



George Stephenson  
High School

# Prospectus

**I would like to offer you a very warm welcome to George Stephenson High School. Our school has an extremely positive ethos, with very strong pastoral and academic guidance and a real emphasis on learning. 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.**

George Stephenson High School is an 11-18 high school with excellent facilities for learning. It is a happy, safe and enjoyable place to be with a purposeful atmosphere. Students are encouraged and supported throughout their time to achieve highly and fulfil their potential in all aspects of school life. We take pride in our students, value our staff and relentlessly strive to improve as an educational provider. The school has continued to improve significantly, building up a reputation as a lively, caring school and an exciting place for students to learn which has meant that we have been oversubscribed for many years.

I was delighted to be appointed as Headteacher of our incredible school last September and have consulted with parents, students, teachers and governors this year to develop our vision for the future. **Ambition, Respect and Community** were chosen as our core values.

We make no apologies about doing everything we can to ensure all of our students achieve the best grades possible as this will be the key stepping stone to their future success. Our excellent track record of results and destination data are testament to this. However we also want our students to develop as well rounded, kind and thoughtful people with the courage to seize opportunities and the initiative and resilience to deal well with life beyond school. We value the individual differences of our students and encourage them to succeed in everything they do. We achieve this through providing excellent teaching, fostering the very best relationships, having a broad and enriched curriculum, having high aspirations and collaborating widely with a range of partners.

I hope that you will find the information in this prospectus helpful as you consider your choice of secondary school for your child. The following pages can only give you a taste of what the school can offer so please take the opportunity to visit at our Open Evening and if you have not yet had a tour around the school during the school day you would be welcome at any time. Please contact the school to arrange a suitable time for a visit.

More detailed information and guidance will be included in a booklet for parents of incoming students in the Summer Term. I hope that you will take the opportunity to both visit the school and decide to join us as it continues to go from strength to strength.



**Peter Douthwaite**  
Headteacher

# School Mission, Vision & Values

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 is to be the most ambitious school in the region, where students are fully supported and prepared, both academically and personally, for the next stage of their lives and to be a school where students and staff feel valued and proud to study and work.

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.

**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.

**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 feel supported, safe and valued.

**Community:** We have an inclusive ethos where diversity is celebrated. We forge strong links with local education establishments, organisations and businesses. We promote British values and a belief that everyone can improve and have a positive impact on society from a local to global level.

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## Home Learning

Home Learning is an integral part of Learning and Teaching. Effective Home Learning is central to raising achievement at all levels. Home Learning is used to:

- Reinforce classroom learning;
- Challenge students;
- Support students;
- Promote enthusiasm and motivation for study;
- Develop self-discipline, confidence and organisational skills;
- Encourage students to take pride in their work;
- Strengthen links between home and school, enabling parents to take an active role in students' learning;
- Develop autonomous, independent learners.

All Home Learning is set in Class Charts. Every piece of Home Learning that your child receives will be based around either retention, challenge or exam preparation. The specific tasks set will take a variety of different forms, depending on the subject. It is your child's responsibility to record their Home Learning in their planner, along with the date that it is due to be handed in.

Failure to complete Home Learning to an acceptable standard will result in sanctions. We ask that parents assist us in helping their children to make the best possible progress by supporting them with their Home Learning as appropriate and checking Class Charts for tasks set and their deadlines.





# Recognising Achievement

## Classroom-based Rewards

George Stephenson High School's Rewards Policy forms an integral part of the positive reinforcement model, which the Behaviour Management Policy is based on. The rewards system is used throughout the school and rewards or recognition are given at every opportunity to recognise positive behaviour and approaches to learning as well as outstanding efforts and different types of achievement. Class Charts allows you to monitor your child's rewards on a daily basis.

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**In the classroom, we recognise and award points for students who demonstrate excellent learning behaviours based around academic success, being ready to learn, being respectful of others and keeping themselves and others safe.**

Rewards Cards are also used across the school to award larger numbers of points for a variety of reasons such as:

- Community Involvement
- Charity Participation
- Participation in Performing Arts
- Participation in Sport
- Participation in Student Voice
- Guidance Manager recognition

Points are recorded on Class Charts and monitored by Form Tutors and students are then awarded prizes and certificates in their end of term Rewards Assembly and invitations to our termly reward events.

## Other forms of Rewards

Staff use other forms of rewards, such as certificates for student of the month/week and parental contact by telephone or letter. We also hold our weekly Hot Chocolate Friday where staff nominate students for their "above and beyond" behaviour or work that week. All students on the list receive a postcard home and a smaller group from the list are selected at random to have a Hot Chocolate with a member of the Leadership Team.

