



George **Stephenson**  
High School



**I would like to offer you a very warm welcome to George Stephenson High School. Our school has an extremely positive ethos, with very strong pastoral and academic guidance and a real emphasis on learning.**

This school is, and will always be, fully inclusive and puts the students at the very centre of all that we do. We believe that it is a happy, safe and enjoyable place to be with a purposeful atmosphere. We also want the school to be at the very heart of the local community and to be the school of choice for all who live here. Students are encouraged and supported throughout their time at George Stephenson High School to achieve highly and fulfil their potential in all aspects of school life. We believe that the learning environment we provide allows students to grow and develop academically, socially and personally into responsible, caring and confident young people.

We are a popular, inclusive and oversubscribed school that is central to our community. The roll has grown from 850 in 2010 to over 1200 today. We were delighted that we are oversubscribed again next year (for the fourth consecutive year) and we will welcome 228 new students into Year 7 in September 2018.

We are a school that strives to provide the best possible educational experience for all, where students make excellent progress and secure their most appropriate destination when they leave. We value the individual differences of our students, encourage them to succeed in everything they do and help them to become caring, confident and responsible young people. We achieve this through providing excellent teaching, fostering the very best relationships, having a personalised and enriched curriculum, having the highest aspirations for all of our students and developing strong partnerships.

George Stephenson High School is an 11-18 high school with excellent facilities for learning. The staff and governors of the school are committed to its continuing development and improvement and to the enjoyment and success of every individual student. Over the last ten years the school has improved significantly, building up a reputation as a lively, caring school and an exciting place for students to learn. Students are encouraged and supported throughout their time at George Stephenson High School to achieve in everything they do.

I hope that you will find the information in this prospectus helpful as you consider your choice of secondary school for your child. The following pages will only give you a taste of what the school can offer your child. More detailed information and guidance will be included in a booklet for parents of students joining us in the summer term. I hope you will take the opportunity to both visit the school and decide to join us as it continues to go from strength to strength.

Many of you have already taken the opportunity to visit our school at our Open Day. If you have not yet had a tour the school during the school day, you would be welcome at any time. Please contact me to arrange a suitable time for a visit.



**Ian Wilkinson**  
Headteacher

# School Aims & Values

We are a school that aims to provide the best possible educational experience for all, where students make excellent progress and secure the most appropriate destination.

We value the individual differences of our students, encourage them to succeed in everything they do and help them to become caring, confident and responsible young people.

We are the centre of our local community, a popular and growing school with a very positive reputation as a place to study and work.

## We achieve this through:

- Excellent teaching
- Positive and supportive relationships
- A personalised and enriched curriculum
- High aspirations
- Strong partnerships

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# Home Learning

Home Learning is an integral part of learning and teaching. Effective Home Learning is central to raising achievement at all levels. Home Learning is used to:

- Reinforce classroom learning
- Extend more able students
- Support less able students
- Develop self-discipline, confidence and organisational skills
- Encourage students to take pride in their work
- Strengthen links between home and school, enabling parents to take an active role in students' learning
- Develop autonomous, independent learners

Effective Home Learning is central to raising achievement at all levels. Every piece of Home Learning that your child receives will be based around either retention, challenge or exam preparation.

The specific tasks set will take a variety of different forms, depending on the subject. It is your child's responsibility to record their Home Learning in their planner, along with the date that it is due to be handed in.

In Year 7, students should be set 30 minutes to 1 hour of Home Learning per week in English, Maths and Science. In their other subjects they will receive 30 minutes to 1 hour of Home Learning per fortnight, or on a regular cycle (depending on how many lessons they have in that subject in a fortnight). In addition to this they will have 35 minutes reading per day.

Failure to complete Home Learning to an acceptable standard will result in sanctions. We ask that parents assist us in helping their children to make the best possible progress by supporting them with their Home Learning as appropriate.





# How we reward our students

George Stephenson High School's Rewards Policy forms an integral part of the positive reinforcement model, which the Behaviour Management Policy is based on. The rewards system is used throughout the school and rewards are given at every opportunity to recognise positive behaviour and approaches to school, as well as outstanding efforts and different types of achievement.

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**In the classroom 3 main areas focused on for rewards on a daily basis are:**

- Achievement
- Effort
- Improvement

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Rewards given in the classroom will be in the form of Points and Hero Cards (worth 10 points). Hero Cards are also used across the school to award larger numbers of points for a variety of different reasons such as:

- Community Involvement
- Charity Participation
- Performing Arts
- Sport
- Student Voice
- Guidance Manager recognition

Each term Guidance Managers will also use the Points totals for their Year Group to award prizes in the end of term prize giving assembly. These prizes will be in the form of gift and cinema vouchers.

