

September 28 2026

“Grown-ups never understand anything by themselves, and it is tiresome for children to be always and forever explaining things to them”

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, The Little Prince.

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another busy couple of weeks at George Stephenson – no sooner have our new Year 7 students settled in than we welcome new prospective families to our Open Evening. Our students were once again excellent ambassadors helping out on the night and particular praise goes to Freddie in Year 7, Daniel in Year 8, and Eva in Year 12 who prepared their own speeches and delivered them brilliantly to two full halls.

We also hosted our Year 11 Information Evening recently, which was another busy evening. We hope that it provided a useful overview for parents on how they can support their child in this important year and what we are doing as a school to help them.



Sixth form outcomes were excellent in the summer with the average grade being a B, and two students being successfully accepted to Cambridge University. We had an excellent uptake once again in our sixth form this year and they have settled in well. If you would like to find out more about what attracted them, and what else we have to offer, then please save the date for our Sixth Form Open Evening which is taking place on **Thursday 22nd October 5-7pm**.

Our subject stalls in the hall will give Year 11 students the perfect opportunity to explore the wide range of courses we have on offer and see how we will support them on their Post 16 journey. A number of previous students will be around on the night to share their experiences of our Sixth Form too. We hope you can make it.

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Deputy Headteacher:

Deputy Headteacher:

Peter Douthwaite BSc (Hons)

Kathryn Williams BA (Hons)

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Sixth Form Open Evening

In Performing Arts, we have now cast *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* and have started rehearsals for our exciting school production. The show celebrates the importance of looking beyond appearances, showing kindness to others, and staying true to yourself. Students from Years 8-13 are already exhibiting the dedication, talent, and teamwork that will help make this another successful show. Year 7 will be invited to audition soon. The show will be performed on Tuesday 9th - Thursday 11th March.

We also have a range of extracurricular opportunities, including Choir and Dance Club. Students should check the noticeboard outside the Music Department for more information.

Peripatetic music lessons have started again this term, with Year 7 students already beginning lessons on a variety of instruments. Parents should check ParentMail for information about instrumental lessons on offer.



Congratulations to Mr. Lee, Mrs. Williams and Mrs Patrick for completing the Great North Run and raising more than £1500 for charity. They have just about recovered!

I was showing parents around the school this morning. We had two groups and visited about 20 classrooms and then had time in the library where the Year 7 council was on hand to

answer any questions they had. The feedback from parents about the school and students was lovely and showing the school in action is something I always enjoy.

Finally, a quick reminder that the school is closed for Staff Training next **Monday 5th October**.

Best wishes,



Mr. P. Douthwaite
Headteacher

Key dates this half term (Please check the school website for updates)

October

Thursday 1st October – Year 7 Parent Tutor Evening - 4pm-6.30pm

Monday 5th October – School Closed for Training

Thursday 8th October – Andalucia Spanish Trip Parents Meeting - 4.30pm-5.30pm

Thursday 22nd October – 6th Form Open Evening 5pm-7pm

Half Term Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

Andalucia trip Monday 26th October – Thursday 29th October

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

For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email

absence@gshs.org.uk