



September 11 2026

“Find out who you are and do it on purpose.”

Dolly Parton

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have all had a lovely summer. It has been a really enjoyable start to the year and a pleasure, as always, to welcome everyone back, in particular those joining us for the first time. Our new Year 7 students look fantastic and have made a good first impression. I am sure they will be excellent ambassadors for the school.

I would also like to say well done to all the students who have adapted seamlessly to the mobile phone pouches and are getting smoothly into the routine. It is proving so much better for learning to have the temptation of their phones removed. However, one student who handed their phone in this morning, as he didn't have his pouch, genuinely said it was because 'the dog ate it'.

For those new to the school, this is the first of a fortnightly updates to keep you up to date on any school issues, celebrate success and provide you with information on the many things happening at GSHS.

This week, my assemblies have been about our values of Ambition, Respect and Community, and we talked about the late Dolly Parton and how she represented these. I am lucky to see examples of our values being played out every day. We reflected on one thing we could focus on to improve in ourselves this year, but also on what we can contribute as well as achieve.



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Deputy Headteacher:

Deputy Headteacher:

Peter Douthwaite BSc (Hons)

Kathryn Williams BA (Hons)

Louise Dunn BA (Hons)

We were delighted with our exam results this summer. Our students did fantastically well and achieved our best results for the second year in a row, putting us amongst the top schools in North Tyneside. In the Sixth Form, it was again great to see so many happy faces, with our students going on to university or apprenticeships at a wide range of destinations, including two students who were successfully accepted by Cambridge University.

I have been talking to students about how important the first half-term is in establishing the habits that will stick with them for the rest of the year, whether good or bad. We know that when students are in school, they go on to be much more successful. The investment they put in now, and the support we give them with this around attendance, uniform, homework and routines, will pay huge dividends in the future.

We also understand that there will be challenges, so if you have any problems or need any help at all, please always contact the school or the Guidance Manager at the earliest opportunity. This will help ensure your child has the best possible educational experience, and we can support you and ensure their wellbeing. We must all be ambitious for our young people.

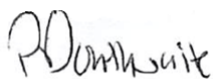
This is particularly important for the exam year groups, and I am pleased to see that the Year 11 students have come back incredibly focused and are making the most out of the additional morning Maths tuition. We also have our Year 11 Information Evening next Thursday, 17th, at 5pm, which I hope to see as many Year 11 parents there as possible. Here, you will get an overview of the year and how you can support your child. Students are welcome to attend with you too.

If you would like to be involved in supporting the school in a broader context as part of the Governing Body, we are currently looking for new parent governors. It is an exciting time for the school – we have recently received a ‘Good’ Ofsted rating in all areas; we have a growing and vibrant Sixth Form and have achieved our best exam results for two consecutive years. However, all schools can improve, and we are looking for people with the same passion and ambition to help us on this journey. Further details and how to apply [can be found here](#).

Finally, good luck to anyone involved in any of the Great North Run events this weekend – nothing exemplifies ‘Ambition and Community’ more than this. Myself, Mrs Williams, Mr Lee and Mrs Patrick are looking forward to taking part and hobbling into school on Monday!

I wish you and your families an enjoyable and successful year and look forward to seeing you at George Stephenson High School soon.

Best wishes,



Mr. P. Douthwaite
Headteacher

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

September

Thursday 17th September – Year 11 Information Evening – 5pm-6pm

Thursday 17th September – Year 13 Information Evening – 5pm-6pm

Thursday 24th September – Year 5 and 6 Open Evening – 5pm-7pm

October

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

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