



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, 21st July 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.



Awards Evening

Students and their families joined staff and governors for a celebration of outstanding academic excellence, effort and commitment, and contribution to the SHSG community at our annual Awards Evening on Monday at the Palace Theatre. It was an evening full of energy and rapturous applause! We were delighted to welcome Professor Jane Clarke as our guest speaker.

Professor Clarke is President of Wolfson College, Cambridge University. She is Professor of Molecular Biophysics, a Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Cambridge.

Professor Clarke not only inspired us at the evening itself, but also spent time with Year 12 scientists earlier in the day in school. Thank you to Mr Boney, Mrs Leman, Miss Salih and Mrs Hopkins for organising the evening and ensuring that it ran so smoothly (plus all the other staff and prefects who are too many to mention).

Miss Riebold is pictured here with award winner, Head Student, Carissa B.



Michelle A (above) won the 2023 Headteacher's Award, reflecting the very best of SHSG and acting as a role model to our students. Below is the script I read at the evening showing why Michelle is such a worthy winner of this prestigious award:

Michelle is the perfect embodiment of the excellence that we strive for at Southend High School for Girls. Michelle has exemplified what can be achieved through hard work, determination and resilience combined with a huge amount of talent. Michelle is one of those rare students that has both academic and athletic ability where she competes at the highest levels of her sport, football. Michelle is not only an elite player for her age group of England u17s, but also a first team member of Arsenal WFC. Michelle has made 5 appearances this season for AWFC: 3 in Super League, 1 FA Cup, 1 in Champions League, and scored on her debut in the FA Cup against Leeds WFC. Michelle made her first team debut at age of just 16. Michelle has also been competing with England's u17 team during the UEFA U17 Championships scoring 4 goals in the finals competition. Michelle has impressed Arsenal so much that they have given her a professional contract which she will take up when she turns 18. What an incredible achievement!

The thing that makes this even more impressive is that Michelle has had to balance the academic rigours of SHSG Sixth Form and elite level football for both Arsenal WFC and England u17s. Michelle misses roughly two days a week of school for training and playing purposes. Michelle has never let this become a barrier or an excuse regarding her academic progress. Michelle works incredibly hard on and off the field to excel where she manages her time so efficiently. Michelle always catches up on work she has missed, and is often the case, will read ahead in order to get a head start on the work. Michelle has not missed any submissions all year and places a huge importance on achieving outstanding grades. Michelle achieved three As in her PPEs and is being predicted at least 2 As and 1 A in her A Levels. Bear in mind, Michelle was away on England u17 duty in the qualifiers for the UEFA Championship before her PPEs and then jetted away to Estonia just after her PPEs for the finals competition.*

What a pleasure it has been to witness the meteoric rise of such a humble and committed SHSG student who is destined for an amazing future, we are sure of it. We wish her all the very best for the upcoming season and the future in general, with many more highlights to come we are sure.

House Cup Winners – Hermes

House Cup Winners, Hermes, enjoyed their day at Adventure Island. Miss Manning is extremely competitive as Senior Leader for Hermes, so watch out other houses as we are sure that the bar will be raised further next year!



Sports Day – Congratulations, Athene!

All year groups and staff enjoyed a superbly run Sports Day this week. Thank you to Mrs Buscombe and her team, along with the Sixth Form Captains for organising and delivering such a great week of events. Wednesday was the main day, starting with Year 7 mini games run by Sixth Form captains, and then on to the track finals in the

afternoon. Students wore their house colours, including face paints, and cheered their houses on as the competitors were led onto the track in Olympic ceremony style at the opening of the finals' events.

Well done to the staff relay team, including science teachers dressed in lab coats and goggles!

Some photos from Sports Day:



Sports Day Overall Results

	Hera	Hermes	Athene	Artemis	Aurora	Aphrodite
YEAR 7	182	112	120	111	165	136
YEAR 8	156	89	114	128	67	122
YEAR 9	93	121	142	129	98	150
YEAR 10	138	177	161	104	81	129
YEAR 12	24	69	102	114	23	85
TOTAL	593	568	639	586	434	622
POSITION	3	5	1	4	6	2

Big Band and BBQ

On Tuesday, the Music Department, supported by the Parents' Association and SHSG staff helpers, hosted the Big Band and BBQ. This was generously attended by a hungry audience of staff, families, and friends. It was lovely to see many young children enjoying the evening too. After the Saxophone Quartet performed their warm-up act, we heard Calypso B and Angela D sing jazz numbers accompanied by fellow A Level student Eve Mc on keys. Following this short set, the Big Band delivered an exciting set list, from 1930s swing (Artie Shaw's *Carioca*) to Funk, Soul (*Papa's Got a Brand New Bag*) and Acid Jazz (*Virtual Insanity*) finishing with modern arrangements for band such as

Adele's *Rolling the Deep* and Billie Eilish's *Bad Guy*. The students enjoyed playing outdoors in a relaxed, summer-festival setting. We hope the band will attract new players for next year.

Thank you to all who attended and supported this event – a special thanks to the Finance Team for the drinks, the PA for the raffle and front of house and to Mrs Francis and Mr Andrews for the BBQ. Very well done to the excellent students who worked tirelessly to prepare and deliver such an accomplished and varied set. On behalf of the Music Department, have a lovely summer.



