



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, 19th June 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Big Band and BBQ

We are delighted to invite students, families, and friends to our Big Band Summer Fayre, taking place on Wednesday 8th July from 5.00–8.00pm. This exciting joint event with Southend High School for Boys will feature live music, including performances from the SHSG and SHSB Big Bands, alongside a range of support acts and a special surprise performance. There will also be a Pimms tent and bar, with the option to bring a picnic blanket and enjoy a relaxed summer evening together. Further details, including ticket information, can be found on the poster below, and tickets are available to purchase online '[here](#)'.

Southend High School for Girls presents

BIG BAND SUMMER FAYRE

In collaboration with Southend High School for Boys

Wednesday 8th July 2026

5-8PM

Music sets, headlining SHSG & SHSB Big Band's, support acts and a surprise performance!

Pimms Tent & Bar

TICKETS Including food
Adult £15
Concession £12

TICKETS Excluding food
Adult £10
Concession £6

Bring a picnic blanket!

Tickets available online from 9am Saturday 6th June 2026

www.ticketsource.com/southend-high-school-for-girls

Reminder - Open Evening Early Closure on Thursday 2nd July

A reminder that on Thursday 2nd July, we will be holding our annual Year 5 Open Evening. On this day, students will attend their normal morning lessons and be dismissed at 12.25pm. Food will be available at breaktime, but please note the canteen will not be open for lunch. If your child is eligible for free school meals and you would like us to provide a packed lunch, please complete the form '[here](#)'. Lunches will be available to collect at breaktime.

Tour guides for Year 5 Open Evening

There is still time for students to sign up to be a tour guide for Open Evening. Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 are invited to take part and help showcase the school. If your child is interested, please refer to the Open Evening letter previously sent to parents as this outlines how students can sign up and what's involved. We are looking forward to another fantastic evening, thank you to all the students who have already volunteered.

Culture Week

We are delighted to be celebrating our annual SHSG Culture Week, beginning on Monday 22nd June, as we recognise and celebrate the rich diversity within our school community. On Monday, students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 are warmly invited to take part in a non-uniform Culture Day by wearing traditional cultural dress, the colours of a country or culture they identify with, or a Guides, Scouts or Cadets uniform.

Throughout the week, students will have the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of events. On Monday lunchtime students can visit our Culture Fair in the assembly hall to explore displays, activities and traditions representing different cultures.

On Tuesday 23rd June at lunchtime our Cultural Showcase will feature student performances of music, dance and singing from around the world. Our Sixth Form subject captains have also planned an exciting programme of cultural lunchtime activities, including German festivals, French-speaking Africa, Bollywood drama, henna-inspired art, world literature, trading games, psychology and superstitions, evolution and ethnicity, and much more. We look forward to a week of learning, celebration and shared experiences as we embrace the many cultures that make SHSG such a vibrant and welcoming community.

Please see the flyer at that the end of this letter with the full programme of lunchtime activities, including dates, times and locations.

Warm Weather - Blazers

In light of the current spell of very warm weather, students are not required to wear or bring their blazers to school from today until the end of term (Friday 17th July). We hope this will help to keep students comfortable while continuing to maintain high standards of dress and presentation. Please note that there may be a small number of special events, such as Awards Evening, where blazers will still be required. Where this is the case, parents and students involved will be contacted directly with the relevant information.

Year 11 and Year 13 Prom

Congratulations to GCSE and A Level students who finished their examinations this week. We'd like to wish all our Year 11 and Year 13 students an enjoyable and well-deserved prom. Year 11 are celebrating their proms on Monday 6th July and Year 13 on Tuesday 30th June. These events mark an important milestone; we hope you have a great evening celebrating with friends and staff.

Rhineland Visit 2026

Report written by Elettra C – Year 8

Between 9 and 13 June, a group of Year 8 students enjoyed an unforgettable visit to the Rhineland in Germany. After a full day of travelling across Europe, we arrived at the welcoming Hotel Adler in Bad Salzig, which became our base for an exciting few days of exploration.

Our itinerary was packed with memorable experiences. We visited impressive castles and fortresses, hiked through the beautiful Rhine hills, admired spectacular views and learnt more about German history, culture and everyday life. The hotel was excellent, with comfortable rooms and friendly, welcoming staff.