Golden Ticket prize draw – at the end of each term every member of staff will be given one 'Golden Ticket' at the start of a chosen week and asked to present their ticket to a student of their choice (Y7 – 11 and GSHS Sixth Form students). The tickets can be presented for excellent work, attitude to learning, working positively with others, looking after the school environment, representing the school in the community – basically anything that makes an outstanding GSHS student. At the end of the 'Golden Ticket' week the names of all recipients will go into a draw for an Eldon Square voucher.

## The Celebration of Achievement Evening

This annual event is our opportunity to give public recognition to a substantial number of students of all ages, and to bring parents, staff and students alike together for a celebration of academic, sporting and pastoral achievements. All staff and parents of those receiving awards are invited to attend.



# Admission Arrangements

**Our Year 7 students settle quickly into their new life at George Stephenson High School. This is achievable due to our successful transition programme and a strong partnership between our school and our local Primary schools.**

The school serves the areas of Killingworth, Westmoor, Holystone, Backworth and Shiremoor. Admissions to the school are organised by the Local Authority. All parents of students attending local Primary schools will be given the opportunity to express a preferred choice of high school during the Autumn Term.

The school has excellent links with its local schools to enable students to become familiar with George Stephenson High School and its staff. Staff from George Stephenson High School regularly visit the Primary schools, and students from the Primary schools have many opportunities to visit our school and undertake a wide range of transition activities in the high school. This work begins as early as Year 4 to give students a chance to gain experience of life at George Stephenson High School.

Parents will be invited to school for an Open Evening, and we also hold regular Open Mornings and Afternoons throughout the year. All parents will be invited to attend a one to one appointment with a member of the Leadership Team in July to help prepare their child for the transition to our school.

Any parent who wishes to visit the school at any other time is very welcome to do so. Please contact the School Office to make an appointment. Parents who live outside the catchment area, who are considering applying to the school for a place for their child, are also invited to contact the School Office to make arrangements for a visit.

The admission limit for this school is currently set at 228 pupils.

# Our School in the Community

Our aim is for the school to be the natural hub of our local neighbourhood, and serve as the foundation for community partnerships that are beneficial to our students, families, businesses, agencies and other organisations. All of our students' community work is recognised and celebrated in school and via our website.

So far we have worked with our neighbouring Primary schools to become central to community life. Children from our local Primary schools regularly attend after school activities weekend and we provide many academic extracurricular activities for the young people and adults in our community.

One of the best ways the school can interact with the local community is by supporting charity work in the local area. We have a whole school charity appeal each year through which we successfully raise over £10,000 for a worthwhile cause. Each academic year our students choose a charity to support from a shortlist nominated by their peers.



# Care, Guidance and Support



The aim of our pastoral 'Guidance System' is to support the learning and development of each individual student through the encouragement of regular attendance, punctuality, effective study habits, good behaviour and a positive attitude, and by the monitoring of progress, regular target setting and celebration of achievement.

The Guidance System supports and enhances academic and personal progress. The school is organised into Year Groups, which are split into a number of separate Tutor Groups, each one under the care of a Form Tutor.

These Tutor Groups remain together with the same Form Tutor through Years 7 to 11, meeting for registration periods on a daily basis, as well as being involved in other events and activities together so that a strong sense of coherence and team working is developed over these years. The Form Tutor has day-to-day responsibility for our students' welfare whilst they are in the school and has a very important role to play in helping them to settle into their new school. They also closely monitor and track their academic progress, support them to reach their targets and help to detect and solve any challenges that may arise.

Each Year Group has a full time Guidance Manager who also stays with the Year Group from Year 7 to Year 11 and gets to know each student very well. As a result Guidance Managers are generally the primary point of contact for parents wishing to discuss progress or problems with the school. One of the many responsibilities of the Guidance Manager is to act as liaison between parents, students and teachers, and to ensure that all parties are aware of the background and circumstances of each student. They support the work of the Form Tutors and regularly recognise and reward students' achievements, ensuring that all students have the most positive of learning experiences at GSHS. In addition to the Guidance Manager, each Year Group also has an Achievement Support Coordinator who plays a key role in intervention, academic mentoring and support for students.

The Guidance System is supported across all Year Groups by two Family Liaison Workers and an Education Welfare Officer who work closely with children and families who may be experiencing difficulties both in and out of school.

