



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, 26th May 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Art trip to St Ives, Cornwall

The Year 10 art students have just returned from a fantastic residential trip to St Ives in Cornwall. We had lots of positive feedback from the Hostel and all the venues visited. Well done Year 10 art students!

The trip included visits to Penlee House Museum, Tate St. Ives, and Barbara Hepworth studios. The students also thoroughly enjoyed the amazing Tremeneheere sculpture Gardens, making tea bowls at Leach Pottery and working in groups to make stunning sand sculptures on the beach. A huge thank you to the Art Department and to Mr Peugniez and Mrs Holbrook for attending the trip. We very much appreciated the staff for giving up their weekend to support the trip.



Examinations update

A message from Head of Year 11, Mr Morgan:

Year 11 have completed their second week of GCSEs this week and are very deserving of the break in assessments that half term will provide. To put it simply, they have been incredible over the past fortnight. Their mature attitude, approach, resilience, and enthusiasm have been a marvel to behold! To watch them coming out of examinations smiling and confident with their performance is a proud moment for me personally, but also an absolute credit to their character, hard work, and their intelligence. I hope Year 11 have a restful, yet productive half term and return in the same vein as how departed.

A message from Head of Year 13, Mrs Neill:

Year 13 are now two weeks into their A Level examinations and I couldn't be prouder of their attitude and behaviour. They are approaching their exams with the quiet confidence borne out of two years of hard work, determined to prove what they can do with their eyes firmly fixed on the prize at the end: both the long summer holiday and their first-choice post-18 pathways ahead of them. There is a largely buoyant atmosphere which is, again, testament to their excellent preparation and overall feeling of readiness to sit the exams and prove what they can do. The Sixth Form team wish them all a very happy half-term holiday, finding that balance between some well-earned rest whilst keeping the momentum going for the next set of exams, which I hope will be approached with the same can-do attitude. To all of Year 13- a huge well done and keep it up!



PE updates

SHSG students Sadie M (Year 7), Charlotte A (Year 8) and Jennifer Q (Year 10) were awarded the Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 'Player of the Year' awards respectively at the Westcliff Rugby club Wildcats' end of season party. These awards were given out, not just for rugby ability, but for displaying the core values that rugby aims for. The students have demonstrated commitment to training, dedication to the club, worked successfully with players from other local clubs, developed their leadership skills, as well as volunteering at minis' events. The girls have been not only valued members of their team, but valued members of their club and we wish to congratulate them on their progress this season. If anyone would like more information about getting involved with Westcliff Rugby club, then please speak to Mrs Buscombe.

On Wednesday 17th May team SHSG competed in the first round of the ESAA Track and Field Schools' Cup, which is the first stage of the national athletics competition. Well done to both the Junior Girls and Inter Girls who have qualified for the regional round. Training is now underway for the next stage of the competition, in addition to the Borough Athletics Championships taking place after half term.

Well done to the Emily A, Holly B, Jasmine C, Jess H and Olivia D who competed at the ESAA Combined Events Essex Championships on Wednesday 26th May. This competition is challenging as athletes are required to compete in five events across Track and Field. All five athletes performed exceptionally well, and it was evident that they have been working hard in training this season as PBs were scored in several events. Well done to all involved!

Key PE dates:

Saturday 10th June - Years 8-11 Essex Schools Track and Field Championships

Monday 12th June - Borough heats and inter field events (qualifiers to compete in final on Friday 26th)

Wednesday 14th June - Regional A Final ESAA Track and Field Cup

Thursday 15th June - Year 7 Borough Athletics (High Jump only)

Friday 16th June - Borough Athletics final

Wednesday 28th June - Year 7 Essex Schools Championships (selection is qualification from borough results)

Headteacher's Awards

In the first term of this year, the Year 9 students studied the play *Small Island*, a play that explores characters that arrive in Britain on the 'Windrush'. The play is a funny, touching and emotional look at the experience of the Jamaican immigrants who chose to make Britain their home after serving in the British army in the Second World War. Following the unit, the students created costume designs for the characters, and there were some outstanding designs - both in terms of the quality of the work, and their understanding of the characters. 7 students received the Headteacher's Award for their excellent work - well done to all!



Readathon

I have great pleasure in being able to announce that Year 8 have logged a staggering 76,420 mins of reading during their 33-day Readathon. They not only exceeded their original target of 30,000 minutes, they have also bested the revised target of 60,000 minutes. Well done Year 8! I am sure that this will help to embed some really healthy reading habits that will serve the students well. If I could also remind parents that the link to donate to the *Read for Good* charity is still active, should you wish to make any final donations. [Read for Good: motivating kids to love reading and helping disadvantaged children.](#)

SHSG Green Dagger

I would like to congratulate Alexa S. on winning this year's SHSG Green Dagger with her story "Eat Your Young". This is a crime writing award where students write the opening of a detective mystery story. I would also like to congratulate Mathi S. for being awarded the runner up place for her story "Blood in Green". We had many excellent entries, and it really was difficult to choose between them. Particularly notable were those from Sitara S. and Evie T. who both made it to the final but just missed out. We really do have a lot of very talented writers amongst our students this year. Well done to them all. Their work can be read on the creative writing blog [here](#).

