



# 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, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

## **Chicago Auditions**

Following the launch of the whole school production, *Chicago: Teen Edition*, we have had over 100 students from across Years 7 - 13 express interest and attend auditions in various roles! On Monday and Tuesday, 83 students auditioned for acting and singing roles, performing *All That Jazz* or *All I Care About* then delivering excerpts from Roxie's monologue, alongside other scenes in front of a panel of staff and a student audience. The production team would like to extend thanks to all students for their brilliant efforts, acting and singing skills and the buzz that they've helped to generate around the show - we already have lots to talk about and look forward to bringing together a dynamic and talented cast. Casting will be announced over the course of next week, with call backs - where applicable - for lead roles. Due to the large response to backstage roles, Mrs Ladner has launched a 1920s cloche hat design competition for Key Stage 3 and a parallel costume design competition for Key Stage 4. We hope students will get involved in these in the hope of seeing their winning designs appear in the show in July.

## **Year 7 Reading Programme and Waterstones Trip**

Congratulations to Maariya, Muyassar, Kai, Umaiza, Oluwadamilare, Sadie, Jessica and Aarnavi (pictured below) in Year 7, the latest group of pupils to have read over one million words since joining SHSG in September. They now join our 'Millionaires Club', receiving a special blazer badge and certificate to mark this achievement. Please continue to encourage your child to participate in the quizzes and activities on the Accelerated Reader website, as these activities help hone their reading skills and track their progress. The quizzes can easily be taken at home. The website records the 'word count' of books pupils have read, with completion of each new book taking them closer to Millionaire status! Reading lessons continue fortnightly for pupils. This term, sessions form part of our Classical Civilisation curriculum, with classes studying the story of the War on Troy from Homer's Iliad.

To celebrate World Book Day, Year 7 parents have been sent a separate letter about trips to Waterstones in Southend on 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> February. Pupils will visit the bookshop in Southend with their Form Tutor and our Year 10 Reading Mentors. They will then have the opportunity to choose their own book which is paid for by the school. Look out for more World Book Day events including the launch of our book clubs next month.



### **Catering Incident Concerning Undercooked Chicken**

Further to our email dated 18 January 2024, please find attached the full report of our investigation into this incident. Once again, we would like to apologise to those affected and for any distress that this has caused to you or your child. We are confident that this was an isolated occurrence and would like to reassure you that we will do our very best to ensure that this situation is not repeated in the future.

### **Data Checking**

We recently notified parents and carers that we will be completing a check of the data we hold on students and their families. It is essential we hold accurate information to ensure we can keep your child safe while in school and on school trips.

We contacted Years 10 and 12 families first to complete this process. Thank you to everyone that has been able to log on so far. We still have some families yet to complete this check, can we please ask that you log on and confirm your data is correct. Today, parents / carers of students in Years 8 and 9 will be contacted via email to complete this process. We would appreciate all data being checked by **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**.

We will be reaching out to Years 11 and 13 in due course. If you have not yet registered with the SIMS Parent app, we will resend an invitation link via email and instructions on how to sign in. It is essential that parents register as this is a useful communication channel and also where we upload school reports.

### **School Uniform**

Please be aware that Fosters Schoolwear Limited ceased trading earlier this month and we now have confirmation that the business has gone into voluntary liquidation. Any uniform required should therefore be purchased from Danielles Schoolwear Centre, where purchases can continue to be made instore or online.

Full details of both the uniform requirements and Danielles Schoolwear centre can be found [here](#) on the school website.

### **Music Department Updates: Forthcoming concerts**

Here is a summary for your diaries of all concert dates for the remainder of the year:

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm: Soloists' Concert (Years 10 & 12)
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm: Spring Concert (All main ensembles)
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 7pm: Evening of Song (Chamber Choir & SHSG Choir)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> July, 7pm (including a matinee on Saturday 6th): *Chicago Teen Edition* (Whole School Production)

Please note: the Summer Concert has been moved to April and is now the Spring Concert. The Baroque Concert has moved to next academic year (October/November TBC) and the Big Band and BBQ has been cancelled - it will return next year. Meanwhile, Jazz ensemble will play a set as part of the spring concert.

