



George Stephenson
High School

Ambition Respect Community

Our Vision



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A Very Warm Welcome

A message from our Chair Of Governors, Andrew Elliot.

I am incredibly proud to share the following George Stephenson High School (GSHS) vision and strategy plan on behalf of the governing body of GSHS.

As governors, we have a duty to ensure that our school has a forward-thinking and ambitious strategy. We want to ensure that what is contained within our strategy fulfils our aim of providing the best education experience possible.

Our school is firmly at the heart of the community and over this past year, we have developed this strategy with support from school leaders to ensure that we reach the voices of all those in our school community – students, parents, carers, teachers, support staff and ourselves as governors.

In setting our strategy, we want to ensure that what we offer at GSHS equips students with the knowledge and experience that will support them into their future ambitions.

Andrew Elliott

Andrew Elliott
Chair of Governors





We believe that the support, care and welfare of our students are second to none. This school is, and will always be, fully inclusive and puts the students at the very centre of all that we do.

An Introduction To Our School

George Stephenson High School is an authority school with a record of high achievement, and is a place where more students go on to further education than the national average.

We are a fully inclusive school, and believe that all students deserve the best possible education. We use data carefully to monitor progress but do not set ceilings on this.

We believe that students should be exposed to a broad and exciting curriculum. We strive for every student to get the best grades they can as this is the key gateway to their success in the future. However, we firmly believe that schools are more than this and trust that we have a significant impact on their personal development.

We go beyond the set curriculum with many enrichment opportunities such as educational visits abroad, ski trips and exciting careers events. We also ensure that the creative elements are celebrated with iLearn in Year 7 and music and drama taught in all year groups. We updated the curriculum to include subjects such as computer science, thus developing our strong academic core. Our sixth form is strong, with 94% of students getting into their first choice university over the last two years.



A Message From Our Headteacher



George Stephenson High School is closely linked to the success of our young people and the locality and region in which we operate. All of the work we do to develop our students personally and academically allow them, and therefore our community, to thrive.

Our long term future strategy has been developed in consultation with students, parents, teachers and governors. We continuously invest in our teachers through the development of their skills and performance and we will continue to focus on the key areas that ensure all of our students receive the best educational experience possible.

This is an exciting time as we adapt to new challenges and focus on the long term developments that will bring the most out of our students.

The education sector is experiencing tremendous change. In the midst of this upheaval, it is important for us to be flexible and adapt as necessary to see George Stephenson continue to develop as a school with the highest of standards and expectations, a place of excitement and innovation but also a place where we do the right things for the right reasons.

Our strategy is intentionally ambitious. If we do not set the ambition high, we risk limiting progress

and will not get the most out of our students. It is important that we are the best we can be and continue to be the school of choice at the heart of our community.

Therefore, we are committed to maintaining and continuously improving what we offer, using our experience and expertise to change and transform our future to play our part in ensuring that our students and the community we serve, will continue to thrive.

Peter Douthwaite
Headteacher



Our Mission, Vision and Values

By living and breathing these following statements, we can achieve everything we set out to, and more.

Our Mission

Our mission is to create a fully inclusive, caring and ambitious school at the heart of the local community providing the best possible education for all.

Our Vision

Our vision is to be the most ambitious school in North Tyneside, both academically and personally. We aim to be a place where students are fully supported and prepared for the next stage of their lives, and where students and staff are valued and proud to study and work.

Our Values

Our values reflect the views of our staff, students, parents and wider community, and are the guiding principles for our long-term plans. They are based on ambition, respect and community.

Our Values

1

Ambition

We are ambitious in everything we do and have the highest expectations of students and staff. We want to support everyone to be the best they can be.

2

Respect

We take pride in the strong relationships we have across the school and with each other and our partners. We treat people fairly, with dignity, consideration, and integrity. We all feel supported, safe and valued.

3

Community

We have an inclusive ethos where diversity is celebrated. We forge strong links with local education establishments, organisations and business. We promote British values and a belief that we can all improve and make a positive difference from a local to global level.

Why GSHS?

What are the advantages of our school compared to others?

Proven track record of excellent results higher than the national and North Tyneside average for the last 6 years and amongst the best in North Tyneside.

Broad curriculum and choice. Our students get to choose up to four options at GCSE so they can personalise their learning.

Excellent teachers and a commitment to continue investing in teacher development. Our teachers want to be the best they can be for our students.

Committed and skilled governors who are hands on and regularly visit the school in addition to meeting with the headteacher 20 times a year.

Exceptional support for students with special educational needs and disabilities.