Staff use other forms of rewards, such as certificates for student of the month/week and parental contact by telephone or letter.

There is also a termly 'Golden Ticket' draw for a £50 gift voucher. Each member of staff awards a Golden Ticket to a student of their choice. Students can receive a Golden Ticket for a variety of reasons including exceptional effort, achievement and positive contribution to the life of the school.

# Why choose **us**?

Our school has a happy and purposeful atmosphere and we believe that the learning environment we provide allows students to grow and develop academically, socially and personally into responsible, caring and confident young people.

We have strong pastoral and academic guidance and a real emphasis on learning in everything we do. We believe the support, care and welfare provided for our students is second to none and we are a school which puts the students at the very centre of all that it does.

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Excellent range of extra-curricular activities, events and visits.

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Recent major investment in classrooms and social areas providing an excellent learning environment in a modern, fully refurbished building.

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Very close partnerships with parents.

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Over 500 computers across the school and digital projectors in every classroom.

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Specialist Humanities school, focussing on English, History and Geography.

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Excellent range of extra-curricular activities, events and visits. Students have regular use of the Lakeside Sports Centre during and after the school day.

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Fantastic new catering facilities.

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Strong values of friendship and responsibility - our students have raised over £60,000 over the last five years for local charities.

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# Admissions Arrangement

Our Year 7 students settle quickly into their new life at George Stephenson High School. This is achievable due to our successful transition programme and a strong partnership between our school and our local primary schools.

The school serves the areas of Killingworth, Westmoor, Holystone, Backworth and Shiremoor. Admissions to the school are organised by the Local Authority. All parents of students attending local primary schools will be given the opportunity to express a preferred choice of high school during the autumn term.

The school has excellent links with its local schools to enable students to become familiar with the high school and its staff. Staff from George Stephenson High School regularly visit the primary schools, and students from the primary schools have many opportunities to visit our school and undertake a wide range of transition activities in the high school. This work begins as early as Year 4 to give students a chance to gain experience of life at high school.

Parents will be invited to school for an Open Evening, and we also hold regular Open Mornings and Afternoons throughout the year. All parents will be invited to attend a one to one appointment with a member of the Leadership Team in July to help prepare their child for the transition to our school.

Any parent who wishes to visit the school at any other time is very welcome to do so. Please contact the School Office to make an appointment. Parents who live outside the catchment area, who are considering applying to the school for a place for their child, are also invited to contact the School Office to make arrangements for a visit.

The admission limit for this school is currently set at 228 pupils.

# Care, Guidance and Support

Our pastoral 'Guidance System' supports the learning and development of each individual student through the encouragement of regular attendance, punctuality, effective study habits, good behaviour and a positive attitude, and by the monitoring of progress, regular target setting and celebration of achievement.

**The Guidance System supports and enhances academic and personal progress.** The school is organised into year groups, which are split into a number of separate tutor groups, each one under the care of a Form Tutor.

These tutor groups remain together with the same Form Tutor through Years 7 to 11, meeting for registration periods on a daily basis, as well as being involved in other events and activities together so that a strong sense of coherence and team working is developed over these years. The Form Tutor has day-to-day responsibility for our students' welfare whilst they are in the school and has a very important role to play in helping them to settle in. They also closely monitor their academic progress, support them to reach their targets and help with any challenges that may arise.

Each year group has a full time Guidance Manager who also stays with the year group from Year 7 to Year 11 and gets to know each student very well.

As a result Guidance Managers are generally the primary point of contact for parents wishing to discuss progress or problems with the school. They act as liaison between parents, students and teachers, and to ensure that all parties are aware of the circumstances of each student. They support the work of the Form Tutors and recognise students' achievements, ensuring that all students have the most positive of learning experiences. Each year group also has an Achievement Support Coordinator who plays a key role in intervention, academic mentoring and support for students.

The Guidance System is supported across all year groups by two Family Liaison Workers and two Education Welfare staff who work closely with children and families who may be experiencing difficulties both in and out of school.





# How do we support our students

The study support programmes at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 are continually being developed in response to student feedback, to support students preparing for examinations. e.g. coursework support, booster classes in most subjects, Easter School, revision classes, and study skills advice and guidance.

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We communicate with local primary schools to ensure that when students arrive here in Year 7 their needs can be met quickly and effectively on arrival.

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We have two Family Support Workers who work closely with school staff to support students who may be experiencing problems at school or at home.

