



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, 28th November 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Days – Wednesday 10TH and Thursday 11TH December



Our Christmas Lunch celebrations will run across two days to ensure all students and staff can enjoy our traditional festive meal:

Wednesday 10 December: Athene, Artemis, Aphrodite

Thursday 11 December: Hera, Hermes, Aurora

Please refer to the attached information for full details. On both dates, the canteen will serve Christmas lunch only; there will be no breakfast, break service or alternative lunch options.

Students are also invited to wear a Christmas jumper on either or both days, regardless of their House allocation. This supports HARP, Southend's homeless charity. **A £2 donation can be made via ParentPay by Friday 5 December.** Jumpers should be worn with full school uniform. To keep things sustainable, if a Christmas jumper isn't available, a borrowed one or a jumper in festive colours is absolutely fine. Thank you for supporting both this tradition and a very worthy cause.

Walking Talking Mocks

This week, Year 11 took part in Walking Talking Mocks (WTMs) in English literature, English language and maths. This was their second round, building on the foundations laid in Year 10 and giving them focused preparation ahead of the PPEs in January.

WTMs give students the rare chance to watch an examination being modelled in real time by experienced teachers and examiners. The aim is simple: sharpen technique. Students are shown how to interpret command words accurately, avoid common pitfalls and manage their time effectively. Because the sessions are developmental, they are not assessed and no data is generated.

Student feedback has been strong, with many noting how useful the process is. Staff leading the sessions were equally positive, highlighting the focus, attitude and quality of work shown by Year 11.

Well done to Year 11, and my thanks to the English and maths teams for delivering these high-impact sessions.



Year 12 Geographers explore Newham



On Friday 21st November, our Year 12 Geographers enjoyed bright weather for their first fieldwork day in Newham. They explored Old Stratford, Canning Town and the Royal Docklands, investigating how perceptions of place shift across these sharply contrasting areas. Using a range of fieldwork techniques, students examined different stages of regeneration and gained meaningful insight into Newham's diverse urban landscape. Lunch choices ranged from independent international street food to familiar global chains, adding another layer to their understanding of place. The day wrapped up at the Royal Docklands with our annual group photo: a fitting end to an engaging and productive fieldwork experience.

Maths in Action Conference – Year 12

On Wednesday 26th November, Year 12 A Level mathematicians attended the *Maths in Action Conference* at the Emmanuel Centre in London. The event showcased how mathematics underpins real-world careers, with engaging talks from doctors, researchers and academics. The day struck a balance between high-level academic insight and the practical, everyday applications of maths.

The conference was hosted by magician Matt Pritchard, who delivered a standout session, 'The Man Who Cannot Lose'. Using probability and number parity, he demonstrated how mathematical thinking can predict, and even drive the outcomes of his tricks.

Students found the experience motivating. Elodie P described the day as "exciting because it made me realise the potential of mathematics." Brooke S added that it "not only taught me how to achieve highly in my education, but also showed me more everyday uses of maths and even some entertaining new ways of applying it."

Art visiting speaker- Elleanna Chapman



Last week, we welcomed alumna Elleanna Chapman, who returned to speak about her work as an artist and the path that brought her into socially engaged practice. Art student Mabel S (12KJA) captured the impact of the talk:

The lunchtime lecture was striking in the way Elleanna laid bare the connection between art and protest. She grounds her work in what she describes as the "political potential of art to catalyse revolution" and uses it to express her fascination with "all things kitsch, cute and kitty-tastic,". Her bedazzled, hyper-feminine aesthetic sits firmly within working-class politics and class struggle; hearing her articulate that perspective made the session both thought-provoking and memorable.

As a former SHSG student who went on to study at the Ruskin School of Art, Oxford, Elleanna offered genuine insight into the realities of pursuing an artistic career. She was candid about the practical demands: side jobs, commissions, networks, residencies and the importance of community support in sustaining creative work. Yet she consistently returned to one core belief: that art can be a tool for collective change, and that every piece has the potential to carry a call for revolution.

That combination of honesty, ambition and conviction made the talk inspiring, grounded and challenging in equal measure, leaving students motivated to rethink the purpose and power of their own art.

Year 11 Parents' Evening, Thursday 4th December

A reminder that the Year 11 parents' evening will be taking place online next week on **Thursday 4th December**. A separate letter with further information about booking appointments has been sent out this week.

Advanced notice for all chocolate and sweet lovers

The geography department and Planet Action will be launching its annual collection of plastic tubs after the Christmas holidays (Quality Street / Roses etc). As usual, collectors will be awarded with achievement points. Watch this space for further details in January 2026, but please don't throw these away!

We do this to support a national scheme [TUB2PUB](#) run by Greene King.

Year 10 Reading mentors

Congratulations to the sixty Year 10 students appointed as reading mentors. The role drew significant interest, with well over eighty applications, and the successful students should be proud of securing a place. They will be supporting Year 7 readers and leading reading groups as part of the Carnegie Shadowing Scheme.

A well-earned congratulations to all involved.

Christmas Events

Lunchtime Carol Concert – Monday 1st December

Get into the festive spirit with our Lunchtime Carol Concert! Students can join us in the Main Hall from 12.45–1.15pm for some seasonal cheer. Tickets are limited; please refer to the MS Form found on the Satchel One noticeboard.

