



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, 7th June 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Year 5 Open Evening – Thursday 4th July

Our Open Evening is being held on Thursday, 4th July from 5.00pm to 8.00pm. Pupils in Year 5 and their parents will have the opportunity to visit SHSG and see our wonderful school in action with tours, lesson demonstrations, performances and talks from Mr Carey and senior leaders. Year 7s and Year 10 and 12 student leaders will also be presenting. Each year on Open Evening we have hundreds of our student ambassadors leading prospective families on tours around the school and helping in departments. We would like students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 to lead tours. A separate letter to parents will be sent out next week. Thank you in advance to everyone involved – these events are always so successful because of the high number of students involved as ambassadors.

Important information about Open Evening for SHSG students

On this day (4th July), students will attend lessons as normal in the morning and will be dismissed at 12.25pm. Please note that food will be available to purchase at break, but the canteen will not be providing lunch on this day. Any student in receipt of Free School Meals will be able to obtain lunch on this day and will need to collect this from the canteen during morning break.

SHSG Annual Poetry Prize Reminder

A reminder for all budding bards and promising poets that SHSG's Annual Poetry Prize is now open for entries. Students can submit a poem on any topic, and of any length, to the English Office in person, or by email to Mr McGarvey, by Monday the 17th of June. Good luck.

Reading

We are passionate about reading at SHSG and have a whole strategy in place which is outlined on our school website. A few examples of the activities we engage in include a trip to Waterstones for all Year 7s on World Book Day where they choose their own book paid for by the school; Year 10s are trained as reading mentors, supporting Year 7s; several student groups shadow the Yoto Carnegies competition : <https://yotocarnegies.co.uk/> ; and we have our Accelerated Reading Programme with many millionaire readers. These are just some examples from the strategy.

We would now like to offer parents the opportunity to get involved in a reading book club. If you are interested in being part of an SHSG book club where you would be with some staff and students reading and discussing books, please complete the attached form [here](#). Once we have an indication of numbers we can plan the next steps.

Science Week

Science week starts on Monday 10th June. Students can participate in lunchtime events throughout the week for a chance to win house points. I have attached the posters with information regarding the events at the end of this letter and information below about the first event: Operation Theatre Live.



Operation Theatre Live – A write up from the Science Captains

On Thursday, 6th June, the Year 12 Biology students had the chance to participate in a live dissection hosted by 'Operation Theatre Live'. This immersive experience involved collaborating with classmates to explore the anatomy of a pig, allowing us to examine closely its internal structures. Working together, we gained a comprehensive understanding of the pig's heart, lungs, eyes, head, and digestive system. Throughout the day, the instructor provided detailed demonstrations of the dissection process and shared fascinating insights into medicine and human anatomy, enriching our learning experience. Following the instructions, we organised ourselves into groups to conduct the dissection, which fostered initiative and heightened our scientific curiosity. This experience not only deepened our grasp of the A-Level Biology curriculum, but also served as valuable preparation for those interested in pursuing Medicine or other biological studies after school. We extend our gratitude to Operation Theatre Live and the Biology Department for this invaluable experience!



Create Week

During the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty *Create Week* before half term, students in Year 12 and Year 8 worked collaboratively on a Dutch Delftware inspired project. First, the Year 8 students used cobalt oxide to work on a tile each to recreate a mural drawn by a Year 12 student, who was inspired by boats in Leigh-on-Sea. Each student also received an individual tile to create a delftware inspired self-portrait using the same cobalt oxide to give that distinctive, recognisable finish. I think you will agree that the results are phenomenal!



British Dressage Youth Inter Regionals

Dakota and her pony, Eclipse have been selected to represent the south and east region at the British Dressage Youth Inter Regionals at the end of this month. This is a national competition where all the best under 25s in the country compete. We wish Dakota and Eclipse all the best of luck in the competition!



Gazette

The latest edition of the Gazette can be downloaded on our website [‘here’](#).

Online Safety Training for Parents and Carers

On Tuesday 18th June 2024 we are holding a virtual information evening for parents regarding how to keep children safe online. The session will start at 8pm and will be held on zoom using the following zoom code:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89089082981>

Even if you have seen the presentation by ‘The Two Johns’ before, I strongly recommend that you watch again. The online risks our young people are facing are constantly changing and becoming increasingly sophisticated; it is difficult for parents to keep pace. The insights and experience that The Two Johns bring with them is second to none. In addition, all students will receive a 60-minute age-appropriate presentation during the day from The Two Johns.

Culture Day parental volunteers

We are looking for parents, family members or other members of the community who might be able to contribute to our annual Culture Day this year (8th July) which celebrates the rich cultural mix present within our school community.

Would you be able to deliver a workshop to students on an aspect of your culture or do you know someone who could? We would like to be able to offer our students a range of activities on this day which would allow them to learn something new.

If you would be able to help, please complete the form below by Friday 14th June.

<https://forms.office.com/e/gAaAHnA0y4>

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 \(padlet.com\)](#)

Aspiring Medicine Conference

Students considering a career in medicine may wish to attend the free "Aspiring Medicine Conference" being held on the Sunday 16th June at 10:00am. The conference will be hosted on Zoom and has three fantastic guest speakers, all of whom are Doctors in the NHS. The speakers will share their personal stories about applying to medicine and working within their specialties. This gives students great insight into the career before they apply, allowing them to make an informed decision. [MedEntry June Conference Sign-up Form \(google.com\)](#)

New Year 7 (September 2024) Information Evening – Wednesday, 12th June

On Wednesday, 12th June at 6.30pm we will be running an information evening for the parents of new Year 7s, ready for their first day at SHSG in September. There will be presentations from Mr Carey and other school leaders, as well as presentations by Year 7 and Year 12 students.

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



SHSG

MON JUNE 10TH - FRI 14TH

COME JOIN US IN...

SCIENCE WEEK

WIN
PRIZES

Participate in the lunchtime events,
for a chance to win house-points,
prizes, and to put your skills of
science to the test!

SCIENCE WEEK ACTIVITIES

EVERY LUNCH THIS WEEK

MONDAY: COMP SCIENCE CH2



Build and programme robots, and see your invention come to life!

TUESDAY: BIOLOGY BIO3



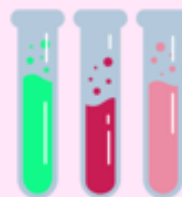
Use your senses in the frequency, smell and taste tests. Guess the animal in the box using touch!

WEDNESDAY: PHYSICS PH2



Protect your model from the drop, by making parachutes! Test your invention by dropping it from the height of stairs.

THURSDAY: CHEMISTRY CH3



Find the murderer by finding clues via chromatography, ph testing, and code cracking.

FRIDAY: QUIZ SHOW

Watch and support your house in the Science Week Quiz, and test your knowledge in the 4 rounds of questions! Audience welcomed in the hall.