



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, 10th January 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Year 7 Parent's Evening Thursday 23rd January

I want to remind parents that the Year 7 Parents' Evening takes place online **on Thursday, 23rd January**. Appointments will be available to book from next Thursday (16th January) at 6.00 pm and will close the following Wednesday (22nd January) at 6.30 pm. Further details regarding how the online booking system works will follow next week. Please note that where some staff members teach multiple classes, it will not be possible for them to see the families of every child they teach. In such instances, staff will be inviting the parents of the students that they most want to see before the appointments are made available for general booking. As a result, some parents may receive meeting notifications in advance of being able to book their appointments. Please also note that several teachers are unavailable on Thursday but will be available on Wednesday, 22nd January, instead.

Year 9 GCSE Options – Year 9 Options Fair

This term, year 9 students will select their GCSE Option subjects. A full programme of activities and events is planned, including our Year 9 Options Fair that takes place from **6 pm-7.30 pm on Tuesday 28th January** in school. Parents and year 9 students are warmly invited to this event to hear presentations from key members of the options process and attend a subject fair hosted by teachers and GCSE students. Further details about this event will follow in due course, as well as the timeline for the options process and the support in place.

Year 11 and 13 PPE examinations

The return to school from the Christmas break marks the start of the Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) for Year 11 and Year 13 students. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate both year groups on their conduct and attitude in the first couple of days. These trial exams are a critical part of their preparation toward the real examinations in the summer.



A level Art trip

Year 12 art students visited The Courtauld Institute, The National Portrait Gallery and The National Gallery on our London galleries trip this week.

Many iconic paintings by artists such as Van Gogh, Gauguin and Rubens were viewed, and an inspiring day was had by all. Seen here with Bea and Bella is a painting by Claude Monet.



Frozen the Musical in February 2025

The Creative and Performing Arts Faculty is excited to be putting together the finishing touches for Frozen the Musical in February. We have done our best to allow as many students as possible the opportunity to appear on stage. To support this, we would like to offer the opportunity to sponsor songs in the musical; monies raised will go towards providing costumes for our young performers. The songs available are listed below.

1. Let the Sun Shine On
2. A Little Bit of You
3. Do You Want to Build a Snowman?
4. For the First Time in Forever
5. Dangerous to Dream
6. Love is an Open Door
7. In Summer
8. Hygge
9. Let It Go
10. For the First Time in Forever - Reprise
11. Mountain Fall
12. Fixer Upper
13. Colder by the Minute
14. Finale

We are also looking for a sponsor for both Olaf the snowman and Sven the reindeer.

If you are interested in sponsorship, please email cladner@shsg.org to reserve your chosen song (or character). This will then be removed from the central list. The School Bank will then open a window in Paypal allowing payment of a recommended £30 to help cover costume costs.

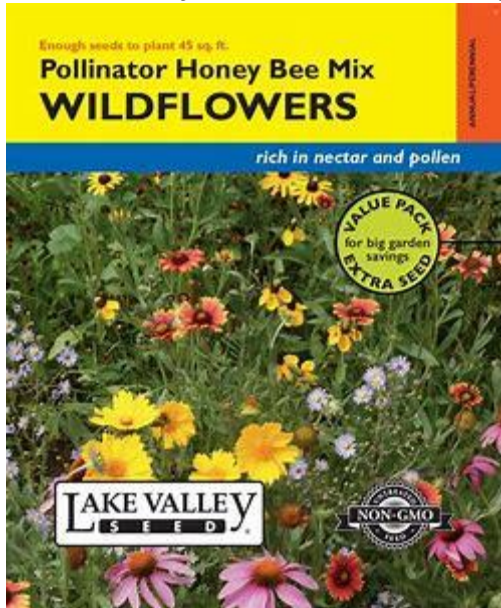
Sponsors (either individuals or groups) are invited to write a message of support which will appear, with our great thanks, in the programme. Thank you for your interest.

Cursed Pens (Finally) Presented

Due to the curse of coughs and colds, the winners of the Cursed Pen and Poem 2024 were unable to drag themselves from their lairs until the New Year had crept in and school had started once more. Pictured here are: the winner of the Cursed Pen 2024, Mariam K, for her Japanese ghost story, 'Kuchisake Onna'; the runner-up, Larissa R, for her allegory, 'In her Mother's Eyes'; and the winner of the Cursed Poem 2024, Fariah R, with 'Mimic's Lament'. Well done to these students and all the students who entered this year's competition. All the entries can be read [here](#) on the English Blog.



Wanted – wildflower seeds / seed mixes for pollinators like the image below.



Planet Action would like to use several of the garden areas by the sandwich hut to plant wildflower mixes to attract pollinators. If you have any spare seed wildflower / pollinator mixes or even ones that are half used but still in date – could they be brought into school and given to your child’s geography teacher? Thanks in advance!
Planet Action

Parent support for social media

Some of our students may have received their first mobile phone for Christmas or an upgraded phone. As governments worldwide review their guidance on mobile phone use by young people, I thought that it would be helpful for you to summarise our school policy on mobile phones. Our policy is that students (Years 7-11) may bring their phones into school, but they must be turned off and kept out of sight at all times. The phone must not be used to send messages, view apps or contact parents during the school day. Should a student need to contact a parent during the school day, they can do this by going to reception and speaking to the reception staff. There are slightly different arrangements for Sixth Form students. The full policy can be found here: [SHSG-Mobile-Phone-Policy-.pdf](#). Secondly, I have placed the links below to three parent factsheets that cover the risks and offer advice about the applications most used by young people, these being Instagram, YouTube and TikTok. I hope that you find these useful.

[Instagram Parent Factsheet](#)

[YouTube Parent Factsheet](#)

[TikTok Parent Factsheet](#)

PE Changing Rooms reminder

Year 11 and 13 students sit their PPE examinations in the Sports Hall. This means students cannot access the changing rooms, the PE classroom, the sports hall and the fitness suite.

When students have a PE lesson or an extracurricular club, they must come to school in their PE kit and remain in it all day. At the start of their lesson (or club), students should go to the gym, where they will be registered and taken to their learning area. Students will be outside in all weathers, so please wear the appropriate school PE kit. The extracurricular timetable will also change, and students will be notified through their respective MS Teams pages. Regular changing room access will resume **on Monday, January 20th**. Students who are found to be wearing PE kit on days when they do not have a PE lesson or a club will receive a behaviour point.

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 still needs to be added to their year group page, please ask them to speak to a member of the PE department. Thank you.

Monday 13th January: U13 Basketball away v Eastwood
Monday 13th January: Year 7 Netball Home v Thorpe Hall
Tuesday 14th January: U13 Basketball away v St. Bernard's
Wednesday 15th January: U13 Basketball away v Chase
Friday 17th January: U16 Netball away v FitzWimarc
Saturday 18th January: Essex Schools' cross country

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 \(padlet.com\)](#)


[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](#).

Have a lovely weekend!

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey
Headteacher

Southend High School for Girls' production of



Disney
FROZEN JR



4th, 5th, 7th & 8th February 2025

TICKETS:

£75 Cabaret Tables (seat 4 with hamper)

£12 Adults ~ £8 concessions

7pm

Refreshments available
Doors open 6.30pm

Tickets available online from 12pm Monday 23rd December:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/southend-high-school-for-girls

Music & Lyrics by
Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez

Book by
Jennifer Lee

Based on the Disney film written by Jennifer Lee
and directed by Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee

Disney's Frozen JR. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY 212-541-4684 mtishows.com