

9 July 2024

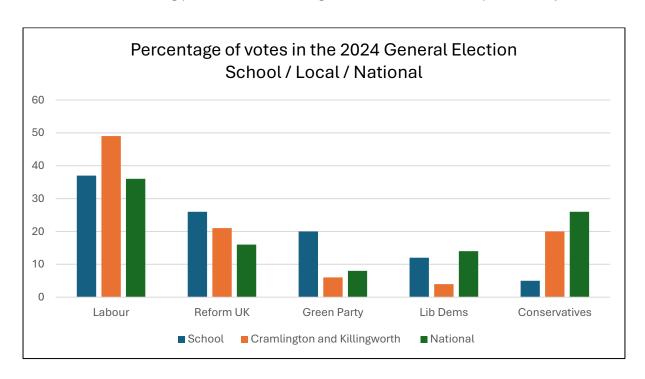
"Our children should learn the general framework of their government and then they should know where they come in contact with the government, where it touches their daily lives and where their influence is exerted on the government. It must not be a distant thing, someone else's business, but they must see how every cog in the wheel of a democracy is important and bears its share of responsibility for the smooth running of the entire machine."

#### **Eleanor Roosevelt**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Last week we had two days of one-to-one meetings with families and children who are joining us next year. The partnership with you as parents is very important to the success and wellbeing of our students and the high attendance we have at these events and evenings shows how valuable you see this too. As always, we value your support, and it is always a pleasure to welcome our new families to the school.

As the results of the General election were announced we held our own mock election within school. Our results are below and are shown as a percentage to allow comparison. It is an interesting read, and it has been refreshing to hear students taking an interest, discussing politics and debating different views in a respectful way.





As a school we work with the outstanding Newcastle United Foundation who provide some excellent enrichment opportunities for our students. We were delighted that many were involved in the recent 1892 cup. Every child who attended received a brand new NUFC kit, shin pads, a medal and the day finished off with a BBQ for all students and parents to enjoy. A truly amazing event.



As promised, we have some photos of students at the Year 11 prom. It was a lovely evening. A huge thank you to Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Riccalton for organising such a fantastic event. It really is one of the proudest moments as a headteacher to be able to speak to so many of our young people on the evening and see the lovely people they have become as they take that important next step in their lives.





Congratulations to our 6<sup>th</sup> form students who attended the regional celebration event last week after working on an exciting STEM project.

All six students were great and the feedback they received from the judges and organisers was a testament to their hard work this year. They were runner up in the 'most innovative project' category and won the Gold Business Pitch award against some tough competition.



Well done to Jack, Hannah, Merkhi, Erin, Hayley and Oscar!

We also had a fantastic dimensions day on Thursday. Students had a day of Careers, Health Education, Public Speaking and iLearn Olympics. I was fortunate enough to watch Year 10 deliver some wonderful speeches to the rest of the year group which left many students and teachers genuinely moved.







Year 11 students joining the NE12 Sixth Form had a day for Y11 to Y12 Transition.



As well as a 'welcome to sixth form', we had Northumbria University delivering a session with them on transition, we had a fun debate and quiz session as a sample of our tutor activities, and we had a Q&A with some current and alumni students.

We welcomed back Sam Parr, Rebecca Astley and Elicia Watson and it was lovely to hear how they are getting on and for them to share their experiences with our students.



Sixth Form Students - Life Skills Taster Session

Finally, over the last two years governors have been exploring opportunities for the future of the school and how we can continue to improve and provide the best possible education for our students. Any opportunity must align with, and contribute to, our values of Ambition, Respect and Community.



We have researched forming, or joining, a multi-academy trust and looked at a variety of options. We have been working with the Pele trust over the last 6 months to see what they can offer and what we can offer them and feel that this is an excellent opportunity for the school. We will go to a formal consultation in September so that our new families can be involved in the process. We will provide you with further information before this so you can share your views and ask any questions. There will be an opportunity to come into school to find out more about what it involves and the process. Your feedback is important to the school's future direction, so I encourage your participation in the process.

Wishing you all the best,

Mr. P. Douthwaite

Headteacher

# **Key Dates**

## **Events**

Summer Concert 11<sup>th</sup> July Year 12 Futures Day 12<sup>th</sup> July Sports Day 17<sup>th</sup> July

Rewards assemblies and Year 12 Work Experience 14th – 19th July

### Results days

A Level Results Day Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 8am GCSE Results Day Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 9am

#### **Term Starts**

Year 7 ONLY – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September All other students – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September

### 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 <a href="mailto:enquiries@gshs.org.uk">enquiries@gshs.org.uk</a>
For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email <a href="mailto:absence@gshs.org.uk">absence@gshs.org.uk</a>