



“It is the obligation of every person born in a safer room to open the door when someone in danger knocks.”

Dina Nayeri

Dear Parent/Carer,

As summer looks like it has eventually arrived. Our school was brightened up even further this week as we welcomed our new intake of year 7 students for the first part of their transition activities. It is pleasing to see so many happy faces and to be full again in Year 7 as we continue to be the school of choice for our community.

We also held our very last GCSE exam of the year this week. The invigilators said that the students were exemplary throughout. This is in no small part down to the preparation of our students in getting ready for the experience. Year 10 (who have also been fantastic) are currently doing their mocks and experiencing real exam conditions in the hall which helps them prepare and ease any anxieties they may have for next year.

By the time of my next newsletter, we will have had a general election. This provides us with an ideal opportunity to engage and enhance our students' understanding of the democratic process and what different parties are putting forward in their manifestos. We are hosting our own mock election alongside the real one to help develop this important value. I will share the results with you once we have them in.

Last night we had our Year 11 prom at St. James Park. The students looked fantastic and were a credit to themselves and the school. A fantastic evening was had by all. We are so proud of them and the excellent young people they have become. We know many of them are joining our 6th form next year. We will have some photos in the next newsletter.

Our sixth forms students are also just finishing their exams. We hope that, as always, the students get what they need for the next step of their journey. Two parents recently shared with me how much they appreciate the support our students get from the school which comes from being part of a smaller sixth form where we know all our students well. This is something we see as important, and this is recognised and valued by students. We also

had some excellent feedback from Capita who were involved in the mock interviews of our Year 12 students recently. They said they were blown away by how articulate and well prepared they were compared to other schools they had visited. They were also impressed by how so many had benefitted from the enrichment opportunities in school and used this in the interview process. If they were a year older, they would have definitely taken them on as apprentices. To quote them directly 'George Stephenson Students definitely have the X factor'!

Our eco-enthusiasts took over our staff briefing on Tuesday to persuade staff to look at alternative ways of coming to school for Clean Air Day. The team have been dynamic in school in many areas of the environment and once again we improved on our statistics from the previous year in terms of reducing car usage.



Eco-Enthusiast Team

We are also delighted to say that as a school we have just received a prestigious Cyberfirst school award. Thank you to Mrs. Fenn for all her work on this

The CyberFirst Schools Recognition Scheme honours schools that excel in promoting cybersecurity awareness and education, integrating it into the curriculum, and fostering a culture of cyber resilience. This award places us among a select group of schools leading the way in preparing students for the challenges and opportunities of the digital age.

This week our students have been participating in Refugee Week. The theme for the week was 'Our Home' and students considered what home means to them in their English

lessons. Key Stage 3 students looked at a selection of poems from 'Choose Love' by Nicola Davies. Students then wrote their own poems about home, safety and hope in their lessons, as well as considering how hard it must be to leave the people and places we call 'home' behind. Mr Jarvie delivered some excellent assemblies which explained what the terms 'migrant', 'refugee', and 'asylum seeker' mean. Mr Jarvie's assemblies also encouraged students to consider the positive difference they could make to the lives of refugees and students from other countries through small acts of kindness. On Friday afternoon, some of our brilliant student volunteers gathered to watch a livestream of 'No Place Like Home', a live event from the British Library that celebrated cultural diversity and shed further light on the refugee experience. We are very proud to have 36 student volunteers as part of our ongoing work to become a 'School of Sanctuary.'



School of Sanctuary volunteers

Finally, a reminder that next Friday (28th June) is a staff training day so students will not be in school.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and that the sun keeps on shining,

Wishing you all the best,

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