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Connexions advisors work effectively with GSHS staff and students on a regular basis to provide guidance at times of transition (e.g. Year 9 and Year 11 options, as well as providing advice for students leaving school for college, University and employment).

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Students are well prepared for option choices, including through individual interviews, by tutors and senior staff. Advisors from Connexions, Further Education and Higher Education play an active role in the process.

# Partnership with Parents

George Stephenson High School is proud of its working relationships with parents and carers. Our vision is for parents, carers and families to continue to develop and enhance their involvement in the life of learning that their child experiences at our school. We want families to feel comfortable and happy to spend time in school working in partnership with our staff and to spend time at home with their child talking about learning.

The level of communication with and support from parents is excellent. We achieved the Leading Parent Partnership Award in 2012 and again in 2016, there has been an increased attendance at our evenings and events for parents. We have a regular and well-attended Parents Forum and a wide range of evening Parental Engagement events are held. Attendance at Parents Evenings was over 80% this year – this figure has increased every year for the last five years. Over 500 parents filled in the survey we administer on these evenings and the results were very positive indeed. 97% feel their child is happy here, 98% feel they are both safe and make good progress, 99% feel they are well taught here, 98% feel the school is well led and managed and over 95% would recommend our school to another parent. In our first survey of this year at the first Year 7 Parent Evening we had 120 responses to our questionnaire. Over 98% thought that their child was well prepared for the move from Primary School to High School and 100% felt that they had all the information they needed relating to the move. We are delighted that so many parents are choosing our school and are so positive about it and we believe that this shows a great deal of support from our local community.

In April 2016, as a result of our strong track record of working to support parents and carers, together with a wide variety of new initiatives, we were successful in achieving the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA). This award looks at how well we work with parents and carers, how welcoming the school is, and how we support parents in helping their child to learn. It was a very thorough but rewarding process and through it we began to realise our vision of parents, carers and families becoming even more involved in the life of learning that their child experiences at our school.

We still want all of our staff to take responsibility for parental engagement and to recognise the importance of involving families in their child's learning. We also want to continue to encourage our parents, carers and families to trust and use us as a resource to develop their own learning. As a direct result of this vision, parental engagement remains one of the key strands of our School Improvement Plan and we were delighted that in April 2016 we were reassessed and awarded the LPPA for a second time.

## **Aims and objectives of our LPPA work with parents:**

- To continue to evaluate our practice for engaging parents
- To further improve and develop the school's practice in engaging parents in their children's learning, progress and development.
- To further improve and develop the school's practice in engaging parents in developing their own learning



# The Curriculum

We aim to provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum. The courses are arranged to give the most appropriate, exciting and effective education possible to young people.

## Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) covers the following subjects:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- History
- RE
- Geography
- French
- Spanish
- ICT
- Music
- Drama
- PE
- Art and Design
- Design Technology (incl. Food Technology)
- Personal, Social and Health Education

The aim of the Key Stage 3 curriculum is to give students all the academic skills they will need in life, as well as personal skills that will allow them to make a valuable contribution to their community. Students study iLearn in Year 7 through which they develop GSHS Learning Habits to build their independent learning skills.

## Post-16 Education

We encourage our students to continue their education after the age of 16 and many of them do so. The range of courses on offer is designed to allow all students the opportunity for further study.

All students are welcome into our Sixth Form, provided they are committed to their studies and to making the most of all that is on offer here.

Students in the Sixth Form are given a considerable degree of choice in the subjects they study and are guided individually as to what will be realistic and appropriate for them through a series of interviews. The options include AS, A Level and BTEC courses which can be mixed as far as the constraints of the timetable allow. We collaborate with a neighbouring high school so that we may offer all students a greater range of course choice than we would individually be able to. Full details of our Post-16 provision will be made available to students and parents in December of Year 11.

## Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and Year 11)

The Personal and Social Education programme is continued at Key Stage 4 whilst students study and prepare for GCSE and BTEC examinations. In addition to the core subjects, Key Stage 4 students also have the option of gaining qualifications in the following areas:

- Business Studies
- Media Studies
- Film Studies
- Textiles Technology
- Product Design
- Health and Social Care
- ICT
- Performing Arts
- Spanish
- Applied Studies
- French
- Sport
- Art and Design
- Food Technology
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Religious Education

# Our School in the Community

Our aim is for the school to be the natural hub of our local neighbourhood, and serve as the foundation for community partnerships that are beneficial to our students, families, businesses, agencies and other organisations. All of our students' community work is recognised and celebrated in school and via our website.

