



Southend High School for Girls

Gazette

Summer Term



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Ski Trip to Jasper, Canada

Our 2026 ski trip to Jasper, Canada was unforgettable. We were proud to take 63 students from Years 10 and 12, every one of whom should feel immensely proud of the progress they made both on and off the mountain. From developing confidence on skis to supporting one another as part of a team, it was inspiring to witness each student's growth over the course of the trip. Beginners progressed from their very first turns to confidently tackling black runs, while our more advanced skiers refined their technique, ventured off-piste through the trees, and even hiked to reach areas of fresh powder.

We were also exceptionally fortunate with the conditions, enjoying spring skiing in Canada at its very best, with 57cm of fresh snowfall and consistent blue skies throughout our stay.

Beyond the slopes, students took part in a full and exciting evening programme. Highlights included attending an ice hockey match, an energetic swim session complete with slides and diving boards, shopping and dining in Jasper, a campfire and scenic walk around Lake Annette, a visit to Lake Louise in Banff, and a final stop at Cross Iron Mills Shopping Mall in Calgary.

Sincere thanks go to our fantastic students, who were an absolute pleasure to take away and represented the school superbly, and to our dedicated staff, whose professionalism, commitment, and hard work made this outstanding trip possible.



Sporting our pink hoodies in the restaurant!

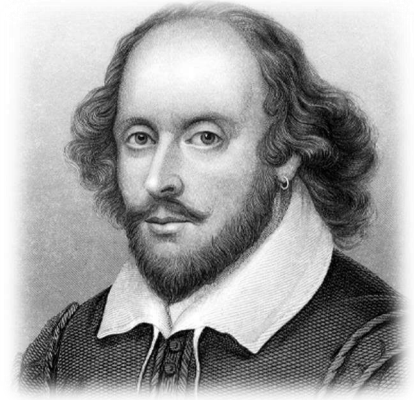


An Unforgettable Experience in the Canadian Rockies



Creativity, Debate, and Cake: Shakespeare Week at SHSG

We celebrated William Shakespeare's birthday last term with a vibrant programme of Shakespeare-themed activities across the school. All Key Stage 3 classes took part in a specially designed lesson exploring the Histories, Comedies, and Tragedies, deepening their understanding of Shakespeare's enduring influence and range as a playwright. Throughout the week, students also extended their learning at home by researching Shakespeare to complete a themed crossword challenge.



Our Debating Society considered the contemporary relevance of Shakespeare's work, engaging thoughtfully with the question of why his writing continues to resonate centuries later.

Thursday saw us mark the Bard's birthday in the most fitting way possible - with cake. Students produced an impressive array of imaginative entries for our 'Bakespeare' House competition, combining literary insight with creativity and skill.

Congratulations to Annabelle, our overall winner, for her outstanding cake inspired by Hamlet's famous soliloquy. Well done also to our runners-up: Emily B, Jessica N, and Isla H. Together, their entries captured the spirit of Shakespeare Week and reflected the enthusiasm, creativity, and academic curiosity of our students.



Bronze DofE Year 9

Year 9 successfully completed their training on the curriculum day and set out on their Assessed Expedition in May. They walked for 6 hours on each day and camped overnight, cooking for themselves in the evening and for breakfast.

Many thanks again to all the staff who helped out on the Curriculum day. We do so well to offer the programme to 100 students and it couldn't happen without the support of so many members of staff and volunteers.



U13 Footballers Reached the National Quarter-Finals

Our Under 13 football team travelled to Comberton Village College, Cambridge, to compete in the last 16 of the ESFA National New Schools Cup — a prestigious national competition featuring the very best school teams in the country. Reaching this stage alone is a remarkable achievement, and our students rose to the occasion superbly.

The opening 35 minutes were fiercely contested, with both teams demonstrating quality and determination in an intense, high-tempo encounter. Under sustained pressure, our girls showed outstanding resilience, discipline, and composure, earning a well-deserved 1–0 lead at half-time thanks to a moment of individual brilliance from Sophia K.

The second half saw the team truly assert themselves. Playing with confidence and cohesion, they produced some excellent football across the pitch, marked by intelligent passing, purposeful movement, and relentless effort. This was a complete team performance.

Hannah S was exceptional in goal, making several vital saves to secure a clean sheet, while Charlotte G led the defence with authority, expertly organising the back line and maintaining discipline throughout.

As confidence grew, so did the scoreline. The match concluded with an emphatic 5–0 victory, securing our place in the last eight teams in the country. Sophia K completed a superb hat-trick, with further goals from Katie W and Maya S, capping off an outstanding performance.

This result represents a significant sporting achievement and is a testament to the skill, commitment, teamwork, and determination of every player involved. The team should be immensely proud of reaching the national quarter-finals — a rare and exceptional accomplishment.



