# YEAR 11 NEWSLETTER 1



## YEAR TEAM MESSAGE

As we have almost completed the first month of Year 11, we would like to say a huge well done to our year group for an outstanding start to the year.

We are extremely proud of how they have settled into their final year at George Stephenson. We are very impressed with their motivation and exemplary effort across the board, not only in lessons but also in attendance to interventions and revision sessions both during and after school. We would also like to thank you for the high standards of attendance, uniform and behaviour, they really are setting the standards for the rest of the school.

In the next half term, we are coming up to our first set of mock exams. We have no doubt the students will give their best efforts however we ask for you to please encourage not only home learning and exam revision but also positive wellbeing strategies as they go through their mock exams.

We thank you for your ongoing support at home as always and we look forward to seeing the positive outcomes the students achieve by the end of the year.

Miss Spooner, Mrs Bell and the Tutor Team

# **KEY DATES**

- Thursday 23rd October: Sixth Form Open Evening
- Monday 3rd Thursday 13th November: Mock Exams 1
- Friday 14th November: Staff Training Day
- Monday 5th January: Progress Report 1
- Thursday 15th January: Parents Evening
- Monday 19th Friday 30th January: Mock Exams 2
- Friday 6th March: Dimensions Day
- Monday 16th March: Progress Report 2
- Thursday 7th May: External Exams Begin
- Wednesday 24th June: External Exams End
- Thursday 25th June: Year 11 Leavers Prom
- Thursday 20th August: GCSE Results Day









# WHAT WILL YEAR 11 STUDY THIS TERM?

English: Students are currently revising for their mock exams in class. This is focusing on English Language Paper 2 and English Literature Paper 2. This includes analysing non-fiction extracts, recapping the 19th Century novel, recapping the conflict poetry and looking at how to compare unseen poems.

Maths: Students are revising and extending key GCSE skills in algebra, geometry, and statistics - including probability, ratio, trigonometry, bearings, and data-handling.

Science: Students are building upon the knowledge and disciplinary literacy developed throughout Years 9-10. Students are learning about specialised exchange surfaces and how respiration rate can be investigated, the application of subatomic structure to electrolysis and ionic equations, as well as how circuit design affects potential difference, current and resistance.

Art and Design (Fine Art / Photography / Textiles): Students have begun their major project at the end of Year 10 and will continue to develop and realise their intentions into a practical outcome. This 60% of coursework will be completed by Christmas. In January, Year 11 will begin the Externally Set Assignment resulting in an examination piece.

Business Studies: Students are studying Unit 4: Operations, looking at how products are produced, and quality is maintained, while also revisiting Unit 5: Finance to strengthen their understanding of financial documents, calculations, and decision-making.

Computing: Students are completing Component 2 of the BTEC Digital Information Technology course — Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data — a crucial controlled assessment that will make a significant contribution to their final grade.

Construction: Students are exploring the theory unit Building Structures and Forms alongside preparation for their second practical assessment in tiling.

Drama: Students are completing their devised performances required for GCSE Drama along side their written devising log. This component is worth 40% of the overall GCSE.

French: The first topic students will study is Travel and Tourism where we will look at French speaking islands and dream holidays. The second topic is Media and Technology where we will discuss the use of different types of technology.







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# WHAT WILL YEAR 11 STUDY THIS TERM?

Geography: Students are studying urban issues and challenges. Comparisions are made between opportunities and challenges in Mumbai and London, as a consequence of urban growth. We will also explore sustainable cities, exploring BedZED as an example.

Hair and Beauty Therapy: Students are working through their final unit; Design in the Hair and Beauty sector, in readiness for their NEA on the 1st December.

Hospitality and Catering: Students are exploring the design process for products suitable for a target group to meet a specific brief.

Health and Social Care: Students are completing their second piece of NEA which is worth 30% of their final grade. The content of study is 'supporting people through life events'.

History: Students are currently studying the 'Conflict and Tension in Asia' unit, focusing on the Vietnam War, including its causes, key events, and the impact of US involvement.

Media Studies: Students are studying Sitcoms with a focus on how the genre has evolved over time and how sitcoms reflect the time period they are produced in. Students are also completing their NEA submission (worth 30% of their grade) with a deadline of Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

Music: Students are completing their composition to a brief which will go towards their overall grade for GCSE Music. They are also revisiting the four areas of study through a range of listening tasks and examples.

Occupational Studies: Students are working on their remaining coursework units including Cooking with Meat and Fish, Horticulture and Employment.

Religious Education: Students are studying Christian and Jewish practices, understanding how core beliefs learned in Y10 influence how these believers worship both individually and as communities and how differing interpretations of sacred writings leads to an array of religious expression.

Spanish: Students will explore Travel and Tourism and Media and Technology. We will take a virtual visit to Andalucia and learn about the national park of Doñana.

