



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, 9th October 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

It has been a week of new challenges, growing friendships and exciting progress at SHSG. From Year 12's muddy team-building adventures and the Senior Mathematical Challenge to a remarkable clean sweep of the podium at the Southend 3k, our students have shown determination, enthusiasm and a willingness to push themselves. It has also been lovely to hear how happily our Year 7 students are settling in and to see our older students helping them feel welcome. With the arrival of the catering units for *Au Petit Creux*, our plans to create another welcoming space for students to come together are taking shape too.

Au Petit Creux: stage 1!



Following last week's introduction to *Au Petit Creux*, I am delighted to share an exciting milestone: our new catering units have arrived beside the bungalow! We are extremely grateful to Nourish for their investment.

Watch our second video update by Year 12 presenters Ida and Vicky '[here](#)'.



The units are the first step towards creating a welcoming dining and social space for Years 7–13. Next come improvements to the garden and outdoor seating, alongside plans to refurbish the bungalow to provide indoor space for colder, wetter days and additional toilets. **Ida and Vicky share how you can support [‘here’](#).** Our talented premises team will undertake much of the work, helping funds go further.

Our **Au Petit Creux fundraising page on Zeffy is now available [‘here’](#)**. Donations will help fund furniture, planting and materials, while form gifts for SHSG’s 113th Birthday on Friday 23rd October will support benches and planting. Local businesses wishing to offer materials, expertise or sponsorship can contact kcroysdill@shsg.org.

All contributions are entirely voluntary, and every student will benefit regardless of whether their family donates. Thank you for helping us create a space our students can enjoy and feel proud of for years to come.

Year 12 Team Building at Nuclear Races

Across Thursday and Friday, all Year 12 students got thoroughly “stuck in” during our annual team-building trip. A tour of a secret underground nuclear bunker, high ropes and zip lines provided plenty of adventure, while the wild forest trek, complete with the ‘death slide’ and copious amounts of mud, took teamwork to another level!

Our students did us proud, encouraging one another, tackling unfamiliar challenges and approaching the activities with determination and good humour. It was wonderful to see friendships developing and students growing in confidence as they stepped beyond their comfort zones.

Thank you to Mr O’Brien and the school support team for organising the trip, and to our Year 12 tutors, who were excellent sports and threw themselves into the activities. Well done, Year 12: a talented, energetic and good-humoured group of young people!





Senior UKMT Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 7th October, a group of our Year 12 A Level Mathematics students, joined by several Year 13 students, took part in the UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge. Organised by the UK Mathematics Trust, this national competition tests students' mathematical reasoning, problem-solving and logical thinking through demanding questions that encourage them to think creatively beyond the curriculum.

Well done to everyone who took on the challenge. We look forward to celebrating their results in the coming weeks.

Student Voice Survey – Reminder

We want every student at SHSG to feel safe, supported and able to achieve their best. As part of this commitment, we are asking all students to complete our Student Voice Survey.

The survey gives students an opportunity to share their experiences of school, tell us what is working well, and suggest ways we can improve. Their feedback is invaluable and helps inform future decisions and developments across the school.

We have already had a brilliant response from students, and we would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to complete the survey so far.

The survey can be accessed using the following link [here](#): Students will need to sign in using their school account to complete it. The link has also been shared with students via Satchel.

Students who have not yet done so should complete the survey by Sunday 18th October, please.

Following the closing date, we will review the responses and share a summary of the key findings and next steps with our school community.

We would like to thank all students for sharing their views and helping us make SHSG even better.

A Warm Welcome to Our New Year 7 Families

Thank you to all Year 7 parents and carers who attended our recent *Welcome to Lower School Evening* and shared their feedback. The overwhelmingly positive responses reflect the happy and successful start so many students have made at SHSG.

Families spoke warmly about the welcome and support their daughters have received, alongside our high expectations and the opportunities available to them. It was particularly pleasing to see our core commitments reflected in their experiences: every student is known, every student belongs and every student is challenged. Their comments captured the balance we strive for: academic ambition within a caring community where students feel safe, happy and successful - confident to try new things.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. We look forward to building on this positive start and working together to help every student thrive.

