



# 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, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

## ***Pi Day Headteacher Awards***

On Tuesday, our top seven entries in the Pi Day maths and art competition met with Mr Carey to celebrate their fantastic work. The winning entries ranged from quilling to pi around the world, to a crochet pi-rate. Congratulations to our winners, Parnika T, Jenna W, Lily B, Tutu O, Ariana H and Noélie A; they are each now a proud owner of our prestigious pi badge. Special recognition goes to our overall winner, Elettra C from 7ATH, who also received a Headteacher's Award for her excellent stop motion video.



## ***Middle School Prefects***

A huge well done to our new team of Year 10 Middle School Prefects. It was an extremely competitive field this year with 120 applications for only 40 places. The quality of applications was very high with it being a matter of very fine margins when it came down to choosing the final 40 prefects. We are also delighted to announce that the new Head Middle School Prefect is Holly B and her two deputies are, Gianna E-N and Elicia R. Congratulations to you all.

We would like to thank all the students who submitted an application and hope that those students who were unsuccessful this time will not be deterred in putting themselves forward for future leadership opportunities in the school.



### **Inter-House Music Competition 2025**

Throughout the week, students from Years 7-11 and Year 13 have competed in the annual House Music Competition. This year's event featured bold musical choices from stride piano to tango clarinet and musical theatre - there were many excellent performances through the heats, with students unperturbed by the bright lights of the stage and a roaring audience. Music Captains Abida K and Heidi P helped to host and promote the event, joined by friends in the technical crew. On Friday, Mrs Leman joined the panel as guest adjudicator and gave a closing speech thanking all our participants. We extend our congratulations to finalists, Nova W (11APH), Alice W (7ART), Micka GN (9ATH), Ariana H (8AUR), Florence SH (10HRA) and to all for getting involved. Well done, Kacy L (7HRM) for winning this year's event - presented with the House Cup with blue ribbons - as Hermes wins 500 House points and we all leave with a stunning performance of Defying Gravity. This year's House Music was special because of the contribution and buzz from the audience - so, once again, thank you to all for supporting this event.

Happy Easter from the Music Department.



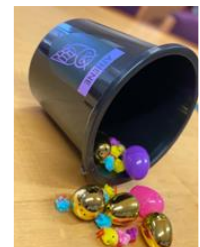
### **House Easter Egg Hunt**

On Thursday, students in years 7-13 took part in a fun-filled easter egg hunt around the school, searching high and low for hidden treasures. Scattered throughout SHSG were:

- Fluffy Easter chicks – worth 1 House Point each
- Small Easter eggs – worth 1 House Point each
- 20 Golden Easter Eggs – each worth an incredible 100 House Points each!

Students eagerly collected their finds during break and lunch time, delivering them to their Head of House to claim valuable points towards the House Cup. Every point makes a difference! Thank you to the House Captains and to everyone who got involved with the event. The easter egg hunt results are as follows:

<b>Hermes</b>	<b>1120 House Points</b>
Hera	914 House Points
Athene	718 House Points
Aurora	505 House Points
Artemis	323 House Points
Aphrodite	227 House Points



Congratulations to Hermes who are the overall competition winners.

### **Year 11 GCSE Exam Briefing**

This week, Year 11 students attended an Examination Briefing with Miss Riebold to review some key information and regulations provided by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) regarding GCSE examinations. This includes information about what to do before, during and after the examination. Students have been emailed the PowerPoint and all the relevant JCQ documents. We recommend students familiarise themselves with these. They are also attached to this letter for your information. Year 13 will receive a similar briefing after the Easter break.

### **Record breaking success in the Biology Olympiad**

SHSG Biology students have enjoyed great success in this year's Olympiad. The British Biology Olympiad (BBO) is an advanced problem-solving competition for students aged 16 and over in the UK. The competition is designed to challenge and stimulate students with an interest in biology, helping them to expand their talent in the subject. Certificates are awarded at Bronze, Silver and Gold level.

Congratulations to Bluebell J for winning Gold and Mary M, Verity V B, Anabel H, Helian T and Maansi C for achieving Silver. Katrina N, Ibadat S, Erin R, Mia B, Alejandra H-G, Luke R, Willow M-C, Habiba C, Prisha M, Airaly P won Bronze whilst Jack T, Bonnie S, Ahmed J, Chelsea L-N, Jalyn N, Ashleigh W, Isabel C, Freya M, Lulu J, Daisy H were highly commended on their performances. Lucy R, Mary B, Rebecca G, Zharlyn P, Ella C, Isabel C, Abigail M, Poppy D, Mishal O, Gayatri N, Alicja B and Kimila D were also commended on their outcomes. Well done to all who took part. Once again, SHSG biologists performed exceptionally well in the Olympiad under challenging circumstances.