Throughout the trip, we had many opportunities to practise our German by speaking with local people. We also experienced two traditional forms of transport, travelling on both the Seilbahn (cable car) and the Sesselbahn (chairlift). One of my favourite moments was taking the chairlift up to the famous Vierseenblick ('Four Lakes Viewpoint'). Although it was drizzling on the way up, the breathtaking views made the journey well worthwhile, and we enjoyed celebrating with ice creams at the café while practising our German.

Another highlight was visiting the historic city of Koblenz, where we explored the old town and toured the magnificent fortress overlooking the Rhine.

The trip was both educational and great fun, giving us the opportunity to develop our language skills, experience another culture and create lasting memories. I would thoroughly recommend it to any current Year 7 students who have the opportunity to take part next year.

Es war eine fantastische Reise! ("It was a fantastic trip!")

"I really enjoyed seeing Lorelay Rock on the boat trip and learning about the legend of the Lorelei siren!"
– Katerina B

"I loved going to Burg Eltz castle, finding out about its history, and how it was different to today's upper society and their culture. It was very interesting." – Jenna W



Year 10 A Level Taster Day

Congratulations to all our Year 10 students for the enthusiasm and maturity they demonstrated during Tuesday's A Level Taster Day.

Students experienced five different A Level subjects, giving them a valuable insight into the depth and challenge of Sixth Form study. Topics included logarithms in Mathematics, the role of the Erinyes in Classical Civilisation, regional variation in accents in English Language, Thomas Hardy's *The Voice* in English Literature, the origins of techno music in German, and the use of micrometers in Physics.

Students also enjoyed spending break and lunchtime in our Sixth Form café, Scholars, experiencing another aspect of Sixth Form life.

Staff were delighted by the students' engagement, curiosity and willingness to contribute throughout the day. It was an excellent introduction to A Level study and an exciting glimpse of the academic opportunities that lie ahead.

Canteen Service Update – Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd July

Please note some changes to our canteen provision due to upcoming events. On Thursday 2nd July, there will be no lunch service available as we prepare for our Year 5 Open Evening. The following day, Friday 3rd July, the canteen will be unavailable in the morning, meaning there will be no breakfast service on that day, due to our Year 7 induction activities.

Important Changes to Free School Meals from September 2026

Please see the attached information sheet about significant changes to free school meals (FSM) that will come into effect from 1 September 2026. If your child currently receives free school meals or if you believe you may now be eligible, please follow the link to complete the form by Friday 10th July 2026. All pupils must be rechecked before the start of the new school year to qualify and if you do not complete the form, your child's entitlement may be lost when they return in September.

[FREE SCHOOL MEALS APPLICATION FORM - JUNE 2026 – Fill in form](#)

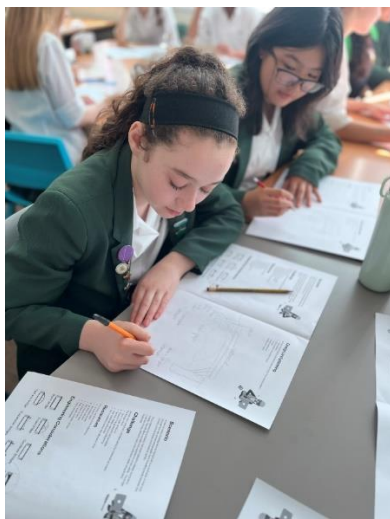
International Women in Engineering Day

Today students in Year 7 to 9 were inspired to explore careers engineering in as the school marked International Women in Engineering Day 2026 ([INWED](#)) by welcoming ten young female engineers for a day of hands-on learning and mentorship.

The event brought together SHSG alumni from a range of engineering and STEM fields, including architecture, civil engineering, construction, and aviation. Students had the opportunity to meet with these fantastic female role models and gain insight into the diverse and exciting career paths available in engineering for young women.

Throughout the day, students participated in a series of engineering challenges designed to develop problem-solving, teamwork, and creativity. Activities included bridge building, app design and an elevator challenge. This encouraged students to think like engineers and apply their knowledge in practical ways. The visiting engineers also led interactive sessions, sharing personal experiences, discussing the importance of innovation, team work and curiosity in engineering.

At lunch time, students were invited to a careers fair to meet all the visiting engineers.



