



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, 8th May 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Year 11 End of KS4 Celebrations

On Wednesday of this week, we enjoyed a morning of celebrations for our wonderful Year 11 students as they embark on study leave for their GCSEs. The day was marked by the usual tradition of decorating their blazers and having their photos taken in front of the school sign; this year feather adorned blazers proved to be very popular! This was followed by breakfast in the Sixth Form café, 'Scholars' and an extended assembly. For the first time, during the extended Year 11 assembly, there was a 'flash mob' organised by the Middle School Head Prefect and the prefect team to the song 'Shut up and Dance' by Walk the Moon. The usual awards, speeches and presentations ensued with a wonderfully creative array of form videos that Year 11 made featuring many guest appearances from staff; this was topped off by two staff movie trailers from SLT and the KS4 team. The students then tucked into pizzas and sang a rousing rendition of the school hymn *Jerusalem* before we sent them off to start study leave. The whole morning was a joyous occasion; students were a real credit to themselves and to the school. We now wish them all the best of luck for their GCSEs, three of which they have already had this week and we look forward to celebrating with them and you on results day in the summer.



Year 13 End of Key Stage Celebrations

On Thursday this week, we said goodbye and good luck to our phenomenal Year 13 cohort of students. In usual SHSG tradition, students wore fancy dress to school. The costumes were exceptional, ranging from characters from Winnie the Pooh, Scooby Doo, Toy Story and Monster Inc. We also had President Biden and a flock of inflatable chickens join us!

Students were treated to a breakfast in Scholars and activities with their form tutor, followed by speeches from Mr Carey, Miss Riebold, Mr O'Brien and Carissa B (outgoing Head Student). Students had also made some wonderful recordings looking back over their time in Sixth Form. Thank you to all the parents / carers who provided pictures of their children on their first day of school. We enjoyed seeing how much our young people have grown up over the last 7 years!



We now wish Year 13 the absolute best of luck to each and every student in their A Level examinations.



Create Week

Please find attached a flyer for Create Week at the end of this letter. We are looking forward to a whole week of creative activities organised by the Design and Technology faculty next week. Photographs and reports from students to follow in next week's letter.



SHSG Ski Success

Congratulations to the SHSG Ski Team who were awarded silver medals for placing 2nd in their category at the ERSA Schools Ski Race in Norfolk.

All three skiers performed very well against some tough competition from schools across the East of England. Well done to Dolcie B (yr7), Willow W (yr8), and Ana D (yr9)!



Year 10 Careers - Vocational Qualifications

Today we welcomed a speaker from South Essex College to address Year 10s about alternatives to A Levels, including where to study for a range of T levels and apprenticeships. This is part of our Year 10 careers curriculum, where students look at a range of post-16 options, in addition to A Levels. Any parents that are interested in learning more about vocational options after Year 11 can find out more about South Essex College [here](#).

Year 12 Oxbridge Success!

We are delighted that so many Year 12 students have been successful in gaining places on a variety of prestigious residentials, including Camilla A (Sutton Trust residential at the University of Cambridge to study classics), Zahra C-M (Target Oxbridge residential at the University of Cambridge), Alejandra H (a week's placement at the UK's national synchrotron in Oxford), Charley A (John Locke Institute residential in Oxford to study Psychology and Law), and Sarah A (Sutton Trust Online Scholars programme). The deadline is also approaching for the [Exeter University Scholars Programme](#); please encourage your children to consider this fully funded residential if they are eligible.

Online Safety Announcement

Please find attached an announcement from the National Crime Agency regarding Online Safety and the rise in financially motivated sexual extortion of young people. I have also included a factsheet that includes useful advice about how to have open conversations with young people around issues such as this.

New Pastoral Support Officer

I would like to announce that Mrs Enderby has joined our team of Pastoral Support Officers. She will be covering Years 7 and 8 and was introduced to both year groups in their assemblies this week.

Attendance Award for Southend High School for Girls

Southend High School for Girls has received an award from the Fisher Family Trust for having attendance in the top 10% of schools in the country. With our current attendance level at 95.3%, we recognise that good attendance is a vital component for a successful education. Each day of absence represents a host of missed valuable learning

opportunities and these accumulate over time. Well done to our students and their families for their hard work and commitment to making attendance a priority. We also acknowledge that there are times when there are barriers to good attendance and, again, I would like to thank our students and families for their work to overcome these barriers.

Congratulations to Michelle!

Congratulations to Michelle on signing her first professional contract with Arsenal last week! We look forward to seeing you with a Champions League medal soon!



Student success

Congratulations to Skye and Jasmine who will be representing Great Britain at this summer's European Junior Championships.



Student success



Media Studies A level student Victoria has been accepted on this prestigious paid internship opportunity:

'Work experience with global firms for aspiring school leavers'

Entering its tenth year, **Big City Bright Future** is an annual three-week paid work experience programme created especially to help school leavers who aspire to work within competitive industries. This year **Into University** is partnering with 20 globally-recognised firms to run the programme. These firms include **BlackRock, Bloomberg, Simmons & Simmons, Alliance Bernstein**, and many more.

