



7 February 2025

**"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."**

Nelson Mandela

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have had an excellent term so far, filled with exciting activities and opportunities for our students. Despite the wind, frost and rain, our school community has remained engaged and enthusiastic. Here's a summary of what's been happening at George Stephenson High School:

### **Academic Achievements & Future Planning**

- Year 11 students received their mock exam results in a realistic mock exam assembly. This has provided valuable insights into their progress and has highlighted the areas they need to work on for the next set of mocks starting soon.
- Sixth Form interviews have taken place, helping students plan their next steps. We are thrilled that many of our Year 11 students are choosing to stay on with us for Sixth Form – an exciting future awaits!
- Year 9 students have been making their option choices, and we had a busy options evening. A reminder that the deadline for option choices is February 14th

### **Enriching Experiences**

- Year 7 students participated in TED Talk Academies, attended theatre visits, and took part in an important CPR training session with St John's Ambulance.
- Holocaust Memorial Day was a deeply moving experience, with our Sixth Formers who visited Auschwitz leading impactful assemblies to remind younger students of the importance of learning from the past.
- A group of art students collaborated with North Tyneside Learning Trust on an art project for Eccles Grange in Backworth this morning, unveiling their work in a special visit.



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**Headteacher:**

Peter Douthwaite BSc (Hons)

**Deputy Headteacher:**

Kathryn Williams BA (Hons)

## **Parental Engagement**

We continue to offer a mix of face-to-face and online Parents' Evenings. In our last survey, 60% of parents favoured online meetings while 40% preferred in-person. Since it has been a few years since we last gathered opinions, we'd love to hear from you again. Please take a moment to [complete our survey](#) so we can make the best decisions for you moving forward.

## **School Developments & Partnerships**

We are still in a period of due diligence with the Pele Trust as we work towards a potential joining date of April 1st. Thank you for your valuable feedback during the consultation process. We believe this partnership presents an excellent opportunity, and we remain committed to ensuring it aligns with the best interests of our community

## **Engaging with Our Community**

Today, we were delighted to welcome our local MP, Emma Foody, to school. She met our Year 13 politics students and had meaningful discussions with our younger students about local issues and their concerns, while also gaining insight into their world. As she is currently working on the Children's Bill in Parliament, this was a great opportunity for us to contribute our perspectives.

## **Exciting Adventures**

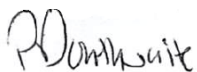
We said a 'adios' to our students heading to Barcelona on Wednesday. They are having an incredible experience, and we look forward to welcoming them back on Monday with lots of stories to share!

## **A Warm Welcome**

Finally, we are looking forward to welcoming new students from Monkseaton High School into our school community. We understand this transition may be challenging, but we are committed to supporting and integrating these students fully into the George Stephenson family

Thank you for your ongoing support. Our students continue to make us proud, and we are excited to see their growth and achievements throughout the year.

Best wishes,



Mr P. Douthwaite  
Headteacher



**George Stephenson**  
High School

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

**February**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> – NE12 Parents Evening, Barcelona Trip Departs (returns Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>)

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> – Year 11 Mocks Begin

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> – Parents Meeting for Italy Trip

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

**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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