

Southend High School for Girls

## A Level Transition Summer Supercurricular Activities



Choose one activity per subject and complete the stepping stones tracker

Deadline: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September

Subject	Choose one supercurricular activity for each subject from the options below	Find out more about the course and an extended supercurricular reading list here:
Art	<ol> <li>Listen to one of the episodes of the BBC podcast 'Moving Pictures'.         Observe the painting being discussed at the same time (the podcast is linked to Google Arts and Culture).</li> <li>Read 50 British Artists you Should Know, by Lucinda Hawksley.         Published by Prestel</li> <li>Watch Frida the film (2002) on Netflix, or Frida the documentary (2024) on Amazon Prime</li> <li>Read 'Artists and places: The Great Bardfield Artists, Essex'</li> <li>Visit some Essex galleries, such as The Fry Gallery in Saffron Walden and the Edward Munnings Museum Dedham to appreciate some talented Essex boys</li> <li>And finally, follow ArtistsWonders on Instagram.</li> </ol>	Curriculum - Art - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
Biology	<ol> <li>Water is so much more than being needed to cool us off - discover more with this factsheet! Read and make summarised notes and answer questions within the article:         https://padlet.com/MrKJames/biology-a-level-zsir75zeij9msm5v/wish/jpoxajYejy00WbPE     </li> <li>Are enzymes simply needed for digestion - or do they have another role? Read and make summarised notes and answer questions within the article: https://padlet.com/MrKJames/biology-a-level-zsir75zeij9msm5v/wish/mlNDZ3y4N1pNaznG</li> <li>Malaria is one of the most lethal diseases aroundhow do we stop it? Read and make summarised notes and answer questions within the article: https://padlet.com/MrKJames/biology-a-level-zsir75zeij9msm5v/wish/J24jalME33XEQ0A1</li> <li>YouTube video to explain these three very similar terms but with much deeper explanation: Chromosomes, Chromatids, Chromatin, etc. Listen and make summarised notes from this video</li> <li>YouTube video to explain the immune system:         Types of immune responses: Innate and adaptive, humoral vs. cell-mediated   NCLEX-RN   Khan Academy         Listen and make summarised notes from this video</li> </ol>	Curriculum - Biology - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
Business Studies	<ol> <li>Please sign up for Tutor2u. This will be a useful resource for A Level Business: <a href="https://www.tutor2u.net/business">https://www.tutor2u.net/business</a></li> <li>Watch 'Dynamic Markets' on Tutor2u. Make summary notes from the video. <a href="https://www.tutor2u.net/business/reference/dynamic-markets">https://www.tutor2u.net/business/reference/dynamic-markets</a></li> <li>Watch 'Product and Market Orientation'. Make summary notes from the video.</li> </ol>	Curriculum - Business Studies - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)

	environment.  2. Research 'sustainable chemistry'. Read <u>The role sustainable</u>	
Chemistry	<ol> <li>Bastin.</li> <li>Complete the course: Birth of a drug   OpenLearn - Open University</li> <li>Pick a medicine of your choice: aspirin, paracetamol, ibuprofen etc (chose other medications of your choice) and research how it became designed / found / discovered, how it was tested, how it is made in the chemical industry. Summarise in the Stepping Stones booklet.</li> <li>Research animal 'superpowers' and write up the chemistry behind</li> </ol>	Curriculum - Chemistry - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
	<ol> <li>Research animal 'superpowers', and write up the chemistry behind it. For example: Bioluminescence, camouflage, changing colour of their skin, poison / venom, electrical generation, climbing up walls (geckos).</li> </ol>	
Classics	<ol> <li>Watch this debate between Boris Johnson and Mary Beard on who was better- the Greeks or the Romans. Write a page explaining your opinion: Greece vs Rome, with Boris Johnson and Mary Beard</li> <li>Take a virtual tour of the Elgin marbles (a set of sculptures from the largest temple in Athens). Write a page describing them and</li> </ol>	Curriculum - Classics -
Classics	explaining why you think the Athenians chose to decorate a temple in this way <a href="British Museum">British Museum</a> , London, United Kingdom — Google Arts & Culture  3. Research and write a fact file on a Greek or Roman deity of your choice  4. Research and write a fact file on a Roman emperor of your choice	Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)

