



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, 27th January 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below updates for this week.

We are the highest-ranking state school in the country!

Each year, the *School Sport Magazine* ranks the top 200 sporting schools, which is commended through national competition performance.

In their latest edition, SHSG has been ranked an outstanding 10th spot amongst both independent and state sectors across the entire country. To add to this amazing achievement, SHSG has been awarded with the title of highest-ranking state school in the country for the first time in the school's history!

This is testament to all our students' and staffs' hard work both in training and competitions in a wide range of sports. This would not have been possible without the commitment and determination that is consistently shown across the whole PE community, both within lessons and extracurricular activity.

Congratulations to our students and staff on an extraordinary achievement!

English Year 5 Launchpad

On Saturday, the SHSG English Faculty welcomed more than seventy Year 5 students for a morning of ghost hunting and creative storytelling. After a browse through some old school photographs, looking for ghosts, the Year 5s had a unique tour of the school in which they encountered some creepy ghosts, played beautifully by our Year 10 drama students. After hearing the ghosts' unfinished life stories, the Year 5s were tasked with figuring out how those stories ended, which would allow the ghosts to move on to a better place and stop haunting the school! Thankfully, they succeeded. Good, creepy fun was had by all.



Congratulations to Yemisi in Year 12

Yemisi entered a national competition run by the prestigious Gresham College to facilitate oracy skills. This year's theme was based around the environment. Yemisi was the only one of our school entries to reach the final eleven contestants, out of a total of over 350 entrants.

In the final, on the 24th January she presented to a formal panel of judges at Gresham College and WON!!! Yemisi received a £250 prize.

This is an amazing achievement, well done Yemisi!



The 2 Johns Deliver Online Safety Training

On Monday, Year 7 and Year 9 e-Safety training professionals 'The 2 Johns' delivered a 'Stay Safe Online' workshop as part of our PSHE programme. The 2 Johns, former policemen, shared their experiences with important issues and gave advice on privacy settings, gaming sites, sharing images, webcams, and guidance on disabling location settings. This was followed up by a parental webinar in the evening, which was extremely informative and shared practical advice for parents trying to keep their children safe online. Thank you to all parents who attended. If you were unable to make the workshop, but would like to watch, we will be sending out information how to access shortly.