“ My favourite thing about George Stephenson High School is the teachers. They have always helped me and really pushed me to do my best. I was not confident when I started but I have had lots of opportunities outside of lessons and last year made a speech in front of 200 students. I know what I want to do in the 6th form. I'm not 100% sure of what I want to do when I leave but all the careers events have prepared me for interviews and given me a really good idea of the kind of things I would like to find out more about and the opportunities out there for me.”

KS4 Student

Our School in Numbers

At George Stephenson High School, we are proud of all of our achievements.

Number 1

for students getting into their first choice university

30+

courses are offered in our NE12 6th Form

1,200

students

97%

of our students go on to education, employment or training, which is higher than the national average

8 years

Progress 8 and Attainment 8 has been higher than the national average

1st

secondary school in North Tyneside to join the National Tutoring Programme

600+

students benefited from this personalised programme

All round excellence since

1953

15

staff who support students as guidance managers and the welfare team

Our School Is Excellent

Our staff, students, parents, and Ofsted think so too.

As well as excellent staff and students, we have some amazing facilities and programmes to go alongside:

We are lucky to have use of the Lakeside Centre as our sports centre

We host a variety of extra curricular clubs

We work closely with local primaries to ensure the transition is smooth

Exciting extra curricular opportunities including an annual ski trip, Barcelona, Iceland and Paris

We have a popular 6th form where teachers already know their students

We have a fantastic careers programme

Our students display excellent behaviour, shown in our recent Local Authority visit

Our students and parents raise thousands of pounds and make donations to various local charities every year



Hear what people have to say about us:

“ Pupils access a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Such activities benefit pupils’ personal, social and cultural development.”

Member of Ofsted

“ I love working here, students are at the heart of everything we do but my own development is valued.”

Staff member

“ I have been delighted with my child’s education. The guidance managers are superb.”

Parent of a student

“ I can say for certain that George Stephenson high school has been instrumental in my success thanks to its committed teachers, support networks and overall culture of innovation. If you’re willing to put in the graft you’re in an excellent position to reap the future rewards and do great things at this school.”

Former student James R McKelvey, currently working for CBRE

“ Staff have high expectations for pupils and each other. This is a key ingredient of the school community. During lesson visits, pupils were attentive and respectful. There are strong relationships between teachers and pupils.”

Member of Ofsted

“ My child had SEND and was amongst the fourth highest achiever in their GCSEs. I am so proud of him and the support of the school.”

Parent of a student

“ I really enjoy the careers events like work experience and mock interviews as they enable me to reflect and improve and it is so beneficial to our futures.”

Paige Harding - Y10



The Future of Our Education

We are constantly developing to make sure we are creating a future fit for our students to thrive.

The future of education is exciting. In the next few years we will have a new school as part of the DFE schools rebuilding programme. At the same time, students will experience further developments in technology through advancements in artificial intelligence to electronic exams. However, we will also be a school that promises to stay connected to it's community, working more closely with local groups and businesses. We will strive to be the best we can be in helping students with their mental health and will become a Mental Health Hub.

We will continue to develop our student council and provide extra-curricular opportunities within school whilst developing their cultural capital and providing life affirming experiences through trips to Barcelona, Iceland and Paris as well as our annual ski trip. We will continue to innovate around education as we did with our work with TED prize winner Sugata Mitra, and invest time developing our staff using evidence based research, innovation and collaboration to be the very best staff and teachers we can be.



The Impact of Covid-19

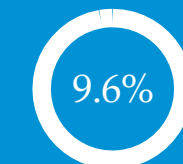
The pandemic caused a negative knock-on effect on schools all across the country.

As a result of the pandemic:

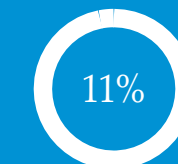
- Students have shown to be experiencing behavioural struggles
- Writing grades have dropped
- Funding has been reduced and price increases have caused challenges

Further to this, government policy has failed to recognise the unequal impact of the pandemic, especially in the North. Below is a representation of the percentage of school sessions missed by students:

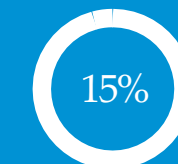
School sessions missed:



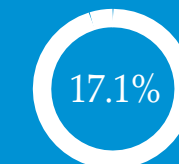
by non-disadvantaged pupils



in London and the South East



in the North East



by disadvantaged pupils

Moving Forward

Despite the financial struggles and social impact the pandemic has had, we are motivated to repair the damage COVID-19 has had on our school. We believe that developing excellent teaching can be low cost and highly effective.



Our Strategic Objectives

Our whole school improvement plans link to the Ofsted Framework and fit into the overarching themes of ambition, respect, and community.

