



20th July 2023

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

This is my final newsletter of the academic year and what an eventful year it has been. We began with the sad news about the Queen and then later celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III. We have had three prime ministers, an energy crisis, the war in Ukraine, national strikes, and a cost-of-living crisis, all in our first ‘normal’ school year after the pandemic.

There have been many positives though and it has been particularly exciting to get our enrichment activities back up and running as an integral part of the school life for our students. A quick look through my earlier newsletters provides a brief snapshot of just some of the things we have offered at George Stephenson this year;

100 students on a ski trip to Italy, students in law programme, your generous support for charities such as Maggie's and the Bay Food Bank, fantastic Careers events in every year group (including work experience for Year 10 this week), students nominated to the Youth Parliament, Creative Enterprise workshops, STEM activities and visits (See Royal Society below), sell out performances of our superb Mary Poppins production including a performance at the SAGE Gateshead, rewards trips to Newcastle United meeting players, a new youth partnership group working with several organisations and groups in the local area, a brilliant Dimensions Day and sports day, a vast array of reading and writing opportunities thanks to Mrs Spencer our new librarian, a stunning Year 11 Prom at St James Park, our Summer Concert, Year 11 Art Exhibition, Personal 1-1 meetings with our new Year 7 families, Parent and Child Cooking groups and a day to remember with Joe Wickes!

Feedback from Mrs. Brindle after the Year 12 visit to the Royal Society in London



“I just wanted to say how absolutely incredible our students have been over the past couple of days. We really didn't know what to expect, we knew the Royal Society was a prestigious institution but weren't expecting views directly over the mall. The students engaged with members of the public, explaining their research and answering quite probing questions. However, the students really shone at the evening event. I can't even begin to express how proud I am of them. The evening was filled with RS fellows and leading scientists, including professors from Cambridge, previous chief scientific examiner to the government and Sir Martyn Poliakoff. They explained their research coherently and took advice and critique graciously. Many of the scientists who visited the students stall commented on how well they had performed and analysed their results and how they were working well beyond their years. It was an emotional evening; I can't quite believe our students have had this experience.”

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We have also had the exciting news that we are one of the schools nominated for the School's Rebuilding Programme, we have still not received a start date, but I have been assured by the DFE that it will be announced before the end of this month.

This week it has been a joy to present awards to students in our rewards assemblies to celebrate their achievements. This follows on from the 40 nominations we had for our students for the North Tyneside Learning Trust STAR awards which were held at St. James Park. We were incredibly proud of our finalist Sarah Foggon who was recognised for all her hard work promoting inclusivity within several groups and clubs she is involved in enriching the lives of others.



I would also like to say well done to Mrs Cook, Mrs Connor and Mrs Smith who have successfully completed their two-year Early Career Teacher induction period with flying colours.

In my assemblies last week, we talked about not only reflecting on the year but also looking forward and how we can always learn and improve. Our values around Ambition, Respect and Community are central to school improvement and we have discussed these with our students and what they mean to them. Thank you for your input into these values. It is important to gather your voice as parents and your feedback is helpful in refining these plans so, please continue to complete any surveys or engagement activities next year.

With the school closed over the summer – I would encourage you to read the [leaflets](#) on our website that cover a wide range of useful advice for students and parents including; sun, water, railway, online, mental health advice and support as well as other important phone numbers and details of free sports camps at George Stephenson. Please also take note of the key dates below.

Your continued support as we all work to do the best for our young people has been hugely appreciated this year. The passion and will of our young people and staff continue to provide the inspiration and drive for us to be the best possible school we can be. I hope you all have a lovely summer and look forward to welcoming our students back in September.

Wishing you all the best,

Mr. P. Douthwaite
Headteacher

Results Days

Our students who have been sitting public exams will be able to collect their results from school at the following times:

- Year 13 Students: **Thursday 17th August at 8.00a.m.** in the Main Hall
- Year 12 Students: **Thursday 17th August at 9.00a.m.** in the Main Hall
- Year 11 results: **Thursday 24th August at 9.00a.m.** in the Main Hall
- Year 10 results: **Thursday 24th August at 10.00a.m.** in the Main Hall

All exam related queries (arranging for results to be emailed, arranging for results to be picked up by someone else, submitting possible appeals etc.) should be made to examenquiries@gshs.org.uk by the student themselves, and from their school email address.

We would like to wish all of our students collecting results the very best of luck when they open the envelope!

New Academic Year

The last day of this summer term is Friday 21st July. Dates for the new academic year are below. Our Parents' Guide, which will include school expectations, uniform requirements and diary dates for the forthcoming year, can be found on our website at www.gshs.org.uk.

School Re-opening Dates

- Monday 4th September – Staff training Day – School closed to all students
- Tuesday 5th September – School opens for new Year 7 students and 6th form induction only
- Wednesday 6th September – School opens for all year groups