Continued Success in the Biology Olympiad

Building on the previous year's record-breaking results, students once again delivered an outstanding performance in the highly prestigious Biology Olympiad. Students in Years 12 and 13 demonstrated exceptional scientific knowledge, analytical skill, and resilience, achieving an impressive total of two Gold, three Silver, and fifteen Bronze awards.



In addition, 10 students were Highly Commended, with a further 13 students receiving Commendations, reflecting the consistently high standard of work across a large and committed group of entrants.

Verity VB and Luke R achieved Gold awards. Afraa K, Ella S, and Louise D were awarded Silver, while Lauren H, Jalyn N, Zahra Y, Edie B, Rida K, Maisie M, Louise W, Charlotte W, Erin E, Beatrice B, Chloe C, Wania F, Rugile V, Mia M, and Eliana C secured Bronze awards. These results represent a significant academic accomplishment and place our students amongst the highest-performing Biology students nationally.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mrs Clarkson-Hull for organising this opportunity and for her continued commitment to enabling students to challenge themselves and achieve excellence beyond the classroom.



All of Year 9 took part in a highly practical and engaging Curriculum Day focused on preparation for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition.

Throughout the day, students developed essential knowledge, skills and confidence required for a safe and successful adventurous journey.

Students worked collaboratively to pitch tents, safely use Trangia stoves to heat water and prepare food, and learn how to pack rucksacks efficiently and responsibly.

They also explored key expedition skills such as route planning and orientation, countryside and road safety, and the importance of teamwork, self-reliance and sound decision-making in outdoor environments.

Importantly, the day proved both beneficial and enjoyable for the entire year group, including those students who will not be completing the expedition itself.

As one Year 9 reflected, "Even though I'm not completing the DofE expedition, I learned lots of really useful skills, and making hot chocolate on the Trangia with my group was a real highlight." Another student said, "It was really good preparation for the actual expedition... and great fun too!"

We would like to thank Mr Smith, together with all the staff involved, for their enthusiasm, expertise and commitment in making the day such a success.

Their support ensured students were challenged, supported and inspired throughout.



Leaders



Ready!



Great Teamwork!



Expert instructions from the intrepid Mr Shipton

Celebrating Young Writers: Green Dagger Competition



Congratulations to the winners of the Green Dagger creative writing competition.

Sitara S was awarded first place for her outstanding story, *Where Have All the Pretty Things Gone?*, with Sophie S receiving the runner-up prize for her evocative piece, *Young Mysteries*. The standard of entries was exceptionally high. Sitara and Sophie should be enormously proud of their achievements, and we extend our congratulations to all the talented students who entered. It was a genuine pleasure to read such thoughtful, imaginative and accomplished work.

All competition entries have now been published on the English Department Blog, which we warmly encourage the school community to explore and enjoy.

Science in Action: A Week of Discovery & Competition

Our Year 12 Science Captains hosted a fantastic Science Week, during which students from across the whole school took part in an exciting range of activities. These included the ever-popular egg drop challenge, the investigative mystery “Who killed Mr Carey?”, learning British Sign Language for key biological terms, and exploring how to programme a robot. The week culminated in the epic annual SHSG Science Quiz, which saw some fiercely competitive (and good-humoured) teams battling it out.

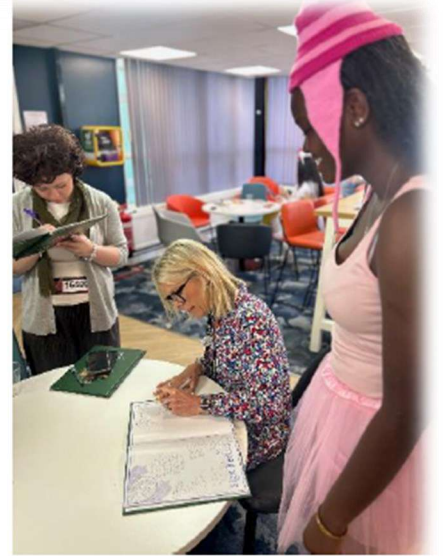


I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all our Science Captains for their energy, creativity and hard work, as well as to Miss Dillon, Mr Dillon, Miss Logan, Mrs Aylen, Mr Clarkson-Hull, Mr James, Mr Wong, Mr Prior and Mr Highmore for their support throughout the week. Of course, none of this would have been possible without our outstanding technicians: Mr Phillips, Miss Hobbs, Mr Attack and Mrs Quaey. Thank you all for making Science Week such a success.