Year 7 Christmas Song Day – Tuesday 2nd December

A reminder that Tuesday is the annual Christmas song writing day for Year 7. Students must come to school in full uniform, but they may add festive embellishments, such as:

- Festive alicie bands
- Tinsel
- Christmas socks

Students **cannot** wear the following:

- Christmas jumper – as Christmas Jumper days are the Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th December
- Christmas earrings
- Any other Christmas jewellery

Students should bring their musical instrument if they play one and something to write their notes and lyrics on. No other equipment is required for this day. Each Year 7 form will perform in one of the two winter concerts (see below).

Winter Concerts – Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th December

Don't miss our Winter Concerts, running on both evenings from 6.30–8.00pm. With more than 200 students performing, the events will showcase real musical talent and teamwork. Families and staff are warmly invited.

Tickets are available via ParentPay: £8 for adults and £6 for children/concessions.

Below are the performances ensembles for each evening:

Tuesday 9th December	Wednesday 10th December
7 Aphrodite	7 Aurora
7 Artemis	7 Hera
7 Athene	7 Hermes 1
Big Band	7 Hermes 2
Chamber Choir	Big Band
Flute Ensemble	Chamber Choir
Guitar Club	Gospel Choir
Novem Consort	Highly Strung
Orchestra	Novem Consort
SHSG Choir	Orchestra
	SHSG Choir

Carol Service and Nine Lessons – Wednesday 17th December

Our traditional Carol Service will take place at Holy Trinity Church on Southchurch Boulevard from 7–8pm on Wednesday 17th December. It promises an evening of carols and festive reflection, followed by refreshments. No tickets are required, but please be aware that seating is limited. We look forward to marking the season together as a school community.

SHSG Lunchtime Menus

We have also attached to this email the weekly lunchtime menus for the Main Canteen so that parents can see the variety of food on offer to students.

The SHSG Parents' Association

The SHSG Parents' Association will be running a raffle on both evenings of the Winter Concerts — Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th December 2025.

Prizes for each night include:

- 1st – Winter Hamper
- 2nd – Trio of Wines
- 3rd – L'Occitane Beauty Sleep Collection Bodycare Gift Set

Plus additional prizes available on the night.

Tickets cost £2 each and can be purchased via ParentPay. Once purchased, entries will be automatically added to the raffle for the selected evening. Ticket sales close on Monday 8th December, but tickets will still be available at the concerts for anyone who misses the deadline.

All proceeds support the school. Thank you for your continued backing.

House Bookmark Design Competition – Reminder

Our annual bookmark design competition is open to all students. The winning design from each house will be printed on official house bookmarks, and all entries earn 20 house points! Entry forms are available in the library, and the closing date is **Friday 5th December**. We look forward to seeing your creative designs.

PE fixtures for next week

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 1st December: Year 7A & B and Year 8 Netball Home v WHSG
- Monday 1st December: U16 Basketball Away v Riverside
- Tuesday 2nd December: U12 Basketball Away v Woodlands

- Wednesday 3rd December: U13 Indoor Cricket, Chelmsford
- Wednesday 3rd December: Year 10 GCSE PE Rock Climbing NEA preparation session (at SHSG)
- Friday 5th December: Student leaders at Alleyn Court primary netball
- Friday 5th December: Year 7-13 leave for Cross Country National final in Warwickshire
- Saturday 6th December: Year 7-13 National Cross Country finals, Warwickshire

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.

Lunchtime Head of Year Detentions – Updated Notification Process

Please be aware that notifications for lunchtime Head of Year detentions are now issued through Satchel One, our online homework and behaviour platform. They will no longer be sent directly by Pastoral Support Officers or Heads of Year.

If you have any difficulty accessing Satchel One or viewing these notifications, please contact your child's Pastoral Support Officer or Head of Year for support.

RSE Policy – Parent Consultation Reminder

Thank you to those who have already shared feedback on our draft Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) policy. Parents are invited to complete the anonymous form by **Friday 16th January 2026**. To support parents, we will be hosting two online information sessions:

- **Years 7–9:** Thursday 11th December, 5:00–6:00pm
- **Years 10–11:** Thursday 18th December, 5:00–6:00pm

Joining links will be emailed during the week beginning **8th December**. Thank you for working with us to make sure our RSE curriculum supports every student well.

Mental Health & Wellbeing at SHSG

Free Online Workshops for Parents – Mental Health Support Team

We're pleased to highlight a valuable opportunity for parents to access free online workshops delivered by the Mental Health Support Team. These sessions are designed to help you support your child's mental health and wellbeing.

Upcoming topics include:

- **Understanding Autism** – 1st December, 10am
- **Understanding Low Mood** – 17th December, 7pm

Both workshops provide practical guidance and strategies for parents of secondary-aged children. We encourage you to sign up and make full use of these excellent resources.

FREE PARENT WEBINARS

for supporting your secondary aged
child with mental health and wellbeing

Provided by your Mental Health Support Team

@set_camhs_nhs

SIGN-UP
HERE



Do you want help supporting your child?
We offer a variety of online workshops to
help you to support your child.

Coming up in December, we have:

Understanding Autism
1st December 10am



This workshop is designed to provide advice &
support to parents of children in secondary school
who would like to know more about autism. Parents
will be given practical ways of tuning into your child's
behaviour.

Understanding Low Mood
17th December 7pm



Learn how low mood develops in teens, its
cycle and discover ways to support your child.



Striving to provide the best care by the best people



NHS
North East London
NHS Foundation Trust

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.uk/mental-health-and-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 \(padlet.com\)](https://www.padlet.com/SHSG-Mental-Health-Board)

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

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](#).

Yours faithfully,

Jason Carey
Headteacher