In order to continue our development, drive new initiatives and meet our goals, our strategy will be reviewed regularly by our leadership team and governors will be linked to each area. It will be updated to reflect external changes and new challenges and opportunities.

The leadership team will be responsible for the implementation of the overall strategy to meet our goals. We will monitor and report to governors on the progress of each section three times a year.



Here we have outlined our strategic vision and plan for each theme.

01

Ambition

Curriculum Intent and Implementation

For all of our students to enjoy learning, develop skills and deepen their knowledge through a broad and rich curriculum, underpinned by evidence-based practice.

Curriculum Impact

To achieve outstanding results and ambitious destinations so that our young people are empowered to make informed decisions about their futures.

02

Respect

Behaviour and Attitudes

Create a safe and inclusive environment where relationships are rooted in respect, kindness, and gratitude, and contribute to students' positive attitudes towards learning and wellbeing.

Behaviour and Attitudes

To model and teach secure learning behaviours such as self-regulation and metacognition so students can behave maturely, value hard work and learn purposefully.

03

Community

Leadership and Management

To lead with moral integrity at all levels to create a happy and welcoming school community for our families and where staff, wellbeing, and professional development is heavily prioritised.

Personal Development

To support students to become healthy, well informed, and socially aware individuals who contribute positively to both their local and global communities.

George Stephenson
High School

OUR JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES 2026-27

Ambition • Respect • Community



1

ATTENDANCE

Every Day Matters



- Improve whole-school attendance to at least national levels
- Reduce persistent absence
- Close attendance gaps for disadvantaged and SEND pupils
- Strengthen family engagement and early intervention
- Improve attendance in Years 9 and 10

2

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Preparing Students for Life



- Increase participation in enrichment and wider experiences
- Expand opportunities for disadvantaged pupils
- Strengthen student leadership and pupil voice
- Develop character, careers and life skills
- Ensure every student participates beyond the classroom

3

CLASSROOM EXCELLENCE

Great Teaching. Every Lesson. Every Classroom.



- Embed Learning Principles consistently
- Strengthen Ambition for All through Seating for Learning
- Improve disciplinary literacy and extended writing
- Embed deliberate practice and responsive feedback
- Improve consistency in assessment across KS3-KS5

4

ACHIEVEMENT

Improving Life Chances for Every Student



- Raise mathematics outcomes
- Close disadvantaged attainment gaps
- Improve progress for high prior attainers
- Sustain strong Sixth Form outcomes
- Secure consistently strong outcomes across all subjects

