Head Teacher’s Message

This has been a tremendous year, filled with lessons, learning and extracurricular activities. The staff and students have been amazing in the extra effort they put into their work and we are looking forward to some excellent results this summer. Examination results and the extra curricular activities would not exist but for the dedicated and very hardworking staff at SHSG. The teachers and support staff at this school are phenomenal, readily giving their time to support the students. I am very grateful for everything that they do.

Every subject offers support and activities to build on lessons, whether that be the economists going to an Institute of Economic Affairs lecture in Brentwood, or a geography fieldtrip to Scarborough or a history trip to Berlin. The list of extra curricular activities goes on and on, but each of our events has a purpose and we try to vary the types of activities we offer so that everyone can access something of value. However, sometimes we do things just for fun such as Harry Potter night or Zombie night (although even these raise money for charity)!

Music and drama flourish here at SHSG. The school production, Sister Act, was a resounding success and one of our choirs, Novem Consort had an amazing year with performances at the Albert Hall on two occasions and also on BBC TV. The numerous choirs, music groups and orchestras go from strength to strength and one of the joys of working here is seeing students in year 7, in beginners groups, developing their skill over the years to become quite expert musicians. Drama has spread its wings wider this year with a tech. club which has proven very popular; not all students interested in drama want to be actors. In addition to GCSE and A level the drama runs LAMDA examinations. 60% of those taking the bronze level obtained distinctions this year. As you would expect theatre visits are essential to drama and this year there have been opportunities to visit the Globe, to see Hedda Gabler, DNA and also Jane Eyre. On a similar vein Arts Award students have had experience of the Little Angel Puppet Theatre funded by a bursary in recognition of the work the school does on Arts Award.

The Arts Award is a strong feature of the school. It is reassuring in these days of cuts and the national decline in the Arts to see it flourishing here at SHSG. 90 year 8 students are just about to complete the bronze award, whilst 30 year 9 are completing silver and two are seeking gold, making us the most successful centre in Essex. We have reapplied for Artsmark and having been Gold we are now applying for Platinum.

Southend High School for Girls was once again national finalists in Junior and Intermediate athletics with both teams coming second. A great achievement and not expected; we were very proud of the effort these girls put into the event. Within sport a special mention should go to the netball, cross country and football teams who have been superb. All these teams ploughed through the various rounds and represented themselves and the school impeccably in effort and attitude. Likewise the new hockey and rugby teams are now well established.

Our links with primary schools continue to develop. Our Saturday sessions are proving very popular; days such as GLAM day or Space Mission are always over subscribed as are our 11+ familiarisation evenings. We also have had numerous primary school children visit SHSG for activities from maths and art to English and PE, and of course staff and students have been visiting local schools. This year year 9 worked with Alleyn Court and N-Act to create an imaginative drama about internet and telephone safety and with Lancaster School on a Russian themed morning to name but two outreach activities.

Mainly through the efforts of the House Captains fundraising has been fun and constant throughout the year. I am grateful to the staff and students who give their time to arrange fundraising events and competitions. To date we have collected over £10,000 for charities both local and national. This reflection of the year is just the tip of the iceberg. We enjoy being an extremely busy, active school which brings life to learning and a school where students have a world of opportunity. Students are at the heart of our school and we want them to achieve the very best they can. All they need to do is try their hardest and grasp every opportunity.

F Brierley
I was delighted to accompany Year 13 Media Student Fleur F to the final of the 2018 English and Media Centre production awards at the BFI in London. Sadly our other finalist Isi was on holiday but we picked up her certificate on her behalf. Our media students have been taken to the BFI on several occasions for the fantastic study days that they offer and it was wonderful to see the finalists work on the big screen with digital surround sound. The presentations were followed by drinks, nibbles and networking in the Blue Room at the BFI, a venue that has hosted numerous prestigious film and cinema events. It was a gorgeous summer afternoon on the South Bank and the standard of the finalists work was outstanding. Students and parents had the chance to mingle with each other and the judges; the chair of whom was Nik Powell, Director of the National Film and Television school, founder of Palace Pictures and former chair of the BAFTA film committee. Some of our other media students entered the competition and weren't placed in the final but received a special mention. Director of the competition, Jenny Grahame congratulated our school on the quality and variety of our students' work. We have had a particularly talented cohort this year and the competition was very strong. I look forward to seeing what Year 12 are going to surprise us with next year!