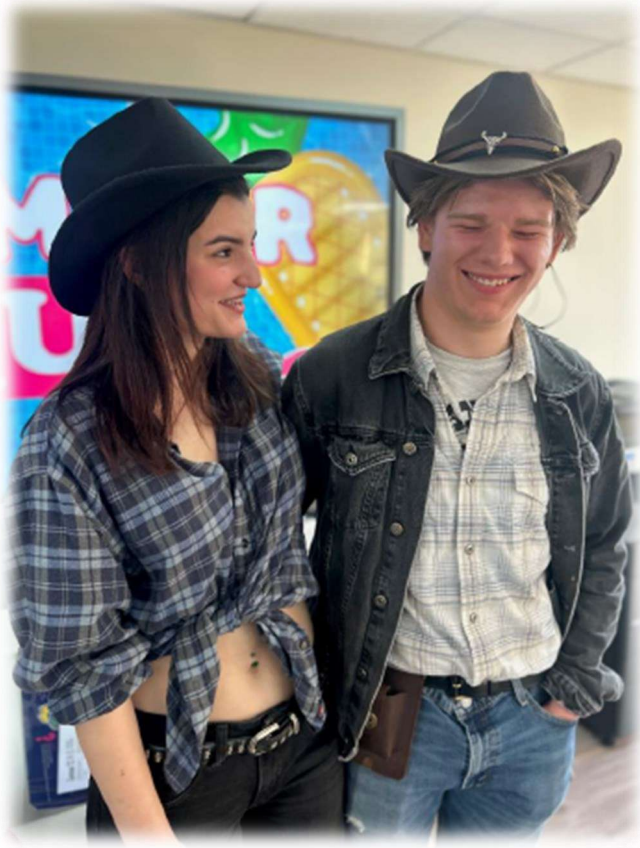
End of Key Stage 4 Celebrations!



End of Key Stage 5 Celebrations!



End of Key Stage 5 Celebrations!



Sir David Attenborough turns 100!



The Geography Department hosted a highly successful week of activities to celebrate the 100th birthday of the world-renowned naturalist and broadcaster, Sir David Attenborough.

Throughout the week, Key Stage 3 students enjoyed a series of documentaries linked to their current studies on biodiversity, oceans and climate change, alongside a lively game of “Attenbingo” : congratulations to all students who completed their grids! Lunchtime activities also took place across the school, including wildlife-themed riddles and an Attenborough animal treasure hunt. Form groups also took part in a special

registration-time challenge this week: a “Guess the Teacher in the David Attenborough Mask” quiz, which proved to be a great source of excitement and amusement across the school.

We are delighted to announce that Athene House were the clear winners, achieving an impressive total of 500 house points. Congratulations also go to Hermes House, who secured second place and earned 250 house points.

The celebrations concluded with a wonderful animal-themed teddy bears’ picnic on the school field. In the sunshine, students gathered with friends to enjoy picnics together, while a life-sized David Attenborough made a special appearance to join in the festivities. It was fantastic to see so many students and staff coming together to celebrate such an important milestone in a fun, engaging and community-spirited way.

A sincere thank you goes to our geography captains Chessy D, Sasha H, Emily C, Maisie L & Annabel D who have gone above and beyond to organise the week and to all staff who supported the activities and joined the celebrations. It was a fitting and memorable way to mark 100 years of inspiring curiosity about the natural world.

Strong Performance from SHSG U13 Football Team in National Cup Quarter Final



Our under 13 girls' football team were narrowly beaten 3–2 in the quarter final of the national 'New Schools' 9-a-side cup against Mark Rutherford School, Bedford. In a closely fought and tightly contested match, both sides competed well throughout, with the game balanced for long periods and chances created at both ends.

Despite a strong performance and determined effort from the girls, Mark Rutherford School edged the contest by a single goal in an exciting encounter. An excellent cup run and we look forward to going again next season! Congratulations to all the squad on an excellent season!



Jack Petchey Awards Evening

We were delighted to attend the Jack Petchey Achievement Awards at the Palace Theatre to celebrate our 2024–25 winners. It was a privilege to hear about the many outstanding accomplishments of not only our own students, but also those from across the Southend borough.

We were especially proud to see members of our wider school community recognised for their dedication to extra-curricular activities, including Scouts and local football clubs.

We were also treated to a fantastic performance of *Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat* from our recent production of *Guys and Dolls*, which had the audience on their feet. As one student remarked, it was a wonderful way to say goodbye to a musical we were all so proud to have been part of. Prior to the performance, students shared a meal together and sang at the local restaurant Oldham's, which was a particular highlight of the evening.

Congratulations once again to all of our award winners.



Jack Petchey winners (left to right): Faith B, Emily H, Freya P, Rushda P.

Congratulations!

Year 10 and Year 12 Meducators Workshops

We were delighted to welcome the Meducators team back to work with our Year 10 and Year 12 students in exploring careers in medicine. During an engaging day, students participated in a highly informative medical skills session led by NHS doctors, offering valuable insight into healthcare careers and clinical practice.

The programme combined practical experience with critical thinking. Students analysed real medical imaging, including skull X-rays, a gunshot wound to the femur, and a post-craniotomy scan. They were also introduced to the A-E assessment framework used in emergency care and learned to recognise the early signs of sepsis.

A particular highlight was the hands-on suturing workshop, where students developed their precision and technique using silicone suture pads and bananas. The day concluded with an ethics discussion, encouraging reflection on fairness and decision-making in complex, real-world scenarios.

