



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, 24th April 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Summer Term Clubs and Activities

Please find a link to the summer term clubs and activities programme [‘here’](#)

Celebrating Progress: Year 10 and Year 12 Pre-Public Examinations

Congratulations to our Year 10 and Year 12 students on the successful completion of their first set of pre-public examinations. They will return to their normal timetables next week. Throughout this demanding period, students demonstrated impressive commitment, focus and resilience, and we are very proud of the mature and purposeful way in which they approached these assessments.

Full school reports, including examination results, most likely grades and teacher targets (where appropriate), will be shared with parents and carers on Friday 5th June. Year 12 students now move confidently into the next stages of their sixth-form journey: the UCAS university application process launches in May, followed by a week of work experience in June, both important milestones as they prepare for life beyond school.

The Final Push: Making Every Lesson Count for Year 11 and Year 13

Next week marks the final full week of lessons for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, and we are very much looking forward to sending them off in style with our end-of-Key Stage celebrations on Wednesday 6th May (Year 11) and Friday 8th May (Year 13).

In the meantime, every lesson genuinely counts. The weeks between the Easter holidays and study leave are often the game-changer lessons, where students fine-tune examination technique and sharpen their subject mastery under the expert guidance of their teachers. This is a pivotal period: students consolidate skills, build confidence and develop the habits that can make a decisive difference to final outcomes.

We are immensely proud of the progress our examination classes are making, and the scholarly buzz around the school at present is unmistakable—a fitting reflection of their hard work, ambition and focus as the exam season approaches.

Year 11 Welcome to Sixth Form Events

Over the past two weeks, we have been delighted to welcome our Year 11 form groups into the Sixth Form Building as part of their preparation for the transition to A Levels. These dedicated sessions offered students a valuable insight into sixth-form expectations, study habits and the opportunities that lie ahead. Students heard from Mr Carey and Ms Boyson, who spoke about sixth-form life, academic independence and making a successful step up to A Level study. This was complemented by honest and reassuring talks from our current Year 12 students, who shared their own experiences and practical advice on how best to prepare for the challenges and rewards of sixth form.

The sessions concluded with a visit to our Sixth Form café, Scholars, where Year 11 students enjoyed breakfast with Year 12s and had the opportunity to ask questions in an informal, supportive setting. These conversations helped demystify the transition and gave students confidence as they begin to look ahead to the next stage of their academic journey.



Building Independence and Adventure: Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Curriculum Day

Today, all of Year 9 took part in a highly practical and engaging Curriculum Day focused on preparation for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition. Throughout the day, students developed essential knowledge, skills and confidence required for a safe and successful adventurous journey.

Students worked collaboratively to pitch tents, safely use Trangia stoves to heat water and prepare food, and learn how to pack rucksacks efficiently and responsibly. They also explored key expedition skills such as route planning and orientation, countryside and road safety, and the importance of teamwork, self-reliance and sound decision-making in outdoor environments.

Importantly, the day proved both beneficial and enjoyable for the entire year group, including those students who will not be completing the expedition itself. As one Yr9 reflected, "Even though I'm not completing the DofE expedition, I learned lots of really useful skills, and making hot chocolate on the Trangia with my group was a real highlight." Another student said, "It was really good preparation for the actual expedition... and great fun too!"

We would like to thank Mr Smith, together with all the staff involved, for their enthusiasm, expertise and commitment in making the day such a success. Their support ensured students were challenged, supported and inspired throughout. Further details and photographs will be shared in next week's newsletter to showcase their experiences.



Leaders



Ready!



Great teamwork!



Expert instructions from the intrepid Mr Shipton

Year 13 A Level Exam Briefing

This week, Year 13 students attended an Examination Briefing with Miss Riebold to review some key information and regulations provided by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) regarding A Level examinations. This includes information about what to do before, during and after the examination. Students have been emailed the PowerPoint and all the relevant JCQ documents. We recommend students familiarise themselves with these. They are also attached to this letter for your information.

Celebrating Young Writers: Green Dagger Competition 2025



Congratulations to the winners of this year's Green Dagger creative writing competition. Sitara S (12KMI) was awarded first place for her outstanding story, *Where Have All the Pretty Things Gone?*, with Sophie S (9HRA) receiving the runner-up prize for her evocative piece, *Young Mysteries*. The standard of entries was exceptionally high. Sitara and Sophie should be enormously proud of their achievements, and we extend our congratulations to all the talented students who entered. It was a genuine pleasure to read such thoughtful, imaginative and accomplished work.

All competition entries have now been published on the English Department Blog, which we warmly encourage the school community to explore and enjoy.

Science Week at SHSG

Next week we look forward to celebrating SHSG Science Week, with an array of exciting events every lunchtime. More details have been shared in registration time with students, but some highlights are below:

- Monday – Explore your five senses in BIO3
- Tuesday – Can you save an egg? in PH2
- Wednesday – Murder Mystery in CH3
- Thursday – Robotic Programming in IT1
- Friday – The Great SHSG Science Quiz in the Hall

Sixth Form Summer School Opportunities

Please see below a roundup of some excellent Summer School opportunities for Year 12 to consider. Our link college, Emmanuel College, has launched its annual EmmPower Summer Residential for students interested in applying to Cambridge. More information [here](#). The closing date is Sunday 10th May 2026. Secondly, our partner Russell Group University, Exeter, launches the Exeter Scholars programme on Monday. Feedback from previous SHSG students has been extremely positive about this opportunity. More information [here](#). Finally, students can apply for the Sutton Trust Online summer school. Sutton Trust Online. Applications open Mid-May but you can register interest [here](#).

World Challenge Launch – Years 7, 8 & 9



On Wednesday, Year 8 had their World Challenge launch assembly. Year 7 and 8 will have their assembly next week.

World Challenge is a life-changing opportunity for students to explore Vietnam with expert guides, while developing their life skills, confidence and independence. We're partnering with World Challenge to offer this 13-night trip in **July 2028**.

Applications are now open, so please visit the [trip webpage](#) for the sign-up link, itinerary, travel dates, Covid-secure booking terms and trip cost, including examples of how past students have covered this themselves.

As part of the student development journey, students are encouraged to 'earn their place' and fundraise towards the expedition, developing valuable entrepreneurial and financial skills along the way.

Kim from World Challenge will host the 20-minute Zoom presentation on **5th May 2026 at 6pm**. To attend, please [register here](#).

PE Fixtures Week Beginning Monday 27th 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 28th April: Intermediate Girls' Athletics away v Thorpe Hall School
- Wednesday 29th April: Junior and Intermediate Girls' Athletics Home v Appleton
- Wednesday 29th April: Year 8-11 Hammer and Pole Vault, Borough Trials away at SHSB
- Thursday 30th April: Year 8-11 Borough Trials at Garons, track and field events (except Hammer and Pole Vault)

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

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