

ISSUE NO.15
AUTUMN TERM 2020

Heard it

through
the...

cherryvine

GATEWAYS SCHOOL'S TERMLY REVIEW

INSIDE:

*Gateways
beyond the
Gates and
Events!*

Fundraising
round up

*Focus on
Gateways Music*

Meet our Head Girl



A message from our Head, *Dr Tracy Johnson*

MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF CHERRYVINE BACK IN MAY, NOT LEAST THE FACT THAT COVID-19 RESULTED IN THERE SADLY NOT BEING A SUMMER PUBLICATION OF THIS DIGEST.

It has certainly been a strange new reality for us all in many ways since the school closed its doors on Friday 23rd March. Gone was the usual daily school routine from all of our lives and we had to adapt quickly to create new routines for all of our pupils, parents and staff which would work in practice. This included our COVID-secure Key Worker provision within school and our remote learning provision for everyone else at home. Thanks to our online learning system, Firefly, and our quick adaptation to tools such as Teams, Webex and Zoom, we were able to provide an almost full programme of education which was extremely well received by parents and pupils alike. In fact, in a parental satisfaction survey regarding our provision across a range of areas, we received a 93% satisfaction



**Key Worker
Provision**



**Remote
Learning**



**Parental
Satisfaction**

rating which, given the challenges of the time, I was extremely pleased with.

With a vaccine now being rolled out, I am very hopeful that 2021 will see us being able to return to something more like normal life and that dearly missed events like sporting fixtures etc can be allowed to return to our calendar.

Of course, in the midst of all the madness, two key year groups faced public examinations and the debacle surrounding the results of that has been very well documented in the press already. Thankfully Gateways seemed to escape the brunt of the mayhem and we achieved some excellent results once again.



**GCSE
Value Added
Score in UK**



**GCSE
Combined
Science, PE &
Latin in UK**



**A Level -
A* & A Level
Grades**



**Places Secured
at 1st / 2nd
Choice
University**

At GCSE our Value Added score placed us as the 4th best school in the UK and in 1st place for Combined Science, PE and Latin. At A Level 79% of all grades were awarded at A* and A Level and 100% of our leavers secured places at the 1st or 2nd choice University for the second year running. To achieve all of this in the midst of a global pandemic was nothing short of amazing and I would like to pay tribute to all the teaching staff and pupils who achieved such great results.

At the time of writing, what will happen next examination season is anyone's guess but I am reassured by the fact that, should the exams take place, the pupils will not be disadvantaged given the excellent progress they made during the period of remote learning. I am further reassured that if we have to revert to a system of teacher assessment, as we did last year, then we are well versed in this procedure and it will run smoothly for the benefit of all concerned.

In the meantime, I look forward to a series of COVID-secure end of term celebrations and hope that 2021 is a great year for everyone!

Meet our Head Girl

Introducing our new Head Girl, **Jenna Borlant**, who tells us a bit about herself and her role...

I have been at Gateways since the age of 2 and I am now in the process of studying for my A Levels this academic year - Geography, Psychology and Philosophy.

Throughout my time at Gateways I have engaged in several sporting events; my greatest highlight was going to London for a national netball competition.

I have fully embraced the Gateways community which has led me to develop attributes that have enabled me to act as leader and a role model in my position of Head Girl. To be a leader you need determination and inspiration, but it also comes from working as a team. The prefect team have certainly made my role easier as they have carried out their jobs to the best of their ability such as organising Children in Need, which involved a fun day coordinated by the Community Outreach Prefects.

The Arts and Sports prefects have promoted arts and sport across the whole school, encouraging everyone to take part in extra-curricular activities. Duty prefects have been vital for the day to day smooth running of the school. School council aims to develop the profile

of the school and Whole School Liaison focuses on maintaining and improving existing relations between Prep and High School. The Deputy Head Girl, Isla Murphy, works closely by my side, providing commitment and enthusiasm to the team.

This year has been extremely different for the team, as we can't be as interactive with other year groups as we would have hoped. However, it's necessary to seize the day and utilise what we have, and I would like to encourage all students to make the most of what this fantastic school has on offer and maximise student development.



Jenna



Jenna with some of the prefects

Focus on... Music

Mr Ian Lenihan

Music is such an important and vibrant part of life at Gateways. In lessons, we make sure that pupils are learning new skills, and most importantly exploring their creativity.

We combine performing, listening and composing together in an exciting mixing pot and during this term you might have found pupils performing jazz improvisations on glockenspiels, writing about the musical ingredients of the Harry Potter theme or composing their own pop songs!

We have a very busy music department with nine visiting peripatetic music teachers offering lessons in a wide range of instruments. Pupils can have individual lessons from Lower 1 and the department is often bursting with music on clarinets, violins, drum kits and cellos coming from different rooms. You can find out lots of information about the teachers and lessons on our Firefly page and via the school website.

Our extra-curricular clubs include orchestras, choirs and chamber ensembles. Singing is such a big part of the school and virtually the entire cohort of Upper 3, Lower 4 and Upper 4 were in the Key Stage 3 choir last year. Members of our High School choir enjoyed a very successful tour to

Italy in the summer of 2018 and we are hopeful to embark on another tour very soon.

