

Gosforth Junior High Academy Autumn Term Newsletter – December 2025

Hello everyone,

I wanted to wish all of our families a very 'Merry Christmas'! Enjoy a well-earned rest, the food, family time and the festivities! It has been *such* a busy term. It is important to say that, whilst I have been absolutely insistent that lessons and learning-*the real joy of school life* - must be maintained right up until our 'Praise' rewards lesson during period 3 on Friday, we have had an extremely festive time in recent weeks. This has included staff and students enjoying Christmas lunch together, a Christmas Jumper day, our festive kindness advent calendar, carol singing at St Oswald's, Christmas assemblies, the Christmas shows and special seasonal 'Praise' events for all year groups. What I have been most proud of is the collections for the Food Bank, which at this time of year, is much needed and vital for anyone living in poverty or in difficult circumstances. The response from your households has been nothing short of miraculous, with mountains of goods being provided for those in need. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part. It demonstrates and reflects our values and the big-hearted and benevolent nature of our community. It should also be said that we had already raised hundreds of pounds for 'Children in Need' and 'Macmillan' this year already.



The Christmas Show this year was 'Aladdin', and it has been absolutely phenomenal- with special mention going out to year 5 and 6 for performing with such skill and verve! Year 8 students Cameron and Alexa ran backstage and were like seasoned professionals. There are some truly special young people at our school - this was in full force during these performances. Well done everyone and thanks so much to all the parents who came in to watch and even sing along!

The academic highlight of the year was in welcoming parents in for the first time in a long while for Parents Evening. This is just so crucial, and I know the parent body have made it clear that this was both wanted and needed. The atmosphere was absolutely fantastic and so many healthy connections were made, with teachers making the key milestones of learning clear through a more formal appointment or through one of our new 'showcases', with teachers encouraging students to demonstrate exactly what they can do in front of you, or alongside you. Watching students and parents practicing their badminton 'overhead smash' will live long in the memory! We also used a parent information evening, student assemblies and year 7 parents evening itself to make the new 5-point progress model clear to you all. This is something that will develop and I have no doubt will start to drive ambition and challenge in our curriculum to prepare students for their next steps towards GCSE and A-Level study.

Looking to the future - and in listening to our parent body as much as is possible - we will provide full details of each subject curriculum, the full subject learning journey and our subject knowledge and skill descriptors for each year group on the website. This has come up in so many of my conversations with you all but also in our 'Parent Partnership' meetings. These conversations give us an invaluable insight into how you are all feeling and how we can improve the school offer for you. Lots of parents have raised that they want to help students revise and prepare at home for tests and feel that putting the requisite information on our website in an organised and accessible way would facilitate this. We think this will all be ready by February half term so please watch this space!

We are excited to announce that Gosforth Junior High Academy will be hosting a fantastic Careers Fair on Wednesday 11 March 2026, designed to inspire our students to explore future pathways and take meaningful steps toward creating their own futures. As part of this event, we invite parents and carers to express interest in setting up a stall focused on their own career, helping to showcase the diverse opportunities available and spark curiosity in our students. If you would like to be involved, please email an expression of interest to the school office by Monday 5 January 2026. We are also launching a dedicated 'Careers Curriculum' in January which will help broaden horizons and raise aspirations of all students at GJHA.

I feel that I should also tell you about a special author visit from Lucy Strange in English for Year 7, the exciting events that were organised for National Poetry Day in the library as well as our incredible 'Book Fair' and also our Languages Week, where, following lots of lessons beginning in different languages and students celebrating the

many languages they speak at home, the poster competition winner had their entry printed on a T-shirt! We have also joined in with the North-East Festival of Languages and have even made a connection with a school in Spain and set up an inter-continental pen pal scheme between students. In fact, we received our first letters from Spain this week! 'The Thursday Thought' has also been launched in form time, with the whole school enthusiastically grappling with thought-provoking ideas or interesting questions each week. Recent 'thoughts' have included: *"If you woke up tomorrow and had everything you want, would you be happy?"* and *"Would you rather perform well and lose or perform badly and win?"*. Feel free to ask questions about this.

Our Year 6 classes have visited the Victoria Tunnels, Year 5 and their parents attended our welcome coffee morning, providing us with a wonderful opportunity to meet you all as new parents, to supplement this, we also completed our Year 5 transition calls. Our biggest and best Open Evening took place for prospective parents and was absolutely full to the brim of buzz and excitement, with live music, presentations and showcases of our curriculum and subject areas too. In partnership with Kielder's 'Dark Skies' installation, we ran our first ever 'Family Stargazing' event this year too, which was well-attended, despite the inclement weather! This will run again next year, and we are hoping that it will even bigger and even better!

We look forward to January and more excitement and celebrations of success!

Warmest regards

Mr Fryer
Head of School