Some highlights included:

- *"We believe our daughter will benefit from being surrounded by high achieving peers and high-quality teaching."*
- *"The culture of pastoral care supporting high expectations is not something that all schools offer, and this was a big draw for my child and me."*
- *"The school has a reputation of providing a good academic environment and the overall well-being and positive experience for children."*
- *"Very grateful that our daughter has settled so well, and so quickly. She came home on day one and declared she was sure it was the right school for her."*
- *"I'm extremely pleased to see my daughter coming back from school smiling every day, telling me about her day and what new things she's learnt."*

Careers in Early Childhood: Norland Talk and Free Babysitting Course

On Monday, we hosted our first online careers talk of the academic year, welcoming a speaker from Norland in Bath to introduce its degree course and career opportunities in early childhood. During the talk, we heard about Norland's 100% graduate employment record and average starting salaries of £50,000, with many graduates pursuing careers as professional nannies.

Students interested in finding out more at an in-person lunchtime workshop later in the year should email Ms Casson at vcasson@shsg.org to register their interest.

Norland also offers a free online babysitting course, which may appeal to older students looking to develop their skills and confidence in caring for children. Further information is available [here](#).

Year 7 Disco

Our joint Year 7 disco with Southend High School for Boys last Friday was a tremendous success. With over 300 students enjoying an evening of music, dancing and friendship, it was one of our best-attended discos in recent years. It was lovely to see students relaxing together, making new friends and growing in confidence as they settle into secondary school life.

Thank you to our Year 7 team, Form Tutors and Parents' Association for organising the event, and to our site team for preparing the venue. A special mention must also go to our Year 11 prefects, whose enthusiasm, energy and impressive dance moves helped everyone feel welcome and join in the fun!

Looking Ahead: Year 7 Zombie Fright Night

Excitement is building for our Year 7 Zombie Fright Night next Friday, organised by the Head Student Team. Once again, the event has proved hugely popular, with demand far exceeding the number of places available.

Letters will shortly be sent to students who have secured a place, with further details about the evening. Those attending can look forward to spooky challenges, entertainment and plenty of fun, all planned and led by our student leaders.

A huge thank you to the Head Student Team for the time, creativity and enthusiasm they have devoted to making this a memorable experience for our youngest students. We look forward to seeing the zombies emerge next Friday!

SHSG - 1, 2, 3!

Three SHSG students competed in the Southend 3k race last weekend and achieved a remarkable clean sweep of the podium! Sadie O in Year 10 finished first, Katie W in Year 9 took second place, and Anna S in Year 8 finished third. Congratulations to all three on this fantastic achievement and well done to everyone in our school community who took part.

Well done also to our Year 7 football and netball teams for their efforts this week. The football squad put in an excellent performance to beat Woodlands in the Essex Cup, while our Year 7B netball team rose to the challenge of playing Thorpe Hall's A team. Although the netball match ended in defeat, there were plenty of positives to build on. Well done to all involved for representing SHSG with such determination and enthusiasm.

PE Fixtures

For the week beginning Monday 12th October:

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 12 th October:	First round of National Cup Cross country, King John School.
Thursday 14 th October:	U16 Basketball away v Great Baddow
Thursday 14 th October:	U14 Netball Home v New Hall School
Friday 15 th October:	Year 7-11 Thorpe Hall relays

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

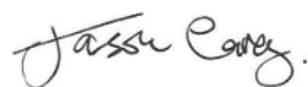
At SHSG, we often talk about how to look after our health in lessons and in tutor time. If you need support or information about how to cope with your emotions, you can visit the school website and look at [Mental Health & Wellbeing - Southend High School for Girls \(shsg.org\)](https://www.shsg.org). 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 here: [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](#).

We wish you a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Carey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jason Carey
Headteacher