

November 14 2025

**“We are more alike, my friends,
than we are unlike”**

From the Poem ‘[Human Family](#)’ by Maya Angelou

Dear Parent/Carer,

This quote is from my one of my favourite poems and serves us with an important reminder at a time when opinions and views can feel increasingly polarised. I attended the Armistice Day Service at the White Swan Centre on Tuesday with several of our students and our school-based Army Cadet group. It was a proud moment, and I was honoured to have been asked to read the names of our local fallen which included one of our ex-students, Lance Corporal Kenneth Michael Rowe from the Royal Army Veterinary Corps who lost his life with his dog Sasha in active duty in Afghanistan on 5 March 2010.

It was a poignant occasion and an important one for our students to be part of. I met Kenneth’s family and spoke with the leaders of different religious groups, local organisations and political parties. As the poem says, there is more that unites than divides us, and as the country unites in remembrance on this day it provides us with a reminder of this.

In school I have been incredibly proud of our year 11 students over the last two weeks. They have worked hard for their mock exams and are clearly focussed on achieving their best. The independence and determination they have shown at this stage bodes well for the summer.

Last week was also our third “Literature Week” at George Stephenson. Students from Year 7 to Year 10 took part in a wide variety of activities and workshops. We were lucky enough to host two authors, Matt Wesolowski who discussed the horror genre with Year 10 and Daniel Tawse who helped our Year 8 budding authors develop a main character. The English department ran a Shakespeare performance workshop for Year 9 and a creative writing workshop for Year 7. Our resident chaplain created romantic poetry with a Year 8 group, and the students took part in social time activities and competitions in the library with prizes to be won.

It was fantastic to see all departments getting involved such as art students creating textiles inspired by Jane Austen quotes and staff displaying and discussing with students the books they are currently reading. The students said they had an enjoyable week.

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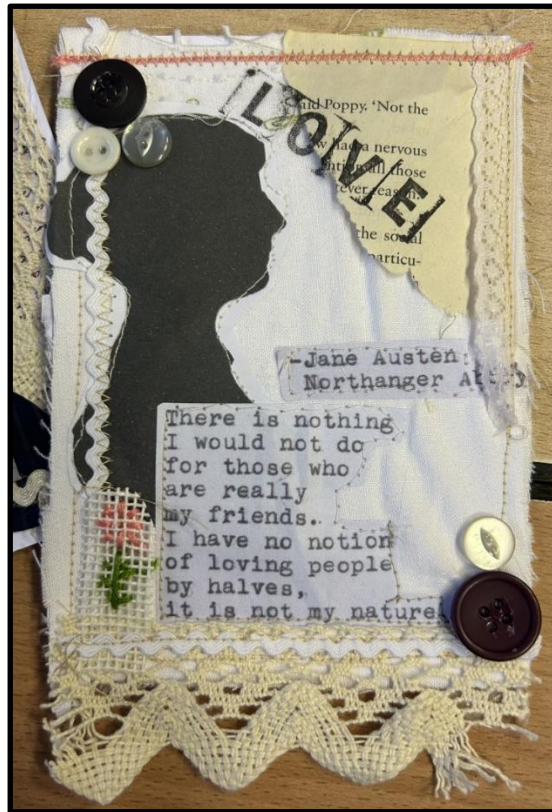
Deputy Headteacher:

Deputy Headteacher:

Peter Douthwaite BSc (Hons)

Kathryn Williams BA (Hons)

Louise Dunn BA (Hons)



Before half term we welcomed Emma Foody, the Member of Parliament for Killingworth and Cramlington, into school. We talked to Emma about SEND provision and funding and the School Rebuilding Programme. Emma also met with some of our students and discussed the change in the voting age and their views. Their responses were thoughtful and impressive. The students were delighted to receive a letter from the Houses of Parliament thanking them for their time and contributions.



A huge thank you for all your kind donations on the non-uniform day supporting our year 11 students, Dylan and Bartosz, raise money for Prostate Cancer UK. They raised an amazing £1169 between them running, walking and cycling 100 miles each in October. Well done to them both!

Finally, please remember that school is closed tomorrow (Friday 14th) for staff training, so students do not need to attend.

Best wishes,



Mr. P. Douthwaite
Headteacher

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

November

INSET Day – School Closed – Friday 14th November
Year 8 Parents Evening – Thursday 20th November

December

Year 8 Sikhi Day – Monday 1st December
Year 9 Parents Evening - Thursday 4th December
Christmas Concert – Thursday 11th December
Year 7 iLearn Human Rights Day – Friday 12th December
School Closes for Christmas – Friday 19th December

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