



# 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 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

### Year 10-12 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Practice

On Friday, 1st July thirty nine students set off for the South Downs for their Silver DofE practice weekend. The weather was kind, and the terrain was hilly and beautiful. The students walked for nine miles carrying their heavy backpacks. Everyone enjoyed the camping, having stayed in two very different camps, one in woodland, the other in a steep valley with orchids and wildflowers. The students were a credit to the school showing resilience and great teamwork. A special thank you to Mrs Brierley, Mr Smith, Mr Peugniez, Mrs Smith, Miss Dillon and Mrs Curtis for making this event happen for students. Well done to everyone involved.

### Novem Consort Trip to Berlin

On 1<sup>st</sup> July, Novem Consort travelled to Berlin to perform as part of Choralspace Berlin's 'Summer Festival.' It was a packed weekend where they walked over 40km in three days exploring the city, seeing the many historical sights, and of course partaking in musical activities.

The weekend began with a tremendous performance of Mozart's Requiem at the [Philharmonie](#) concert hall, the home of the Berlin Philharmonic. On Saturday, Novem Consort performed in a church service and performed a short concert afterwards, which was then followed by a two-hour workshop with California's 'Teacher of the Year 2014', Michael Hayden. Michael was such a warm and inspiring director, and the techniques and advice he offered the choir totally transformed their sound and boosted their confidence as an ensemble. On Sunday they travelled to a small district on the outskirts of the city, Köpernick, where they performed in an outdoor festival and were applauded with cheers from the audience – with particular enthusiasm after Mendelssohn's 'Hebe dein augen auf' from *Elijah*. The trip was long awaited, following the cancellation of our planned attendance at the World Choir Games in Belgium in 2020, and it was marvellous to see the choir grow not only musically, but in having the opportunity to engage with so many different experiences in one weekend.



Telephone: 01702 588852

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

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### ***Offer Holder Event***

This week, SHSG Sixth Form invited our Offer Holders to attend an event to welcome them to SHSG Sixth Form. These are students who currently attend schools other than SHSG and based on their predicted grades have been offered a place to study with us from September 2022. They are the top 300 with over 58 points.

Offer Holders received presentations from Mr Carey, Miss Riebold, Gracie (Head Student), Sol (Deputy Head Student) and Charlie (Deputy Head Student). Students then had the opportunity to speak with our Head Student Team, Senior Prefects and Captains in Scholars over refreshments and then in our Subject Fair.

The feedback from Offer Holders has been fantastic; students have enjoyed the opportunity to speak with our best ambassadors, our students, and were able to gather information about what their studies at SHSG Sixth Form will look like.

One parent contacted us to say that her son had not stopped talking about how wonderful his experience was. Similar feedback from parents and students mentioned the engaging and friendly students, the palpable energy and ambition in the school, the work hard/ socialise balance, facilities, and positive feedback from every sixth former they spoke to. Well done to all the staff and students involved.

We look forward to confirming A Level subjects with our internal students and Offer Holders on 25<sup>th</sup> August, GCSE results day.

### ***PE News***

#### **ESAA Track and Field National Final – top state school in the country!**

A big congratulations to the Junior Girls (Years 7 and 8) who competed at the National Final of the ESAA Track and Field Schools Cup on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. It is a huge achievement in itself to qualify for the National Final. The junior girls faced some tough competition throughout the day whilst demonstrating determination and resilience, as they have done all season, despite the weather conditions. The squad battled hard in their track in the morning, entering the second half of the day in 2<sup>nd</sup> position. After some challenging performances, the team continued to support each other through their high levels of team spirit to finish overall 2<sup>nd</sup> in the country, and 1<sup>st</sup> state school! This is a phenomenal achievement, and we are excited to see what the team can do in the future!



A special mention must go to Shiloh O who broke the 300m Schools Cup competition record and was awarded the overall top point scorer at the halfway point!

#### **Other Sporting Success**

Well done to Shiloh O and Joyce O who have been selected to represent Essex this weekend at the National Track & Field Championships in Manchester. This is a fantastic achievement to be selected and we wish you and team Essex the best of luck this week!

Congratulations to Francesca, Emily and Sadie who competed at the Swim England National Age Group Championships in Plymouth this weekend. The team took home lots of medals and broke longstanding records. Well done to all involved.

Anna S recently travelled to Braehead in Glasgow and competed in a GBR Indoor snow race and was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> U16. She then travelled to the *Chill Factor* in Manchester to compete in the National Schools Snowsports Association British Indoor Championships representing SHSG. Anna put in an impressive first run and went on to win the U16 female category.