	5. Read this section of The Iliad. Write a page saying whether or not	
	you think Diomedes is a hero and why: Homer (c.750 BC): The Iliad	
	Book V	
	6. Listen to and summarise one or more 'Natalie Haynes Stands Up	
	for the Classics' podcast episodes of your choice- BBC Radio 4 -	
	Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics - Available now	
	Watch a video on the Computerphile Channel -	
	https://www.youtube.com/user/Computerphile/videos , make	
	notes and summarise it. Research further the topic.	
	2. Read an article about the current developments in Computer	
	Technology on <a href="https://www.wired.com/">https://www.wired.com/</a> make notes and	
	summarise it. Research further the topic looking at connections to	
	computer science.	
	3. Research the achievements of Margaret Hamilton and make notes	
	on how she worked to create the code and computer system that	<u>Curriculum -</u>
Computer	landed on the Moon: <a href="https://science.nasa.gov/people/margaret-">https://science.nasa.gov/people/margaret-</a>	<u>Computer Science -</u>
Science	hamilton/	Southend High School
	4. Read, make notes and research further the achievements of	for Girls (shsg.org)
	influential female computer scientists.	
	https://www.cambridge.org/core/blog/2019/03/11/influential-	
	women-in-computer-science/	
	5. Complete code challenges on:	
	https://www.101computing.net/python-challenges-intermediate-	
	<u>level/</u> note down the key components of your code and any new	
	techniques learnt while solving the problems.	
	1. Abstract: The Art of Design   Tinker Hatfield: Footwear Design	
	<u>FULL EPISODE   Netflix – YouTube</u> - there are many different	
	episodes of this documentary; this one has a great focus on design	
	function and aesthetic and in making meaning for users, so is	
	relevant whatever your preferred materials are. Consider Tinker's	
	creative evolution and how his diverse experiences shaped his	
	design ethos. What is your design experience to date? What	
	materials and techniques have you worked with? What would you	
Design	like to explore through your y12 studies? Produce an A4 page	
Technology	entitled 'about me' on which you consider where you have been,	<u>Curriculum - Design</u>
(Product Design	where you are now and where you would like to go on your design	<u>Technology -</u>
and Fashion and	journey. This can be presented however you like.	Southend High School
Textiles)	2. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWVD_Uv_sUg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWVD_Uv_sUg</a> - current year	for Girls (shsg.org)
,	12 students were asked what they wished they had thought about	
	more before they started the course. They universally responded	
	that they regretted not thinking more about materials from GCSE	
	and wished that they had actively sought to retain that knowledge.	
	This documentary will revisit and challenge/develop many of your	
	ideas around traditional and modern materials.	
	3. How to solve problems like a designer - YouTube - please watch	
	the short film. Select one product or garment that you are familiar	
	with from your day-to-day life; one that disappoints or annoys you	