The aim of **Big City Bright Future** is to allow students to accelerate their career pathway by providing outstanding work experience before university. The programme offers internships in the fields of Asset Management, Investment Banking, Law, Technology, Consultancy, and more. This programme is not just for students who know they want to work in these fields. We welcome all students who are motivated, would like to develop their transferable skills, and are willing to try their best and work hard.

Victoria wrote;

After recording a 3 minute self tape, attending assessment centres, writing an application and attending a final interview, I have been privileged enough to be accepted onto a competitive 3-week paid internship scheme from the Big City Bright Future internship program. This is a prestigious scheme that gives year 13 students a chance to secure work experience in a variety of industries from finance to law. As a media student, I have been matched with Babel, a public relations firm and will be embarking a bootcamp with BCBF, followed by a two weeklong internship at this company. I am very excited about this and can't wait to see what it brings.

Mental Health & Wellbeing at SHSG

Mental Health Awareness Week – competition

Next week is Mental Health Awareness Week and the school will be selling yellow ribbons on Friday in the foyer to raise money for a mental health charity. As a school we feel it is vital to keep talking about how we care for our mental health. The theme of Mental Health Awareness Week this year is **Movement**.

What do you do to keep mentally well which involves movement? Send us a picture of you (this can include your friends and family) doing fun things that make you smile and keep you well. We will display the pictures in the foyer on Friday 16th May. Please ask for everyone's permission before sending us photos. Photos should be sent to hmarcel@shsg.org.

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

[SHSG Mental Health Board \(padlet.com\)](https://www.padlet.com)

GCSE and A Level examinations

A reminder to students and parents that examinations are taken in full school uniform in accordance with JCQ and our Exams Policy. Students will be asked to remove additional items not in line with our policy before examinations begin. In particular, students are not permitted to wear additional jewellery in the examination room and must be in their usual smart school shoes, not trainers.

Year 11 individuals and group photographs are live

Year 11 Individual & Group Photos are now live for parents of Year 11 students that pre-registered, you should now have received an email with your unique access link from Carmel Jane. If not, please contact Carmel Jane Photography via the following link: <https://www.carmeljane.co.uk/pre-registration-support/>

Please quote registration code: JRDYK95

All photographs will be sent straight to a home address with limited discounts available for the first 14 days. Should you have any enquiries, please contact Carmel Jane directly by using the below contact information.

Email: info@carmeljane.co.uk

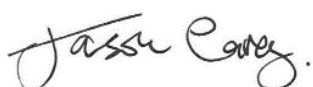
Tel: 01277 822674 (9am-5pm)

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Carey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Jason Carey
Headteacher

SHSG CREATE WEEK

Game Changers

13th–16th May

Create Challenges

How many can you complete? Photograph and email your completed challenges to Mr Cannon (dcannon@shsg.org).

- Knit a square 10 cm by 10 cm
- Make an animal from tin foil
- Create a tiny scene in a matchbox
- Make an impermanent piece of 'land art' from natural objects and photograph it
- Write a poem and illustrate it with an 'illuminated letter'
- Make a flick book showing a moving cartoon/storyline in pictures
- Create a sculpture using only objects found around your home or school.
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Monday – Thursday lunch

Artists and designers in residence

A group of year 10 and year 12 students will be creating new artwork in the foyer at lunch on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Stop by and see what they are creating!

Tuesday break

Leigh Art Trail presentation

Mrs Trevena will be introducing the Leigh Art Trail Competition at break in Studio 2. Students from all years will be able to find out how they can get involved in the competition and have their work exhibited in the trail.

Wednesday break

Careers talk – architecture

Careers talk from Sumiya who studied Product Design and Fine Art at A Level. She went on to study architecture technology and will be visiting SHSG to share the work she has produced since leaving SHSG. For year 10 and 12 students. Starting at 11.10 in Studio 1.

**For more information
check your emails or speak
to an Art / DT teacher.**

Monday lunch

Pavement Art competition

Sign up with Mrs Stewart (rstewart@shsg.org) and collect your chalks at the beginning of Monday lunch. £1 to take part. £10 gift voucher for best mural.

Tuesday lunch

'Living Art' Treasure Hunt

All students are invited to take part in a treasure hunt around the school. Staff and students will be dressed as living artwork created by famous artists. Can you find all of the art work? £10 gift voucher for fastest student. Collect your treasure map from the foyer at lunch.

Wednesday lunch

Bake Off Competition

All staff and students are invited to take part in the SHSG Bake Off Competition and Bake Sale. Bakes will be judged at the beginning of lunch and then sold with all money raised split between a local animal sanctuary and equipment for the Food Technology room. Awards will be given to the best brownies, cookies, cupcakes, and large cake. The 'Game Changer Award' will be given to a standout bake.