We are very grateful to Mr James, Head of Biology, for leading this excellent opportunity, and to all staff who supported the session.



Jess L 12KMI

"I feel totally inspired and even more excited to start medicine. I'm going to buy a suture pad!"

Annika 12ALS "They had lots of fascinating facts and it was a really comprehensive overview of the medical field, and different careers."



Year 10 Careers Mock Interviews – ‘You’re Hired’

We were delighted to celebrate Year 10 students who had been identified by their interviewers as standout candidates in a special ‘You’re Hired’ assembly. Feedback from interviewers was overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting on how well-prepared students were and the confidence with which they conducted themselves. Indeed, several remarked on how challenging it was to select just one candidate from such a strong field.

It was also wonderful to see the genuine support shown by Year 10 students for one another when the winners were announced!



Shanghai Trip

During the May half-term break, a group of students from Years 9, 10 and 12 enjoyed an unforgettable exchange visit to Shanghai, China, with our partner school, Shanghai High School East Campus. Over four days, students were immersed in both school and family life, gaining a genuine insight into Chinese culture while building lasting international friendships.

Upon arrival, students met their host families and immediately experienced the warmth and generosity of their hosts through a range of activities and shared experiences. From Monday to Thursday, students attended lessons in both the junior and senior schools, taking part in subjects including music, art and robotics. Alongside their time in school, they visited museums, universities and local attractions, developing a deeper understanding of Chinese history, culture and daily life. The programme also included opportunities to explore some of Shanghai's most famous landmarks and attractions. Following a heartfelt farewell to their host families, students spent their final two days exploring downtown Shanghai and picking up souvenirs to remember their experience. The trip was an outstanding success, and all who took part returned with wonderful memories and new friendships.

Some student reflections:

I loved the temperature and the architecture was beautiful. 10/10
- Tanisha

I loved meeting new people and learning Chinese culture through art and music, I had the best time ever with all my friends! -Dylan

The food is the best thing ever (not as good as my mum's) and the views were amazing. Helen (my home stay) is so sweet!
- Samantha

This trip changed my life - SHANGHAI 2028!?!?!?
- Naomi

Hǎo Hǎo Hǎo and
Qīnglái yībēi yùtōu
nǎichá
- Sergio

This trip has been the best trip ever!!!! I loved the food, hospitality from the host families and seeing the tourist attractions :). I hope there will be another trip like this for us in the future
😊 - Jemima



Shanghai Trip

A few photos!



Salamanca Trip

In June, students from Years 10 and 12 embarked on an exciting study and cultural visit to Salamanca, Spain, staying with host families and taking part in language lessons and activities organised by Lola Languages. Students quickly immersed themselves in Spanish life, beginning with a photo rally around the beautiful Plaza Mayor, where they interviewed local students and explored the city's landmarks. Highlights included enjoying traditional chocolate con churros, searching for the famous rana de la suerte (lucky frog) on the university façade, acting out historical events on a guided city tour, and taking part in Spanish language lessons to develop their GCSE and A Level skills. The group also enjoyed a Spanish cooking workshop, making alcohol-free sangria, torrijas and guacamole, before meeting local students for a lively language exchange. The experience was rounded off with a visit to Salamanca Cathedral's tower and an energetic Flamenco dance class. It has been a fantastic week of language learning, cultural immersion and unforgettable memories.

Emma- “My highlight was having dinner with my friends and our family, it was so interesting to hear about Spanish culture and lifestyles!! Also climbing up the cathedral was a brilliant experience, despite having a nosebleed!” Tia and Vani - “Our highlight was the flamenco class. It was so interesting to learn a new style of dance and the teacher was amazing to learn from. It was also a lot of fun watching the teachers learn how to flamenco dance.”



Year 7 Mountfitchet Trip

Our Year 7 students enjoyed a trip to Mountfitchet Castle, where they explored the reconstructed Norman motte-and-bailey castle, saw the wooden watchtowers, defensive walls and traditional medieval homes, and learned about what daily life would have been like in 1066. They were especially interested in the armoury displays, the blacksmith's area and the stocks, which helped bring history to life. One of the highlights of the trip was meeting the animals, particularly the goats, who had to be dissuaded from eating the handouts!

The pupils had a fantastic time throughout the visit, staying in good spirits even during one particularly heavy downpour, and were complimented by the staff on their way out for their good manners and excellent behaviour. 7 Aphrodite and 7 Hera took their house mascots along too and had fun placing them in the stocks.



House Cup Winners 2026!



Students in Hermes House celebrated after being crowned 2026 House Cup Winners for the fourth year in a row! Mr Carey announced the results in a whole school assembly and presented the trophy to Hermes house captains, Eaden and Elodie. The winning house captains gave a special message of congratulations to all students in Hermes and proudly raised the trophy to huge cheers.

