



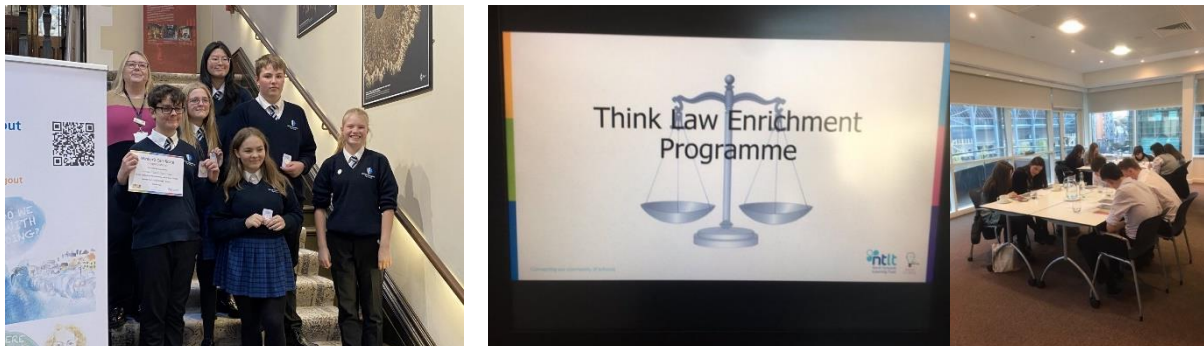
21 October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Today we have a non-school uniform day in aid of Maggie's Centre at the Freeman Hospital - a charity that many of our students have worked with this year and is a fantastic cause. There have been a huge amount of donations, and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Yesterday our official Key Stage 4 results were published, and we are delighted to say that once again we had a positive progress score. This means that students make more progress at George Stephenson compared to other schools nationally. This is an excellent achievement and a credit to our staff, parents and students setting our young people up well for the next stage of their education, employment or training. More detailed analysis of the results can be found [here](#).

We always look at how to enrich the curriculum and have had more success this week with a team of students representing the school and winning first prize at the North Tyneside Climate Strategy Summit meeting at the fantastic Common Room in Newcastle with their idea for carbon reducing roofs. Year 12 students interested in Law attended an excellent careers workshop ran by the Learning Trust.



This is just one example of our strong extra-curricular STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) offer in school (see next page for other examples). We have many students involved in all year groups. Please encourage your child to attend or speak to Mrs Brindle or Mr Withers if this is something they are interested in – or they just like exploding pumpkins!

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STEM at GSHS – just a small glance



- Weekly STEM club – Y7/8/9 - optional
- Industrial Cadets Gold Project – 4 Yr 12 students
- Villiers Park mentoring – 15 students from Yrs 10/11/12 and 13
- STEMfest 2022 – 45 Yr 7/8s
- Kielder observatory astronomy sessions – whole school over 4 days last academic year, 360 students in September
- Astronomy group to run for 11 weeks from 10th October for 30 students in collaboration with Kielder
- Royal Society Project in collaboration with Durham University – 15 Yr12, 30 Yr11, whole of Yr 9
- Careers advice from Northumbria University
- STEM ambassadors to run session from Northumbria University
- Inspirational and informative sessions delivered from GSHS alumni – 60 Yr 11 students
- Informative sessions – NHS medical Physics – 60 students Yr 11, y12 students
- Software summer project – 2 Yr11
- Port of Tyne – looking to support underprivileged and non-academic boys
- Port of Tyne – to support girls into Science



I would also like to remind parents about Class Charts. Many of you use this already as this is the best way of tracking your child's progress and checking on Homework. You also get an update when they get praise from their teachers. We use it extensively across school so if you haven't yet signed up, please email the school at classcharts@gshs.org.uk

In my last update I said we were in the process of appointing a new Deputy Headteacher and we had very strong field. I am delighted to say that Mrs Dunn was successfully appointed following a rigorous two-day interview process. Her dedication to our young people and our community will undoubtedly shape and drive the school's success as we move forward.

At the beginning of the term, I spoke about setting a new vision for the school going forward over the next five years. As parents and members of the community, it is important that you have an input into this. I would really appreciate it if you could take five minutes to complete the attached survey feeding back on what you think we do well, what we could improve and the values that are important to you. This will help shape our vision statement and feed into our future.

To complete the survey please click [here](#). The survey will be live until 11th November 2022.

Finally, it has been a busy but hugely enjoyable half term. The students have settled in well and worked hard. I am sure they will make the most of the break and I hope you find some time to relax too.

Best wishes,

Mr P. Douthwaite
Headteacher