



# 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, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

It has been a lively and inspiring week at SHSG, packed with achievements, creativity and exciting opportunities across the school. From fantastic competition entries to impressive academic success and preparations for key upcoming events, there has been so much to celebrate. I'm delighted to share some of the highlights with you below.

## **Year 9 Options Evening and Subject Fair: Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 6-7.30pm**

We are looking forward to welcoming Year 9 students and their parents to our Options Evening, part of our programme designed to support students as they begin choosing their GCSE subjects.

During the evening, families are invited to attend a presentation delivered by key staff involved in the options process: **Miss Riebold (Deputy Headteacher)**, **Mr Morgan (Head of Year 9)** and **Ms Boyson (Director of Sixth Form)**. Some of our Year 10 and Year 11 students will also be sharing their experiences to provide a helpful student perspective on GCSE choices and study.

To manage numbers, we ask parents to attend the presentation at the time allocated to their child's form group. Students will receive a ticket during registration, which you should bring with you.

### **Presentation times:**

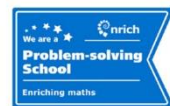
- **6.00–6.30pm:** Hera and Hermes
- **6.30–7.00pm:** Athene and Aurora
- **7.00–7.30pm:** Aphrodite and Artemis

For the remainder of the evening, families are invited to visit the **Subject Fair in the Sports Hall**, where each department will host a stall. This is an opportunity to speak with subject teachers and current students about the GCSE courses and to view examples of student work.

The functionality to select GCSE Options will go live on the **SIMS Parent app on Monday 26th January**. An IT support desk will be available in the Sports Hall during the event to help with any issues accessing the app. Please bring your device with you. Alternatively, you can email [options@shsg.org](mailto:options@shsg.org) for assistance. A detailed letter has already been sent to all Year 9 parents outlining the full programme of activities supporting students with their options choices.

## **Geography Olympiad Success**

Before Christmas, eight of our Year 12 geographers took part in the pilot of the new Geography Olympiad, organised by the Geographical Association. This demanding 45-minute test challenged students with 60 questions spanning curriculum content, global issues and wider geographical knowledge.



We are delighted to share that the group achieved an excellent set of results overall, including one Silver Award, three Bronze Awards, and four Participation Certificates. We congratulate Emily H, Annabel D, Nidhi R, Sasha H, Francesca D, Emily C, Maisie L and Deborah F on their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment.

This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to stretch their geographical understanding, and we are extremely proud of their achievements.

### ***Clubs and Activities at SHSG***

At SHSG, we strongly believe that education is about far more than academic subjects alone. A truly enriching school experience includes opportunities for students to broaden their horizons, develop new skills, build confidence, and discover interests that will stay with them for life.

We are very fortunate to offer an extensive range of extra-curricular and super-curricular clubs and activities, covering everything from creative arts and sports to STEM and languages, and so much more. These opportunities play a vital role in supporting students' personal development and helping them become well-rounded, confident young people.

Our full programme of clubs and activities for this term is available on our school website and can be accessed here:

Please do take a moment to speak with your child about the activities they might like to get involved in this term. We are always delighted to see students trying something new, developing their passions, and fully embracing all that SHSG has to offer.

### **Get Involved! Clubs and Activities at SHSG**

At SHSG, your school experience is so much more than the classroom. Clubs and activities are your chance to discover new interests, push yourself, build confidence and have fun along the way.

This term, we've got an amazing line-up of extracurricular and super-curricular opportunities, from creative arts, sports, STEM, music, languages, debating, and lots more. Whether you want to dive deeper into something you already love or try something completely new, there's definitely something for you.

You can check out the full list of clubs and activities on the school website: [CLUBS-ACTIVITIES-SPRING-TERM-JAN-2026.pdf](#)

Take a look, choose something that sparks your interest, and give it a go this term. We can't wait to see you challenging yourselves, meeting new people and making the most of everything SHSG has to offer. Go for it!

### ***Tubs to hubs campaign***



Congratulations to **Grace H in Year 8!** For the second year running, Grace has shown remarkable commitment to our annual collection for the national 'Tubs to Hubs' campaign run by Greene King. This year she collected an impressive **289 plastic tubs**, matching her fantastic efforts from last year.

Grace has been incredibly proactive, reaching out to local businesses, friends and family to gather as many tubs as possible — a real testament to her enthusiasm and determination.

Well done, Grace, and thank you for your brilliant contribution to this important initiative.

### House Bookmark Competition

This term, students took part in our annual House Bookmark Competition, celebrating creativity, reading culture and House spirit. Students were invited to design an original bookmark inspired by themes of belonging, imagination and the joy of reading.

The standard of entries was exceptionally high, with students demonstrating impressive artistic skill and thoughtful interpretation of the brief. The winning designs from each House will now be professionally printed and made available in the school library over the coming weeks, allowing the whole school community to enjoy and use the students' work.

Well done to all students who took part; your creativity has truly shone this year!



### Life Skills Logo Competition



This year, our Year 7–9 Life Skills Competition invited students to design new icons for our four Strands of Learning: *Health and Wellbeing*, *Relationships*, *Living in the Wider World* and *Citizenship*. These icons will appear on lesson resources, displays and other materials to help students recognise and navigate each strand as they progress through the curriculum.

We were delighted by the creativity, care and thought shown across all entries. After much deliberation, the winning set of designs was created by **Thea C (7APH)**. Thea's icons will now be used across our Life Skills curriculum, and she has also earned valuable House Points for her achievement.

Well done, Thea — and thank you to all students who took part!

### **Year 13 Assembly: Understanding JCQ Guidance on AI Use in Coursework and NEAs**

This week, Year 13 students attended an assembly focused on the appropriate and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in coursework and Non-Examination Assessments (NEAs). As a school, we are committed to embracing the exciting opportunities that AI can offer in learning, while ensuring that its use remains fully compliant with the national regulations set by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) for GCSE and A Level courses.

It is essential that students clearly understand what is permitted, and what is not, when using AI in assessed work. To support this, every student has received a summary infographic outlining the key JCQ guidance. This has also been attached for your reference.

If your child has any questions about how they have used, or intend to use, AI in their coursework or NEAs, they should speak directly to their subject teacher or to their Head of Year, Mr O'Brien.

Thank you for your continued support as we help students navigate these developments thoughtfully, confidently and responsibly.

### **Sports 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 member of the PE department. Thank you.

- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January: U15 Basketball Home v Thorpe Hall School
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January: Year 10 & 12 dry slope ski trip
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January: U14 Football Away v King John School
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January: U18 Netball Away v Eastbrook

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://www.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 \(padlet.com\)](https://www.padlet.com)

[SHSG Mental Health Board \(padlet.com\)](https://www.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