



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, 20th March 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

This week has been a busy and rewarding one at SHSG, with students taking part in a wide range of enriching academic, creative, and community activities. From our visit by Emmanuel College, Cambridge, to achievements in music, mathematics, reading, and student leadership, there is much to celebrate across the school. Please also note that important information regarding the current meningococcal disease outbreak in Kent is included at the end of this letter, in line with UKHSA and DfE guidance.

Cambridge Comes to SHSG

On Monday 17th March, we were pleased to welcome representatives from Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge. Throughout the day, they worked with students in Years 7, 9 and 10, delivering a series of engaging workshops designed to deepen students' understanding of university applications and to encourage them to think ambitiously about their future pathways.

These sessions form part of our ongoing commitment to providing high-quality careers and futures education for all students, ensuring they are well informed and inspired when considering their next steps.

Students in Years 11 and 12 were also invited to attend optional lunchtime drop-in sessions, where they had the opportunity to ask further questions about university pathways, including the Oxbridge application process.

We are very pleased to have been able to offer this experience and hope it has provided valuable insight into higher education and the opportunities available beyond school.

If you would like to find out more about Emmanuel College's outreach work, please visit their website: [website here](#).

Year 11 All Stars

This half term, we were delighted to celebrate the achievements of our Year 11 pupils, with two form groups securing the All Star trophies in our Year 11 competition. 11Athene were crowned overall winners, having achieved the highest combined total of All Star points and teacher nominations so far this year. 11Hera also excelled, earning the greatest number of individual teacher nominations in recognition of their outstanding effort across both academic and community endeavours.

Pupils now look ahead to the final assembly of the year, where the overall individual All Star Award will be announced. We remain incredibly proud of all our Year 11 students for their sustained hard work, determination, and positivity as they prepare for their examinations.



A Show-Stopping Week of House Music Talent

This week's House Music Competition was a showcase of the musical talent within our school and the enthusiasm of our students. Preliminary rounds took place across lunchtimes from Monday to Wednesday, treating us to an impressive and varied programme of performances, including flute, clarinet, guitar, piano, and vocal pieces.

We commend all students who took part; their willingness to perform in front of their peers is an achievement. Each participant was awarded 20 house points in recognition of their commitment and for embracing this valuable opportunity to develop their performance skills and confidence.

Today's final brought together the top performers from each house, who performed once more before a panel of guest judges. The standard was exceptionally high. Aphrodite was represented by Alise, who delivered a beautiful piano performance. For Artemis, Abigail impressed with a self-accompanied vocal piece. Athene's Alice offered a confident rendition of *The Wizard and I*, while Aurora's Sylvia captivated the audience with *Cry Me a River*. Hera's Freya delivered a powerful interpretation of *Creep*, and Hermes was represented by Ayat Khan, who charmed listeners with *Part of Your World*. The hall was filled with staff and students, whose enthusiastic support created a warm and encouraging atmosphere. It was a wonderful celebration of musical talent and community spirit.

We are delighted to announce the results:

- 1st place: Freya — earning 1000 points for Hera
- 2nd place: Alise — securing 500 points for Aphrodite
- 3rd place: Sylvie — earning 250 points for Aurora

Well done to all who took part—what a fantastic way to end the week! Photos to come next week!

Legally Blonde at the Cliffs Pavilion – Student Reflection

Our Year 8 students were fortunate to see Legally Blonde at the Cliffs Pavilion this week. The performance offered a fantastic opportunity for them to experience live theatre as part of their Arts Award. Below is an account from Ren T in Year 8, reflecting on the visit.

I think Legally Blonde was amazing. The trip was so much fun, and I loved going to the Cliffs Pavilion with my friends. Before the trip, I didn't know anything about Legally Blonde, but through Arts Award I've now learnt a lot about it. The show was brilliant, and the whole day was really well organised. After registering in the gym at the start of lunch, we were put into groups and walked to Southend East station to take the train to Westcliff. From there, we walked to the Cliffs Pavilion, had a little time to sit on the grass, and then took our seats.

The stage was beautiful, and we had a great view. When the show started, it was awesome. The actors were incredible, and it was especially exciting to see Hannah Lowther on stage—both my friend and I have always wanted to see her perform, and thanks to this trip, we finally have. The songs were so catchy, and I haven't stopped listening to them since! It was an amazing trip and an amazing opportunity. Overall, it was a truly memorable experience, and the actors did a fantastic job. I can't wait to see what Arts Award brings next.

Year 7 Gold and Diamond Award Success



We are delighted to celebrate the success of our first six Year 7 students to achieve their Gold Awards, recognising an impressive 300 achievement points. This milestone reflects their dedication, positive attitude, and enthusiasm for school life. Our congratulations go to Ayodimeji O (7HRA), Anne A (7APH), Daniella A (7ATH), Kayla B (7ATH), Sivataruniya P (7HRM1), and Chloe W (7ART).