Mrs V Casson, Head of Media Studies

Rachel Riley supports maths event at SHSG

Rachel Riley came over to lend her support to her old school's biggest ever maths outreach event. There were groups of year 5 students coming from twenty-two local primary schools to meet Rachel and take part in the fun activities in the school's lead up to celebrating a famous maths constant called e which is even more important than good old Pi.

The students embarked on one of the most ambitious maths and art projects to date as they hope to involve not only hundreds of students but also local voluntary groups in making chains of origami shapes and animals to represent the digits of the constant through colour.

Rachel started the whole chain off by making a heart in the spirit of the Royal Wedding and this started a magnificent display at the Beecroft Art Gallery in July.

Each origami shape will also have a message of appreciation or achievement of a personal goal or be dedicated to someone - so the chain will also be representative of personal journeys.

Southend High School for Girls has a Gold Artsmark award in recognition of the creativity of the teaching and cross-curricular work and to this end they are supported by the Royal Opera House. One of the highlights of the morning was Ella M's performance of her own version of the Greatest Showman song - her version is called - This is e!

The song transfixed the audience and Rachel was very impressed with the creative talent of the students. Rachel also had an opportunity to hear from student Daniel D who was one of two students featured in our article on the school leading the way in improving inclusivity. Daniel explained to Rachel about his trip up to the House of Commons to lobby for improving disabled access to education across the country.

The song Ella has written will be also be signed by the BSL club group for students with hearing impairment. The primary students also got a chance to bake cinnamon swirls in celebration of the spiral polar graphs associated with e.

Rachel gave the girls an inspiring talk about her love of maths and its applications to exciting areas such as teleportation, rocket cars and making advances in the treatment of cancer.

Mrs S Imbush, Director of Mathematics Faculty
Sociology Trip to the Royal Courts of Justice

As part of the Sociology A Level, students study a Crime and Deviance unit. To develop their knowledge of the Criminal Justice System, on Monday 2nd July, 22 Year 12 sociology students visited The Royal Courts of Justice and observed various court cases taking place. Students witnessed a civil case against a company for damages caused to workers’ health by working with coal and a very interesting immigration case where a man was facing deportation. In the afternoon, the highlight of the visit was taking part in a mock attempted murder trial. Students all played a role in prosecuting and defending the case. IB played a very convincing role of the judge. After careful deliberation the jury found the defendant guilty, which was the same decision as the jury in the real case. The trip was an excellent experience, especially for the budding barristers and solicitors amongst the group.

Miss Midwinter, Lead Teacher of Sociology/ EAL Co-ordinator

SHSG Girls join local hospice for craft activities

On Tuesday 3rd July, pupils from Southend High School for Girls joined patients at their local hospice for a craft morning. The year 7 and 9 pupils joined the Day Hospice at Fair Havens in Westcliff for their Creative Therapy session, to learn more about the recently launched day services at Fair Havens in response to the growing needs of those they care for and what hospice care is. During their visit the pupils helped patients create origami art and foam pinwheels as part of the school’s E-Day activities. E-Day is an international Mathematical celebration on the 2nd July.

Mrs Imbush, Head of Maths at SHSG explained, “The number ‘E’ is incredibly important across maths, science and economics. This year is the first time the first 4 digits of the number correlates completely with the date – 2/7/18; so we decided to launch a mathematical art project to celebrate. We assigned a colour to each of the digits 0 to nine and then invited groups from all across our community to make a section of our representation of ‘E’ - to make a pinwheel of a piece of origami in the assigned colour.” The chain was started off by former pupil and Countdown Mathematician Rachel Riley and is being displayed at the Beecroft Gallery in Southend over the summer, alongside other artwork. There will also be a trail of pinwheels in gardens, including at Fair Havens, through Southend finishing at the Beecroft Gallery.

