



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, 1st March 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Year 9 Immunisations Tuesday 5th March

Year 9 will have immunisations on Tuesday 5th March. If students do not have a short-sleeved blouse to wear, they can wear their PE T shirt instead of their school shirt with the rest of their usual school uniform.

Year 10 Walking Talking Mocks (WTMs) Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th March

Year 10 students will be taking part in WTMs in English and maths next week as part of their preparation for their PPEs (pre public examinations) later this term. WTMs provide an invaluable opportunity for the year group to have the English and maths GCSE examinations modelled to them by subject experts in real time and then have a go themselves. This will help the students with their examination technique, particularly time management. Please note that these are a non-assessed learning experience and, therefore, there will not be a data report from these.

Year 10 PPEs (pre public examinations) Friday 15th March – Thursday 28th March

Year 10 received their PPE examination timetable this week along with a range of supporting information including a revision guide, equipment list and personalised learning check lists for all their subjects. This was further supported by an assembly on Friday 1st March by Mrs. Bowman, Ms. Riebold and Mr. Morgan. A copy of the timetable is available on the website '[here](#)' and also attached to parental communication sent home earlier this week.

Year 9 Parents' Evening – Thursday 7th March

A reminder that the Year 9 Parents' Evening will be taking place virtually on Thursday 7th March. Parents have until Wednesday 6th March at 6pm to make appointments. If the system appears to crash and inform you that no other appointment slots are available for subjects, please switch from automatic appointment booking to manual booking as this will then allow you to see the availability of remaining appointments for a specific teacher.

Year 11 and 13 Full reports – Friday 1st March

Full reports including PPE results and final predicted grades will be published today and available on the SIMs Parent app.

Show my Homework

It has been brought to our attention that there is a bug in the most recent release of the Show My Homework App for Android. The bug gives the impression to users that they are able to add achievement and behaviour points to their own account. We have spoken with Show My Homework and they have confirmed that although it might look like they have the ability to create points they do not save and therefore are not recorded for the student. Show My Homework have submitted a bug fix to Google and are awaiting approval of the update.



Year 10 Ski Trip

65 Year 10s, and a team of staff enjoyed a week skiing in Kitzbühel, Austria during half term. The trip was a great success, although Mr Morgan did tumble down the slopes and returned home with a dislocated collarbone!

The trip began with a 26 hour coach drive from school to the hotel in Kitzbühel. However, everybody seemed to enjoy the coach journey with card games, playing mafia, and watching many downloaded films on iPads. Each day started with a hearty Austrian breakfast at 7:15AM, and then we were off on the slopes by 9AM. The Year 10s and teachers formed six skiing groups with instructors in each group guiding and supporting us until 3:30PM every day. All the groups made great progress and were soon bombing down blue and red runs. Group 6 were already tackling black runs on the first day! The students' grit and resilience on the slopes were particularly noteworthy. No matter what the weather, sunshine, snow, blizzard, nobody complained. And, no matter how many times they fell over or their skis came off, they always got back up and took on the challenge of the mountain. At the end of a day skiing, we enjoyed activities in the evening, including bowling, iceskating, karaoke, swimming, and some shopping trips to the beautiful town centre of Kitzbühel.

Thank you to all the staff who gave up their half term and also to all the Year 10s, who were an absolute credit to SHSG and were wonderful company during the trip.

More photographs from this trip will be uploaded to the gallery on the website shortly.



Art trip to Amsterdam

Over the first weekend of the half term break our A level Art students had the opportunity to go to the Cultural city of Amsterdam. They visited the exceptional Vincent Van Gogh museum, the world famous Rijksmuseum where they saw exquisite paintings by The Dutch Masters, the Stedelijk Museum which houses an extensive array of modern Art, and the exciting Moco museum.

The students were encouraged to draw, take photos and collect postcards while in the galleries as well as enjoying and recording in their sketchbooks on the scenic walks along the beautiful and iconic canals.

As always, the students were exemplary ambassadors for Southend High School for Girls.



