



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, 15th November 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Remembrance Events

On Monday 11th November students commemorated Remembrance Day with an informative and thought-provoking assembly delivered by Ms Laird, our head of History. This was followed by a whole school service just before 11 o'clock. The service was attended in person by Years 7, 8, 12 and 13 and remotely by Years 9, 10 and 11. Ella F (Year 12) started the service by explaining the origins of Armistice Day and Afie D (Year 12) continued by outlining how the values that we are commemorating in others can be applied to our everyday lives. Sophie P (Year 12) then read The Last Post by Carol Ann Duffy. The service was concluded by Mr P Stillman playing the last post and the school paying its respects by honouring the two-minute silence. As part of the commemorations several students attended school in the uniform of their cadet force / uniformed club. Thank you also to our Head Student, Zahra-Marie, and Deputy Head Student, Chiara, who represented the school at the remembrance ceremony at the Cenotaph, which took place on Remembrance Sunday. They laid a wreath on behalf of the school (pictured below).



Black History Showcase

The Black History Showcase on Friday 8th November raised £361.00 in charitable donations will be go to the Sickle Cell Society. Well done, once more to all who were involved in this and particularly Ivy G in Year 13 who organised the showcase.

Year 11 and 13 Non-Examination Assessments (NEA), Coursework, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Social Media

Year 11 and 13 students have attended an assembly given by Miss Riebold to provide information given by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) about their NEA and coursework assessments. This included details to ensure students are aware of what they can and cannot do with AI and social media in the lead up to and during examination periods. Students have been emailed some documentation from JCQ that they must read. For your reference, you can find these documents '[here](#)'.

Year 12 and Year 13 English Literature "Love through the Ages" Conference

This Tuesday, 45 English Literature students attended a conference in London on the topic of 'Love through the Ages'. Students heard from a series of outstanding speakers including leading Shakespeare scholar Emma Smith, and award-winning poet Owen Sheers. The English Literature teachers were as excited as the students to meet him, and our students were, as usual, fantastic ambassadors for the school, engaged and enthused throughout.



Year 12 and 13 Oxford University Brainwaves Survey

This Wednesday, sixth form students took part in an important national survey on student mental health, led by the University of Oxford. Our school is part of the pilot, which aims to gather large-scale data on teenage mental health to inform better understanding and treatment of mental health issues.

Kindness and Friendship workshop with Meg Canon

As part of our celebrations this week for antibullying week we were delighted to host Meg Canon, a storyteller and film maker, as part of our assembly programme to work with Years 7, 8 and 9. The themes that she explored with the students were around the importance of kindness and how sometimes it takes courage to show kindness when others around you might not be willing to do so. Also, that kindness helps the giver, in terms of its impact on their brain chemistry, just as much as it does the receiver. Finally, she explored some strategies to help with conflict resolution within friendships. Sometimes, in school, behaviours that are seen as bullying are just fallout from friendships that have reached the end of their time, or that have been tested by an unexpected event. Her advice will help students to navigate these difficult times. I have included a link to her short film that she used to end her workshop '[here](#)'.

Odd Socks Day

On Friday 15th November students from all year groups showed their support for antibullying by wearing odd socks to school. The odd socks are an outward sign that our differences are what makes each of us unique and are there to be celebrated. The theme of the national anti bullying campaign this year is that people should make a conscious effort to choose to respect other people and, in doing so, actively counter the harm that bullying can lead to. Through our endeavours, so far, we have raised £224.60 for the anti-bullying alliance.



Bowling competition

On Thursday 14th November, 11 students took part in a Tenpin Bowling competition for students in KS3, KS4 and KS5. The event was held at Hollywood Bowl in Basildon run by the Panathlon Foundation. Over 12 teams attended from a variety of schools across Essex. Our two teams showed great teamwork and determination. Two students gained more certificates for scoring over 100 points! The Panathlon Foundation is a National Charity that works with disabled young people. More information about the charity can be found at www.panathlon.com.