### **Crack the code competition**

Spring term *Crack the Code Competition* for KS4 and KS5 starts on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January. You do not need to be studying Maths to enter!

Teams comprise up to 4 students and can be mixed year groups. Entrants must be handed in, labelled with a team name and members, to the Maths Office by the Monday before the next puzzle. Lunch time access to M4 is on a Wednesday for teamwork.

### **BFI media studies trip student write up**

*On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January, Year 12 A-Level Media students had the privilege of being able to visit the BFI in London where we got to attend the annual MediaMagazine student conference. The jam-packed conference was a platform for a variety of speakers and academics reflecting on topics such as the film industry, representation in the media, the games industry and media regulation.*

*We had the opportunity to listen to UCL associate professor Clive Nwonka speak about Black British representation in the media, as well as Oscar winning documentary maker Charlie Phillips share his experiences in the world of documentary film. Other notable speakers included writer and activist Rowan Ellis explore the representation of the*

LGBTQ+ community in advertising as well as video game developers Sophie Artemegi and Shahid Ahmad touching upon how the video games industry has evolved, as well as giving valuable insight into how to make it into the business.

One of the highlights of the experience was being able to see writer and director of projects such as 'The Thick of It' and 'The Death of Stalin', Armando Iannucci, reflect upon his role in the media industry and having the opportunity to ask him about his impressive career. Upon answering the series of SHSG students enquiring about his past projects Iannucci referred to the SHSG Media students in particular as "the golden row". We were also able to get autographs and pictures with Iannucci afterwards, where Mr Escott was lucky enough to capture a selfie with him!

We also listened to two of our Media Studies theorists, Livingstone and Lunt, discuss the concept of media regulation which was very rewarding and exciting to see. One of the theorists, Livingstone, even came down to one of our own SHSG students, Michelle, to discuss further a question she asked during the conference about media censorship. In essence, it was a fulfilling and informing day for all and we would just like to thank the staff for organising such an enjoyable day!

By Sophie P



Pictured above Armando Iannucci 'in the thick of it' with SHSG students.

### PE updates

On Monday our U15 Netball squad travelled to Bromsgrove Private School in Worcestershire to play in the quarter final of the School Sports Magazine National Cup. Although they were beaten, they all worked incredibly hard to the end and did not let their heads go down. Getting to the last 8 in the country is a fantastic achievement and they should be very proud of themselves. Many of these students are playing in the U16 Regional finals at Stanborough school on Saturday, so we wish them lots of luck in this competition.



Last Sunday it was lovely to see many SHSG representatives at the Essex rugby 'pitch up and play' event at Westcliff Rugby Club. Over 150 girls from across the County attended. If anyone is interested in joining our training sessions, please come along to PE on a Friday lunchtime or speak to Mrs Buscombe if you would like details of local club provision.



### ***Year 10 Careers Opportunities from Ms Casson***

Year 10 have an exciting careers opportunity coming up that I would like to make parents aware of.

Students are currently studying how to create a CV to prepare them for an interview experience on either the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Students will apply for a job in a chosen field and will be interviewed from a list of set questions by friends of the school.

These friends will be school governors, parents, local business owners and alumni. If anyone from the community would like to volunteer to be an interviewer, please contact Ms Casson at [vcasson@shsg.org](mailto:vcasson@shsg.org). You can offer to do one or both days and we can offer lunch!

### ***Careers opportunities***

Please see the below flyer with information regarding fully funded work experience programmes.

[South East Student Flyer \(canva.com\)](#)

We have a number of events scheduled in the next few weeks that I would like to draw your attention to.

### **Applying to University in the USA: Webinar**

As outlined by Mrs Neill's letter to Year 12 parents, we are inviting any Year 12 students (and parents/carers) to join a webinar on applying to university in the USA. This is on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 6:30pm (approximately 45 minutes, including Q&A), led by [UES](#), a company specialising in providing tailored support for such applications. Given what a rigorous process this is, it may be of interest to year 11 families as well, should they wish to have a head start! The link to join the webinar is [here](#).

### **SHSB – Year 7 Disco**

Year 7 students from Southend High School Girls are invited by to attend Southend High School for Boys' disco on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February by the Parents' Association. Tickets are now available to purchase on ParentPay.