	in some way. Evaluate its efficacy and annotate and sketch around an image of that product demonstrating how you can incrementally or radically improve its function.	
Drama	<ol> <li>Watch this video of Steven Berkoff performing then analysing his performance of 'Actor.' Write down 5 observations that you make regarding either his performance or his exploration of his process.</li> <li>Read the following article regarding performing Shakespeare. Find a version of 'To be or not to be' from Hamlet, and annotate the soliloquy, using the guidance provided by the article in terms of how to approach it. An Actor's Guide To Performing Shakespeare   Backstage</li> <li>Listen to the following podcast from award winning playwright for stage and screen Jack Thorn (most recently lauded for Adolescence). Bullet point the interesting learning points that he makes regarding theatre making. S4 Ep5: Jack Thorne talks to S– Playwright's Podcast – Apple Podcasts</li> <li>Watch the full version of Gecko's made for TV performance of 'The Time of your Life'. Mindmap the company Gecko, in terms of what this performance teaches you about their techniques, conventions and possible influences.</li> </ol>	Curriculum - Drama - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
Economics	<ol> <li>Choose one news event over the summer with a UK focus. The news event should link to the UK economy and/or UK business, and you should produce a summary of no more than one-page. In your summary explain how the event might impact UK consumers, UK producers/firms, and the UK government.</li> <li>Choose one news event over the summer with an international focus. The news event should link to global economics and/or global business, and you should produce a summary of no more than one-page. In your summary explain how the event might impact consumers across the globe or in another country, firms operating globally, and other governments around the world.</li> <li>In addition, please sign up for <a href="https://www.tutor2u.net/economics">https://www.tutor2u.net/economics</a> and </li></ol>	

	<ol><li>Watch and make notes on an episode of Fry's Planet Word (available on YouTube).</li></ol>	
English Literature	<ol> <li>Listen to and summarise one or more episodes of 'Frank Skinner's Poetry Podcast' (found on Spotify or Apple, etc)</li> <li>At least once a week, go onto The Poetry Foundation website (www.poetryfoundation.org) and read a poem: you can choose/search by poet, topic or just read the poem of the day.</li> <li>Listen to and summarise one or more podcast episodes of 'The Shakespeare Sessions' (found on BBC Sounds). If you only listen to one podcast, listen to 'Looking for the Moor' which was first released on 2 July 2018.</li> <li>Read a nineteenth century novel (read more if possible!)</li> <li>Listen to and summarise one or more podcast episodes of 'Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics' (found on BBC Sounds).</li> <li>Go to the RSC website (www.rsc.org.uk) and click on the 'About Shakespeare' tab: learn as much about Shakespeare as you can.</li> <li>Watch a version of 'Othello'. This can be a film version, a live play or a recorded play version.</li> </ol>	Curriculum - English - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
French	<ol> <li>Read and summarise an article from the following:         <u>Accueil - 1jour1actu.com</u> (new articles)         AlloCiné : Cinéma, Séries TV, BO de films et séries, Vidéos, DVD et VOD (film reviews)         <u>Bonjour! - Lawless French Landing Page</u> (Could be a grammar point or a cultural article)</li> <li>Complete grammar exercises from either of the following:         <ul> <li>https://app.senecalearning.com/dashboard/join-class/y4ro5awiqf</li> <li>(Use the code to join the class and try A level activities)                 <u>Browse Activities!   Conjuguemos</u></li> </ul> </li> <li>Read (in French) some BD - Astérix/ Tintin/ Lucky Luke and give a brief summary</li> <li>Watch at least 1 film/ programme in French and give a brief summary</li> <li>And practise your tenses on Conjuguemos – you don't need a login – you need to be secure in present, passé composé, imparfait, futur &amp; conditionnel)</li> </ol>	Curriculum - French - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
Geography	<ol> <li>Watch and make notes on Peter Haas: When bad engineering makes a natural disaster even worse   TED Talk</li> <li>Watch and make notes on Arindam Bhattacharya: Globalization isn't declining it's transforming   TED Talk</li> <li>Read and summarise three articles from the 'Environment' section off The Conversation (Environment - Views &amp; Research - The Conversation) or BBC News.</li> <li>Sign up to Imagine, the weekly newsletter on all thing's climate change. Sign up for The Conversation's newsletters Keep a diary summarising key findings from each week's newsletter.</li> </ol>	Curriculum - Geography - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)

