

27 September 2024

“The standard that you walk past is the standard you accept”

David Morrison

Dear Parents/Carers,

It really has been a fantastic start to the year. The students look amazing, and their attitude has been brilliant. Attendance is much better than last year. I would like to thank you for anything you have done to help with your child's attendance and to remind you that we are here to help if there are any issues or support you need. Getting routines right at the start of the year is so important.

I have been particularly impressed with the new year 7 students and their enthusiasm. Many of these students were involved in the open evening this week and were excellent ambassadors showing off their school. Particular praise goes to Felix in Year 13 and Amelia, Lucy, Ethan, Tillie, George and Kavi Abirami all in Year 7 who prepared their own speeches and read them out to two packed halls!

I would also like to thank our Year 10 performing arts students Jessica and Bartosz who jumped at the opportunity to perform as parents arrived.

The new extended tutor period is now allowing tutors more time with their tutees, checking in on them and helping them get set up for the day. Students have also been litter picking around the site and really taking care and pride in the school.

Year 7 also had one of the first of many Careers enrichment experiences this week with a Careers Speed Dating event.

Students really enjoyed themselves and all employers spoke about how mature they were. One of the employers (HM Ministries of Housing, Communities and Local Government) said he was caught off guard when asked who'd he enjoyed working for more, Rishi Sunak or Keir Starmer.



There were some lovely conversations about career paths taking place. Some career aspirations amongst students included a surgeon, a doctor and an estate agent *for mansions only!* One student was particularly torn about owning a beauty salon or becoming a coroner - she was amazed realising she could combine the two.

We also hosted our first year 11 information evening which was another event that filled the hall – we hope that it provided a useful overview to parents on how they can support their child in this important year and what we are doing as a school to help them. The latest after school support timetable can be found [here](#).

The Year 11 parent survey was also positive with 70 responses. National figures from April 2024 are in brackets. There were also some really kind comments from parents about teachers which I have passed on and were warmly received.

93% Said their child was happy in school (84%)

94% Said their child does well in school (84%)

92% Said the school has high expectations for my child (80%)

95% Said there is a good range of subjects available for my child (83%)

92% Said they would recommend the school to another parent (83%)

81% Said that when they have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly (55%)

90% Said their can take part in clubs and activities at this school (74%)

I would also like to remind parents that we are in the formal consultation period to join the Pele Academy Trust. If you have any questions or queries, please fill in this [form](#). It is important that both governors and I hear your views so please take some time to do this if you can. The consultation ends on Friday 18th October.



There will be a change to our sixth form in 2025 when we will no longer be part of the shared NE12 6th form. We will honour the offer to all current year 12 students from both sites, but our current year 11 students will have the opportunity to be part of the new George Stephenson Sixth form. This provides us with the chance to tailor the offer around our students like we do when students choose their GCSEs.

We are incredibly proud that 96% of our students got into to their first-choice university this year and a large number to high level apprenticeships. Students tell us that this is down to the excellent teaching and the level of personal support we provide. This will continue and be further enhanced in the future.

Finally, I hope your child has settled in well on their return to school as we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'P. Douthwaite'.

Mr. P. Douthwaite
Headteacher

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

For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email absence@gshs.org.uk

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