Science week

Run by the science captains, science was celebrated this week. Monday - Wednesday Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students competed in house groups answering several science questions based on the curriculum. Winners from each round were invited on Thursday for a nail-biting final. The final was between the houses Aphrodite, Aurora and Hermes. At the end of the questions, it was a tie between Aphrodite and Hermes, which resulted in a tie breaker question 'How far away is the moon from the earth in kilometres?'....384,400 km. The closest house to the tie breaker question was Hermes winning the Science week competition!

A massive congratulations to all students that participated in the event and made it a huge success. Thank you to all those that came to watch the event and offer their support to the participants. The competition was designed by the science captains who put together the questions as well as giving their time to run the competition. Their question writing was superb and relevant to all students, and their presenting was brilliant.

Following the battle of the houses, Friday saw students able to launch rockets that they had made out of carbonated drinks bottles.

Science Club

After the KS3 examinations, a KS3 Science Club will be taking place in CH3 every Monday lunch time. To participate, students will need to sign up after half term as places are limited. So, if you fancy making a rainbow in a test tube, making bouncy balls out of custard, or extracting the DNA from a strawberry... watch this space!

To whet your appetite on some strange science facts, can you answer any of these questions?

1. How far away is the moon in km? 384,400 km
2. How far away is the sun? 151.4 million km
3. What percentage of the earth is covered in water? 71%
4. How long can a cockroach live without its head? 1 week
5. By what distance is Hawaii moving closer to Alaska each year? 7.5cm
6. How long will the footprints on the moon left by Neil Armstrong stay there? For the next 100 million years
7. In dollars how much does each NASA space suit cost? \$12000000 (but 70% of it is due to the cost of the backpack and control module)
8. What is bigger the dwarf planet Pluto or the USA? The USA
9. By what distance is the moon drifting away from the earth each year? 3.8cm
10. What rodent laughs when tickled? Rats
11. What is there more of – trees on earth or stars in our galaxy? Trees on earth
12. What three planets in our solar system has rain that is diamonds? Neptune, Uranus and Saturn
13. Can you burp in space? No
14. How much of your body is bacteria? About half
15. Can humans produce venom? Yes
16. What percentage of the world's oxygen is made from the plants living in the oceans? 50%
17. Which letter does not feature in the periodic table? J
18. What has more bones, babies or adults? Babies
19. How long does it take light from the sun to travel to the earth? 8 minutes 19 seconds
20. How do polar bears communicate? By rubbing their noses together.

Prospective medics: BMAT live chat for students- 13 June 5.00pm

Are you thinking of taking BMAT this year? You can join a free online event on Tuesday 13 June 2023 at 17:00 (BST) run by the Cambridge assessment admissions testing, the people who oversee and create the BMAT. The panel of experts will cover what's in the test, how to register, where to find our free preparation materials and much more, to get you feeling prepared for the October test session. Students will also have the chance to ask anything further about BMAT. The link to register via the forms can be locate here: [Form \(hsforms.com\)](https://forms.hsforms.com)

The BMAT is used by Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, Imperial and other universities as part of their selection tool for access onto medical and Biomedical sciences. Southend High School for Girls is an approved centre for administering this examination. **Please always check the website of your chosen universities to confirm if the BMAT test is part of the requirements you need to secure a place.** Further information and support is available within school via the Medics MS Team.

Media studies competition

We were delighted to hear that two SHSG Media Studies A level students have reached the final of the prestigious English and Media Centre Production competition. This is the seventh year running that SHSG students have reached the final amongst hundreds of entries across the country.

Max and Kate will get to go the final at the British Film Insitute in London the summer where they will get to see their productions on the big screen!

[English & Media Centre | Production Competition 2023: Tell us a story! – The Shortlist | Competitions \(englishandmedia.co.uk\)](https://englishandmedia.co.uk)

Lost property

We have accumulated a large amount of lost property. All lost property will be displayed for students in the foyer on Monday 5th June for students to collect any lost items. Any remaining items after this will be donated or destroyed.

200 Club winners – message from the Parents' Association

Congratulations to our 200 Club winners

March winners

1st prize £83.90 - S. Jackson

2nd prize £50.34 - P. Bixby

3rd prize £33.56 - E. Laryea

Easter winners

1st prize £83.90 - O. Ariyo

2nd prize £50.34 - M. Finlay

3rd prize £33.56 - N. Dewhurst

April winners

1st prize £83.90 - D. Lovett

2nd prize £50.34 - L. Hamrin Tait

3rd prize £33.56 - N. Glendinning

May winners

1st prize £83.90 - F. Akinawonu

2nd prize £50.34 - L. Farrell

3rd prize £33.56 - C. Berry

Winners will be notified by email shortly. Additional draw numbers can be purchased by parents, family, and friends. The 2022 to 2023 prize fund is now over £2000!

Email shsg200club@yahoo.com for details. Thank you for your support from the SHSG 200 Club.

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 all a wonderful half term and we look forward to welcoming the students back to school on **Monday 5th June!**

Yours faithfully,

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

Jason Carey
Headteacher