



# 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, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

## Charity Week



This 5-day event has once again been a roaring success, with the whole school community coming together and fundraising for Comic Relief, Southend HARP, Little Havens and Kids Inspire. Monday lunchtime signalled the start of what promised to be a hugely enjoyable week, as the Sponge the Teacher event kick-started the activities. Many thanks to all the teachers who braved the stocks!

Entertainment continued throughout the week with teachers and students going head-to-head on Tuesday lunchtime for the SHSG Olympics. Thank you to all the teachers who took part. A special mention goes to Mr Shaikh who was an excellent all-round athlete, scoring lots of points for Athene! The overall winners were Artemis who secured 1000 points towards the House Cup. Runners up were Athene with 500 points, and Hera came in third place with a total of 250 points. Congratulations to Artemis and well done to all the participants.

On Wednesday the hall was packed for a special screening of SHSG TV. Students were treated to a special episode of 'The Traitors', but this time it was SHSG staff and students taking part! Thursday provided a fiercely contested Family Feud Competition with House student teams up against one another, and the traditional finale that everyone had eagerly anticipated – the losing team getting custard pies in the face! Well done to Aurora who were overall winners, gaining 1000 House Points.

Thoroughly enjoyed by all, the Talent Show was an excellent final event to round off an extremely successful week. Excellence and entertainment are promised every year and 2025 certainly did not disappoint with dance, song, and a guest appearance from the Head Student Team. Congratulations to all the acts who performed and especially dance act AESPA, consisting of Naomi A Christine A Rushda A Abigail B and Yo'Elle O, who were crowned overall Talent Show winners. They all win 500 points for their Houses. Thank you to our amazing House Captains who have worked so hard to make the week such a success.



**Here's what some of our House Captains had to say about Charity Week:**

*"Thank you all so much for donating and supporting our chosen charities of HARP and Comic Relief, every donation makes a difference! This charity week has been amazing and the support from you all and the enthusiasm at the events has been outstanding. Personally, I loved seeing the teachers all get involved with sponge throw and house Olympics as well as seeing some of my fellow house captains get smothered in whipped cream! Thank you again and I hope you have all had as amazing of a week as us house captains have."*

**Alice, Aurora House Captain**

*"I just wanted to say a massive thank you to every single student and staff that helped make this year's Charity Week a huge success!! We couldn't have done it without you! It has been amazing getting the opportunity to host this for you all. My favourite part has definitely been watching all the teachers get sponged on the sponge throw - it was hilarious! Once again thank you all for coming it's been incredible!!! "*

**Kitty, Hera House Captain**

*"A HUGE thank you to everyone who has got involved this week and donated to charities!! As house competition is hugely important for all of us, it was great to see my house, Athene, coming second in the House Olympics and winning a massive 500 achievement points. My favourite moment was filming SHSG TV and editing everything, the teachers and fellow House Captains did such an amazing job. I also loved taking part in Family Feud (not so much getting pied) and hosting the House Olympics, it was such good fun. Roll on next year's Charity Week!"*

**Eloise, Athene House Captain**











### **Ski Trip to Canada 2025**

Year 10 and 12 students recently embarked on an exciting week of skiing in Jasper, Canada. Students experienced an incredible once in a lifetime opportunity to explore the famous Rocky Mountains and were able to create lifelong memories with their friends both on and off the slopes. We are extremely proud of the way all our students conducted themselves throughout the trip, despite any challenges they may have faced. Students consistently demonstrated resilience, positivity, and formed new friendships along the way.

From early morning ski sessions to apres-ski activities, every moment was filled with excitement, learning, and teamwork. Whether it was beginners mastering their first turns or experienced skiers taking on challenging double diamond runs, everyone pushed themselves and supported one another throughout the week.

Beyond the slopes, the group bonded over shared meals, evening activities, and plenty of laughter, making this trip truly unforgettable. We would like to say a huge thank you to all our fantastic students and staff who made this adventure so special!

We are very pleased to announce that a similar trip is being launched to year 10 and 12 students during Easter 2026. If you are interested in entering the draw please refer to the letter which will be emailed out to parents/carers.

#### **Student quotes:**

*'The ski trip was honestly a once in a life experience. Me and some of my best friends got to make many memories on and off of the slopes. The facilities were amazing, the people were friendly, and the food was delicious!! Skiing was definitely the best part due to the wide variety of slopes and chairlifts with many fun snow parks and jump opportunities!'* (Holly B, year 10).

*'The views and slopes were amazing, and the ski resort had an extensive variety for all different levels of skiing. The teachers were so engaged, making the trip even more enjoyable. My favourite memory was getting ready with all my friends every night to go out for an adventurous evening'* (Faye C, year 10).

