



17 February 2023

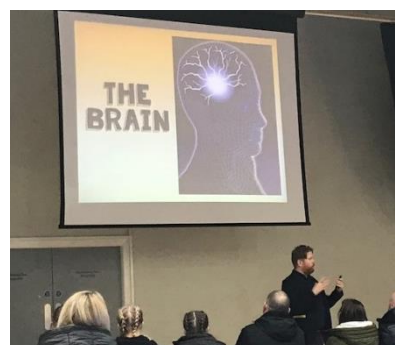
**"Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring"**

St. Catherine of Siena

Dear Parent/Carer,

The above quote is timely as we head into a half-term break which includes Shrove Tuesday and the beginning of Lent. For some this may be a time to give something up or try something new. As our Year 11 and 13 students prepare for mocks (Year 11 after half term) and their summer exams, this half-term break often marks the time when students begin their revision in earnest. Previous students always feedback that the key to success is to start early, make a sensible plan and organise your time effectively but to make sure you look after and reward yourself too.

This week Year 11 had our first 'Live-N-Learn' sessions since 2020. These are a launchpad for the exam season and look at planning, mindset and the marginal gains students can achieve. Thank you to the parents who came to our Live-N-Learn parent session on Thursday evening. Those who attended the session got a lot out of it and commented very positively on the messages and information they received.



Students often find their own style or technique that works for them when revising but simply providing a space, providing encouragement, and checking in as parents are simple things we can do to support our children in all year groups. Offering to test students on what they have been revising by using their notes to ask a few questions on a topic they have been working on is a good way to interact and show support as well as helping with their recall and retention. Staying upbeat, positive, praising their efforts and planning little rewards also makes a big difference.

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**Deputy Headteacher:**

Peter Douthwaite BSc (Hons)

Kathryn Williams BA (Hons)

Louise Dunn BA (Hons)

It was a privilege to be asked for a meeting last week with our Eco-Enthusiasts group who are overseen by Mr. Moat. A fantastic group of students who 'want to start small but ultimately make the world a better place'. They were asking if I could promote some of their ideas such as a clean air day and ask people to turn off their engines when picking up students. They are also planting some silver birch trees and reviewing lunch options. I'm sure we would all support their initiatives so please keep an eye out for these in the future.



GSHS Eco-Enthusiast Team

A few reminders and polite requests this week. From my previous correspondence you will be aware there is further industrial action taking place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. I can confirm that we will be open for all students.

The school is a very busy place so please do not turn up at without making an appointment in advance as we are unlikely to be able to see you. Sending an email to a Guidance Manager is the best way of contacting the school in the first instance. An email, phone call back or meeting can then be arranged to deal with any queries properly.

Thank you again for your continued support ensuring that your child has the correct uniform. Half-term is an ideal time to sort out any issues. Please click [here](#) for our uniform guide.

The school would also like to thank James in Year 12, who has secured a fantastic charity grant for the school of £700 from Proctor and Gamble to relaunch our school Radio station. We are looking forward to restarting this exciting venture and really appreciate this kind gesture.

Finally, our annual Ski Trip is up and running again after a pause due to covid. We wish the staff and the 104 students travelling to Italy this half-term a fantastic time.

I hope you have a lovely half term and that it ends with a trophy finding its way back to Newcastle. Let's hope they haven't given up goals for Lent!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Douthwaite".

Mr P. Douthwaite  
Headteacher

## Meet the Staff

**Name:** Mrs Fuller



**What is your role at GSHS?**

Learning Support Centre Manager

**How long have you worked here?**

22 years

**What does your job involve?**

Managing the SEND team. Overseeing support for students with SEND needs, including those with pupil passports and EHCP plans. Working closely with parents and outside agencies to ensure the correct level of support is in place.

**Do you have any hobbies?**

I like to travel, meet up with friends and spend time with my family. I am very excited for the arrival of my first grandchild in March. He will no doubt take up a lot of my time spare time.

**Favourite thing about GSHS?**

The staff. I love how supportive everyone is. People genuinely care how you are. It is also a pleasure to hear back from many parents when they feed back on the value of the support they receive from the team.

**Favourite memory of GSHS?**

I have been here a long time and have lots of happy memories, including many laughs along the way.