Twelve year old Sophie M decided she wanted to involve and create artwork with a local charity; she said “My Mum works at Havens Hospices and so I knew a little bit about what the charity did and I thought it would be something a bit different if I got them involved with the project. I never expected to be invited in with my schoolmates to create the origami art with the patients, but I’m really glad I got to have that experience and to learn about what adult hospice care really is. It’s such a happy place; I had a lot of fun spending time with the staff and patients.”

Leyla I also 12 years old, spent the morning helping Day Hospice patient Roxy create a pinwheel, she said “It was really nice spending time with Roxy and learning about her experience of Fair Havens and the care they’d given her – she was so nice, really funny and I enjoyed spending the morning with her. I liked being able to help her make her pinwheel and it was lovely seeing her and the other ladies Cheryl and Savita looking so happy as we made them.”

Year nine pupil Lizzie B, 14, helped her Nan look after her Granddad before he died. He had Parkinson’s and a heart problem and her grandparents were looking into respite care before he died. Lizzie now wants to pursue a career in medicine and regularly volunteers at a care home; so she wanted to join the year seven pupils, to learn about what respite care is and how hospice care differs to other approaches. She spent the morning helping Savita.

She explained “I really enjoyed getting to know Savita, she was very chatty and told me all about her family. I hadn’t really thought about how craft work could be used as a therapy, but it seemed to give Savita a break from her condition and allowed her to talk, laugh and relax. You have this idea in your head that a hospice is going to be for dying, but what I learnt about the Day Hospice is that it is a place that offers care and therapies which help keep patients living well and independently with their illness for longer. The staff don’t look at patients like Savita, as a condition, they look at them as a whole person – by looking after the mental and emotional well-being of patients as well as their medical and physical needs the Havens staff are helping them live their lives to the fullest. I suppose that’s why their motto is ‘Making every day count’”.

Fair Havens is part of Havens Hospices which incorporates Little Havens Hospice for children and The J’s Hospice for young people. Together they provide respite, symptom management and end of life care to those with life-limiting conditions. For more information on the care provided by Havens Hospices visit www.havenshospices.org.uk
West Leigh and Hamstel Visit

On Tuesday 3rd July an excited group of Year 1 and 2 pupils from Hamstel and West Leigh came to visit us for an afternoon of Maths fun led by Mrs Griffiths and assisted by Miss Coker. Mrs Hill took the children on a tour of the school, which seemed huge to them. Highlights included the view from the top of the tower and meeting the Headteacher (everyone was on their best behaviour). The afternoon was hugely enjoyable for all involved and the staff of West Leigh and Hamstel were extremely complimentary of Year 8 students who were incredible ambassadors. Here are some views from students involved - Mrs Hill, Mathematics Teacher

During the event, we gave them a booklet to complete. This booklet was very creatively made, and it was fun as it incorporated real Haribo sweets into the questions. When we saw that the children were stuck or kept on looking at the same question in the booklet, we would help them out with the question. In total, there were three activities, with children swapping tables per activity to meet the other mentors. We had to make sure that we were teaching the children the correct method, as this was the first time they had seen these topics. To conclude, I felt as though this was a highly enjoyable experience, as it was fun to teach the children about various topics. Moreover, it was also a great way to explore what it would be like to be a teacher; although I am not too sure about my career choice yet, it has given me another option to think about - Jasmine L, Year 8

Year 12 Engineering Visit to Leonardo, Basildon

A Year 12 visit to Leonardo, an engineering company based in Basildon, was successfully run in July. The trip offers the students the opportunity to see a number of demonstrations of the type of work that Leonardo does, along with the chance to speak with engineers who work on site. The students were particularly impressed with their experiences of the immersive 3D virtual reality system. Leonardo offers both engineering apprenticeships and work experience opportunities, so we are pleased to continue our long relationship with them.