Message from Angela D (Year 12), Music Captain

My year as Music Captain has been such an amazing experience. As someone who has been part of the department since Year 7, it has been so nice to move up and have more leadership and responsibility. All the students this year have worked so hard to put on many concerts, such as our first ever Baroque concert for which Isobel W learnt the harpsichord and we had beautiful solos from Chan, Imogen, Kiyera and Ayo. We also had our Evening of Song which was a wonderful send off for singers in Year 13. Hailey, Chan, Liv, Marnie and Freya, you will all be missed! SHSG choir, who I have had the pleasure to conduct, also performed for the first time in this concert, and it was so nice to see varying levels of singers in so many musical styles. The Summer Concert was also amazing; the highlight of the evening had to be Gabriella C, who won the Concerto Shield, performing Mozart's Horn Concerto with the SHSG orchestra. To end the year, we had the Big Band and BBQ. It was especially great to see so many members of the school community come and watch, enjoy and socialise. I would like to thank all the students who took part in music ensembles this year. We appreciate the hard work and dedication throughout the year, and it is your commitment that really keeps music alive at SHSG.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer holiday, and I look forward to more music-making next academic year.

Culture Day

On 18th July we celebrated our annual Culture Day. Students were able to come to school wearing traditional dress. Years 7-10 took part in session run by students. There were a range of sessions on offer, including Afrobeats, Indian dance, Swedish culture, English football culture and learning about the differences between Japan and China. Students really enjoyed learning from each other. The canteen even put on a special culturally inspired menu.

Eco Bring and Buy

The Eco Bring and Buy raised an amazing £227.11 using all the students' donations from home. This is an incredible amount of money considering nothing was priced above £2 per item. Planet Action organised and ran this event and have decided on the three environmental charities which will benefit from this event: Buglife, Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust and the Conservation Volunteers.

All left over toiletries will be donated to the Rayleigh Megacentre for use with refugees; HARP are getting the leftover clothing and Havens hospice Shoeburyness will benefit from the books. So, nothing will be wasted!!

Trips and Visits Programme 2023/24

We are pleased to announce the provisional Trips and Visits Programme for 2023/24 which I have attached to this email. We have over sixty trips and visits planned to take place for students in all year groups. These range from some course essential trips, such as the Life of Pi visit for the Arts Award, through to a multitude of super curricular trips to deepen and extend students' experiences of their subjects. The trips or visits highlighted in blue are those that are course essential trips, and any student taking this subject must participate in these.

We hope this will support with your calendar and financial planning to have an overview of the possible trips your child can participate in. Further specific details will follow next academic year for trips and visits not advertised this academic year.

SHSG Amateur Dramatics Society

The school's Amateur Dramatics Society performed its first production on Tuesday afternoon to Year 8. The production of Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice* was directed and produced by Martha B who was assisted by Lily G, both in Year 10. The cast was made up of Year 7 and Year 8 students with memorable performances by Samriti B as Bassanio, Franki and Georgina W as Portia and Shylock respectively and Angira F as Jessica, and many more. Also, special thanks to Elizabeth W who did a fantastic job filling in as the Prince of Morocco at the last minute.

SHSG Annual Poetry Prize 2023

Congratulations to Hanna H from Year 9 on winning this year's Poetry Prize with her poem 'The Art of Hidden Worlds', and to Evie C in Year 10 for being awarded the runner's up prize for her poem 'The Lady in the Window'. It was a close decision with both poems excelling in very different styles. We would also like to congratulate Yeva Solianykh for being awarded the best newcomer prize for an outstanding entry from Years 7 and 8. Congratulations to the other entrants on their fantastic poems which can be read on the Creative Writing Blog [here](#).

Mental Health Support Team Summer Workshop

The NHS Mental Health Team are offering a number of online workshops aimed at providing emotional wellbeing support, advice and ideas for parents and young people over the summer holidays. To book your place please access the following link:

[Mental Health Support Team Summer Workshop Series | Eventbrite](#)

Contacting pastoral staff over the holidays

Please be aware that the Pastoral Team will not be available in school or via email during the school summer holiday period. Should parents have a safeguarding or wellbeing concern please use the Safeguarding and Mental Health Sections of the school website. If you are concerned about the safety of a child you can contact the NSPCC Helpline by calling 0800 800 5000 or emailing help@NSPCC.org.uk. If you think a child is in immediate danger, please call the Police on 999 straight away.

A letter to students from Ofqual and UCAS

Dr Jo Saxton, Ofqual's Chief Regulator and Clare Marchant, UCAS's Chief Executive have written an open letter to students who will receive their A Level results on 17th August 2023, outlining important information about results. Please see the link below:

[A letter to students from Ofqual and UCAS - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Parents' Association update

Congratulations to our 200 Club winners!

June winners

1st prize £85.40 – L Berkum

2nd prize £51.24 – U Gandonu

3rd prize £34.16 – S Mpawulo

July winners

1st prize £85.40 – A Howard

2nd prize £51.24 – Vinnie

3rd prize £34.16 – C Chinnery

Winners will be notified by email shortly. The Parents' Association would like to thank you for your support, this year. The 200 Club has raised over £2000! You are now able to purchase draw numbers for 2023 to 2024 on ParentPay or by bank transfer. For more information, please contact the SHSG 200 Club via email at shsg200club@yahoo.com.

Start of term arrangements

Students will return to school on **Wednesday 6th September 2023**, and in the same way as last year, **Year 7s and Year 12s will arrive between 08:00AM and 08:30AM**, and **all other year groups at break time, 11:05AM**. Communication will be sent out next week regarding the start of term arrangements. Please keep an eye on your inbox for this letter as it will contain important updates and information regarding the next academic year.

Finally, I wish you an enjoyable summer and look forward to students and staff returning in September.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Carey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'J' and 'C'.

Jason Carey
Headteacher