Maths week - a tremendous success for KS3 students

Our school's annual Maths Week was a huge hit with KS3 students this year! From 11th to 15th November, students in Years 7-9 participated in a variety of engaging maths-focused activities and challenges during their lunch breaks.



Activities included Yohaku puzzles, logic problems and numerical conundrums. I was impressed with the enthusiasm and excitement in the Maths block.

[Click here to see further challenges](#)

Students who participated in the week's activities earned achievement points for their house. The top point earners will be awarded special Maths Week prizes in assembly next week.



Overall, Maths Week was an incredible opportunity for students to have fun with mathematics outside the classroom. A huge thank you to the Mathematics faculty, especially Miss Graham and our Maths Captains, for organizing such an engaging and educational series of events. We are already looking forward to next year's Maths Week celebration.

Christmas Lunch

This year's SHSG Christmas Lunch will be held on Thursday 12th December at 12.00pm. Tickets are £7.50 and will be available to purchase on Parent Pay from 9.00am on Monday 18th November 2024. Please indicate whether your child requires a traditional or a vegan lunch and whether they have any specific dietary requirements when purchasing a ticket. There are limited places available, so we encourage you to purchase your tickets as early as possible since the canteen will not be serving any other food on this day. Once purchased, tickets will be available for collection from the School Bank nearer the time. I have attached the flyer at the end of this letter. Separate communication has also been sent to parents regarding this. Please note the deadline for purchasing tickets will be Tuesday 3rd December 2024.

This day (Thursday 12th December) will also be Christmas Jumper Day. More information regarding this will follow shortly.

Christmas Card Competition

We would like to encourage all students to take part in the annual Christmas card competition. It should be an A5 colourful design (no pastel colours). The deadline for entries is Friday 29th November 2024 and your work should be given to Mrs Stewart in the Art Department. The winning card is printed and sent out to the wider school community. I have attached the poster with full instructions to the end of this letter. Good luck and we look forward to seeing your designs.

End of Term early closure – Friday 20th December

On the final day of term, students will be dismissed at 12.25pm on Friday 20th December. Please note that food will be available to purchase at break, but the canteen will not be providing lunch on this day. 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 on the form [‘here’](#).

Any students who are unable to go home until their bus arrives and are unable to arrange alternative travel arrangements may stay in school until the bus arrives at the 3.30pm. Only Stephenson’s buses will be picking up at 3.30pm. Ami and Maymist Coaches will be collecting students at 12.30pm. Students staying in school will be supervised and will need to bring a packed lunch.

Please complete the form [‘here’](#) by Friday 29th November if your child will need to stay in school until their bus arrives on 20th December. Please note that you do not need to complete the form if your child travels home by other means of transport.

Term dates 2025/26

To help with your future planning you can find a copy of the 2025/26 term dates [‘here’](#).

Gazette

Please see the latest edition of the Gazette which can be viewed on our website [‘here’](#).

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 18th November: U16 Netball Essex Cup away v Anglo European

Tuesday 19th November: U14 Football away v King John School

Wednesday 20th November: U19 boys' football Home v King Edmund

Wednesday 20th November: Year 8 and 9 Indoor Athletics Lee Valley

Thursday 21st November: Year 7 Netball Essex Cup Home v Gosfield

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.

Reminder: SHSG PA Winter Concerts Raffles 2024

SHSG PA will be drawing a raffle on the evening of each Winter Concerts, Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th December.

- 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for Monday 9th will be provided by the Y7 forms 7APH, 7ART, 7ATH
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for Tuesday 10th will be provided by the Y7 forms 7AUR, 7HRA, 7HRM
- additional prizes available on the night

Tickets cost £2 each and can now be purchased on Parent Pay. Once purchased, tickets will automatically be entered into the selected evening raffle. Ticket sales close Monday 9th December. Don’t worry if you miss the cut-off date as raffle tickets will be available on the night. All money raised supports the school. Thank you for your continued support.

Careers information

Several students have taken advantage of these high-quality free workshops, so they come highly recommended.

