



# 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, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

### **Sports Awards Evening**

On Wednesday evening, we were delighted to welcome 120 students from all year groups to celebrate their sporting achievements from 2022 - 2023. The PE department gave out numerous awards, including most improved, outstanding achievement and Sportswoman of the year.

Former SHSG student, Eleanor Butt presented the trophies and awards and delivered an inspirational speech about the power of sport. Eleanor studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford University and was a recording breaking athlete for Oxford. She has just begun what we are sure will be an equally successful career at Ernst & Young.

Thank you to the prefects and PE Captains that helped on the evening and to Freya B and Ayo K for their musical performances. And thank you to all the friends and families that came to celebrate and applaud our students on their continued success at every level of sport. SHSG is the top performing state school for sport in the country!

### **Oxbridge Explained Webinar - Year 12**

On Wednesday, we also welcomed Lucy Stevens, outreach officer from Hertford College Oxford, to speak to our Year 12s about applying to Oxford and Cambridge. Thank you to all students and their parents / carers who joined the online webinar. We were delighted that 65 families joined the event; over a third of the year group. Ms Stevens talked through the courses available at the universities, the collegiate system, and tips for preparing an excellent personal statement. She also sign-posted students to a fantastic super-curricular challenge, ['here'](#). Any students interested in preparing for Early Entry can join the Oxbridge Lunch Club from Term 2 and join us to visit Cambridge University Open Day in July. The slides for the session are attached.

### **Year 7 Parent and Form Tutor Consultation Evening**

On Thursday evening, Year 7 parents had an online consultation evening with form tutors. Mrs Page, Head of Year 7, was delighted to hear from so many parents about how happy their daughters are from the moment they arrive at school to when they return home after a long day in lessons, clubs, and teams. Mrs Page looks forward to working in partnership with Year 7 parents over the coming year.

### **House Events**

Excitement was in the air as this week saw the first SHSG House events of the year. The Sixth Form House Captains hosted two special 'House Freshers' lunchtime events, exclusively for Year 12 students. Thursday's show was a special version of gameshow Take me Out, whilst on Friday we enjoyed House Teams in head-to-head competition, battling to become House Family Fortunes Champion 2023.

These were very popular events, and it was wonderful to see so many Year 12 students taking part. The Autumn term events will be the last ones organised by our current House Team - this term students in Year 12 will have the opportunity to apply to become our new House Captains for 2023-2024. Further details about the application process will be provided in the next few weeks.



### **Cursed Pen 2023**

The English Department is launching their annual Cursed Pen competition which has been running for five years now. Students from all years are invited to submit a short story that will chill the judges' bones to the marrow. Suitably hair-raising tales of horror should be submitted to Mr McGarvey by the witching hour on the Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> October when lost souls roam the earth.

### **Year 7 Disco**

On Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023 we have the Year 7 Disco taking place, which we are sure will be a fantastic night, and an opportunity for the students to get to know each other better in a social setting, whilst showing off their amazing dance moves. Students from SHSB will be joining us on the evening, and tickets can be purchased on ParentPay. The event starts at 5.30pm and ends at 7pm. There will be snacks available to purchase on the evening, and a fun time to be had by all!

### **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 highway code.

Unfortunately, we have received complaints from our neighbours. We pride ourselves in our relations with local neighbours, can I please take this opportunity to remind parents that they should be courteous and not block the entrance to our neighbours' homes.

### **11+ Post talk and tours**

Last weekend our school acted as a test centre for the CSSE with over 700 candidates taking the 11+ examinations. For those candidates that are successful and gained a score of 303 and above, we will be holding a post 11+ talk on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 6.00pm. This will include a presentation about the school's ethos, academic curriculum and pastoral care systems.

Throughout the week from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October, there will be daily tours (by appointment only) where parents of Year 6 students will have the chance to see the school in action. It is always a delight to take parents around the school so they can see SHSG in action. More information regarding both events will be available on our website and social media channels over the next few weeks. Please feel free to share this with family and friends of Year 6 students. The booking system for tours will open on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October [here](#).

### **Last chance to purchase individual school photos**

Carmel Jane Photography visited SHSG on Monday 11th September to take the Individual Photos for students in Years 7, 10 and 12. If you had pre-registered, you will have received an automatic email notification to inform you that your child's photos are now ready to be viewed and can be purchased. If you have any questions regarding the purchase of your child's photograph, please contact Carmel Jane directly or visit their website [here](#) for more information.

### **Key dates**

The calendar on our website is now available to view up to the end of this term. Our calendar contains key dates of activities and events that are taking place in school. A list can be found [here](#).

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey - Headteacher

Telephone: 01702 588852

Email: [office@shsg.org](mailto:office@shsg.org) | Web: [www.shsg.org](http://www.shsg.org)

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