



14 February 2025

**“Had I the heavens’ embroidered cloths,  
Enwrought with golden and silver light,  
The blue and the dim and the dark cloths  
Of night and light and the half light,  
I would spread the cloths under your feet:  
But I, being poor, have only my dreams;  
I have spread my dreams under your feet;  
Tread softly because you tread on my dreams”**

Aedh Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven – W.B. Yeats (1899)

Dear Parent/Carer,

This Valentine’s Day love is certainly in the air, and not just because of Newcastle United’s recent results. We have been talking to our Year 11 students about the chance to join our outstanding sixth form. As they focus on their second set of Mock Exams many are showing great interest in continuing their education with us next year. They already benefit from teachers that know them well and the reassurance of excellent individual support. After half term, they’ll take part in a Sixth Form taster day, giving them a valuable insight into the next steps of their education.

We were delighted to welcome back our students from Barcelona this week after an incredible trip. Since introducing Spanish as a subject at George Stephenson High School several years ago, its popularity has grown significantly. Nearly 100 students choose it each year, consistently achieving excellent results



It was a pleasure to meet with Emma Foody, our new MP for Killingworth and Cramlington last week. She had met with King Charles the previous week and then came to GSHS so I’m not sure where she goes next. I am pleased she gave up her time to come and listen to the

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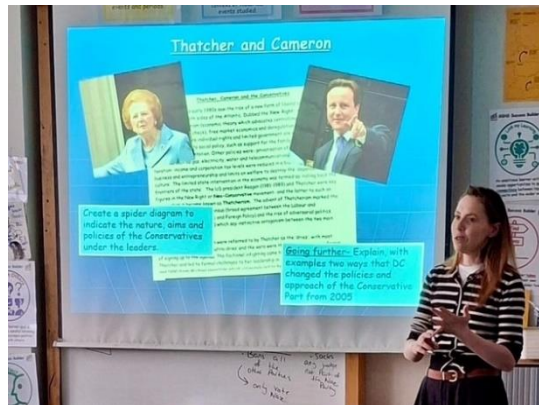
**Deputy Headteacher:**

Peter Douthwaite BSc (Hons)

Kathryn Williams BA (Hons)

issues facing schools and actively engage with our young people. Our students are incredibly proud to live in Killingworth and the surrounding area, as is Emma, and they gave her a real insight into their lives and the challenges and concerns they have. Issues around the prevalence of vaping and how much advertising there was aimed at young people came up, as did the effects of social media on mental health and a discussion around its availability and use up to the age of 16.

Our fantastic Year 13 Politics students also had the chance to quiz Emma on current affairs, her journey into politics, and her political heroes. There was even a photo opportunity in their lesson—though we're not sure she'd approve of the backdrop!



Thank you to everyone who has taken part in our recent poll about the format of parents' evenings. Here are the results so far:

- In Person: 55%
- Online: 30%
- Mixture of Both: 15%

We'd love to hear from as many parents as possible, so if you haven't yet voted, please do so by half-term by clicking [here](#)

A huge thank you to all students and parents for their commitment to daily attendance—there has been a significant improvement this year, with the vast majority attending every single day. We want this to continue, so if you need any support, please reach out to your child's guidance manager.

As we approach half-term, we also ask parents to ensure that students return in correct uniform. If you need any assistance, we have a stock of pre-loved uniform available—please contact your child's guidance manager for support.



# George Stephenson High School

Finally, we wish all our staff and students who are going on the ski trip over half-term the very best of luck and hope that they have another fantastic and memorable George Stephenson experience.

Best wishes,

Mr P. Douthwaite  
Headteacher

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

### February

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> – Year 9 options deadline  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Year 8 reports issued to parents  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> School ends for Half Term – Ski Trip

### March

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – School reopens  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March – GSHS 6<sup>th</sup> Form Taster Day and Whole School Dimensions Day  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Year 8 Online parents evening  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Year 7 Online parents evening  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April – School ends for Easter. Geography Italy Trip Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>-Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>

### 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](mailto:enquiries@gshs.org.uk)  
For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email [absence@gshs.org.uk](mailto:absence@gshs.org.uk)

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