



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, 25th October 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

SHSG's 111th Birthday



Today we celebrated our 111th School birthday. Students attended the traditional birthday assembly and Year 13 Panto, as well as taking part in a form activity.

Assembly

During the assembly, we reflected on the school's rich heritage and history by exploring some remarkable artefacts we have discovered in the school archive. These included: original hand-embroidered books for recording house points, the 'punishment book' from the 1930s, old photographs of the famous bridge before it was painted green, vintage blazer badges, a poster to raise funds for a spitfire aeroplane during the second world war and a well-loved hymn book belonging to Olive, a student who was at the school in 1947. One of the highlights was the unveiling of a box of admissions cards from the 1930s. The worn wooden box revealed hundreds of neatly stacked cards, each bearing the name of a student from a bygone era. Students were encouraged to think about their own place in the school's history and left the hall with a deeper appreciation for the legacy they are part of, and a responsibility to carry it forward.



Birthday Cake

Our students designed and decorated our traditional birthday cake. The theme this year was 'celebration', which included celebrating our outstanding Ofsted inspection, our amazing production of Chicago, our family ethos and House spirit, our new cherry tree, as well as Mr Carey and our pastoral dogs, Florence and Reggie.

Thank you to Pavan P, Eliana C, Grace B, Lois J, Ruby S Busolami Jessica T and Tali S, as well as Mrs Francis and Mrs Roe for all their work on this.



Year 13 Panto

In our usual tradition, Year 13 students wrote, directed and performed in the birthday panto. This year it was *Barbie*. There is great competition every year for students to give the 'best panto ever' and this year group did not disappoint. From the script to the costumes and dancing, it really showcased our students' talents and brought great entertainment to the school community. Thank you to the Head Student Team, and all the Year 13 students who took part.



Form Activities

Year 7 students took part in the Colour Run, led by our Year 11 and 13 students. This is a great team building activity that has become one of our new birthday traditions. We hope that the parents / carers of students in Year 7 are impressed by the bright colours that they will have all arrived home wearing this afternoon!



Year 8 staged a recycled fashion show. Their brief was to make the most creative outfit they could in 30 minutes, using the widest range of recycled materials that they could find and then showcase their outfits in a catwalk procession! We were treated to shoes made from cereal boxes, dresses crafted from the pages of books, a skirt which reused an old edition of the Financial Times and even a dress made from plastic bottles that resembled the Statue of Liberty. Aurora House took the best House Team prize of 500 house points, Hera the best individual outfit prize of 500 house points and Aphrodite won the best 'Rockstar' performance prize of 100 house points. Well done to all of Year 8 for making this such a fun afternoon.



Year 9 and 10 students took part in some Taskmaster activities, Year 11 students took part in a dodgeball competition and Just Dance and Year 12 and 13 students took part in a quiz. The winners of these competitions, along with the winners of the birthday card competition, will be announced next half term. All will be awarded House points to contribute to the House Winner's trip in the summer term.

Happy Birthday!

This has been a very enjoyable day that really encapsulates the SHSG Family Spirit. We wish all our students, staff and wider SHSG family who are celebrating a birthday this week, a very happy birthday!



SHSG Sixth Form Open Evening Wednesday 6th November

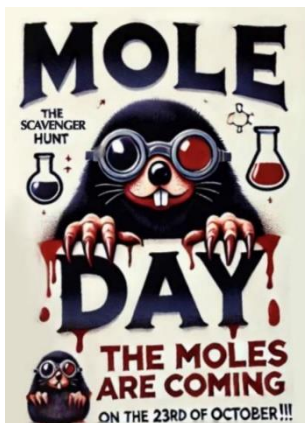
A reminder that our Sixth Form Open Evening is in the first week back after half term, on Wednesday 6th November. There will be a special talk for our current Year 11s and their parents at 5:45pm. There will also be an opportunity to speak to Directors of Faculty, Heads of Department and Subject Captains about the subjects on offer for A Level at SHSG.

Mole Day

For weeks we have been telling the students that the moles are coming.... But what moles were they expecting? Mole day is an annual event that takes place on the 23rd October (between the hours of 6.02 am and 6.02 pm). It is a celebration of everything chemistry.

A mole is a unit of measure that chemists use and it is easier to say that than 6.02×10^{23} . For example, if we say you have a pair of bananas you would know you have 2 bananas. If you say to a chemist that they have a mole of carbon, a chemist would know that there would be 6.02×10^{23} atoms of carbon and they would have a mass of 12g.

To celebrate mole day, Year 13s designed posters and badges to promote mole day. They also designed a treasure hunt quiz around the school with 23 questions. As well as hunting down the questions around the school the students emailed, in their own words, explaining what a mole is, made chemistry mole related posters and created models of a mole out of a mole of aluminium - 27g. A big thank you to all the staff and students who got involved to help celebrate the chemistry mole.



Cursed Pen 2024

This year's Cursed Pen competition will be closing on 31st October at the witching hour (3am GMT) when the line between the living and the dead becomes blurred and tormented spirits haunt the earth. Entries can be emailed to Mr McGarvey or can be handed in to the English Office in the B Block.

PE fixtures for the week after half term:

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

- Monday 4th November: TBC** U14 Netball Essex Cup v Harris Academy
- Tuesday 5th November: TBC** U14 Netball Essex Cup v Harris Academy
- Wednesday 6th November: U15 Basketball Home v FitzWimarc
- Thursday 7th November: Year 7 - 13 Regional Cross country at Felsted

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.

Welcome back to Mrs Smith

After half term Mrs Smith will be returning to school as Head of Year 8. I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Mrs Bernier for her hard work stepping in to lead the year group in Mrs Smith's absence. Mrs Bernier will still be involved with the year group as she continues with her other role of Pastoral Support Officer working with key stage 3.

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 \(padlet.com\)](https://www.padlet.com)

[SHSG Mental Health Board \(padlet.com\)](https://www.padlet.com)

Key Dates

Students return to school on Monday 4th November 2024, which is a week A.

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 restful half term!

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