Get into Medicine Conference dates:

Saturday 23rd November from 9:30am - 3:30pm

Sunday 24th November from 9:30am - 3:30pm

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

Get Into Dentistry Conference date:

Sunday 1st December from 9:30am - 3:30pm

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

Key topics are discussed such as:

- Application Timelines
- How to Tactically Choose Medical/Dental Schools
- CV Building
- Personal Statements - New format from 2026
- Medical/Dental School Interviews
- UCAT - Entrance Exams to Medical/Dental School
- Medical Leadership and Awards Programmes
- Accessing Work Experience
- Accessing Scholarships

Castle Point Youth Council

The Mayor of Castle Point, Councillor Lynsey McCarthy-Calvert is looking for students in Years 7 to 10 who have an interest in politics and how their local area is run to join the Castle Point Youth Council which will be established during the academic year of 2024/25. This will provide students with the perfect opportunity to work on funded projects, gaining useful skills and experience while also adding to their CV or personal statement. The experience can also count towards their Duke of Edinburgh awards.

Find out more at www.castlepoint.gov.uk/castle-point-youth-council/ or to email youthcouncil@castlepoint.gov.uk.

Attendance

Attendance of students at SHSG continues to be excellent this academic year. During the first half term of this academic Year 7-11 have achieved an impressive 97% attendance rate compared to a Southend Secondary attendance rate of 94.2% (source: School Attendance team, Southend City Council). Year 7 are leading the way with an attendance percentage of 99% for this period, well done Year 7! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for working with us to ensure that our students achieve the absolute best attendance possible. This shared goal is rooted in the understanding that one day of absence from school, is five lessons of learning missed and that learning in the classroom has no real substitute. If your child is starting to struggle with their attitude to school attendance, please let us know your concerns early and we can work together to support you, and your child to improve their school attendance. The NHS has produced a particularly useful guide which I have provided a link to here. [Is my child too ill for school?](#)

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Carey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'J' and a trailing flourish.

Jason Carey
Headteacher

Christmas Card Design Competition



Open to all Year groups

- The design has to be A5 and the colours must be bold - no pastel tones.
- It should be submitted on cartridge paper but the design can be in any medium.
- There should be NO lettering or words.
- It can be traditional, religious, a winter scene, contemporary - anything related to Christmas but there must also be a SHSG reference.
- Surround your design with a border.

**Deadline for submissions:
Friday 29th November**

The winning design will be printed and sent out by the school as our official Christmas card.

There will be an Art badge for the winner and there are prizes for the winner & two runners up.

Go get creative & good luck!





SHSG Christmas Lunch

Thursday 12th December 2024

Main

Traditional Roast Turkey

Pigs in Blankets, Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce

Or

Vegan Wellington

Flaky Pastry Filled with Sweet potato and Butternut squash,
topped with a sprinkle of poppy seeds

**TICKETS
£7.50**

PAYMENT
via ParentPay
Tickets are limited so put
your request in quickly!

PLEASE NOTE
the Canteen will **NOT** be
providing any other food
on 12th December

Both Served With

Roast Potatoes, Roast Parsnips,
Brussels & A Mixture of Vegetables

To Finish

A Selection of Desserts

Free drink of squash &
a Christmas Cracker!



Our Christmas Dinner will be served at 12.00pm.

It must be ordered and paid for in advance **NO LATER** than **TUESDAY 3rd DECEMBER**. The cost is £7.50

TICKETS ARE LIMITED, SO PUT YOUR REQUEST IN QUICKLY!

Tickets will be issued by the School Bank on receipt of payment.
Our preferred method of payment is ParentPay, and you will need to choose whether you would like a Traditional or a Vegetarian meal in the information box on Parent Pay before purchasing your ticket.
This is a separate option on ParentPay and cannot be debited from your dinner money account.

**PLEASE NOTE THE CANTEEN WILL NOT
BE PROVIDING ANY OTHER FOOD ON 12TH DECEMBER**