

AUTUMN TERM, 2026

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 their Maths based form classes. 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.

Mr Harrison, Mrs Bell and the Tutor Team

KEY DATES

- Thursday 22nd October: Sixth Form Open Evening
- Monday 2nd - Thursday 13th November: Mock Exams 1
- Friday 14th November: Staff Training Day
- Wednesday 6th January: Progress Report 1 / Results Assembly
- Thursday 14th January: Set for Success Day / Parents Evening
- Monday 18th - Friday 29th January: Mock Exams 2
- Friday 5th March: Dimensions Day / Year 11 Post 16 Taster Day
- Wednesday 10th March: Progress Report 2
- Tuesday 4th May: External Exams Begin
- Wednesday 23rd June: External Exams End
- Thursday 24th June: Year 11 Leavers Assembly
- Thursday 24th June: Year 11 Leavers Prom
- Thursday 19th August: GCSE Results Day



www.gshs.org.uk



0191 216 1115



[georgestephensonhigh](https://www.instagram.com/georgestephensonhigh)

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 number, 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.

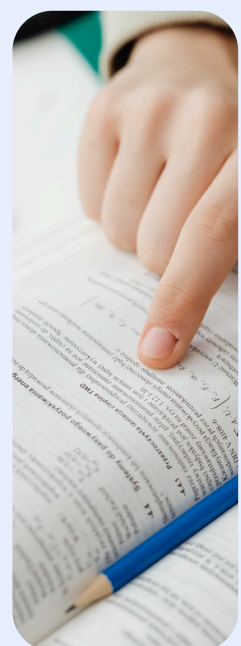
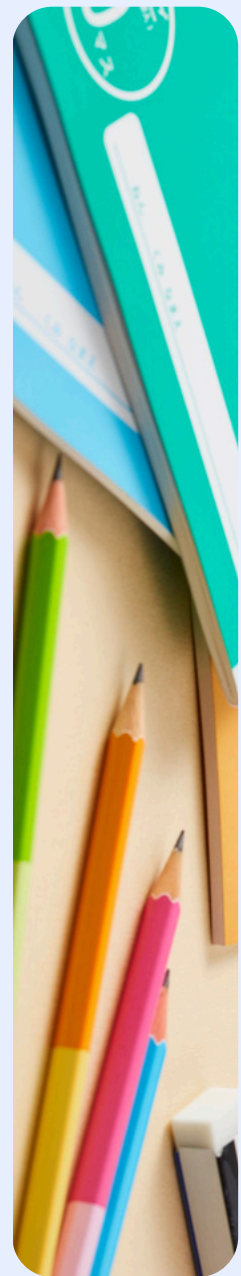
Business Studies: Students are studying Unit 4: Operations, looking at how products are produced, and quality is maintained, while also revisiting Unit 5: Finance to strengthen their understanding of financial documents, calculations, and decision-making.

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.



WHAT WILL YEAR 11 STUDY THIS TERM?

Geography: Students are studying urban issues and challenges. Comparisons 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 later this term.

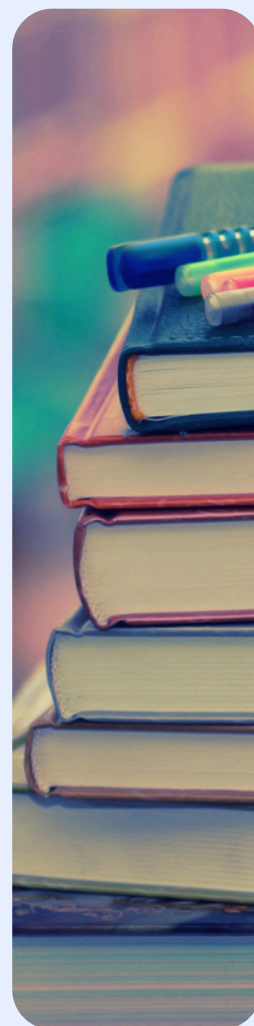
Music: Students are completing their composition to a brief which will go towards their overall grade for GCSE Music. They are also revisiting the four areas of study through a range of listening tasks and examples.

