



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, 19th January 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Local artist visit

We were thrilled to welcome the talented local artist and illustrator, Ash Field, who visited our Year 12 students and small focus group of year 8s. Ash, renowned for his captivating window murals, not only discussed his artistic process but also invited our students to collaborate in an upcoming mural at the entrance to the Art and Technology block. Ash showed timelapses illustrating how his ideas evolve from concept to finished piece. His insights on the significance of responding to other artists' work resonated with our students, providing inspiration for their sketchbook work. Our students look forward to contributing to and witnessing the evolution of this exciting project. We hope this will be unveiled in time for 'Create Week' later in the year.



Chess Club – message from Mr Greenwood

The chess club will continue to meet at lunchtime on Tuesdays in B6 with many players that enjoy a casual game with their peers.

For those that wish to improve their game, we are now introducing the chance to learn the deeper theory of the game and take the Certificates of Excellence which are backed by the English Chess Federation. They are aimed at three levels of player and should help players become more proficient at playing the game. There will be a small cost involved for those that wish to engage in the Certificate of Excellence to cover the fees involved. The cost of the Bronze Level is £10.00. There will also be the opportunity to participate in the Silver and Gold level. Should students wish to find out more information, they should contact Mr Greenwood.



Whole School Production – Chicago

We are excited to announce the forthcoming whole school production. SHSG will be performing **Chicago Teen Edition** on **3rd, 5th, and 6th July 2024**. Chicago is a satirical musical set in the 1920s Jazz age about celebrity, corruption, and the justice system. It is also the second longest running Broadway show in history.

Our performance will feature 1920s costume, a live band, singing, dancing, and an amazing cast of students. The teen edition has been adapted to suit a school setting. Students wishing to take part will need to register their interest using the link previously emailed to all students by Mr Cannon, which is also available '[here](#)'. Auditions will be held in the school hall on **Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd January, from 3:30pm - 4:30pm**. We welcome all students to audition from every year group. The bigger and more diverse the pool of talent the better and more dynamic the show will be! I have included the flyer at the end of this letter.

Year 11: A Level Subject Selection

Next week on Wednesday in Registration time, all Year 11s will select their four A Level subject choices. We will then use that information to build the Year 12 timetable for next year. This means that our students' subject choices can almost always be accommodated in the sixth form timetable. Apart from subject selection, students do not need to apply for SHSG sixth form. Should you meet our entrance requirements, all existing Year 11s are guaranteed a place with us next year. More information is available '[here](#)'. The deadline for external students to join our Sixth Form is 31st January 2024.

SHSG success!

The School Sport magazine has posted their annual rankings and SHSG have again been ranked in the top 10 nationally, placing 6th in the country out of the state schools. A fantastic achievement so well done to all the students and staff for their contribution to this.

PE updates

Congratulations to the following runners who have been selected to represent the Southend Borough at the Essex County Cross Country Championships on Saturday 20th January: Orla B, Annalise B, Niamh S, Mila C, Liliana T, Chloe F, Shiloh O, Poppy P, Darcy D and Charlotte U. We wish you the best of luck in tomorrow's race!

A big well done to the U16 Netball team who played their strongest match this year, resulting in a 35-15 win against Redden Court in the 'Sweet 16' stage of the Essex Cup. They will now progress to play in the 'Elite 8' against St Marks.

The Year 7 Essex Cup team have also been working hard recently, listening to every piece of feedback and demonstrating determination to implement it within a game. They have attended extra training sessions to develop their team cohesion, preparing them for the next stage of the cup competition. The team most recently won 20-10 against Saint Martins in their last group stage match and will now progress into the knockout stage of the Essex Cup.

Good luck to the U15 netball team who will travel to Worcestershire on Monday for the fourth stage of the national cup against Bromsgrove School!

Use of changing rooms

From Wednesday 24th January, the changing rooms will be available again so normal PE lesson procedures will resume. Therefore, students should not come to school in PE kit from this date and should be in full school uniform.