Economics and Business trip to Amsterdam

An enormous thank you to the staff who took our Year 12 and 13 economics and business students away to Amsterdam over the half term holiday. A packed trip which included Rotterdam Harbour, by 'Spido' glass boat, Coster diamond factory, and a moving visit to the Anne Frank House with a thought-provoking pre-tour talk. We had time to visit the historical part of the city and it was good to escape the confines of the classroom, hopping on and off trams, to experience the city first-hand. The students coped admirably with the 4.00am start and the wet weather on day one! Lots of interesting food experiences and we thoroughly recommend Foodhallen Amsterdam in the converted Tram Remise as a trendy, fun venue to experience Amsterdam's culinary delights. A great trip made special by this group of students who were good company and a credit to SHSG.

Year 7 Waterstones Trips

This week all Year 7 Tutor Groups, their Form Tutors and Middle School and Sixth Form students visited Waterstones bookshop in Southend city centre as part of whole school celebrations for World Book Day. On the visits, Year 7 pupils chose a book each which is paid for by the school. At the end of the academic year pupils donate their books to the school library. To help them make their selections, pupils were accompanied on the visits by the Year 10 Reading Mentors and members of the Head Student Team, including Chiara in Year 12, who helps lead on the school's reading strategy as part of her leadership responsibilities. Year 10 Reading Mentor Mayar said: *"It was a wonderful experience. We really enjoyed helping the Year 7 pupils choose their books and encouraging them to be lifelong readers"*.



Year 12 Work Experience

We are pleased to be able to offer Year 12 students the opportunity to take part in a Work Experience Placement this academic year. I am writing to enquire if you are an employer who would be in a position to host a Year 12 student for a Work Experience Placement for all or part of the week beginning Monday 24th June 2024.

What is the purpose of work experience for the student?

Work experience provides students with the opportunity to trial potential career paths or work with specific employers, while developing their skills, knowledge, and confidence in an adult working environment. It is hoped that through having had work experience, students will be better placed to make decisions about their post-18 pathways and what they would like to do after their time in education.

What is the benefit of hosting a student for the employer?

As an employer, you would be able to give support, guidance, and insight about how your business or industry functions and impart the passion you have for the work you do to our students. This could lead to our students becoming future interns or even employees.

Our students are talented and capable individuals who could be given the opportunity to support your business in a particular area of need, or even be given a small and exciting project to investigate and report on, utilising the unique skill set of our young adults of the 21st Century.

How can my company host a Year 12 student for a Work Experience placement?

If your company would be able to host a Year 12 student, I would be grateful if you could complete the online form through the link below by **Friday 26th April 2024**. These details will then be shared with Year 12 students, so they are able to contact you. Employer details will only be shared with students in Year 12 this academic year, not in subsequent years.

<https://forms.office.com/e/QuVi4dv7tW>

How is the placement organised?

Year 12 students will contact you in the first instance to enquire if you would be able to host them. Following this, students use our online Unifrog platform to make the arrangements, which consists of four forms that students, employers, the school and parents complete. As employers, you will provide more details about the placement including confirming your risk assessment, health and safety, data protection and insurance details.

More details can be found here [Unifrog Placements tool: FAQs : Unifrog Blog](#)

Thank you in advance for any support you are able to offer our Year 12 students.

Charity Week Friday 8th – Thursday 14th March

SHSG Charity Week is fast approaching! This week of events, organised and led by the Sixth Form House Captains, aims to raise money for charitable causes. This year, we will be donating to a number of charities including local organisations. The first charity is Little Havens, who provide specialist care and support for babies, children and young people living with complex or incurable conditions, from Essex and the surrounding boroughs. Our second charity is HARP, Southend's leading homelessness charity. They provide housing, advice and support to over 1,000 people each year who either are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of losing their home. Lastly, we are supporting Comic Relief, who help people in need all around the world and the United Kingdom.

Tickets for the events in the hall (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes) will be available to be purchased via ParentPay from Monday 4th March at a cost of £2 per event. Students in receipt of the 16-19 Bursary or eligible for Pupil Premium funding should visit the school bank in the week beginning Monday 4th March where they can book a place for these ParentPay events.

