



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, 17th November 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Cherry Tree - new roots

Riana T, Grace O (Year 7), and Bethan L and Carrissa B (Year 13) from the Head Student Team joined former-headteacher Alison Clewlow and me in planting the new cherry tree. Quite a number to plant such a small tree, but we wanted to mark the significance of the occasion, replacing the previous cherry tree that was older than the school. Ms Clewlow wrote to me before half term to say that she would like to buy SHSG a new tree; thankfully, the day we chose to plant it was sunny with clear blue skies.

In the School Birthday assembly, I referred to the Greek proverb: "A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit." There is certainly resonance here as we imagine students and staff enjoying this sapling in its full glory and bloom in many years to come, long after we have all left SHSG!

Thank you to Mr Littlemore, Mr Kirk and Mr Sanders from the site team for all their help.



Year 13 Sociology in Action Conference

On Monday 13th November, eighteen A level sociology students attended the Sociology in Action Conference at the Emanuel Centre in London. Renowned feminist Professor Ann Oakley spoke about her fifty-year sociology career and research. It was testament to the power, influence, and relevance of her work, that following her speech she was surrounded by hundreds of young people all wanting their photograph taken with her. Miss Midwinter was also delighted to have her 1976 copy of 'Housework' signed! At age 79, Prof Ann Oakley is still working in the field, and her research is still making a difference to gender based social policy.



Professor Jason Arday spoke about ethnicity and inequalities in the education system, and the importance of celebrating and promoting Black History in the curriculum. His work is particularly inspirational, as he has worked so hard to overcome global development delay and autism. He learnt to speak at age 11 and to read at age 18. He is the youngest ever professor to be appointed at Cambridge.

Related to our Crime and Deviance topic, Prof Simon Harding spoke about gang culture and knife crime, and Dexter Dias KC talked about Human Rights cases he has recently worked on. Overall, the day was very inspirational for students, and stretched them beyond the curriculum.

Newham Geography Fieldtrip

A dry bright Newham awaited Year 12. They explored three locations within the London Borough of Newham; Stratford, Canning Town and the Royal Docks. Using a systematic sampling strategy, the students experienced a variety of data collection techniques such as land use mapping, EQS and crime surveys. As the students were exploring the space and challenging their perceptions of it, they used a photo journey of cultural markers. We will be using this work back in the classroom from next week. A big thank you to Ms Spilstead and Mrs Robinson for accompanying the Year 12s on the trip.



Christmas House Events

SHSG Christmas TV and SHSG's Christmas LipSync Battle

On Tuesday 12th December and Wednesday 13th December the House Captains will be hosting two special Christmas events at lunchtime in the school hall: ***SHSG Christmas TV and SHSG's Christmas LipSync Battle***. Tickets are £2 for each event for students and can be purchased via ParentPay. These events are hugely popular and likely to sell out quickly! All proceeds will go to HARP, Southend Homeless Charity

Thursday 14th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Jumper Day is back again this year to help raise money for Save the Children, a charity that helps children both in the UK, and all over the world. We would like all students in Years 7-13 to get involved. To take part, simply wear a festive jumper with your school uniform and donate £2 via ParentPay by Wednesday 13th December.

School trips

This year, we are very pleased to be able to offer over sixty school trips to our students that enhance our curriculum offer, expand pupils' education, provide enriching social and cultural experiences, and promote independent learning. There are some areas of the administration for trips that are making it difficult for our staff to run them effectively however, namely meeting deadlines and picking children up on time when the trip returns to school. Prompt returns of consent forms, documentation and payments ensure the school meets the deadlines of trip providers. If we are unable to meet these deadlines, we may have to cancel the trip.

There have been occasions this year when parents have been up to an hour late collecting their child after a trip, including several occasions when they have been waiting until after 9pm. In future, if parents are late to collect their child on multiple occasions, their child will no longer be able to attend trips that require a collection.

Wet Break and Lunch Arrangements

Please note that there have been some updates to our wet break and lunch arrangements. If it is wet break or lunch, all students should go to their form rooms. For a handful of forms, their usual room isn't available because it is a science laboratory or practical room. These forms will go to the following locations:

Form	7APH	7HRA	8ATH	9ATH	9HRA	10APH	10ATH	11ATH	11HRA	11 HRM
Wet Break Location	Room 12	Room 18	Room 9	Main Hall						

Sixth Form students can use rooms in the Sixth Form Centre. So that the Main Hall is available for those groups, all other students should go to their form rooms, rather than use the hall as they normally might.

Whole school photograph collections

The whole school photograph orders have arrived. Due to the number of orders, and the size of some of the photographs, we have set collection times to make distribution easier.

Collection arrangements for unframed photographs (in tubes) are:

Student's Surname (first character)	Date	Location:
A - H	Monday 20 th November	Foyer, Lunchtime (12.25pm – 1.25pm)
J - Z	Tuesday 21 st November	Foyer, Lunchtime (12.25pm – 1.25pm)

All framed school photographs can be collected from the School Support Team office (next to reception) after school on either Monday 20th November or Tuesday 21st November.

Please note that for all photographs, students will be required to sign for them on receipt. The school cannot accept any responsibility for lost or damaged photographs in transit.

