



None of this would be possible without the unwavering dedication of our staff, who bring energy, care, and ambition to every corner of school life. And to our parents and carers: thank you for the consistent support you have shown in encouraging your children to engage fully in all that SHSG offers, both in and beyond the classroom.

From the first day of September to the end of November, SHSG offered students a diverse and energising array of experiences that reflect our ethos as a family community rooted in ambition, curiosity and excellence.

The year began with an outstanding display of SHSG's family values. Returning students (Years 8–11 and 13) took it upon themselves to welcome and guide the new Year 7s and 12s, a quiet but powerful gesture that set the tone for the term.

Year 10 students also stepped into leadership roles by mentoring younger readers, running book clubs, and preparing for the prestigious Yoto Carnegie shadowing scheme.

Trips, Talks and Global Perspectives

SHSG students travelled intellectually and physically during the first term.

- Year 13's Paris trip brought language learning to life with museum visits, walking tours, a river cruise, and competitive scavenger hunts, enriching both their French and cultural fluency.
- Sixth Formers attended a UCAS and Apprenticeship Fair at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, gaining first-hand insights into their future options.
- Year 11 enjoyed A-Level Taster Days to explore next-stage subjects, while guest speakers from the English and Media Centre, UCL, and the Freud Museum stretched the minds of Literature and Psychology students.
- Aspiring lawyers in KS4 met professionals from BTMK, and alumna Julie Abraham (CEO of Richer Sounds) inspired students by sharing her unconventional but successful career path.

Character Building & Resilience

In a show of grit and team spirit, Year 12 tackled the *Nuclear Races*, a SHSG rite of passage involving high ropes, bunkers, and plenty of mud.

Simultaneously, we continued to prioritise wellbeing, especially through World Mental Health Day, led by student ambassadors and NHS workshops. Year 7 explored "5 Ways to Wellbeing" while the older years led fundraising and awareness activities, raising £600 for Young Minds. In November, Anti-Bullying Week was marked through Odd Socks Day and workshops by filmmaker Meg Canon, focused on kindness and conflict resolution.

Arts, Expression and Celebration

Creativity thrived this term. The Black History Month Showcase was a standout: gospel choirs, dance, fashion, and poetry were delivered entirely by students from Years 7 to 13 and supported by student-led tech and media teams.

Literary talents also shone through the Cursed Pen short story competition and Creative Writing Club, while KS3 students immersed themselves in the annual Maths Week, solving logic puzzles and competing for house points.

Community Spirit and SHSG Traditions

SHSG's 111th Birthday on 25th October was a celebration! Year 13's self-written Barbie-themed panto lit up the hall, while each year group contributed to the festivities, be it the Year 7 Colour Run, Year 8's Recycled Fashion Show, or the upper years' Taskmaster, quizzes and dodgeball. The birthday cake design itself celebrated Ofsted success, pastoral dogs, and the school's beloved cherry tree.

A standout November initiative was the Movember 'Cycle to Paris' Challenge, where staff and students pedalled nearly 300 miles on static bikes in one day to raise awareness for men's mental health.

Compassion in Action

Throughout the term, SHSG's students repeatedly demonstrated social responsibility:

- Christmas hamper collections for the charity *Kids Inspire*
- Donations for HARP (homeless charity) via Christmas Jumper Day and LipSync Battle fundraisers
- Remembrance events that honoured the past while prompting reflection on how to live with purpose

Heading into spring

Creativity on Stage and in the Studio

This year's headline was undoubtedly *Frozen Jr*, our stunning whole school musical staged in February 2025. Over 100 students took part on and off stage, dazzling audiences with professionalism, joy, and talent. Costumes (including now-hireable Olaf and Sven puppets!), lighting, sound and set design were all crafted in-house. From sold-out evening shows to special performances for local primary schools and Year 7, this production was a remarkable showcase of SHSG's artistic and collaborative spirit.

Our creative spirit extended to the geography department with Frozen Week, a quirky and educational themed week filled with quizzes, treasure hunts, icy games, and eco-conscious activities like designing a sustainable Arendelle. It was a wonderful fusion of curriculum and imagination.

