



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

4th March 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

A Level English Conference

On Wednesday, A Level English Language students attended a conference at Friend's House in London, hosted by the English & Media Centre. The programme of the day included six lectures covering a variety of topics such as how language can shape our understanding of the world, how it is central to our politics, as well as attitudes towards the way we speak and regional dialects in the UK.

The day concluded with a lecture from the famous linguist, Deborah Cameron, Professor of Language and Communication at Oxford University and author of 'The myth of Mars and Venus'. A well-known theorist in the field of Linguistics, she was met with a rousing reception and students were delighted to have the opportunity to listen to her speak. Charlotte C commented: *"the day really broadened my understanding of content relevant within contemporary society and my studies."*

World Book Day



On Thursday 3rd March, we celebrated World Book Day with various activities. Our 'Guess Who's coming to Dinner' competition and sale of ex-library books drew quite a crowd. Also, to mark the day, every Year 7 student and the top ten library borrowers in each Year 8 form were given a World Book Day book.

Congratulations to Sophie R in 11B, who was selected from among the correct entries as the winner of our 'guess who is coming to dinner' competition; congratulations also go to Amelia B in 10F, who was picked winner of the book synonym competition.

To continue the celebrations for World Book Day, Year 7 parents have received a letter regarding an exciting opportunity for students to visit Waterstones in Southend with their form tutor, where every Year 7 student gets to pick a book of their choice funded by the school.

More information and competitions for World Book Day can be found [here](#).

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UKMT Maths Challenge

The UKMT Maths Challenge results came back today. This was a competition that Years 9, 10 and 11 entered. In total we had:

- 14 Gold Certificates (Top 10% of results)
- 26 Silver Certificates (Top 30% of results)
- 22 Bronze Certificates (Top 50% of results)

We have a total of 15 students who are progressing to the next stage of the competition, two of these students have qualified for the prestigious Maclaurin and Hamilton Olympiads.

Some notable results were:

- Kitty C was awarded best in Year 11 and best in school. She also achieved full marks, a gold certificate and entry into the Maclaurin Olympiad.
- Helian T was awarded best in Year 10 and received a gold certificate and entry into the Hamilton Olympiad.
- Victoria K and Anna S both achieved joint best in Year 9 and received gold certificates.

Well done to all those that participated, some excellent achievements and thank you for representing the school!

SHSG Soloists' Concert

On Wednesday 9th March the SHSG Soloists' Concert will take place at 7pm. This is a fantastic event where our students get to showcase their amazing talent. Tickets are still available from the school bank and more information can be found [here](#).

Year 5 - 11+ Launchpad and Familiarisation sessions

We are pleased to be able to hold our popular 11+ Launchpad and Familiarisation sessions for Year 5 students again this year. Our first Launchpad last week (The SHSG Spirit) was very successful; thank you to the English department for running the session.

I have attached a flyer to this email with information on how to book the sessions. There are limited spaces but please feel free to share the flyer with family and friends who have children that may be interested in applying for a place in our school for September 2023.

House Music

This week saw the return of our annual House Music competition, and after holding the competition virtually last year, we were so pleased to welcome students back into the hall as a live audience. Heats for each House were held across lunchtimes on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, with a finalist from each progressing to the final on Thursday:

Hera: Imogen, Year 10
Artemis: Ash, Year 11
Aphrodite: Nova, Year 8
Athene: Cerys, Year 9
Hermes: Amelia H, Year 9
Aurora: Allegra, Year 10

The standard of all performances across the week was tremendous, resulting in perhaps the closest final we have had in the competition's history. Congratulations to all students who took part across the week; it can be a nerve-racking experience and students showed incredible maturity and confidence performing on stage in front of a hall packed with their peers. Every student who took part should be proud of their achievements. However, there can be only one winner!

This year, emerging at the front of an outstanding field of finalists, was Allegra for Aurora who performed *Douce Reverie* by P. I. Tchaikovsky with beautiful expression and excellent technique. Allegra's name will be engraved on the House Music Cup which will have Aurora's orange ribbons attached for the coming year, where it will sit in the Foyer's trophy cabinet until 2023's competition.

A final well done and thank you to the Music Captains, Sian, Gabriella, and Niamh, in Year 12 who organised and compered this week's proceedings. Our next music event is just around the corner – you can see some of this year's performers in our annual Soloists' Concert which will take place in the Hall on Wednesday 9th March at 7pm; tickets can be purchased from the School Bank in advance or on the door, priced £6 for adults and £4 concessions – there is no charge for SHSG staff or students.

PE news

Well done to all our sports teams who have performed very well in their fixtures this week. The Year 9 and 10 netball teams won their borough game against Thorpe Hall on Monday, and the Year 8 and 9 teams won against Chase High School on Tuesday. The Year 7 athletics team competed at the Lee Valley Indoor Championships on Wednesday. This was a valuable experience with lots of personal bests achieved. Some athletes have now progressed to the final on Wednesday 9th March. Yesterday, the Year 7 and 8 basketball team won their borough game, showing skill and resilience against a strong Eastwood team. The team worked hard to eliminate mistakes and displayed excellent teamwork in their new basketball kit. A huge thank you to our Sponsors 'Revive Digital'.

Well done to Anna S for all her hard work training and competing in Skiing in Bormio. Anna placed in the top 20 and top 25 for Slalom and Giant Slalom respectively out of over 80 competitors. Best of luck to Anna who has now qualified to compete at the British Championships at the end of March in Tignes, a fantastic achievement!

Year 9 Virtual Parents' Consultation Evening

Thank you to Year 9 parents for attending the Options Evening. Further to this event, a letter was sent to parents of Year 9 students this week regarding the Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening on Wednesday 16th March. The booking system will open on Monday 7th March at 6.30am. A copy of the letter can be found on our website [here](#).

Safeguarding

As part of the school's *Personal Development and Relationships and Sex Education Programme*, students are currently completing surveys on RSE and harmful sexual behaviours during tutor time. Parents have already received a letter about the survey.

Listening to our students is essential for learning about the potential for such harms and ensuring that our response is effective. We want to ensure that our students feel safe at school, and that there is good support available if they experience sexual bullying or harm. Next week, we will be launching a new online reporting platform for students to report welfare, bullying, or safeguarding concerns and this will be introduced to students in a series of assemblies from key pastoral staff. Parents and students can access the link here, so you can see in advance of it going on the 'Student' section of the website: [Whisper Anonymous Reporting | SWGfL](#)

Parents will receive further information about the platform and how it works next week.

SHSG Parents' Association Reminder

The Parents' Association will be holding an Easter raffle on Wednesday 30th March 2022. The prizes are:

- 1st prize – two tickets to Rock of Ages at the Cliffs Pavilion
- 2nd prize – a Katie Loxton handbag/backpack from Quinn's
- 3rd prize – a £50 Danielle's school wear and uniform gift card
- 4th prize – a Cadbury's Easter Egg from Waitrose

Tickets cost £2 and can be purchased from the school bank or on ParentPay (tickets will need to be collected from the school bank if purchased on ParentPay). All contributions support SHSG Parents' Association. Thank you for your continued support.

Armada Cup

Congratulations to Sadie in Year 8. After competing in the Armada Cup in Plymouth, Sadie came 5th out of 29 in preliminary round and then came 6th in the final. This is an amazing achievement, well done!



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](#).

Wishing you a good weekend.

Yours faithfully

Jason Carey
Headteacher