



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 27th May 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Jack Petchey



On Monday, 23rd May the Jack Petchey Achievement Award ceremony was hosted at The Palace Theatre. It was a lovely evening filled with performances, music, and applauding the amazing achievements of students in the Southend area. Last year SHSG presented an Achievement Award every month and these students were presented with gold medallions on stage by the Southend Mayor. A huge congratulations to those involved. We will begin looking for our June 2022 winner after half term; parents and students can nominate via jackpetchey@shsg.org for achievements above and beyond the normal expectation of a young person.

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze

Well done to the 140 Year 9 students who participated in their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition in Danbury last weekend and thank you to the staff and volunteers for their support. Students enjoyed camping and walking through the countryside, using their map reading skills – even if a few did get lost!



Middle School Head Prefect interviews

Following on from last week's group interviews for the role of Middle School Head Prefect, six students were shortlisted to the panel interviews which took place this week. The students were required to give a presentation outlining what 'safe, happy and successful' meant to them as well as respond to questions relating to their personal views on education and leadership. The panel consisted of myself, Mr. Morgan (Head of Year), Mrs. Bowman and Dr Ladner, who is one of the school governors. The panel was extremely impressed by the exceptional levels of maturity, creativity and communication demonstrated by all the applicants. The applicants came up with some very innovative and common-sense ideas which they articulated in a very measured and reasoned way.

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We would like to extend huge congratulations to Sophie P on being awarded the role of Head Prefect and Dhvani P and Amelia B for being appointed to the role of Deputy Head Prefects. The whole process of reading the application letters, group interviews and the final panel interviews has been an extremely rewarding one for the staff involved and has also served to demonstrate that Year 10 are a talented, charismatic, and cohesive year group.

Examinations

Well done to Year 11 and Year 13 for their excellent approach to the GCSE and A Level examinations. We have been very proud of the year groups' commitment and the fact that they have been so positive in these first exam weeks. Year 12 are also completing their PPEs and have been equally impressive. Well done and good luck to all students for your exams after half term. We have the Year 11 and the Year 13 proms to look forward to!

SHSG Annual Poetry Competition

The judging has now been completed for our annual poetry competition. As with all our writing competitions, the standard of entries was very high and choosing the winners very difficult. I would like to congratulate Poppy S for her poem "The Invasion of Humanity" which won the competition, and Annabelle D and Samia K for their entries, which were the KS4 and KS3 runners up respectively. I have included Poppy's poem at the end of this letter; this and the other poems will be on the school website.

Year 10 Law Workshop

This week year 10 students interested in pursuing a career in law were able to attend a workshop with Jeremy, a practising barrister. The session included key differences between careers as a barrister and a solicitor to give students a clear indication of which pathway they might like to pursue. The students asked some excellent questions. We are looking forward to the final session of the year next half term where students will have the opportunity to take part in some discussion activities around some case studies. We are hugely grateful for Jeremy's continued support leading law workshops with students in year 10 and year 12.

Media Studies

This year Sixth Form Media Studies students were encouraged to enter the [English and Media Centre production competition](#). We are thrilled to announce that Juliet and Chiana in Year 13 have been shortlisted as finalists! They will travel to London on 6th July to see their music videos on the big screen at the British Film Institute on the Southbank. We wish them lots of luck in the final.

Non-Uniform Day

[Precious Sight Foundation](#)

For our non-uniform today, we are supporting Precious Sight Foundation. A small charity that supports people with sight loss across Africa. 50% of visual impairment is preventable and Precious Sight Foundation provides eye health awareness drop-in centres, supports free operations, and provides free glasses/eye drops. This charity came to our attention when Ara in year 8 travelled to Rwanda to volunteer with them earlier in the year.

"Every year volunteers from the Precious Sight Foundation will go to a country in Africa like Gambia or Nigeria for a week and visit the villages that are less fortunate and can't afford to travel to the opticians and set up a pop-up optician where people can come and get their eyes checked and be prescribed. This year we went to Rwanda and when we got there, we worked at 8 stations. I worked at the eye drop prescription, sight chart and the registration we would get around 500 people a day, but we would only be allowed to take up to maximum 350 people a day. We would open at 8:00 every morning which would have been 7:00 here but because people really wanted to get their eyes tested, they would be queuing from 5:00 just to make sure they leave with something." Ara in Year 8

Message from Parents' Association

Thank you to everyone who have previously donated items for the SHSG PA raffles. We are looking for anyone who has a business willing to donate items/prizes for raffles we will be holding throughout the year. If you would like to contribute and support the school, please contact the raffle co-ordinator at shsgparaffle@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support.

Year 11 and Year 13 Leavers 2022

Photographs of the last day for Year 11 and Year 13 are available on the SHSG website gallery [here](#).

Reminder – Monday 6th June 2022

As stated in my previous letter on 6th May, there is an additional bank holiday on Thursday 2nd June to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As this additional bank holiday falls within the half term break, in line with Southend Borough Council, we have allocated an additional school closure day on Monday 6th June 2022. There are some exams taking place on Monday 6th June and those students will have been contacted and informed separately. **Students will return to school on Tuesday 7th June 2022 after the half term break.**

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 wonderful half term.

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

Poetry winning entry:

The Invasion of Humanity

I look out of my kitchen window
on a gloomy afternoon,
where I am eye-level with the world,
I can escape from the room.
its creaking chairs and rotten pears and solid metal bits
chew me up and spit me out
into the place where humanity sits

It is everywhere:
Sprawled across the pavement, houses, grassland, streets
It is the invasion of humanity and on and on it creeps.

He has grown too big for his lead-laden boots
and his eyes are larger than his brain.
Yet still he stomps upon the natural world,
his footprints tainted with pain.

I know not where he is in me
I know not if I should.
But still he stomped past my kitchen window
While I just watched and stood.

By Poppy S