



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, 15th July 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Johnny Mars

On Friday 8th July we were privileged to welcome internationally acclaimed harmonica-player [Johnny Mars](#) to record his educational anthem, 'Dare to Dream.' The whole of Year 7 joined SHSG Choir and Chamber Choir to record the song in the hall, and the Media Captains conducted an interview later in the day – both the track and the interview will be available to listen and watch in due course. Johnny was so impressed by our students and the quality of their work, and we are all looking forward to hearing the final product once editing is complete.



Miseducation- Sociology A level lecture by Professor Diane Reay

On Monday 11th July, Professor Diane Reay from Cambridge University delivered an online lecture to Sociology A level students on inequalities in the education system. Professor Reay is one of the key theorists on the syllabus for the Education Unit, and students benefited greatly from hearing about her research in person. She spoke of her route into academia after growing up in an economically disadvantaged area. Professor Reay compared the UK's performance in education to other countries, and proposed solutions on how this could be improved. She talked about the lack of social mobility in this country, and the growing wealth divide. She informed students of some moving statistics such as by age three, children living in poverty in the UK are already nine months behind their peers in development, and that 72% of children in poverty have parents who are working. Professor Reay also offered advice for those applying to Oxbridge.

Summer Concert

Monday 11th July saw the Summer Concert return for the first time post-Covid! Whilst the music itself was tremendous, it is the students' ability to work at such a high level in the incredibly high temperatures that should also be celebrated. Time and time again we see our wonderful musicians step up and deliver exceptional performances. The concert was brought to a close with Imogen, from Year 10, performing two movements from Ronald Binge's Concerto for Alto Saxophone. Imogen performed with a maturity far beyond her years and the orchestra supported her wonderfully throughout – it was a very special performance indeed, for which she has been awarded the Concerto Shield.

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Sixth Form Cambridge Chemistry Challenge

The Cambridge Chemistry challenge aims to stretch and challenge students interested in chemistry and provides an excellent experience for anyone considering taking their studies further. Set by an experienced team of teachers and university chemists, it is designed to be accessible to Year 12 students but will take them significantly beyond the syllabus and encourage them to think about science in the way they would at university.

In June Year 12 chemistry students were given the opportunity to take part in the Cambridge Chemistry challenge. This year, in excess of 8,400 students took part nationally in the challenge - these will be high achieving students from the 55,000 students that take A-level chemistry each year.

Year 11 students obtained the Copper award - Ellie S, Sangavi S, Milly F, Haider I, Ella P, Mewiny D, Ester-Grace O, Dhakshana A, Isabel S, Olivia R, Elena R-J. Some just one mark from the silver award. Two students obtained the Silver award - Molly W and Sophie P (one of these was one mark away from gold). Silver award was awarded to 22% of the already selective cohort.

This was an amazing achievement of a challenging paper that goes beyond the A-level Chemistry specification. Well done to all students that attempted the challenge giving up lunch time to complete the task.



Jack Petchey

Congratulations to Lola-Isabella in Year 11, who has been awarded a Jack Petchey Environment Award, given in recognition to young people who have worked in their communities to create a sustainable change in their local area. Lola was responsible for restarting and organising recycling at the school after the practice had slipped because of lockdowns. She promoted the idea to students, recruited and scheduled a dedicated team to collect paper for recycling. Although she is currently not in school as she has finished her GCSEs, her legacy remains and there is now a substantial recycling operation in school.

Sports Day – Monday 18th July

You will have received a letter from Mrs Buscombe regarding our annual Sports day. The forecast currently for this day is potentially the hottest of the year so far so we have made some changes to the day in order to ensure the students are able to compete and spectate in as safe and comfortable conditions as possible. Please could you ensure that your child brings:

- Sun cream to re-apply throughout the day
- Multiple water bottles (consider freezing some the night before) that are filled up at break (year 12) or at lunch (year 7-10) ready to take out onto the field for their year group events
- a hat and/or an umbrella

Any students that are participating in a Sports Day event will need to come into school in PE kit. Students will be given a house-coloured bib to wear when competing in order to represent their house. Students not participating will be required to attend in normal school uniform. To show support for their house, face paint (for both participants and spectators) is permitted in house colours and should only be applied to the face. Students attending the Prize Giving ceremony that evening should ensure face paint is removed beforehand. They must also ensure they bring uniform to school to change into if they are involved in Sports Day and Prizes. Please find attached sports day full instructions for students. We will be reviewing the temperature and put the safety of students as our main priority.

