



Southend High School for Girls

A Level Transition Summer Supercurricular Activities



Choose one activity per subject

**Deadline: week beginning
Monday 28th 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	1. 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). 2. Read <i>50 British Artists you Should Know</i>, by Lucinda Hawksley. Published by Prestel . Alternatively take a look at any books by local author Susie Hodge – she lives in Westcliff-on-sea. 3. Watch <i>Frida</i> the film (2002) on Netflix, or <i>Frida</i> the documentary (2024) on Amazon Prime. We are seeing her exhibition at The Tate Modern in the first term of year 12. 4. Read about Essex artists such as Edward Bawden and Bernard Cheese. Look up articles about them online such as 'Artists and places: The Great Bardfield Artists, Essex' 5. Visit some Essex galleries, such as <i>The Fry Gallery</i> in Saffron Walden and the <i>Edward Munnings Museum</i> Dedham to appreciate these talented 'Essex boys' 6. Watch BBC4 documentary on David Hockney who died in June 2026 – one of most respected English artists. Please come to school with a notebook for art. Write down anything you have found out about from these suggestions – add any sketches if you want to – or postcards if you make a gallery visit. Lastly please all follow ArtistsWonders on Instagram. Again, in your notebook, write down the names of artists you have not heard of. Inform yourself so that you can talk about what art YOU like!	Curriculum - Art - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
Biology	1. 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/jpoxajYeiy00WbPE 2. 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/mINDZ3y4N1pNaznG 3. Malaria is one of the most lethal diseases around...how 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 4. 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	Curriculum - Biology - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)

	5. YouTube video to explain the immune system: <u>Types of immune responses: Innate and adaptive, humoral vs. cell-mediated NCLEX-RN Khan Academy</u> Listen and make summarised notes from this video	
Business Studies	Please sign up for Tutor2u. You can sign up by creating a free account on the Tutor2u Registration page. You will need to provide your name, select "Student" as your account type, enter your email, and choose a password. 1. Watch 'Dynamic Markets' on Tutor2u. Make summary notes from the video. https://www.tutor2u.net/business/reference/dynamic-markets 2. Watch 'Product and Market Orientation'. Make summary notes from the video. https://www.tutor2u.net/business/reference/product-and-market-orientation 3. Watch 'How Competition Affects Markets'. Make summary notes from the video. https://www.tutor2u.net/business/reference/how-competition-affects-the-market 4. Watch 'Marketing Segmentation' Make summary notes from the video https://www.tutor2u.net/business/reference/marketing-segmentation-targeting-positioning-video 5. Access one of the many free lectures from Gresham College (you may wish to go into their back catalogue). Make notes and summarise from the lecture. I am recommending '<i>Tech and Business</i>' but you could select another lecture of interest to you. https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now/tech-business	<u>Curriculum - Business Studies - Southend High School for Girls</u> (shsg.org)
Chemistry	1. Find and read an article from Open Learn. Topics can include microplastics, sustainability, drug design, material science, the environment. Produce a report or presentation about what you have discovered. 2. Research 'sustainable chemistry'. Read The role sustainable chemistry plays in shaping the planet's future OpenLearn - Open University and watch the TED talk on Green chemistry, sustainability, and environmental impact by Professor Loyd Bastin. Produce a report or presentation about this. 3. Complete the course: Birth of a drug OpenLearn - Open University 4. Pick a medicine of your choice: aspirin, paracetamol, ibuprofen etc (choose 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. You are to prepare a presentation and will need to answer questions. 5. Research animal 'superpowers' and prepare a presentation about this. For example: Bioluminescence, camouflage,	<u>Curriculum - Chemistry - Southend High School for Girls</u> (shsg.org)

	changing colour of their skin, poison / venom, electrical generation, climbing up walls (geckos).	
Classics	1. 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 2. Take a virtual tour of the Elgin marbles (a set of sculptures from the largest temple in Athens). Write a page describing them and explaining why you think the Athenians chose to decorate a temple in this way British Museum, 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 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	Curriculum - Classics - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
Computer Science	1. Work through tutorials on the C# programming language - https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/shows/csharp-for-beginners/ Use the program Visual Studio code (Visual Studio Code - The open source AI code editor Your home for multi-agent development) or a website such as C# Online Compiler .NET Fiddle to write your programs. Screenshot your code with explanations to a PowerPoint. Save your code files also to show when you begin the term. 2. Complete code challenges on: https://www.101computing.net/python-challenges-intermediate-level/ note down the key components of your code and any new techniques learnt while solving the problems.	Curriculum - Computer Science - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
Design Technology (Product Design and Fashion and Textiles)	1. Abstract: The Art of Design Tinker Hatfield: Footwear Design FULL EPISODE Netflix – YouTube - 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 like to explore through your y12 studies? Produce an A4 page entitled 'about me' on which you consider where you have been, where you are now and where you would like to go on your design journey. This can be presented however you like. 2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWVD_Uv_sUg - current year 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.	Curriculum - Design Technology - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)