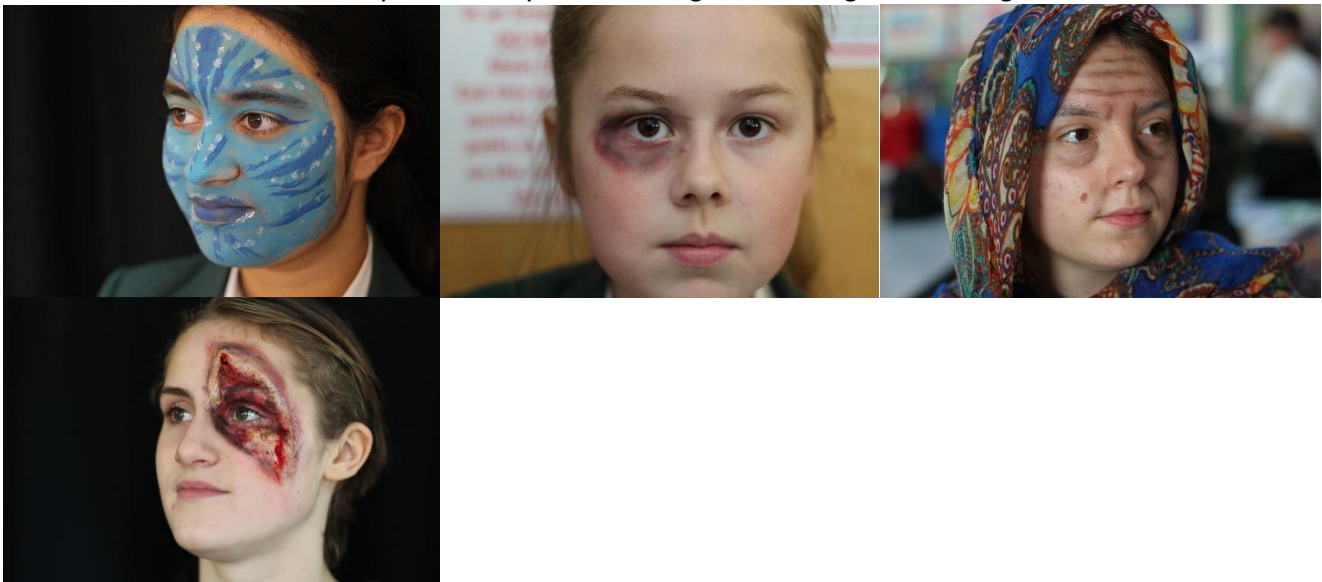
The Kite Trust

As part of our family ethos, staff and students value SHSG's inclusive philosophy and approach to life at SHSG. You may be interested to know that we have pledged to support the well-being and creativity of LGBTQ+ young people through information, support, and groups with a partnership with The Kite Trust. The Kite Trust, further to initial conversations in the Summer Term 2022, will be delivering training to our staff on LGBTQ+ related matters, including, for example, raising awareness of appropriate terminology. The Kite Trust is an organisation that works directly with young people and their families as well as with educational providers such as schools to help ensure that we do the right things to help support our students. Their vision is to build an 'inclusive society where LGBTQ+ young people are healthy, successful and celebrated.'

Make-up for Stage and Film Club

We have wiped away the last of the make-up from our inaugural Make-up for Stage and Film Club, which has produced some excellent work, and some highly creative final designs. The club began in November with 30 students, and we explored different effects for stage make-up, including bruises and cuts, aging the face, and fantasy imagery. Interestingly, the students seemed most drawn towards the gorier creations, as is exemplified in Yao-Yi's fantastic final design below on her willing model, Isis. The final designs will now be judged, and the winning designs announced before the February half term.

The club will return later in the year. Thank you to Mrs Page for running this amazing club.



PE Extra-curricular success

The Year 7 netball team completed their group stage games of the Essex Cup with impressive wins against Robert Clack (30-7), Barking (31-0) and Riverside (31-1). The U14s managed to take the win against Passmores in the Essex Cup. Passmores had a few key players that played well all over the court, but Southend managed to put enough pressure on to force mistakes from the other team. The defence took some amazing interceptions both inside and outside the circle and the shooting from the Southend girls was outstanding.

The girls now progress to the last 16 of the Essex Cup where they face the winner of Brentwood or Bancrofts. It is this excellent commitment and determination that has prepared the team for the Regional final on Saturday 28th February in Hertfordshire. This is the first time since 2016 that SHSG has qualified for this stage of the National competition. We wish you the best of luck at this exciting event!

Congratulations to the runners who were selected to represent the Southend Borough on Saturday 21st February at the Essex Schools Cross Country Championships. We were impressed by the standard of competitors amongst the team; well done to all involved! Impressive performances from the following who have qualified to represent Essex at the Intercounty Championships on Saturday 4th February by positioning in the top 20 - Chloe B, Chloe F, Shiloh O, Liliana T, Annalise B. A huge congratulations to Liliana T who has been selected to run for Essex at the National Championships in Nottingham.

The U12 basketball team faced a tough Essex cup game against a very strong Shenfield side. The team have achieved 3rd position in the group stage narrowly missing out of progressing through to the next stage of the competition.

The U13 football team preparation for their forthcoming cup and league games is underway after a 4-1 win against Southchurch. A particular mention must go to our scorers Hana W (x2), Lily F (x1), Katie H (x1).

Well done to both swimming teams who won their swimming galas against Coopers Coborn and Shoebury High School. It was great to see the teamwork and encouragement amongst the teams. This was a valuable experience to all in preparation for the upcoming Borough Swimming gala.

Considerate driving

Please be reminded that when dropping off students, parents should not be stopping their car at the bus stop or across the entrance to the school gate. The road outside the school is clearly marked with 'keep clear' yellow lines and cars should not be parking in this area. This can cause serious obstruction and is dangerous not to mention against the law.

Career and teaching opportunities

Please find some flyers at the end of this letter.

National Education Union (NEU) strike action

Further to my letter earlier in the week, I would like to update parents that we are currently gathering as much information as possible about the potential impact of strike action at school on Wednesday, 1 February 2023. I will write a separate letter at the start of the week to inform you of more detailed updates, information and our course of action, to help your planning.

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](#).

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey
Headteacher

**MAKE
—
HAPPEN**



4th - 6th April 2023

Gear Up To Uni

Come and experience university
on our 3-day event at
UEL Docklands Campus

FREE event for Year 10 students

INCLUDES:



**Get hands-on & discover
new subjects to study in our
taster workshops**



**Explore a university
campus at UEL
London Docklands**



**Meet our students &
learn about university
life**



Apply here:



**Applications close:
24th Feb 2023**

Any questions?
projects@makehappen.org



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SUPPORTING ALL

Want to Teach?



Find out more about our leading primary
and secondary teacher training programmes from
September 2023 at our Get Into Teaching event

Monday 6th February 2023, 7pm

at The Cornelius Vermuyden School

email mhoward@theappletonschooll.org for more information



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