Trips That Spark Curiosity and Confidence

Students ventured far and wide this term. In January 2025, Year 12 artists toured London's top galleries including the Courtauld and National Portrait Gallery, taking inspiration from masters like Monet, Van Gogh, and Rembrandt.

Meanwhile, Year 10 and 12 students embarked on an exciting ski trip to Jasper, Canada, combining physical challenge, cultural exploration, and team bonding.

Closer to home, Year 10 geography students immersed themselves in a three-day residential field trip to Flatford Mill in January, deepening their fieldwork skills in the river and urban environments. And Year 7 enjoyed curated visits to Waterstones, building their love of reading while becoming "Reading Millionaires".

Competitions, Challenges, and Leadership – a few examples

Whether on the field, stage, or in debate chambers, SHSG students rose to the challenge:

- F1 in Schools: Four teams competed at the London North Regional Final, with *Team Celeritas* securing a wildcard slot for nationals. This high-level STEM opportunity exemplifies the school's drive for real-world application.
- UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge: 100 students took part, with four progressing to the elite "Pink Kangaroo" stage, most notably Clementine in Year 10, who outscored older peers.
- Alan Turing Cryptology Competition: this maths challenge promoted logic, teamwork and grit.
- Cursed Pen & Poem Writing Competition: Celebrating storytelling and dark creativity, Mariam K, Larissa R, and Fariah R were honoured for their hauntingly brilliant entries.
- Bookmark Design and Antarctica Flag Contests: celebrating creativity across year groups

A Culture of Giving Back

Character education shines through SHSG's commitment to charity, student leadership and values in action. Noteworthy initiatives include:

- SHSG House Charity Week (3–7 March): A festival of laughter and purpose, from “Sponge the Teacher” to House Olympics, SHSG TV, Family Feud, and a Talent Show. The event supported Comic Relief and HARP (a local homelessness charity), exemplifying compassion and community engagement.
- Valentine's Bake Sale: Organised by House Captains, this delightful event raised funds for HARP, awarding House Points for baking prowess.
- Planet Action Campaigns: Wildflower planting and plastic recycling schemes earned hundreds of community achievement points. Pupils made their mark in sustainability with efforts like ‘tubs2hubs’ and eco-themed games.

Sports, Strength and Determination

On the courts and fields, SHSG continues to build resilience and camaraderie:

- U16 Netball Team: Regional bronze and reserve qualification for nationals. Their performance earned them a spot at the World Schools Netball Tournament in Loughborough in June.
- Karate Triumph: Hannah S (Year 7) not only clinched gold at nationals but was invited to join the national squad; a powerful model of dedication and success.
- PE Fixtures: From climbing prep to netball, cricket, hockey and football, the calendar has been full of competitive fixtures and enrichment.

Debating, Mentoring, and Personal Voice

In January, SHSG made a strong debut in British Parliamentary debating at SHSB, securing several wins. The debating society has since set high standards for future matches.

SHSG also continued to elevate student voice through competitions like “Name Your Canteen” and through Year 10 mentors leading the Carnegie Shadowing Book Clubs for Years 7–10, fostering leadership, reading for pleasure and academic engagement.

Towards summer

Global Outlook & Cultural Connection

This year has truly had an international flavour. In March, SHSG hosted trainee teachers from Nanjing University for the second time, enriching our understanding of Chinese traditions and pedagogy. Students in Years 7 and 8 took part in cultural lessons exploring Chinese geography, festivals, and art. Just a few months later, 40 students from East Shanghai High School arrived as part of an ambitious STEM exchange with SHSB. Their visit culminated in a celebration event showcasing the power of global partnership and student collaboration.

Leadership in Action

Student leadership thrived across all year groups. The Year 10 Middle School Prefect team was formed following a fiercely competitive process, with 120 applications for just 40 spots. The newly appointed Head Middle School Prefect, Holly B, and deputies Gianna E-N and Elicia R quickly became visible, positive influences.

Personal Development at SHSG 2024 – 2025

A summary

House Captains also brought energy and creativity to school life, organising a House Easter Egg Hunt with over 3,000 points up for grabs; a joyful blend of competition and camaraderie.

