

16 July 2026

**"And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer."**

**F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby***

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we reach the final day of the academic year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our students, staff and families for their immense dedication and support. It has been a busy and deeply rewarding year, and our community has achieved so much.

As we look ahead to the summer break, I would like to share the words of John Lubbock, who founded the August Bank Holiday:

*"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day... is by no means a waste of time."*

I encourage everyone to take this opportunity to truly unplug, recharge and enjoy a well-deserved period of rest with loved ones.

There really has been so much happening this term that we could fill many pages, but the best way to keep up to date with everything happening at school is through our [Instagram page](#).

It was PC Jess Turnbull's funeral at Newcastle Cathedral last Friday. It was a truly touching and fitting tribute to Jess. Mr Patrick, Mrs Hulme (Jess's former tutor) and I were honoured to be invited to represent the school and pay our respects. It was a moving and emotional day as we said farewell to a very special person who had such a positive impact on our school community.

The end of the school year is always incredibly busy. Our Year 7 students enjoyed a special treat on Tuesday with a visit from the Fusiliers Band, who marched into the school yard playing *The Blaydon Races* before performing a range of hits, from K-pop Demon Hunters to *It's Coming Home* (although, unfortunately, it hasn't!). The students absolutely loved it. If any of our parents are teachers, or have connections with other schools, I would encourage you to suggest they get in touch with the band to arrange a visit.

Today is our rewards day and ends a week of celebration assemblies allowing students to cash in the positive behaviour points they have accrued this year. We have been blessed with great weather, and the students are involved in a wide range of activities. Keep an eye out for pictures on [Instagram](#).

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**Headteacher:**

**Deputy Headteacher:**

**Deputy Headteacher:**

Peter Douthwaite BSc (Hons)

Kathryn Williams BA (Hons)

Louise Dunn BA (Hons)



We also recently held our multi-sports day, where students had the opportunity to develop their leadership skills by running an event at the Lakeside Centre for local primary schools. It is always wonderful to see hidden talents emerge, alongside the genuine care, encouragement and support our students show towards the younger children they work with.

It is always uplifting to receive feedback like this, and we were delighted to receive the following message from a parent of one of the primary school children who attended:

*"I hope this message finds you well. My daughter attends Amberley Primary, who were invited to a sports event run by your staff and students today. I also attended as a parent helper for Amberley.*

*I would like to put on record what a very well-run event it was. All the children really enjoyed it. I thought your students were brilliant, very good with the children from Amberley, and it ran like clockwork.*

*The students are a credit to themselves and your school. People are very quick to criticise young people, so credit where credit is due. Thank you to your staff and students for a great afternoon."*

One of the real privileges of being a headteacher is hearing about the experiences our young people have beyond the classroom, and our recent Sixth Form visit to the University of Bath is a wonderful example. Over three days, our students worked alongside peers from across the country, embracing new challenges and exploring both university and apprenticeship pathways. They represented our school brilliantly, showing kindness, respect, ambition and genuine support for one another throughout. Their behaviour was exemplary, and it was particularly pleasing to see Lucy and Ewan recognised with individual awards, celebrated enthusiastically by the whole group. Even after a long and eventful journey home, their positivity and maturity never wavered. We are incredibly proud of the way they conducted themselves and of everything they achieved.

Since my last newsletter, we have also celebrated our Year 11 Prom at St James' Park. It was a wonderful evening, and the students looked fantastic. Around 50 members of staff also chose to attend, and it was a real pleasure to see the remarkable young adults our students have become. We are incredibly proud of them and hope they receive the results they deserve this summer as they take the next steps in their lives.



It has also been incredibly humbling for staff to receive messages from students and parents thanking them for supporting our Year 11 and Year 13 students through the exam period and throughout their time at school.

Educating young people is a genuine partnership between school and home, and by working together we will continue to strive to provide the very best opportunities for all our students.

One message was particularly kind:

*"As Sarah finishes Year 11, we wanted to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude to you and your team.*

*The last five years haven't been without their challenges, but what has made all the difference is having a headteacher and staff who listen and care. Knowing that Sarah has been surrounded by educators who genuinely care about the children and their wellbeing has meant the world to us as parents.*

*Thank you for your incredible support, guidance and dedication throughout Sarah's journey. We are so grateful for everything all of you have done for her.*

*We would especially like to thank Mrs Fuller for her patience, help and understanding; Mrs Patrick for seeing Sarah's ability and encouraging her to stand out and be confident in her individuality; and Mrs Baxter-Howard for being so caring and understanding.*

*The inclusivity shown by you and all the staff has made the last five years very special."*

Although school will be closed over the summer, I would encourage you to read the attached guide, which includes details of local activities together with a wide range of advice and support for students and parents, including information on sun safety, water safety, railway safety, online safety, mental health support and other useful contacts. Please also take note of the key dates below.

Thank you once again for your continued support throughout the year. I wish you and your families a happy, safe and restful summer, and I look forward to welcoming our students back in September.

Wishing you all the very best,



Mr. P. Douthwaite  
Headteacher

### Results Days

Our students who have been sitting public exams will be able to collect their results from school at the following times:

- Year 13 Students: **Thursday 13 August at 8.00 a.m.** in the Main Hall.
- Year 12 Students: **Thursday 13 August at 9.00 a.m.** in the Main Hall.
- Year 11 results: **Thursday 20 August at 9.00 a.m.** in the Main Hall.
- Year 10 results: **Thursday 20 August at 10.00 a.m.** in the Main Hall.

All exam related queries (arranging for results to be emailed, arranging for results to be picked up by someone else, submitting possible appeals etc.) should be made to [examenquiries@gshs.org.uk](mailto:examenquiries@gshs.org.uk) **by the student themselves, and from their school email address.**

We would like to wish all our students collecting results the very best of luck when they open the envelope!

### New Academic Year

**The last day of this summer term is Friday 17 July. Dates for the start of the new academic year are below.** Our Parents Guide, which included school expectations, uniform requirements and diary dates for the forthcoming year, can be found on our website at [www.gshs.org.uk](http://www.gshs.org.uk).

### School Re-opening Dates

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September – Staff training Day – School closed to all students
- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> **School opens for new Year 7 students and 6th form induction only**
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – School opens for all year groups

#### **Student support and safeguarding**

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mrs Louise Dunn  
Deputy Safeguarding Leaders Mr Alex Lunn  
SENDCo: Mrs Rebecca Bennett

Please remember that we are here to support you and your child at any time.  
You can contact us via the main office (phone) or by email [enquiries@gshs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gshs.org.uk)  
For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email [absence@gshs.org.uk](mailto:absence@gshs.org.uk)