



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, 29th November 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

End of Term early closure reminder – Friday 20th December

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

Students who cannot go home until their bus arrives and cannot arrange alternative travel arrangements may stay in school until the bus arrives at 3.30 pm. Only Stephenson’s buses will be picking up at 3.30 pm. Ami and Maymist Coaches will be collecting students at 12.30 pm. Students staying in school will be supervised and must bring a packed lunch.

Please complete the form [‘here’](#) by Sunday, 1st December 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.

Christmas Dinner

We would also like to inform families that all of the Christmas dinner tickets have now been sold. Therefore, if you have not bought a Christmas dinner ticker for Thursday, 12th December, you must bring in your own lunch as the canteen will not be serving any other food on this day.

Sociology A level Conference

On Monday, November 25th, Year 13 sociology students visited the Sociology A-level conference at the Emanuel Centre in the heart of Westminster. Speakers included Professor Kalwant Bhopal, who talked about her recent research into the Black Lives Matter response to the murder of George Floyd, the government's reaction, and the impact on education.

Professor Martin Albrow, an eminent British sociologist, spoke about his life's work in the field as one of the first globalisation theorists. His work has been very influential in the world of politics. Students also heard about Professor Tom Shakespeare's research and activism on disability rights and inclusion. Shakespeare's research is studied in the Mass Media topic of the A-level course when exploring the lack of positive representations of disability in the media. Dr Marian Duggan also spoke about her research on gender-based violence. The conference was an excellent opportunity for the students to enrich their knowledge and understanding of sociology and meet world-renowned researchers.



Walking Talking Mocks

On Wednesday and Thursday of this week, Year 11 had 'walking, talking mocks' (WTM) in English literature, English language, and maths. This is Year 11's second set of 'walking, talking mocks', building on those in Year 10 and providing invaluable advice, guidance and practice before the PPE examinations in January. Walking Talking Mocks allow students to experience examinations being modelled to them, 'live', by experienced teachers/examiners. They are designed to help students improve their examination techniques, such as, for example, identifying and interpreting command words correctly, identifying common misconceptions and managing time more effectively. Therefore, the Walking Talking Mocks are not assessed, and no data will be reported as a result. Student feedback has been very positive, with students saying how useful they find such experiences. Thanks go to the English and maths teachers for leading these.



Winner of Cursed Pen 2024

We are delighted to announce that Mariam K of 8ART is the winner of the *Cursed Pen* Halloween story competition for 2024. The judges were very impressed with her story, a modern retelling of the Japanese ghost story "Kuchisake Onna". Also, runner-up this year was Larissa R of 10HRM for her story "In her Mother's Words and Eyes", which made use of fantastic imagery and had very thoughtful sentiments. We want to congratulate all the students who entered; the work submitted this year was of a very high standard. You can judge yourself by reading their work on the English Blog [here](#).

In addition to the *Cursed Pen*, Fariah R won the Cursed Poem for 2024 for her poem *The Mimic's Lament*, which warns of the danger of evil spirits! Well done to Fariah R in Year 7.

Finalist in CAAB Publishing's Twisted Winter Tales Competition

Congratulations to Mathi S-K in Year 11 for making it to the final of CAAB Publishing's Twisted Winter Tales competition. As one of the finalists, Mathi has now had her story published in CAAB's Twisted Winter Tales collection (pictured here), which will be published more widely soon. Mathi's story, *A Day in Hell*, can be read on the English Blog [here](#). Well done Mathi.

Judo British Regional Schools Championships – gold medal!

At the weekend, Alise L, in Year 7, competed on behalf of SHSG at the British Regional Schools' Championships, and we are pleased to announce that she won a gold medal!



Christmas Decoration Competition

SHSG is holding a competition for all budding artists and creative entrepreneurs to see who can design the most innovative Christmas decorations! Decorations must be made by reusing and recycling materials.

Make your creative masterpiece and hand it to the Geography Office **by 7th December**. Remember to put your name and form on it so we know who you are! There will be 5 merits per entry—the winners get extra!

Winter Concerts and Carol Service

You are cordially invited to one of our **Winter Concerts on Monday, December 9th, and Tuesday, December 10th, 2024**, in the school hall from 7pm to 9pm. Tickets are £8 for adults and £6 for concessions. The Winter Concerts include a range of Music Department ensembles performing a selection of popular classics; they will be joined by the Drama Department, who will showcase a scene from the forthcoming school production of *Frozen Junior*. Both concerts also feature Year 7 form groups performing original Christmas Songs. Refreshments will be served during the intervals each night, and there will be a raffle from the Parents' Association. This event is always enjoyable, and we would love to share it with you. If you can come but you are not sure which concert to attend, a summary is below:

Monday 9th December: Orchestra, Wind Band and Jazz Band
SHSG Choir, String Group, Highly Strung, Alleyn Court Choir
Year 7 Christmas songs: 7APH, 7ART, 7ATH
Drama: Dance group, *Frozen Jr.*

Tuesday 10th December: Orchestra, Wind Band and Jazz Band
Flute Ensemble, Chamber Choir; Novem Consort; Guitar Club, Gospel Choir
Year 7 Christmas songs: 7AUR, 7HRA, 7HRM
Drama: Dance group, *Frozen Jr.*

Our **Carol Service** is taking place on **Tuesday 17th December** at **Holy Trinity Church, Southchurch Boulevard, at 7pm-8pm**. You are warmly invited to attend this event; tickets are not required but please be advised there is limited seating at the church.



The Careers department at SHSG works closely with Emmanuel College Cambridge and Hertford College Oxford. Both colleges are increasingly expanding their offer of experiences for students in Key Stage 4.

Our Careers opportunities are shared with parents via the headteacher's letter and students via our online careers hub, Unifrog.

