



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, 07 October 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

New Year 7 Parents' Welcome to Grammar School – Monday 3rd October

Year 7 parents were invited to an information evening on Monday with presentations from Mr Carey and the Senior Team, gaining information about the pastoral system, the SHSG Year 7 academic and personal development Curriculum, plus insights into key dates and events for the year ahead. Heads of department then presented overviews of all the key topics that will be studied this year.

Thank you to all involved, and especially to our first class SHSG ambassadors, the Sixth Form prefects, for helping throughout the evening. For those parents that were unable to attend, you can download the Year 7 Curriculum booklet from our website on the following link:

[Learning in Year 7](#)

Walking Talking Mocks

On Thursday, 6th October and Friday, 7th October 'Walking Talking Mocks' took place in English and maths for Year 11. Walking Talking Mocks allow students to practise and experience examinations being modelled to them, 'live', by experienced teachers/examiners. They are designed to help students improve their examination techniques, identifying common misconceptions and managing time more effectively. The *Walking Talking Mocks* are, therefore, not assessed and there will be no data reported as a result. Thanks go to the English and Maths teachers for leading these and a big well done, to Year 11. Teachers conducting the *Walking Talking Mocks* have commented that students listened attentively, remained focused and completed everything they were asked to do with commitment and maturity.

Piano Forum

On Wednesday lunchtime we had our inaugural Piano Forum, an informal series of half-termly concerts to showcase the talents of SHSG's pianists. It was delightful to see pianists from almost every year group signing up to perform a mini recital on the grand piano in the school hall, with friends making up an attentive audience.

Highlights included *Opening Night Jazz*, performed by Amelia (Year 11), *Changing Times*, by Allegra (Year 11), *Je te laisserai des mots*, by Ella (Year 9), Chopin's *Nocturne in Eb major*, played beautifully by Layla (Year 7), and Szymanowski's *Etude No.3*, a Diploma-level piece with many expressive and technical demands, performed magnificently by Sarah (Year 12).

Well done to all the performers for taking part in this first outing of Piano Forum and we look forward to future editions.

Early Entry applications

Well done to all our Year 13 Early Entry applicants (students who are applying for Cambridge, Oxford and Medicine) who met our internal deadline for submitting their personal statements last week. This week commenced our Oxbridge Interview lunch clubs, where students have been practising tackling challenging interview questions under pressure and giving each other feedback.



Diana Award

On Thursday 13th October, we are hosting a special event as part of the relaunch of our anti-bullying agenda, delivered by the *Diana Award*. Students in Years 7 to 10 will be joined by visiting schools to take part in a day's training event where they will become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors for their school community. SHSG students have applied formally, writing letters to their Head of Year, with successful candidates selected for their passion, communication skills and determination to fulfil the role of an Anti-Bullying Ambassador. We look forward to the event, and to working together with the student team over the coming year to promote a strong anti-bullying culture.

Unifrog Webinar

On 16th October there is a free webinar for our students via the Unifrog platform on 'How to write a CV'. Students can find the link [here](#).

PE Notice

There is a significant amount of team kit missing from the PE department, which includes the squad playing kits that we are fortunate to be able to allow students to wear when representing the school. If you have any at home (netball kit, football kit or athletics vests) please could you return to school as soon as possible. Thank you.

National Gallery Trip

This week on Tuesday, Year 12 and 13 enjoyed the Cornelia Parker exhibition as well as the permanent collection at the Tate Britain and also visited the National Gallery. It was a wonderful day and enjoyed by all.



Media Studies

On Wednesday evening, A level Media Studies students stayed behind after school to take part in a news industry webinar. The topic of the news industry in the UK is an important part of the A level media specification and is worth 25% of the overall qualification. Our students were lucky enough to hear from top media education consultant, Rob Miller. The two-hour session was a combination of lecture and tasks. Students were invited to contribute to the chat and Mr Miller praised the high quality of SHSG students' prompt responses. It was an insightful and inspiring session that served well as revision for Year 13 and as an introductory overview for Year 12.

Careers

On Tuesday, Years 8-13 had a fascinating online careers talk from 'old girl' Beverley Ngo who left SHSG in 2017. Beverley is in her final year of a degree apprenticeship with Jaguar Landrover at Warwick University. Beverley explained how she applied for the exciting course and how she fits in studying at University one week per half term followed by six weeks of work. Beverley ran through the many advantages of degree apprenticeships such as being paid whilst getting hands on experience of the workplace. There was some time for questions and Beverley revealed

the coding language she has found most useful (Python). The talk was enjoyed by staff and students alike. It is always lovely for staff to discover how ex-students are getting on. Younger students were interested in the concept of degree apprenticeships and older students were inspired by Beverley's advice on how best to prepare applications.

We would like to offer more of these career experiences. If you would like to offer 15 minutes to deliver an online talk or if you would be willing to conduct mock interviews, please contact careers@shsg.org. We are particularly interested in hearing from our alumni as it is so inspiring for current students to see where studying at SHSG can get you!

Intro
ABOUT ME

2012-2017: Attended SHSG and completed 13 GCSEs

2017-2019: Attended KEGS and completed A Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Geography and EPQ

Since 2019: Working at Jaguar Land Rover and studying at the University of Warwick as part of a Degree Apprenticeship



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 lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Jason Carey
Headteacher