



20 March 2026

**“Human resources are like natural resources; they're often buried deep. You have to go looking for them, they're not just lying around on the surface. You have to create the circumstances where they show themselves.”**

**Sir Ken Robinson**

Dear Parent/Carer,

The late Sir Ken Robinson, in one of the most watched [TED talks](#) with 80 million views, promotes the importance of creativity in schools. At George Stephenson we strongly share this passion and strive to provide these opportunities. From iLearn in Year 7, to music, art and drama lessons offered in every year group, alongside 80 expert tuition music lessons - there is a good reason why many of our students go on to study or work in the creative arts and industries.

In addition to our senior choir singing at the Whitley Bay Playhouse a few weeks ago, last week seventeen girls from our Dance Club performed there. They were out of this world and a true credit to the school. Rob Smith, who is Head of the North Tyneside School Sports Programme said he was 'blown away' and had never seen such 'confidence, elegance and leadership skills' from students so young. Special praise must go to Jessica, Chloe and Amy who choreographed the whole dance by themselves.

On the 12th of March we welcomed renowned Photographer David Gilliver to teach several bespoke workshops with Year 10 and Year 12 students. David is a 'Light Painter'.

What makes Light painting so exciting, is that they are produced using long exposure and created in the dark. This allows students to 'walk into the shot' while it is being photographed. Portable light devices such as glow sticks, light sabres and even a bike wheel and portable drill are used to create colours and shapes that are frozen into each image.

The students had the opportunity to work with David, creating artwork and both year groups gained a great deal from the experience, that they will be able to add to their GCSE and A Level portfolios. All students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work with a real-life photographer and created stunning work with some examples below.

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**Headteacher:**

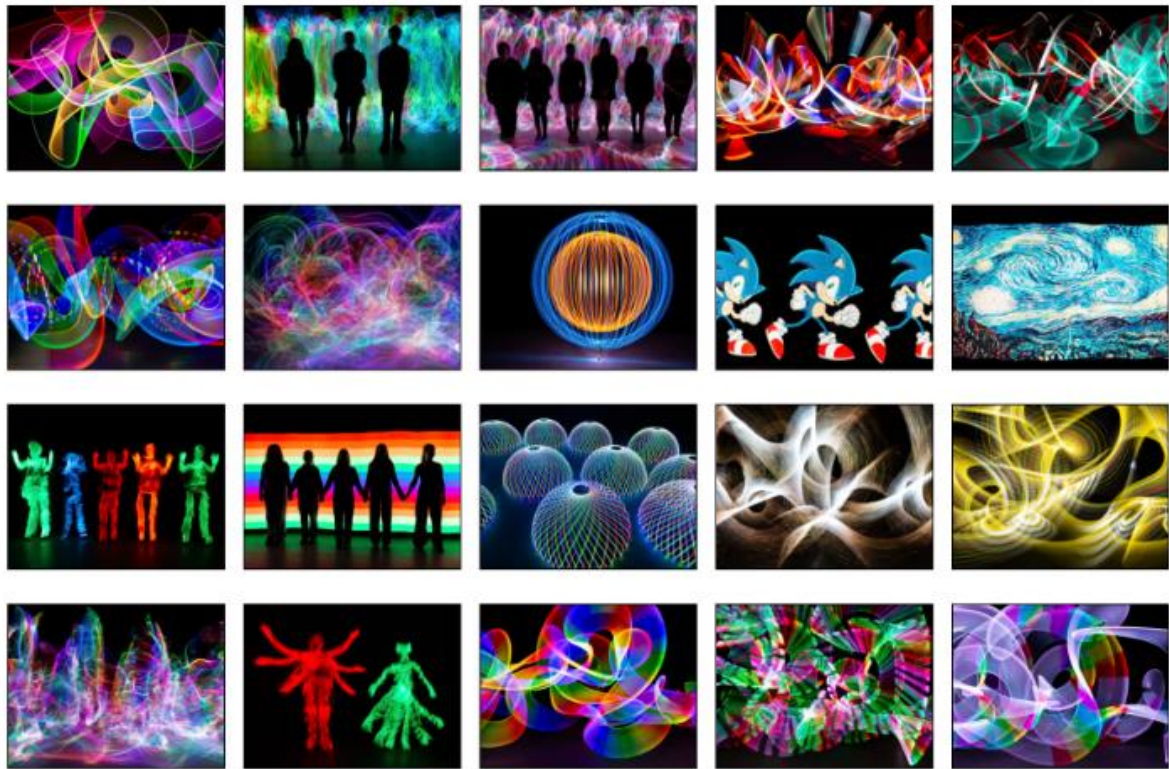
Peter Douthwaite BSc (Hons)

**Deputy Headteacher:**

Kathryn Williams BA (Hons)

**Deputy Headteacher:**

Louise Dunn BA (Hons)



Thank you to everyone who has supported the Scholastic Book Fair this week. The online [link](#) is still open this weekend if you would like to get some books at a great price and earn loyalty points (and free books) for the school.



If you would like to nominate your child for the NTLT Star Awards where they have had a success or done something particularly kind or inspirational outside of school that we don't know about please check out the categories and complete the nomination form [here](#). The deadline for nominations is the **24<sup>th</sup> April**.

Continuing with the Arts theme, it is our school production of *Legally Blonde* next week. Students have been given a taster in assembly this week, and you are in for a great treat!

The show is on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Performances start at 6:30pm. Tickets are £4 and available from the main office. There may be some available on the door, but I would encourage you to buy before then to avoid disappointment.



We received some lovely correspondence today from a member of the public who wanted to praise our students. It is always pleasing to hear about our young people holding up our values beyond the school gates.

*“Dear Sir, I am writing to express my appreciation of your students' manners and behaviour. Once a week, I have to wait for a bus from Killingworth to Longbenton at around the time your students are heading home at the end of their school day. I have been taking this journey for many months, and I am consistently impressed by your students' politeness (for example, in standing aside so that everyone is able to get on the bus in order of their arrival at the stop) and general pleasantness of manner (for example, if I have a question about a bus). They are a quiet credit to the school, and I feel this should be mentioned. Please accept my best wishes for your school's vital work and progress.”*

I hope you all have a lovely weekend,

Best wishes,

Mr. P. Douthwaite

Headteacher

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

**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)