



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, 20th October 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

The SHSG 110th School Birthday

We celebrated the 110th school birthday on Friday and welcomed guests, including governors, past staff, the Parents' Association, the Old Girls' Association, and SHSG alumni. It was a fantastic day; I think that everyone will be exhausted from the range of activities.

Events included form tutor activities, the Year 13 pantomime, and the school birthday assembly, attended by our VIP guests. This involved musical performances and the singing of Jerusalem, led superbly by Mrs Symes, accompanied by Mr Peugniez and Sarah O on the piano. In the assembly, I spoke about SHSG's first headteacher, Miss Lewis, and the foundations that she and the students laid on 23 October 1913. This included standing up to the local community's objections about schoolgirls not being able to live up to the expectations of the new motto **Ad Dei Gloriam!** I read an extract from several students who were there at the start in 1913 and have included these below:

Nina Banks. One of 90 new girls starting the school in 1913 shared her memories.

"The opening of the new school was delayed by a strike which, I believe, was among carpenters. Anyway, I think the new term began sometime in October, but, for a time, we had no desks, only trestle-tables. It was chaotic to start with, but we got organised as time went on. I don't know chose the school motto "Ad Dei Gloriam" (To the glory of God) but some people raised objections. They said it was impossible to expect schoolgirls to live up to it and therefore unreal as a standard of behaviour. However, it stayed with us, and Miss Lewis rubbed it in to us continually that we were forming the traditions of a new school, and she expected a high standard. No-one left the cloakroom until properly dressed - coat, hat, gloves, everything had to be immaculate. Hair combed back and tied with a navy-blue ribbon; school uniform correct. No brooches, hair-slides or jewellery of any sort allowed, except, of course, for parties."

Other stories included the war years' air raids and occasional bombing, and hoeing turnips with Headmistress, Miss Lewis in Paglesham. Sixth formers were expected to continue with their homework throughout air raids!

In the assembly we also thanked Mr Alan Bacon for his many years of service as governor and Chair of Governors; Mr Bacon is now retiring from this role. We would like to congratulate Mrs Nicola Slaughter and wish her the best in her new role as the new Chair of Governors. Mrs Slaughter is an ex-student at SHSG and has been a parent governor for several years.

Performers in the assembly included:

Layla Z in Year 8 - Piano Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Movement 1, L.v. Beethoven

Scarlett C in Year 11 - *If I Ain't Got You*

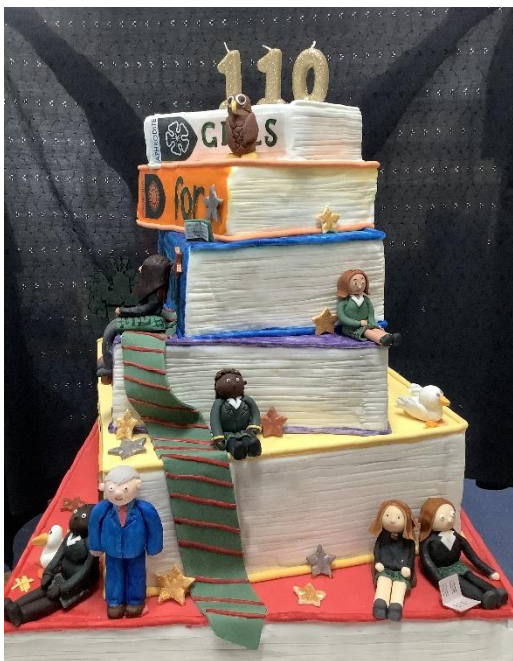
Ewan S in Year 12 - Ballade No.1, F. Chopin

Sarah O piano 'Jerusalem' and 'Happy Birthday'



This year's birthday cake was designed by Naomi B and Anmol K in Year 7 and Charlotte L in Year 8. Key elements from all three designs were put together to create the cake. The cake shows the houses, books and learning, achievement point badges, the school tie, prefects, the school owl, the school crest, even me and the school therapy dogs, Florence and Reggie, make an appearance. I am sure you will agree this is a superb design!

The creative team was led by Mrs Roe and Mrs Francis with the assistance of the Year 11 food captains Dasola, Sophie, Jessica, Gabrielle and Nat. Thank you all for your hard work in making the designs become a reality!



Year 7 Colour Run

The traditional Year 7 Colour Run had to be postponed due to the weather; we will organise a new date as soon as possible.

Cursed Pen Competition

The deadline for entries to this year's *Cursed Pen Competition* is fast approaching. Spine chilling stories and poems should be emailed to Mr McGarvey by 3:00pm on 31/10/23. Handwritten entries can be handed in to 'the room of the living dead' (the English Office). I have attached the flyer to the end of this letter.

Whole School Photograph



A reminder that Tempest Photography are offering free delivery to the school of our whole school photograph. It is available to view and order via the following weblink:

<https://htmp.st/230257-176WSG>

The three-week free delivery to school option will close on **Thursday 2nd November**. Alternatively, you can select direct delivery to an address of your choice (P&P applies). For assistance, please call Tempest directly on 01736 752411 – Select option 3 to place an order or, option 5 for customer services.

If placing an order for delivery to the school, students will be asked to collect on a specific date. Please be mindful that some frames are quite large and may be heavy for students to transport home - therefore delivery to a home address is preferable.

Year 12 UCAS and Apprenticeship Fair

The whole of Year 12 enjoyed a day at Tottenham Stadium for the UCAS University and Apprenticeship Fair. Thank you to all the staff involved. It was an excellent day as UCAS fairs present opportunities for students to meet lots of different unis in one place – and a chance to get some face time with those in the know! Our Year 12s got to meet admissions staff, course leaders, current students, and job recruiters.