*'The whole environment and people involved in the ski trip made it memorable and I will definitely miss the chairlift chats with my friends and instructors. I especially enjoyed the onsite Starbucks and opportunities to shop at the mall and airport'* (Ella S, year 12).





### ***World Book Day Celebrations***

We continued to promote a lifelong love of reading this week with our 'Guess the Teacher behind the Book' event for World Book Day on Thursday. During lunchtime students from all years were tasked with uncovering the identities of their teachers hiding behind their favourite books. The school was buzzing with activity and on completion of the task, students from all years collected a prize from the library. Thank you to our hardworking student librarians and sixth form English Captains for their help in running this fun activity.

### ***SHSG and the Carnegies Shadowing Scheme***

SHSG is once again participating in the Carnegie Shadowing Scheme, which allows students to engage with the prestigious Carnegie Medal-shortlisted books, share reviews, and discuss their thoughts as part of these enjoyable book groups.

Applications are welcomed from students in all years to join the 2025 shadowing scheme groups. Lunchtime sessions will be led by Year 10 Reading Mentors and members of the Head Student Team. Students can also submit



artwork and short stories inspired by their chosen books and take part in the Shadowers' Choice Awards. Please apply to [library@shsg.org](mailto:library@shsg.org) and further information can be found here: [The Carnegies](#)



### ***Middle School Prefect launch***

Today students had an assembly outlining the application process and highlighting the qualities and skills required to successfully undertake the role of a Middle School Prefect. The deadline for applications is Friday 14th March at 5.30pm. Shortlisting and subsequent interviews will take place in the following two weeks with the successful applicants being informed in the last week of term and ready to take up responsibilities after their PPEs.

The selection process is rigorous and robust; prefects are selected after consideration of the quality of their application, the contribution they have made to SHSG and the wider community, their behaviour, attendance and punctuality records and endorsement by staff. We look forward to reading student applications.

### ***Careers***



Our half term online Careers talk for Years 8-12 came from old girls Bonnie and Marnie Grieve. Bonnie has completed the prestigious BBC Apprenticeship scheme and is now a BBC Marketing executive who recently led on the marketing campaign for the Gavin and Stacey Christmas special. Marnie is in her second year of a degree apprenticeship in News and Current Affairs. The sisters explained the different schemes available. More National Careers Week Monday 10th March.

### ***National Careers Week- next week!***

We will be marking National Careers week on Monday 10th March. We will be running several activities for students to get involved in. Bonnie and Marnie have kindly agreed to return to SHSG on Monday 10th March to present an in person workshop at lunchtime in the Media Studio. Students from all year groups are welcome to attend.

We are also holding a “Women in STEM” event in the meeting room at lunchtime on Monday where students will have the opportunity to engage with top tech company Airbus. This session is aimed at any student in Key Stages 3-5 who is interested in learning more about STEM careers and the early careers opportunities available at Airbus.

In addition, all year groups will have registration time activities to expand their awareness of Career paths that are available to them. Ms Casson will be hosting a drop-in session for students on Thursday lunchtime in the Media Studio for any students who would like some Careers advice on post 16 or 18 destinations.

A helpful parents' guide to carers can be found [here](#).



### **Year 8 Parent's Consultation Evening, Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

A reminder that the Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening will be taking place online on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Further details will follow next week including staff who will have availability on different days.

### **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 10<sup>th</sup> March: U18 Boys' football Home v Coopers Coborn

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March: Year 8-10 Spain Sports Tour social event, Ocean Beach 6pm

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March: Year 9 and U16 Borough Netball Tournament

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.

### **SHSG PA Easter Raffle**

SHSG PA is holding an Easter raffle to be drawn on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. The prizes are:



- 1<sup>st</sup> prize – 4 tickets to The Girl on the Train on 6th May 2025 at the Palace Theatre, Southend.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – Rosie Fox necklace
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize – £25 Danielle's School Wear and Uniform gift card
- 4<sup>th</sup> prize – a Lindt chocolate egg and bunny

Tickets cost £2 each and can be purchased on ParentPay. Once purchased, raffle tickets will be automatically entered into the draw.

Ticket sales close on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April and the winning raffle tickets will be drawn on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

All monies raised by SHSG Parents' Association will support the school. Thank you for your continued support.

### ***Year 9 Options***

Students have now received presentations and assemblies about each of the possible options choices. A reminder that the deadline for options is 14<sup>th</sup> March.

### ***International Women's Day***

International Women's Day is on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March this year, and to celebrate we will have a special whole-school assembly on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March led by Ms Laid, the head of history, along with special discussion activities in forthcoming tutor sessions. A very happy International Women's Day to all.

### ***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)

In addition, next week, our Year 12 peer mentors will visit all year group assemblies to introduce themselves and explain to students how they can access their support.

### ***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](#).

Have a restful weekend!

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey  
Headteacher