



Southend High School for Girls

AN ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Southchurch Boulevard, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 4UZ

Headteacher: Mr J Carey MEd (Cantab), BA (Hons), LLE, NPQEL

Friday, 6th December 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please find below information and updates from this week.

Head Student and Head Student Team

Congratulations to Cerys B (12HRO) on her selection as Head Student for 2024/2025. Cerys's warmth and enthusiasm for SHSG shone through in the selection process, which included a panel interview with students, an interview with the Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form and Chair of Governors, as well as a presentation in assembly. Along with the new deputy head students, we have a brilliant new team (pictured), ready to take position in January. The handover will be in the Christmas assembly. Cerys says, *"since Year 7, I have always looked up to the Head Student and dreamed of having the role myself. I feel so honoured to have been appointed Head Student of SHSG and I am so excited for the year to come with the Head Student Team."* Cerys B



Southend Festival of Performing Arts: SHSG Choirs

Last week, our choirs performed at the Southend Festival of Performing Arts, formerly the Southend Music Festival. The forty-strong SHSG Choir sang popular arrangements of *City of Stars* and *My Favourite Things* conducted by Sixth Former and incoming Head Student, Cerys, and were praised by the judges who awarded them the Claire Robert's prize for 'most moving performance'. It was great to see our students make friends with some of the competing choirs and it was noted that their conduct on the trip was outstanding. On the same morning, Chamber Choir competed against old rivals St Bernard's, performing evocative choral works by *Ola Gjeilo* and *Tori Amos* - they were awarded the Hobbs Challenge Shield. Finally, Novem Consort, performed on Saturday evening in the closing night of the Festival and went up against adult choir *Gaudeamus*. Novem won the Dulcian Madrigal Shield and were highly commended by the professional adjudicator Luise Horrocks, who remarked on their 'warm and lovely tone colour' and 'very accomplishing singing'. Another group who were present, Southend Vox, contacted the school this week to congratulate Novem: 'The Students are a real credit to SHSG, and as both our choirs are led by 'old girls' it's really lovely to see them flying the flag for music at Southend High, which is where we all cut our own musical teeth'. These choirs can all be heard performing this repertoire at the forthcoming Winter Concerts on Monday 9th (SHSG Choir) and Tuesday 10th December (Chamber Choir and Novem). Tickets are available via Parent Pay.



Driving with Grace - Year 12

This Thursday all Year 12 students watched a documentary on the perils of dangerous driving, produced by the [Driving with Grace](#) campaign. Students from SHSG set up the Driving with Grace campaign in memory of Eleanor Grace McGrath, who sadly died due to the action of a young, careless driver. Eleanor was a much-loved student at SHSG, and her senseless death in 2009 shocked the school and wider community. It is a powerful and emotional documentary which serves to underline the importance of careful driving, as many of our Year 12 students approach getting their licence and are taking lifts from newly passed drivers. Please do discuss it at home with your children.

Natwest Enterprise - Year 12 & Year 13

This Friday, we invited NatWest Thrive to speak to Sixth Formers. The organisation is championing entrepreneurial education and aims to focus on an entrepreneurial mindset and bridge the gap between education and post-18 entrepreneurial opportunities in the workplace. Students attended a one-hour workshop on developing their entrepreneurial mindset in preparation for the future world of work.



Oxbridge Prep Club – Year 10 & Year 11

We were delighted to welcome over 60 Year 10 and 11 students to the inaugural meeting of the Key Stage 4 Oxbridge Pathway group on Tuesday. It was fantastic to see how keen and ambitious our KS4 cohort is, it was standing room only in our session.

We have been working closely with Emmanuel College Cambridge and Hertford College Oxford who as part of the [Next Steps Essex](#) scheme are keen to work with our students. They have provided us with a number of exciting opportunities (see links below) that our students can apply for.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 9th January in the Media Studio. All students in KS4 are welcome to attend. In January's meeting we welcome those students who would like some help with applying for these opportunities.

In addition, the Cambridge outreach team have confirmed that they will visit SHSG and speak to all year groups about university life and applications in March 2025.

Careers webinars

I have attached some flyers that may be of interest to the end of this letter.

House Bookmark Design Competition

Our annual SHSG house bookmark design competition is now open for entries from all years. The overall winner from each house will have their design printed on our official house bookmarks! There are also house points awarded to all entrants. Last year's designs were fantastic, so we can't wait to see what our talented students can create this year. Entry forms are available from the library and the closing date for entries is Friday 13th December. I have attached the full poster to the end of this letter.



Remembrance – Funds Raised

The Royal British Legion would like to thank all those who contributed to the Poppy Appeal, and appreciate the support given to raise valuable funds to help the Armed Forces community. We are pleased to let you know that the school raised £78.49, with funds raised across Southend on Sea district totalling an incredible £43,000.