	This documentary will revisit and challenge/develop many of your ideas around traditional and modern materials. 3. <u>How to solve problems like a designer - YouTube</u> - 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	1. Watch <u>this video of Steven Berkoff</u> performing then analysing his performance of 'Actor.' Write down 5 observations that you make regarding either his performance or his exploration of his process. 2. 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. <u>An Actor's Guide To Performing Shakespeare Backstage</u> 3. 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. <u>S4 Ep 5: Jack Thorne talks to Simon Stephens Royal Court Playwright's Podcast</u> 4. <u>Watch the full version</u> 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.	<u>Curriculum - Drama - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)</u>
Economics	1. 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. 2. 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. In addition, please sign up for: https://ondemand.tutor2u.net/students/introduction-to-edexcel-a-level-economics-getting-started and <u>Free and Discounted Student Subscription The Economist</u> (Sign up to the espresso version, which is free) Both will help keep you connected to the world of business and economics as the week's progress. Both will be useful resources for A Level Economics.	<u>Curriculum - Economics - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)</u>
English Language	1. Listen to and summarise one or more 'Lexis' podcast episodes of your choice (available on Spotify and Apple Music). 2. Read and summarise a chapter of 'A History of Proper English' by Henry Hitchings (2011).	<u>Curriculum - English - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)</u>

	3. Read and summarise a chapter of 'You Just Don't Understand' by Deborah Tannen (1992). 4. Read and summarise Chapter 13 (entitled 'Grammatical Mythology') of 'The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language' by David Crystal. 5. Watch and make notes on an episode of Fry's Planet Word (available on YouTube).	
English Literature	1. Listen to and summarise one or more episodes of 'Frank Skinner's Poetry Podcast' (found on Spotify or Apple, etc) 2. 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. 3. 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. 4. Read a nineteenth century novel (read more if possible!) 5. Listen to and summarise one or more podcast episodes of 'Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics' (found on BBC Sounds). 6. Go to the RSC website (www.rsc.org.uk) and click on the 'About Shakespeare' tab: learn as much about Shakespeare as you can. 7. Watch a version of 'Othello'. This can be a film version, a live play or a recorded play version.	<u>Curriculum - English - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)</u>
French	1. Read and summarise an article from the following: Accueil - 1jour1actu.com (new articles) AlloCiné : Cinéma, Séries TV, BO de films et séries, Vidéos, DVD et VOD (film reviews) Bonjour ! - Lawless French Landing Page (Could be a grammar point or a cultural article) 2. Complete grammar exercises from either of the following: https://app.senecalearning.com/dashboard/join-class/y4ro5awiqf (Use the code to join the class and try A level activities) Browse Activities Conjuguemos 3. Read (in French) some BD - Astérix/ Tintin/ Lucky Luke and give a brief summary 4. Watch at least 1 film/ programme in French and give a brief summary And practise your tenses on Conjuguemos – you don't need a login – you need to be secure in present, passé composé, imparfait, futur & conditionnel)	<u>Curriculum - French - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)</u>
Geography	1. Watch and make notes on <u>Peter Haas: When bad engineering makes a natural disaster even worse TED Talk</u> 2. Watch and make notes on <u>Arindam Bhattacharya: Globalization isn't declining -- it's transforming TED Talk</u>	<u>Curriculum - Geography - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)</u>

	- Read and summarise three articles from the 'Environment' section off The Conversation (Environment – Views & Research – The Conversation) or BBC News. - 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. - Read any of the suggested books: <i>Prisoners of Geography</i>, <i>Six Degrees</i>, <i>Disaster by Choice</i>	
German	- Read and summarise three articles from the following: Planet Wissen - Complete grammar exercises and explore the following: LEARN GERMAN & German exercises - practice grammar online - Read (in German) some <i>Grimms Fairy Tales</i>. Write a summary Grimms Märchen - 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.	Curriculum - German - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
Government and Politics	- Watch Episdoe 4 of Andrew's Marr's documentary series '<i>History of Modern Britain</i>' 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 student account. 4: Revolution Andrew Marr's History of Modern Britain - Choose an episode of the podcast 'The Rest is Politics' and summarise it. The Rest Is Politics - Podcast - Apple Podcasts - 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.	Curriculum - Government and Politics - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
History	- Listen to and summarise one or more '<i>In Our Time</i>' podcast episodes of your choice (available via BBC Sounds). - Listen to and summarise one or more '<i>The Rest is History</i>' podcast episodes of your choice - Read and summarise a chapter of Susan Brigden: <i>New Worlds, Lost Worlds: The Rule of the Tudors 1485-1603</i> - Read and summarise a chapter of Christopher Clark: <i>The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914</i> - Watch series 1 and / or series 2 of <i>Wolf Hall</i> (on BBC iPlayer)	Curriculum - History - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
Maths + Further Maths	Students will complete the summer transition skills booklet See link: Maths-Transition-Booklet-Sept-2026.pdf	Curriculum - Mathematics - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
Media Studies	Start listening to BBC Radio 4 - The Media Show. Choose at least one episode and summarise the key issues covered.	Curriculum - Media Studies - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)