Social Science A Level Taster Day with Eastwood Academy

On Monday 15 June, our Social Sciences Faculty was delighted to welcome 23 Year 10 students from Eastwood Academy for a Sixth Form outreach day, designed to give them a flavour of studying the social sciences at A Level and life at SHSG Sixth Form.

The day began with an introduction to Sixth Form life from Mrs Neill and Mr O'Brien before students took part in a series of engaging taster lessons. They explored Government and Politics with Mrs Binns, Psychology with Mrs Fellowes, Sociology with Ms Midwinter and Economics with Mr Herbert, experiencing the breadth and intellectual challenge of these subjects.

Visitors also enjoyed spending break and lunchtime in our newly refurbished Sixth Form study area and our café, Scholars. Guided tours of the school by our Year 10 prefects provided a further insight into life at SHSG.

Our visitors were exemplary throughout the day. They approached every session with enthusiasm, participated thoughtfully in discussions and demonstrated an excellent attitude to learning. It was a pleasure to host them, and we hope to welcome many of them back as members of our Sixth Form in the years ahead.

J Fellowes – Head of Psychology

‘Our pupils really enjoyed the experience, and the hospitality and organisation were just great. Our pupils really enjoyed meeting with your year 10 and 12 pupils too.’

J Edwards (Head of Sociology at Eastwood Academy)

Social Science Lunchtime Lecture



On Thursday 11 June, our Year 12 Sociology students welcomed Professor of Education and Social Justice at the University of Birmingham, who delivered a thought-provoking presentation based on her book *White Privilege* and her research into race and social justice in the UK.

She explored a range of issues, including whether racism and institutional racism have improved since 2020. Students engaged thoughtfully with the discussion, asking insightful questions, including whether the term *white privilege* can be perceived as divisive.

Year 12 student Ara commented that the talk had inspired her to read Professor Bhopal's book to deepen her understanding of the ethnicity topic studied in Sociology.

Silver DofE practice expedition.

Thirty-five students, accompanied by five current and former members of staff, took part in their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award practice expedition in the Hambleden Valley over the weekend of 6–7 June. Starting in Henley-on-Thames, students followed the Thames Path before crossing at Hambleden Lock and making their way through heavy rain to the campsite at Frieth. Excellent campcraft ensured warm meals, well-pitched tents and a comfortable night's rest before an early start on Sunday.

The second day saw students complete a challenging 17km circular route, demonstrating growing confidence in their navigation and teamwork. Despite some memorable encounters with the local cows, every group completed the route successfully.

The expedition concluded in characteristically wet conditions, with students showing impressive resilience as they packed camp in driving rain before making the final walk to the collection point. The practice expedition has provided excellent preparation for the assessed expedition in July, when we hope the waterproofs can be replaced by sunscreen!



Headteacher's Award



Philothea A and Hannah E , 7 HERA were awarded a Headteacher's Award for their contribution to the community.

Congratulations on being superb SHSG ambassadors.

National recognition for Year 13 Media Studies Students!

The Media Studies Department is delighted to announce that two of our Year 13 students, Aurora K and Isla B, have been shortlisted for the final of the prestigious national **MediaMag Production Competition**. From more than 60 schools and colleges entering the competition, just 20 students have reached the final. We are also pleased that Isabella P received a Special Commendation for her entry.

The finalists have been invited to attend the awards event at the BFI Southbank in July, where they will have the opportunity to see their short films screened on the big screen in front of friends, family and teachers.

Congratulations to all three students on this outstanding achievement. We wish Aurora and Isla the very best of luck in the final. More information can be found [here](#).

Cambridge Opportunities

Well done to all our Year 12s who have secured places on prestigious university residentials – we are really proud of you. There are still some summer residentials which remain open to applications, including the following at the University of Cambridge:

- [Trinity Humanities Residential](#)- deadline 19th June.
- [Anglo Saxon and Norse open day](#)- deadline 22nd June.
- [Trinity Law taster day](#)- deadline 19th July

PE Fixtures Week Beginning Monday 22nd June

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.

- Monday 22nd June: Year 7 & 8 Borough Cricket festival with year 12 Sports Leaders, Southend Cricket club 8.30-4pm
- Thursday 24th – Saturday 26th June: U17 World Schools' Netball Championships, Loughborough University

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.

Please note that from Monday 22nd June the changing rooms are back in use, so students should revert to normal uniform and changing room procedures for PE lessons and clubs.