### **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](#)'. The new extra-curricular PE timetable will come into effect from Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> January and has been updated on the document.

### **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 \(shsg.org\)](http://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 \(padlet.com\)](#)

[SHSG Mental Health Board \(padlet.com\)](#)

### **Key Dates**

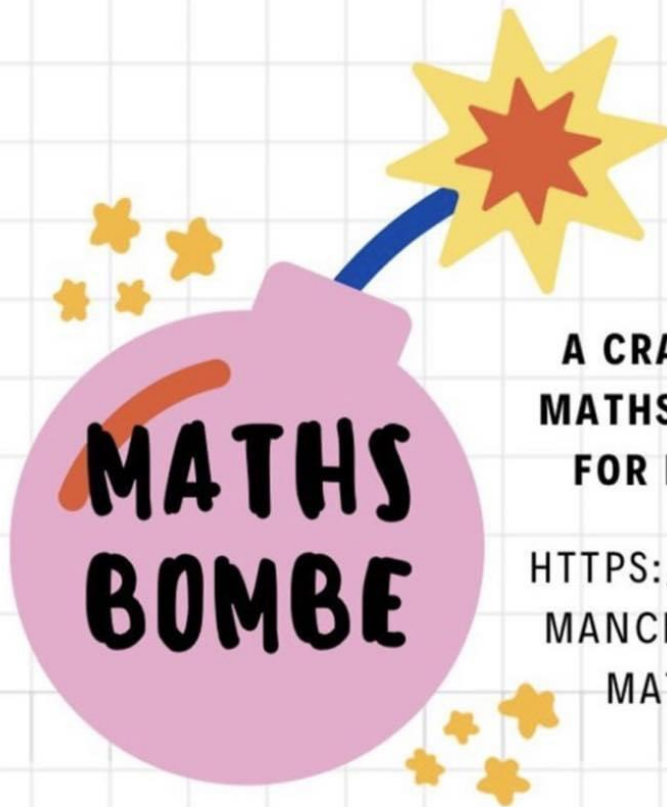
The calendar on our website is regularly updated and contains key dates of activities and events that are taking place in school. A full list can be found [here](#).

Wishing you all a restful weekend!

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey  
Headteacher



**A CRACK THE CODE  
MATHS COMPETITION  
FOR KS4 AND KS5**

[HTTPS://WWW.MATHS.  
MANCHESTER.AC.UK/  
MATHSBOMBE/](https://www.maths.manchester.ac.uk/maths-bombe/)

FORTNIGHTLY PUZZLES STARTING WEDNESDAY 24TH  
JANUARY

ALL ENTRANTS WILL GAIN ACHIEVEMENT POINTS, WITH  
BONUSES FOR THE CORRECT ANSWERS!

THERE WILL BE A PRIZE FOR THE MOST ACCOMPLISHED  
TEAM ON THE 24TH APRIL

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS COMPETITION,  
EMAIL MRS PILKINGTON AT JPILKINGTON@SHSG.ORG**

**SHSB PA**  
PRESENTS

# **YEAR SEVEN** **DISCO**

**FRIDAY 9th February 2024**

**6:00 pm - 7:30pm**

**Southend High School for Boys**

**SS0 0RG**

**Tickets = £5 each**

**Tickets for sale on WISEPAY**

**Permission forms MUST be  
completed online or you cannot stay**

**Drinks and snacks available to buy**

# SHSB PA Year 7 Disco!



## SHSB PARENTS' ASSOCIATION - YEAR 7 DISCO – FEBRUARY 2024

Year 7 are invited to a school disco on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Southend High School for Boys, SS0 0RG.

Music starts at 6:00pm and finishes at 7:30pm. Drinks and snacks will be available to buy.

Tickets cost £5 each and can be purchased on PARENTPAY until Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 9:00am.

*Please note that strobe lights may be used at this event.*

*Please do not bring your own food and do not bring large notes if possible.*

*Collection is 7:30 pm. Students cannot leave without an adult unless it is stated on the permission form.*

*Parents must ensure they can be contacted during the evening.*

*Please park responsibly.*

Thanks

Southend High School for Boys Parents Association