood

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.

As you are aware, students are currently wearing PE kit into school while the Year 10 and 12 examinations take place. This arrangement will continue now into the external public examination period so students will continue to adhere to this arrangement until further notice.

### **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 \(shsg.org\)](#).

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**

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 a restful weekend!

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey  
Headteacher