So far we have worked with our neighbouring primary schools to become central to community life. Children from our local primary schools regularly attend after school, weekend and holiday activities and we provide many academic extra-curricular activities for the young people and adults in our community.

One of the best ways the school can interact with the local community is by supporting charity work in the local area. We have a whole school charity appeal each year through which we successfully raise over £10,000 for a worthwhile cause. Each academic year our students choose a charity to support from a shortlist nominated by their peers.

2011/2012

**The Toma Fund**

2012/2013

**Hearing Dogs for Deaf People**

2013/2014

**St Oswald's Hospice**

2014/2015

**Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY)**

2015/2016

**Luke's Life Legacy**

2016/2017

**The RVI Ward 18 High Dependency Unit**

2017/2018

**St Oswalds**



# Extra-Curricular Opportunities

George Stephenson is a lively school, which encourages students to take part in a wide range of extracurricular and study support activities.

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) is open every day from 8.00 a.m, at break time, lunch time and after school so that students may continue with their learning. In addition, the school's ICT facilities are also available for student use outside of the timetabled day and there are Home Learning clubs and booster sessions offered to all year groups.

For students who are working towards examinations, departments offer lunchtime and after school help and advice. The school also buys into online learning systems that students can access from school and home.

In addition to timetabled PE lessons, a wide range of sporting activities are on offer at lunch time and after school every day. The school regularly competes in both local and national competitions with considerable success, and dancers trained by the department regularly take part in regional dance festivals. The PE department offers teams in a wide range of sports including soccer, rugby, hockey, netball, basketball, tennis, cricket, athletics, cross-country, badminton, trampolining and volleyball.

The school's facilities include two gymnasia, tennis courts, rugby pitches, football pitches, hockey pitches and an all-weather pitch.

A community Sports Centre with first class facilities is located next to the school site and our students use the superb facilities there on a regular basis.

Radio Loco offers students the chance to take part in a student led radio station giving live broadcasts every lunchtime. It provides opportunities for students to get involved in a wide variety of roles from news broadcasting, advertising and promotion to station manager.

Music, drama and dance are also very popular activities involving many students. Each year the George Stephenson High School Youth Theatre stages a full scale production – most recently the musical 'Grease'. There are also many opportunities for students to broaden their experience by taking part in national competitions, visits to the theatre, trips to improve their language skills, foreign ski trips, visits to art galleries, museums and science centres, as well as outdoor activities locally and further afield. We also offer study and outward bound residential to help students develop the skills they need to improve their examination success as well as the personal and social aspects of their school life – and to enjoy some fun together!

# Study Support

Study Support takes place outside of normal lessons to help students achieve. Departments regularly offer after school help for students who are working towards examinations. A range of extracurricular experiences are on offer to students outside the school day. The school provides a variety of online learning systems that students can access from school and home. In addition, there are Study Support resources available in this section of the school's website.

In terms of whole-school Study Support, the work of the Achievement Support Coordinator (ASC) in each Year Group is specifically to monitor (track) progress of students and implement strategies to help raise achievement. The ASCs have the opportunity (on a rota basis) to work with individuals and/or small groups of students with particular mentoring needs throughout the year as well as being available to cover for Tutors to allow them to be involved in mentoring work. The activities outlined above are all good examples of the broad range of Study Support across the school. All students are encouraged to participate in study support activities to help them achieve well.

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## Expectations of Students

The expectations of our code of conduct are clearly communicated to our students. In all areas of the school, we display our behaviour rewards and consequences to help everyone learn. Positive consequences include praise, rewards points and letters home. If there is a problem, the school has a clear, staged system of consequences to help students to put the problem right.

### Aspirational Target Setting

The use of Aspirational Targets has become a very effective means of helping students to improve their own learning and raising their levels of achievement. Students are set challenging individual targets by their teachers at the start of each academic year, and both staff and students are heavily involved in reviewing progress towards these targets.

# Examination Results

Over the last decade our school has improved significantly, building up a reputation as a lively, caring school and an exciting place for students to learn. Importantly, examination results at all key stages have improved over the last few years. We were delighted that 63% of our students achieved a GCSE pass at Grade 4 and above in both English and Maths in 2018. 70% of our grades were C/4+ and 24% were A/7+ (both above national averages). We also had a large increase in the number of students achieving the EBACC suite of qualifications.

The overall results have improved again on last year and this is particularly pleasing in the light of the changes to the examination system and the widespread expectation of volatility in this year's GCSE results due to the new grading system and other changes which have made it more challenging for our young people. Worthy of particular mention is the fact that we had 67 grade 9's (including 18 in English and 15 in Science).