SHSG Piano Competition

Music Captains Ewan S. and Julia H. have set up a new SHSG Piano Competition, which will take place in the school hall 12:30-1pm, February 6-9th 2024. We encourage students to enter in three categories:

- Grades pre-1 to 3
- Grades 4-6
- Grades 7-8+.

Students can sign up in the Music Department. This will be a friendly and exciting competition with winners

chosen from each category in a final on 9th February 2024. Prizes will include certificates, piano badges, chocolate medals, and achievement points for all competitors. Students must prepare two pieces: one for the first round, and a contrasting piece for the final if they are selected. A panel of judges, ranging from senior students to staff, will deliberate on the best performances - there will be an audience favourite vote too. We hope students and staff will come along, watch, and support this event.

Clubs

The school has a range of activities and clubs to offer. The latest list of clubs and activities for this term can be found on our website [‘here’](#)

A new extra-curricular PE timetable will come into effect from Monday, 29th January and the updated document will be re-shared in my letter with the update.

SHSG’s Oxbridge programme

In my Friday letters I regularly share information about our programme to support students’ Oxbridge applications as well as support for our most able students. We are delighted to share information on a new part of this programme for Year 10 and Year 12 students.

Target Oxbridge Year 10 is a free online programme providing Year 10 students of Black African and Caribbean heritage, including students of mixed race with Black heritage with an insight into life as an Oxbridge student and how to prepare to make an Oxbridge application. It consists of four online webinars in Year 10, taking place once a month between April and July. Students are then invited to join two further webinars in Year 11.

Target Bath is a free programme which supports Year 12 students of Black African and Caribbean heritage, including students of mixed race with Black heritage, to gain places at the University of Bath. Target Bath students will also be offered a place on Discover Bath, the University’s free summer residential programme.

I have attached the flyers to the end of this letter.

Careers information from Ms Casson

Get into Dentistry

Students in Years 10-12 and their parents can attend a FREE virtual "Get Into Dentistry" UCAS conference on Saturday, January 28th, from 9:30am to 3:30pm. Learn more [‘here’](#).

These conferences provide tailored advice for aspiring dentists, covering crucial topics such as:

- A Day in the Life of a Dentist
- Tactically choosing universities
- Personal statements
- UCAT
- Dental school interview skills

- Medical Leadership Programmes
- Awards Programmes
- Extracurricular activities
- Work experience

- Building a CV
- Applying for scholarships

The Get Into Dentistry Conferences occur monthly, offering you the chance to connect LIVE with a Dentist who will provide a solid overview of the career and a strong foundation for a successful dental school application. Attendees will also receive a certificate to enhance their university applications. Spaces are limited, so students should register as soon as possible using the link [‘here’](#).

Unifrog Apprenticeships Fair

A reminder of the Unifrog Apprenticeships Fair that was mentioned in last week's letter. Students can find full information on the link ['here'](#)

The graphic features a dark space background with stars and a bright sun or star on the right side. The Unifrog logo is in the top left corner, with the tagline 'the universal destinations platform' below it. The main title 'Unifrog Apprenticeships Fair' is in large white font. Below the title is a paragraph of text describing the event, and at the bottom is the date and time: 'February 7 2024 | 16:30pm - 19:00pm GMT'.

unifrog
the universal destinations platform

Unifrog Apprenticeships Fair

Get involved with National Apprenticeship Week! Join our virtual fair to learn all about the world of apprenticeships. Explore the latest apprenticeship opportunities, attend live sessions with top employers including KPMG, Lloyds Banking Group and Unilever, and network one-on-one to get top tips on how to find and apply for your dream apprenticeship.

February 7 2024 | 16:30pm - 19:00pm GMT

BrainWaves

We are pleased to announce that our school has been selected to take part in BrainWaves, an exciting new mental health and wellbeing research study run by the University of Oxford's Department of Psychiatry, in partnership with the University of Swansea and The Day, the online student newspaper that turns news into lessons.

Today's young people face challenges in a world full of conflicting, confusing, and often incorrect information. BrainWaves is a direct response to this. It aims to improve the quality of scientific knowledge about adolescent mental health and provide evidence-based, practical strategies and educational materials to schools.

