



# 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> April 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

## **Year 11 Study Leave**

Please note that further details regarding arrangements for Year 11 Study Leave will be sent today, followed up with an assembly by Mr. Morgan, Head of Year 11 on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April. There is Microsoft form that parents will be required to complete by Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May, please.

## **Year 10 German Munich Trip**

Year 10 students have had their first taste of life in Germany this week. They were amazed that they could be in Munich, the capital of Bavaria, after just a 1.5hrs flight!

Drawing on their pre-trip research the students wasted no time immersing themselves in the history and iconic architecture of the 1972 Olympic Park. Ascending the Olympic Tower gave the students their first panoramic view of Munich. A short walk from the Olympic Park took them to BMW World, where they experienced first-hand the engineering and innovation that powers the German economy.

On the second day, students negotiated the Munich public transport system to explore the centre of Munich, taking in the ancient cathedral on the way to the neo-gothic Town Hall. They marvelled in the world-famous Glockenspiel clock chimes before exploring the Viktualienmarkt (farmers market) to sample the traditional delicacies of the region for lunch. This gave them a superb opportunity to practise their German speaking skills in a variety of contexts.



Using their knowledge of German, the students were able to understand the history of the Residence by reading the information boards within the museum. They were awestruck by the intricate baroque and rococo frescos. The second day was rounded off with a trip to a German supermarket. This again was an excellent opportunity for the students to practise their GCSE vocabulary.

The next day involved a coach journey into the Alps to the fairytale castle of Neuschwanstein which was made even more enchanting by the covering of snow that had fallen in the night. After a walk around an alpine lake, the eccentricities of King Ludwig were showcased on the castle tour. The tour finished with staff serving the students hot chocolate before they embarked on the steep descent back down the mountainside to the coach. On the final full day, students completed an audio tour of Nymphenburg, one of the King's Summer Residences, and after a pause for lunch, they marvelled at the old masters at the Alte Pinakothek Art Gallery.

The students have been exceptional ambassadors for the school and the staff have been deeply impressed with their willingness to use their language skills whilst in Germany. I am sure that many will be looking forward to returning to Germany in the future as A level students.

### ***Parental questionnaire responses***

Thank you for completing the parent questionnaire during the Easter holidays. We had responses from all year groups and are pleased to hear that you would recommend SHSG. Over 90% - 95% of parents stated that their child is happy at school, feels safe and that pupils are well behaved, and bullying gets dealt with quickly and effectively. Equally, parents feel that we have high expectations for pupils and that their child does well at SHSG (94%). Personal development and character-building experiences were rated very positively regarding trips, clubs and leadership opportunities; this also includes careers. In addition, the majority of parents with children with SEND report that the school gives them the support they need. Thank you to Miss Ford our SENDCO for her excellent work since joining SHSG in January.

Areas identified for further development or consideration include some parents requesting in-person parents' evenings, greater emphasis placed on rewards (i.e. giving more rewards points on Satchel One), and end of year reports indicating how the pupil has performed compared to the rest of the cohort. This is very helpful feedback and has helped us to begin to shape some of our priorities. I have included some of the free text comments at the end of this letter.

### ***House Music Competition***

The final of the House Music Competition took place on Monday lunchtime. The six finalists gave performances on piano, classical guitar, and voice with some impressive musicianship and technical control on display. Highlights including a sprightly Jazz etude performed by Year 7 pianist Lily, an evocative Romantic piano work performed by Evie, and strong vocal performances by Sharon and last year's winner Freya. Mrs Leman joined the panel as honorary guest judge, and after careful deliberation, Isabella (8 Aphrodite) was declared the winner. Well done to Isabella - who couldn't quite believe it - the judges enjoyed the intricate and sensitive classical guitar performance you gave. Aphrodite will receive house points and the House Music Cup has been decorated with white ribbons. Thank you to all who took part in and supported this event.





### **Year 9 GCSE Options**

Year 9 students have received a letter confirming their GCSE subject choices this week. Students will have an opportunity to review these subject choices next half term.

### **Year 8 student success**

Earlier this year Matilda B and Jemima N in Year 8 were selected to represent their county in the U13 girls squad of their chosen sport of hockey. Just 22 girls were chosen for Essex which makes this quite an impressive achievement.

