



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, 28th June 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Hermes House Cup Winners Trip to Adventure Island – Tuesday 16th July

The House Winners trip to Adventure Island is taking place on Tuesday 16th July. Parents of all students in Hermes House were sent a letter last week inviting them to take part in the trip.

If you would like your child to participate in this trip, please make your payment via ParentPay and complete the online consent form by midday on Monday 1st July 2024. If both consent and payment are not received by that time, your child will not be able to participate in the trip. Please note that we are not able to process any payments after this date. A link to the consent form can be found in the letter sent to you on 24th June 2024.

Open Evening for Prospective Year 7 Students

A reminder that our Open Evening is being held on Thursday 4th July from 5.00pm to 8.00pm. On this day 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. If your child is entitled to a free school meal and you would like the school to provide a packed lunch for them, please indicate this on the form '[here](#)'. Your child will need to collect their lunch from the canteen during morning break.

If your child is not helping at Open Evening but will need to stay in school until their usual scheduled bus departure time (3:30pm) they must wait in the library where they will be supervised. Please ensure that they have a packed lunch with them. Please complete the consent form '[here](#)' if this applies to your child.

In the event that your child is helping at Open Evening and needs to stay in school until 4:30pm they must also wait in the library where they will be supervised. Please ensure that they have enough food and drink to last them until the end of the Open Evening at 8pm. Please complete the consent form '[here](#)' if this applies to your child.

Advanced notice

On Friday 12th July we are having a non-uniform day with a difference! Instead of paying to wear your own clothes we are asking for a donation to our eco-sale which will run the following Monday at lunch time.

Popular donations in the past have been clean but unwanted clothing / books / unused toiletries / unwanted stationery etc... Nothing of too much value should be donated as students will expect most things to be a few pounds or less. Donated items should focus on the teenage range. Money raised will go towards environmental charities.

Year 9 Options

Year 9 students are now approaching the end of their KS3 courses and might be reflecting on their GCSE option choices. Whilst it is not usual for students to make changes at this point in the year, students will have the opportunity to consider their initial choices and make changes if necessary next week, dependent on option blocks and class sizes. If your child would like to make changes, they will need to bring a letter from their parent / carer that details what the requested change is and see Miss Riebold in person one lunchtime between Monday 1st and Friday 5th July. There is a final opportunity for changes to be made in the first 4 weeks of the new academic year, dependent on option blocks and class size.



Student Bake Sales

Two members of our middle school prefect team (Ruby and Priyanka) will be hosting two bake sales. A British bake sale which will be on Tuesday 9th July and a multicultural bake sale which will be on Wednesday 10th July. All bakes can be bought in the CPA foyer. The money raised from these bake sales will be donated to the food technology department and a charity. Anything can be entered, ranging from cookies to brownies to cakes. Students must not use any nuts in their bakes. In addition, they must provide an ingredients list. I have attached the posters to the end of this letter.

Year 8 Rhineland Residential 2024 – Mr Shipton's reflections

Year 8 students have had their first taste of Germany. They were amazed to find themselves in the picturesque Rhine Valley after a ten-hour coach journey from Southend.

On the first full day students immersed themselves in medieval history on a guided tour of Eltz Castle asking the guide many questions. The castle refectory gave students their first opportunity to practise their spoken German. Two hours later we were calmly being elevated by chairlift to the famous Vierseenblick in the hills above Boppard for a spectacular Rhenish panorama.

On the second day students climbed the Drachenfels in Königswinter and learnt of the German sagas and legends of the Rheingold and Nibelungen. Later that afternoon students explored the Deutsches Eck in Koblenz peering into the depths of the Rhein/Mosel confluence. There was also time to ride the cable car over the Rhine to the impressive fortress of Ehrenbreitstein. In the evening a pilgrimage took place in the village where we were staying and our students were complimented on their courtesy and thanked for their support as the procession passed the hotel.

On the final full day students scaled the Loreley Rock having been enthralled by the legend on our approach. A short drive took us to Rudesheim where we soared above the vineyards in a cable car towards the striking monument overlooking the Rhine. Students practised their language skills once more in the streets of Rudesheim taking in the Drosselgasse and impressing many American tourists who had descended on this delightful town. Students also got into the spirit of the Euros by wearing German flag deely boppers, given out free with every purchase. Our hotel accommodation overlooking the Rhine was perfect and taste buds erupted as students tucked into the finest German fayre served every evening in the restaurant.

Students behaved impeccably throughout, and staff were impressed with their willingness to get involved. All students are looking forward to visiting Germany again in Year 10.