BrainWaves is creating a large-scale national student group to participate in research and help develop the project. Our Sixth Form students will be invited to be in the first wave of schools taking part and will be working closely to support the University of Oxford in their research.

We are excited that our students will have the unique opportunity to shape the landscape of adolescent mental health. If you would like to know more about the project, please visit [Home - Brainwaves Free mental health resources for secondary schools \(brainwaveshub.org\)](https://brainwaveshub.org)

Mental Health & Wellbeing at SHSG

If you need support or information about how to cope with your emotions, you can visit the school website and look at [Mental Health & Wellbeing - Southend High School for Girls \(shsg.org\)](https://shsg.org).

There, you will find some articles, videos, and useful links. The school has also put together a Padlet for Lower and Middle School and one for Sixth Form for you to browse. Please find the links below:

[Lower and Middle school SHSG Mental Health Board \(padlet.com\)](https://padlet.com)

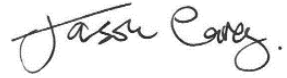
[SHSG Mental Health Board \(padlet.com\)](https://padlet.com)

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](#).

Wishing you all a restful weekend!

Yours faithfully,

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

Jason Carey
Headteacher



Southend High School for Girls

PRESENTS

CHICAGO

Auditions



MONDAY 22ND JANUARY - 3:30-4:30

TUESDAY 23RD JANUARY - 3:30-4:30

To register for an audition: complete the MS Form in the email.

In the audition, you will need to sing: **'All That Jazz'**.

Or, for male roles: **'All I Care About'**

You will also need to act a **short scene**.

Excerpts from the script provided.



**You need to be available
for after-school rehearsals
and show dates**



If you want to be involved in a backstage, crew, front of house, band or another role, please speak to Mrs Page or Mr Peugniez.

This is a whole school production

We welcome all students to audition from every year group. The bigger and more diverse the pool of talent the better and more dynamic the show will be!



TARGET BATH

Application Deadline: 23:59 on the 25th February 2024

Target Bath is a free programme that supports students of Black African and Caribbean heritage to gain places at the University of Bath, together with the opportunity to gain an alternative offer.

The programme is open to UK-based students in Year 12. Students accepted onto the programme will have achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades 9, 8, 7, or 6 and will be academically able to study at Bath in their chosen subject.

The programme will provide:

- Advice on subject choice and preparation
- Talking to and hearing from current Black students at Bath about their experiences
- An online community of Target Bath students
- One-on-one mentoring from Black university graduates
- Advice on UCAS applications and personal statements
- A place on Discover Bath, Bath's free summer residential programme



Find out more and apply for your place now

www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/target-bath

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DIVERSITY
RECRUITMENT
EXCELLENCE



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH



Application Deadline: 23:59 on Sunday 25th February

Target Oxbridge is a free programme that aims to help Black African and Caribbean students and students of mixed race with Black African and Caribbean heritage increase their chances of getting into the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge (known collectively as Oxbridge). Since launching in 2012, Target Oxbridge has helped over 400 students to secure Oxbridge offers.

The programme is open to UK-based students in Year 10. The students accepted onto the programme will be predicted at least three GCSEs at grade 7, or will have the potential to achieve these grades but be in need of additional motivation and inspiration.

APPLY HERE

More information can be found at:
targetoxbridge.co.uk/year-10.html

The programme will consist of four online webinars, taking place once a month between April and July 2024. Students will have the chance to hear from Black Oxford and Cambridge students and graduates, the Target Oxbridge team, and the Oxford and Cambridge Admissions and Outreach teams. The webinars will cover:

- What Oxbridge is really like and what tutors are looking for
- How to prepare for an Oxbridge application
- How degree subject choice can affect career options
- A mini lecture followed by a Q&A session with a Oxbridge tutor

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CAMBRIDGE

UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Photos by: Graham CopeKoga, Sonum Sumaria and Ian Wallman



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Applications can be made at:
targetoxbridge.app.candidx.io/roles

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