Sporting Successes

On Saturday 13 June, 18 SHSG athletes were selected to represent the Southend Borough at the Essex Athletics Championships – a fantastic achievement and a reflection of the strength of athletics at the school.

A special congratulations goes to Dakota S, who achieved the National Standard in the Long Jump, securing selection to represent Essex at the National Championships in July.

Congratulations also to Holly B, who won a silver medal in the Javelin, Elouise and Emily, who both claimed silver medals in the High Jump, and Katie W, who won gold in the Junior Girls' 800m. These achievements are particularly impressive given that several of the students were balancing their performances with GCSE revision.

We wish Dakota every success at the National Championships next month.



Meningitis B Vaccines for Young Adults

The Government is introducing a free one-off, time-limited MenB (meningococcal B) vaccination programme from July 2026 for young adults aged 17-18. The scheme is specifically aimed at teenagers due to start university in September 2026 in response to the recent outbreaks in university halls this year, although all teenagers born between 1st September 2007 and 31st August 2008 are eligible.

Vaccines are given in two-doses, with the first dose available from July. the recommendation is that both doses are administered before the academic year begins. More information about the vaccine and how to book can be found here: [Getting the MenB vaccine ahead of starting university or college – The Education Hub](#) and [Book a MenB vaccination appointment - NHS](#)

Water Safety

The Royal Life Safety Society (RLSS) aims to educate as many people as possible about water safety and the prevention of drowning. With the summer holidays fast approaching, the RLSS have published a range of resources to support parents and carers to have conversations with teenagers about water safety, risky behaviours and what to do in an emergency. You can access their resources here: [Water Safety for Teenagers | Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK \)](#).

Government Summer Savings Scheme for Families

To help with the cost of living, the Government is introducing a 'Great British Summer Savings' scheme from Thursday 25th June to Tuesday 1st September. The scheme will include a cut to VAT for children's meals in restaurants and children's tickets to the theatre, cinema and attractions, alongside free local bus travel for 5 – 15 year olds throughout August.

Full details of participating venues and bus routes will be published on the Government's website: [Summer Savings - Cost of Living Help](#)

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:

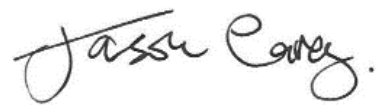
[Lower and Middle school SHSG Mental Health Board \(padlet.com\)](#)

[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,

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

Jason Carey
Headteacher

SHSG CULTURE WEEK ACTIVITIES

RUN BY	ACTIVITY	DATE	ROOM
German captain	German festivals presentation and quiz	Friday 26th June	6
French captains	French Africa	Thursday 25th June	2
Physics captains	Competition based on early air travel designed by different countries and cultures and link it to famous physicists. The competition what team can get their plane the furthest (design in the session, make at home), and best culturally designed.	Thursday 25th June	B2
Biology captains	An activity surrounding evolution and ethnicity, about why we have different skin colours and how it gets passed on and changes	Thursday 25th June	BIO4
Art Captains	Henna designs and create a postcard to represent their culture	Wednesday 24th June	5T1
Drama captain	Bollywood Style drama sessions, exploring Indian drama practitioners work	Wednesday 24th June	Drama studio
Classics captain	Art and theatre in the ancient world activities. This would involve drawing patterns or doing theatre productions in small groups	Friday 26th June	15
Psychology captains	We will present students with a few superstitions from different countries and ask them to guess which country they think it's from. Then we will talk to them about why people have superstitions and the psychology behind them	Thursday 25th June	MH14
English language captains	Matched Guise Test. This is a study surrounding ethnicity and accents, where participants rate different accents based on different factors. Here, the students would rate accents without knowing who is speaking. The aim is to represent and educate students on all cultures in a simple & fun way, while also disputing stereotypes surrounding different accents/cultures	Wednesday 24th June	B5
English Lit captains	Cultural narratives that have shaped literature through the ages	Thursday 25th June	B6
Economics captain	Trading game	Thursday 25th June	12

SHSG
CULTURE
FAIR

Monday 22nd June 2026

IN THE HALL

Stalls representing countries
and other elements of culture
such as scouts, guides etc
and dungeons and dragons!



COME AND LEARN ABOUT DIFFERENT CULTURES