Year 12 Royal Holloway University of London – essay competition

On Wednesday June 19th, we visited the Royal Holloway University where we represented the school for the very first time at their annual essay competition. For the competition, we had to create a video and a poster responding to the question “How can psychologists/psychology promote healthier working environments in schools?”. After arriving at the university, we briefly walked around the campus, admiring the stunning architecture, before heading in for an introductory talk by Dr Mirta Stantic. After the talk, the first out of two poster sessions began (which was our session) and we were approached by judges, including PhD students and professors at the university, who listened to us present our poster and asked us questions to challenge our psychological brains. In between the sessions, we had the pleasure of listening to Dr Gemma Northam deliver a talk on neuropsychology and Professor Jessie Rickets, who considered whether reading could be considered a virus. We enjoyed these fascinating talks as they linked quite closely to the areas of psychology we are interested in. At the end of the day, they announced the winners. Although we did not win, what we came out with was a deeper understanding of the plethora of careers available in psychology and a sense of pride in ourselves for participating. The competition was an invigorating experience, and I highly recommend it for any future psychologists.

Written by Katrina N (Psychology Subject Captain)

Mrs Fellowes and Miss Dunlop had the pleasure of attending the competition with the three students, Katrina, Ella and Habiba, that had entered the competition. This was the first time that SHSG had entered the competition and as such, the students had little knowledge in terms of the expectations and quality of their competitors. The students did SHSG proud, and they were able to show off their knowledge and understanding of the subject whilst answering the judges’ questions. One of the professors even lost track of time, he was so engaged in conversation with them. Well done to all the students that took part.

Written by Mrs Fellowes (Head of Department)

Essex University careers trip

As part of the continuing Careers education provision at SHSG it is important that we enable students to have a hands-on experience of what university life may be like. We work in conjunction with the charity [‘Make Happen’](#) who aim to make all students aware of their post 18 choices. Year 10 had a fantastic day out at Essex University. They had a tour of the extensive campus from student ambassadors and had a really detailed talk about student life, going into details such as the wide variety of societies that are available to how to do one’s laundry. The students got to sit in sample lectures in law and sport psychology. It was a very warm but inspiring day; for many of our students it was their first experience of a campus university and will give them lots to consider for their future.



Trip to Valencia

On Saturday the 22nd June an excited group of Year 8 Spanish students had the opportunity to travel Valencia for four days. We enjoyed a packed itinerary: the Cathedral, a guided walk through the old town, marvelling at the beautiful UNESCO world heritage site of Lonja de la Seda, as well as seeing the amazing architecture and the museum at La Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias. A highlight was the Oceanographic aquarium, the largest in Europe. We had a chance to learn how to make a delicious paella which included a tour of their gardens and saw the amazing Ninot statues that have won each Fallas competition throughout history.

The students had a fantastic time learning about Spanish history and culture, practicing their language and soaking up the Spanish sun. The behaviour of the students was outstanding; the tour guides gave very positive feedback about how attentive they were.



Chicago – whole school production

Years 7-10 have seen a preview of Chicago in assemblies this week. On Wednesday 3rd July Year 7 will watch sections of the production whilst the cast completes a final run through before the big opening night on Wednesday.

Tickets are available for all four shows: Wednesday 3rd July, Friday 5th July, Saturday 6th matinee (2pm) and evening (7pm). Please visit the school website and follow the link to the TicketSource to book your seats:

[Chicago School Production July 2024 - Southend High School for Girls](#)

Year 10 Post 16 and 18 activities student write up

George Burnham has been developing his journalistic skills this week, and one of his tasks was to write a summary of the Year 10s post 16 and 18 activities this week. His report is below.

This week the year 10s were able to put themselves in the shoes of a year 12 student: visiting a university and a day of A-Level lessons, and even having the privilege of raiding Scholars for all their iced teas! At the University, students were able to take a look into student life and listened to some lectures about Law and Sport Psychology, which many found interesting and allowed them to experience what life is like at Uni. On Wednesday, the year 10s also had a day of what being a sixth former is like at SHSG, where they attended lessons throughout the day, experiencing what the jump from GCSE to A-Levels is like, and many enjoyed activities such as taking part in practicals. Overall, the taster day was found to be especially useful in giving the students an idea of what they want to do at Sixth Form.

Careers information

A free media experience day in the summer holiday.

[Rise Academy Summer School | Hayes | Tuesday 30th July Tickets, Tue, Jul 30, 2024 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Parents/carers may be interested to follow our Careers provision via our Linked in page [here](#) or via our Padlet newsletter [here](#).

