



# 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, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

### **Sixth Form Open Evening**

On Wednesday, 6 November SHSG staff and students welcomed over one thousand visitors to our Sixth Form Open Evening. Two hundred Year 12 and 13 subject captains, senior prefects, and Head Student Team members played a significant and vital role as ambassadors. Visitors commented on the excellent tour guides and superb subject information events. Typical comments from the feedback were, 'Excellent evening and fabulous energy about the school.' 'Engaging teachers and students.' 'Perfect and well organised.'

Year 11s will be making their subject choices for A Level soon, ready for us to create the 2025 – 2026 timetable around their choices.

Please find below some useful links.

**Link to prospectus** [SHSG Sixth Form Prospectus 2025 \(e-publish.co.uk\)](https://e-publish.co.uk)

**Link to A Level course outlines** [A Level Courses - Southend High School for Girls \(shsg.org\)](https://shsg.org)

**Feedback form** <https://forms.office.com/e/B3t8Ek9iQe>

### **Black History Month Showcase**

Today, we celebrated 'Black Excellence' with a spectacular showcase in the hall at lunchtime. Ivy K, Year 13, and one of our Equality and Diversity Captains has written the following report.

*"Today we celebrated the end of Black History Month with SHSG's Black History Showcase displaying various acts of Black Excellence. We began with the Gospel Choir which involved pupils from Years 7 to 11 performing a rousing rendition of 'Amen' and 'Blinded by your Grace pt2,' ably conducted by Gabriella N in Year 11. This was followed by our Head Student, Zahra C, delivering an empowering poem about wanting to be challenged, called 'Shake my Future.' Next, we had our first fusion of Afro- Caribbean dance performed brilliantly by Year 13 students, Esther E, Favour E, Scarlett M-W and Tara O. The annual fashion show element of this celebration showcased cultural dress from a range of African and Caribbean countries. We witnessed beautiful clothing from Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Uganda, Congo, Morocco and St Lucia. Then we heard the incredible vocals of Tracy L in Year 13 who sang us a French Cameroonian song called 'Un jour dans ma vie.' After this came our second spectacular fusion of Afro-Caribbean dance performed by Dasola O, Ella A, Gabby N, Maya W, Grace A, Seyi A, Shiloh O and Shalom B from Years 10-12. Finally, we had me (Ivy K) and Esther E effortlessly rapping and dancing to popular grime songs such as 'Options' and 'Did you see?' I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who made the event happen as it would not have been a success without their help, but particular thanks go to, Bolu B-O and Osa for hosting the showcase so well, Anoushka L and Evie T (media captains) and Mrs Arnold for capturing the showcase on film, Madeleine M on sound and Lisa O, Juno S-J, Mary B and Ruby T on lights. A special thanks to Mrs Bowman and Mrs Robinson for helping me to bring this vision to life and supporting me throughout."*

Photos to follow in next week's letter.



### **Paris trip**

Year 13 are very grateful to have had the opportunity to go on this action-packed Paris trip. After a long journey to Paris, we started Saturday morning bright and early with a busy schedule ahead. Starting at the Louvre, we saw iconic pieces of art such as La Joconde, la Vénus de Milo et la Victoire de Samothrace before commencing part of a scavenger hunt at Le Jardin des Tuileries. We then headed on a walking tour of famous sites of Paris before embarking on an evening river cruise along the Seine. Day 2 then began with a 56-floor lookout tower at Tour Montparnasse (the tallest building in central Paris) followed by a visit to Montparnasse cemetery before spending the afternoon shopping down the Champs Élysées (where we treated ourselves to a very good hot chocolate). After dinner we then had the opportunity to take photos in front of the Eiffel Tower at night. On the third day, we visited Montmartre and the famous Basilique du Sacré-Cœur followed by a session at a Language School in the afternoon. Day 4 included a visit to the Basilique St Denis before the bittersweet drive back to Calais.

This trip has been so valuable as it has enhanced our understanding of French culture alongside providing a deep insight into the rich history of Paris. A special mention goes to Monsieur Smith for his amazing knowledge of Paris; there was not a dull coach journey particularly when facing a questionable road in St Denis where our coach driver James managed an incredible manoeuvre aided by locals.

A particular highlight for us was winning the scavenger hunt against the Year 10s which sent us investigating important sites of Paris. We also relished the opportunity to communicate with native French speakers, particularly during the language school which allowed us to use our French skills in a new setting. We also experienced a wide range of French culture such as an authentic French meal with a delicious Bœuf bourguignon.

On behalf of all the students who attended this trip, we would like to thank Monsieur Smith, Madame Hulme, Madame Bowman and Mr Carey for a fantastic time.

