



Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the lively evenings of Halloween and Bonfire Night today's events stand in stark contrast. I attended the Armistice Day Service at the White Swan Centre with several of our students. They laid remembrance crosses in honour of those who have lost their lives in conflict. It was a moving occasion and an honour for our students to be involved. In a busy world it is more important than ever that our young people take time for reverence and reflection.

The half term ahead is a key one for students studying for their GCSEs. We have our Year 10 parents evening on Thursday and Year 11 mock exams starting next week. We will also talk to our Year 11 students about their future and support them to get to the next stage of their education, employment or training. We were delighted to have nearly 100 families visit for our open evening for our new Sixth Form before half term. We welcomed 13 ex-students back to share how the George Stephenson Sixth form had helped them achieve their goals, not just academically but in terms of confidence and their self-belief. It was a vibrant evening speaking to both our past and future students.

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Deputy Headteacher:

Deputy Headteacher:

Peter Douthwaite BSc (Hons)

Kathryn Williams BA (Hons)

Louise Dunn BA (Hons)



A full house at the George Stephenson Sixth Form Open Evening

We often talk about the importance of attendance and want to say a big thank you for an improvement of 2.5% on this time last year. This might sound like a small figure, but it equates to **1165** extra days of education. As we approach the season for the usual colds and sniffles, please remember that students can still attend if they are well enough.

You may also have seen the new Stephenson Centre that has been developed to help students who may have anxiety or worries about school, and we are delighted that this is already having an impact and serving as a big help for students and their families.

The results of our whole school parent survey can be found at the end of this newsletter. 202 families completed the survey using the Ofsted parent view questions and the comparison with national figures is equal to or higher in every single response. We do not rest on our laurels and will always strive to improve but this is a really pleasing snapshot and recognition of the work going on in the school. Thank you for your continued support.

I would also like to say a well done to our first group of HITZ students - they worked with Newcastle Falcons over several weeks helping them build their personal skills. They got to watch the Falcons win their first game in a long time and meet the players. Because of how well they represented the school the Falcons have asked if they can do another session with our school in the future for free. Thank you to all the boys involved for being excellent ambassadors for the school and giving more students a chance to take part in this excellent opportunity.



Our Newcastle Falcons HITZ Students

Congratulations to Jake in Year 8 who was rewarded with tickets to the upcoming West Ham match for being the leading points scorer in the whole school to date. He has amassed well over 1,000 points and has no negatives. Well done, Jake!



Mrs Robson and Jake receiving his prize

Thank you for your feedback during the consultation on joining the Pele Trust. Governors are looking at the feedback and will decide whether to progress this week. The questions asked, and responses will be available on our website. Should they decide to proceed this does not mean we will join the trust. There will be further due diligence, and more questions based on this feedback. As a school this is something we feel is beneficial and timely, but we will only join if it is in the best interests of the school and students. Although the consultation period has ended, please do feel free to ask questions if you have them by emailing enquiries@gshs.org.uk

Last week we had our literature week where we had a range of authors in school to talk to students, a book cover competition, drop everything and read, a trip to Seven Stories, a Harry Potter film night and a literacy lecture. The students said they really enjoyed the activities on offer and had a great time.

As part of literacy week I read the book '[Poor](#)' by Katriona O'Sullivan - an incredible true personal story about someone brought up in poverty. It acts as a reminder about why we do what we do in education and how key people in our lives are needed to help us overcome barriers. I would recommend it to anyone working with young people in any sector and further highlights the importance of providing support and opportunities for the most vulnerable in our society.

Finally, please remember that school is closed this Friday 15th for staff training, so students do not need to attend.

Best wishes,



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

George Stephenson High School
Whole School Parent View 2024-2025 (202 Parental Replies)

	General Questions	% Total Positive	National*
1	My child is happy in this school	92	84
2	My child feels safe at this school.	93	84
3	The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	87	81
4	My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	64	51
5	The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	88	79
6	When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly	84	55
7	My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.	82	82
8	The school has high expectations for my child.	95	80
9	My child does well at school.	97	82
10	The school lets me know how my child is doing.	94	83
11	There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	97	83
12	My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	95	74
13	The school supports my child's wider personal development.	88	82

		% Yes	
14	I would recommend this school to another parent?	94	83

*Average Parent View Scores Nationally. Source: Ofsted (April 2024)