



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, 18th September 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As the term gathers momentum, it has been a pleasure to see our students embracing the wide range of opportunities available to them both inside and beyond the classroom. From national recognition at the Houses of Parliament to the extraordinary enthusiasm shown during our Moana Jr. auditions, this week's newsletter celebrates the talent, commitment and character that make SHSG such a special community. Alongside these achievements, it has been wonderful to see our newest Sixth Form students settling into school life with confidence, supported by the leadership and encouragement of their Year 13 peers. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the many successes and opportunities that have made this another memorable week at SHSG

INSET Day – Tuesday 29th September

A reminder that Tuesday 29th September is a staff INSET day and also the 11+ examination alternative sitting. The school will be closed to all students on this day. Students will return as normal on Wednesday 30th September.

Year 7,10 & 12 Individual Photographs

Parents and carers of students in Years 7, 10 and 12 who pre-registered for school photographs should now have received an email containing their unique access link to view and order photographs. If you have not received your link, please contact Carmel Jane Photography via their pre-registration support page [‘here’](#) and quote the code **JRCPU433YJ**. Orders will be delivered directly to your home address, and time-limited discounts are available for the first 10 days following release of the photographs. For further assistance, please contact Carmel Jane Photography directly at info@carmeljane.co.uk or by telephone on **01277 822674** (Monday-Friday, 9.00am to 4.00pm).

Whole School Photograph

On **Wednesday 23rd September**, the entire school community will come together for one of SHSG's most cherished traditions, our Whole School Photograph.

Anyone who has visited the school will know how proud we are of our rich history and strong sense of community. Displayed in school are whole school photographs spanning generations of SHSG students, providing a fascinating snapshot of school life through the years.

This year, your child will become part of that story. Their place in the photograph will help capture a moment in time and create a lasting record of our SHSG family. Long after they have left our school, they will be able to look back with pride and know they were part of a tradition that has connected SHSG students since 1913.

Students will not be in lessons period 1 and period 2; they do not need to bring resources with them for these lessons.



Year 12 Oxbridge Information Evening, Thursday 24th September 2026

It was wonderful to see so many Year 12 parents attend our 'Welcome to A Levels' event on Wednesday this week. Thank you for joining us to learn more about how to support your child through the A Level journey. Please note that our next Year 12 event is next week, Thursday 24th September, which is a webinar on applying to Oxford and Cambridge, presented in partnership with our partner college, Hertford College, University of Oxford. This is online on Teams from 6pm to 7pm. Year 12 parents and students will be emailed the link to join next week.

Reminder Year 7 Parent/Form Tutor Consultation Evening, Thursday 24th September

A reminder that the virtual parent/tutor consultation evening for Year 7 parents will take place next week. Details have already been sent home via a letter this week, which outlines instructions for making and accessing appointments. Any queries please contact the Head of Year 7, Mrs K Smith.

Year 12 Parent/Tutor Consultation Evening, Thursday 1st October

On Thursday 1st October there will be a virtual Year 12 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 Sixth Form life. Please note that this is not an event to report on academic progress and attainment; there is a parents' consultation evening on Thursday 11th February 2027 for this. We will be using an online platform called School Cloud, which will enable you to book a one-to-one video appointment, lasting five minutes with your child's tutor. Details will follow via a separate letter on Wednesday 23rd September regarding how to make appointments.

Moana Jr Auditions

This week, more than 325 students took part in auditions for our forthcoming production of Moana Jr., with over 200 attending the acting and singing auditions and a further 125 participating in dance auditions today. Alongside their impressive performances, students showed great patience, maturity and courtesy throughout the process, representing the very best of our school community.

The standard was exceptionally high, and the depth of talent on display means we could genuinely cast this production several times over. While this will be our most challenging casting process yet, we are incredibly grateful to be in such a fortunate position. We would like to thank every student who auditioned and encourage those who are unsuccessful this time to audition again in the future. Cast lists will be displayed from Monday breaktime on the Drama Room door and in the Music corridor.

-SHSG Musical Team

Celebrating Excellence: National Recognition for a Remarkable Young Leader



At the end of the summer term, Samriti Basak (Year 10) attended the Youth Impact Awards 2026 at the Houses of Parliament, having been shortlisted as one of just 24 finalists from across the United Kingdom. The awards recognise young people aged 8 to 21 who have made an exceptional positive contribution to their communities.

Samriti achieved the remarkable distinction of receiving Runner-up in the Exceptional Talent Award, recognising her outstanding accomplishments across art, science and technology.

Her achievements include success in regional art competitions, representing SHSG as the Young Portrait Artist at Southend Day, contributing to a nationally recognised student wellbeing app, participating in the National IRIS Project analysing CERN particle collision data, and completing the European Astro Pi Challenge, where her Python code was executed aboard the International Space Station. In addition, Samriti was awarded Runner-up in the Super Volunteer Award in recognition of her dedication to volunteering, community service and mentoring younger students. Impressively, she was one of only two young people nationally to be recognised in two separate award categories.

This outstanding achievement is a testament not only to Samriti's exceptional talent and intellectual curiosity, but also to her generosity, leadership and commitment to making a difference. We are immensely proud of her accomplishments and congratulate her on this richly deserved recognition. Samriti is a truly inspiring ambassador for SHSG and a wonderful example of what young people can achieve when they combine talent with determination and service to others.

