



# 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 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

### **Year 12 Leigh Life Drawings**

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June, our Year 12 A level Art students were given the fantastic scholarship opportunity by the Leigh Life Drawing Class and Leigh Town Council to attend a Life Drawing Class. The students who attended the class thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to having the opportunity again.

### **Poetry by Heart National Finals**

Jomi (Year 8), Isobel (Year 11) and Eloise (Year 12) attended the National Finals of the *Poetry by Heart* competition at the Globe Theatre on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> and Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June. Congratulations to Jomi in Year 8 who was runner up in the KS3 competition against around twenty five other finalists! Congratulations to all three students on this brilliant achievement! Please see Jomi's, Isobel's and Eloise's experiences of the Poetry by Heart National Finals at the end of this letter.

### **Year 12 Work Experience**

Congratulations to Year 12 who have completed a week of work experience. Students were given the opportunity to get a real taste of working life in a range of careers, from Insurance to Catering, Politics to Veterinary Care and so much more! A number of students worked in school for the week, helping in a subject or assisting in the non-teaching areas of the school. We are looking forward to hearing all about their experiences next week!

### **Year 10 Art trip to Kew Gardens**

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June Year 10 GCSE Art students enjoyed our annual trip to the Royal Kew Gardens. It was a beautiful, sunny day with stunning views of the gardens, hot houses and the treetop walk! The students visited the exquisite Marianne North gallery as well as the contemporary food exhibition "Pip and Pop" in the Sherwood Gallery.

### **Open Evening Reminder – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June is a half day for students so that the school can get ready for the open evening later that day. As a result, students will be set extended revision and/or consolidation and retrieval activities on Teams and/or SatchelOne for that afternoon. There will be no 'live' lessons. Students will attend lessons as normal in the morning and will be dismissed at 12.25pm. Please note that food will be available to purchase at break, but the canteen will not be providing lunch on this day. Any students who are unable to go home until their bus arrives (Stephensons and Maymist will run as normal) and are unable to arrange alternative travel arrangements may stay in school until the end of the school day.

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## **PE News**

### **We are Borough Champions!**

Congratulations to the SHSG athletics team who competed at the Borough Athletics final on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June. The team have spent all season committed to training before school, lunch times and after school, which was evident in their strong performance on Friday. Lots of medals were awarded and personal bests achieved. Not only did the team continue the 30+ years winning tradition, but they came away with an overwhelming collection of trophies, claiming the titles for Track, Field, Relay, Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, thus placing SHSG as the **Overall Borough Champions 2022!** Well done SHSG Athletics Team!



### **Year 7 Athletics**

As a result of the Borough Athletics Finals, we would like to congratulate the following Year 7 students for being selected to represent Southend Borough at the Year 7 Essex Schools Athletics competition. This will be held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June. Good luck to Yasmin R, Emily A, Monica M, Mollie K, Holly B, Niamh S, Annalise B, Shalom B, Alice W.

### **Representing England!**

Well done to Gabriella W who represented England in the Dance World Cup on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Gabriella competed with her dance school in ballet duet, modern duet and a national quartet. This is a fantastic achievement to represent the country, congratulations!



### **SHSG annual poetry competition**

The entries for the SHSG annual poetry competition are now available to view on the SHSG English blog. This can be accessed by clicking on [this link](#). The standard of entries was very high this year, and I would encourage you to read some of the wonderful work completed by our students.

### **Advance Notice**

Please note that we have our New Year 7 students coming for their induction day on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July. There will be no breakfast served in the canteen on that day, but break and lunch will be as normal.

### **Year 11 and Year 13**

Well done to Year 11 and Year 13 on completing their GCSE and A Level examinations this week!

You have all been exemplary in your preparation and conduct. We wish you the very best and look forward to seeing you in August to celebrate your results!

### **Student Attendance At School with COVID-19**

Although there is now reduced COVID-19 testing availability, students must have regard to NHS guidance in relation to the symptoms of respiratory infection.

The guidance states that for those aged 18 and under if they feel unwell and have a high temperature with COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms, they should:

- Try to stay at home, avoid contact with others and follow guidance on gov.uk.
- Try to avoid going to school until they no longer have a high temperature and are well enough to return.
- Carry on attending as normal if they only have mild symptoms like a runny nose, sore throat or slight cough and otherwise feel well.

If they have had a positive test for COVID-19, they should:

- Try to stay at home, avoid contact with others for 3 days and follow the guidance on gov.uk.
- Try to avoid going to school, during this time, where they can.
- Go back after 3 days, but only if they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to do so.