*Merci beaucoup, nous nous sommes bien amusées!*

Written by Allegra L, Amelia B, Anoushka L, Maya M, Anabel H, Ruby O





### **November 2024 Fundraising**

A message from Mr Prior, Lead Practitioner Science and Associate Assistant Headteacher:

*I am looking to raise awareness for testicular cancer and men's mental health. Testicular cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in young men and a significant part of the problem is a lack of knowledge, screening and awareness. Also, globally the rate of suicide is alarmingly high, particularly in young men. Too many men are 'toughing it out', keeping their feelings to themselves and struggling in silence and Movember is raising awareness of the support available. As a small incentive, if I reach £250 I will keep growing the moustache for the whole half term right up until we break up for Christmas. If you would like to donate, my page link is [here](#)*

*In light of Sir Chris Hoy's announcement of his terminal prostate cancer, on the 19<sup>th</sup> November I will be looking to lead a team of staff and Sixth Form students in an attempt to cycle virtually from SHSG to Paris (nearly 300 miles) in a single day by giving up free periods, some of break time and/or lunch time to jump on our two static fitness bikes being kindly loaned to us by PE. This is open to all staff and sixth formers; we will be set up in the main reception in front of the piano.*

*I am also looking for volunteers who are willing to take a turn at any point on the day and hopefully help us cross the finish line just as the school day ends. If you would be interested in getting involved, please send me an email stating when you would be free.*

### **Odd Socks Day**

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024 we will be celebrating antibullying week with an Odd Socks Day! Students can make a donation of £1 via parent pay to come to school wearing odd socks. The choice of odd socks is to give everyone the chance to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and beautiful uniqueness! In 2023 over 5 million children, 1000s of parents, 100s of celebrities and influencers donned their odd socks to make a stand against bullying.

### ***Relationships and sex education (RSE) policy survey***

Many thanks to all of the parents who responded to the recent RSE survey. The results show that 98% of respondents were aware of our RSE policy and supported the approach taken and that 99% of respondents were aware of their right to withdraw their child from elements of RSE. I would also like to thank those parents who left feedback about ways in which our RSE policy could evolve in the future. These are very helpful and have been passed to Mrs Marx, our PSHE lead. Government guidance around RSE can be found [here](#)

### ***Remembrance Day, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November***

We will be marking Remembrance Day on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 with a registration time assembly in Form Groups followed by a short service and a 2 minute silence at 11 o'clock. In addition, students who belong to a uniformed club such as Brownies, Guides, Scouts, Sea Cadets, Army Cadets etc. can wear their uniform instead of their school uniform as part of the remembrance day commemorations.

### ***Year 13 Parents' Consultation Evening Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November***

A reminder that the Year 13 Parent Consultation Evening will be taking place remotely on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November. More information about this event will be shared next week via a letter home.

### ***Social Science Lunchtime Lecture***



### ***Journalist, Tomiwa Owolade***

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November, Tomiwa talked about his book 'This is Not America' focussing on 'why black lives in Britain matter'. Tomiwa is a freelance writer, whose recent publications include articles in The Times, The Telegraph and The Spectator.

Tomiwa spoke about the danger of viewing all ethnic minorities as one homogenous group, and how identity is made up of other common features that unite people, such as social class, religion and values. He critiqued the way that black British people in the UK are often perceived through an American lens, due to popularity of US media and the representation of African Americans. Students were delighted to have the opportunity to ask him questions on topics such as the causes of the 2011 London Riots and the impact of his Nigerian heritage on his identity.

### ***SHSG PA Winter Concert Raffles***

SHSG PA will be holding a raffle each evening of the Winter Concerts, Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes are winter hampers provided by Year 7 students from the forms performing on the night.

Tickets cost £2 each and can be purchased on ParentPay until Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December (once purchased, tickets will automatically be entered into the relevant evening raffle). All donations support the school. Do not worry if you miss the cut-off date; raffle tickets (and additional raffle prizes) will be available on the night.

The promotional poster has been attached to the end of this letter. Thank you to the winner of the poster competition, Rania I from 7 Aurora!

The SHSG PA would like to thank Parents for their continued support.

### **Careers information**

Please find attached to the email with this letter a poster with a link from Investin. They are offering some interesting and free webinars, open for students to sign up to regarding careers in law, medicine, finance, creative arts, and psychology.

### **Green Careers Week**

The 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024 is Green Careers week. We marked this during registration time when students learnt about various careers and education paths that operate sustainably. Forms took part in a quiz on sustainable careers. The winners were 11 Artemis, 10 Athene and 10 Hermes who all scored full marks. Achievement points go to those classes. More information on Green careers and further education can be found here [Organisations 2024 - Green Careers Week](#)

### **Southend-on-Sea City Vision – an opportunity to have your say**

We have included a link to a survey for those who live and/or work or study in Southend to comment on how you feel about Southend and what you would like to see in the future. [Southend-on-Sea City Vision | Your say Southend](#)

### **PE fixtures for next week**

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 member of the PE department. Thank you.

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November:	Year 7 Essex Cup Netball away v Orsett Heath Academy
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November:	Year 7 Essex Cup Football away v Beauchamps
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November:	U14B Essex Plate Netball away v GLC
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November:	U19 Boys' Essex Cup Football Home v Coopers
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November:	Borough Cross Country Championships, Blenheim Park
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November:	U14 Essex Cup Netball Home v Harris Academy
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> November:	U14 and U16 Essex Netball tournament at New Hall School

Please be aware that for safeguarding reasons we cannot accommodate spectators on site for matches. Many schools apply this policy so please check with the opposing school directly.

### **Mental Health & Wellbeing at SHSG**

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

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](#).

Wishing you a lovely weekend!

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey  
Headteacher

# SHSG PARENTS - ASSOCIATION -



£2 PER  
TICKET

(on sale from  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup>  
November)

Drawn at  
school on  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup>  
& Tuesday  
10<sup>th</sup> December

ALL PROC-  
CEEDS GO  
TO  
SHSG.

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE winter  
hampers  
by 7 students

A separate additional raffle will also be available on the night: prizes include food, drink, beauty products and confectionery. Promoter - Mary Canet - Espi, Shsg PA, Shsg, Southchurch Boulevard, SS2 4UZ.