

Gosforth Junior High Academy

Summer Term Newsletter – July 2026

Dear Parent / Carer

As the year draws to a close and we welcome the summer holidays, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate another amazing term, and academic year, at Gosforth Junior High Academy. I would like to thank all of you for the incredible support you provide us and our students with every day. The engagement of the parents here is wonderful and we couldn't do what we do in school without you. A special mention should go to departing Year 8 parents - we will really miss you - and for parents who have been involved in the GJHA Parent Partnership this year as well. We hope to really raise the profile of these partnerships still further next year.

Sports Days

Summer term is always a special one because students can get outside in the sun and perform. Sports Days here are a central part of our school calendar, getting the balance right between strong competitive spirit and inclusivity, where all students can achieve in a different way and enjoy physical activity and friendly competition together. The form class banners this year were especially spectacular and clearly showed the students' pride in their school and in their form groups as well. The GJHA 'Jaguars' provide an extra layer of leadership for the week and act as auxiliary members of staff. This is a tremendous achievement at such a tender age, to help lead, coordinate and manage a huge staff event. A huge vote of thanks must go out to Mrs Naughton and Mr Atkinson for the work they have put into this. The only part of the day that didn't go down well were my embarrassing dad jokes.

Praise Events

This term, I really wanted parents to join in with our regular Praise celebrations, all of which were 'heatwave' themed! It was lovely to see so many of you come and do something very important but very simple – celebrate the brilliant work that so many of our students put in to every lesson at this school.



The Art and Maths work really stood out in Year 7, with languages well represented in Year 8. In Year 6, many students brought their English books along to show off their writing skills. And Year 5 brought along a fantastic spread of subjects. The students here are amazing and do miraculous things every day at school; it was wonderful to take some time out to celebrate with them!

Performance Poetry



Mrs Campbell-Payne's performance poets have been especially active this year, performing with aplomb in First Schools, in assemblies at GJHA and also at St Oswald's Hospice. They even created a showcase in the short period of Yellow Week, with parents and students enjoying their fantastic creations!

Transition

We welcomed our new Year 5 students in for two days of transition with us from our feeder schools and it was a great success. What struck me was how well the new students gelled together and made new, exciting friendships. The first morning is so challenging for the students because everything is so new and there is always a great deal of excitement but anxiety too. By the end of the two days we were in a fantastic position, with students smiling, mixing together and enjoying being part of our amazing community here at GJHA. We mustn't forget our year 8s who completed their transition days at Gosforth Academy and Great Park Academy and our new year 7s,

who really shone in their move up to key stage 3. We are so proud of the resilience and determination that all students showed us over these few days - well done everyone!

Mary Poppins

The Summer Show was a real treat as we were expertly whisked into the wonderful world of Mary Poppins. What struck me was the professionalism of the performance and the sheer number of students involved in the production. The students and staff received an impromptu standing ovation on all three nights. Alex Thorp, our CEO, attended on the second evening, she was absolutely blown away, as I was, by the standard of the singing, dancing, costumes and props and performance. A truly joyful evening was had by all! Special thanks must go to Mr Lewis and his team for supercalifragilisticexpialidocious performances.

Year 8 Leavers

I thoroughly enjoyed our year 8 leavers' assembly and once more there was a tremendous turn out from our parents! It was a really lovely and fitting way of sending a really special year group off on their next adventure! The real highlight was watching the entire school community, including all staff and parents, giving our amazing year 8s a rousing 'guard of honour' as they departed for home on the Friday. I have never seen anything quite like this in a school before - it is certainly a tradition that we want to continue!



Forest School opening

We also officially opened our Forest School this term, with a key stage 2 and a key stage 3 group planning, strategising and coordinating how to regenerate the school garden. We now have a beautiful pond, a fire pit and a willow tunnel, amongst other things. We are starting to attract more and more wildlife to GJHA and we hope the school garden and 'forest' will become a beautiful and important part of our school, led entirely by GJHA students.

Peter Rabbit



Following our previous participation in the St Oswald's Hospice campaigns - Shaun the Sheep and Elma the Elephant, we at Gosforth Junior High Academy, are delighted to let you know that we are part of the new Tales on the Tyne - Peter Rabbit campaign.

Not only have we painted a Peter Rabbit, who is named 'every Dr~hop counts', and is sited in Gosforth Central Shopping Centre, but we are also actively fundraising for St Oswald's Hospice to support their campaign and the ongoing great work they do.

We wish you all a fun summer searching for Peter Rabbit and enjoying the time with your families and friends!

Warmest regards

Mr Fryer
Head of School