The final standings for the House Cup competition 2026 are below:

1st: Hermes – 54,815

2nd: Athene – 53,904

3rd: Hera – 48,753

4th: Aphrodite – 48,570

5th: Aurora – 44,801

6th: Artemis – 42,541



Rhineland Visit— Report Written By: Elettra C

Between 9 and 13 June, a group of Year 8 students enjoyed an unforgettable visit to the Rhineland in Germany. After a full day of travelling across Europe, we arrived at the welcoming Hotel Adler in Bad Salzig, which became our base for an exciting few days of exploration.

Our itinerary was packed with memorable experiences. We visited impressive castles and fortresses, hiked through the beautiful Rhine hills, admired spectacular views and learnt more about German history, culture and everyday life. The hotel was excellent, with comfortable rooms and friendly, welcoming staff.

Throughout the trip, we had many opportunities to practise our German by speaking with local people. We also experienced two traditional forms of transport, travelling on both the Seilbahn (cable car) and the Sesselbahn (chairlift). One of my favourite moments was taking the chairlift up to the famous Vierseenblick ('Four Lakes Viewpoint'). Although it was drizzling on the way up, the breathtaking views made the journey well worthwhile, and we enjoyed celebrating with ice creams at the café while practising our German.

Another highlight was visiting the historic city of Koblenz, where we explored the old town and toured the magnificent fortress overlooking the Rhine.

The trip was both educational and great fun, giving us the opportunity to develop our language skills, experience another culture and create lasting memories. I would thoroughly recommend it to any current Year 7 students who have the opportunity to take part next year.

Es war eine fantastische Reise! ("It was a fantastic trip!")

"I really enjoyed seeing Lorelay Rock on the boat trip and learning about the legend of the Lorelei siren!" – Katerina B

"I loved going to Burg Eltz castle, finding out about its history, and how it was different to today's upper society and their culture. It was very interesting." – Jenna W



Silver DofE Practice Expedition

Thirty-five students, accompanied by five current and former members of staff, took part in their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award practice expedition in the Hambleden Valley over the weekend of 6–7 June.

Starting in Henley-on-Thames, students followed the Thames Path before crossing at Hambleden Lock and making their way through heavy rain to the campsite at Frieth. Excellent campcraft ensured warm meals, well-pitched tents and a comfortable night's rest before an early start on Sunday.

The second day saw students complete a challenging 17km circular route, demonstrating growing confidence in their navigation and teamwork. Despite some memorable encounters with the local cows, every group completed the route successfully.

The expedition concluded in characteristically wet conditions, with students showing impressive resilience as they packed camp in driving rain before making the final walk to the collection point. The practice expedition provided excellent preparation for the assessed expedition in July, when waterproofs were replaced by sunscreen!



SILVER

Year 10 A Level Taster Day

Year 10 students demonstrated enthusiasm and maturity during A Level Taster Day. Students experienced five different A Level subjects, giving them a valuable insight into the depth and challenge of Sixth Form study. Topics included logarithms in Mathematics, the role of the Erinyes in Classical Civilisation, regional variation in accents in English Language, Thomas Hardy's *The Voice* in English Literature, the origins of techno music in German, and the use of micrometers in Physics.

Students also enjoyed spending break and lunchtime in our Sixth Form café, Scholars, experiencing another aspect of Sixth Form life.

Staff were delighted by the students' engagement, curiosity and willingness to contribute throughout the day. It was an excellent introduction to A Level study and an exciting glimpse of the academic opportunities that lie ahead.

International Women in Engineering Day

Students in Year 7 to 9 were inspired to explore careers engineering in as the school marked International Women in Engineering Day 2026 ([INWED](#)) by welcoming ten young female engineers for a day of hands-on learning and mentorship.

The event brought together SHSG alumni from a range of engineering and STEM fields, including architecture, civil engineering, construction, and aviation. Students had the opportunity to meet with these fantastic female role models and gain insight into the diverse and exciting career paths available in engineering for young women.

Throughout the day, students participated in a series of engineering challenges designed to develop problem-solving, teamwork, and creativity. Activities included bridge building, app design and an elevator challenge. This encouraged students to think like engineers and apply their knowledge in practical ways.

The visiting engineers also led interactive sessions, sharing personal experiences, discussing the importance of innovation, team work and curiosity in engineering.

At lunch time, students were invited to a careers fair to meet all the visiting engineers.



Sporting Successes

In June, 18 SHSG athletes were selected to represent the Southend Borough at the Essex Athletics Championships – a fantastic achievement and a reflection of the strength of athletics at the school.

A special congratulations goes to Dakota S, who achieved the National Standard in the Long Jump, securing selection to represent Essex at the National Championships in July.

Congratulations also to Holly B, who won a silver medal in the Javelin, Elouise and Emily, who both claimed silver medals in the High Jump, and Katie W, who won gold in the Junior Girls' 800m. These achievements are particularly impressive given that several of the students were balancing their performances with GCSE revision.