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

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.

The Kings Award: Students are currently working through the personal development unit exploring resilience, physical health and healthy relationships. They will then progress onto managing money and preparing for the world of work



MOCK EXAMS - NOVEMBER 2026

Our first set of Mock Exams are fast approaching, with the first exam beginning on Monday 2nd November. Students will attend Exam Slam sessions prior to the start of their morning exams where subject specialists will deliver key reminders and techniques prior to the start of their Mock Exam.

Students will receive their individual timetables which will include an allocated seat number and their exam location for each mock exam. All students entitled to access arrangements will have these allocated. Please check this information carefully prior to the mock exams. If you have any questions regarding access arrangements and/or the mock exam timetable please contact Mrs Bell (Year 11 Progress Leader) via rbell@gshs.org.uk.

Mock Exam 1 Timetable:

W/C 2nd November 2026 Week 1 - Late Lunch (12:40 -13:15)					
	Mon 02/11/26	Tue 03/11/26	Wed 04/11/26	Thu 05/11/26	Fri 06/11/26
Morning	English Language 9:00 - 11:05	History 9:00 - 10:00 English Resit A3 9:00 - 10:45	Spanish Listening & Reading F - 9:00 - 10:20 H - 9:00 - 10:45 Maths Resit (G10) 9:00-10:30	French Listening & Reading F - 9:00 - 10:20 H - 9:00 - 10:45 Music 9:00 - 10:15 English Resit (G10) 9:00 - 11:05	Maths Paper 2 9:00 - 10:30 Maths Resit G11 9:00 - 10:30
Mid-Morning		Combined Science - Biology 11:00 - 12:10 Triple Science - Biology 11:00 - 12:45			
Afternoon	Maths Paper 1 13:30 - 15:00	No Exams	Geography 13:30 - 15:00 Drama 13:30 - 15:15	Media 13:30 - 15:00	Computer Science 13:30 - 15:00 Hair & Beauty 13:30 - 15:30

W/C 9th November 2026 Week 2 - Early Lunch (11:50 - 12:25)					
	Mon 9/11/26	Tue 10/11/26	Wed 11/11/26	Thu 12/11/26	Fri 13/11/26
Morning	English Literature 9:00 - 11:15 Maths Resit (A1) 9:00 - 10:30	Combined Science - Physics 9:00 - 10:10 Triple Science - Physics 9:00 - 10:45	Spanish & French Writing F - 9:00 - 10:10 H - 9:00 - 10:15		Art & Textiles 9:00 - 15:00
Afternoon	Combined Science - Chemistry 12:30-13:40 Triple Science - Chemistry 12:30 - 14:15 Paper 3	Maths P3 12:30 - 14:00	Business 12:30 - 14:00 French Writing Clash 12:30 - 13:45	Hospitality 13:15 - 15:15 (P5 & P6)	

Full attendance is expected and students must arrive promptly for the start of their exams. Exam conditions will be followed at all times to accurately replicate the experience students will have in Summer 2027 during their GCSE exams.



STUDY SUPPORT SESSIONS

Additional support is also available to students via Revision and Study Support Sessions offered by subject departments. The sessions provide exam preparation skills and knowledge retrieval to deepen learning and increase confidence.

