



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 22nd April 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I hope that you all had a wonderful Easter break and welcome back to the summer term. Please find below information and updates from this week.

Theatre trips

Students have enjoyed being able to return to the theatre for various school trips. This week, Year 9s went to see *The Woman in Black* at The Fortune Theatre, London. In addition, students taking part in the *National Theatre New Views* project, and some of our A Level drama students, visited the National Theatre on Wednesday to see Nicola Walker (*The Split*) in a revival of Emyln Williams' 1938 play *The Corn is Green*. The performance was directed by Dominic Cooke (*A Normal Heart* and *On Chesil Beach*). Students stated that they enjoyed the beautifully crafted storytelling, supported by some astonishing sound design including singing from what felt like a full Welsh male choir onstage. The experience will provide our playwrights and performers with plenty of inspiration for their own work.

Work experience placements

Next half term, Year 12s will complete their work experience. This is in addition to any other work experience they have completed this year. A letter for parents, asking if members of our SHSG community would be happy to support work experience placements can be found on our website [here](#). The letter also went out earlier in the week; thank you to all the parents who have already replied with offers of placements.

Positive Voice – Sixth Form

On Wednesday, Year 12 and 13 were fortunate to have a talk led by Emma who runs a company called "Positive Voice". She visits schools and colleges around the country talking to Sixth Form students about her life experiences. Emma spoke for about 10 minutes of her teenage years, first forays into sexual relationships and starting university. She is an incredibly engaging, funny speaker and took a no-holds-barred approach to setting up her backstory. 10 minutes in, she dropped the bombshell: she has been living with HIV for over 30 years. She then spoke about her battles over the past 30 years- with her own health, with dealing with the rejection of some of her family and friends, with the emotional impact of facing an on-going battle with a potentially life-threatening illness. However, her 'Positive Voice' resonated throughout- and our Sixth Form were left with the clear message that, due to the incredible advances in science and medicine, HIV is no longer a death sentence. Emma lives a full, happy life and her unrelenting positivity- how "lucky" and "privileged" she feels are very important messages we all learnt from.

Thank you to the Sixth Form team for organising this speaker.

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Dhol Workshop

Musicians in Years 10 and 11 took part in a bhangra workshop on Thursday, which gave them a first-hand experience of one of the style's main instrument, the dhol drum, as well as a comprehensive overview of the music which covers part of their GCSE course content. Thank you to Bollywood Brass Band for coming to Southend and leading both the theory and practical workshops – we could not offer students this opportunity without their expertise and support

PJ Murray visit on 29th April

Media students are studying the magazine 'Pride' for their GCSE qualification and many students go on to create a magazine for their NEA at GCSE and A Level. Mr McGarvey has arranged for the founder of *Pride* magazine, PJ Murray, to visit SHSG on Friday 29th April 2022. This is an amazing opportunity for our students. He will be visiting Year 11 media classes and giving an inspirational talk in the hall at lunchtime. In the afternoon, students in Years 10 and 12 who have chosen the magazine brief for their NEA will attend a workshop.

Poetry competition

The Creative Writing Group would like to proudly present 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.

Entries should be submitted to Mr McGarvey either in the English office or by email: gmcgarvey@shsg.org. The closing date will be Friday, 6th May 2022.

Uniform reminder

A polite reminder that students should not be wearing coats and hoodies whilst in school. They must wear their blazer at all times unless they are told otherwise. (Please note that the PE hoodie is part of PE kit and is not part of the school uniform.) Please find a copy of our uniform policy [here](#) which includes Sixth Form, makeup, jewellery and other SHSG requirements. Please can I remind students that they must bring their own water bottle into school, especially as the weather is getting warmer.

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 an enjoyable weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey
Headteacher