### **Summer Concert**

The Summer Concert will take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July in the school hall, starting at 7pm. The Parents' Association will be providing refreshments, including a licenced bar, before the concert and at the interval. At this concert you will be able to see the final performances of each of our ensembles who rehearse every week, as well as the presentation of the Concerto Shield which will be given to Imogen in Year 10 after she has performed two movements from Ronald Binge's Concerto for Alto Saxophone with the orchestra.

### **Big Band and BBQ**

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July our Big Band and BBQ will take place outside in the CPA quad (weather permitting – we may need to relocate to the hall!), starting at 5.30pm. This evening is informal, and you are invited to bring your own picnic along to enjoy whilst the students entertain us with a variety of arrangement of jazz, pop, and rock classics. Tickets to include BBQ have now sold out, but you will be able to still purchase drinks from the bar during the event. Tickets to both of these events are priced at £6 for adults and £4 for concessions and are available on ParentPay and from the School Bank.

### **Notice regarding SHSG Sports Award Evening 2022**

Sports Awards Evening will take place at the end of September. The new date will be communicated to parents very soon.

### **Oxbridge Conference – Message from Mr O'Brien**

We had twenty-one ambitious and aspirational Year 12 students taking part in the annual Oxbridge Conference hosted by Mr Stevens in WSHB on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of July. It was a fantastic event geared towards early entry students who are applying for courses in Oxford or Cambridge. Our SHSG students found it extremely useful and informative as the conference was led by two members of the Herford College, Oxford admissions team (Mr Stazicker and Dr Boast) and current students of Oxbridge. The mixture of student voice and official information provided an excellent overview of the application process as well as the personal experiences of current Oxbridge students.

The conference opened with the *View from the Spires*, where our students heard the first-hand experience of what is actually like being a student at Oxford and Cambridge. We heard from a large number of different students who are studying everything from Mathematics, Law, History to Medicine, with time to ask questions.

The next session was *Admissions Process and Finance*, followed by a session on *Admissions Tests*.

The final session focussed on *The Personal Statement and Interview Process* where the admissions team explicitly told our students what they are looking for from both personal statements and in the interview.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Stevens and WSHB for hosting this event and to Dr Boast and Mr Stazicker from Hertford College for giving up their time to provide those excellent insights into the application process for our students, it was truly invaluable.

### **Cultural Celebration Day**

Staff and students participated in a whole school celebration of culture on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July. It was delightful to see everyone at SHSG embracing the day by dressing in cultural clothing; students were fantastic, running sessions and taking part with enthusiasm. Sessions included African and Indian dance, world music, the importance of henna, Ukraine hair craft, culture surrounding hair, and sessions teaching languages from around the world. It was a real privilege to witness students stepping up and sharing aspects of their culture with their peers.



### **Winner of National Theatre playwriting competition**

This week, Year 12 student Eloise's play, 'Barrier(s)', premiered at the Dorfman Theatre on London's Southbank. Winner of the National Theatre's 'New Views' playwriting competition out of over four hundred entries, the play tells the story of a couple who navigate their relationship, from first meeting to marriage, within a society where the use of British Sign Language is not yet recognised and is the focus of abuse from the wider public. Lasting just under an hour, Eloise's writing is incredibly powerful in depicting the experiences of the Deaf community, using captioning to support the audience in understanding signed and spoken lines. The play comes to a close with the two actors breaking the fourth wall and addressing the audience directly with three vital facts, including the long overdue official recognition of British Sign Language as a language by the British government in 2003. Thank you to Mrs Wimsett for her championing of this amazing competition and supporting students' entries over the past two years.



Congratulations to Eloise for such a triumph, both in winning the competition itself but also in so eloquently portraying a heartfelt and passionate story.

### **Arrangements for last day of term - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022**

Students will be dismissed at 12.25pm on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> July. Please note that food will be available to purchase at break, but the canteen will not be providing lunch on this day. If your child is entitled to a free school meal and you would like the school to provide a packed lunch for them, please indicate on the form below. Any students who are unable to go home until their bus arrives and are unable to arrange alternative travel arrangements may stay in school. Students staying in school will be supervised and will need to bring a packed lunch.

Please complete the [form here](#) if your child will need to stay in school until their bus arrives on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

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

SHSG PA will be holding a summer raffle to be drawn on Friday 15th July, in association with the Big Band & BBQ. The prizes are:

- 1st prize – Makeup Bag/Scented candle from Sullivan's Fine Cards & Gifts
- 2nd prize – Scented candle and reed diffuser from Scape Interiors
- 3rd prize – 2 tickets for Odeon Cinema
- 4th 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 14th July (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.

**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,

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