



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, 20th September 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Year 12 House Freshers Events

Excitement was in the air as this week saw the first SHSG House events of the year. The Sixth Form House Captains hosted two special 'House Freshers' lunchtime events, exclusively for Year 12 students. Thursday's show was a special version of the gameshow 'Take me Out,' whilst on Friday we enjoyed House Teams in a head-to-head competition, battling to become House Family Fortunes Champion 2024. These were very popular events, and it was wonderful to see so many Year 12 students taking part. The autumn term events will be the last ones organised by our current House Team. This term, students in Year 12 will have the opportunity to apply to become our new House Captains for 2024-2025. Further details about the application process will be provided in the next few weeks.



Culture Day

This week we celebrated Culture Day. Students attended sessions led by other students and staff in order to learn about aspects of different cultures. We would like to thank our two parent helpers, who came in for the day to run sessions on East African dance and West African games. Sessions run by staff and students included learning about Romania, looking at how maths and symbols vary across cultures and learning how to do origami. Students also dressed in clothes that represented their cultures. Annie in Year 7 said that, 'it was so fun having other students, much older than me, sharing their favourite foods, activities and opinions about their cultures' and that it was 'a fun first whole school celebration from a Year 7's perspective.' I would like to thank everyone involved in making this day happen.





Social Science PPE Lunchtime Lecture

On Tuesday 17th September, Dr Mathew Williams from Jesus College, Oxford University, delivered a lunchtime online lecture to Sixth Form students. Dr Williams teaches politics on the popular Philosophy Politics and Economics course at Oxford. His talk, titled 'Words are Power' explored how language can be used as a source of control. Students also discussed the impact of social media on language today. Dr Williams encouraged students to start thinking like an 'Oxford' student by always starting their thinking process with the question 'why?' and thinking critically about society. Dr Williams also answered questions about the application process and college system at Oxford University. One of our language students has been following Dr Williams' work on social media for a year and was delighted to get the chance to speak to him.



11+ test

We are looking forward to welcoming over 800 Year 6 students to the school this Saturday as they take their 11+ test. We are very grateful to our wonderful Sixth Form students who have volunteered to support this – it would not be possible without them. Thank you also to our wider SHSG community, including our alumni, who will be invigilating the test. We wish all Year 6 students taking the 11+ the very best of luck.

Welcome to GCSE Parent Information Evening, Wednesday 25th September

We would like to remind Year 10 parents and carers that they are invited to an information evening on Wednesday 25th September at 6.00pm to 7.00pm at school. The purpose of the evening is to introduce you to key members of the Middle School Pastoral Team and to share key information about the next two years in your child's educational journey. Further information about the evening and events related to Year 10 has been shared this week via a letter from the Head of Year 10, Mrs. Killi.

Year 7 Parent / Tutor Consultation Evening, Thursday 26th September

A reminder that the virtual parent/tutor consultation evening for Year 7 parents will take place next week. Details have already been sent home via a letter this week, which outlines instructions for making and accessing appointments. Please note, that as detailed in the letter, two tutors will be taking appointments on Wednesday 25th September. Any queries please contact the Heads of Year 7, Mrs S Gridley and Mrs I Seco.

Year 10 Careers Carousel - Friday 27th September

On Friday 27th September Year 10 will be off timetable for the whole morning for a Careers Carousel focused on 'Ambition'. They will spend time with six different speakers hearing about the speakers' ambitions, how they achieved them and how students can prepare to achieve their own ambitions. We have organised for a range of speakers to present from diverse backgrounds such as journalism, nursing, Oxbridge, law and medicine. Students will also hear from experts in T levels and apprenticeships as well as gaining an introduction to CV writing that they will need for their interview experience in May.

Year 11 Parent Information Evening, Wednesday 2nd October

We would like to remind parents and carers of Year 11 students that there will be a short information evening on Wednesday 2nd October at 6.00pm in school. The purpose of the evening is to introduce you formally to the Head of Year, Mr. Morgan, and to share information about key events in Year 11. We look forward to seeing you on the evening.

Year 12 Parent/Tutor Consultation Evening, Thursday 3rd October

On Thursday 3rd October there will be a virtual Year 12 parent/tutor consultation evening from 4.00pm-8.00pm. This evening will provide you with an opportunity to discuss with your child's tutor how well they have settled into Sixth Form life. Please note that this is not an event to report on academic progress and attainment; there is a parents' consultation evening on Thursday 6th February 2025 for this. We will be using an online platform called School Cloud, which will enable you to book a one-to-one video appointment, lasting five minutes with your child's tutor. Details will follow via a separate letter on Wednesday 25th September regarding how to make appointments.

