



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, 8th December 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Head Student

Congratulations to Zahra-Marie C, 12ALS, who has been selected to be our new Head Student. She will commence the role in January 2024. Zahra-Marie shone in a very rigorous selection process, including a panel interview with representatives from Student Voice, an interview with the Headteacher and Director of Sixth Form, and representatives from the governors. Zahra-Marie also did a presentation in assembly to the lower school, where she talked about her experience of performing at the Globe Theatre. She will be supported by seven brilliant Deputy Head Students, all of which make a really strong team of Sixth Form Student Leadership for the next year. Well done, Zahra-Marie!

National schools' cross-country cup

On Saturday, our Junior and Intermediate teams both competed in the National schools' cross country cup competition. Qualification for this prestigious event places teams in the top 27 in the country which is a huge achievement. On the day, SHSG students faced an incredibly challenging course in Woodbridge School in Suffolk, as well as very difficult weather conditions. Temperatures did not get above freezing all day and there was snow and ice on the course. The students demonstrated impressive levels of resilience and were outstanding. The intermediate team finished a fantastic 17th in England - congratulations should go to: Chloe, Shiloh, Poppy, Grace, Annaliese, Niamh, and Ana. The junior girls finished an extremely impressive 7th place - congratulations should go to: Rose, Sadie, Kara, Mila, Orla, Anna, and Isabella. The students should be incredibly proud of their attitude and performance.



Winter Concerts

This week the Music and Drama departments presented their annual winter concerts. Both nights were packed out and offered contrasting programmes and performances across the whole range of musical ensembles, choirs and rock bands. The Drama department presented Year 7 students' devised festive scenes, and the Dance club performed in Christmas pyjamas. Musical highlights included the SHSG Choir, Chamber Choir and Novem Consort singing their programme from the Southend Festival of Performing Arts. The Jazz ensemble performed 'Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire' alongside other jazz standards. Delta Rock Band performed the Smiths' *This Charming Man* and Wind Band played a medley of Aladdin numbers followed by an arrangement from the film *La La Land*. Across the two evenings, Year 7 forms sung their own unique Christmas songs, complete with humorous lyrics, classroom percussion and festive accessories. At the end of Tuesday's concert, Music Captain Angela handed over her role and invited the new music captains, Ewan and Julia, to the stage to receive their badges. We would like to thank Angela for all her contributions to SHSG Music this year. Well done to all the students who took part in these events and for their excellent performances and good spirits over the two nights. Thank you also to parents and staff who supported this event. You are welcome to join us again for the **Carol Service on Monday 18th December, 7pm, Holy Trinity Church, Southchurch Boulevard.**

House Charity Christmas Hamper Appeal

Throughout December, students in the Lower School have been busy donating items and decorating Christmas Hampers in aid of local charity *Kids Inspire*. *Kids Inspire* provides mental health and trauma recovery support for children, young people, and their families. Each year during the festive season the charity runs a hamper appeal, delivering food and other items to families in need in the local area. Tutor groups in Years 7,8 and 9 took part in a House competition, organised by Victoria A in Year 13 and the House Captains, with the aim to create the best hamper to be donated. Congratulations to winners 7 Hera and their Form Tutor Mrs Francis! On Wednesday 6th December Mrs Leman, Mrs Brierley and students filled the minibus with a huge number of hampers and travelled to Great Baddow to drop off the hampers at the Kids Inspire Headquarters. Well done to all students who contributed to this appeal. It is wonderful to think that through the hard work and generosity of our students, SHSG donations will make a real difference to so many in the local community this Christmas.



Assessment Reporting and Recording

In advance of the short progress reports being published on Friday 15th December, for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12, we would like to update you on some significant changes to our assessment, reporting and recording procedures. These changes have been communicated to students through their registration programme this week and are the result of a significant amount of research and consultation over the past two years. The changes are most notably in lower school (years 7 – 9), where we will no longer be reporting progress as Emerging, Developing, Proficient or Mastery. We have replaced effort grades (1-5) with an 'Attitude to Learning' (ATL) grade 1-4. For further information please click [here](#) for a short information video outlining our approach.

ABRSM exams

Last week we hosted ABRSM music examinations at SHSG for the first time. Twelve students took practical examinations from grades 1 to 8. All passed, with several merits and four distinctions too. Well done to these aspiring musicians for their hard work and tenacity and thank you to the peripatetic staff who assisted in these examinations as stewards.

Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 14th December

A reminder that 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. Donations are £2 and can be paid via ParentPay. Wear your most Christmassy Jumper!

Christmas Dinner – Thursday 14th December

A reminder that this year's SHSG Christmas Dinner will be held on Thursday 14th December 2023 at 12.00pm. The canteen will not be serving any other food on this day.