In addition to this, we are trialling a half-termly Middle School Oxbridge Pathway lunchtime workshop that all students in Years 10 and 11 are welcome to attend. In these sessions, we will talk students through the opportunities available and offer support with their applications.

The first session will be held on Tuesday 3rd December at 12.30 in the meeting room.

SHSG Medical Pathways - Should I become a doctor?

SHSG students and parents have been invited to a virtual event on Zoom held by Lincolnshire NHS Training Hub. This presentation, held by medical students, is designed to help Year 9 – 11 pupils decide whether 'Medicine' or becoming a doctor is for them. It may also be helpful for anyone else seeking information about the process – including parents and students in Year 12 and 13.

The event will be held **on the 3rd December, 7-8:30 pm** on Zoom.

Please fill in the sign-up form below to receive the login details, or find it on their website: [Futures Programme - Lincolnshire Training Hub](#) or click this link for the form <https://forms.gle/RLXmFJwb456kw8yo7>

The application **form closes 29th November** so if you are interested, please sign up. The full advert is at the end of this letter.

Business Early Careers information evening hosted by Deloitte

This is an interesting opportunity for students and parents to sign up for a *Women in Business Early Careers* information evening hosted by Deloitte on Wednesday, December 4th. This event is suitable for students in Years 9-12. Please see the attached flyer at the end of this letter for more information.

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 2nd December: Year 7 football v Appleton (home)
- Monday 2nd December: Year 11 GCSE Swimming moderation for Isolated Skills (away at Shoebury)
- Wednesday 4th December: Lee Valley Indoor Athletics Final (away)
- Wednesday 4th December - U16 Essex Cup Netball v Woodlands
- Friday 6th - Saturday 7th December: ESAA Schools' Cross Country Cup National Final (away - Leeds)

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.

Parent Access to Satchel One (Show my Homework)

Please remember to set up the Parent App for Satchel One. This will allow you see your child's homework, achievement points and behaviour points. I have included a link here to help you with this. [Logging in as a parent | Satchel Help Center \(satchelone.com\)](#)

Lost property

We have accumulated several coats, jumpers, PE kits, and bags in lost property, none of which are labelled. Lost Property is situated next to the main Reception desk. If your son or daughter has lost something, this should be their first port of call.

Items have been displayed in the foyer on multiple occasions. We will display the lost property to students again on Tuesday, December 3rd, and Thursday, December 5th. We do our best to reunite items with their owners; however, if they are not claimed by the end of the term, they will be donated to charity.

Flu Catch up clinics

Please find information regarding flu catch up clinics from the school nurse at the end of this letter.

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.

Mental Health & Wellbeing at SHSG

At SHSG, we often discuss how to look after our health in lessons and tutor time. If you need support or information about coping 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 informative 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 for school activities and events. 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 period at the end.

Jason Carey
Headteacher



LINCOLNSHIRE
TRAINING HUB
Primary Care Education

lincolnshiretraininghub.nhs.uk



Should I become a Doctor? – 03/12/24

Virtual Event on Zoom – 03/12/24 between 7 and 8:30pm

This presentation, held by medical students, is designed to help Year 9 - 11 students decide whether 'Medicine', or becoming a doctor, is for them. It may also be helpful for anyone else seeking information about the process - including parents and teachers.

It will be held on the 3rd of December 7-8:30pm on Zoom. Please fill in the sign-up form below to receive the log in details, or find it on our website under Training & Events > Futures Programme > Future Doctor:

<https://forms.gle/RLXmFJwb456kw8yo7>

The application form closes 29th of November.

The evening will include:

- How do I know medicine is right for me?
- The Application Process
- The Medical Degree
- Foundation Years (Post Degree)
- Dentistry vs Medicine

If you have any more questions,
please contact molly.butcher@nhs.net

I particularly enjoyed looking at the ways I can get a medical degree and the roadmap/path in terms of exams, universities and work experience.

Thank you for the presentation, I found it very valuable as I am currently choosing my A-level options in year 11 and I hoped that this presentation can help me decide what I want to do for the future.



Deloitte: Women in Business webinar

Learn more about our Early Careers opportunities!

Including our Work Insight Programmes (opportunities for year 9, 10, 11 & 12 pupils), Degree Apprenticeships, Placements & Graduate Programmes.

Good afternoon,

At [Deloitte](#), we are one of the big 4 professional services firms and a leading employer. We are delighted to invite pupils, parents and teachers along to our **Women in Business: Early Careers information evening** on **Wednesday 4th December**.

The event will be particularly useful for **pupils, from year 9 through to year 13**. **The event will share more about the different Early Career opportunities we have available. Pupils will:**

- Meet our Women in Business – our leaders, apprentices & grads will share their Deloitte journey and answer frequently asked questions.
- Find out more about our [Early Careers programmes](#). Including Career Shapers & Aspire (opportunities for year 9-12 which open in January), Entry Level apprenticeships, Degree Level Apprenticeships, Placements and Graduate Programmes.
- Learn more about the application process and hints & tips to succeed.

Pupils, parents & teachers can [sign up here](#) for the event

Finding us

This is a virtual event held on Zoom, the Zoom link will be shared once you have signed up to attend.

Flu Vaccine Catch up Clinics



Essex Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust

Has your child missed their school vaccinations?

We are running local flu catch up clinics this winter, your nearest clinic is:

Leigh Primary Care Centre, SS9 3NG

- Saturday 23 November 10am-2pm
- Saturday 7 December 10-2pm
- Monday 23 December 10am-3pm
- Monday 30 December 9am-2pm

It's easy to catch up, book your nearest clinic NOW on 0300 790 0597.

For information on school aged vaccinations please visit our website:
eput.nhs.uk/childrensvaccines



#GetWinterStrong