### **V&A Innovate Design Competition**

V&A Innovate is a national design competition that challenges KS3 students to work in teams and develop innovative solutions to real-world problems. Throughout the first term, our students embraced a human-centred design approach, responding to one of three themes inspired by the V&A Museum's collections: Transform, Belong, or Celebrate. Each team submitted their ideas on two A3 design sheets, showcasing their creativity, problem-solving skills, and design thinking. We are delighted to share that Poppy, Sophia, Hannah, Michelle, and Mia received special recognition from the V&A judging panel for their outstanding ideas. To celebrate their achievements, all participating students have been awarded V&A Innovate certificates and DT colour badges in recognition of their hard work and creativity.



### **KS3 Design & Technology – Projects Completed!**

Our first group of KS3 students have now completed their DT projects and will be bringing them home. A huge well done to all students for their hard work and dedication in developing new design and manufacturing skills throughout the last two terms.

- Year 7 have created timber footstools with appliquéd cushions.
- Year 8 have designed and made acrylic jewellery, including branding, bags, and display stands.
- Year 9 have produced plushies, packaging, and a torch.

The rest of our students will be completing their projects in the summer term, and we look forward to seeing their fantastic creations.



### **Environmental poetry competition 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

At lunchtime, on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Planet Action held a performance poetry event to mark World Earth Day which happens on our first day back after Easter.

The winners of the performance category were, Shivani S and Mayam IM who won with a thoughtful poem about Earth Day itself.

The winners of best poem category were, Advika K who composed her own poem.

Thank you to the judging panel which consisted of Mrs Patel and Mrs Neill.

### **Year 11 Individual and Form Group photographs – pre-registration**

Carmel Jane Photography will be visiting our School on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2025, to take the Year 11 Individual and Group Photos. All parents are requested to pre-register for instant access to their child's photographs once they are ready: pre-registration is required for every photo shoot.

Register in 3 easy steps in less than a minute:

1. Head to [www.carmeljaneshop.co.uk](http://www.carmeljaneshop.co.uk)
2. Enter your unique code : JR29MVRWSR
3. Include your child's full school register name.

Photographs are being taken in the gym on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April. Students will need to leave lessons and go to the gym when it is their form group's allocated time listed below.

**Timetable:**

<b>Form Group</b>	<b>Time Slot</b>
<b>11 APHRODITE</b>	<b>09.00</b>
<b>11 ARTEMIS</b>	<b>09.30</b>
<b>11 ATHENE</b>	<b>10.05</b>
<b>11 AURORA</b>	<b>10.35</b>
<b>BREAK - 11.05-11.25</b>	
<b>11 HERA</b>	<b>11.25</b>
<b>11 HERMES</b>	<b>11.55</b>

***Primary Liaison with our Maths Faculty and Chalkwell Hall Primary School***

Our Year 8 students have dedicated their lunchtimes to support and mentor Year 5 and 6 students with their maths learning over the spring term and the results have been truly remarkable. The primary school students have looked forward to visiting SHSG every week, building strong and positive relationships with their Year 8 'Maths Angels'. Through this experience, they have not only developed a greater understanding of maths but also have grown in confidence and self-belief.

We are incredibly grateful for the commitment and enthusiasm of our students, who have been punctual, kind, welcoming, and passionate about helping others. Their dedication has created a warm and supportive learning environment that has allowed the younger students to thrive.

To end this wonderful initiative, we organized a fun Easter egg hunt around the school, expertly coordinated by our Maths Captains. Each participant was also awarded a certificate to recognize their hard work and involvement. Please see the write up for this event below.

We are already missing our primary school visitors and are eagerly looking forward to connecting with new groups of students in the upcoming terms!

Thank you, Maths Angels ( Ayaat K, Alicja M, Aoife C, Sadie O, Arabella S, Eya B, Nicole D, Madison B, Ariana H, Abishega S, Teniolamide F, Riana T, Hallie C, Olive A, Anisa K and Diana K.)  
Miss Seco and Mrs Pilkington

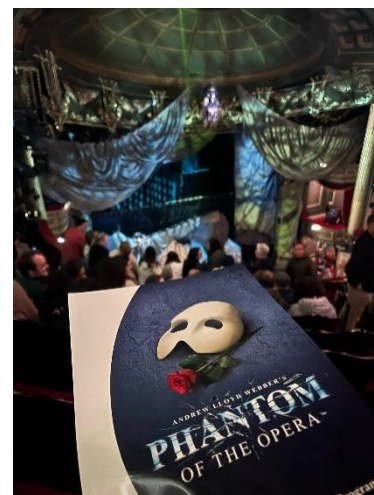
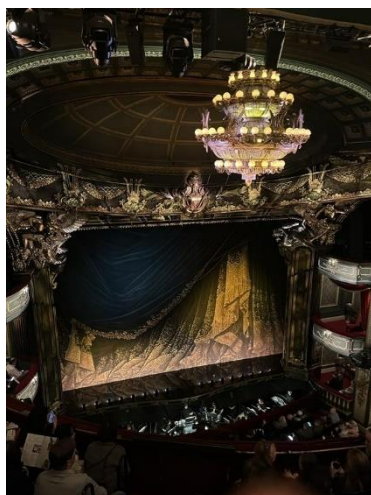
***Maths Scavenger Hunt with Chalkwell Hall Primary School***

'We were thrilled to welcome students from Chalkwell Hall Primary School for an exciting maths-themed scavenger hunt around our school. As they explored different areas, they tackled a series of challenging maths questions, testing their problem-solving skills and teamwork. The students showed great enthusiasm and determination, making their way through the hunt with impressive mathematical thinking. At the end of their journey, their hard work was rewarded with a packet of chocolates. It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved, and we hope to host them again for more maths adventures in the future!'