Christmas Concerts

The Music Department are preparing for the annual Christmas Concerts which take place on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th December. We warmly invite parents, staff, and friends of the school to come out and show support for SHSG music-making and theatre - it promises to be an entertaining and festive evening.

Alongside the main ensembles we welcome Year 7 students to perform original Christmas songs, created in their form groups later this month, and the Drama Department will present devised scenes and dance with a festive flavour. There will also be a raffle organised by the Parents' Association and refreshments will be served in the interval. Please check your diaries and book tickets in advance. Tickets are available to purchase on ParentPay: £6 (adults); £4 (concessions).

Year 7 students will be performing in their form groups on the following dates:

Form Group	Date
7 Aphrodite, 7 Artemis & 7 Athene	Monday 4th December
7 Aurora, 7 Hera & 7 Hermes	Tuesday 5th December

Christmas Carol Service

On Monday 18th December at 7pm, the annual Nine Lessons and Carols service takes place at Holy Trinity CofE Church, Southchurch Boulevard. This service features our student choristers and readers, joined by staff and guests. Entrance is free and there will be an opportunity to buy refreshments served after the service. We look forward to welcoming you to this special event.

World HIV/AIDS Day – 1st December 2023

In run up to World HIV/AIDS day on Friday 1st December, Year 12 and 13 students will be having assemblies in morning form time. Years 7 - 11 will be given information for discussion during morning registration with their form tutors during the week commencing Monday 27th November 2023.

Miss Spilstead will also be operating an honesty box system based in the geography office in B Block. Students will be able to pay the £1 into the honesty box and take a red ribbon or pay via parent pay and take a ribbon. This will start from Monday 20th November. Ribbons are not free!

We are hoping to raise as much money as possible. Thank you for your continued support as we usually raise a significant sum of money to support further research, campaigning, and support for those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Year 13 Parents' Consultation Evening Thursday 23rd November

The Year 13 Parents' Consultation Evening will be taking place on Thursday 23rd November. Please be advised that the booking system for appointments will close at 6.30pm on Wednesday 22nd November.

Careers

Ms Casson has asked for the below poster to be shared with students regarding a careers talk by Petty Officer, Mike Barnes from the Royal Navy.



Careers talk at lunchtime
in the meeting room.
Monday 20th November.
12.30-1pm
All year groups
welcome
Petty officer
Mike Barnes

Discover Creative Careers

As part of Discover Creative careers week, Sixth Form media studies students took part in a fascinating Sky Studios Elstree Discovery Workshop. We learned that the UK is a huge hub for creative careers, more than 100,000 people work behind the scenes in TV and film in the UK! The speaker, talent manager Lauren Christy discussed the wide range of apprenticeships that are available for applications now. Students were particularly impressed with the subsidized nail bar at the head office!

Sky Studios Elstree is the size of sixteen football pitches and was finished 3 months ago. We watched a fascinating guide behind the scenes of the brand new, state of the art, environmentally friendly space. Students were given tips on how to apply for roles and were advised to check out the values of the company you are applying for. Lauren outlined key areas they look for in recruitment, teamwork, being adaptable, passionate about the company, to be well motivated and driven, solution focused and possess clear and confident communication skills.

More information about applying for early careers at Sky can be found here <https://earlycareers.sky.com>

Careers opportunities

Please find careers opportunities for students in Years 10-13 on the flyer attached. These include insights in to careers in Law, Virgin Atlantic, Boots, the Army and Jaguar Bentley. Boots are offering free online work experience to go behind the scenes to learn about careers in the world of healthcare, beauty, and retail.

Girls Rugby Taster Session

I have attached a flyer regarding a girls' rugby taster session that may be of interest to students in Year 7 at the end of this letter.

SHSG Cookbook - reminder

The link to the form in my previous letter was incorrect therefore, I am re-sharing the following information. The Technology department would like to celebrate the culture, cuisine, and heritage of our SHSG students and staff in the form of a cookbook. If you have a dish (sweet or savoury) that is a family favourite, please complete the form on the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE FORM](#)

The final recipes will be curated and represent a variety of dishes. Please note that it may not be possible to include all submissions. Recipes will be in the form of an e-book and will hopefully be emailed out to parents and carers at the end of the academic year.

To view the SHSG Cookbook for leavers that was published the last academic year, please click '[here](#)'.

SHSG Parents' Association Winter Concert Raffles - reminder

The SHSG Parents' Association will be holding a raffle each evening of the Winter Concerts which are due to be held on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th December.

First, second and third prizes are winter hampers provided by Year 7 students.

Tickets cost £2 each and can be purchased on ParentPay until Monday 4th December 2023. Once purchased tickets will automatically be entered into the relevant evening raffle. All donations support the school.

Do not worry if you miss the cut-off date; raffle tickets (and additional raffle prizes) will be available on the night.

Thank you for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend!

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey
Headteacher

WOW!

GIRLS RUGBY

Taster session



Year 6 and 7 girls come and
try girls only rugby

GIRL
POWER



Sunday 3rd
December
11am OR 12

40 minutes
Followed by a drink and
snack in the clubhouse

hosted by Tigan Renshaw

PLAY

The Gables, Airport Business
Park, Cherry Orchard Way,
Rochford SS4 1YG



Scan to secure a
space 🍌