



# 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, 18 November 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

### **Prince Charming Performance (Y8)**

Year 8 students took part in an interactive performance on Tuesday about Teenage Relationship Abuse. It followed the story of a modern 'Prince Charming' and explored controlling behaviour in teen relationships. The theatre company described our students as an 'outstanding' audience for their participation, insight, and contributions.

### **String Quartet**

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November, SHSG String Quartet performed in the Southend Music Festival. Playing music by Haydn and Mozart, we were commended by the judges, who noted 'poised and elegant playing' and a 'sweet first violin line' with 'beautifully blended' supporting parts. The competition - which was open to all ages - saw the SHSG Quartet up against the Childs' Family Trio who had won the trophy last year. We were delighted to be awarded first place and receive the Helen Thatcher Challenge Trophy. Well done to Sarah, Sian and Allegra for their excellent performance and high level of ensemble playing.



### **Cursed Pen competition winner**

The English Department is delighted to announce this year's winner of the coveted Cursed Pen writing competition. The winner for 2022 is Nancy C in 8AHR with her story *The Crystal Necklace* and the runner up is Isobel W in Year 11 with her story *Ghost Stories*. The judges were highly impressed with this year's entries and would like to congratulate all the entrants for their hard work. All the entries can be viewed on the school's creative writing blog [here](#).

### **Senior Prefects**

Senior Prefects in Year 12 have been selected for this year; we received 80 applications and have selected 60 students to be Senior Prefects. Applications were of an exceptionally high standard, and it was an incredibly difficult decision to select who would be Senior Prefects. We would like to congratulate those who have been successful and encourage those who have not been successful to take on alternative leadership roles, particularly Subject and House Captains – based on their applications, they will certainly be excellent ambassadors for departments. The subject and house captain deadline is Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

The next stage for the Senior Prefects is the application selection of the Head Student and the Head Student Team. We wish all applicants the best of luck!

### **PPE exams**

Well done to Year 11 on the determination, effort, and enthusiasm they have demonstrated over the past two weeks. It has been a busy period for Year 11, one which we hope will stand them in good stead moving forward in preparation for their GCSE examinations in the summer. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Year 11 all the very best in their upcoming examination results and I am sure they all did very well indeed.



### ***National Anti-Bullying Week***

This week in school we have been marking National Anti-Bullying Week. This is a national campaign, where thousands of schools, students, staff and the wider community take part each year to work towards safer schools and safety more widely in the community by stamping out bullying.

Throughout the week students during registration have been guided through the definition of bullying, which is commonly misunderstood. Bullying is a behaviour. It is not a person; it does not define you. As a result, we are able to challenge and change this behaviour.

We are privileged at SHSG to have trained Diana Award Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, who have delivered assemblies all week on the theme for this year which is *Reach Out*. The message was simple - SHSG is a safe space within which you can reach out to any member of the school community if you are experiencing bullying behaviour. We have many ways in which students can reach out, including 'Whisper', speaking to the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, emailing them, or indeed making use of the dedicated safe space at lunch where the ambassadors are to provide support.

It is important to remember as National Anti-Bullying week draws to a close that the work to continue to embed an anti-bullying culture does not stop there. We are committed to ensuring every member of the school community feels safe and as such our work is ongoing; the ambassadors have many campaigns planned. Should you or your daughter have any concerns, please reach out and speak to a member of the team.

### ***National Language Competition 2022***

Last week, 61 of our Year 9 students took part in the first ever online National Language Competition which was organised by GCHQ. Over the five days, there was fierce competition with 3000 teams from more than 600 schools across the UK putting their language skills to the test and battling it out for the top spots on the national leader board. It was a closely fought race right up to the very end with teams pulling out all the stops to crack those codes and solve those language puzzles! It was great to see the students' determination and perseverance, sweating blood and tears to complete each challenge.

Students demonstrated impressive lateral thinking skills, solving challenges in a range of languages. Three of our teams were placed in the top 100 teams nationally. Congratulations to Francesca R, Tajrin B and Mathi SK who were our top team in 69<sup>th</sup> position. They were closely followed by Elodie P, Mariya S and Mariam A (81<sup>st</sup> position) and Jacqueline S, Sitara S, Mae S and Jocelyn A (96<sup>th</sup>). A huge 'Well done!' to all those who participated. The MFL Faculty are extremely proud of your achievements! Félicitations!

### ***Sixth Form Open Evening***

Yesterday, we were delighted to welcome approximately five hundred visitors to SHSG's Sixth Form Open Evening. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and the students involved. It was extremely rewarding being able to share our enthusiasm, passion, and ambition for SHSG to our visitors. The feedback we received was excellent and, as always, visitors were full of praise for our students, who are the school's greatest ambassadors.

Year 11 students have further activities to take part in this half term and next, including A Level Subject Presentations from Heads of Department, a Subject Fair hosted by Year 13 Subject Captains and a second A Level Taster Day in January, before they select their 4 A-Level subject choices in a registration period towards the end of January 2023. Any questions about the Sixth Form, please see Miss Riebold and the Sixth Form team, or your Head of Year 11, Mr Morgan.

### ***Online Parental Information Session - RSE***

In Term 2, students will be studying Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in life skills, as part of the statutory PSHE curriculum. Our PSHE coordinator, Ruth Marx, will be holding an online parental information session on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, with information about the statutory content. If you would like to attend, please complete [this form](#) by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November. The session for parents/carers of students in Year 7 - 9 will be at 16.15-16.45, and for parents/carers of students in Year 10-11 at 17:00 - 17:30, both held via Zoom.

### **Year 13 Virtual Parents' Consultation Evening**

Parents of Year 13 students will have received communication regarding our upcoming Virtual Parents' Consultation Evening that will take place on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November. The online booking system is now open and will close on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 6:30pm. You can access the school cloud booking system [here](#).

We want your coats & items  
contact 07974 386077 or pwj02@aol.com

**Wrap Up  
Essex**

Every warm coat counts in our quest to provide warmth to the homeless and vulnerable



### **Wrap up Essex – warm a heart, give a coat**

The local Rotary club are supporting the charity 'Hands on London' with the aim of providing coats to homeless and vulnerable people in London over the winter period.

If you do happen to have any coats that you no longer want, there is a collection box for students to place the coats in the school foyer.

This is an excellent cause to contribute to and give your old coats a new purpose! The drive is due to end on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

### **World HIV/AIDS day on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

In the week building up to World HIV/AIDS day, students will be having an age-appropriate assembly during morning form time. Ms Spilstead will be operating an honesty box system based in the geography office in B Block where students will be able to pay the £1 donation onto the honesty box and take a red ribbon (or pay via ParentPay and take a ribbon). This will start from *Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November*. We thank you for your support in advance, as we normally raise a significant sum of money to support further research, campaigning, and support for those affected by HIV/AIDS.

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

The SHSG Parents' Association will be holding a raffle each night of the Christmas Concerts which take place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The first, second and third prizes are Christmas hampers provided by Year 7 students. Tickets cost £2 each and can be purchased on ParentPay up until 1pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December (tickets to be collected by students from the school bank). If you miss the cut-off time don't worry, tickets will be available on the nights.

There will be an additional raffle on the concert evenings with prizes including food and drink, beauty products and confectionary. All donations support the school and the Parents' Association thank you for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Jason Carey  
Headteacher