SHSG Awards Evening - Monday 18th July 2022

Reminder for Parents/Carers of Students Receiving an Award

Our annual awards evening is taking place at the Palace Theatre, Westcliff on Sea, on Monday 18th July. The event starts at 7.00pm. On Monday evening the theatre doors will be open from 5.30pm onwards. All award winners must have registered and have taken their seats in the auditorium by 6.15pm at the latest in order for us to make the final preparations. Guests will be able to take their seats from 6.30pm. Refreshments will be available on the evening from the theatre bar. We are looking forward to celebrating with students on the night. Congratulations to all students who have been selected to receive an award.

Year 11 Webinars

The Oxbridge Formula is offering a free webinar for students and their parents who are looking to kickstart their Oxbridge journey on Sunday 14th August 2022 at 10am. If you are interested in registering for this, please follow the link [here](#) to sign up. Last weekend they also ran a successful Oxbridge STEM Personal Statement Workshop. A recording of this workshop can be found [here](#).

Career Pathways

We would like to widen our database of presenters to give students an insight into possible career paths and invite parents and carers who would be willing to give a short 15-minute talk about their career to email careers@shsg.org. This could be in person or via Teams and would enable us to react flexibly to the interests of our students. Our KS4 and 5 students have had such talks on diverse areas such as apprenticeships in the National Health Service, careers in the arts, advertising and law where a practising barrister has led workshops to enable students to think like a lawyer.

PE News

Year 7 student, Zoe W, competed in the Regional Open Water swim last weekend in Norwich in the 12-year-old category for the 2km event. She won gold for Essex, gold for east regionals and has qualified for nationals which take place in Rotherham on the 10th August. This is her first ever open water event, so it is a huge achievement. Well done Zoe and good luck for the nationals!

Chloe B in Year 8 also competed and won gold for her age group and the 'overall girl' title too.

Joyce O and Shiloh O were selected to represent Essex on 8th and 9th July at the ESAA National Track & Field Championships in Manchester. Joyce won the national silver medal in Triple Jump and has now been selected to compete for England at the Schools' International Athletics SIAB in Belfast this weekend.

Shiloh qualified for the 300m final as the 1st ranked U15 girl in the UK and held onto this achievement to win the national title. She currently leads the UK U15 rankings, despite being only 13, and has moved into 13th place on the all-time fastest 300m UK performances.



6-a-side Football Competition in Celebration of the UEFA Women's Euro 2022!



SHSG U13's competed in a 6-a-side tournament at Garon's Park on Thursday 14th July. The squad consisted of Emily S (GK), Josie L, Martha M (C), Kazandra T, Liana-Mae O, Hanna H, Hana W, Lexi A, Alba L & Hayley S. Having won three and drawn one of their matches, the final game was against Eastwood School – the winner of the match would win the tournament! It was tight, with Hana W opening the scoring, but SHSG conceding a goal just a couple of minutes later. With a final score of 1 -1, SHSG finished second on goal difference. The team fought really hard and there were some excellent performances. A great way to round off the season – well done SHSG!

Alumni News

Lizzie Pike, who was a student at SHSG from 2009-2015, has just completed her Integrated Masters course at Lancaster University and has graduated with a 1st in her degree and an MA in Geography. Congratulations to Lizzie on this fantastic achievement.

Reminder Arrangements for last day of term - Thursday 21st July 2022

Students will be dismissed at 12.25pm on Thursday, 21st 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 until the bus arrives at the 3.30pm. (Only Stephenson's buses will be picking up at 3.30pm. Ami Coaches and Maymist will be picking up at 12.30pm.) Students staying in school will be supervised and will need to bring a packed lunch.

Rossi's ice-cream van will be on site for the last day of term situated by the sandwich hut. Students will be able to purchase ice-creams at break time. They will need to bring cash into school to do this.

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

Thank you to Parents' Association

We would like to thank the Parents' Association for all their support and generosity this year, from helping with events, raffle prizes and donations towards new sound equipment for the school. Thank you for their 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,



Jason Carey
Headteacher