Early Entry Applications

Congratulations to the 40 Year 13 students who have worked incredibly hard to submit their Early Entry Applications, to the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge or for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry by the 16th October deadline. These students are already receiving offers from other Universities and courses. A reminder that the internal UCAS deadline for the rest of Year 13 students is Friday 3rd November.

Royal Navy Careers talk

We were delighted to welcome Petty Officer Mike Barnes from the Royal Navy who spoke to students on Monday morning. Mike explained that there are six different areas of the navy: the surface fleet, fleet air arm, submarine service, Royal marines, auxiliary and reserve service. There are over 100 jobs and apprenticeships available across different departments such as engineering, aviation, logistics, medical, warfare and even the Royal Marines band service for musicians.

Mike and his team will be coming into school to offer a longer lunchtime workshop for interested students. He also suggested researching further via the link '[here](#)' for more information about the wide variety of roles available in the Navy.

Petty Officer Mike Barnes will be returning to SHSG in person to give a longer presentation at lunchtime on Monday 20th November in the meeting room. Students interested in attending should please sign up using the link '[here](#)'.

Careers information

Ms Casson would like to share the various careers information/opportunities below.

London Law Work Experience Event

Taking place on Wednesday 25th October, AM session is 9:30am – 1:30pm PM session is 1:30pm – 5:30pm – Students can apply to either the AM or PM slot at QEII Centre, Westminster, London.

There are 40+ International Law Firms including Linklaters, Bird & Bird, CMS, DLA Piper, Allen & Overy + lots more involved! There will be a round table event with legal workshops and panel discussions plus lots of networking. Applications can be made on the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CityCenturyLawEvents>

BBC Apprenticeship schemes

The BBC's apprenticeship schemes are starting to be open for applications please see the link below:

[Our early careers roles | Apprenticeship, Graduate and Trainee Schemes at the BBC](#)

Have a lovely restful half term.

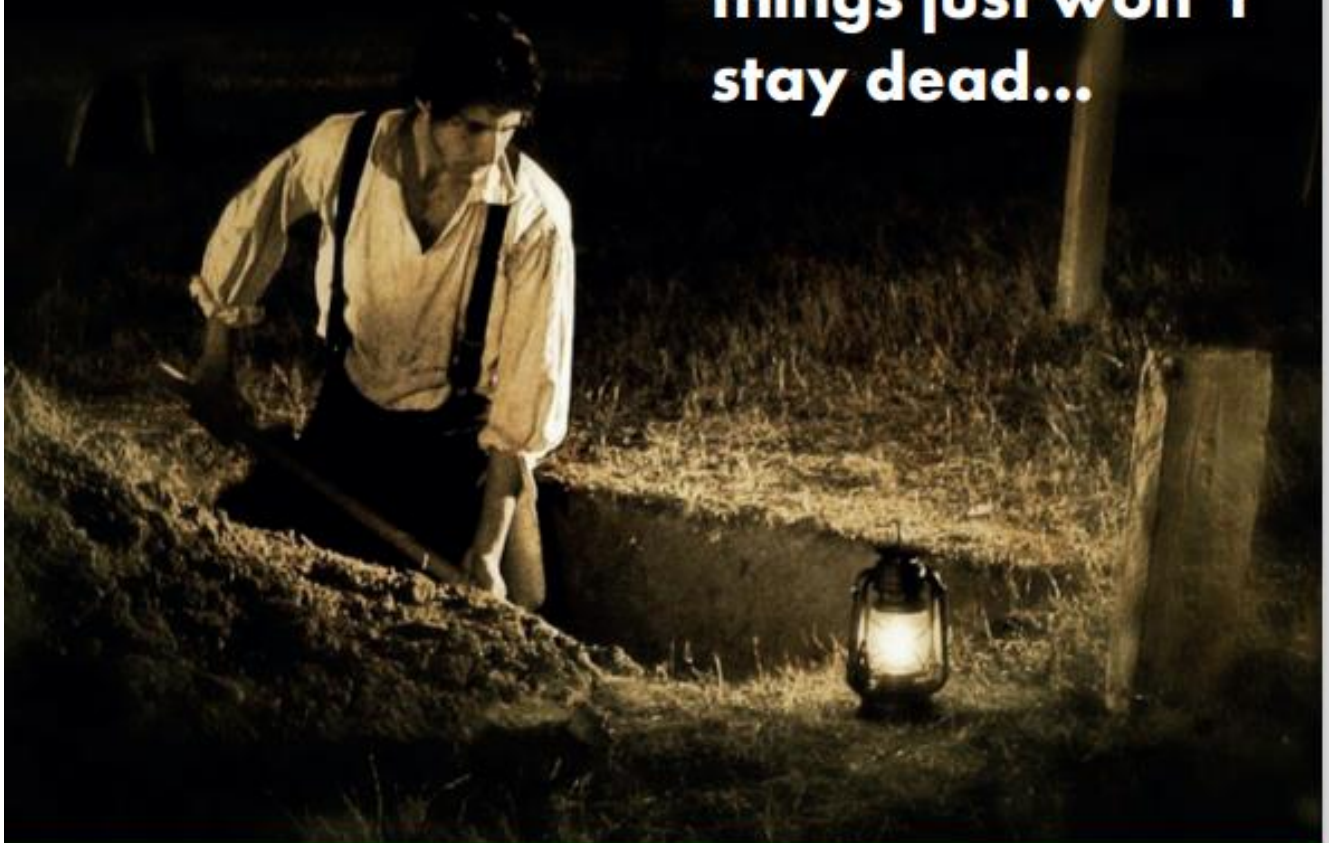
Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey
Headteacher

The Cursed Pen 2023

**Because some
things just won't
stay dead...**



**Submit your stories to: gmcgarvey@shsg.org
by 3a.m. 31st October 2023**