



2 May 2025

**"There's thirteen months all in one year, as I've heard people say  
But the finest month year in all the year is the merry, merry month of May"**

**Bellowhead**

**Dear Parent/Carer,**

It has been a positive start to the summer term, with the sun making a welcome return to greet our students. I hope you all had an enjoyable Easter break and that those preparing for exams managed to strike a healthy balance between revision and rest.

We wish all our students the very best of luck in their upcoming exams and would like to remind them that we are here to support them every step of the way. We are extremely proud of their efforts so far and look forward to celebrating their success.

**Sporting Achievements** A couple of notable sporting achievements to share this week:

**Year 11 Boys Football** – A huge well done to our team, who competed in the North Tyneside League Cup Final on Wednesday. Although they were narrowly defeated 6–4 by Whitley Bay, it was a fantastic and hard-fought game. At half-time, we were leading 2–1, and despite facing several injuries and players returning from long lay-offs, the team gave everything. Many were struggling with cramp by the final whistle, but their determination, sportsmanship, and respect for their opponents were exemplary. They made us incredibly proud.



Southgate, Killingworth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 6SA

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**Headteacher:**

**Deputy Headteacher:**

Peter Douthwaite BSc (Hons)

Kathryn Williams BA (Hons)

**Xtend Pentathlon Event** – Congratulations to our team who won silver medals on Thursday! Mrs Patrick commented: *"I was so impressed by their attitude. They encouraged each other throughout, and when one student felt nervous, the others rallied around with inspiring words—it was amazing to see."*



### **Mercy's Mighty Foundation**

Thank you once again for your generous contributions to Mercy's Mighty Foundation during our non-uniform day before Easter. Your support is making a real difference to a fantastic cause.

### **Year 10 Work Experience**

Just before Easter, our Year 10 students had a brilliant work experience week. Thank you to all parents and carers for your support in helping to arrange placements. We've received excellent—and sometimes amusing—feedback from employers, which I've included below because it truly highlights the value of the experience:

*"X came in with a spring in his step and was willing to do whatever we asked. His approach and punctuality were flawless. Even when told to go home, he wanted to stay and finish the job."*

*"He said he hadn't realised how hard it is to sit still and not get restless legs. He also appreciated being able to eat lunch whenever he liked!"*

*"X has had his eyes opened to finance, consultancy, renewables, GIS and sustainable development. He was polite, engaged, and attended over 15 meetings."*

*"A top lad with excellent commitment. A breath of fresh air on site. I'll be giving him a glowing reference."*

*"She's been doing window displays, merchandising, and more. We'd love to have her volunteer again."*

*"X has been a little star! He's mixed perfectly with staff and customers. What a funny lad—he's given 100%."*

*"X and X are a credit to your school and their parents. We'd gladly welcome more students from George Stephenson."*

*"She's become an accomplished barista and delivered fantastic customer service. We're as proud of her as she should be of herself."*

### Pre-Loved Uniform Donations



As we enter the final term, we would greatly appreciate any donations of pre-loved school uniform in good condition, especially Year 11 ties. Our school has already taken steps to reduce uniform costs by limiting branded items, removing blazers, and easing footwear rules—long before these changes became mandatory. We know, however, that even with these measures, some families still need support.

If you're able to donate, please drop items off at the front reception before or after school or send them in with your child.

If you would like to access pre-loved uniform, please complete the form [here](#).

Wishing you all a sunny and restful bank holiday weekend. We look forward to welcoming students back on **Tuesday**.

Best wishes,



Mr P. Douthwaite  
Headteacher

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

**May**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May – School Closed for Bank Holiday

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May – Year 10 Reports Issued to Parents

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – School closes for Half Term

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – School Reopens

**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)