	5. Read any of the suggested books: <i>Prisoners of Geography, Six</i>	
	Degrees, Disaster by Choice	
	Read and summarise three articles from the following: <u>Planet Wissen</u>	
	2. Complete grammar exercises and explore the following: <u>LEARN GERMAN</u> & <u>German exercises - practice grammar online</u>	Curriculum - German -
German	3. Read (in German) some <i>Grimms Fairy Tales</i> . Write a summary <u>Grimms Märchen</u>	Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
	4. Watch at least one film in German and give a brief summary	
	Practise your tenses — you need to be secure in present, perfect, future,	
	and conditional.	
	1. Watch Episdoe 4 of Andrew's Marr's documentary series 'History	
	of Modern Britain' which is called 'Revolution' and all about the	
	1980s. You can access this documentary on the Educational	
	Recording Agency website- you just need to set yourself up a free	Curriculum -
	student account. 4: Revolution   Andrew Marr's History of Modern	Government and
Government and	<u>Britain</u>	Politics - Southend
Politics	2. Choose an episode of the podcast 'The Rest is Politics' and	High School for Girls
	summarise it. The Rest Is Politics - Podcast - Apple Podcasts	(shsg.org)
	3. Follow the SHSG X account @missjra86 and read the newspaper	
	articles tweeted over the summer on key political events ready for	
	a current affairs quiz in September.	
	1. Listen to and summarise one or more 'In Our Time' podcast	
	episodes of your choice (available via BBC Sounds).	
	2. Listen to and summarise one or more 'The Rest is History' podcast	
	episodes of your choice  3. Read and summarise a chapter of Susan Brigden's New Worlds,	<u>Curriculum - History -</u>
History	Lost Worlds: The Rule of the Tudors 1485-1603 (2001)	Southend High School
	4. Read and summarise a chapter of Napoleon the Great by Andrew	for Girls (shsg.org)
	Roberts.	
	5. Watch series 1 and / or series 2 of <i>Wolf Hall</i> (on <u>BBC iPlayer)</u>	
	Students will complete the summer transition skills booklet	Curriculum -
Maths + Further	Students will complete the summer transition skills booklet	<u>Curriculum -</u> Mathematics -
Maths	See link - Maths-Transition-Booklet-Sept-2025.pdf	Southend High School
IVIALIIS		for Girls (shsg.org)
	1. Start listening to BBC Radio 4 - The Media Show. Choose at least	
	one episode and summarise the key issues covered.	
	2. Watch Making Of SHANG CHI AND THE LEGEND OF THE TEN RINGS	Curriculum - Media
	- Best Of Behind The Scenes . List the different types of visual	Studies - Southend
Media Studies	technology that have been used.	High School for Girls
	3. Download the apps for The Guardian and The Daily Mail. Choose	(shsg.org)
	one news story and compare the coverage and representation on	<u>(31138.018)</u>
	each platform.	