By Maths Subject Captain, Nethmi F

***The Phantom of the Opera***

This week, GCSE and A Level Music students visited His Majesty's Theatre in the West End to see the spectacular, classic musical, The Phantom of Opera. Students were thrilled by the stagecraft which includes trapdoors, pyrotechnics and the infamous chandelier falling the whole height of the theatre from roof to stage - as the Phantom wreaks havoc on the cast and crew of the theatre. There were lavish sets and costumes which complimented some virtuosic performances from leads: Christine Daaé, Carlotta, Raoul and Erik, AKA the Phantom. Surprisingly, some students found the vocals intensely 'operatic' but nevertheless were captivated by the entertaining retelling of the story with abundant dry ice and vocal acrobatics.



### ***PE kit after the Easter break***

After Easter we will have two weeks of PPEs (mock examinations) in the sports hall for Year 10 and 12. This means that there will be no access to the changing rooms, the PE classroom, the sports hall and the fitness suite. On the days that students have a PE lesson or an extra-curricular club, they will need to come into school in PE kit and remain in kit all day. At the start of their lesson (or club) students should go to the gym, where they will be registered and taken to their learning area. They will be outside in all-weather so they must dress accordingly: school PE kit only will be permitted. There will also be changes to the extra-curricular timetable which will be communicated through the respective MS Teams pages. The external examination period will commence immediately after this so please use these arrangements until further notice. Students as well as parents / carers will be notified when students have access to the changing rooms again.

### ***Parents' Association Easter Raffle***

Congratulations to the winners of the Parents' Association Easter Raffle which was drawn on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

The winners are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize, 4 tickets to The Girl on the Train, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at the Palace Theatre, Southend – Mrs T Kumar
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, a Rosie Fox necklace – Ms E Witham
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, a £25 Danielle's school wear and uniform gift card – Mrs Z Doherty
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize, a Lindt chocolate egg and bunny – Mrs K Owen

The prizes can be collected from reception. Thank you to all parents, carers and students for your continued support.

### ***Late Detention***

One final reminder that our 'managing lateness to school' procedure is changing after Easter. For clarity, I have included the key information again below.

At Southend High School for Girls, we place great value on punctuality — an important life skill that supports learning and future success. While the vast majority of our students arrive on time every day, we are introducing a clearer and more consistent approach to support those who struggle with punctuality.

From the start of the summer term (after Easter), our updated procedure will be as follows:

- Students arriving after 8:30am will be marked as late.
- Lateness will no longer result in behaviour points.
- All instances of lateness will be recorded on Satchel One so parents and students can track patterns over time.
- If lateness is due to delays on contracted bus services or major rail disruption (as reported on the provider's website), it will not be recorded.
- If a student is late three times in one term, they will be placed on a **Late Report**. After that, each further instance of lateness will result in a **30-minute same-day detention (3:30–4:00pm)**. Parents will be notified by email.

- If a student misses this detention, they will be required to attend a longer detention after school on the following Wednesday.
- The Late Report will reset at the end of each term.

We are confident this system will help students develop reliable habits and take greater responsibility for their punctuality. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us maintain high standards.

### **Gazette**

This terms gazette can be found [‘here’](#).

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

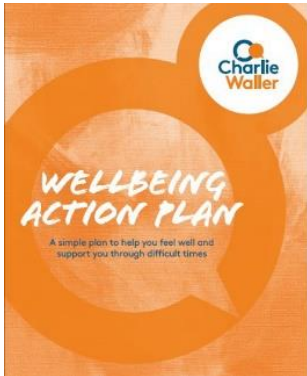
At SHSG, we often talk about how to look after our health in lessons and in tutor time. If you need support or information about how to cope with your emotions, you can visit the school website and look at [Mental Health & Wellbeing - Southend High School for Girls \(shsg.org\)](http://shsg.org).

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 \(padlet.com\)](#)

The school’s pastoral team has received some valuable training from the Charlie Waller Trust and will be using one of their tools to help students understand and manage their feelings better. Students, together with their Pastoral Support Officers, will use the Charlie Waller Trust’s Wellbeing Action Plan. The students will be able to take this document home to talk about it as well as use it in school.



### **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](#).

We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April on a week B!

Yours faithfully,

Jason Carey  
Headteacher