Year 5 Launchpads and Familiarisation Sessions

SHSG will be running the extremely popular 11+ Launchpads and Familiarisation Sessions again this year. Due to the popularity of these sessions, places are limited and subject to availability. I have attached the flyer to the end of this letter for your information. Please feel free to share this with friends and family that have a child in Year 5 and may be interested in applying for the SHSG September 2025 intake.

Arrangements for the last day of term - Wednesday 20th December

On the final day of term, students will be dismissed at **12.25pm on Wednesday 20th December**. Please note that food will be available to purchase at break, but the canteen will not be providing lunch on this day. If your child is entitled to a free school meal and you would like the school to provide a packed lunch for them, please indicate on the form '[here](#)'.

Any students who are unable to go home until their bus arrives and are unable to arrange alternative travel arrangements may stay in school until the bus arrives at the 3.30pm. Only Stephenson's buses and Maymist coaches will be picking up at 3.30pm. Ami Coaches will be collecting students at 12.30pm. Students staying in school will be supervised and will need to bring a packed lunch.

Please complete the form '[here](#)' by **Tuesday 13th December** if your child will need to stay in school until their bus arrives on 20th December. Please note that you do not need to complete the form if your child travels home by other means of transport.

Reducing Waste

Starting the New Year with good habits, we would like to reduce our use of single-use cups. We have noticed that many students forget to bring their water bottles to school and are relying on single-use cups. Whilst we actively encourage students to remain hydrated, we would love to reduce the number of cups we give out each day. We would really appreciate your support to help us to be more environmentally friendly by ensuring that your child brings their water bottle to school.

BFI Young Filmmakers Course – write up by Isobel K (Year 12)

*Our Media Studies teacher encouraged us to enter the BFI Young Filmmakers course at the start of the year. We were lucky that two of us from SHSG were chosen to take part. For the past few months, Safa and I have been travelling to London to take part in several masterclasses run by many industry professionals who specialise in various areas of film. For example, I was able to find out about writer's rooms and what it is like writing for large, big budget tv shows from Kara Smith, a writer on shows such as Game of Thrones, and the best ways to get into the industry from Rob Savage, horror movie director. So far in the course I have completed a short, animated film and I have worked on a longer short film in which I took on the role of writer, actor, and editor. I have learnt so many useful skills so far, not only about what it takes to produce a film but also how to work as a team and the important life lessons needed to pursue a career in the film and tv industry. I can't wait to be able to have my very first short film shown in a cinema! I feel much more experienced and confident in going into a career in film, and there are further opportunities for me potentially to do further courses and work experience. **Isobel K***



Why learn German beyond KS3? What is it like and where will it take you?

These were the key questions of an online talk Year 9 German students had on Monday 4th December, ahead of choosing their GCSE options later this academic year.

The talk was delivered by a “Young German ambassador” of the “Goethe-Institut London” which has been leading on promoting the knowledge of the German language and fostering international cultural cooperation with institutes all over the world with a plethora of events and resources since the early 1950s.

The “Young German Ambassador” Miss Bailey, a multilingual A-level student of German and Maths among others, shared why learning languages is so enjoyable for her, why German is her favourite foreign language to learn and why she thinks German skills make you stand out when it comes to applying at universities and later for jobs. Her talk was followed by a Kahoot quiz where our Year 9 students were asked to reflect on the role and importance of the German language in the UK and beyond. Students also learned and refreshed some cultural and linguistic knowledge. Year 9 engaged very well and had many questions in the question-and-answer time which followed.

Term Dates 2024 – 2025

I am pleased to announce that the term dates, including our INSET days for the next academic year have now been set. The dates can be viewed on our website [here](#).

Fosters Schoolwear Uniform Shop Closure Dates

Please note that Fosters Schoolwear will be closed on Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th December for their annual stock take. They will also be closed from 5pm on Friday 22nd December and re-opening at 9am on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

Fosters Schoolwear have also asked us to share a poster with their current discounted stock. Please click [here](#) to view the poster.

Message from Tempest Photography company - reminder

*****Special Christmas offer: £5.00 off a Print in a tube (available until 1st December)*****

This is a reminder that your group photographs taken earlier in the year are still available to view and order via the Tempest Ordering website. A weblink is supplied below which will take you directly to your photograph and allow you to browse the products available and place an order should you wish.

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

If your order is intended as a Christmas gift, we recommend placing your order before 1st December to give the best chance of receiving your photograph/s back in time.

Thank you for your continued custom with Tempest Photography.