Year 7 Induction Day

SHSG were delighted to welcome our new Year 7 students to SHSG for their Induction Day, giving them their first opportunity to experience life at the school before officially joining us in September.

The day began with one of SHSG's most cherished traditions; our **Guard of Honour**. Formed by our current Year 7 students, it provided a memorable welcome as the newest members of our community crossed the bridge and officially began their SHSG journey.

Throughout the day, students explored the school through a treasure hunt organised by our Middle School Prefects, sampled lessons across a range of subjects and visited the Clubs and Societies Fayre to discover the many opportunities available beyond the classroom. During the school song, they also enthusiastically joined in the traditional cry of **"Fire!"**, a unique SHSG tradition that has been enjoyed by generations of students.

It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces, new friendships already beginning to form and a genuine sense of excitement about the years ahead. My sincere thanks go to the staff and student leaders whose enthusiasm and hard work made the day such a success.

We are delighted to have welcomed our new cohort back in September and are confident they will make an outstanding contribution to every aspect of school life.

Here are just a few of their reflections on the day:

"It's been a really good day. I especially liked the Harry Potter-themed chemistry lesson and all the experiments! The treasure hunt was really fun." – **Isobel**

"Today was really welcoming. The school doesn't feel so big now after doing the treasure hunt and finding my way around." – **Leila**

"I liked making new friends and the prefects showing us how to find our way around." – **India**



Drama Club Summer Showcase 2026



Creativity, humour and imagination took centre stage at this year's Drama Club Summer Showcase as our Year 8 and Year 9 students presented an entertaining programme of original work to a lunchtime audience of their peers.

Year 8 performed two contrasting productions. Their modern reimagining of Shakespeare's classic tragedy, *Bromeo and Chaviet*, delighted the audience with its clever humour and happy ending, while *Hellfire Theatre* offered an absurd and highly entertaining satire of reality television that had the audience laughing throughout.

Year 9 showcased a silent film, expertly edited by Scarlett G, featuring an engaging soundtrack, captions and a cast of wonderfully melodramatic characters. The creativity, attention to detail and confident performances were greatly appreciated by the audience, who responded enthusiastically throughout.

The showcase provided a fitting celebration of our students' creativity, collaboration and confidence. Congratulations to everyone involved in producing such an enjoyable afternoon of theatre.

Dance Club showcase

Our Key Stage 3 Dance Club also took to the stage as part of the Summer Showcase, performing a vibrant selection of routines for an audience of friends and fellow students.

Led by **Ashlyn** and **Elsa**, the showcase highlighted the enthusiasm and talent of our Year 7 and Year 8 dancers, who performed with confidence and obvious enjoyment. Performing before an audience is an invaluable opportunity to develop confidence as well as technical skill, and every student involved should be extremely proud of their achievement.

Poetry by Heart



Congratulations to our *Poetry By Heart* competitors – as well as **Gianna E-Z** securing her place in the final, we received commended certificates for **Fleur F** and **Isobella R** and highly commended certificates for **Pranisa K** and **Zara A** and **Sara M**.

Theatre Visit

Our Year 12 Drama students enjoyed an inspiring visit to the **National Theatre** to watch the acclaimed production of **War Horse**.



Michael Morpurgo's much-loved novel was brought vividly to life through exceptional acting, breathtaking puppetry, atmospheric lighting, live music and innovative stagecraft.

Students were captivated by the emotional power of the production and gained valuable insight into the creative possibilities of live theatre.

Educational visits such as these play an important role in enriching classroom learning, allowing students to experience professional productions that deepen both their understanding and appreciation of dramatic performance. Judging by the reactions on the journey home, this was certainly an experience that will remain with them for a long time.



Year 11 Prom— Hylands House



Year 11 Prom

Monday 6th July 2026

Hylands House



Year 11 Prom— Hylands House



Year 11 Prom— Hylands House



Montenegro: Wild Water, Wild Dogs and World Challenge



Over the summer, Mr Escott led and organised an unforgettable World Challenge expedition to Montenegro for 20 of our students from Years 9, 10 and 11, which Mr Carey had the great pleasure of accompanying. From trekking through the spectacular mountains of Durmitor National Park and swimming in mountain lakes to white-water rafting on the crystal-clear Tara River, it was an extraordinary adventure – although the students might also add stray dogs, spectacular thunderstorms, endless card games and rather more pasta and tomato sauce than anyone had anticipated!

What impressed me most was the way our students embraced everything that World Challenge is intended to develop. They took responsibility for organising, budgeting, shopping and cooking; persevered through long and demanding treks; supported one another when things became difficult; and formed friendships with students from different year groups whom, as several of their reflections wonderfully acknowledge, they might otherwise never have got to know. Ayaat perhaps captures it best when she says that the experience taught her not only “what our world has to offer”, but also a great deal about herself.