Assessment, Reporting and Recording

Please note that following feedback, we have made some slight changes to our assessment, reporting and recording procedures for this academic year. The most notable change is the introduction of quartiles on all full school reports alongside examination results, as trialled with the KS3 reports in the summer term. Quartile 4 indicates that a student is in the top 25% attainment range for that particular subject working down sequentially to quartile 1. We have, therefore, 'flipped' the Attitude to Learning grades around to align with the quartile ranking to avoid any possible confusion, so ATL grade 4 will now be outstanding, 3- good, 2 - requirements improvement and 1 - unsatisfactory. For further information please refer to the '[Assessment](#)' section of the school website where there is a short video outlining all assessment, reporting and recording procedures as well as copies of relevant policies.

School photographs – Years 7, 10 & 12

Carmel Jane Photography is excited to share that the individual photographs are ready, and they look amazing! If you pre-registered, please check your inbox for your unique access link.

If not, please contact Carmel Jane on www.carmeljane.co.uk/pre-registration-support and Insert school code: JRKKB4AYN8

There are limited time discounts available, so act fast! All photographs will be sent straight to your home address. Should you require any further assistance, please contact Carmel Jane Photography via email at info@carmeljane.co.uk or call 01277 822674 (9am-5pm).

A budding journalist in the making!

After submitting the winning article to the English and Media Centre regarding the Media Students' Conference that we attended at the BFI in January, enterprising Year 13 Sophie P secured herself a week's work experience at the headquarters of the English and Media Centre in London.

Amongst other tasks such as copy and picture editing, Sophie wrote a triple page article on news (one of her A Level topics) which has been published in the latest edition of the Media Magazine. Congratulations and well done to Sophie!



PE fixtures for the week beginning Monday 23rd September

Tuesday 24th U13A netball (away) v Redden Court

Tuesday 24th U14 football (home) v St Clere's

Wednesday 25th Year 8 & 9 netball (home) v Southchurch

Thursday 26th Year 7 (4 teams) (home) v WHSG

These fixtures may be subject to change and all details are posted on the respective PE extra-curricular Microsoft Teams page. If your child has not been added to their year group page, and needs to be, please ask them to speak to a member of the PE department. Thank you.

Careers opportunities

I would like to draw your attention to the following opportunities to support those students interested in medicine and dentistry.

Get Into Medicine Conferences are on:

- Sunday 29th September, 9:30am - 3:30pm

- Saturday 5th October, 9:30am - 3:30pm

- Sunday 6th October, 9:30am - 3:30pm

Register here: <https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lwk6/shry7MZYtt3MGPjvO>

Get Into Dentistry Conference is on:

- Saturday 28th September, 9:30am - 3:30pm

- Sunday 10th November, 9:30am - 3:30pm

<https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lwk6/shrBuiR7SBAC19kE>

The Get into Medicine or Get Into Dentistry Conference is a complete guide to the medical or dental application journey. Students get essential insights into the medical/dental UCAS application process (such as the new personal statement structure), connect with professionals, fellow students, and gain a deeper understanding of a future career in medicine or dentistry.

Conferences will provide tailored advice, covering essential topics such as:

- Application timelines
- How to tactically choose medical/dental schools
- CV building
- Personal statements
- Medical and dental school interviews
- UCAT - entrance exams to medical/dental School
- Medical leadership and awards programmes
- Accessing work experience
- Accessing scholarships

Students will be awarded a certificate of attendance, which can be listed on their UCAS applications for 'activities that support higher education'.

Students and parents can register for FREE here:

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

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

Please ensure you have a functioning camera and microphone for the session. It's also important that you have a parent or guardian present at these conferences, not only for safeguarding but also to gain insight and guidance to support you effectively.

Our doctors, dentists and medical/dental students look forward to welcoming your students at the conference and they will join our network of successful students who attended these programmes over the last ten years:

<https://medicmentor.org/successful-student-journeys-reviews/>

Mental Health & Wellbeing at SHSG

In SHSG, we often talk about how to look after our health in lessons and in tutor time. 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/mental-health-wellbeing).

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-lower-middle-school)

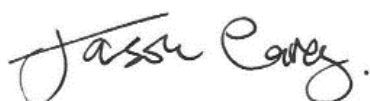
[SHSG Mental Health Board \(padlet.com\)](https://www.padlet.com/shsg/mental-health-board-sixth-form)

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