



22 October 2024

**“The wind outside nested in each tree, prowled the sidewalks in invisible treads like unseen cats.”**

**Ray Bradbury, “The Halloween Tree”**

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of an enjoyable first half term, we are delighted that so many of you visited the school for our information evenings. It is always pleasing to see you supporting your child and the school.

We carried out an Ofsted parent view survey over these evenings and we are pleased to say that the results were above the national averages on all measures and well above in some. Thank you for your feedback – we are always looking to improve and value your input. The overall results of the survey will be sent to you later this week.



In this update we would like to share our George Stephenson Sixth Form newsletter with you to provide a small taste of what we offer our students. We are delighted that once again they achieved excellent results and 96% of our students got to their first-choice university and a number of excellent apprenticeships. Our most recent 6th form parent survey was excellent with the results at the end of this email.

Our Sixth Form open evening is this Thursday from 5pm-7pm. Please feel free to come and have a look at all the things we have to offer, find out about the courses and listen to some of our students and ex-students who of course are the best advocates for the school. This evening is primarily for current Year 11 students but year 10 or younger are welcome to attend and we would love to see you there.

I would also like to thank you for your feedback on the Pele MAT consultation. We are now compiling the responses and governors will decide whether to proceed soon. Please note that should the process continue this does not mean that we will be joining Pele Trust, but that Governors feel that at this stage there is enough interest to investigate it further.

I hope that you all have a lovely half term when it arrives.

Best wishes,

Mr. P. Douthwaite  
Headteacher

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**Headteacher:**

Peter Douthwaite BSc (Hons)

**Deputy Headteacher:**

Kathryn Williams BA (Hons)

**Deputy Headteacher:**

Louise Dunn BA (Hons)



GEORGE STEPHENSON

# SIXTH FORM NEWSLETTER

@GS\_SIXTHFORM



OCTOBER 2024

## WELCOME BACK!

We have had an excellent first half term! Students have really impressed us with their strong start in terms of enthusiasm, hard work and attendance. We've had lots going on in Sixth Form already with many trips taking place, guest speaker sessions and university applications happening too! We'll continue sharing our updates every half term via the newsletter.

## SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thursday 24th October - 5pm-7pm



It's the perfect opportunity to explore what our Sixth Form has to offer. Our teachers will be on hand to share the subjects you can study with us, what each subject entails and where that subject can take you!

Current students will be there to share their experiences of Sixth Form so far. We're also really fortunate to have a number of alumni students coming back to support us for the evening to talk about how George Stephenson helped prepare them for life beyond Sixth Form.

## USEFUL WEBSITES

[UCAS](#)

[Springpod](#)

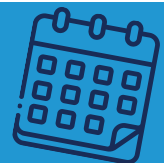
[Zero Gravity Mentoring](#)

[Student Finance](#)

[Unifrog](#)



## KEY DATES



**24th October** - Open Evening

**4th November** - Y13 Mock Week

18th November - Y12 Reports

**12th December** - Xmas Jumper Day

**16th December** - Y13 Reports

**17th December** - Christmas Party Morning

**19th December** - School deadline for UCAS applications

# LOTS OF TRIPS AND VISITS!

Our students have taken part in lots of trips already this half term! Some of our Year 12 students went to Hoult's Yard to take part in the annual TICE Fest, which celebrated the creative industries. Newcastle Building Society came in to school to deliver a session on Budgeting and Finance to Year 12. Year 13's began the year with a trip to Newcastle and Northumbria University, alongside a university and apprenticeship fair at St James' Park. Both events gave students opportunities to meet with providers to support with decisions around Post 18 choices. Lastly, a huge well done to our Y13 Biologists who braved the terrible weather on a visit to Seaton Sluice!



**Sophie**

**Human, Social and Political Science  
University of Cambridge**

**GSHS  
ALUMNI**

A-Level Sociology was one of my first tastes of discussing social issues in an academic setting. I put this passion into practice by serving as North Tyneside's Youth MP during Year 12.

I graduated from the University of Cambridge in 2021, with a first-class degree. I then completed an MPhil in the Sociology of Media and Culture, conducting independent research into the rise of local surveillance practices on social media.

Now still in Cambridge, I work as an Admissions Coordinator, reading and processing the applications to the University. I am really enjoying working with young people and trying to improve the demographics of the University from within but don't think I will stay in Cambridge forever...A PhD in surveillance studies may be on the horizon and I would love to write more advocating for increased protections from digital technologies.

**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](mailto:enquiries@gshs.org.uk)  
 For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email [absence@gshs.org.uk](mailto:absence@gshs.org.uk)

**George Stephenson High School**  
**Yr12 Parent View 2024-2025**

|    | <b>General Questions</b>                                                                               | <b>% Total Positive</b> | <b>National*</b> |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1  | My child is happy in this school                                                                       | 100                     | 84               |
| 2  | My child feels safe at this school.                                                                    | 100                     | 84               |
| 3  | The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved                                                      | 100                     | 81               |
| 4  | My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively               | 67                      | 51               |
| 5  | The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.                                 | 100                     | 79               |
| 6  | When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly                         | 100                     | 55               |
| 7  | My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.                         |                         | 82               |
| 8  | The school has high expectations for my child.                                                         | 100                     | 80               |
| 9  | My child does well at school.                                                                          | 100                     | 82               |
| 10 | The school lets me know how my child is doing.                                                         | 100                     | 83               |
| 11 | There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.                                | 100                     | 83               |
| 12 | My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.                                         | 100                     | 74               |
| 13 | The school supports my child's wider personal development.                                             | 100                     | 82               |
| 14 | The Sixth Form Open Evening was useful to me and my child in making options choices.                   | 100                     |                  |
| 15 | My child knew what grades they needed to study their chosen courses before they sat their GCSE exams.  | 92                      |                  |
| 16 | My child received sufficient advice and guidance about their options choices.                          | 100                     |                  |
| 17 | The move from Y11 to Y12 was handled well by the school.                                               | 93                      |                  |
| 18 | I am fully aware of the school's expectations relating to such things as home learning in Key Stage 5. | 100                     |                  |
|    |                                                                                                        | % Yes                   |                  |
| 19 | I would recommend this school to another parent?                                                       | 100                     | 83               |

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