	2. Watch Making Of SHANG CHI AND THE LEGEND OF THE TEN RINGS - Best Of Behind The Scenes . List the different types of visual technology that have been used. 3. Download the apps for The Guardian and The Daily Mail. Choose one news story and compare the coverage and representation on each platform.	
PE	Watch any of the following documentaries & make notes on the elements that have relevance to GCSE PE content 1. Icarus (Netflix) (PEDs/deviance) 2. Concussion (Injury) 3. Last Chance U (Netflix) (NFL Basketball) 4. Lance (iPlayer) (PEDs/deviance) 5. Athlete A (Netflix) (Deviance in gymnastics) 6. Colin in black and white (Netflix) (Racism) 7. Malice at the Palace (Netflix) (Deviance/hooliganism)	Curriculum - PE - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
Physics	1. Watch one of the following Ted talks and write a 150-word summary of the key ideas covered. Come up with and write down 2 questions that watching this talk has made you ask/consider. a. Is Our Universe the Only Universe? Brian Greene b. Have we reached the end of physics? Harry Cliff c. The Fascinating Physics of Everyday Life. Helen Czerski d. Tammy Ma: The secret force for limitless energy? Lasers TED Talk 2. Watch the series Forces of Nature with Brian Cox - BBC iPlayer. Write a short summary of each episode and note down which captured you most. 3. Watch one of the following documentaries and write a 150-word summary of your learning/interests. a. Quantum Mechanics' Epistemic Turn: From Objective Reality to Knowledge documentary b. Einstein's Quantum Riddle c. Horizon - 1964-1965: Strangeness Minus Three - BBC iPlayer d. The World According to Physics with Jim Al Khalili 4. Read one of the books from our reading list (see the curriculum page on the school website) and write a review. Include anything that really interested you, and questions you would like to further explore as a result.	Curriculum - Physics - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
Psychology	1. Introduction to AQA psychology course. (you will need to register with tutor2u but it is free) Transition to AQA A-Level Psychology Getting Started tutor2u 2. Origins of Psychology 3. <i>The Secret Life of 4, 5 and 6 year olds</i> - Channel 4 (Documentary) 4. All in the Mind Podcast - choose one episode (BBC Podcast) 5. <i>"Opening Skinner's Box"</i> - Lauren Slater 6. Read, Watch or Listen to one of the suggestions from our list on the curriculum page on the school website. Make notes, including anything that interested you or questions this has raised for you. Wider Study List-Sept-2023.docx	Curriculum - Psychology - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)

Religious Studies	1. Crash Course Religions- <u>Sacrifice, Redemption, and Miracles: The Story of Christianity: Crash Course Religions #9</u> 2. <u>Richard Dawkins: Militant atheism TED Talk</u> 3. <u>A.J. Jacobs: My year of living biblically TED Talk</u> 4. <u>Does God have a gendered body? Faculty of Divinity</u> - (Short Cambridge mini-lecture) 5. <u>Can we prove God's existence? Faculty of Divinity</u> - (Short Cambridge mini-lecture) 6. <i>"The Puzzle of..."</i> – Peter Vardy (various books) – this series of non-fiction 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.	Curriculum - Religious Studies - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
Sociology	1. Read 'Chavs' by Owen Jones- write a 200-word summary of the points you found most interesting 2. Read 'The Class Ceiling' by Sam Friedman- write 200-word summary of the points you found most interesting 3. Read 'Animal Farm' by George Orwell- write a 200-word paragraph on why this book is still relevant today 4. Read 'Why We Should all be Feminists' by Chimamanda Adichie- write a 200-word summary of the points you found most interesting 5. Choose a podcast on a topic of interest from 'The Sociology Show' podcast list <u>The Sociology Show Podcast - YouTube</u> - write a 200-word summary of the points you found most interesting 6. Complete the introduction to sociology course <u>Introduction to AQA A-Level Sociology Getting Started tutor2u</u>	Curriculum - Sociology - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)
Spanish	1. LISTENING COMPREHENSIONS Traditional and modern values: mis amigos: <u>Mis amigos - Español lento y claro Comprensión auditiva</u> mis abuelos: <u>Laura y sus abuelos Comprensión auditiva • DELE Ahora</u> 2. READING/GRAMMAR GAP FILL Cultural heritage: regional identity <i>La noche de San Juan</i> <u>La noche de San Juan - Texto para completar Comprensión de lectura</u> 3. READING/GRAMMAR GAP FILL Cultural heritage: regional identity <i>La jota</i> <u>La jota, un baile tradicional Comprensión de lectura</u> 4. READING and RESEARCH: <i>Bad Bunny</i>. Summarise the impact these concerts will have on Puerto Rico. <u>El enorme impacto económico que tendrán en Puerto Rico los históricos 30 conciertos de Bad Bunny - BBC News Mundo</u> 5. READING AND RESEARCH: Who are the abuelas de la Plaza de Mayo in Argentina? <u>La conmovedora historia del nieto 140 robado durante la dictadura argentina y que acaba de ser encontrado 48 años después - BBC News Mundo</u>	Curriculum - Spanish - Southend High School for Girls (shsg.org)