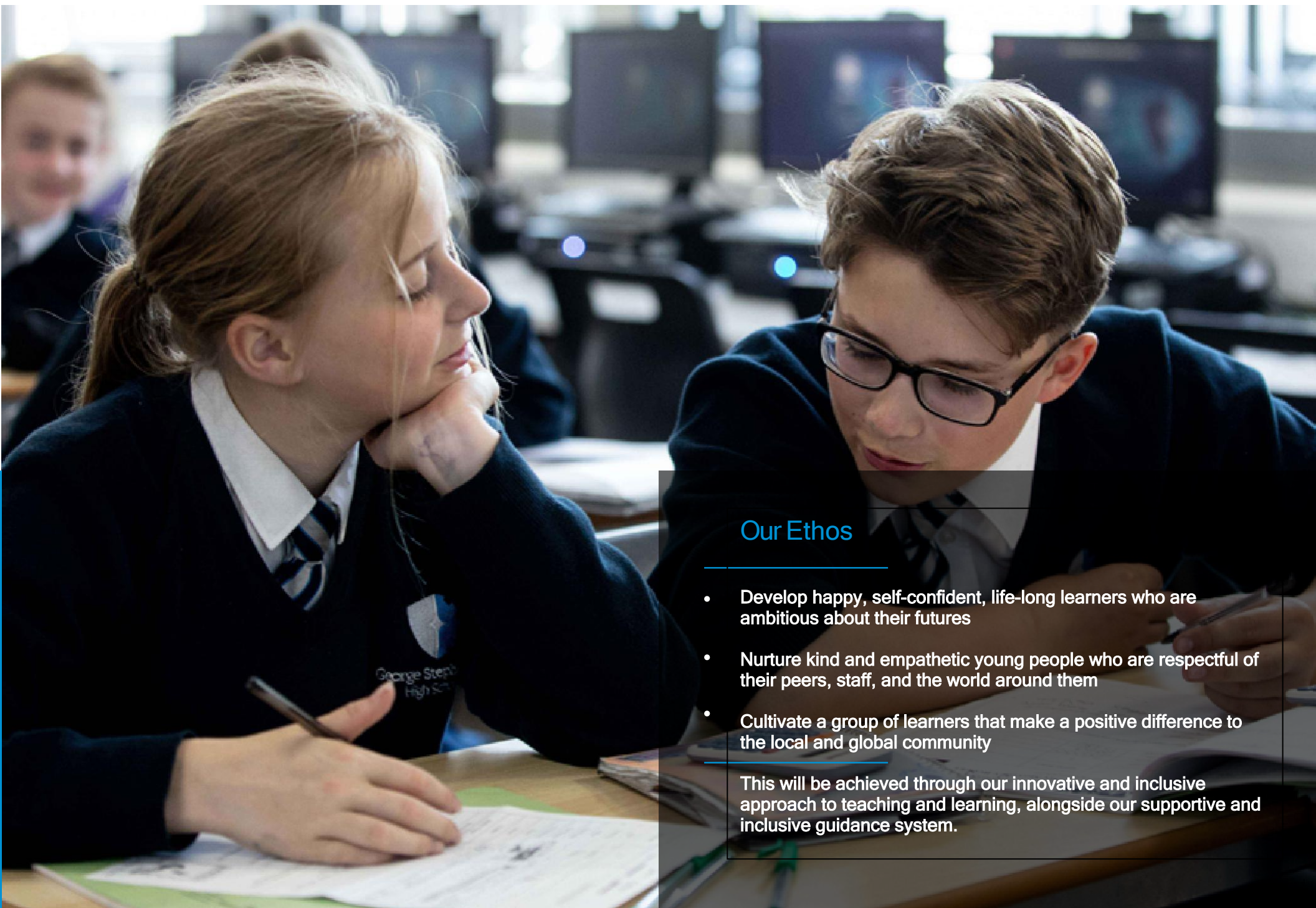
5

INCLUSION & BELONGING

Making School Unmissable. Every Student Known. Every Student Valued.



- Embed consistently excellent adaptive teaching
- Strengthen SEND provision as our new unit opens
- Improve behaviour consistency across all cohorts
- Further develop inclusive classroom practice
- Strengthen partnerships with families



Our Ethos

- Develop happy, self-confident, life-long learners who are ambitious about their futures
- Nurture kind and empathetic young people who are respectful of their peers, staff, and the world around them
- Cultivate a group of learners that make a positive difference to the local and global community

This will be achieved through our innovative and inclusive approach to teaching and learning, alongside our supportive and inclusive guidance system.

From Students to Dedicated Staff

These are the people that started as GSHS students, and came back for a career.

Millie Raynor
Teaching Assistant

Rebecca Ronan
6th Form Guidance Manager

Abbie Reay
Teaching Assistant

Elicia Watson
Maths Teacher

Keeley Robson
Assistant Headteacher

Louise Dunn
Deputy Headteacher

Martin Scott
English Teacher and Head of Media Studies

Emma Hill
Teaching Assistant and Literacy Support Lead

“ The support, care and guidance I received at George Stephenson High School as a student inspired me to become a teacher and make a difference in education. As part of my English Language undergraduate degree, I was fortunate enough to complete a voluntary placement at GSHS as a teaching assistant in the English department and that experience cemented my desire to become a teacher. I entered teaching through the Schools Direct programme and was fortunate to learn from the excellent teachers at GSHS, many of whom taught me as a teenager. 8 years later, I still enjoy the day-to-day interactions with students and the positive relationships I have forged in my time here as part of the GSHS community.”

Martin Scott English Teacher and Head of Media Studies



We're Building Partnerships

Below are some of the businesses that GSHS are linked to in the community.

In terms of the national standards of best practice (laid down by the Gatsby Benchmarks), we have independently been judged as providing provision that is significantly better than national standards, and we work hard to maintain and build on these.

Throughout the school, careers act as the 'golden thread' underpinning our curriculum provision in all subjects and we work hard to ensure that all staff, students, and parents, have the tools to make careers conversations meaningful to the unique needs of our young people. With this in mind, our staff have time set aside to focus on embedding careers into their curriculum areas.

Seaton Delaval Hall
Shiremoor Printing Press
Azure, Cramlington
Moorview Vets, Backworth
HMRC, Longbenton
Stephenson Railway Museum
Max Spielman, Killingworth
Deli 26, Camperdown

Rick Jarman Landscaping
P.O. Football Development
Canny Clever IT, North Shields
Barnardo's, Northumberland Park
Tesco, Kingston Park
Newcastle United Foundation
Hays Travel, Killingworth
EWS Accounting, Cramlington



At George Stephenson High School we will value the individual differences of our students, encourage them to succeed in everything they do, and help them to become caring, confident and responsible young people.



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