For the bake sale, sponge the teacher event and the non-uniform day, these events will not be advertised on ParentPay and therefore pupils will need to bring a small amount of money into school. The House Captains will be collecting payment for non-uniform day during registration time on Friday 8th March. All events are taking place at lunchtime and the full programme can be found below.

CHARITY WEEK PROGRAMME OF EVENTS



SHSG HOUSE CAPTAINS
PRESENT SHSG CHARITY
WEEK!

Friday 8 th March	Monday 11 th March	Tuesday 12 th March	Wednesday 13 th March	Thursday 14 th March
Comic Relief Bake Sale (Art/Tech block) Pay at event Non-Uniform Day (bring £2 in)	Sponge the Teacher (Outside PE dept) £1 for 3 sponges Pay at event	Spill/Fill your Guts Challenge (Hall) (Tickets £2 on ParentPay)	Family Feud (Hall) (Tickets £2 on ParentPay)	Talent Show (Hall) (Tickets £2 on ParentPay)



- Tickets for **Spill/Fill your Guts, Family Feud and Talent Show** on **ParentPay** from Monday 4th March. £2 per event
- **Non Uniform Day Friday 8th March** – wear **RED** for Comic Relief – bring £2 into school House Captains will collect during reg time



- **Comic relief Bake Sale Friday 8th March** Lunchtime Art/Tech block – you will need to bring money into school for this

Charity week is always met with great enthusiasm from our pupils, and we are very much looking forward to a fun-packed week full of community spirit raising money for these worthwhile causes.

Non-Uniform Day Friday 8th March

As mentioned above, there will be a whole school non-uniform day on Friday 8th March in aid of Comic Relief. Students should wear something **red** and should bring £2 into school on Friday if they wish to participate.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be taking place at lunchtime in the school foyer on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th March. Books can be paid for in cash on the day or in advance using the Scholastic website (please find the QR code attached to the end of this letter). World Book Day vouchers, that students will have received from their tutors can also be used as part payment for any books over £2.99.

It would be wonderful if as many students visit and buy from the bookfair as possible, as we are then able to buy new books for the school library with the money raised.

Clean Air Project

This term, the school is taking part in a clean air project which is funded through Southend City Council and will inform us about our air-quality in and around the school as well as involve students and staff in improvements. More information on this will follow for those who are interested, but in the first instance please could all parents and carers take part in a 5-minute travel survey '[here](#)'. The survey is anonymous and does not collect any personal data.

If you have any other questions about this project then please do not hesitate to contact our PSHE Co-ordinator, Ruth Marx via email at pshe@shsg.org.

Year 12 & Year 13 Open House Schedule

Open houses are an excellent opportunity for your child to review subject knowledge and skills outside of lessons for the approaching Year 12 PPE and Year 13 A Level exams. There are numerous lunchtime interventions led by subject teachers available as part of our ongoing support for Sixth Form students. Additionally, departments have prepared individual meetings that students can arrange with their subject teachers. Please refer to the Year 12 & Year 13 Open House poster at the end of this letter for further details.

BBC Workshop

It is always great to hear from ex-students and we were very happy to welcome alumni Bonnie Grieve who gave a fascinating talk last week as part of our National Apprenticeship Week celebrations to all students in Years 10-13. Many of our students wanted to learn more so they were given the opportunity to meet Bonnie in person. In a lunchtime workshop, Bonnie went into more detail about her experience and the application process. Students were given the opportunity to ask questions and Bonnie was able to allay their concerns about aspects such as;

- missing out on the social life of university- there is a lot of networking and fun between all the apprenticeships, what could be more fun than working backstage at The Big Weekend?
- how to juggle studying and working- Bonnie was given plenty of time and support from her managers to study and what better information than learning on the job?
- what happens after the apprenticeship ends? -Bonnie is now a fully-fledged 'marketing executive' at the BBC.

Bonnie has very kindly agreed to support SHSG students if they wish to apply for the scheme. Students can get in contact via Ms Casson.