		he following documentaries & make notes on the elements	
	hat have relev	rance to GCSE PE content	
	1. Icarus	(Netflix) (PEDs/deviance)	
		ssion (Injury)	Curriculum - PE -
PE		nance U (Netflix) (NFL Basketball)	Southend High School
, r <u>-</u>		(iPlayer) (PEDs/deviance)	for Girls (shsg.org)
		e A (Netflix) (Deviance in gymnastics)	101 01113 (3113 <u>6</u> .01 <u>6</u> )
		n black and white (Netflix) (Racism)	
		at the Palace (Netflix) (Deviance/hooliganism)	
		one of the following Ted talks and write a 200-word	
		ary of the key ideas covered. Come up with and write down	
	•	tions that watching this talk has made you ask/consider.	
		Universe the Only Universe? Brian Greene	
		ve reached the end of physics? Harry Cliff	
		scinating Physics of Everyday Life. Helen Czerski	
		y Ma: The secret force for limitless energy? Lasers   TED Talk	
		the series <u>Forces of Nature with Brian Cox - BBC iPlayer</u> .	
		a short summary of each episode and note down which	
	captured you most.	ed you most.	<u>Curriculum - Physics -</u>
Physics	3. Watch	one of the following documentaries and complete the	Southend High School
	steppir	ng stones grid.	for Girls (shsg.org)
	a. <u>Quantu</u>	um Mechanics' Epistemic Turn: From Objective Reality to	
	Knowle	edge documentary	
	b. <u>Einstei</u>	n's Quantum Riddle	
	c. <u>Horizor</u>	n - 1964-1965: Strangeness Minus Three - BBC iPlayer	
	d. The Wo	orld According to Physics with Jim Al Khalili	
	4. Read o	ne of the books from our reading list (see the curriculum	
	page o	n the school website) and write a review. Include anything	
	that re	ally interested you, and questions you would like to further	
	explore	e as a result.	
		uction to AQA psychology course. (you will need to register	
	with tu	itor2u but it is free) <u>Transition to AQA A-Level Psychology</u>	
		g Started   tutor2u	
		s of Psychology	<u>Curriculum -</u>
Psychology		cret Life of 4, 5 and 6 year olds - Channel 4 (Documentary)	Psychology - Southend
. 5,5,15,15,5		he Mind Podcast - choose one episode (BBC Podcast)	High School for Girls
	5. "Openi	ing Skinner's Box" - Lauren Slater	(shsg.org)
	6. Read, \	Watch or Listen to one of the suggestions from our list on	
	the cur	rriculum page on the school website. Make notes, including	
	•	ng that interested you or questions this has raised for you.	
		Course Religions- Sacrifice, Redemption, and Miracles: The	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	of Christianity: Crash Course Religions #9	<u>Curriculum - Religious</u>
Religious Studies		d Dawkins: Militant atheism   TED Talk	Studies - Southend
		cobs: My year of living biblically   TED Talk	High School for Girls
	4. <u>Does G</u>	God have a gendered body?   Faculty of Divinity - (Short	(shsg.org)
	Cambr	idge mini-lecture)	

	<ul> <li>5. Can we prove God's existence?   Faculty of Divinity - (Short Cambridge mini-lecture)</li> <li>6. "The Puzzle of" – Peter Vardy (various books) – this series of nonfiction books is about issues in religion and philosophy, very readable and you don't have to be an expert to enjoy them. You can dip in and out of different chapters rather than having to start at the beginning and work through to the end.</li> </ul>	
Sociology	<ol> <li>Read 'Chavs' by Owen Jones</li> <li>Read 'The Class Ceiling' by Sam Friedman</li> <li>Read 'Animal Farm' by George Orwell</li> <li>Read 'Why We Should all be Feminists' by Chimamanda Adichie</li> <li>Choose a podcast on a topic of interest from 'The Sociology Show' podcast list <u>The Sociology Show Podcast - YouTube</u></li> <li>Complete the introduction to sociology course <u>Introduction to AQA A-Level Sociology Getting Started   tutor2u</u></li> </ol>	Curriculum - Sociology - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
Spanish	<ol> <li>LISTENING COMPREHENSIONS Traditional and modern values: mis amigos: Mis amigos - Español lento y claro   Comprensión auditiva mis abuelos: Laura y sus abuelos   Comprensión auditiva • DELE Ahora</li> <li>READING/GRAMMAR GAP FILL Cultural heritage: regional identity La noche de San Juan La noche de San Juan - Texto para completar   Comprensión de lectura</li> <li>READING/GRAMMAR GAP FILL Cultural heritage: regional identity La jota La jota, un baile tradicional   Comprensión de lectura</li> <li>READING and RESEARCH: Bad Bunny. Summarise the impact these concerts will have on Puerto Rico. El enorme impacto económico que tendrán en Puerto Rico los históricos 30 conciertos de Bad Bunny - BBC News Mundo</li> <li>READING AND RESEARCH: Who are the abuelas de la Plaza de Mayo in Argentina?         <ul> <li>La conmovedora historia del nieto 140 robado durante la dictadura argentina y que acaba de ser encontrado 48 años después - BBC</li> <li>News Mundo</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	Curriculum - Spanish - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)