



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 1st April 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Year 10 Drama Students

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Year 10 students performed the new play 'HUNT' by Belfast playwright Fionnuala Kennedy, in association with National Theatre Connections. Theatre director, Nel Crouch, came to review the performance and provide advice before students perform it at The Garage Theatre in Norwich next month. In a Q&A session with Nel, she complimented the cast on their mature and detailed performances. The cast expressed how much they valued the feeling of community being part of this production. The play itself deals with a group of teenagers, playing their version of hide and seek which entails 'borrowing' objects from neighbours' back gardens, and 'dumping' them at the 'box' without being caught. HUNT is a play about identity, about belonging and truth. Taking the premise of the play further, the set was made out of 'borrowed' objects from around the school and was presented as a promenade performance, with scenes played at various locations around the performance space. Thank you to Mr Lodge for his technical expertise and for adding inspired touches to our set, to our 'sound' students who ran over 30 sound cues, the Drama Captains Eloise and Mabel, the Head Prefect front of house team as well as the School Support Team for all that they do to make our performances happen. We wish the year 10s well as they prepare to present their version of HUNT at The Garage Theatre next month.

Year 7 Fundraising for Ukraine

As mentioned in my letter last week, Form 7E organised a fundraising event at lunchtime on Wednesday for the Ukraine Crisis Appeal. They really did do an amazing job and it was so nice to see so many students and staff supporting the event. A fantastic total of £257.00 was raised! Well done 7E.



Jack Petchey Speak Out information

The in-school final for the Jack Petchey Speak Out Competition has now taken place. The finalists were Sophie P, Isabel O-I, Connie H, Alexa S and Ananya S. Each of these students worked with Ms Wilkins to prepare and deliver a speech (without notes) to the whole 180 cohort of year 10 students. The finalists' speeches were superb. The confident delivery and thoughtful content of each speech was impressive. The judges of the speeches (Mr Boney, Mr Andrews and Mr Morgan) had a difficult job. However, the two finalist positions were awarded to Ananya S and Sophie P. Ananya and Sophie will now go on and represent SHSG in the Regional Final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Competition in May. I wish Ananya and Sophie good luck as they prepare their final speeches. I would also like to congratulate Isabel, Connie and Alexa on their public speaking skills.

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Online Safety Workshops

On Thursday 31st March online safety experts 'The 2 Johns' spent the day at SHSG. Students in all year groups attended age-appropriate sessions where they learnt about the latest risks and were given plenty of practical steps they can take to help keep themselves safe. The 2 Johns led a really informative training session for staff at the end of the day. Thank you to parents who attended their SHSG live webinar yesterday evening, a recording of this will be made available for those who could not attend the event. A link to the 2 Johns website is below where parents can find resources, guidance and advice. The Online Safety section of the school website also contains a parent online safety toolkit and individual parent guides to Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram and other social media platforms (please follow the link below).

[Home - eSafety Training](#)



eSafetyTraining
'The 2 Johns'

[Home - eSafety Training](#)

John and John spent many years working as Police Detectives in various covert roles tackling Online and Offline Child Exploitation The '2 Johns' are regarded as experts in their field and every year they work in hundreds of Primary and Secondary Schools interacting with Children, Teachers and Parents.
esafetytraining.org

[Online Safety - Southend High School for Girls \(shsg.org\)](#)

[Online Safety - Southend High School for Girls](#)

Childnet. Childnet have updated their parent and carer toolkit that will help parents have conversations about online safety. Their booklet 'Let's talk about life online' includes ten key messages that should be shared with children.

www.shsg.org

Physics Department - Medical Engineering Talk: 'Engineering for Everyone'

On 15th March, Year 12 students, with a wide variety of career aspirations such as physics, engineering and medicine, took part in a National Careers week seminar. The session was led by three engineers from DePuy Synthes. The presenters introduced the various branches of engineering, how they are interconnected, and the engineering cycle. Students also learned about cutting edge research such as bio robotic legs. It was evident all branches of engineering are vital for medical engineering, and that becoming a medical engineer could be an exciting, varied and rewarding career path.

Are you interested in Engineering? There are various pathways to complete projects and gain university or work experience via [EDT](#). For more information, please talk to Mrs Brown, Head of A Level Physics.

GCSE Revision sessions over Easter holidays

Tassomai are offering free 45-minute live lessons for Year 11 over the Easter break. Details on the content and how to join can be found by clicking the link [here](#).

Biology Olympiad

The British Biology Olympiad (BBO) challenges and stimulates students with an interest in biology to expand and extend their talents. It enables students to demonstrate their talent and to be suitably rewarded with publicly recognised certificates. Our Year 12s, participated successfully in the Biology Olympiad and came away with one Silver and one Bronze award. Six pupils were Highly Commended and three were Commended. Congratulations to all who participated in this challenging and rewarding competition.



Alumni News

Eleanor Butt, who is studying PPE at the University of Oxford, has been through a rigorous interview process and has been accepted onto a summer internship with Ernst & Young. Congratulations to Eleanor on this fantastic achievement.

Parents' Association Easter - Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the following winners:

- Emily U in 11D - 1st prize – two tickets to Rock of Ages at the Cliffs Pavilion
- Kashmir H in 10F - 2nd prize – a Katie Loxton handbag/backpack from Quinn's
- Alba L in 7A - 3rd prize – a £50 Danielle's school wear and uniform gift card
- Jaeda K in 7B - 4th prize – a Cadbury's Easter Egg from Waitrose

Thank you to the Parents' Association for their continued support.

PE News

The Spring Term has seen a huge success for PE at SHSG. Students have represented SHSG in the best possible way and we are all very proud of their fantastic attitude, determination and effort across a range of competitive sports. Please refer to the Gazette for fixture results which will be published during the Easter break.

Sport England Project



The PE department has been involved in a Sport England Project that has been running for the past 18 months. The intent has been to continue the development of Physical Education across local secondary schools. The project provided funding for the PE department and opportunities for PE staff to attend Continued Professional Development sessions, which has accommodated our curriculum developments. Six students have recently conducted research around the clear impact of the project at SHSG through a range of interviews and anonymous questionnaires. The students then

accompanied Miss Dawkins at the Sport England Celebration Event, where they took the opportunity to present their findings and met the inspirational British Volleyball player, Rachel Laybourne, who competed at the 2012 Summer Olympics. The PE department would like to thank the following students for their contribution and for representing excellence at this event - Chloe B, Francesca H, Christian T, Hannah N, Tyler B, Isabelle L.

Running for Ukraine

Year 7 Students, Yasmin R and Niamh S, have been running to raise money for Ukraine. They started their journey by running 3km on Sunday and have run the rest before school and during lunch time, to achieve a total of 21km.

Well done to both on for their achievement. If you are interested in supporting Yasmin and Niamh with their fundraising, please visit

<https://gofund.me/08be500c>.



Creative Writing

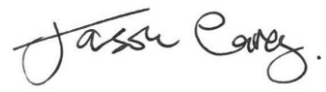
The Creative Writing Group would like to invite students to enter the Southend High School for Girls Annual Poetry Prize. This is a great opportunity for students to showcase their creativity and ideas. Entries are open to all years and can be on any theme, in any form and of any length. Students are asked to submit entries to Mr McGarvey either in the English office or by email gmccgarvey@shsg.org. The closing date will be Friday the 6th of May.

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](#).

A reminder that the first day back after Easter is Tuesday 19th April. Wishing you a wonderful Easter break.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Carey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Jason Carey
Headteacher