During the visit from the year ones and twos from Hamstel and West Leigh, we did a variety of things to give an extension of the regular curriculum and a taster for more difficult maths. They all made it fun because of their enthusiasm towards maths and their willingness to further their learning. The session was based around Haribo sweets which included, Pictograms, Calculations, Four Quadrant Graphs, Pattern Making and Lines of Symmetry. For the first of the three parts of the session, the Year Ones and Twos were asked to draw a pictogram of their Haribo sweets they had been given and do some calculations to work out the variety of sweets they had. They then were asked to scatter their Haribos on a four quadrant graph and write down where they all land. Both schools were new to the concept of having four quadrants on a graph however they very quickly caught on and impressed us all. Finally, they had to create patterns by colouring in rectangular squares however they wished which they all really enjoyed. Throughout the session they had been given raffle tickets for good work which we then drew at the end. This was fun for them because they got bubbles or a bouncy ball. Both schools were incredibly impressive with their mathematics and their initiative to further their education. I found the session extremely fun and enjoyed working with them. - Sarah Smith, Year 8

Year 10 Ogden Trust School Physicist of the Year

Congratulations go to Erin (Year 10), who was awarded a Year 10 Ogden Trust School Physicist of the Year Award at a ceremony held at the University of Hertfordshire this July. The ceremony included guest speakers from the university who gave talks on Atmospheric sensing and on Astrophysics. Erin achieved this award due to her academic progress, her efforts in the school Robot club and her support of younger students.

Miss Ma, Head of Physics
Several Chemistry students from Year 12 took part in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. This competition aims to stretch and challenge students interested in chemistry, and provides an excellent experience for anyone considering taking their studies further. It is set by an experienced team of teachers and university chemists and is designed to be accessible to Year 12 students but takes them significantly beyond the syllabus and encourages them to think about science in the way they would at university.

There were a total of 7951 entries into this year's competition. A total of 54 students won Roentgenium awards (mark over 49), 644 students won Gold awards (mark between 30 and 49), 1418 students won Silver awards (mark between 22 and 30) and 2901 students won Copper awards (mark between 14 and 22).

Congratulations goes to all students who took part but in particular to Jessica C, Kathryn M and Sarina K who achieved a Copper award.

**Year 9 form project: Testing the effects of bullying on a plant**

Year 9 form groups were given two little pots of cress to take care of. One of the plants was to be bullied and the other to be loved.

So I, Maame, volunteered to take care of both of the cress plants for the past weeks as I am extremely responsible and already have plants at home that I take care of. We named our bullied cress- Cress Hemsworth (pink pot) and our favoured cress- Jesus Cress (blue pot). Every registration I would go round the class telling people to bully and to complement the cress plants. Overall many people found it uncomfortable bullying Cress Hemsworth therefore would pass and prefer to compliment Jesus Cress, which I found was extremely good.

Even though I watered and made sure the right cress was bullied, Cress Hemsworth (the bullied cress) at first looked much better than Jesus Cress. The cress shoots were much greener and taller than the complimented cress. My friend Sara and I came to the conclusion that Cress Hemsworth was showing that no matter how much it got bullied it would resist it and still be happy. But a couple of days later Cress Hemsworth became very droopy and barely stood up. I think that is when all the bullying started to affect the cress and ever since then Cress Hemsworth hasn't been the same. I think this showed that after a long period of bullying, this is when the effects start to show. Although it might look like both cress plant pots look the same, Jesus Cress had better looking cress shoots.

This experience has taught us not to bully anyone, not even cress - Maame, Year 9

**STEAM Garden Project**

The final STEAM Flexible Friday saw all the year 7 forms planting up their garden plots to turn their plans into a reality. The students worked hard creating information guides to accompany their garden, arrange the hard landscaping pebbles and ensure the plants were in the correct place to match their designs. In this final session there was also an added challenge of creating pinwheels to represent the photosynthesis equation which was arranged in a heart shape around the garden area.

There was great teamwork amongst all the forms and they should be very proud of their achievements. Finally, each form sold a product that was inspired by their garden at the Open Evening to raise money for their chosen charities.