Parents' Association Winter Concerts – Winter Hamper Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the following winners:

Monday 4th December

- 1st Prize – Gabriella W, 10Aph
- 2nd Prize – Jessica M, 12ALS
- 3rd Prize – Rushda P, 7Art

Tuesday 5th December

- 1st Prize – Katie H, 7Aph
- 2nd Prize – Verity VB, 11Her
- 3rd Prize – Isla M, 7Aur

Unclaimed prizes can be collected at Reception.

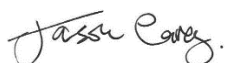
Thank you to all parents, carers, and students for your continued support.

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](#).

Have a lovely weekend!

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey
Headteacher



Southend High School for Girls

AN ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Southend High School for Girls Launchpad 2024!

The SHSG Launchpad is a series of events aimed at providing ambitious Year 5 children with a flavour of SHSG grammar school life. Each event will provide a taster of the subjects and topics that students engage in each day here at SHSG. They will also provide an opportunity to become familiar with some of the skills that your daughter will need to demonstrate in the 11+. The Launchpad starts as a series of Saturday schools followed by four after school 11+ familiarisation sessions. Sign up for the Saturday schools that your daughter would like to attend and/or the 11+ familiarisation sessions. Information how to book can be found at the bottom of this flyer.

Launchpad Saturday schools – 9.30am - 12.30pm

Teachers and Sixth Form Students invite you to join them in the following sessions:

	6th January 2024 – Be a Mathematician with the SHSG Mathematics faculty! Patterns and Problem Solving: Be there or be squared... An exciting opportunity to go beyond classroom learning and see the beauty, power and creativity of mathematics. You will learn how maths can be applied to understand magic, how through simple rules and algorithms the most magnificent of patterns can be created and how to apply and develop problem-solving skills to a wide range of activities.
	13th January 2024 - Express Yourself! The Creative and Performing Arts faculty invite you to take part in a morning of creative expression trying your hand at Art, Music, Drama and Technology. The sessions will be active and hands on, giving you the opportunity to explore the full range of creative facilities that we have at SHSG.
	10th February 2024 – Wanted: Adventurers to settle new lands! As climate change makes previously uninhabited islands in the Arctic Circle habitable ... Be part of the Humanities and Social Sciences faculties as you create your new society! Do we need religion? Do we need money? Do we need laws? Where should we live? How can we be sustainable? Come and work with us to design the perfect place to live.
	20th April 2024 - The SHSG Spirit! The problem with being such an old school is all the ghosts... Join the SHSG English faculty for a morning of creative storytelling, featuring live theatre, puns, mystery, creative writing and, yes, ghosts! Friendly ones, of course, with exciting stories to tell. It's just a shame they're so forgetful.
	11th May 2024 – Raise the bar! Athletics and fitness workshops with the Physical Education faculty. The session will incorporate several different athletic disciplines that cover both track and field events, as well as some fun, fitness-based activities.
	8th June 2024 – Lost in translation! Travel the solar system with your own friendly alien, whilst learning basic introductions and descriptions in Spanish and German; then harness your spirit of adventure to help you tackle a range of activities that will get you using the language that you have learned.
	22nd June 2024 – Mission to Space! Let our Biology, Chemistry and Physics departments help you to investigate moon rock, balloon rockets and creatures from outer space in an action-packed morning of practical experiments!

Launchpad - 11+ Familiarisation Sessions

SHSG will also be running the extremely popular 11+ familiarisation sessions again this year. These consist of a meeting (**parents only**) to talk through the 11+ process followed by two Maths and two English sessions for students.

- **Tuesday 7th May 2024 (6pm)** – Parents' 11+ familiarisation meeting (parents only)
- **Monday 13th May 2024, Wednesday 15th May 2024, Monday 20th May 2024 and Wednesday 22nd May 2024, 4pm-5pm** - 2 x Maths and 2 x English sessions.

Due to the popularity of these sessions, places are limited and subject to availability. There is an administration fee of £10 per Saturday School session and £30 in total for the four 11+ familiarisation sessions.

To apply for a place on the Launchpad sessions and/or the 11+ familiarisation sessions, please go to our website www.shsg.org/year-5-launchpad and enter the password **SHSG2025!** Places will be free to children who qualify for Pupil Premium funding. Information can also be found on the website page. If your child does not qualify for Pupil Premium, but require financial assistance, support may be available. Please contact us at office@shsg.org.

FLU VACCINE CATCH-UP CLINICS

Time is running out to vaccinate your child with this season's flu nasal spray*.

The flu vaccine reduces the risk of serious illness and will top up their protection even if they've been vaccinated before.

Drop into one of our catch-up clinics for primary and secondary school aged children:

9 December

10am - 2pm

Leigh Primary Care Centre, 918 London Road, Leigh on Sea, SS9 3NG.

No booking required. Just walk in.

*flu injection is offered as an alternative to the nasal spray

#DOYOURBITESSEX