ESSA National schools' diving finals

This weekend 3 SHSG students will be competing in the ESSA National schools' diving finals in Birmingham! Good luck to Francesca P, Sadie S and Kara C. Our Junior Girls cross country team are also competing in Leeds at the National Schools' cross-country finals so good luck to Sadie O, Rose H, Arabella S, Katie W, Clara W and Fleur B. We wish everyone a successful weekend.

Mathematical Minds Shine

SHSG students recently showcased their mathematical prowess at the Essex Schools Mathematics Team Challenge, held at SHSB. Our two talented teams—led by Maya, Tegan, Helian, Bluebell, Anna, Darcey, Tom and Verity—competed against 25 teams from 21 schools across the region.

The evening was a thrilling test of mathematical skill, featuring three dynamic rounds that challenged teamwork and problem-solving:

- A high-pressure group round requiring collaborative strategy
- A silent cross number puzzle where each team split into two separate pairs: one pair solving only across clues, the other pair solving only down clues, without any verbal communication between the pairs
- A complex "shuttle" round where pairs exchanged written solutions, with each pair's answer becoming part of the next pair's problem-solving challenge

We're incredibly proud to announce that our teams secured impressive 8th and 19th place finishes—a remarkable achievement in such a competitive field!

Beyond the rankings, our students demonstrated exceptional mathematical thinking, strategic collaboration, and school spirit. They returned energized and inspired, embodying the problem-solving excellence we value at SHSG.

Congratulations to all our participating mathematicians—you've made us proud!



PE fixtures for next week

These fixtures may be subject to change and all details are posted on the respective PE extra curricular Microsoft Teams page. If your child has not been added to their year group page, and needs to be, please ask them to speak to member of the PE department. Thank you

- Monday 9th December: U15 Basketball Home v Shoebury
- Tuesday 10th December: U14 Football away v King John
- Wednesday 11th December: Year 8 Netball away v Thorpe Hall

Please be aware that for safeguarding reasons we cannot accommodate spectators on site for matches. Many schools apply this policy so please check with the opposing school directly.

Reminder: SHSG PA Winter Concerts Raffles 2024

SHSG PA will be drawing a raffle on the evening of each Winter Concerts, Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th December.

- 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for Monday 9th will be provided by the Y7 forms 7APH, 7ART, 7ATH
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for Tuesday 10th will be provided by the Y7 forms 7AUR, 7HRA, 7HRM
- additional prizes available on the night

Tickets cost £2 each and can now be purchased on Parent Pay. Once purchased, tickets will automatically be entered into the selected evening raffle. Ticket sales close Monday 9th December. Don't worry if you miss the cut-off date as raffle tickets will be available on the night. All money raised supports the school. Thank you for your continued support.

Reminder : Short reports for Years 7-10 and 12

Short reports will be issued through the SIMs Parent App on Friday 13th December of Years 7-10 and Year 12.

Mental Health & Wellbeing at SHSG

At SHSG, we often talk about how to look after our health in lessons and in tutor time. If you need support or information about how to cope with your emotions, you can visit the school website and look at [Mental Health & Wellbeing - Southend High School for Girls \(shsg.org\)](https://www.shsg.org).

There, you will find some articles, videos and useful links. The school has also put together a Padlet for Lower and Middle school and one for Sixth Form for you to browse. Please find the links below:

[Lower and Middle school SHSG Mental Health Board \(padlet.com\)](https://www.padlet.com)

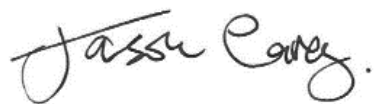
[SHSG Mental Health Board \(padlet.com\)](https://www.padlet.com)

Key Dates

The calendar on our website is regularly updated and contains key dates of activities and events that are taking place in school. A full list can be found [here](#).

Wishing you a lovely weekend!

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Carey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Jason Carey
Headteacher



Emmanuel Cambridge & Hertford Oxford Present

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- FIND OUT ABOUT STUDENT LIFE
- IMPROVE YOUR APPLICATION
- LEARN ABOUT CAREER PATHS

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*ESSEX, THURROCK, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, & SHEFFIELD

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Webinar Topics

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- A Level Choices
- Applying to Uni • Student Finance
- And much more...

Apply by 10th January 2025






DESIGN A SHSG HOUSE BOOKMARK COMPETITION

Pick up an entry form from the library

Design a bookmark using your school house as a theme:



Designs must be original.

Use coloured pencils or pens to colour.

Outline your artwork with black ink.



Ensure your design stays within the bookmark template.

Be creative and have fun.

Winners to be selected from each year
with **house points** and **prizes** for winning entries.

Overall winner from each house to have their design printed
on our official house bookmarks, which will be available from the library.

All designs to be submitted to Mrs Skinner in the library by Friday 13th December 2024.

All entries must be on the official entry form available from the library.