Sport Studies: Taking part and improving other participants' sporting performance: Components of fitness, rules and regulations in Sport, the Roles and Responsibilities of Officials, coaching practical sessions.











# **MOCK EXAMS 1 - NOVEMBER 2025**

Our first set of Mock Exams (timetable below) are fast approaching, with the first exam beginning on Monday 3rd November. During morning registration tutors are delivering study skills and revision techniques to support with Mock Exam preparation.

	Week beginning 3 November 2025- Week 1							
	Monday 3/11	Tuesday 4/11	Wednesday 5/11	Thursday 6/11	Friday 7/11			
Morning	English Language 9:00- 11:05	History 9:00- 10:00	Spanish Listening and Reading Foundation: 9:00- 10:20 Higher: 9:00- 10:45	Media 9:00- 10:30 Hair and Beauty 9:00- 11:00	RE 9:00- 10:45 Music 9:00- 10:15			
Mid- morning		Combined Science- Biology 11:00- 12:10 Triple Science- Biology 11:00- 12:45		French Listening and Reading Foundation: 11:00- 12:20 Higher: 11:00- 12:45				
Afternoon	Maths Paper 1 13:30- 15:00		Geography 13:30-15:00 French Writing (Clash) 13:30-15:15	Maths Paper 2 13:30-15:00	Computer Science 13:30-15:00 Drama 13:30-15:15			
	Week beginning 10 November 2025- Week 2							
	Monday 10/11	Tuesday 11/11	Wednesday 12/11	Thursday 13/11	Friday 14/11			
Morning	Combined Science- Chemistry 9:00-10:10 Triple Science- Chemistry 9:00-10:45	Maths Paper 3 9:00- 10:30	Spanish Writing French Writing Foundation: 9:00- 10:10 Higher: 9:00- 10:15	Art and Textiles				
Afternoon	English Literature 12:30- 14:45	Combined Science- Physics 12:30- 13:40 Triple Science- Physics 12:30- 14:15	Business 12:30- 14:00	9:00- 15:00				
	Week beginning 1 December 2025- Week 1							
	Monday 1/12	Tuesday 2/12	Wednesday 3/12	Thursday 4/12	Friday 5/12			
Afternoon	Construction Online Mock Class 11A `13:30- 15:00		Construction Online Mock Class 11B 13:30- 15:00					

# **REVISION AND STUDY SUPPORT SESSIONS**

The following sessions are available to students to aid revision and support their exam preparation skills. Students have engaged very well with the additionality so far with over 130 students attending Maths on a Monday for example. Keep it going everyone!

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
Before School (8:00am)		History (WK1)		French & Spanish*	
After School (3:00pm)	Maths & Further Maths		Science Geography Business Art Photography Textiles	English	RE History

\*Begins January 2026







# SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Our Sixth Form open evening will take place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October in the Main Hall from 5pm-7pm. There will be a Headteacher talk in the library at 5pm, repeated at 6pm.

Come along and talk to our incredible team of subject teachers about the courses we offer and how we support students during their Post 16 education.

Current students will be there to share their experiences of Sixth Form so far, and we're also really fortunate to have a number of alumni students coming along to share how George Stephenson Sixth Form has helped shape their career path too!



Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

5pm-7pm

Headteacher talk at 5pm and repeated at 6pm







# WHAT MAKES US PROUD?

### 2025 Results:

- 100% Pass Rate
- 46% A\*-B Grades
- 74% A\*-C Grades
- Average A Level Grade: C+
- Average Applied Grade: Distinction

#### 2025 Destinations:

- 76%: University (92% First Choice!)
- 4%: Apprenticeship
- 16%: Employment
- 4%: Further education













# PARENT SURVEY FORM

Our partnership with parents and carers is very important to us and we value your input into continuing school improvement. Please complete the 2025/26 Parent Survey using the QR code or via https://shorturl.at/HumfE if you were unable to do so at the Information Evening.

## SCHOOL LIBRARY

The School library opening hours are:

Monday: 8.00am - 4.30pm Tuesday: 8.00am - 4.30pm Wednesday: 8.00am - 4.30pm Thursday: 8.00am - 4.30pm

Friday: 8.00am - 4pm

Students can attend Book Club and/or Manga Club which run weekly, use the facility for independent study or home learning. Also, look out for themed events throughout the year!





## PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Half Term 1 Timetable:

**Monday: Boys' Football** 

Monday: Netball

Wednesday: Basketball Thursday: Girls' Football

All clubs run from 3:00 - 4:00pm. For more information speak to Mr O'Dea.

# **YEAR 11 LEAVERS PROM 2026**

The Prom is provisionally booked at St James Park on Thursday 25th June 2026. The cost will be approximately £35-40 per person, this will include a drink on entrance, a two course meal and a DJ.

Admission to our Prom, as always, is a privilege and our Prom Passport is used to secure the right to attend.







