



# George Stephenson High School

Upcoming events next half term

**Year 11 mock exams – Monday 26th February – Wednesday 6th March**

**Year 9 options evening – Thursday 29th February**

**Year 9 options form deadline – Friday 8th March**

**School Production of Shrek the Musical Jr. - 19th, 20th, 21st March 6.30pm (Doors 6.00pm)**

**Year 8 Online Parent Evening – Wednesday 27th March**

**Year 10 Work Experience – Monday 25th March – Thursday 28th March**

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we come to the end of the half term with Valentines Day this week the theme of 'love', is in the air. Students at GSHS have been producing cards to send to Streetworx homeless charity to put into food hampers to express their thoughts for those who are struggling and sent some lovely messages of hope.



Today, as a community, we are also sharing our love and caring by holding a non-uniform day to raise money for Mercy's Mighty Fight. Mercy is the younger sister of Minnie Cuthbertson. Mercy has a brain tumor, and we are raising money to support specialist treatment. Students and Staff have already raised £550 through a raffle which will be drawn today. There were lots of donations on the gate this morning with students and parents going above and beyond. A delivery driver who came to our school 30 years ago even stopped to put money in. If you didn't get a chance today you can make a donation at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/mercy-cuthbertson>

This week we had our live and learn session for our Year 11 students and hosted an exams preparation evening for parents which was our best attended event of this kind ever. Parents said it was a really helpful event and we wish our Year 11 students the best of luck in their mock exams after half-term.

I would also like to thank parents for supporting their child by coming to the Year 12 parents evening which had a fantastic 90% attendance.

A group of students recently went to the theatre in Sunderland to watch Shrek the Musical in preparation for our show in March. Last year's shows were sell outs so please ensure you get a ticket early if you want to go. They are available from the Performing Arts department or Main Office for £4. I can guarantee it will be an excellent evening.



The 2024 North Tyneside Learning Trust Star Awards nominations are now open. The deadline for nominations is April 19th. George Stephenson has a strong representation every year with our students winning awards on many occasions. If you would like to nominate someone the details are [here](#). It is a fantastic evening where the child and family can attend a prestigious evening at St. James Park with food and prizes for all those who make the shortlist.



Congratulations to the fantastic achievement of Ruby Fletcher in Year 8 who is the first ever student from any school to win an award at the Foundation Dinner through the Newcastle United Foundation. Ruby's nomination video is fantastic and can be found [here](#) .



Ruby receiving her award from Eddie Howe

To finish today on the theme of love I'll leave you with a poem by Tennessee Williams.

Thank you and I hope you all have a good half term break,

Best wishes,

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

Peter Douthwaite

Headteacher

**We Have Not Long to Love**

We have not long to love.

Light does not stay.

The tender things are those we fold away.

Coarse fabrics are the ones for common wear.

In silence I have watched you comb your hair.

Intimate the silence, dim and warm.

I could but did not, reach to touch your arm.

I could, but do not, break that which is still.

(Almost the faintest whisper would be shrill.)

So moments pass as though they wished to stay.

We have not long to love.

A night. A day....

BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS