



6 October 2023

“When all the trees have been cut down, when all the animals have been hunted, when all the waters are polluted, when all the air is unsafe to breathe, only then will you discover you cannot eat money ...”

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a pleasure to welcome prospective new students and families around our school recently with our open evening and open mornings. Our open evening had the highest attendance we have ever had which made for a busy evening and I hope parents got a flavour of what our school is about. As always it is our students who are the real ambassadors, and it is a proud day for them to show off their school. Our open mornings are a great opportunity to see the school in action and is something myself and the leadership team look forward to. The parents this year commented on how quiet and calm the school is with our open class door policy, and how it's hard to imagine there are 1000 students in school. As always, we had some excellent questions, and it is useful for us to hear what parents want from us and the school. The comments on how well spoken and polite our students conducted themselves was a credit to them but also to you as parents.

Congratulations to our new Senior Team. The winning candidates were Joe McCarron and Josh Blake. We are also pleased that Daniel McTiernan and James Sweeting will join the team as deputies. They have they all have been fabulous ambassadors for GSHS over the years and we are happy to have them represent our students. I look forward to hearing and supporting their ideas for the future.



Sixth Form Senior Team

Southgate, Killingworth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 6SA

T: 0191 216 1115

E: enquiries@gshs.org.uk

W: www.gshs.org.uk

Headteacher:

Deputy Headteacher:

Deputy Headteacher:

Peter Douthwaite BSc (Hons)

Kathryn Williams BA (Hons)

Louise Dunn BA (Hons)

The quote at the start of today's newsletter is a reflection on the upsetting news of the Sycamore Gap tree being deliberately felled recently. It reminds us of the importance and fragility of nature, how nature becomes intertwined with our local identity, but also of how we can all take things for granted. It reinforces the importance of the work schools do around respect in the curriculum. I hope the new Sixth form Senior Team can work with other students to have an input into developing this, so it is relevant to them and helps explore these questions.

In the area of 'Community' we continue to work towards the Carnegie award for mental health and have signed up to be a Sanctuary School, this network supports the thousands of young people seeking sanctuary in the UK, raises awareness of the issues facing people in the asylum system, challenges misconceptions and builds social cohesion.

We have also had a range of sporting success recently and are proud of all students who have taken part and those who have signed up for extra-curricular opportunities.



Year 11 Boys Football Team

One team that has performed particularly well already this year is The Year 11 boys football team who have played two league fixtures so far, with two excellent performances in beating John Spence 8-1 and St Thomas More 7-1. We also have a staggering five representatives for the Under 16 Boys Northumberland County team which is unheard of for one school. Congratulations to Max Monaghan, Elliot Carter, Zak Macinnes, Daniel Robson and Patrick Dolan for this outstanding achievement.

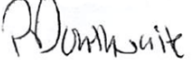
In the coming weeks we have more badminton, basketball and football fixtures for both boys and girls – we will let you know how they get on.

I hope you have managed to attend one of our year group information evenings recently which give you an overview of what lies ahead for your child this year. It was good to see so many of you there. Your attendance sends a strong message to your child about the importance of school. If you could not make it to a presentation they can be found [here](#).

Finally, I hope you have an enjoyable weekend. Education doesn't start and stop at the school gates; it isn't all written down in textbooks or tested in an exam. If you get a chance when you are out with your child or driving the parent taxi this weekend perhaps talk to them about your favourite place or somewhere that matters to you and ask them the same. The

more we share our personal stories the more we can all appreciate how lucky we are to have what we have and live where we do.

Wishing you all the best,

 Mr. P. Douthwaite
Headteacher