The trip gave the students countless opportunities to challenge themselves, discover somewhere new, develop independence and resilience, and make friendships and memories that will last long after the tents have been packed away. It was also wonderful to see just how much they valued the people they shared the experience with; that sense of friendship and teamwork comes through particularly strongly in their reflections.

Mr Escott’s full account of the expedition, together with the students’ own reviews and reflections can be found [‘here’](#) – and is well worth a read.

GCSE Triumph at SHSG! - Press Release

Following last week's exceptional A Level results, Southend High School for Girls is once again celebrating academic excellence, this time with their phenomenal Year 11 students. **Half of all grades were awarded at Grade 9 and Grade 8, and 20% of grades were Grade 9s!** Overall, **72% of grades were Grades 9 – 7**, marking another proud milestone for SHSG. **77 students achieved an average grade of 9 – 8!**

Headteacher Jason Carey shared, "These results are truly outstanding. We couldn't be prouder of our students. It has been a wonderful morning celebrating with them and their families. A huge thank you to our brilliant staff for their expertise, unwavering support, and commitment."

Mr Carey added, "Along with last week's superb A Level results, we are heading into September with real momentum. We can't wait to welcome our new Year 12s as they begin their A Level journey at SHSG."

National Recognition for Art

Natasha Ansari and Annabel Brant have been named among the top performers in the country for an extraordinary accolade. The exam board personally congratulated both for their exceptional work. Natasha is pictured below.



GCSE Triumph at SHSG! - Press Release

Exceptional Individual Performances

We are thrilled to celebrate the following students for their outstanding GCSE results:

Tasnuba Rahman, pictured with Headteacher Jason Carey and her mum, **achieved an impressive 10 grade 9s.**



Isabel Beale achieved 10 GCSEs all graded at 9-8



GCSE Triumph at SHSG! - Press Release

Amreen Chowdhury achieved an impressive 11 GCSEs all at grade 9-8



Anushua Gosh achieved an amazing 12 GCSEs all at grade 9-8



GCSE Triumph at SHSG! - Press Release

Ida Smith achieved an incredible 11 GCSEs all at grade 9-8, pictured here with Headteacher Jason Carey and her parents.



Sarina Sahar achieved an impressive 12 GCSEs all at grade 9-7.



GCSE Triumph at SHSG! - Press Release

Elouise Thomas achieved an incredible 12 GCSEs all at grade 9-7



Anushi Fotedar achieved 10 GCSEs all at grade 9-7



GCSE Triumph at SHSG! - Press Release

Faith Burgess achieved 11 GCSEs all at grade 7-9



Jazmin Panesar achieved 10 GCSEs all at grade 9-7



GCSE Triumph at SHSG! - Press Release

Hannah Bennett and Wanah Chanda both achieved 11 GCSEs all at grade 9-7



Middle School Head Student, Holly Bowdler is celebrating achieving 10 GCSEs.



Mr Carey praised the students, "Congratulations to all our students. We are so proud of you! Your hard work, talent, and determination have truly shone through. We look forward to celebrating together in September and continuing this journey of excellence."

Record Breaking A Levels—Press Release

Record breaking year at Southend High School for Girls

Students and staff at a Southend school are celebrating after achieving the best A-level results in its history.

Southend High School for Girls recorded a landmark year, with half of all grades awarded at A* to A and 77 per cent achieving A* to B.

Headteacher Jason Carey hailed the achievements of the Class of 2026 and said the results reflected the hard work and determination shown by students throughout their studies.



RECORD-BREAKING A LEVEL RESULTS FOR SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Students and staff at Southend High School for Girls are celebrating the best A Level results in the school's history, with an exceptional set of outcomes for the Class of 2026.

An outstanding half of all grades were awarded at A*–A, while 77% were awarded at A*–B.

The results included some remarkable individual achievements, with 67 students achieving an average grade of A* or A across their three or four A Levels.

Exceptional results were achieved across the full breadth of SHSG's curriculum.

Headteacher Jason Carey said:

"We are immensely proud of our students. These are the best A Level results in the history of Southend High School for Girls and represent an extraordinary achievement by a very talented and hardworking group of young people.

"These results build on the exceptional achievements of recent years and are particularly special following our Outstanding Ofsted inspection. Inspectors said that 'pupils flourish and excel at Southend High School for Girls', and there can be few better demonstrations of that than seeing our students celebrating such remarkable achievements today.

"Behind the headline figures are hundreds of individual stories of ambition and determination. Our students have worked incredibly hard, supported by exceptional teachers and staff, and it is wonderful to see that commitment rewarded.

"Most importantly, these results open doors. Our students leave SHSG for some tremendously exciting destinations, and we could not be prouder of the young people they have become or more excited to see what they achieve next."

Record Breaking A Levels—Press Release



Pictured with Headteacher Jason Carey (left) and with her mum (right) is **Cerys Batchelor**, Head Student at SHSG, who achieved **2 A*s and 2 A grades** in English Literature, Media Studies, Psychology and Spanish and will now be heading to **Warwick** to study **English Literature and Creative Writing**.

