



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, 9th February 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Holocaust Memorial Day Service

On Sunday 28 February, four of our Year 12 students (Millie A, Alfie D, Ella F and Camilla M) spoke at the Southend Civic Centre as part of Southend Council's annual Holocaust Memorial Day service. They were excellent ambassadors for the school, offering their reflections on the fragility of freedom, and the responsibility that they feel they have as young people to preserve the memory of the Holocaust, and to continue to learn lessons from its legacy. A link to the recording of the Memorial Day Service can be found on the following link [Holocaust Memorial Day Service 2024 - YouTube](#).

Spanish Exchange

On 29 January a group of SHSG Spanish students welcomed their Spanish partners from Valladolid for the UK leg of the Spanish Exchange. On Tuesday our visitors were in lessons with their partners and then had a local history lesson led by Mr Smith and a bespoke English lesson from Mr Andrews. The Spanish students enjoyed their day in school, with some of them saying they preferred the English system, they loved their practical lessons, which they do not have on their timetable in Spain, as well as the grounds and the canteen! They then went on to visit Canterbury, London and Cambridge, throughout the rest of the week with their teachers.

Priyanka a Year 10 SHSG student who took part in the exchange wrote:

The Spanish Exchange was such an unforgettable experience. We shared a dinner with over 35 of us, explored central London, visited Buckingham Palace, enjoyed shopping and so much more. The exchange allowed me to make so many new friends, immerse myself in the language, and deepen my understanding of Spanish culture! I found myself integrating language practice into everyday interactions, forging meaningful connections. All the Spanish students were extremely friendly, and it was an experience that I genuinely will remember for the rest of my life.

Sitara commented:

It was a truly wonderful experience being a part of the Spanish exchange and meeting all the Spanish people who took part in it. Getting to learn about the cultural differences and way of life in Spain was very interesting, and their families were so kind and welcoming. I had so much fun, not only with my partner but with everyone as we made so many unforgettable memories exploring the city together. We also got to practise our Spanish, and it was quite rewarding being able to hold conversations, though it was a little challenging at times! We had the amazing opportunity to bond with them more when they came to England. Overall, the exchange programme has been one of the most enriching and best things I have done at SHSG.

Many thanks to our families who made sure that their partners had a fantastic time, many of them went back into London at the weekend, everyone went out of their way to make them feel welcome. They said an emotional farewell on Monday morning, with both Spanish and English students vowing to keep in touch with each other in the future



A big thank you from Miss Hulme and the MFL faculty, for making the exchange such a success, it was a real team effort across the whole SHSG community.



Year 12 and Year 13 Careers Lectures from University of Exeter

This week we were visited by outreach officers from our partner university, the University of Exeter. Year 12s learnt about degree apprenticeships, some of the myths and realities of these, and the benefits of a degree when you earn and learn at the same time. In the evening, our prospective medics learnt about applying to medicine, and heard about the day in the life of a medical student at Exeter. Thanks to all families who joined.

Year 13s heard about student finance and how to budget at university. There is a follow up webinar next week for parents, on Thursday 15th February from 6:30 – 7:30pm. Please see the separate letter from sixth form for details.

SHSG Piano Competition

This week, Music Captains Ewan and Julia hosted a whole school piano competition in the main hall. Students entered the competition in three classes: Grades 1-3, 4-6 and 7-8+. Guest judges Mrs Stewart, Mr James and Miss Cowper joined the panel for the first round and selected two performers from each class to go through to the final. We were thrilled by the range of styles, high level of performances and support from the audience. The final saw competitors play a contrasting piece with exceptional levels of musicianship and technique. The winners were: Gia M, Matilda B and Sarah O. Well done to all the students who entered this event. Prizes will be presented in assemblies next week.

Careers information

As part of our half termly Careers talks and to celebrate National Apprenticeship Week, we were delighted to welcome alumni Bonnie Grieve to speak to students in Years 10-13 on Monday.

Bonnie left SHSG in 2019 after studying A levels in Media Studies, Spanish and English Language and Literature. Bonnie started on the Level 6 Business Management Degree Apprenticeship at the BBC and is now a Marketing Executive for BBC TV Channels working on Marketing Campaigns such as; The Traitors, Planet Earth III and The Apprentice. During her Apprenticeship Bonnie completed various placements in Audience Research for TV, TV Business Systems, BBC Global News, Radio 1 Marketing and Live Events. She also gained a Degree in Business Management and a Chartered Management qualification. Bonnie gave a clear outline of the different kinds of apprenticeships that the BBC offer.

I have included the QR link for a BBC Apprenticeship Workshop that is taking place on 26 February.



- Journalist Researcher
- Journalist
- Journalist Welsh Language



- Production
- Production Coordinator
- Production Management



Key Business Areas



- Accountancy
- Business Administration
- Business Analyst
- Chartered Management
- HR Support
- Marketing Executive
- Project Management
- Solicitor



- Broadcast Engineer
- Cyber Security
- Data Analyst
- Data Research Scientist
- Data Scientist
- Digital Learning Designer
- Software Engineer
- Technical Operator
- User Experience Designer

BBC GET IN!

Macmillan Cancer Support – Tub2Pub

Thank you to everyone in the school community who brought in their empty and clean plastic tubs as part of the Tubs to Pub recycling collection. We delivered them to our local pub, The Walnut tree - which is part of the Greene King chain, who is running this promotion. They were impressed by the sheer amount that students had collected! All tubs are being taken to a plastic reprocessing centre where they will be shredded, before being sold onto plastic manufacturers to use in place of virgin plastics. All money raised from the sale of Tub2Pub plastics will be given directly to Macmillan Cancer Support. Students that collected more than three tubs have been given achievement points to contribute towards their House totals. Thank you to Mrs Spilstead for organising this!

Children's Mental Health Week

This week was Children's Mental Health week and among other wellbeing activities, students were able to purchase a yellow ribbon to support a mental health charity. We are proud to report that £41 was collected and will be donated to place2be, a charity who works on improving children's mental health.

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://www.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 \(padlet.com\)](#)

Bronze Arts Award

Well done to Simriti and Ashlyn who are currently doing their Bronze Arts Award and created these clay pieces having researched Picasso. Thank you to Mrs Back for all your help with ceramics!



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](#).

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".

Jason Carey
Headteacher

BBC Apprenticeship workshop 16th

Feb 24

