



# 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, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

### **Reading Update**

#### **Year 7 Waterstones Trips for World Book Day**

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, all Year 7 students visited Waterstones in Southend city centre this week. Each student had the opportunity to choose a book of their own, fully funded by the school. This annual initiative is part of our commitment to fostering a love of reading and lifelong literacy.

Students explored a wide range of books, discussed their interests, and received recommendations from our dedicated Year 10 Reading Mentors. It was a fantastic experience, with many students discovering new authors and genres. A special thank you to our Head Student Team members, Maggie and Isla, for their support in making this event such a success.







### ***SHSG and the Carnegie 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.

Applications are now open for students in all years to join the 2025 shadowing scheme book groups. The deadline for applications is Monday, 10th March, with book club sessions commencing from Monday, 17th March. These



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.

Further details on how to apply can be found below. We look forward to another exciting literary journey!

[The Carnegies](#)

**Fantastic Book Clubs to join.**

**The Carnegies**

Read exciting new books from the shortlisted titles and take part in fun activities and discussions as part of the Carnegie Shadowing Scheme.

Apply to [library@shsg.org](mailto:library@shsg.org) by Monday 10th March 2025 to be part of these brilliant book groups.

#Carnegies25 | [Carnegies.co.uk](http://Carnegies.co.uk)

In order to help support your child with reading at home, please find some useful links below:

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

Link to the Accelerated Reader website:

[Welcome \(renaissance-go.com\)](http://Welcome.renaissance-go.com)

**World Book Day Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

To learn more about this annual celebration of authors, illustrators, and the joy of reading, please visit the **National Literacy Trust** website [here](#).

[World Book Day 2025 – Ideas and Activities](#) | [National Literacy Trust](#) | [National Literacy Trust](#)

**House Captains Valentine's Day Bake sale in aid of HARP Homelessness Charity**

Our school was filled with excitement on Valentine's Day as the House Captains organised a spectacular bake sale in support of HARP, a local homelessness charity. Students across all year groups showcased their baking talents, offering a delightful selection of treats, from heart-shaped cookies to red velvet cupcakes.

Thanks to the enthusiastic participation and generous contributions, we raised an incredible £500! A huge congratulations to the House Captains for their hard work and to everyone who took part in making this event a great success.







### **House Leaderboard February 2025**

The competition is heating up as our Houses continue to battle for the top spot on the leaderboard! With students earning academic and community achievement points through hard work, competitions, working as a team, reaching reading milestones and making positive contributions to school life, every effort counts. The spring term has so far seen some fantastic performances across all Houses, with many students going above and beyond in lessons, sports, and extracurricular activities. Special recognition goes to those who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and school spirit, earning a shout-out in the recent House assemblies and crucial points for their House.

As it stands (and at the halfway point of the year) the current leaderboard is as follows:

<b>POISTION</b>	<b>HOUSE</b>	<b>HOUSE POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>HERMES</b>	<b>35172</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>APHRODITE</b>	<b>35032</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>ARTEMIS</b>	<b>34552</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>AURORA</b>	<b>34512</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>HERA</b>	<b>34432</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>ATHENE</b>	<b>32832</b>

With more events and opportunities coming up, there's still everything to play for! Look out for House Netball and House Music competitions this half term. Can Hermes do it once again making them winners for 3 years in a row, or will another House put an end to their winning streak? Keep up the fantastic work, and let's see which House will claim victory and the House Cup at the end of the academic year.

### **Non-uniform Day in aid of local Charity Havens Hospice**

Today's non-uniform day was organised by our **House Captains** to raise funds for **Havens Hospice**, a charity providing vital palliative care and support. All donations collected today will go directly towards supporting their important work. Thank you for your generosity!