Cerys just got back from Dance World Cup in Dublin where she was 5th in the world for tap dancing in 17-21 age range and 3rd in the world for singing duet. Cerys said: 'Very happy and relieved that it all paid off. I screamed so loudly when I found out I was in Warwick.' Mum said 'very proud – she's worked so hard – SHSG has been brilliant and she's loved every second of being here'

Congratulations also go to Poppy Mangan, whose outstanding results of **A* A* A* grades in History, Politics and Economics** have secured a place at **London School of Economics**, where she will read **Law**.

Poppy said "so thankful to the school and how they have supported me throughout my time here".



Another stellar performance came from Isla Bridge, who achieved **3 A* and 2 A grades**.

She did this alongside being Deputy Head Student at school and Deputy Youth Mayor for Southend-on-Sea City Council. **Isla** is now looking forward to beginning **History** at **The University of St Andrews** this autumn. Isla said 'SHSG has given me so many opportunities that I am so grateful for! I am so pleased with my results and want to thank everyone who helped'.

Record Breaking A Levels—Press Release

There was further cause for celebration for **Evie Coleman**, who secured **4 A* grades** and will shortly be heading to the University of **Warwick** to read English Language and Linguistics.

Evie said: “I was blown away when I saw my results”.



Verity van Berkum achieved **four grade As** in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Computer Science and said, ‘*I am really pleased to have my dreams come through*’. Verity is thrilled to study veterinary medicine at the University of Surrey. Verity’s performance is made even more impressive by achieving these results a year early!



A particularly impressive achievement came from **Hannah Sugden**, who achieved **A*AA** in Art, English Literature, and Geography and will now read English at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge.



Record Breaking A Levels—Press Release

Well done to **Myles Berman**, who achieved 3 A grades in Mathematics, Physics and Economics that will now take him to the **University of Exeter** to read **Economics**.



Amy Hudson achieved **A*AA** in religious studies, economics and mathematics. Amy said “I’m so relieved and excited for my next steps.” She is studying **Philosophy and Politics at Warwick**.



Charlotte Munton (left) achieved three **A*s** and an **A**. She will read **Mathematics at Bristol**. She said “I am excited to celebrate with a few drinks with friends today before getting ready for Bristol”. **Martha Callaghan (right)** achieved two **A*s** and an **A**. She said “I’m so surprised – I’m off to study Media and Music business at Brighton. I’m looking forward to Brighton beach!”



Amelie Beckett (left) achieved an impressive two A*s and two As, and is going to study Media and Creative Industries at Warwick. She said ‘I was so excited when I saw my results, I jumped up and down!’. Bonnie Spillane (right) achieved two A*s and an A. She said ‘I want to thank all the teachers after seven years at SHSG – it’s the end of an era but the start of a new chapter!’ Bonnie will read Law at Sheffield.

Record Breaking A Levels—Press Release

Congratulations to **Anna Mellor**, pictured with her dad, who **achieved 3As** in Government and Politics, English Language and Biology, and is heading off to read Anthropology at University College London (UCL).



Congratulations to **Isabella Brigstock**, pictured with her family, for achieving **A*AA** in English Language, Sociology and Government and Politics, and will be reading **Politics and International Relations at the University of Manchester**.



Lacey-Louise O’Rielly, after achieving **two As and an A*** in Biology, Spanish and Psychology is excited to read **Psychology at the University of Exeter**. Her parting words for future students were ‘where there is ink, there is hope’.



Record Breaking A Levels—Press Release

Dylan Hudson-Crane has achieved **two A*s and an A in History, Politics and Religious Studies**. He is excited to read **Theology, Religion and Philosophy or Religion** at **St John's College, Cambridge**.



Eliza Duff is going into the Police Force in Chelmsford to do a degree apprenticeship. Eliza said "I am really excited! Even if you think you can't do it, you absolutely can!"



Aurora Karaj achieved a fantastic three A*s and is off to study Sociology, Politics & Religion at King's College London. She is also an award-winning film maker, having recently won 'best film across all categories' for her music video in the annual Media Mag Production Competition. Her work was inspired by the film 'Before Sunrise'. She spent the summer before results touring Europe with fellow SHSG student, Luke Rush, visiting the places in the film. Luke also achieved three As and is also going to King's College London, to study Natural Sciences. Aurora said 'the school always pushed me to do my best – it felt pretty chill to see that I got all A*s.'



Isobel Boyson, Director of SHSG's Sixth Form added:

"We are delighted that our students are going to the top universities in the UK – including the University of Cambridge, King's College London, LSE and Durham.

Results day is always one of the most special days in the school calendar. Seeing our students receive the results they have worked so hard for is an enormous privilege. Today is their day, and they should be incredibly proud of everything they have achieved. We couldn't be prouder of them – we can't wait to see what they go on to achieve in their futures: the world is their oyster."