Year 12 House Freshers

This week, our outstanding Year 13 House Captains organised two memorable and thoroughly entertaining lunchtime events to welcome Year 12 students into Sixth Form life. Our annual House Freshers celebrations were full of energy, laughter and friendly competition, providing a wonderful opportunity for students to get involved and build new connections.

Highlights included a bushtucker trial-inspired game of truth or dare, featuring courageous Year 12 volunteers and, in some cases, even more courageous members of staff. Students also organised a Sixth Form edition of Take Me Out, which proved to be a particular crowd favourite and kept audiences entertained throughout.

These events are a fantastic example of the leadership, creativity and commitment demonstrated by our House Captains, who worked hard to create an inclusive and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. A huge thank you goes to our talented presenters, organisers and all those who volunteered to take part.

The enthusiasm and spirit shown this week bodes extremely well for the future of our House system, and we look forward to seeing which members of Year 12 will emerge as the next generation of House Captains.

Agora in Action: Teamwork, Leadership and House Spirit

Well done to all our Year 12 students who took part in Wednesday afternoon's team-building activities as part of Agora, our new personal development programme. The afternoon provided an excellent opportunity for students to build relationships, develop teamwork skills and strengthen their sense of SHSG community as they continue to settle into Sixth Form life.

Tutor groups competed enthusiastically in a rounders tournament, while students also had the chance to take part in netball, football and a lively penalty shootout featuring both staff and students. The friendly competition, teamwork and good humour on display made for a fantastic atmosphere throughout the afternoon.

It has been wonderful to see our Year 12 students growing in confidence and beginning to find their place within the Sixth Form community. Events such as these are an important part of developing the collaboration and leadership skills that sit at the heart of the Agora programme.

A special thank you goes to the Year 13 PE students, whose leadership, organisation and encouragement ensured the afternoon ran so successfully. Congratulations to **12MJO and 12KHA** on winning the two rounders tournaments, and thank you to everyone who took part with such enthusiasm and positivity.

Parallel Maths: Challenge Yourself Beyond the Classroom

Students with a passion for mathematics are encouraged to explore Parallel Maths (parallel.org.uk), a free online programme offering engaging weekly challenge problems designed to develop mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Students who have not yet registered are encouraged to create an account and enter the teacher code GOPX-8SWA along with their year group. This allows participation and achievements to be recognised through the school dashboard. Students who took part last year have already been moved up to the next level and can continue tackling new challenges throughout the year.

A new Parallelogram challenge is sent each week by email, with solutions submitted by Sunday evening. Students who achieve 50% or higher will be awarded three achievement points.

Participation is entirely optional, but it is an excellent opportunity for mathematically curious students to stretch themselves beyond the classroom and explore ideas in greater depth, particularly those considering future study or careers in STEM-related fields.

Miss Graham

Calling all Future Scientist! IRIS Club Launch

We are proud to work in partnership with [The Institute for Research in Schools](#). IRIS is an organisation that works with young people to support scientific research that students can carry out. Today, Friday 18th September, we launched the first IRIS club. If your child is interested in scientific research and did not come along to the launch, please come and see Mrs Aylen in CH3 on Tuesday lunch time. Many thanks.

Year 11 Careers Consultations

As part of our commitment to supporting every student in planning their future, Year 11 students have now begun their one-to-one careers consultations with our independent careers adviser from the local authority. Students can speak to their form tutor if they are unsure of their appointment time.

These personalised interviews provide valuable guidance on post-16 pathways, helping students make informed decisions about their next steps. The conversations also help us better understand students' aspirations, enabling us to tailor our careers programme and opportunities to their interests and ambitions. Year 12 students will begin their consultations after Christmas.

CognateHelix: an information evening for Year 12 students and parents

Mr Prior spoke to Year 12 this week about [CognateHelix](#), a fifteen-month life sciences enrichment programme run by an external provider, designed to running alongside A levels from October. Students work with real published scientific data, the kind used in active research, and produce a project of their own with feedback from Professor Graham Ball FRSB, Professor of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science in the Life Sciences.

The company is running an online information evening for students and parents on Wednesday 23rd September, 7.00pm to 7.45pm, on Google Meet: meet.google.com/vzo-kaiu-fqm. No booking or registration is needed; families simply open the link on the night. You can also join by phone on +44 20 3956 8183, PIN 643 597 330#.

Student success!



The success continues for Alise in year 8 – last weekend she won a silver medal at the Heart of England Open Judo competition which now means she has been selected again for the England Development squad for 2026. Congratulations Alise!

PE Fixtures - Week Beginning Monday 21st September

Please note that fixtures may be subject to change. The most up-to-date information will be communicated via the PE extra-curricular Microsoft Teams pages. If your child has not yet been added to their year group PE Teams page, they should speak to a member of the PE Department.

Fixtures for the week:

- Monday 21st September: U13 Netball (Away) v Shenfield
- Tuesday 22nd September: Year 7 Netball (Home) v Thorpe Hall School (TBC)
- Tuesday 22nd September: U14 Football (Away) v Woodlands
- Thursday 24th September: U16 Netball (Home) v Thorpe Hall School

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 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://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](#).

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.

Jason Carey
Headteacher