



7 October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

“Providing the best possible education experience for all” is our mission and staff and students this week have had lots of opportunities to demonstrate this. There was a real buzz at our open evening. In addition to all the students helping around school we had four who spoke incredibly well to over 400 people. Well done to Mae and Lola (Year 7) and Felix and Joss (Year 11) who volunteered to take part and talked so well about the school and what we have to offer.



It has been a pleasure to invite Year 6 parents in to see our school and children this week. Myself and our Deputy Headteacher Mrs Williams have been taking parents into as many lessons as possible to see the staff and students in action. It is always a proud moment to show off the school. We received an email afterwards from one of the parents saying, “We were really impressed by the attitude and behaviour of the young people in school, and the members of staff who were all welcoming and friendly.”

Over the next couple of weeks, we are looking to appoint a Deputy Headteacher and we have received many strong applications already. Our students deserve the best, so it is a particularly important appointment for our school. It is a testament to the students, parents, and staff how many people want to come and work at George Stephenson. The fact that we have eight former students who are current members of staff reflects this. There is a collective drive to be the best we can be for our young people and to build on the strong partnerships we have with parents.

I am also delighted to say that we had seven applicants for the two vacant Parent Governor posts. This will go to a vote so please keep an eye out for the ballot form which will be sent out next week.

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Deputy Headteacher:

Peter Douthwaite BSc (Hons)

Kathryn Williams BA (Hons)

On Thursday 18 October we have our Year 10 parent information evening. These evenings are designed to give you an overview of the key events and opportunities in each year group, how you can support your child and what you can expect in the year ahead. Feedback from these evenings has been positive so I hope you can attend.

As a fully inclusive school we do what we can to support all students. At this time none more so than those from families fleeing the war in Ukraine. Currently we have two Ukrainian children in school who we are supporting and making feel as welcome as we can. Our word of the week for this week is 'Pryvit' (pronounced Prayveet) meaning 'Hello' which should you meet any Ukrainian families yourself this may be one you may wish to use!

On a related note, yesterday was World Poetry Day, and I thought this poem summed up the inclusivity of our school nicely.

Outwitted

HE DREW a circle that shut me out—
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But Love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in!

by Edwin Markham

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Douthwaite'.

Mr P. Douthwaite
Headteacher