### **A Level Physics Trip to CERN 2025**

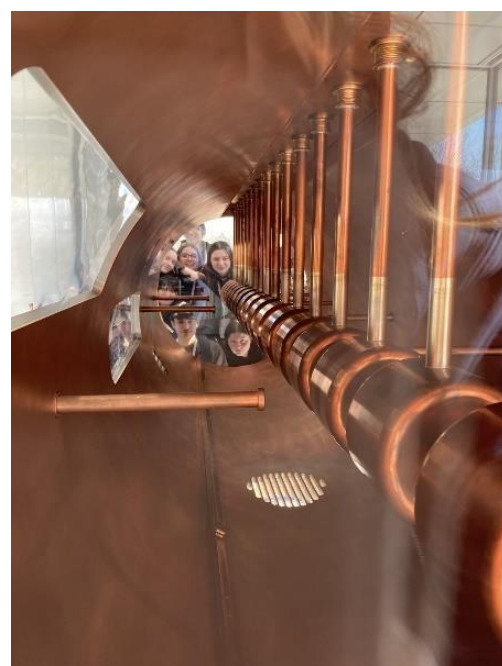
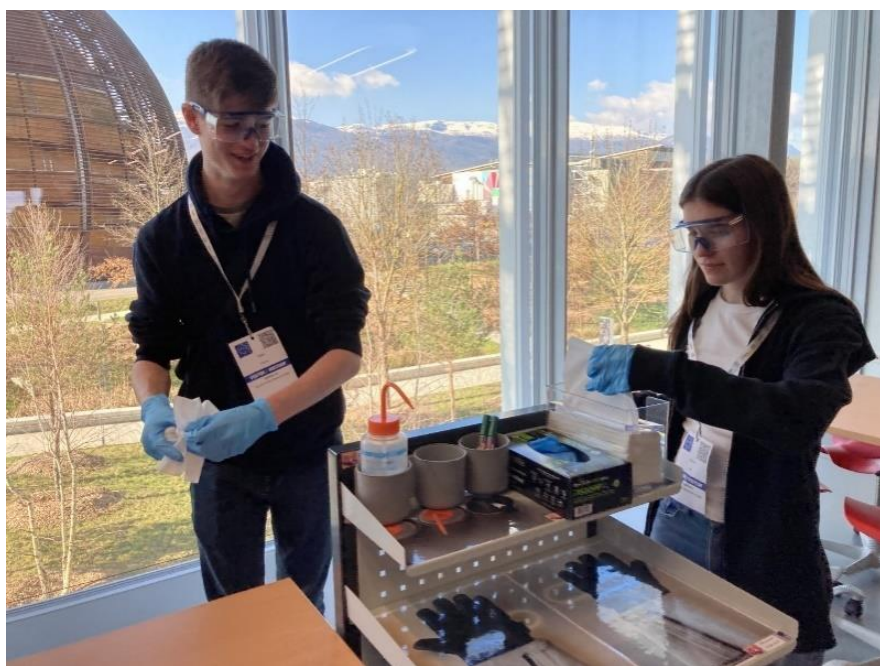
Just before half-term, 20 A Level physicists travelled to Geneva, Switzerland to visit the largest collaborative science experiment the world has ever seen. Here is what the students had to say about the experience:

*"We travelled to Geneva, Switzerland, where we had the opportunity to visit CERN. During our visit, we explored the facility, including the Low Energy Ion Ring (LEIR), and participated in a workshop on constructing cloud chambers. Using dry ice and isopropyl alcohol, we created our own cloud chambers and observed the tracks left by invisible electrically charged particles that were all around us. After the experiment, some groups presented their findings to the group and got to explain the particle interactions they saw. We also toured the visitor centre, gaining further insight into the groundbreaking research conducted at CERN by exploring the interactive exhibitions.*

*Beyond CERN, we explored more of the city of Geneva including a morning at the Musée d'histoire des sciences and a tour of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum. We also spent time by Lake Geneva and wandered*

*through the city where we saw the UN and got to appreciate the scenic beauty and vibrant atmosphere of Geneva. We even spent one evening bowling in competition with the teachers, we weren't very good...*

*Overall, the trip was absolutely brilliant and very inspiring. Thank you to Miss Dillon and the rest of the staff for organising the trip and showing us so much of Geneva!"*



### ***Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening***

A reminder that the Year 9 Parents' Evening will be taking place online next Thursday. A letter detailing how to book appointments was sent out earlier this week.

### ***Geography-Art Grantham Climate Art Prize***

Congratulations to all students who submitted artwork for the Grantham Climate Art Prize! This competition, in collaboration with Imperial College's Sustainability Strategy, challenged students to create murals envisioning a sustainable future shaped by nature-based solutions.

A special congratulations to Nina H (Year 7), our in-school winner! Nina's mural will be displayed in the Geography corridor in B Block. Well done!





Figure 1: Alice T (Year 7)

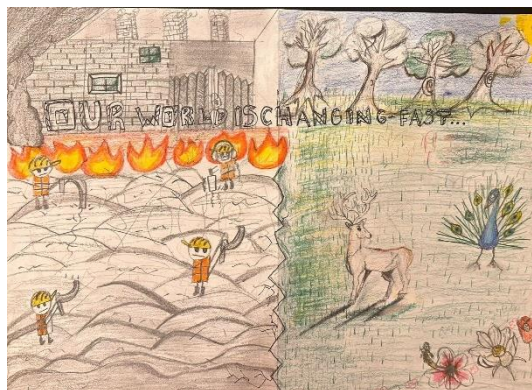


Figure 2: Nyameso M (Year 7)



Figure 4 Reethikha B (Year 7)



Figure 3 Nina H (Year 7)



Figure 5: Noa SS (Year 7)



We have two opportunities for students interested in healthcare and medicine this month for students in Year 9 - Year 13.

#### Virtual NHS Healthcare Work Experience day

SHSG students in **Years 11–13** are invited to join this **virtual NHS work experience day**, gaining insight into a range of healthcare careers. The cost is **£10**. More information can be found [here](#).

### **Lincolnshire NHS: "Should I Become a Doctor?" Virtual Event – Thursday, 13th March**

This informative online session is designed to help students in Years 9–11 explore whether a career in Medicine is right for them. Topics include the application process and key differences between Medicine and Dentistry. The sign-up deadline is Tuesday, 5th March. Click [here](#) to register.

### ***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 3<sup>rd</sup> March: Year 7 and Year 9 Netball Home v WHSG

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March: Year 11 GCSE PE Netball NEA p4 & 5

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March: Year 10 GCSE PE Rock Climbing NEA Day 1

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March: U13 Basketball Away v Chase

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March: Borough Swimming gala years 7-11

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March: Year 10 GCSE PE Rock Climbing NEA Day 2

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.

### ***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://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 \(padlet.com\)](#)

### ***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