



George Stephenson
High School

15 May 2024

“The sight filled the northern sky; the immensity of it was scarcely conceivable. As if from Heaven itself, great curtains of delicate light hung and trembled. Pale green and rose-pink, and as transparent as the most fragile fabric, and at the bottom edge a profound fiery crimson like the fires of Hell, they swung and shimmered loosely with more grace than the most skillful dancer.”

Philip Pullman

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you managed to enjoy the improved weather last weekend and that some of you got to catch the rare sight of the northern lights that we were treated to. It really was a wonderful display. I dragged my daughter out of her bed at 12.30am to go and see them – I’m not sure she was as impressed as I was.

We have had an excellent start to the exam period and must congratulate our students on their exemplary conduct but also the large numbers that are attending the additional revision sessions. Their positive attitude has been a pleasure to observe – we really do wish them the best of luck and continue to support them, not only with their revision and preparation, but also boosting their confidence and providing emotional support throughout this important period.

Last week we had a visit from our Local Authority school development partner who visits our school every term to look at areas ranging from behaviour and safeguarding to teaching and learning and the curriculum. He was impressed with what he saw around the school and particularly how well behaved and courteous the students were. He spoke to several students who spoke highly about their school experience, and he observed outstanding teaching and learning taking place.

In addition to this we would like to capture the views of parents and carers with our annual parent view survey. Please complete the survey by clicking [here](#). It should take no more than 3 minutes to complete.

We have also had some good news this week that three of our students are through to the NTLT star awards finals - which is our joint highest number. I believe we also had the highest number of nominations across all schools in North Tyneside too, which is a brilliant accolade in itself. Thank you if you took the time to make a nomination. All students will receive a certificate for being nominated in due course.

The three children who have reached the finalist stage and are invited to the awards ceremony are:

- William Foggon (Useful and Kind)
- Owen Hodgkiss (Local Hero)
- Callum Barnfather (Volunteering)

Congratulations also go to our Year 11 boys football team who have reached the league cup final this year. We have some exceptionally talented athletes across the school and wish them the best in the final later this month.

I always like to share with you where our students end up after they leave us as I believe this is the real testament to what we do as a school and community. We received a lovely email this week from an ex-student. A timely reminder of how everyone's work and effort makes a genuine difference to our students lives:

Hello Mrs. Smith,

I just wanted to give a little update on how things are going, hope that's okay! I know it's been a while but I did say I would get in touch again so here it is. I'm 19 now, finished education and extremely grateful for my position which you helped me get too.

After high school, I moved to York for college. I graduated two years later with a double distinction in Animal Management. During that time I managed to get job at Flamingo Land Zoo in Education. Then in December last year was fortunate enough to work my way up into a zookeeper position which is my dream job. I am currently working with penguins, emus, flamingos and even rhinos!

I want to thank you for all the time you put into teaching and putting up with me in form time, you all do so much for your students and as one of your past students I am grateful.

You pushed me to work my hardest and motivated me to continue on my studies. Without that I wouldn't be so lucky as to be in the position I am now in.

Thank you,

Brooke McKenna



Wishing you all the best,

Handwritten signature of Peter Douthwaite

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