The annual Year 5 Open Evening was a standout success, thanks to the dedication of staff and the outstanding efforts of hundreds of student ambassadors. With warmth, confidence and pride, they led guided tours, delivered presentations, and brought SHSG's ethos to life through performances and personal welcome. Approximately 500 students volunteered to help at the evening!

Academic Enrichment & Super-Curricular Adventures

SHSG students embraced intellectual stretch with enthusiasm. Standouts included:

- Biology Olympiad: Students achieved an exceptional medal haul, with Gold, Silver and Bronze winners recognised nationally for their scientific acumen.
- Alan Turing Cryptography Competition: SHSG's winning team MAJEEP cracked complex codes over several weeks to claim first place.
- Cambridge Comes to SHSG: Students in Years 8–12 received expert guidance from Emmanuel College on post-16 choices and super-curricular preparation.
- Reading Culture: The launch of SHSG's Carnegie Book Groups engaged readers from Years 7 to 13, culminating in an invitation only trip to the London awards ceremony.

Meanwhile, trips to the Globe Theatre, the V&A Museum, and live poetry performances ensured that enrichment wasn't confined to the classroom.

Trips That Made a Difference

Whether up mountains or down high streets, students stepped out with purpose:

- Tenby Fieldwork: Year 12 Geographers explored the Welsh coast, combining coursework with community interaction, ice cream, and unforgettable memories.
- Year 8 Globalisation Day: Southend High Street became a living classroom as students conducted fieldwork and pitched redesigns to better attract Gen Z.
- PGL Revision Weekend: Year 11 tackled Jacob's Ladder and Maths papers with equal vigour on a memorable residential filled with teamwork and laughter.
- DofE Expeditions: Rain, mud and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang landmarks didn't stop Year 10 Silver participants from completing their 3-day trek with grit and grace.
- J.P. Morgan Insight Day: Economics students spent time at one of the world's top firms, learning about careers in finance and investment.

Sporting Spirit

SHSG athletes have had a sensational year. The Year 7 cohort set the tone with Borough wins in netball and swimming, and a 5th place finish at Nationals in cross country. Across other year groups, highlights included:

- Essex Indoor Athletics champions
- Borough Athletics Champions
- U17 Netball : 3rd in the World Championships
- Finalist performances in the National Schools' Biathlon
- A vibrant and successful sports tour to Spain returning with a haul of trophies

Creative Flourish

The arts were very much alive. Highlights included:

- **Hermes House claimed the 2025 House Cup - for the third year in a row!**
- Inter-House Music Competition: With dazzling performances from tango clarinet to musical theatre.
- Pi Day Competitions: Maths met creativity in entries ranging from crocheted 'pi-rates' to stop-motion animations.
- Environmental Poetry: In recognition of Earth Day, students penned and performed powerful verse on climate themes.
- Design and Technology Showcase: Lower School students proudly brought home timber footstools, jewellery collections, and soft toys: evidence of their growing skillsets.
- Aurora K in Year 12 shone nationally, earning runner-up in Cambridge's Sociology Photography Prize with her powerful exploration of public space and social inequality.

Character & Wellbeing

The school's commitment to holistic development has remained constant. Students took part in InnerDrive workshops on motivation and mindset, neurodivergent support sessions, and sensory drop-ins.

The Jack Petchey Awards celebrated the resilience and leadership of Priyanka (Year 11) and Kitty (Year 12), both of whom exemplified SHSG's values in action.

Looking ahead to 2025 – 2026

As we look ahead to 2025–26, we do so with momentum, optimism, and an unwavering commitment to providing students with opportunities that stretch, inspire and empower them. This year has shown what's possible when young people are given the space to lead, the encouragement to explore, and the support to grow. Next year promises even more: more challenge, more creativity, more connection with the world beyond the school gates.

In the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, ***"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."*** At SHSG, we'll continue to champion those dreams, and the hard work, ambition and courage that bring them to life.

Personal Development at SHSG
2024 – 2025
A summary



A group of approximately 20 people, including men, women, and children, are posing for a group photo inside a cave. They are standing on a wooden walkway or platform. The cave walls are dark and rocky, with some areas illuminated by warm, yellowish light. The group is dressed in casual outdoor clothing, including jackets and hats.

