



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, 27th February 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Year 7 Waterstones Trips for World Book Day

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, all Year 7 students visited Waterstones in Southend city centre this week. Each student had the opportunity to choose a book of their own, fully funded by the school. This annual initiative is part of our commitment to fostering a love of reading and lifelong literacy. Once the student finishes reading, we encourage them to donate their book to our school library so others can enjoy it too.

Students explored a wide range of books, discussed their interests, and received recommendations from our dedicated Year 10 Reading Mentors. It was a fantastic experience, with many students discovering new authors and genres. A special thank you to our Year 10 reading mentors, Eliana C, the deputy head student responsible for reading initiatives, and all the staff involved for their support in making this event such a success.

2026 is the National Year of Reading, which gives us the perfect opportunity to celebrate all the wonderful activities and events SHSG runs each year to inspire a love of reading across our school community. Next week, we're excited to host a range of fun events for World Book Day! Students can look forward to a scavenger hunt, 'write to the author' activities, and more, including our annual Scholastic Book Sale. Everything will be set up in the foyer at lunchtime from **Thursday 5th March**, and students are welcome to use their World Book Day vouchers towards the cost of a book.

We can't wait to continue celebrating and encouraging a lifelong love of reading with our students!





Jack Petchey Winners for January and February

January: Tasnuba R (11HRM)

Three years ago, Tasnuba took the initiative to establish our Debating Society. Since then, more than one hundred students have taken part, with Tasnuba leading training, hosting internal debates, and driving the society's growing success. She now mentors new members, preparing them for competitions, and consistently delivers winning performances against local schools.

Thanks to her leadership, many students have gained confidence, developed critical thinking skills, and found their voice. Tasnuba is an exceptional student whose generosity and humility make this award richly deserved.

February: Rose M (10AUR)

After facing medical difficulties, Rose has shown remarkable resilience. She has approached this challenge with maturity, courage, and determination, remaining focused on her goals and maintaining a positive attitude in school. Her strength of character makes her a worthy recipient of this month's award.

A Week of Lunar New Year Celebrations



This week we were delighted to celebrate Lunar New Year with a vibrant programme of activities. The week opened with a thoughtful whole-school assembly from Artemis House Captain, Jess T (Year 12), who spoke eloquently about the significance of the festival.

Students across all year groups enjoyed a Lunar New Year trail and red envelope hunt, earning house points while learning about the traditions and symbols of the celebration.

Throughout the week, origami, lantern-making and Chinese calligraphy workshops offered students the chance to explore the cultural richness of Lunar New Year while developing new artistic skills. Film Club also joined the festivities with a special screening of *Mulan*.

Thank you to all staff and students involved in creating such an engaging and enriching series of events—and a particular thank you to Jess for launching the week so impressively.

Celebrating Our STEM Racing Teams

Last half term, four teams from Years 10 and 12 represented SHSG at the regional STEM Racing Finals at Harlow College. This fast-paced challenge required students to design and manufacture a model Formula 1 car, present their engineering approach to industry experts, create a professional pit display, and produce detailed engineering and enterprise portfolios.

All teams have shown exceptional commitment since October, and on the day they demonstrated confidence, teamwork, and real enthusiasm. Although we did not bring home an award this year, their creativity, professionalism, and technical skill were outstanding.

We are incredibly proud of their achievements, and they will soon receive their STEM badges in recognition of their hard work and dedication.



Inspiring Visit from Industry Professional

Students in Years 10–13 enjoyed an engaging and insightful presentation from Evie Carpenter, a member of the Visual Merchandise team at Ralph Lauren London. Evie spoke about her role within the global fashion brand and offered valuable guidance on creative career pathways, including the benefits of an art foundation course and undertaking a degree with a year in industry.

Her talk gave students a real insight into the creative industries and the diverse opportunities they offer. Both the students and the Art Department greatly appreciated her visit, and we are grateful to Ralph Lauren for supporting such a valuable experience for our learners.

Year 13 Student Finance Parental Webinar

Many thanks to the families who joined our parental webinar run by our partner university, the University of Exeter, on Wednesday evening. The webinar covered costs for university, approaches to budgeting and the process for applying for a student loan.

University of Oxford Online Maths Club

The Maths Faculty would like to promote an exciting opportunity for students: the **Oxford Online Maths Club**, a free weekly livestream from the University of Oxford. It is relaxed, interactive, and perfect for anyone interested in exploring maths beyond the classroom. Each session is hosted by Dr James Munro and often features current Oxford students answering questions and discussing fascinating mathematical ideas.

Livestreams take place on Thursday afternoons — but do not worry if you can't make it. All sessions are recorded and can be watched at any time.

The club is mostly aimed at students who are about to apply to university or about to start a maths course Post-16 or Post-18. Whether you are considering a future in maths or simply want to deepen your curiosity, this is a fantastic resource.

[Oxford Online Maths Club | Mathematical Institute](#)

PE Fixtures Week beginning Monday 2nd March

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 2nd March: U15 Basketball away v Eastwood
- Tuesday 3rd March: U13 Basketball away v St Bernard's
- Wednesday 4th March: Borough Swimming gala, Garons
- Wednesday 4th March: U13 Football Home v St Bernard's
- (TBC Thursday 5th or Friday 6th: Year 7A Netball Home v St. Martin's (Essex cup semi final))

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