



13 March 2024

**“The more you read, the more you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go”**

**Dr Seuss**

Dear Parent / Guardian,

After a successful World Book Day and Literacy Week last week the best place to start this newsletter is a look back at all the excellent events in school and the work the students have done.

All Year 7 and 8 students received a free book, and Years 7-10 also received a WBD Token. A big thank you to The Bound book shop in Whitley Bay for the free books. We enjoyed the National Literacy Trust Footy & Book Quiz online and scored 19/20!

All week, in reading lessons, we discussed our favourite book characters and settings, watched author videos and students enjoyed 'Guess the Reader' quiz identifying members of staff who were covering their face with a favourite book. Students entered design competitions, decorated doors, and solved a murder in the library. Thanks to the Student Librarians for all their help over the week.



Congratulations to the winners of the GSHS Crime Writing Competition - Miley (Year 8) with her short story 'Ghosts and Killers' and Leoni Harper Yr10 with her short story 'The Cradle'. Miley and Leoni won tickets to 'Bay Tales Live' at Whitley Bay Playhouse where they heard famous crime writers talk about their process, ideas and latest books. They met well-known local author Ann Cleeves, and each received a 'Bay Tales Live' goody

bag. Thank you to Simon and Vic at Bay Tales Live and to all the students that entered the competition.



Our Scholastic Book Fair is here until Tuesday 19th, a Parent Mail has been sent with details of how to purchase. Every book sold helps earn free books for our school. We raised a fantastic amount last year and hope to do the same again. We appreciate your support.



Literacy provides such an important gateway to education for students, and it is embedded throughout the curriculum at GSHS - with a focus throughout all subjects on reading more challenging texts unpicking the etymology of words. Students read in their tutor time and all students in Year 7 and 8 have a dedicated hour a week building on their work from primary school. We also provide targeted support for students using phonics and other reading strategies and do everything we can to foster a love of reading.

We are also delighted to announce the opening of our new in school Gym. Students are in the process of being inducted and staff can also use it for their well-being. Thank you to Mr. Cartwright for making it happen and providing us with this fantastic facility.



A group of students attended the Student Conference at the Royal Society in London last week. They presented the project they are currently working on to other students and Royal Society Fellows.

It will come as no surprise that the students were absolutely brilliant, they presented confidently and engaged with the critique from their peers.

This was an excellent opportunity for our students and the message from the leading academics at the Royal Society was that anyone from any background can earn their place in the world of STEM, a particularly pertinent message for our students who quite often suffer with imposter syndrome.

Well done to Sofia, Lydia, Jenna, Isla, Thomas and James for representing the school so well.



The trip home was a bit more dramatic with trains being cancelled at the last minute followed by a 'Mega' Bus journey home. It was a pleasure to receive some kind words from a parent to recognise the work of staff in getting the students home:

*"The staff went above and beyond to keep the pupils calm, laughing and above all safe. I'm sure they were more exhausted than all the pupils but they never showed it and made sure us as parents were so well informed throughout the night. My daughter ended up becoming quite ill and Miss Brindle stepped straight in and made her as comfortable as possible while Mr Merrit still managed to make her laugh (or so I'm told).*

*To be under such pressure all while exhausted it shows how truly amazing your staff are."*

Although I would imagine Mr Merrit's jokes were more likely the reason the student was ill, it was still a great effort.

We continue to encourage and enrich the creativity our students enjoy and the Art and Performing arts departments are key to this. Over the last two weeks we have had an Artist in residence working with our students and our Year 10 Textiles students visited the University of Northumbria for a fashion workshop.



Our students have also been performing a taster of Shrek the Musical this week in Assemblies in preparation for next week's performances. A reminder that these performances are NEXT WEEK. Tuesday-Thursday. Tickets are available from the main office for £4. Admission is at 6.00pm with the curtain at 6.30pm.

Last week, young people in North Tyneside elected their new Young Mayor and Member of UK Youth Parliament. Congratulations to our very own John Zeng has taken over from former Member of UK Youth Parliament, Sharon Zeng - who just so happens to be his sister! Following in her footsteps, John has pledged to 'help children learn how to spend smarter through better financial education'. Well done John!



John (second from the left) with Mary Glindon (MP). Norma Redfearn (Mayor) and Alan Campbell (MP) and new Coby Black (Youth Mayor)

Finally, a huge thank you for all your kind donations to Mercy's Mighty Fight. We raised an incredible £1700 for this fantastic cause and is once again a credit to the kindness and generosity of you all and the George Stephenson community.

Wishing you all the best,

Mr. P. Douthwaite  
Headteacher

George Stephenson High School Presents:



# SHREK

## THE MUSICAL JR.

Book and Lyrics by  
David Lindsay-Abaire Music by Jeanine Tesori

Based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture  
and the Book by William Steig.

Main Hall

Refreshments 6:00pm

Curtain 6:30pm

Tues 19th     March 2024

Wed 20th     March 2024

Thur 21st     March 2024

Tickets £4. Available from Performing Arts  
Department and Main Office.

Originally produced on Broadway by DreamWorks Theatricals and Neal Street Productions. Original Production Directed by Jason Moore and Rob Ashford. "I'm a Believer" by Neil Diamond. This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI [www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)

