



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, 31st March 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Parent Surveys for school assessment, reporting and recording systems

Thank you to those of you who have already completed the survey about reporting and assessment systems at SHSG. If you haven't yet done this, there is still time. We will be closing the surveys on Monday 3rd April. Your views and feedback are important to us. We would be grateful if you could spare five minutes to complete the survey by clicking on the link relevant to your child's current Key Stage below. We thank you in advance.

[KS3 \(Years 7-9\)](#)

[KS4 \(Years 10-11\)](#)

[KS5 \(Years 12-13\)](#)

The Green Dagger 2023

SHSG's annual crime writing competition is back. This is a competition for budding writers interested in the detective mystery genre. To enter, students must write the opening 250 words of a story that establishes the mystery at the heart of their story. Entries should be with Mr McGarvey by Thursday, 30th April. I have attached the poster to the end of this letter.

Reading for pleasure

To create a strong set of reading habits, the Year 7s have been participating within the Accelerated Reader Programme. This programme enables students to take reading tests that will identify reading books that are of the appropriate level of challenge for them. When a book has been completed, the students can then take a quiz on the book to check their understanding. We have now had over 1000 quizzes taken from just year 7 alone! When a test has been passed, the programme also totals the number of words in each book and enters the students into the Millionaires Club reward scheme. This allows students to earn achievement points as they move towards the goal of having read over one million words in the year. I am pleased to say that we already have several students reach this level and they will be receiving their awards from the English Department in the near future.

During this half term, Year 9 have had the opportunity to read silently for five minutes at the start of lessons. We have surveyed the year group to gather their feedback on this initiative and 85% of students said that they would like to either keep the reading time at the start of lesson or increase it! Following this positive response, Year 9 will be continuing to read at the start of lessons and Year 7 and 8 will now also have this opportunity.

Next on the list will be a reading-based fundraiser for Year 8 to participate in and some reading mentoring opportunities for Year 10 prefects. Year 12s will be visiting some primary schools to do reading work with reception children.



There are a lot of strategies that can be used to help encourage reading for pleasure out of school. Creating some time within a morning or evening routine for reading helps young people to make the time to read outside of school and homework. Having spaces around the house where it is quiet and comfortable to read is also helpful. In addition, making reading a joint activity can be motivating, even heading off to a coffee shop together at the weekend to sit and read could make reading a really special activity! Finally, it is important for young people to see lots of different people reading and loving to read themselves. So, one of the best things that you can do to support your child really develop a love of reading for pleasure is to pick up a book yourself and let them see you read. Who knows where that journey might take you?

The British Biology Olympiad

The British Biology Olympiad (BBO) challenges and stimulates students with an interest in biology to expand and extend their talents. It enables students to demonstrate their talent and to be suitably rewarded with publicly recognised certificates. Our Year 12s, participated successfully in the Biology Olympiad and came away with 1 Gold and 3 Bronze awards. Two students achieved Commended! Congratulations to all involved.

Netball - U14's County Champions

Congratulations to the U14 Netball squad who also made the final in the Essex Cup where they played a highly competitive match against Fitzwimarc. The teams' discipline on the court was outstanding, and after a tenacious drive we are so proud to declare that the U14's are now County Champions winning 20-18! The squad have worked incredibly hard this year, demonstrating commitment, communication, and determination to fight together to win each stage of the league. Well done on gaining a magnificent title, truly deserved!

Recent Borough success

The borough netball rallies saw excellent performances from every SHSG team, with the Year 9s and U16s winning the title of 'Borough Champions'. The Year 7 and Year 8 teams also performed very well winning all of their games. Superb effort from all involved who have worked hard on improving individual skills that help to develop the overall team performance. School netball will now take a break over the summer term, whilst we focus on the athletics season. However, please see Miss Dawkins if you would like recommendations on local netball clubs.

Essex Cup Final success

Basketball - Well done to the U14 basketball team on their amazing success of making SHSG history by reaching the final of the Essex Cup. The team have worked hard throughout the whole competition and played their best at basketball when faced with a very tough Fitzwimarc side in the final. The team displayed resilience to battle on throughout the whole game to come 2nd in the county. This is only the second season of basketball being taught at SHSG and the team have excelled all expectations by being awarded silver medals in the Essex Cup. Well done on a fantastic achievement!