*Miss W Schofield, Director of Science Faculty*
New Year 7 Induction Day

On Friday 6th July, 180 very excited yet somewhat nervous Year 6 students turned up for their induction day with us. The first challenge of the day for the students was to leave their parents at the gate and walk down to the school on their own. It was fantastic to see how confident they were with doing this, and many of our current students offered to walk down with those who were in smaller groups or arriving on their own. It really gave an excellent sense of the SHSG community spirit right from the start!

On arrival they went straight to the hall and were met by the wonderful team of Year 10 junior prefects who took them under their wing for the day. The hall was awash with local primary school uniforms, having once again increased our in-priority numbers into Year 7. Ms Brierley welcomed them to the school before they were matched up with their junior prefect allocated to their form and off they went to meet their form tutor and form group.

They had an introductory assembly with me following meeting their form group which focussed on raising their aspirations right from the start. We spoke about the million dreams that each of them currently have for what they want to achieve and turning those dreams into challenges that they approach with a positive mindset, we spoke about how each of them are individuals and what we do best here at SHSG is to celebrate our differences, so they should never be afraid to be who they are and of course, we finished with their choice of school and how they have chosen the greatest school! No inspiration was taken from The Greatest Showman for this assembly!

Following this and keeping with the theme of challenge and raising aspirations, each of the form groups experienced a challenge lesson, with some of the lessons being in subjects they would not come across until 6th form. It was fantastic to see their engagement and enthusiasm for this.

Lunchtime gave them a sense of what SHSG can offer them, provided they are willing to take the opportunity. The extra-curricular fayre was a huge success and they went away feeling more part of the school as a result knowing what they can be part of in September.

The afternoon focussed on team building to integrate the students as a year group. They worked tirelessly on creating caterpillar trails which took team work, focus, brainstorming ideas and resilience to not give up. These caterpillar trails were then co-ordinated to bring the year group together to spell out HEART – which is what we all have at SHSG and we will be working with the year group throughout the year to instil this ethos further.

My personal thanks goes to all students and staff who were involved in ensuring this day was a success. It would not have been possible without you.

Mrs V Symes, Learning Manager Year 7 & Primary Liaison

Novem Consort CD Recording

Following a very busy and exciting Autumn Term culminating with the recording of a Christmas carol for BBC Look East, we decided that it would be a good opportunity for Novem Consort to record their own CD.

We spent three days recording a sixteen-track CD at Holy Trinity Church on the Boulevard. The CD will be produced before the end of the Summer term and proceeds will fund future opportunities for all music students. Please e-mail ryan@shsg.org if you are interested in purchasing a CD, priced at £10.

Miss Ryan
Director of Creative and Performing Arts
Music Department News

Trips
2018 started with our residential to Ingestre Hall in Staffordshire, where 55 students enjoyed a weekend of music-making in a magnificent stately home; we will return again in 2020 and hope lots of students want to return, joined by lots of talented students in Years 7 and 8.

House Music and Concerts
We held our third annual House Music competition in the Spring term, with great support from the whole school community, although it was a shame the week was disrupted by the snow! Congratulations to the finalists in each house: Tess, Lucas, Mariam, Jessica, Molly and, the winner, Isabel for Artemis.

In March we held our regular Soloists’ Concert which, although open to all students in the school, is an opportunity for all Year 10 GCSE musicians to perform to a public audience, sometimes for the first time.

Our year has come to a close with the Summer Concert, where Tara Collins performed Bruch's *Canzone* with the Orchestra for the SHSG Concerto Shield, and the Big Band and BBQ on 18th July, where we continue to hope for good weather!

