



# 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, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

## ***Reading millionaires***



### ***Year 7 Reading Programme***

Year 7 students have completed their first Star Reader assessment via the Accelerated Reader website. The Star Reader Assessment gives pupils their 'Zone of Proximal Development' (ZPD). This helps pupils choose books from the school library and outside school which are at the appropriate level of challenge. Reading lists for Year 7 can also be found on the school website under the 'curriculum' section. When pupils have finished reading a book, they can take a short quiz online. Quizzes can be found here [Welcome \(renaissance-go.com\)](https://www.renaissance-go.com), and are available for thousands of books on the Accelerated Reader website. The software calculates the number of words read per book, and SHSG achievement points are awarded when pupils reach certain milestones. Pupils who read over one million words are awarded a special certificate, badge and enter the SHSG 'Millionaires' Club'.

Congratulations to Advika who has become our first SHSG Reading Millionaire of 2024-25! Advika has read over 1 million words since joining us in September. Being the first Year 7 student to reach 1 million words since the start of term, Advika has also won 500 points for her house, Hera. Congratulations to the 35 students in Year 7 who, along with Advika, have already reached a million words and have been awarded with their blazer badge and certificate. This is a superb achievement.





Congratulations to Year 7 student Advika – our first Reading Millionaire for 2024-2025!

A separate letter has been sent to parents of Year 7 pupils this week about the reading programme. You can find further information on the 'Reading' section of the school website '[here](#)'. For more information about supporting your child with reading at home, and book recommendations, visit the links below:

- [BookTrust: Getting children reading | BookTrust](#)
- [Words for Life | National Literacy Trust | Words for Life](#)
- [Young people | Reading Agency](#)

### **End of Term early closure – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

A reminder that 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.

### **November Cycle to Paris Challenge: a report from Mr Pryor**



*On Tuesday this week a team of 12 staff members and 10 Sixth Form students attempted to cycle from SHSG to Paris in a single day. Starting at 7:30am staff and students tackled the mammoth challenge of covering nearly 300 miles (including the distance the ferry would cover across the English Channel) on two static exercise bikes in a very warm reception.*







*After a slow start the team started to gain momentum and after many superb performances on the bikes Periods 1 and 2 we “arrived” at Dover where the Sixth Form boys in Year 13 managed to get us across the Channel and into France during P3.*



*Lunch time saw a huge turnout of staff who gave up their time to put in the miles on the bike to take us deeper into France all while being supported and encouraged by the students. (There were some interesting accompaniments by students on the nearby piano to keep up morale)*



*Period 4 and 5 saw staff and Sixth Form students work hard to cycle through France and the last few kilometres were finished around 5:30pm by staff that had volunteered to stay after school. We had some special last minute super-subbs come and help get us over the finish line just over 10 hours after we first started peddling.*



We would also like to say a massive thank to our reprographics and site team, without them it simply would not have been possible. If you would like to donate to our Movember Team page here is the link:

<https://movember.com/t/southend-high-school-for-girls?mc=1>

Or you can scan our QR code:



Thank you for all the support!  
Mr. Prior

### ***County Lines workshops with Leo Powell***

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November each year group took part in a county lines workshop with Leo Powell. Leo is an educator who works with young people across the country to help them understand the dangers of county lines, gangs and drugs. He talked about how easily young people can be groomed into joining gangs and then exploited by the gangs into committing criminal acts. He gave the students strategies to be able to recognise the signs of grooming, in both the online and the offline worlds, and how to avoid becoming a victim of the strategies used. He delivered this in his trademark high energy, upbeat and positive style.



### ***Year 11 Short Progress Reports Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November***

Year 11 short reports will be published on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November. These reports will contain the students' most up-to-date 'Most Likely' grades, (teacher predictions) as well as an Attitude to Learning (ATL) grade and targets where relevant. Please note that the ATL grades have been flipped around this year to align with a new system of using quartiles on full reports detailing the results of whole cohort examinations. This means that grade 4 is now 'outstanding', grade 3 is 'good', grade 2 is 'requires improvement' and grade 1 is 'unsatisfactory.'

### ***Year 11 Parents' Evening***

A reminder that the Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening will take place remotely on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Further details will follow next week.

### ***Upcoming House and Charity Fundraising Events***

#### ***Non-Uniform Day in aid of Havens Hospices - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024***

We are excited to announce an upcoming non-uniform day on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November. This is a great opportunity for our school community to come together to support one of our local charities, with all donations going towards Havens Hospices. Students should bring a £2 donation in cash into school on 29<sup>th</sup> November to take part.