For the last six years around 65% of our students have achieved 5 or more A\*-C GCSEs including English and Maths. Over the same six year period nearly 80% of our students have achieved a good pass in English and over 70% have achieved a good pass in Maths, both figures being well above national average every year.

We also achieve strong A Level results each year. The pass rate at A Level over the last four years has been 99% with around 40% of all grades at A\* to B and over 70% A\*-C. Each year the vast majority of our students secure a place at their first choice university with the rest securing their second choice or getting into University through clearing. A significant number of our students have gone to a Russell Group university over the last two years but we have also noticed an increased number of students going into employment and apprenticeships after our Sixth Form. The important thing though is that over the last few years all students who have left us at either 16 or 18 have gone onto an appropriate progression route. As our sixth form is relatively small, we collaborate very successfully with Longbenton High School to ensure that our sixth formers have access to a very wide a range of courses and a meaningful, educational experience. We are particularly proud of the extracurricular provision for students and are keen to continue extending and developing that provision for all age groups.

# General Information

# School Holidays 2018-19

## Address

George Stephenson High School, Southgate,  
Killingworth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 6SA

T 0191 216 1115

E [georgestephenson.high@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:georgestephenson.high@northtyneside.gov.uk)

W [www.gshs.org.uk](http://www.gshs.org.uk)

## Local Education Authority

North Tyneside Council's Children,  
Young People and Learning Function:

Quadrant West, Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park,  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE27 0BY

T 0191 643 8692

## Leadership

Headteacher:  
Mr I Wilkinson

Deputy Headteacher:  
Mrs K Williams

Deputy Headteacher:  
Mr P Douthwaite

Assistant Headteacher:  
Ms S Rix

Assistant Headteacher:  
Ms L Dunn

Assistant Headteacher:  
Mr S Tyson

Assistant Headteacher:  
Ms L Simpson

Business Manager:  
Mrs A Emmerson

Chair of Governors:  
Mr J Morley

## Staff Training Days

Monday 3 September 2018

Friday 5 October 2018

Tuesday 23 April 2019

## Bank Holidays During Term Time

Monday 6 May 2019

## School Terms

Autumn

Spring

Summer

Monday 3 September 2018 – Friday 21 December 2018

Monday 7 January 2019 – Friday 5 April 2019

Tuesday 23 April 2019 – Friday 19 July 2019

## School Holidays

HOLIDAY

Autumn Half-Term

Christmas

Spring Half-Term

Easter

Summer Half-Term

Summer

SCHOOL CLOSES ON

Friday 26 October 2018

Friday 21 December 2018

Friday 15 February 2019

Friday 5 April 2019

Friday 24 May 2019

Friday 19 July 2019

RE-OPENS ON

Monday 5 November 2018

Monday 7 January 2019

Monday 25 February 2019

Wednesday 24 April 2019

Monday 3 June 2019

Tuesday 3 September 2019

# The School Day

## MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY

8.00	Building open to students
8.35	First Bell – report to Tutor Rooms
8.40 – 8.55	Morning Registration/Assembly
8.55 – 9.45	PERIOD 1 (50 minutes)
9.45 – 10.40	PERIOD 2 (55 minutes)
10.40 – 11.00	Break
11.00 – 11.50	PERIOD 3 (50 minutes)
<b>11.50 – 12.25</b>	<b>Early Lunch</b>
<b>11.50 – 12.40</b>	<b>PERIOD 4 (50 minutes)</b>
<b>12.25 – 1.15</b>	<b>PERIOD 4 (50 minutes)</b>
<b>12.40 – 1.15</b>	<b>Late Lunch</b>
1.15 – 2.10	PERIOD 5 (55 minutes)
2.10 – 3.00	PERIOD 6 (55 minutes)

## TUESDAY

8.00	Building open to students
8.35	First Bell – report to Tutor Rooms
8.40 – 8.55	Morning Registration/Assembly
8.55 – 9.45	PERIOD 1 (50 minutes)
9.45 – 10.40	PERIOD 2 (55 minutes)
10.40 – 11.00	Break
11.00 – 11.50	PERIOD 3 (50 minutes)
<b>11.50 – 12.25</b>	<b>Early Lunch</b>
<b>11.50 – 12.40</b>	<b>PERIOD 4 (50 minutes)</b>
<b>12.25 – 1.15</b>	<b>PERIOD 4 (50 minutes)</b>
<b>12.40 – 1.15</b>	<b>Late Lunch</b>
1.15 – 2.10	PERIOD 5 (55 minutes)
2.20 – 4.00	Staff Training



**George Stephenson High School**

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