Careers information

PwC is delighted to announce that their national Virtual Insight Programme is now open for applications.

For Year 11 and 12 (Year 12 and 13 in Northern Ireland, S4 and S5 in Scotland) students across the UK, applications are now open for PwC's Virtual Insight Programme. You'll have the chance to learn about PwC's different business areas, their culture and ways you can join PwC through interactive sessions over 3 days. You'll receive guidance and top tips on the application process and support building your skill set to prepare you for the workplace. Apply [here](#). The deadline for applications is **Friday 8 March 2024**.

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 \(padlet.com\)](#)

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 a restful weekend!

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey
Headteacher

SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

COME TO THE BOOK FAIR

in the Foyer on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th March 2024

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YOU CHOOSE

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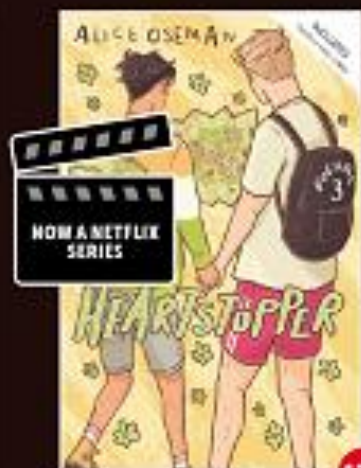
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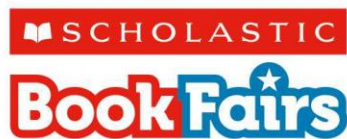
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- By using pre-paid gift vouchers, which are available in £5, £10, £15, £20 and £25. Go to www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers to buy vouchers for your child before the Fair on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th March.
- Your child can order books via a Wish List – available in advance from the school library or on the Book Fair days from the Foyer. Simply browse the books at the Book Fair make a note of them on the Wish List, pay for them online at home and collect from school.



SUBJECT	TIME	DAY	WEEK	ROOM	ENTRY	YEAR
Biology	12:30	Wednesday	A & B	Bio4	Open	Y12 & Y13
Business Studies	12:30	Friday	A & B	MH6	Open	Y12 & Y13
Chemistry	12:30	Tuesday	A & B	CH3	Open	ALL YEARS
		Thursday				Y12 & Y13
		Friday				Y13 only
Classics	12:30	Thursday	A & B	Classics	Invitation only/ available upon request	Y13 only
Computer Science	12:30	Thursday	A & B	IT1	Open	Y12 & Y13
Economics	12:30	Monday	A & B	MH6	Open	Y13 only
		Friday	A & B	MH6	Open	Y12 only
English Language					1-2-1s available upon request	Y12 & Y13
English Literature					1-2-1s available upon request	Y12 & Y13
Geography	12:30	Friday	Week B	B3	Invitation only	Y12 & Y13
Government & Politics	12:30	Tuesday	A & B	MH6	Open/1-2-1 available upon request	Y12 & Y13
History					1-2-1s available upon request	Y12 & Y13
Languages					1-2-1s available upon request	Y12 & Y13
Maths	12:30	Thursday	A & B	M4	Open/1-2-1 available upon request	Y12 & Y13
Media Studies	12:30	Monday	Week B	Media Studio	Open	Y12 & Y13
PE	12:30	Tuesday	A & B	PE Classroom	Open	Y12 & Y13
Physics					1-2-1s available upon request	Y12 & Y13
Psychology	12:30	Tuesday	Week A	MH14	Open	Y12 & Y13
Sociology	12:40 - 13:15	Friday	A & B	MH12	Open	Y12 & Y13
The A Level Mindset	12:50 - 12:20	Friday	A & B	MH8	Open/1-2-1 available upon request	Y12 & Y13

NOTES:

- "Open" means you can walk in without previous notice.
- "Invitation only" refers to an Open House that students can attend if their subject teacher has recommended it or if they have made a request to attend in advance.
For further information, please contact your subject teacher..
- "1-2-1s available" means you are welcome to arrange a personal consultation. To obtain additional details, kindly contact your subject teacher.