



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 April 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Welcome – new Chemistry teacher

I am pleased to welcome to Mr Clarkson-Hull to SHSG as our new Chemistry teacher.

Year 8 trip to St Omer

This week, Mr Smith and a team of staff took Year 8 on a trip to St Omer in France. Students had the opportunity to enjoy a picnic in the park, plenty of sight-seeing and, of course, shopping! Students even had free access to a fabulous historical account of the town – courtesy of Mr Smith himself!

As always, our Year 8s exhibited exemplary behaviour – so much so that the French Border control personally thanked staff for students' politeness and maturity! Well done Year 8!



Use of changing rooms during PPEs

As Year 12 students are taking their PPEs from Monday 22nd April, students in other year groups will have no access to the changing rooms, the sports hall, and the fitness suite. On the days that students have a PE lesson or an extra-curricular club, they should attend school in their PE kit. At the start of lessons (or clubs) students should go to the gym, where they will be registered and taken to their learning area. Students will be outside in all weather and should dress accordingly. There will also be changes to the extracurricular timetable, which will be communicated through MS Teams pages.

Form tutors will have the PE lesson timetable and clubs' timetable and will therefore know when their students should be in PE kits. The Year 12 exams will be followed immediately by the external examination period, so please continue with these arrangements until we inform you to revert to normal.

Should your child have any questions, please ask them to see a member of the PE department.



Spring Concert

On Wednesday evening, the music department hosted its spring concert, which showcased the whole array of SHSG ensembles, featuring performances by students from every year group. Highlights included the Cuban-inspired *Danzon No.2* for orchestra, Schubert's *Ave Maria* performed by Chamber Choir, the *Schindler's List* theme was played sensitively by Highly Strung, and Guitar Ensemble's powerful rendition of The Cranberries' 1990s grunge protest song, *Zombie*, was popular. There were some stand-out solo performances too: Ayo gave a beautiful, expressive rendition of *Aria* from Suite Antique on flute, Head Prefect Francesca manifested Elbow's Guy Garvey in *One Day Like This*, and former music captain Angela reinvented James' Brown's hit *I Got You (I Feel Good)* with the Jazz Ensemble. The students have dedicated many lunchtime rehearsals to this programme, and we thank all those made this happen through their musical talent and commitment. Thank you to all supported and attended the evening.

Evening of Song

Our next concert of the year is just two weeks away: the Evening of Song on **Friday 3rd May at 7pm**. If you've not attended this event in previous years, it is a celebration of the choral singing at SHSG, including all our choirs: Chamber Choir, SHSG Choir and Novem Consort, with Year 13 soloists too. It would be wonderful to have a full and bubbly audience for this event - friends, family and staff are all welcome. You can purchase a ticket via ParentPay. It promises to be a relaxed and special evening.

House Music Competition

This week, during lunchtime, students competed in the annual House Music competition in the main hall. We heard performances on piano, classical guitar, violin, drum kit and vocals. The event was hosted by our music captains who commended the high standard of performances, with particularly strong competition from Artemis, and we enjoyed the lively support from the student and staff audience in the Hera and Hermes' heat on Thursday. The final will be held this Monday 22nd April where the winner will be awarded the House Music trophy. This year's finalists are: Gia (Aphrodite), Isabella (Athene), Lily (Artemis), Ariana (Aurora), Sharon (Hermes), and reigning champion Freya (Hera). Good luck to the finalists and thank you to all who have taken part and supported this event.

Art Department: Trinity Champion Centre

The Art Department are delighted to announce that the school has been selected as a Trinity Champion Centre for Arts Award in celebration of the work we do with our students. Below is an image of some of the work our students have produced.

Here at SHSG we offer the opportunity to do Arts Awards at all three levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold. We have been recognised for the quality of the creative work produced, the diversity of the projects and the fact that we enter such a large amount of successful applicants. The Art Department are now looking forward to working with Trinity who are the examination board for Arts Award as part of our new role as Trinity Champions.

Year 10 mock interview experience

Year 10 have been working hard all year developing their career skills. Under supervision from their form tutors and Lifeskills teachers, students were taught how to write CVs and they now all have a well-supported document that they can use to apply for part time jobs or independent work experience during the summer holiday.

The next stage consisted of how to research different employment area skills and requirements. They were able to watch videos that explained the different aspects required to pursue careers in diverse fields such as Law, Banking and Finance, Health and Medicine, Engineering and Media and Communication. Students were then invited to write a covering letter to apply for a job in their chosen field.

The culmination of this learning has been a 'mock interview'. We invited governors, old girls, friends, and supporters of SHSG including the aspiration charity Make Happen <https://www.makehappen.org> to come in across two days where each student was matched with a bespoke interviewer.

To make the experience as authentic as possible, students were encouraged to dress in smart clothes and were given the opportunity to practise their handshakes and other important social skills such as making eye contact beforehand. The interviewers were really impressed by the calibre of the students' performances. Feedback included:

"excellent CV, wide range of skills and experience, excellent communication skills"

"the girls are a credit to you"

"infectious positivity- no pauses. lots of examples- keep that up, really strong- well done! "

"Passionate and engaging- the candidate I would employ today!"

"clear and concise, very engaging and great at explaining her rationale, she will go far!"

"fantastic ambassadors for your school"

Well done to Year 10 for excelling and once again making us very proud of them. We would like to express our thanks to the governors, friends of the school and parents who kindly gave up their time to interview our students. We could not have done it without them.



Careers opportunities

There are lots of free, exciting virtual work experience opportunities available on the following link [South East Student Flyer \(canva.com\)](#)

In particular, please note the opportunity below.

Ordnance Survey - Geospatial VWEX for ages 14-19, UK-wide

Duration: 4 days

Industry: Government/Civil Service

Application deadline: 27/05/2024

Dates: 24/06/2024 - 27/06/2024

Timings: 10:00 - 15:00

Type: Virtual work experience

Students will learn and experience careers and beyond with Ordnance Survey, from data capture through to maps in apps. Each day will include talks, interactive tasks and opportunities for students to learn from the experts. On the final day, students will be given practical advice on how to prepare for a career in this sector, and the pathways to these careers. This is the perfect enrichment opportunity for GCSE or A-Level Geography students!

Students aged 14-19 can apply directly through the experience portal here [results | Speakers for Schools](#)

Mental Health & Wellbeing at SHSG

In SHSG, we often talk about how to look after our health in lessons and in tutor time. We have recently explored the field of Positive Psychology and we found out that research has shown that being kind, generous with our time, spending time and money on experiences rather than material things are strong predictors of our future wellbeing. However, we also acknowledge that life can get pretty tough sometimes.

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 \(padlet.com\)](#)

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