



# 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

19 November 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

### **Cross Country Regional Final**

On Saturday, our Junior Girls (Years 7/8) and Intermediate Girls (Years 9/10) competed at the Cross-Country Regional Final. Due to the course being flat, it was a very fast race. The Junior Girls won and are now the Essex and Suffolk Regional Champions! Shiloh O in Year 8 was placed overall 1st and is now the overall Regional Champion for Junior Girls. The Inter Girls also performed exceptionally well placing 3rd. This means that both teams have qualified for the National Final in Newquay on Saturday 4th December. Good luck girls in green!

### **Year 7 Parents' Virtual Consultation Evening – Tuesday**

This week was the Year 7 Virtual Parents' Consultation Evening. There were some teachers that had to cancel appointments for the evening. Whilst we appreciate this can be frustrating, please be reminded that we are still going through a pandemic, and there will inevitably be situations out of our control. If you had an appointment cancelled on the evening and have any concerns relating to your child for a specific subject, please email the school office. If you mark your email for the attention of the relevant teacher, they will respond as soon as they are able to do so.

### **Tassomai**

*Tassomai* delivered a parents webinar on how to support your child with their exams on Tuesday. If you missed it, the link [here](#) will take you to a summary of the webinar and some video clips.

### **A Level Drama Performances**

During the past two weeks, GCSE and A level Drama students have presented the first of their exam performances as actors, or as costume/set designers. The GCSE students devised original work from a given stimulus and the A level students took the classic texts, *Dr Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe and *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett, and re-imagined these for a contemporary audience. They also had to show the influence of theatre practitioners in their work using *Antonin Artaud*, and *Punch Drunk* respectively. Finally, all of the students had to submit portfolios of the process of creating their performances or designs. Well done to all the students involved.

### **Southend Music Festival**

On Tuesday of this week, our largest two ensembles, SHSG Orchestra and SHSG Wind Band, performed at the Southend Music Festival - their first live performance since December 2019! They were awarded 'honours' marks of 86 and 88 and brought the trophies, which we have held since 2017 and 2012, back to SHSG for another year. We are particularly proud of the adjudicator's comments on the Wind Band's '*well-balanced sound..., tight rhythms, and well-pointed accents and syncopation*' and the Orchestra's '*excellent balance between delicate playing and fuller forte sections*'.

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Well done and thank you to all students involved - it is your hard work and dedication that makes the SHSG Music Department so successful; thanks should also be extended to your parents for supporting your music-making year after year. Novem Consort will compete at the festival later on Friday evening, and all ensembles will be performing in the upcoming Christmas Concerts on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th December - tickets are now available from the school bank.

### ***Sixth Form Varsity Match***

On Wednesday afternoon, we hosted the first ever Key Stage 5 'Varsity Match' against SHSB. It was fantastic to see so many students participating and supporting. Congratulations to SHSB who were victorious in both football and netball, so we look forward to repeating the fixture in the new year. Thank you for all the support from both students and staff, and well done to all of those that took part.



### ***The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation issues advice on second dose of COVID-19 vaccination for 16 to 17 year olds***

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised that all healthy 16 to 17 year olds should be offered a second dose of the Pfizer vaccine, for information click [here](#). The decision is based on a review of the latest evidence and has been accepted by the Government. The second vaccine dose should be given 12 weeks or more following the first vaccine dose. For those in this age group who have had the COVID-19 infection, the second vaccine dose should be given 12 weeks or more following the first vaccine dose, or 12 weeks following a positive COVID-19 test result – whichever is later. Those 'at risk' will continue to be offered a second dose 8 weeks after their first dose. 16 and 17 year olds will not be vaccinated through the schools programme, but through vaccination centres, community pharmacies and GP led primary care network sites. The national booking service will be available from Monday 22 November for 16 and 17 year olds to book their vaccine.

### ***World HIV/AIDS day on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021***

In the week building up to World HIV/AIDS day, students will be having an age-appropriate assembly during morning form time. Year 11 will not have assembly due to PPEs taking place. Ms Spilstead will be operating an honesty box system based in the Geography office in B Block where students will be able to pay the £1 donation and take a red ribbon (or pay via ParentPay and take a ribbon). This will start from *Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November*. We thank you for your support in advance, as we normally raise a significant sum of money to support further research, campaigning and support for those affected by HIV/AIDS.

### ***Christmas Dinner on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021***

Students are required to pay in advance if they would like Christmas dinner *by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December*. Tickets are limited and will be issued by the School Bank on receipt of payment. Our preferred method of payment is ParentPay, and you will need to choose a traditional or a vegetarian meal by entering this information in the Mandatory Notes Box before purchasing your ticket. This is a separate option on ParentPay and cannot be debited from your dinner money account. **Please note that the canteen will not be providing any other food on that day.**

### **Messages from the Head Student Team**

This week, the Head Student Team have been delivering assemblies on **Anti-bullying week**. Chiana said that *'When I was writing the assembly, I was trying to think of a different way to get the anti-bullying message across, and it occurred to me that Cadbury, as a brand, share the same values that we hold within the school. These values are of kindness and family. Cadbury's slogan is 'There's a glass and a half in every one' which, quite simply, refers to the idea that there is kindness in every one of us. This is a message that Cadbury project across the nation, and therefore there is no reason that we cannot do the same across our school community. Before you make that comment, send that text, I urge you to pause for a moment. Think about chocolate. Think about Cadbury. And remind yourself that there is a glass and a half within you'*.

Over the past few weeks a few members of the Head student team have been collecting donations to give to **refugees from Afghanistan** that have come to the local area. We have been given an abundance of school bags with stationery, cuddly toys, lunchboxes, books and much more which will be donated to the Southend Community Prize Project on Monday. We are extremely grateful to everyone that donated to this truly important cause and would like to say a massive thank you to all that were involved. The team were able to create bags to aid their learning and positively impact their lives.

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

Yours faithfully

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

Jason Carey  
Headteacher