



George Stephenson High School

“You’re off to great places; today is your day, your mountain is waiting, so get on your way!”

Dr. Seuss, Oh, The Places You'll Go!

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families have had a good summer – even if the sun decided to wait until we returned to school! It is a pleasure to welcome all our new students to our school. I began these fortnightly updates last year and hope they continue to keep you up to date on any school issues, celebrate success and provide you with information on the many great things happening at GSHS.



Once again, we were really pleased with the results over the summer. Despite exams being graded more harshly than the previous two years, as they returned to 2019 pre-pandemic standards, our students impressed with nearly all of them progressing to the next stage of their education, employment or training. After so much disruption across their education they should be really proud. The class of 2023 have been a credit to themselves and the school.

It has been lovely start to the year and our new Year 7 students have been fantastic. I have enjoyed talking to many of them this week. They have made an excellent impression, looked smart in their new uniforms, adapted well to new routines and have been very polite and enthusiastic. I am certain they will continue to enjoy their time at George Stephenson whilst working hard and being ambassadors for our school.

This year, following consultation with parents, we have made some changes to our school uniform policy to reduce cost as well as allow a greater choice of skirts, trousers and footwear. Students look smart and nearly all have been fully compliant with our uniform expectations. Please let us know if there are any issues that we can help with; we have a large range of uniform stock in school in a variety of sizes which students can choose from.

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Deputy Headteacher:

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We have noticed a small number of students are wearing fake nails, fake eyelashes, nose piercings and additional ear piercings (students can wear a maximum of one in each ear). We appreciate your support in ensuring that these are removed before coming into school.

Last year we worked with staff, students, governors and parents to consider our core values. These were identified as Ambition, Respect and Community which now underpin our development plans. We will always strive to be a fully inclusive, caring and ambitious school at the heart of the local community providing the best possible education for all.

- **Ambition:** We are ambitious in everything we do and have the highest expectations of students and staff. We want to support everyone to be the best they can be.
- **Respect:** We take pride in the strong relationships we have across the school, with each other and our partners. We treat people fairly, with dignity, consideration, and integrity. We feel supported, safe and valued.
- **Community:** We have an inclusive ethos where diversity is celebrated. We forge strong links with local education establishments, organisations and businesses. We promote British values and a belief that everyone can improve and have a positive impact on society.

Next week in assembly I will be talking to students about these values, and the importance they play when forming their own goals and ambitions, what respect means to them and looks like in reality and the importance of developing a strong community both in school and beyond.

In as far as ambition and community can be exemplified, I would like to wish the best of luck to anyone involved in any of the Great North Run events this weekend. I will be taking part for the eleventh time, this time helping a friend around who is running his first half marathon. It is also expected to be a warm day – yes, I am getting my excuses in early.

I wish you and your families an enjoyable and successful year and look forward to seeing you at George Stephenson High School soon.

Best wishes,



Mr. P. Douthwaite
Headteacher