



# 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

22 October 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

## School Birthday

Today we celebrated the 108<sup>th</sup> birthday of SHSG! Every year, we come together as a community to wish our school a happy birthday with gifts donated by the students and cards made by form groups. The standard of cards was exceptionally high, and included a hand crafted bouquet of flowers.

This year we had three separate assemblies for KS3, KS4 and the Sixth Form, with readings from Head Prefect Tami and Deputy Head Prefect Annabelle in Year 11, and Head Student, Tess. Tess, gave her reading dressed as 'Frenchie' from the Pink Ladies for the Sixth Form assembly, as she then went on to perform in **Grease** for the Year 13 Pantomome as part of the celebrations!

The assemblies had exceptional musical performances. We had a delightful piano performance of *Valse Tyrolienne* by Poulenc from Yunyou Q. The Big Band gave us a fabulous rendition of *Feeling Good* by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley, and Imogen C performed *Samba Triste* by Richard Rodney Bennett on the alto saxophone.

Students also took part in an online *Escape Room* in their form groups, which was generously funded by our Parents' Association. This event proved to be a huge success with students.



A special thank you to Mrs Francis, Mrs Roe and the Food Tech Captains, Sophie M, Anjy P, Ranelle B, Annabelle D, Sienna R and Grace S for making the spectacular birthday cake.

Thank you to all the students and staff for making this year's birthday celebrations just as memorable! You can find more fun pictures of what happened during the day today on our Official SHSG Instagram page [here](#).

Telephone: 01702 588852

Email: [office@shsg.org](mailto:office@shsg.org) | Web: [www.shsg.org](http://www.shsg.org)

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### **Year 6 Parents' Post 11+ Tours**

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October we were proud to host the families of year 6 students who have been successful in passing the 11+ in September. Six Year 7 students, Mrs Leman, Mr Boney and I gave them a warm welcome into the SHSG family. After the presentation, parents were able to ask questions of the Senior Team around the curriculum, pastoral system and life at the school. The six year 7 students were excellent ambassadors for the school, speaking eloquently and confidently without notes. I would like to thank them for doing this.

The presentation on Monday was followed by a series of heavily oversubscribed school tours. During these tours parents and Year 6s were able to talk to students in lessons, visit a range of classroom based and practical lessons and have a Q&A session with a member of the Senior Team. The Year 6 pupils were delightful and we sincerely hope that we will be welcoming them into the SHSG family next September. We received excellent feedback from the parents regarding our presentation and tours.

### **Cursed Pen Competition 2021**

The English Department is currently running the *Cursed Pen* competition. The competition is in its third year and is open to all years of the school with prizes for lower, middle and upper school and the legendary trophy for the overall winner. Entrants are required to craft a spine-chilling tale of 1000 words or fewer. Entries to the competition need to be emailed to Mr McGarvey [GMcgarvey@shsg.org](mailto:GMcgarvey@shsg.org) by midnight on Halloween. Alternatively, they can be handed in to the English office.

### **Calendar changes due to Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

I am sure you will have heard about the Culture Secretary's announcement and plans to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. If not, you can access this [here](#). As 2<sup>nd</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 fall within the local authority determined half term, Southend Borough Council have allocated an additional closure, which is the next working day to the Jubilee Bank Holiday. Therefore, the school will be closed on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022. More information on Southend Borough Council term dates can be found [here](#). I have attached a revised calendar which will also be on the school website.

### **Year 12 students - studying a science related topic beyond A-levels - University of Cambridge**

We are pleased to announce an exciting opportunity with the Science Faculty.

*STEM SMART* (Subject Mastery and Attainment Raising Tuition) is a widening participation initiative from the University of Cambridge, in association with Isaac Physics, to provide free complementary teaching and support to UK (non-fee paying) students.

Please see: [STEM SMART | Undergraduate Study \(cam.ac.uk\)](#) to see if it interests you and that you meet the eligibility criteria. Applications need to be submitted before 31st October. Mrs Ayles can act as your teacher contact.