We are also exceptionally proud to announce the very first recipient of the Diamond Award: Anne A (7APH). Earning 400 achievement points is an outstanding accomplishment and a testament to her remarkable commitment to our school values.

Scholastic Book Fair

We were thrilled with the engagement and success of our recent Book Fair, held as part of our World Book Day celebrations. Thanks to the enthusiasm of our students and the generous support of parents, over £780 worth of books were purchased. This fantastic total means we can now add more than £300 of new books to our school library for students to enjoy.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mrs Skinner, our wonderful team of volunteer librarians, and Eliana, our Head Student Team Reading Lead, for their hard work and dedication in making these events such a success.

Pi Day Celebrations

The Mathematics Faculty began our Pi Day festivities last week with an impressive display of memory and mathematical enthusiasm. Congratulations to Anna R (Year 10) for reciting 247 digits of π , and well done to Shivani (Year 8), Kayla B (Year 7), and Waheer R (Year 9), who each successfully recited more than 200 digits.

Friday's Pi Day Bake Sale was also a tremendous success, with students generously contributing a wonderful selection of cakes and pies to raise funds for Havens Charity. Special mentions go to our talented Year 7 bakers, Kayla B and Imogen F, for their standout mini brownies and a show-stopping key lime pie that sold out within minutes. Our sincere thanks also go to our dedicated Year 12 Maths Captains, Year 13 maths students, and the additional Year 12 helpers who stepped in at short notice.

Our Pi Day Competition attracted a fantastic array of imaginative entries. Students submitted beautifully crafted artwork, thoughtful mathematical pieces, including an impressive mo'pi'us strip, and a variety of creative 3D designs. The ingenuity on display, from intricate models to a retro TV exhibiting digits of π , was particularly striking. We also enjoyed several inventive videos, including original songs and raps celebrating π .

A huge thank you to all students who took part; the standard of entries has been exceptional, and choosing the winners will be no easy task.

Year 10 Walking Talking Mocks

Last week, our Year 10 students took part in *Walking Talking Mocks* for English and maths. During these sessions, teachers from both faculties guided students, step-by-step through GCSE examination questions, highlighting key command words, modelling examples of strong responses, and giving students the opportunity to apply these techniques to real exam questions under timed conditions. We hope students found these sessions valuable as they prepare for their upcoming Year 10 PPEs.

Target Cambridge and Imperial

We are pleased to share an exciting opportunity for our Year 10 students. Applications are now open for the Target Cambridge and Imperial Programme, a collaboration between the University of Cambridge, Imperial College London, and the diversity organisation Rare. This programme is designed to support students of Black heritage who are interested in exploring pathways to leading universities. For more information, and to apply by 6th April 2026, please [click here](#).

SHSG PA Easter Raffle 2026

The SHSG Parents' Association is holding an Easter Raffle, with the draw taking place on Wednesday 25th March. The prizes are:

1st Prize: Tea for Two at the Roslin Beach Hotel, Southend-on-Sea

2nd Prize: Family Portrait Session

3rd Prize: £40 Gift Voucher for Morley Nurseries (Wakering)

4th Prize: A selection of chocolate Easter eggs

Tickets cost £2 each and can be purchased via ParentPay. Once purchased, raffle tickets will be automatically entered into the draw.

Ticket sales close on Tuesday 24th March, and the winning raffle tickets will be drawn the following day. All funds raised by the SHSG Parents' Association directly support the school. Thank you for your continued support.

Behaviour on public transport

We are proud of our strong links with the local community and of the way our students represent SHSG. I would like to remind all students travelling to and from school on public transport to remain mindful and considerate of other passengers, and to ensure that their behaviour reflects the high standards we expect.

For those travelling by train, non-emergency incidents can be reported to the British Transport Police by texting 61016. Officers are stationed along the line and can board or leave the train at the next stop to provide assistance if required.

Meningitis B Outbreak

As you may be aware, there is an ongoing outbreak of meningococcal disease associated with educational settings in Kent. We understand that students, parents, carers, and staff may feel concerned about the risks of meningitis B. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the Department for Education (DfE) have asked schools and colleges to remain vigilant and to take precautionary steps by sharing up-to-date information about the outbreak and the support available to school communities.

Attached to this letter is information from the DfE outlining the current situation, along with guidance on the signs and symptoms of meningitis.

You may also find the following links to further information helpful:

- The UKHSA blog [Meningitis B outbreak: what you need to know – UK Health Security Agency](#)
- The UKHSA latest news story which is being updated daily at 9.30am: [Cases of invasive meningococcal disease notified in Kent - GOV.UK](#).
- [MenACWY vaccine: information for young people - GOV.UK](#)
- All children and young people should be encouraged to be up to date with their routine immunisations as per the childhood schedule: [Routine childhood immunisation schedule - GOV.UK](#)
- [Meningitis Research Foundation | The world's leading meningitis charity](#)
- [Meningitis Now | Meningitis charity | Research and awareness](#)

We will continue to share any new information from the UKHSA or DfE as and when it becomes available.

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