Biathlon National Final

Chloe B recently competed at the Biathlon National Final, which is a huge achievement. Chloe demonstrated outstanding performances in both her run and swim, resulting in being awarded the Bronze medal. Congratulations Chloe on gaining 3rd position in the country!

Year 8 trips to St Omer

We have been delighted to be able to reinstate the traditional day trip to France this year and on 14th and 28th March, 150 Year 8 students accompanied by eight members of staff on each day travelled to the historic cathedral town of St Omer. Leaving school at 6am is always a bit of a burden but everyone made the most of the two days - even carrying on regardless of the fairly heavy rain. Students complemented their classroom French, identifying places in town and what you can do in a French town and have even been able to give some feedback in French.

"The trip to St Omer was fun! I enjoyed the town the most and the cathedral was huge.

J'ai visité St. Omer. Je n'ai pas aimé la pluie et le froid mais j'ai aimé le voyage. Dans la ville, il y a un café, une cathédrale, un jardin public et des magasins. Au café, j'ai bu un chocolat chaud et aussi, j'ai mangé des crêpes. C'est délicieux !

Jaeda K »

Students also had some free time when they were able to visit French shops and buy food and drink and practice more spoken French. We were all really impressed by the attitudes and behaviour of all students, particularly when navigating the passport formalities. Students were complimented on their politeness, excellent behaviour, and general demeanour by both French and UK Border Agents - a very hard audience to impress! A big thank you to all students and staff involved on the day and also to the support team for ensuring that the day could go ahead smoothly.

Year 11 Maths weekend



Over 150 students in Year 11 participated in a maths weekend at Windmill Hill, Sussex. They enjoyed, along with a fantastic group of Sixth Form maths captains and teachers, rafting, abseiling, and plenty of maths revision.

Thank you to all the staff and maths captains involved for making the weekend so enjoyable and productive.

Year 11 certainly returned to school extra-prepared for their examinations, if not a little exhausted!

Vaping Survey from Southend Council

The Deputy Youth Mayor of Southend City Youth Council, Thomas Cauchi is leading a vaping project due to seeing an increasing number of young people vaping. Thomas believes many people now see vaping as normal and are not acting on it. Thomas is promoting the 'Essex Youth Vaping Survey' with the Southend Council Public Health Team to gather views from young people and parents and carers about cigarettes, smoking and vaping. Southend High School for Girls is happy to promote Southend Youth Council's work by asking our students, and their parents and carers to respond to the survey ['here'](#). Thank you for your support.

Celebration assemblies

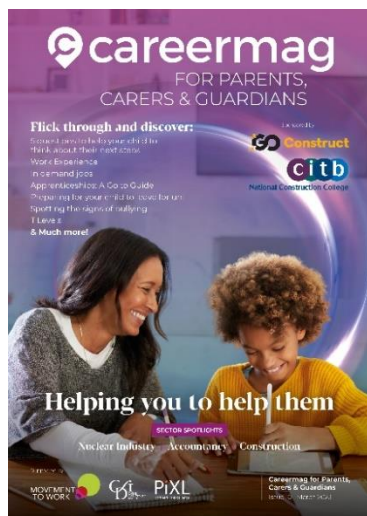
Over the past week students have enjoyed celebration assemblies where we were able to celebrate student achievements. These included awarding certificates and badges for achievement points, commendations for 100% attendance and shout-outs from tutors and teachers where both individual and whole-class successes were highlighted.

For example, in Year 7 Mrs Leman and the Year 7 tutors enjoyed musical performances and a plethora of awards for attendance and achievement. In the Sixth Form, students received awards for taking part in the Physics Cityzen competition, Gresham College Oracy competition and The British Biology Olympiad. Head of Year 13, Mrs Neill commented:

"It was wonderful to be able to praise the commitment and efforts of so many of our Sixth Form students. Please keep a look out for additional information in the HOY end of term letter you will receive today."