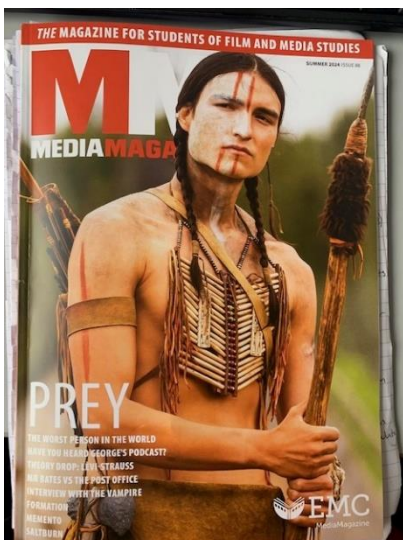
After six further training sessions and a warm up tournament, both students were selected for the 10 girl cup team in the four county Eastern Region Finals tournament in which both girls scored. The standard of hockey in the tournament was noted to be of the highest standard by the Eastern Region Technical Director. Well done to Matilda and Jemima!



### **Media Magazine**

In January Year 12 Media Studies students attended the Media Magazine student conference held at the BFI in London. Over 400 students attended and were invited to submit an account of the day. For the second year running an SHSG student's work, Media Captain Sophie P's article was chosen for publication in the prestigious national Media Magazine. Sophie's four-page article encapsulated the wide variety of speakers involved and the depth and academic rigour of their respective talks.

Sophie impressed the organisers so much that she has been offered work experience in the London office of the English and Media Centre. Well done Sophie! We look forward to hearing about your work experience!



### ***Cheese tasting lesson***

As part of getting our students beyond the curriculum and beyond the classroom, Year 12 French students took part in a cheese tasting lesson to be able to talk about their cultural topic from experience rather than just from what they have read in their textbooks. The students put their taste buds to the test and tried a variety of cheeses and enjoyed most.

### ***Careers information***

Ms Casson would like to share the below free educational programmes to support students thinking about applying to medical and dental schools. These are suitable for Years 10-12.

These conferences are led by expert Chief Mentors who specialise in medical and dental UCAS applications, providing comprehensive guidance on choosing the correct university, how to write the personal statements, UCAT exam preparation, extracurricular activities, scholarships and more.

For aspiring Dentists: FREE LIVE VIRTUAL Get Into Dentistry conference date:

Saturday 18th May from 9:30am - 3:30pm

<https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9Iwk6/shrBuiR7SBAC19kE>

For aspiring Doctors: FREE LIVE VIRTUAL Get Into Medicine conference dates:

Saturday 27th April from 9:30am - 3:30pm

Sunday 28th April from 9:30am - 3:30pm

<https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9Iwk6/shry7MZYtt3MGPjvO>

All aspiring doctors and dentists in Years 10-12 are invited to register. These conferences offer tailored advice for medicine and dentistry, covering a range of crucial topics:

- Tactically choosing universities
- Personal statements
- UCAT
- Medical & Dental school interview skills
- Medical Leadership Programmes
- Awards Programmes
- Extracurricular activities
- Work experience
- Building a CV
- Applying for scholarships

Many students have found that attending these free conferences was a pivotal experience, where everything came together to help them succeed as described by them here: <https://medicmentor.org/successful-student-journeys-reviews/>. Please note that parental attendance is required for safeguarding reasons and to ensure parents are also supported throughout the application process.

Students and parents can register for free at this link:

Medicine: <https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9Iwk6/shry7MZYtt3MGPjvO>

Dentistry: <https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9Iwk6/shrBuiR7SBAC19kE>

### ***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](#).

### **Some of the parents' comments – thank you!**

- Relaxed, safe environment that empowers the pupils to flourish.
- My daughter's plan is to stay on for her A levels at SHSG as she knows she will be well cared for and supported academically for the next two years.
- Exceptional range of enrichment opportunities. Extremely grateful to the staff who support these trips and opportunities.
- Nurturing supportive school where the girls feel happy.
- With excellent and supportive teachers, SHSG has been a wonderful school for my child.
- The high expectations are great. School is organised, and there is clarity about plans and procedures. Classics teaching is very much enjoyed.
- I am very happy with SHSG. I especially like that it is supportive and does not place undue pressure on students. The pastoral support is excellent and the range of sports clubs and PE department are great.
- This is a fantastic school.
- The commitment of teachers is outstanding. We could not recommend this school more highly.
- My daughter is excelling at SHSG. She is always challenged and given opportunities to push herself out of her comfort zone.
- I love the 6th form maths angel idea. This is having a positive impact on my daughter's confidence and understanding.
- This is a lovely school. I am very happy with my child's progress so far.
- My child loves activities clubs
- My child is happy here. Enjoys going to school and the sporting opportunities on offer.
- The excellent teaching results in great academic achievement.
- The communication with parents is outstanding, as is the respect for parents. As a grammar school it is my opinion that you have the correct balance of academic achievement and pupil welfare
- Pastoral Support. All round care for well being. Lot of clubs and activities available Ambitious expectations
- Your front of house team is excellent...they are friendly, helpful, interested, smiling and supportive. They provide a great service. Thank you!

Have a lovely weekend!

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey  
Headteacher