



11 March 2026

"One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world"

**Malala Yousafzai**

**Dear Parent/Carer,**

I hope this finds you well. It has been great to finally have some sunshine at last. This newsletter is slightly later than usual so that we could share some pictures from our fantastic World Book Celebration Week and our Dimensions Day on Friday.

Our amazing staff dressed as well-known literary characters, ranging from the witches from *Macbeth* to *Where's Wally*, and students were tasked with voting for their favourite costume. Miss Prior, aka the *Demon Dentist*, won!



Southgate, Killingworth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 6SA

T: 0191 216 1115

E: [enquiries@gshs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gshs.org.uk)

W: [www.gshs.org.uk](http://www.gshs.org.uk)

**Headteacher:**

**Deputy Headteacher:**

**Deputy Headteacher:**

Peter Douthwaite BSc (Hons)

Kathryn Williams BA (Hons)

Louise Dunn BA (Hons)

In reading lessons, we watched author videos, learned about the free World Book Day books on offer, and took part in the National Literacy Trust Great Big Footy Quiz. We scored 18/20 – not too bad! Each Year 7 and 8 student received a World Book Day token and a free book. They also had the opportunity to enter the Design a National Book Token competition and have been decorating the English corridor with all things gothic and dystopian.

Next week, on 16 March, the Scholastic Book Fair arrives for the week. This is a great opportunity for students to choose books at a great price and earn loyalty points for the school. Please look out for a ParentMail with further details

On Friday we had our whole school Dimensions Day which was a fantastic celebration of our school values—community, ambition and respect—shining through in every year group.

Our **Year 7 students** threw themselves into a series of exciting challenges designed to spark problem-solving, teamwork, and creativity. Their enthusiasm and willingness to support one another perfectly captured the spirit of our school community.

**Year 8** explored the world of careers through the lens of *Wicked*, discovering the ambition, talent and dedication behind the scenes of a major film. Students were thoughtful, curious, and inspired by the opportunities ahead of them.

Stepping bravely out of their comfort zones, **Year 9** planned and delivered passionate speeches in the hall—on topics ranging from school uniform to Greggs! We had a record number of brave, articulate students volunteering to speak, and every one of them showed tremendous respect for themselves and their peers. They were a real credit to the school.

Our **Year 10** students embraced a powerful day of diversity, designed to support their personal development, wellbeing, and awareness of key social issues. They represented themselves with maturity, empathy and respect, and our external visitors commented on how impressively they handled complex and sensitive discussions.



Meanwhile, **Year 11** students attended TyneMet College or took part in Sixth Form taster sessions. Their attitude and ambition were outstanding, and we look forward to welcoming many of them into our Sixth Form community. Applications are open and can be found on the school website under *Sixth Form*. The closing date is **20th April**.

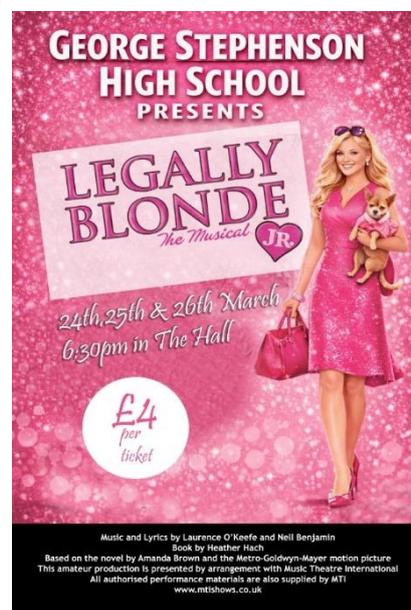
We also had some brilliant news yesterday and are incredibly proud of our team of ten girls who competed in the regional FIRST® LEGO® League competition and were crowned overall champions! Throughout the day the team demonstrated outstanding teamwork, resilience and problem-solving as they tackled a series of challenging rounds. In the robot game they achieved an impressive score of 200 points, earning them a place in a tense semi-final, which they won before going on to triumph in a thrilling grand final.

The team also delivered two exceptional presentations to the judges on their Innovation Project and Robot Design, which were praised as some of the best the judges had ever seen. Their hard work and determination have secured them a place at the National Finals in Harrogate this April, and we wish them the very best of luck as they continue their incredible journey.



Teachers are currently nominating students, but if you would like to make a nomination for your child for the NTLT Star Awards please check out the categories and complete the nomination form [here](#). The deadline for nominations is the **24<sup>th</sup> April**.

I would also like to remind you that on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March – we have our fantastic school production of *Legally Blonde*. Performances start at 6:30pm. Tickets are £4.



Finally, the Chair of Governors and I met with the DFE on Monday for an update on the Schools Rebuilding Programme. We are due to start the process in April next year; however, they have indicated that they are ahead of schedule, so may start earlier. It's an exciting time for the school and I will provide you with updates as and when I receive them.

Best wishes,



Mr. P. Douthwaite

Headteacher

**Key dates and the half term ahead (Please check the school website for updates)**

**March**

Year 11/13 Careers Fair – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March (1.30pm-4.30pm)  
Year 10 Parents Evening – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March  
Year 11 Progress data published to parents – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March  
Year 13 Mock Interviews – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March  
Year 7 Parents Evening – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March  
Year 12 and 13 Progress data published to parents – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March  
Science Week – Week beginning Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March  
Year 12 Mock Exams – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March to Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April  
School Production of Legally Blonde – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March  
Year 10 Work Experience Week – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March  
Golden Ticket Week and Rewards Assemblies – Week beginning Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March

**April**

School Closes for Easter - **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**  
Iceland Trip – 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> April  
School reopens after Easter – **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**Student support and safeguarding**

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mrs Louise Dunn  
Deputy Safeguarding Leader: 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  
For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email [absence@gshs.org.uk](mailto:absence@gshs.org.uk)