Careers and 'Careermag'

Careermag for Parents, Carers and Guardians aims to inform parents so their young people can feel supported - whether they would like to go to university, do an Apprenticeship, Work Experience or T Levels. Click on the image below to learn more.



Careers updates

We have been developing our careers offer with an exciting programme of half termly mandatory registration talks and voluntary lunchtime experiences open to all year groups. Students have heard from diverse sources such as our alumni, industry professionals and even our local MP. We now have a 'live' newsletter on our website ['here'](#) or by scanning the QR code below. It is worth subscribing to as in addition to reporting on events that take place in school we also share upcoming extra-curricular activities that students can get involved in independently. All of these activities are also shared with students directly via Unifrog. Thank you to Ms Casson for creating this Padlet!



Psychology research competition WINNERS!

Two Year 12 students, Melody H and Sarah O'C entered a national Tutor2u psychology competition in which they had to carry out independent research. The girls' entry won, and their work is going to be published in the next edition of the Psychology Update Magazine that tutor2u publish. Congratulations!



Competition winners, Melody H and Sarah O'C

Year 11 school photographs

A final reminder that Carmel Jane Photography will be visiting our school on Monday 17th of April 2023, to take the Year 11 Individual & Tutor Group photographs. All parents need to pre-register before the photography date to enable access to your child's photographs. Please visit www.carmeljaneshop.co.uk and enter the below code:

JRFXU3R

You will then be asked to pre-register with your child's full school register name (legal name). Once registered, as soon as the photos are available you will receive an automatic email notification to inform you that your child's photos are now ready to be viewed and can be purchased. Don't miss out pre-register today!

Havens Hospices

Havens Hospices offer local hospice care in and around Southend. They have shops across Essex, which helps them raise vital funds for the Hospices. The Re:Loved store in Leigh On Sea is holding a Prom Dress event on Thursday 6th April 12pm – 7pm. They have lots of prom dresses on sale, both new with tags and second hand in a range of sizes, styles and for different budgets. I have attached the poster that they have asked us to share at the end of this letter.

Parents' Association Easter Raffle Winners

The Parents' Association Easter raffle ticket winners were drawn on Wednesday 29th March by Mr Carey on behalf of the Parents' Association.

Congratulations to the following winners:

- 1st Prize – Dakota S, 8 Athene
- 2nd Prize – Olivia G, 9 Artemis
- 3rd Prize – Jennifer Q, 10 Hera
- 4th Prize – Olivia P, 9 Aphrodite

If you have not already done so, prizes can be collected from the school bank. Thank you to parents, carers, students and staff for your continued support.

Safeguarding Update

Please find attached an information leaflet for parents/carers from Southend on Sea Local Authority about private fostering.

New Sandwich Ranges Coming to the Canteen

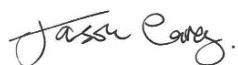
We will be introducing a new selection of sandwiches, baguettes, salads, toasties and paninis in the new term. This new range includes vegetarian, vegan and halal options. There will be a launch day on Wednesday 19th April where students will be able to taste the different options. Please watch out for more information next term.

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](#).

Finally, I wish you a relaxing easter break and we look forward to students returning to school at the usual time on Monday 17th April.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Carey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Jason Carey
Headteacher

The **Green Dagger** is back!

**The prestigious award for
crime writing is back for 2023.**

To enter, write the opening
to a detective mystery story.
This should be no longer
than **250 words**.

You should try to establish
the mystery that is at the
heart of your story and
make the reader
want to find
out more...



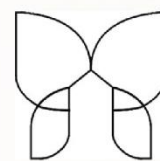
If you need any help, please come along to **B6** on **Wednesday**
lunchtime to Creative Writing Club for inspiration, support and fun.

Entries should be with Mr McGarvey by:
THURSDAY 30th APRIL

Submit your stories to: gmcgarvey@shsg.org
or hand them in at the **English Office**.

Sequins & Pearls

Prom Dress Event



Thursday 6th April
12pm to 7pm

Re:loved by Havens Hospices
174 Leigh Road
Leigh on Sea
Essex
SS9 1BT

*Come and find your perfect
preloved prom dress.*



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