## How else will students be supported?

- We are a Thrive school with practitioners trained in the Thrive approach. We have created a dedicated classroom where children and young people are supported to become more emotionally resilient and better placed to engage with life and learning.
- We have two Family Support Workers who work closely with school staff to support students who may be experiencing problems at school or at home.
- We communicate with local primary schools to ensure that when students arrive here in Year 7 their needs can be met quickly and effectively on arrival.
- We commission a school counsellor from Someone Cares to work with students who require more specialist support. We are also a host school for an Educational Mental Health Practitioner who offers Cognitive Behaviour Therapy to our young people.
- We are a Newcastle United Foundation School and can therefore offer many intervention programmes which support students both academically and emotionally.
- The study support programmes at KS3 and KS4 are continually being developed in response to student feedback, to support students preparing for examinations.
- Connexions advisors work effectively with GSHS staff and students in school to provide guidance at times of transition (e.g. Year 9 and Year 11 options, as well as providing advice for students leaving school for college, university and employment).
- Students are well prepared for option choices, including through individual interviews, by Tutors and Senior Staff. Advisors from Connexions, Further Education and Higher Education play an active role in the process

# Partnership with Parents and Carers

George Stephenson High School is very proud of its working relationships with parents and carers and we are constantly striving to further develop their involvement in the learning and wellbeing of their child during their time at our school.

We want families to feel comfortable and happy to spend time in school, and encourage parents and carers to contact the school without hesitation if we can help to support or care for their child in any way. In addition, all teachers are encouraged to work in close partnership with parents and carers to help learning extend beyond the classroom. We believe that a close, positive working relationship between parents and carers and the school is essential if every young person is to feel happy safe and confident, and to achieve his/her full potential whilst at George Stephenson High School.

We believe that our level of communication with and support from parents and carers is excellent, and continues to grow stronger year on year. We achieved the Leading Parent Partnership Award in 2012 and again in 2016 and there continues to be an increased attendance at our evenings and events for parents. We also issue all Year 7 Parents with a 'Guide for Parents' and hold individual meetings with all new families to help parents and carers to support their child with the transition from Primary to Secondary School.

We are delighted that so many parents and carers are choosing our school and are consistently so positive about the educational experiences of their son/daughter, as well as their own relationship with the school.



# Our Curriculum

At George Stephenson High School, the curriculum is at the heart of learning in our school. The subjects that form our broad and balanced academic curriculum use a knowledge-engaged approach where secure subject knowledge underpins and enables the application of skill. We ensure that both are explicitly developed through a carefully designed sequence of planned units.

We recognise that all our students have unique talents, skills and abilities and offer a personalised curriculum that allows everyone to experience success and build on their areas of strength whilst keeping future options open.

We want our students to leave school with the best possible grades, a passion for learning and a deep understanding of the subjects they have studied, how they are relevant to them and how they can continue to use the knowledge, skills and understanding they have acquired in their personal and professional life.

By developing a curriculum which promotes an aspirational high achievement culture, we plan to take account of individual needs and provide a wide range of enrichment opportunities. We aim to ensure we have well qualified, healthy, confident, inquisitive and ambitious independent learners who are fully prepared for the next stage in their lives, continue with their personal development and make a positive contribution to society.



## Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) covers the following subjects:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- History
- Religious Education
- Geography
- French
- Spanish
- Computing
- Music
- Drama
- Physical Education
- Art and Design
- Design Technology (incl. Food Technology)
- Personal, Social and Health Education

The aim of the Key Stage 3 curriculum is to give students all the academic skills they will need in life, as well as personal skills that will allow them to make a valuable contribution to their community. Students study iLearn in Year 7 through which they develop their Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication (LORIC) skills.

## Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and Year 11)

The Personal and Social Education programme is continued at Key Stage 4 whilst students study and prepare for GCSE and BTEC examinations.

In addition to the core subjects, Key Stage 4 students also have the option of gaining qualifications in the following areas:

- Business Studies
- Photography
- Textiles
- Health and Social Care
- Performing Arts
- Applied Studies
- French
- Sport
- Art and Design
- Food Technology
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Religious Education
- Media Studies
- Graphic Design
- Computer Sciences
- Digital Information Technology
- Spanish

## Post-16 Education

We encourage our students to continue their education after the age of 16 and many of them do so. The range of courses on offer are designed to allow all students the opportunity for further study.

All students are welcome into our Sixth Form, provided they are committed to their studies and to making the most of all that is on offer here.

Students in the Sixth Form are given a considerable degree of choice in the subjects they study and are guided individually as to what will be realistic and appropriate for them through a series of interviews. The options include A Level and vocational courses. We collaborate with Longbenton High School so that we may offer a greater range of course choice for all students. Full details of our Post-16 provision will be made available to students and parents in December of Year 11.

# Extra-curricular Opportunities

George Stephenson High School is a lively school, which encourages students to take part in a wide range of extracurricular and study support activities.

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) is open every day from 8.00am, at break time, lunch time and after school so that students may continue with their learning. In addition, the school's ICT facilities are also available for student use outside of the timetabled day and there are Home Learning clubs and booster sessions offered to all year groups.

For students who are working towards examinations, departments offer lunchtime and after school help and advice. The school also buys into online learning systems that students can access from school and home.