#### ***House Charity Christmas Hamper Appeal***

Throughout November and December, students in Years 7-9 are once again asked to donate items and decorate Christmas hampers in aid of local charity *Kids Inspire*. *Kids Inspire* provides mental health and trauma recovery support for children, young people, and their families. Each year during the festive season the charity runs a hamper appeal, delivering food and other items to families in need in the local area. Tutor groups in Years 7, 8 and 9 are invited to take part in a House competition, organised by the House Captains, with the aim to create the best hamper to be donated. In December, Mrs Leman and students will be filling up the minibus and travelling to Great Baddow to drop off the hampers at the *Kids Inspire* Headquarters. Well done to all students who have contributed to this appeal so far. Please note the final date for tutor groups to drop off hampers at Mrs Leman's office is Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

#### ***Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day***

Christmas Jumper Day is back again this year to help raise money for HARP, Southend's homeless charity. We would like all students in Years 7-13 to get involved. To take part, simply wear a festive jumper with your school uniform and give your £2 donation in cash to the House Captains during morning registration on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Wear your most Christmassy jumper!



### ***SHSG Christmas LipSync Battle***

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December the House Captains will be hosting a special Christmas event at lunchtime in the school hall: The SHSG Christmas LipSync Battle. Tickets are £2 for this event for students and can be purchased via ParentPay. This event is always hugely popular and is likely to sell out quickly! All proceeds will go to HARP, Southend Homeless Charity.

### ***Christmas Lunch***

Tickets are selling fast for the SHSG Christmas Lunch! This will be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 12.00pm. They are £7.50 and are available to be purchased on Parent Pay. There are limited places available, so we encourage you to purchase your tickets as early as possible. **Please note that 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. The full promotional poster is attached to the end of this letter.

### ***World HIV/AIDS day 1<sup>st</sup> December***



In the lead up to World HIV/AIDS day on the 1<sup>st</sup> December, a series of assemblies will be delivered to Year 12 and 13 students during form time, whilst years 7 – 11 students will have a pre-recorded assembly, delivered to them on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

An honesty box will also be operating in the Geography Office in B Block where students will be able to pay £1 into the honesty box and take a red ribbon. Alternatively, students can pay via parent pay and take a ribbon. This will start from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Please note that ribbons are not free and must be paid for! We are hoping to raise as much money as possible.

Thank you for your support. We normally raise a significant sum of money to support further research, campaigning, and support for those affected by HIV/AIDS.

### ***Dance competition***

Naomi B and Scarlett W in Year 8 took part in the final of the National Entertainment Awards with their dance school. The awards were held at the O2 Indigo. Not only did their performance win best South East dance school, but they also scored a chance to perform in Las Vegas as well as in next year's awards. Well done to Naomi and Scarlett!





### ***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 28<sup>th</sup> November: U15 Netball away v FitzWimarc

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November: U15 Basketball Home v Cecil Jones

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November: Year 8 & year 9 Indoor Athletics semi-finals at Lee Valley (qualification dependent)

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November: Year 12 and 13 mixed netball (internal)

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.

### ***PE department kit***

There is a substantial amount of department kit that has not been returned to us after competitions. We are missing numerous athletics/cross country vests and netball dresses. If you have not specifically purchased one of these items for your daughter and you find a vest or netball dress at home, it is a departmental item and needs to be returned to us as soon as possible. We can wash them at school so there is no need to do that before returning it. We have had fixtures this week where we have not had enough kit to loan to players. Thank you for your support.

### ***Reminder: SHSG PA Winter Concerts Raffles 2024***

SHSG PA will be drawing a raffle on the evening of each 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 for Monday 9<sup>th</sup> will be provided by the Y7 forms 7APH, 7ART, 7ATH
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes for Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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**

A rare chance to gain insight into the opportunities offered by KPMG.



Insight to KPMG Virtual Event

Monday, 9th December, 5pm - 6pm

One of the World's Biggest Accounting Firms

FAO Y11, Y12, Y13

#### **Insight to KPMG Virtual Event**

*Join Big 4 & Global Accounting Firm KPMG*

KPMG in the UK is part of a global network of independent firms that offers Audit, Consulting, Deal Advisory, KPMG Business Services, Tax & Law and Technology services. On Monday 9th December, 5pm – 6pm, KPMG will be hosting an event virtually on Zoom to allow you to learn about the professional experience and skills you would develop if you started a career with them. You'll also get the chance to learn about the various apprenticeship and work experience programs on offer at KPMG UK.

**Secure your place below:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/29X225X>

#### **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 \(shsg.org\)](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 \(padlet.com\)](#)

#### **Anti-social behaviour on trains**

The British Transport Police informed us today that the behaviour of school children on public transport is causing distress to members of the public and station staff. They emphasised that this is across all schools using the C2C train service and may well not include SHSG students. I thought that it was pertinent to mention this just in case some of our students are impacted by this behaviour. If any of our students have been a victim of this behaviour they should talk to their Head of Year or Pastoral Support Officer. The British Transport Police also advised that they will work with schools to identify the students involved and then sanction them accordingly. This could ultimately end up in a ban from using the train network. Should an SHSG student be involved in this behaviour we will also be applying our behaviour ladder consequences. The consequences ladder can be found on our website [here](#).

#### **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".

Jason Carey  
Headteacher



# 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**