Winners of the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing Announced.

Our popular book groups have been busy reading and discussing the entrants for the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing, and were excited to discover the winner of this category on June 20th. Each year thousands of reading groups in schools and libraries in the UK and around the world get involved in the awards, with children and young people 'shadowing' the judging process, debating and choosing their own winners.

The prestigious prize for young person's literature, as voted for by librarians, was awarded to the current Children's Laureate – Joseph Coelho – for his "beautifully descriptive" novel in verse *The Boy Lost in the Maze* illustrated by Kate Milner. The story portrays a boy's journey into manhood and cleverly integrates the ancient legacy of the Minotaur with the contemporary journey of a teenager searching for his biological father.

The winner of the Yoto Carnegie Shadowers' Choice Medal for Writing was announced as Tia Fisher for her powerful debut novel, also told in verse, *Crossing the Line*. Based on a true story about teenagers swept up into county lines; this 'innovative and engaging' story shows the power of poetry to convey difficult truths in a way that engages and excites young minds. Both of these titles, along with all the other shortlisted books for the award, are available in the school library and more details can be found here on each title [The Yoto Carnegies](#)

A very big thank you to our Year 10 Reading Mentors for running these very successful book groups so enthusiastically and efficiently and to all the students from across the years who took part in them.



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 \(shsg.org\)](#).

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,

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



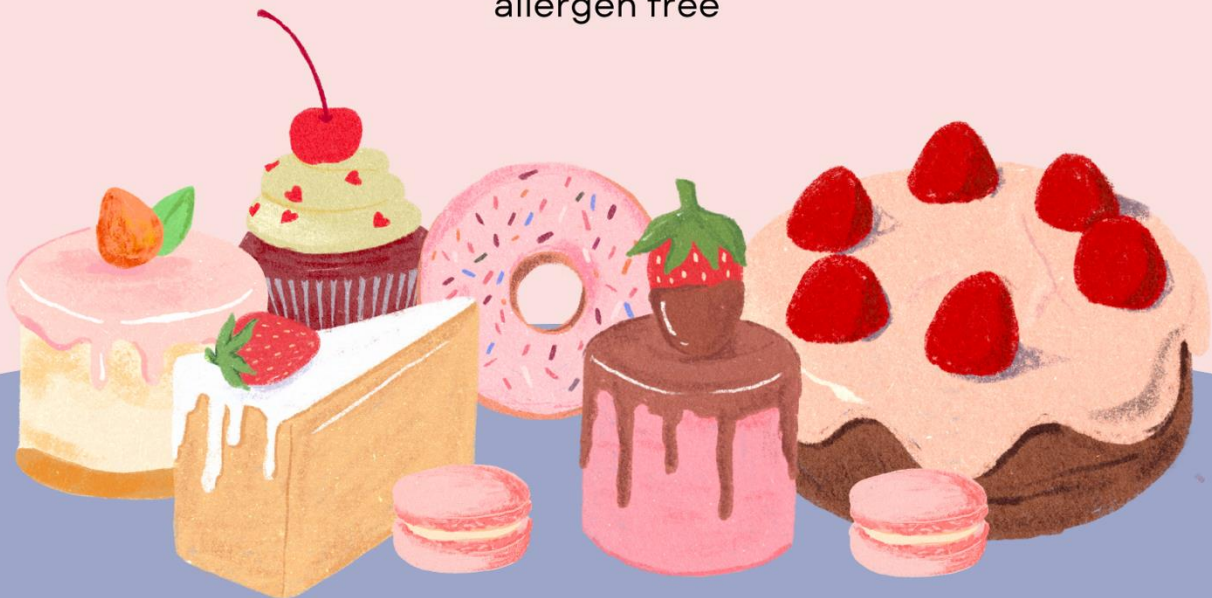
CULTURE WEEK:
**BRITISH
BAKE SALE**

TUESDAY 9TH JULY
LUNCHTIME - CPA FOYER
ALL MONEY RAISED WILL GO
TO CHARITY AND FOODTECH

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
EMAIL PRIYANKA (20-PPUR@SHSG.ORG) OR RUBY
(20-RSAN@SHSG.ORG)



we cannot guarantee that all food will be
allergen free





CULTURE WEEK:

MULTICULTURAL BAKE SALE

WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY

LUNCHTIME - CPA FOYER

**ALL MONEY RAISED WILL GO
TO CHARITY AND FOODTECH**

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