



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 10th March 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Charity Week 2023

Our twelve House Captains have done us proud this week organising a bonanza of break and lunch events for our annual charity week. Events have included a teacher vs students bush tucker challenge, Family Feud, Take me Out, a screening of SHSG TV (complete with Bake Off and Car Pool Karaoke), and finally the famous Lip Sync Talent Show. All events were sell-out and raised well over £1000. Thank you so much to our wonderful House Captains for their efforts, and to all the students who bought tickets and helped raise funds for great causes. Particular thanks go to staff who got involved, especially those who volunteered to have sponges thrown at them for a good cause. All money raised will be split between Havens Hospice (chosen via Student Voice), The Cystic Fibrosis Trust and the DEC Syria-Turkey earthquake appeal.



Careers updates

As part of our programme of careers registration talks, we were pleased to welcome speakers from South East Essex College on Monday who spoke to us about Apprenticeships and T levels. Hannah and Simon explained about the flexibility of courses they offer from 16+, from one to four years in duration. Hannah expressed the advantage of gaining hands-on experience and being paid whilst learning. A useful piece of advice was to look at LinkedIn as a first step to gaining a placement as apprentices need to find their own placement and the college will then complete the paperwork.

Simon explained that T levels are the equivalent of 3 A levels that can be used as UCAS points. SEEC offer T levels in construction, engineering, mechanics, health and science, childcare, business with lots more on the way; around 24 different levels will be available eventually. T levels have been developed by industries to plug gaps that they have found and as such offer very up-to-date skills in the form of 9 weeks of work experience in the first year alone. Assessment is slightly different to traditional exams as they are focused on testing the core skills that have to be learnt and are assessed via 6 tasks over 4 weeks often in as presentations. This proved to be a useful and informative talk that enabled students to consider alternatives to traditional A level courses.

National Careers Week

This week we have also had a spotlight on careers to celebrate National Careers Week. Students have had a chance to learn about teachers' varied career paths with a Careers Treasure Hunt. They have had assemblies on how to seek out opportunities to support them in career success. On Friday, our local MP Sir James Duddridge came to speak to Year 10 about his route into politics. During the week, departments have been making links with their subjects and careers opportunities. Thank you to all who have got involved!



Recent sport success

On Tuesday, the U14 basketball team won 46-43 in the semi-final of the Essex Cup. Congratulations on a fantastic result and good luck in the final next week!

A fun day was had by all on Tuesday at the Year 7 and 8 Sports Hall Indoor Athletics Essex Final. Well done to the Year 7s who came 2nd and year 8s who placed 3rd in the county. Thank you to all the Year 9 helpers who helped run a very busy but well-organised event.

On the same day, the U13 football team played a strong match against Chase High School in the borough league winning 13-0. Well done!

Congratulations to the swimmers who competed at the Borough Swimming gala on Wednesday holding on to their title of Borough Champions once again! The team won trophies for Overall Girls, Girls Relays and Skye C won Champion Girl. Well done to all involved.



Year 11 Cabaret Trip student write up

Last week, our Year 11 drama class went to see Cabaret at the 'Kit Kat Club at the Playhouse Theatre', as part of our Drama GCSE. The play is about a tragic love story between an American writer and a recently fired cabaret singer. The musical, first performed in 1966, is a highly political piece, showing the impact of the Nazi party on 1930s Berlin. We all thoroughly enjoyed the show and were on the edge of our seats the whole time. The music and choreography were captivating, the costumes eye catching (an insight from Mrs Croysdill is that the wigs alone cost in the region of £4500 each!). With its amazing and unique set design, it felt as though we had truly stepped into the Kit Kat Club. The storytelling and acting left us emotional by the end of the play and we left with such a powerful appreciation of how theatre is made and performed. Seeing Cabaret was an unforgettable experience, especially being able to share it with our fellow classmates.

- Alexa S and Isobel K



International Women's Day in Sociology

To celebrate International Women's Day on 8th March, sociology A Level students attended an online lecture from Dr Pereira, an associate Gender Studies professor at Warwick University. She spoke about her ethnographic study of gender in education. Dr Pereira spent three months carrying out observations in a secondary school in Lisbon. She identified that girls and boys feel an expectation to 'perform' stereotypical characteristics associated with masculinity and femininity and discussed the impact this can have on them. Dr Pereira's enthusiasm for sociology was clear to see and very inspirational for students. The research is relevant to the Education and Research Methods topics in the Sociology A level syllabus, as well as being very informative for those considering a career in research. Dr Pereira really helped to bring the subject to life and help students to understand the work of sociologists in society.



Launchpads and Familiarisation sessions

There is still some limited availability on some of our popular Year 5, 11+ Launchpad and Familiarisation sessions. Should you have a child who will be looking to take the 11+ this year, this is a great opportunity for them to get a flavour of SHSG grammar school life. More information on how to book can be found on the link [here](#). The password to access our dedicated launchpad page is **SHSG2024!** Alternatively, you can email office@shsg.org.

SHSG Parents' Association Easter Raffle 2023 - reminder

SHSG PA are holding an Easter raffle to be drawn on Wednesday 29th March. The prizes are:

- 1st prize – Anne Klein ladies' watch
- 2nd prize – Kew garden tools and bulbs
- 3rd prize – Katie Loxton pouch
- 4th prize – Lindt gold chocolate bunny



Tickets cost £2 each and are available on ParentPay to be collected by students from the school bank.

Tickets are available to purchase from Friday 3rd March with ticket sales closing on 29th March.

All contributions support the 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](#).

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey
Headteacher