



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, 25th September 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

It has been another busy and positive week at SHSG, with students taking part in a wide range of opportunities across school life. From our Whole School Photograph and a wonderful live music recital, to sporting success, choir auditions and preparation for forthcoming events, there has been much to celebrate. Thank you, as always, to our students, staff and families for the energy and support you continue to bring to our school community.

Important update: reporting student absence

This week, our telephone system is being updated to improve how we manage student absence notifications. As part of this change, the dedicated absence line will no longer be in use.

From **Wednesday 30th September**, if your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please report their absence by calling the main school number, **01702 588852**, and selecting Option 1. You will then be directed to a menu of options, allowing you either to speak with, or leave a message for, your child's pastoral team. Voicemails can be left at any time of day, including outside normal school hours.

We would be grateful if all parents could use this process from now on to ensure absence information reaches the appropriate staff as quickly and efficiently as possible.

A Whole School Tradition



This week, the entire SHSG community came together for one of our most cherished traditions: the Whole School Photograph.

The weather provided the perfect backdrop for the occasion, as students and staff gathered on the field before taking their places on the staging, arranged in height order. It was wonderful to see the whole school together, and our students represented SHSG exceptionally well throughout the morning. Their excellent conduct drew praise from the photographers.

As part of our tradition, we also took photographs of some of our tallest and shortest students. This year, Milo in Year 12 was pictured alongside Sofia in Year 7. We also extended this tradition to include staff, with Mr Escott and Mrs Clarkson-Hull, among our tallest and shortest colleagues, joining in the fun.

The morning was a wonderful celebration of our school community and a reminder of the unique traditions that make SHSG such a special place. We look forward to sharing the finished photograph with you in due course.

A wonderful afternoon of Classical and Jazz Music

On Tuesday, some of our students had the pleasure of attending a special recital by renowned classical pianist Katarina Ström. Performing on our grand piano, Katarina treated students to a wonderful selection of classical and jazz pieces, offering them the chance to experience live music at close quarters.

Students also heard about Katarina's musical career and the opportunities that can arise from learning and performing an instrument. The recital also introduced them to the work of Jazz Centre UK and the different ways in which young people can become involved in the world of jazz.

We are fortunate to offer instrumental tuition in school across a wide range of instruments, alongside an extensive programme of extra-curricular music. I would warmly encourage students to take advantage of these opportunities and to get involved.

The Music Department is back in full flow

This week saw auditions for our prestigious Novem Consort and Chamber Choir, with an exceptionally high standard making the final decisions incredibly difficult. Congratulations to all those who have successfully secured a place- we look forward to working with you at our many exciting events this year!

Dates for your diary:

- Southend Festival of Performing Arts
Thursday 26th and Saturday 28th November | Times TBC | United Reformed Church
- Winter Concerts
Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th December | 6.30pm | Southend High School for Girls
- Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Thursday 17th December | 7.00pm | Holy Trinity Church

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

A reminder for Year 12 parents that the parent/tutor consultation evening will be taking place online on Thursday 1st October. Details of how to book an appointment and use the online platform have been sent out earlier this week, on Wednesday 23rd September. Please note that this evening is to provide an opportunity to discuss how your child is settling into Sixth Form life at Southend High School for Girls. A parents' evening to discuss academic progress follows later in the year on Thursday 11th February 2027.

200 Club – Parents' Association

There is still time to join the SHSG 200 Club, a fantastic initiative that supports the school while giving members the chance to win monthly cash prizes.

For just £12 per year, members are entered into 12 monthly prize draws, with all funds raised directly supporting our students through additional resources and improvements across the school. The Parents' Association has recently contributed more than £7,000 towards a range of projects, making a real difference to school life.

If you would like to take part, please note that ticket sales will be closing soon. Full details can be found [here](#).

Calling future bankers! Careers Opportunities

On Tuesday 6th October Lloyd's banking group are offering a free online introduction for students in Years 11 to 13 to their outreach programme. It includes eight Saturday morning in person experiences covering apprenticeships, work experience, internships and graduate programmes. More information can be found [here](#).

Student Achievements

Congratulations to Anna (year 12), Orla B (year 11), Sadie O (year 10) and Fleur B (year 9) who all won silver medals at the Essex Cross Country relays at Epping Forest last weekend along with some fantastic individual and team performances.



We have enjoyed a fantastic start to the sporting year, with a number of excellent performances across our teams.

Our Under 14 and Under 16 netball squads have both qualified for the County Tournament on Sunday 11 October, while our Under 13 netball squad secured a convincing victory over Shenfield to progress beyond the preliminary round of the School Sport Magazine National Cup.

In football, our Under 14 squad defeated Orsett Heath in the second round of the National Cup. Our Year 7 team were involved in an extremely competitive match against Thorpe Hall School in the same competition, narrowly losing on penalties. Meanwhile, both our Year 7 and Year 8 netball squads recorded friendly victories over Thorpe Hall.

It has been especially pleasing to see so many students attending training sessions, representing the school and trying new sports. Well done to everyone involved.

PE Fixtures

For the week beginning Monday 28th:

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 28th September: U12 Netball away v St Joseph's, Ipswich

Advanced warning – Sunday 11th October will be the County Schools' netball tournament. This will be all day in Colchester and students will need to travel independently to this. Clubs should be aware of this date but please ensure that they know it might clash with their club league matches.

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/mental-health-wellbeing).

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