



# 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 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

### **Geography trip**

Year 12 geographers completed their final two days of fieldwork this week. They focused on physical geography - Tuesday was spent on the coast completing beach profiles and looking at coastal management. On Wednesday, they visited Belfairs Wood to measure carbon content of trees. Lots of fresh air and data collection!

### **National Theatre Connections Festival**

The Year 10 GCSE drama class, together with Mr Lodge and Mrs Wimsett, took part this week in the National Theatre Connections Festival 2022. Having previously performed the play in school, our drama students got to present their performance of *HUNT*, by Fionnuala Kennedy, on the stage of the Garage Theatre, Norwich.

This was our first experience of taking part in Connections and the experience brought so many benefits, from the teamwork which brought this group closer together, to the honing of their performance and backstage skills, We are pleased that we will be able to offer the same opportunity to our Year 10s in the future.

### **Music Lectures**

On Thursday lunchtime we saw the first of a series of lectures hosted by the lecturers at Royal Holloway University, the beginning of a partnership between the university and our own Music Department. Dr Shzr Ee Tan presented a fascinating discussion of the interaction of music and artificial intelligence, posing questions such as 'what is music', 'what is intelligence', and 'what does it mean for something to be artificial'?

This was the first experience of an undergraduate-level lecture for our GCSE and A level musicians, and we hope it has opened their minds to the possibilities of how music might interact in their studies after they have left SHSG.

Our next lecture takes place this coming week, where we will hear from Dr Tim Summers on 'Understanding Video Game Music.'

### **Poetry by Heart Competition**

*Poetry by Heart* is a national poetry recital competition which was begun by the then poet laureate Andrew Motion in association with 'The Full English' and the University of Cambridge. Three of our students, Jomi, Isobel and Eloise have been selected as national finalists for the 2022 *Poetry by Heart* competition. As well as participating as finalists in the national competition, our students are invited to take part in an all-expenses paid weekend of Finalists' Celebration Events, to be held at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London in June.

Telephone: 01702 588852

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

Registered in England Company No: 07487455

Southend High School for Girls is the trading name of Southend High School for Girls Academy Trust



The Finalists' Celebration is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for children and young people to perform one of their poems at the spectacular Shakespeare's Globe and to enjoy poetry and drama live in performance. Events across the weekend will include a tour of Shakespeare's Globe and watching a performance of *King Lear*. Students will meet Poet Laureate Simon Armitage. It is also an opportunity for the students to meet other dynamic poetry activists in schools and to find ways to further develop the art of speaking poetry. All of this, before the grand finale announcement of the *Poetry by Heart* National Champions.

We are so proud of all the students who took part in our SHSG *Poetry by Heart* competition this year (and there were lots!) and we wish our three national finalists a wonderful time at the Globe Theatre.

### ***Poetry competition reminder***

Just a reminder that next Friday is the deadline for the poetry competition. 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](mailto:gmcgarvey@shsg.org)

### ***Year 12 Rapid Revision Sessions***

On Thursday, Year 12 students took part in an online 'Rapid Revision' session run by 'Make it Happen'. The presenter talked through a range of practical revision strategies which the students worked through during the hour-long interactive session. The focus was on active learning- not simply reading and re-reading notes for hours on end. Instead, students were taught about employing methods including vocalisation, sequencing, and synthesising to help make the knowledge stick so it can then be effectively recalled in an exam situation. With PPEs rapidly approaching, it was an informative and very useful session.

### ***Live GCSE Revision lessons***

Tassomai are offering GCSE students the opportunity to join live revision lessons in English, Maths and Science. Lessons are taught over Zoom, and typically run for 45 minutes with time for Q&A at the end. Please [click here](#) to find out how to book.

### ***PE News***

Congratulations to Michelle A in Year 11, who represented England Lionesses U16 over the Easter break. Michelle captained the side against Belgium and scored two goals in a 3-0 victory!

Congratulations also go to Anna S, Ana D and Lacey B who took part in the Schools Indoor Ski championships at Hemel. Anna S came 2nd U16 (narrowly missing 1st by 100th second, her time 12.90, 1st - 12.89!), and 3rd overall.

Two teams from SHSG were entered into the Eastern Region Snow Sports Association Schools competition on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April. The competition was held at Norfolk Ski Club. All girls skied well. The teams were:

- Anna S (year 10), Sophia T (year 10), Sophia C (year 10)
- Scarlett B (year 10), Lacey B (year 7), Ana M (year 7)

Anna came 1st in U16 and won the competition as fastest overall female (U14- U19) representing SHSG. This is a fantastic achievement. Well done to everyone involved.

### ***Message from the Parents' Association***

Draws for the 200 Club have been suspended due to problems regarding transferring the bank account to the new head of 200 Club, but we hope to start again very soon, and all missed draws will take place.

**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](#).

Enjoy the May Day Bank Holiday weekend and we look forward to seeing students back in school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

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