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, 6 November 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

It has been a wonderfully busy and rewarding first week back after the half-term break, with so much to celebrate across our school community. From the tremendous success of our Sixth Form Open Evening to the creativity and generosity shown during our School Birthday celebrations, this week's news reflects the enthusiasm, ambition and sense of community that make SHSG such a special place. We have also seen some excellent examples of student achievement and leadership, while looking ahead to important opportunities for reflection and shared values during Remembrance Day and Antibullying Week. As ever, I am immensely proud of the many ways in which our students and staff contribute to the life of the school.

Sixth Form Open Evening – A Wonderful Showcase for SHSG

Wednesday evening was a tremendous celebration of everything that makes SHSG such a special place. We welcomed approximately 1,000 visitors to our Sixth Form Open Evening, and the atmosphere throughout the school was quite wonderful. We delivered three presentations, each to a packed hall, and it was particularly pleasing to see so many of our own Year 11 students and their families filling the hall for the first presentation. Their enthusiasm for continuing their education with us was lovely to see.

What made the evening particularly memorable, however, was the contribution of our students and staff. A record-breaking 270 Sixth Form students volunteered as ambassadors, including our subject captains, senior prefects and Head Student Team. They were outstanding representatives of the school: articulate, welcoming, knowledgeable and genuinely proud of SHSG. Our tour guides, in particular, attracted some wonderful comments from visitors. Meanwhile, our academic departments put on a superb showcase of the opportunities available in the Sixth Form, bringing their subjects to life through engaging displays, thoughtful conversations and the enthusiasm of teachers and students alike. There was a real buzz in every corridor and classroom.

Events of this scale do not happen without considerable preparation and teamwork, and I am enormously grateful to every member of staff and every student who helped make the evening such a success. It was a powerful reminder that, while our excellent academic results are an important part of what attracts families to SHSG, it is the people, the relationships and the spirit of our school community that make the greatest impression. Our Year 11 students will now be considering their A Level choices, which we will ask them to submit by the end of term. These choices will help us shape next year's Sixth Form timetable around the aspirations of our students. After such a successful evening, we have every reason to look forward to another exciting year for SHSG Sixth Form.

Please find below some useful links:

- Our 2027 prospectus
- A Level course outlines
- Our feedback form

Sixth Form Student Leadership Opportunities

On Monday, our Year 12 students attended an assembly led by Ms Boyson, Director of Sixth Form, to launch this year's applications for student leadership positions. One of the great strengths of SHSG is the breadth of opportunities we offer students to take on responsibility, develop their confidence and leadership skills, and make a meaningful contribution to school life. These include Senior Prefects, the Head Student Team, House Captains, Subject Captains, the editorship of *Genazine* and President of the Law Society, among many others.

We have already been enormously impressed by the enthusiasm, maturity and initiative shown by our new Year 12 cohort, and I am excited to see how they will help shape the next chapter of our Sixth Form. Student leadership at SHSG is not simply about holding a title; it is about having a voice, taking the initiative, representing others and making a positive difference. I would therefore encourage parents and carers to talk to their sons and daughters about the opportunities available and to inspire them to put themselves forward. The deadline for Senior Prefect applications is **Monday 9th November**.

School Birthday – Creativity and Generosity!

We have been so impressed by the wonderful birthday cards created by our form groups to celebrate SHSG's 113th birthday. The creativity, imagination and effort that went into the designs were quite exceptional, making the task of selecting the winners particularly challenging! Our Head Student Team had the difficult job of choosing the winning entries, before joining Ms Boyson and me to select an overall winner. Congratulations to **8APH**, whose fantastic design took the top prize! You can see the winning cards pictured below. The celebrations also demonstrated the generosity of our school community, with students raising a remarkable **£1,270 towards the continued development of Au Petit Creux**. A wonderful achievement and a fitting way to celebrate another year in the life of SHSG!





Whole School Photograph

We are expecting delivery of the whole school photographs from Tempest Photography within the next week. Once the photographs have arrived at school, parents and carers will be notified when students can collect their photographs.

If you have not yet purchased a whole school group photograph, you can still place an order for home delivery (postage and packaging charges apply) using the following link: https://htmp.st/230257-179

For assistance, please call 01736 752411 (Tempest Photography)
Option 3 - Place an order (P&P applies)
Option 5 - Customer services

Remembrance Service – Wednesday 11th November

On Wednesday 11th November, our school community will come together to mark Remembrance Day, taking time to reflect on the courage, sacrifice and service of those who have given their lives in conflict, as well as those who continue to serve today. Our annual Remembrance Service is an important occasion in the school calendar, offering students and staff an opportunity to pause, remember and consider the significance of remembrance for our own generation.

Students who belong to uniformed organisations, such as the Sea Cadets, Army Cadets, Guides or Scouts, are warmly invited to wear their organisation's uniform in place of their usual school uniform as part of our commemorations.

Alongside the more solemn moments of reflection, we will also be holding a range of lunchtime activities in the Main Hall to bring students together and support the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. These will include a cake sale, bookmark making and a 'Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar' competition. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are welcome to contribute homemade cakes, while all students are invited to come along, enjoy the activities and support this worthwhile cause. Donations to the Poppy Appeal will be very gratefully received.

Remembrance is both an opportunity to honour the past and to reflect on the values of peace, service and responsibility that remain so important today.

Advance Notice: Antibullying Week – Odd Socks Day (Monday 16th November)

Please note that we will be marking Antibullying Week from Monday 16th November, and as part of the week, students and staff will be invited to take part in Odd Socks Day on Monday 16th November by wearing odd socks with their usual uniform. Further information about Antibullying week will be shared next week. Thank you for your support.

Imperial College Science in Medicine School Teams Prize

Congratulations to our Year 13 scientists who received Merit and Commendation awards following the submission of their posters onto the Science in Medicine School Teams Prize run by the prestigious Imperial College, London.



Ella Y (13KJA), Emily A (13KMI), Sasha H (13JRN) and Lily W (13JRN) designed a poster that focused on "How sleep affects cancer" while Emaan H (13STF), Maliha Q (13STF), Karoleena K (13PJS), Aliza I (13KMI), Wania F (13ALS) and Iqra Razaq (13STF) created a poster focused on how pluripotent cells could be used in the treatment of tuberculosis.

The competition challenged students to extend their learning beyond the classroom by exploring innovative research and real-world applications across science, medicine and engineering. Working in teams, students investigated cutting-edge ideas and presented their findings through professionally designed research posters. Congratulations to all involved!

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,

Jason Carey
Headteacher