The school regularly competes in both local and national competitions with considerable success, and dancers trained by the department regularly take part in regional dance festivals. The PE department offers teams in a wide range of sports including football, rugby, hockey, netball, basketball, tennis, cricket, athletics, cross-country, badminton, trampolining and volleyball.

The school's facilities include two gymnasia, tennis courts, rugby pitches, football pitches, hockey pitches and an all-weather pitch.

A community Sports Centre with first class facilities is located next to the school site and our students use the superb facilities there on a regular basis.

Radio Loco offers students the chance to take part in a student led radio station giving live broadcasts. It provides opportunities for students to get involved in a wide variety of roles from news broadcasting, advertising and promotion to station manager.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) club has been hugely popular in recent years and provides many opportunities for students to experience these subjects in vibrant and exciting ways with fun experiences, trips and guest speakers.

Music, drama and dance are also very popular activities involving many students. Each year the George Stephenson High School Youth Theatre stages a full scale production – most recently the musical Sister Act. There are also many opportunities for students to broaden their experience by taking part in national competitions, visits to the theatre, trips to improve their language skills, foreign ski trips, visits to art galleries, museums and science centres, as well as outdoor activities locally and further afield. We also offer study and outward bound Residential Trips to help students develop the skills they need to improve their examination success as well as the personal and social aspects of their school life – and to enjoy some fun together!

# Study Support

Study Support is what takes place outside 'normal lessons' to help students achieve. Departments regularly offer after school help for students who are working towards examinations. A range of extracurricular experiences are on offer to students outside the school day. The school provides a variety of online learning systems that students can access from school and home. In addition, there are Study Support resources available in this section of the school's site website

In terms of whole-school Study Support, the work of the Achievement Support Coordinator (ASC) in each Year Group is specifically to monitor (track) progress of students and implement strategies to help raise achievement. The ASCs have the opportunity (on a rota basis) to work with individuals and/or small groups of students with particular mentoring needs throughout the year as well as being available to cover for Tutors to allow them to be involved in mentoring work. The activities outlined above are all good examples of the broad range of Study Support across the school. All students are encouraged to participate in study support activities to help them achieve well.





# General Information

## Address

George Stephenson High School, Southgate,  
Killingworth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 6SA

T 0191 216 1115  
E [enquiries@gshs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gshs.org.uk)  
W [www.gshs.org.uk](http://www.gshs.org.uk)

## Local Education Authority

North Tyneside Council's Children,  
Young People and Learning Function:

Quadrant West, Silverlink North,  
Cobalt Business Park,  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE27 0BY

T 0191 643 8692

## Leadership Team

Headteacher:  
Mr P Douthwaite

Deputy Headteacher:  
Mrs K Williams

Deputy Headteacher:  
Ms L Dunn

Assistant Headteacher:  
Mr S Tyson

Assistant Headteacher:  
Mr A Lunn

Assistant Headteacher:  
Ms K Bailey

Assistant Headteacher:  
Mrs K Robson

Business Manager:  
Mrs A Emmerson

Chair of Governors:  
Mr Andrew Elliott



# The School Day

## MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY

8.00	Building open to students
8.35	First Bell – report to Tutor Rooms
8.40 – 8.55	Morning Registration/Assembly
8.55 – 9.45	PERIOD 1 (50 minutes)
9.45 – 10.40	PERIOD 2 (55 minutes)
10.40 – 11.00	Break
11.00 – 11.50	PERIOD 3 (50 minutes)
<b>11.50 – 12.25</b>	<b>Early Lunch</b>
<b>11.50 – 12.40</b>	<b>PERIOD 4 (50 minutes)</b>
<b>12.25 – 1.15</b>	<b>PERIOD 4 (50 minutes)</b>
<b>12.40 – 1.15</b>	<b>Late Lunch</b>
1.15 – 2.10	PERIOD 5 (55 minutes)
2.10 – 3.00	PERIOD 6 (55 minutes)

## TUESDAY

8.00	Building open to students
8.35	First Bell – report to Tutor Rooms
8.40 – 8.55	Morning Registration/Assembly
8.55 – 9.45	PERIOD 1 (50 minutes)
9.45 – 10.40	PERIOD 2 (55 minutes)
10.40 – 11.00	Break
11.00 – 11.50	PERIOD 3 (50 minutes)
<b>11.50 – 12.25</b>	<b>Early Lunch</b>
<b>11.50 – 12.40</b>	<b>PERIOD 4 (50 minutes)</b>
<b>12.25 – 1.15</b>	<b>PERIOD 4 (50 minutes)</b>
<b>12.40 – 1.15</b>	<b>Late Lunch</b>
1.15 – 2.10	PERIOD 5 (55 minutes)
2.20 – 4.00	Staff Training



**George Stephenson High School**

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