### **SHSG Parents' Association Reminder**

SHSG PA will be holding a summer raffle to be drawn on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July in association with the Big Band & BBQ.

The prizes are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize – Makeup Bag/Scented candle from Sullivan's Fine Cards & Gifts.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – Scented candle and reed diffuser from Scape Interiors.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize – 2 tickets for Odeon Cinema.
- 4<sup>th</sup> prize – £10 gift voucher from Hollywood Babes Boutique.

In addition to this, there are 6 Summer Hampers provided by Year 7 students to be won. Tickets cost £2 and can be purchased from the school bank or on ParentPay up until Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July (tickets will need to be collected from the school bank if purchased on ParentPay). All contributions support SHSG Parents' Association. If you miss the cut-off time do not worry, tickets will be available at the event. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Alumni News**

Congratulations to former student, Gabriella Bowman (Mrs Bowman's daughter!), who has been awarded a 1st class hon's degree in History from QMU, London University. She will now be undertaking a Masters degree in September in the History of Art and Archaeology of East Asia with an intensive language module in Korean or Japanese at SOAS (School of African and Oriental Studies, London University).

### **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](#).

Have a good weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey  
Headteacher

## **My Poetry By Heart Experience**

### **KS3 Finalist and runner up, Jomi:**

*My Poetry By Heart Experience was absolutely amazing, from the 'King Lear' play, to the accommodation, to the performance of the finalists' poems! I personally had a exciting time, and would absolutely love to do it again! The trip started off with watching the famous 'King Lear' in the Shakespeare Globe. The Globe itself is huge, with a large stage and more than 800 seats available and can fit 700 standing people in the yard. The performance was so entertaining, interactive and with multiple hilarious moments. In the morning, we made our way to the Shakespeare Globe, for a fun filled day. We started with a tour of the Shakespeare Globe, and learnt about the history of the Globe. We also learnt about how the names of many donors to the rebuilding of the Globe were put in stone, which was built into the ground - it was rebuilt due to a fire which burnt down the building. We then began to hear the performance of many Poetry by Heart finalists across the Nation.*

*All finalists had a chance to perform on the legendary Globe stage in front of a large audience. I really enjoyed the experience, but I was filled with nerves. Although once you first walk out on stage, the audience is quite intimidating, once you start to recite your poem, it's like all your nerves disappear! There were breaks between each 'set' which were filled with a showcase of Foyle Young Poets, 2022 CLIPPA shortlisted poet performances, and special performances. Once all the poem performances had taken place, the national champions were announced, and the fun filled day came to an end with Simon Armitage, the UK Poet Laureate, reciting a few of his poems, and a few answers to the audience's questions. Although I did not win in my category, it was one of the most amazing experiences, and a once in a lifetime opportunity. Not many people my age would be able to say that they performed on the Shakespeare Globe stage, and I will forever be grateful for the opportunity!*

### **KS4 finalist, Isobel:**

*Recently I have been lucky enough to make it into the finals of the national Poetry by Heart competition. This meant I was able to spend a fantastic two days in London, seeing 'King Lear', getting a tour of the Globe and being able to perform my poem on stage. It was an incredibly exciting experience which I will never forget. Seeing 'King Lear' was especially memorable as it was such a professional and entertaining performance. I got to hear some amazing poetry not only from my fellow finalists but also from winners and finalists of other poetry competitions. I particularly enjoyed hearing published poets read their own poetry. The Poet Laureate Simon Armitage, whose poem is included in the GCSE poetry anthology, also came to read some of his work and answer questions, which was very interesting. Whilst I was nervous about reciting my poem, I'm so glad I did as it's not every day you get to perform on stage at the Globe. Although I didn't win I still had a good time and I'm proud of myself and my fellow SHSG finalists, whose poems I really enjoyed. I will definitely be entering the competition again next year, and I highly recommend others to do the same.*

### **KS5 finalist, Eloise:**

*I was really proud to represent the school at the Poetry By Heart finals on Monday. We had the opportunity to watch Shakespeare's Globe's 'King Lear' on Sunday night, which was very valuable to get a sense of the stage we would be performing on the next day, and how performance can be worked to an audience. I was also really excited to watch Michelle Terry in the role of Cordelia/Fool as she's one of my biggest inspirations. My absolute highlight of the weekend was the moment just before I started to speak my poem - The Globe is my favourite stage in the world and seeing hundreds of faces waiting for me to start speaking on it was incredible. It was also a real privilege to listen to Simon Armitage, poet laureate, who read some of his own poems to us, with insight into their creation. It surprised me that he said how hard he finds it himself to recite poetry by heart, and that he prefers just to write it.*