Music Festival success
We first took part in the Music for Youth Festival series during 2016-17, and returned this year to perform at Islington’s Union Chapel with Chamber Choir and Novem Consort; although neither group was selected to take part in the National Festival this year, it was an enjoyable experience performing in another beautiful venue nonetheless. We have become regular contributors to the Leigh on Sea Music Festival; in addition to our success in the Southend Music Festival in November, three of our four choirs entered into the Leigh on Sea Music Festival, with Chamber Choir and Novem Consort winning trophies in their classes (below), and SHSG Choir coming a close second to Beauchamps School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choir</th>
<th>Trophy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chamber Choir</td>
<td>The Herbert Curnow Challenge Trophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novem Consort</td>
<td>The Walter Southworth Cup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novem Consort</td>
<td>Dorris Jesset Trophy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sister Act was the major musical production of the year, featuring many of our musicians on the stage and in the pit band. The show was a great success, from the props and staging designed and primarily made by Mr Lodge, to the tiered seating we hired for the occasion, and of course not forgetting the wonderful performances from everyone involved. Chloe-Ann was a tremendous Deloris and the supporting cast gave their all through the Easter holiday rehearsals and four nights of performances in the unseasonably hot weather; thanks also to the back-stage crew who gave just as much time to make sure the show was a success, and the members of staff who also put their real lives on hold to bring the show to life: Mrs Wimsett, Mr Peugniez, Miss Ladner, Mr Cannon, Ms Trevera, Ms Simpson, Mrs Lacey and Mrs Macmeikan.

Congratulations to students who have passed their Grade 8 examinations this year: Tara has passed her Grade 8 ‘Cello and Voice with Distinction, Jess has passed her Grade 8 Voice and Musical Theatre with Distinction, Sophie and Caitlin both also passed their Grade 8 Musical Theatre. We are also proud of Isabel who has successfully auditioned for the Royal College of Music Junior Department – well done Izzy!

We hope you are able to join us for our final concert of the year, the Big Band and BBQ, which takes place on Wednesday 18th July from 6pm. Tickets are available from the School Bank and you can choose to pay for a BBQ ticket, or bring your own picnic. Mrs Croysdill and Mrs Lacey will also be serving Pimms and soft drinks throughout the evening – a relaxed evening of music to lead us into the summer holidays.

Miss Ryan, Director of Creative and Performing Arts Faculty
Parents’ Association

This term has been about the SHSG Parents’ Association fulfilling some of the wishes from different departments within the school. It has been an enormous pleasure allocating some of the money raised in the past months and seeing students and teachers alike benefiting from it already.

The Media department purchased a Go-pro camera and accessory pack for £300. The photo shows the BBC school news report team leaders excitedly opening the kit and we are pleased to hear that it has already been put to good use.

The Modern Foreign Languages faculty has used their allocated £200 to purchase badges for the MFL and Education Perfect Languages Championships. We have been told by the members of staff that they are a great motivator for the students and look forward to seeing them being awarded for the students' achievements.

The Art department is currently awaiting a longed for 3D scanner/printer that they purchased for £200. Photos of it in use will appear in the Gazette in the new term.

The psychology department has also been awarded an amount of PA raised funds but they are still due to make their purchase in the new school year.

Besides providing refreshments and running our very successful raffle draws at various school events, we have also been involved with other projects. Some were PA only led events such as our year 7 disco which took place on Friday June 29th, in others we acted as supporters to the school, such as during the prospective year 7 open evening on July 5th and on July 6th when we welcomed the parents of the new year 7 girls starting in September to SHSG with drinks and cake.

And with more support, we could probably increase the profits made in the past year, some of them outlined here:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fundraising project/event</th>
<th>Profit made</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200 Club: one of our biggest earners and so easy for anybody to sign up to</td>
<td>£1,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 discos</td>
<td>£1,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy Fundraising: another easy way everybody can help raise money. Please see the Weekly Gazette for further details.</td>
<td>£915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refreshments provided at various school events including concerts etc.</td>
<td>£902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-loved uniform sale</td>
<td>£820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raffles held at numerous school events throughout the year</td>
<td>£561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventure Island ticket sale</td>
<td>£471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>£340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name labels for uniforms</td>
<td>£68</td>
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</table>

Our aim is to gather more support in the new school year which will enable us to put on more events that will in return raise more money for the students and their teachers to enhance their learning and teaching. Overall we made around £7,000 profit during the past school year and from that money, we have given £1,320 to the school to purchase items such as the ones mentioned earlier.

This just leaves us to wish you all a wonderful summer break and see you back at SHSG in September and hopefully the PA will be joined by some new faces with enthusiasm and great ideas for the forthcoming school year.

The SHSG Parents’ Association