### **PE News**

I would like to update you on some of our recent sporting success. I am very pleased to report to you that we have competed in both friendly and cup competitions this half term. Our recent cup success includes:

#### **Cross-country**

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, our cross-country teams had a fantastic result at the first round of the National Schools Cross Country Cup. The Junior girls (years 7 and 8 combined) won their race with all six athletes finishing in the top 20: Chloe B 2<sup>nd</sup>, Annalise B 4<sup>th</sup>, Chloe F 5<sup>th</sup>, Niamh S 6<sup>th</sup>, Yasmine R 12<sup>th</sup> and Poppy P 19<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, the team will progress to the regional final.

The Inter girls (years 9 and 10 combined) placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, also qualifying for the regional final; everyone involved ran extremely well. A specific mention must go to Skye C who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and Georgia L 7<sup>th</sup>. The regional final will be held at Southend High School for Boys on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November (the top 3 teams here will progress to the national final in Newquay on 4<sup>th</sup> December).

Yesterday, we took cross-country teams to compete in the Thorpe Hall cross country relays where the year 7's drew 1<sup>st</sup> place, and year 8's and 9's both won. Year 10 placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and year 11 placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in their respective races.

In the Lee Valley Cross Country Championships - Year 7's came second, and Year 8 and 9s won first place!

### **Netball**

U13's progressed through to the second round of the national School Sports Magazine competition.

U14's won 29-9 against Woodlands and are through to the 2nd round of the Essex Cup.

U14's and U16's won their county tournament, progressing through to the regional finals of the National Cup in Colchester on Sunday 21st November.

U16's won 34-10 against Sweyne and are through to the second round of the Essex cup.

### **Football**

U13's won 7-0 against Chase and have progressed to the second round of the Essex Cup.

(Other age groups are due to compete after half term in both the Essex Cup and National Cup).

### **Biathlon**

5 students represented the school by competing individually in the National Biathlon final at the University of Bath on Saturday 16th October. Their results were:

#### U13

- Chloe Ba - 4th / 97  
Grace W - 37th / 93
- Jasmine C - 54th / 97

#### U14

- Skye C - 6th / 66
- Charlotte C-S - 33rd / 66

### **Swimming**

On Friday 8th October, the swimming team competed in Watford for the National Schools Swimming Relays.

Junior team (Chloe B, Lucy C, Jasmine C, Rae W)

Freestyle relay - Silver

Junior medley - Gold

Intermediate team (Ifeoma N, Lucy R, Skye C, Isabel C)

Freestyle relay - Silver

Intermediate relay – Gold

This was an excellent result which placed the school as overall winners in 1st place!

We hope to qualify for the national final held at the Stratford Olympic pool on Saturday 20th November. (These results are due to be released week beginning 25th October).

### **Equestrian**

Mathilda C represented SHSG at the NSEA Dressage Competition. Mathilda achieved a fantastic result with a 1st and 4th, earning her a place in the forthcoming championships at Keysoe.

Overall, it has been a successful start to this year's sporting success at SHSG and we are looking forward to next half term where we will also be introducing basketball to our extra-curricular provision.

### ***Congratulations to Abigail Uden***

We are so proud of one of our former pupils who has just qualified as a vet with a first class honors degree from Surrey University. She has just taken up a very prestigious internship at Sussex Equine Hospital and is now Dr Abigail Uden BVMSci (Hons) MRCVS. We wish Abigail all the very best of luck in her future career.

Finally, our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of MP Sir David Amess. His hard work within the community will not be forgotten.


Books of condolence can be found on the link below:

<https://www.southend.gov.uk/news-centre/sir-david-amess-mp-tributes-local-information>

A reminder that Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 is a non-pupil day.

Wishing you a wonderful half term.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Carey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Jason Carey  
Headteacher