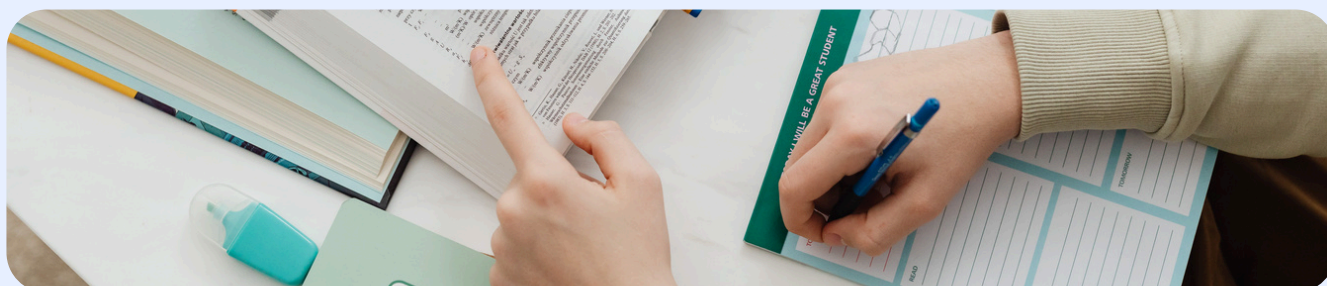
Students have engaged with the additional sessions very well so far with over 130 students attending English on Thursday after school!

Autumn Term - Support Sessions Timetable:

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
8:00-8:30am					7+ Science C32 Invite Only
Form		Maths A Block	Maths A Block	Maths A Block	
Lunch			Geography C17		
After School	Geography C20 Business G10	8/9 History C22 Invite Only	Science C31	English C Block	

Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) support and intervention is also available in Art & Design, Construction, Hair & Beauty, Health & Social Care and Hospitality & Catering. Students should speak to their classroom teacher for more information about when these drop-in sessions are available.

If you have any questions about the forthcoming Mock Exam 1 timetable or additional support and intervention please contact Mrs Bell (Year 11 Progress Leader) via rbell@gshs.org.uk.



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Our Sixth Form open evening will take place on Thursday 22nd 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 22nd October 2026
5pm-7pm



WHAT MAKES US PROUD?

2026 Results:

- 28% A*-A Grades
- 54% A*-B Grades
- 78% A*-C Grades
- Average A Level Grade: B
- Average Applied Grade: Distinction

2026 Destinations:

- 86%: University (87% First Choice!)
- 7%: Apprenticeship (1 degree app)
- 7%: Employment

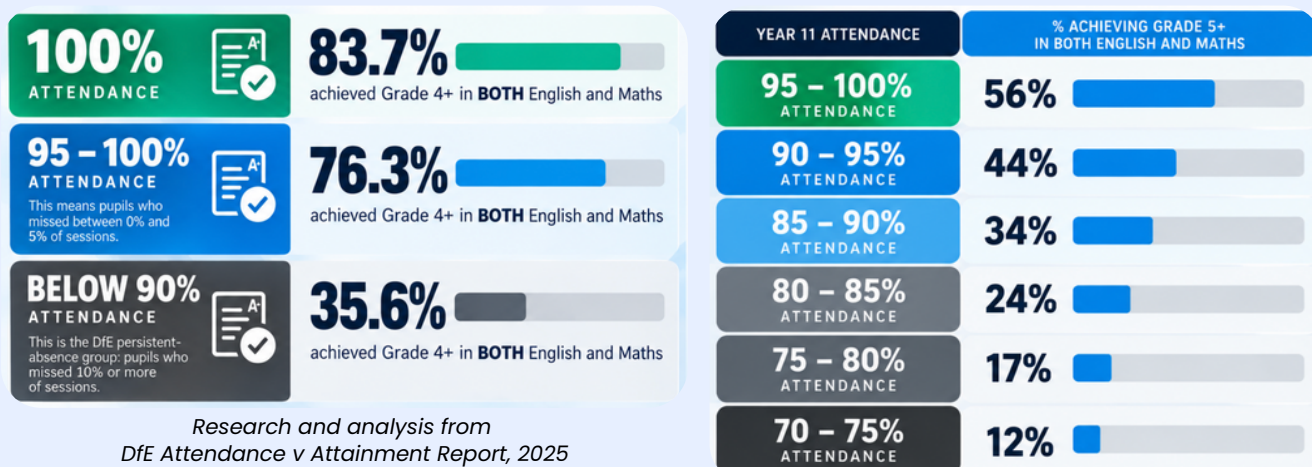


SCHOOL ATTENDANCE - EVERY DAY MATTERS!

Year 11 is an incredibly important year and every day in school really does matter. National evidence shows a clear relationship between attendance and GCSE achievement. Pupils who achieved Grade 4 or above in both English and Maths averaged around 95% attendance, while those achieving the stronger Grade 5+ benchmark averaged around 96%. The wider data shows the same pattern: 83.7% of pupils with 100% attendance achieved Grade 4+ in both English and Maths, compared with 35.6% of pupils who were persistently absent. For the Grade 5+ benchmark, 56% of pupils attending 95–100% achieved Grade 5+ in both English and Maths, compared with 34% at 85–90% attendance and just 24% at 80–85%.

Attendance is, of course, not the only factor that determines GCSE results, and these figures show an association rather than guaranteeing an individual student's outcome. However, the national picture is very clear: as attendance improves, the likelihood of achieving stronger GCSE outcomes increases. At 90% attendance, a student misses around 19 days of school across a full academic year – almost four weeks of learning. In Year 11, that can mean missing important new teaching, coursework and practical assessments, revision, intervention and examination preparation.

We want every student to give themselves the very best opportunity to achieve the grades they are capable of. Strong attendance means more time learning, more opportunities for support and preparation, and ultimately more choices at the end of Year 11. This can make an important difference when students are progressing to their Post-16 destination of choice, whether that is sixth form, college, an apprenticeship or training. Please contact Mr Harrison (Guidance Manager) or Mrs Bell (Progress Leader) to discuss any attendance queries.



We understand that there will be occasions when absence is unavoidable. Our aim is to work together to ensure that every student has as much time as possible in school, accessing teaching, support and opportunities that will help them achieve their potential and progress successfully beyond Year 11.



REVISION AT HOME - TOOLKIT

One of the most helpful things parents and carers can do is help establish a regular revision routine and encourage students to use the resources available to them. Even 20–30 minutes of focused revision, completed regularly, can help students build knowledge and confidence over time.

Students should always prioritise revision materials, home learning and resources provided by their subject teachers, as these will be matched most closely to the course, specification and exam board they are studying.

There are lots of excellent resources below students can access from home to support their GCSE preparation. Little and often is usually more effective than leaving revision until the last minute. We encourage students to combine learning/retrieval of knowledge with plenty of exam-question practice.

Resource	Best for	How students can use it
BBC Bitesize	 Understanding & revisiting topics	Clear explanations, videos and activities across most GCSE subjects for recapping.
Seneca Learning	 Knowledge & recall	Short, interactive revision activities and quizzes. Useful for 15–20 minute revision sessions.
Cognito	 Science & Maths	Excellent for breaking Science and Maths topics into manageable chunks.
Maths Genie	 GCSE Maths	Topics organised by GCSE grade with videos, practice questions and answers.
Corbettmaths	 Maths practice	Videos, worksheets, exam questions and the popular 5-a-Day activities.
Quizlet GCSE Revision	 Flashcards & retrieval practice	Ready-made and student-created flashcards, quizzes and resources organised by subject and exam board.
Oak National Academy	 Relearning missed content	Free GCSE lessons with videos, worksheets and quizzes. Particularly useful if a student has missed any or needs to revisit a topic.





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 2026/27 Parent Survey using the QR code or via <https://tinyurl.com/4ah62d3k>

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 use the facility for independent study, home learning and/or exam preparation.

For more information visit: www.gshs.org.uk/library



IT PROVISION & STUDY
BOOKS AVAILABLE



EXTRA CURRICULAR

PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Half Term 1 Timetable:

Monday: Football (Boys)

Monday: Netball

Wednesday: Football (Girls)

Thursday: Basketball

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 24th June 2027. 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.



GSHS PROM 2026



www.gshs.org.uk



0191 216 1115



[georgestephenhigh](https://www.instagram.com/georgestephenhigh)