Due to Covid-19 we have had to make changes to how we deliver music in school but with careful planning, we have continued to create music albeit with smaller and more socially distanced groups. One popular and creative approach has been our introduction of a live Zoom performance to the whole school every Thursday morning during form time. Each week individual pupils bravely perform to a screen while the rest of the school listens in their form rooms. The feedback from this has been really positive and you can watch some of the performances on our YouTube channel.



For me, one of the highlights of the year is the house music competition. I have worked in a number of schools but I can honestly say that I have never witnessed singing and music-making with such joy and enthusiasm from every single pupil involved. Unfortunately we weren't able to hold the event this year but fingers crossed our house music competition will be back next year bigger and better than ever!

Beyond the Gates

AND EVENTS...

UPPER 3 ACTIVITY DAY

Mrs Sara Holmes



Each year in the Autumn term, our Upper 3 (Year 7) pupils get the opportunity to enjoy a 2 night residential trip filled with outdoor team building activities. As we weren't able to have our residential this year we brought the activities to the pupils instead and had a day of outdoor team building here at Gateways!

Upper 3 braved the blustery September weather and participated in a range of activities including: Air Rifle shooting; Archery; Orienteering and various other team building exercises.

Thanks to Captain Davies, Sergeant Major Sockett and Second Lieutenant Dixon for organising the day and Mrs Hamlyn and Ms Rayner for also braving the elements to spend time with their forms. A fun day was had by all!



New to Gateways - BUSHCRAFT

Capt C Davies

This term saw the start of a new curriculum in the Prep School at Gateways... Bushcraft! Making use of the new outdoor canopy classroom, pupils from Upper 2 and Lower 3 alternate weekly on a 6-week programme of Bushcraft.

Starting with the Countryside Code, next they moved on to learning some basic knot tying skills. They have played nature identification games such as leaf and twig bingo and are looking forward to an off-site wildlife scavenger hunt. We might even incorporate conservation and do some litter picking whilst we are out exploring!





COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)

Capt C Davies

Our CCF contingent, now in its second year, has 36 cadets. The new term saw the cadets involved in fun activities that re-engaged them in 'Cadet Experience'. As part of reigniting the training, we hosted a successful 'bring a friend' session and held a CCF Open Day for Lower 4. Unfortunately our partner school at Horsforth are not parading due to the pandemic and but they are active online and taking part in some virtual training that is led by Lt Allison.

We are hoping to be able to host daytime events and activities when restrictions allow. Don't forget to follow our CCF page on Facebook for updates and check out the CCF area on our website for information on activities as soon as they are up and running again - www.gatewaysschool.co.uk/extra-curricular/ccf.

YOUNG EXPLORER TEAM INITIATIVE (YETI)

Capt C Davies

A team of young explorers have gathered under a new initiative here at Gateways; YETI was formed to foster learning new skills and respect for the great outdoors. 46 pupils, aged 10 to 12 signed up to this new programme and will be taking on the John Muir Award (www.johnmuirtrust.org/john-muir-award) as part of the afterschool club. The John Muir Award has been adopted by the club, as it has our whole ethos, written through its core!

The pupils have been learning about teamwork, resilience, self-confidence and have developed a sense of adventure in a fun, safe and controlled environment. It goes without saying that having a respect for nature will teach the pupils to use natural resources, whilst keeping a conservative attitude to protecting the environment, flora and fauna around them.

D OF E

Sergeant T Sckett

D of E Expeditions have been somewhat curtailed this year, but plans are in place to go ahead in 2021 for both the new and existing participants. Time will tell if these can go ahead as normal, but D of E are certainly planning for that happening!

This term, the L5 Bronze completed their 'Covid Safe' practice expedition within the school grounds and the local walks took them around Harewood to complete their Navigation section. All girls seemed to really enjoy this, unfortunately they were not allowed to camp, and had to return home for the evening, but they all successfully completed their practice, and will be assessed in April.

Credit goes to the groups who had not done any work on D of E since lockdown, but they rose to the challenge well. A special mention to former pupil Hannah Titman who completed her Bronze, Silver and Gold with Gateways, then moved on to become an accredited D of E Supervisor and Assessor. Following on from that she is now a qualified Basic Expedition Leader and therefore set the routes for the Bronze groups to complete around Harewood.



Fundraising Round Up

Our fundraising activity this term was organised by Dr Newton and our Community Outreach Prefects and we managed to raise a fantastic £1,263 which is split between Children in Need and our school charity, Plastic Oceans. This was an amazing achievement under such restricted and difficult circumstances - a big thank you to everyone who donated or helped organise the activities which included a 'Harry Potter' inspired fancy dress day, a donut sale and a duck race.

£1,263
Raised



Some of the creative Children in Need fancy dress competition entries

PLASTIC OCEANS

Children in Need



Our Senior Leadership Team also completed their yearly fundraising challenge this term and spent a long day in the PAC together battling it out to see who could complete their 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle first and become the 'Gateways Greatest Puzzler'! Donations were made online and bidders picked their winner from the Senior Leadership Team. Congratulations to the Head of Prep, Mrs Wallis, who had completed the most pieces by the end of the day.

The team managed to raise a whopping £1,140, split between Children in Need and the Royal British Legion. We can't wait to see the completed puzzles, which are photos of our pupils, take pride of place around the school as framed pictures.



NURSERY WORLD AWARD FINALIST

We have made it to the finals of the Nursery World Awards once again! We are a finalist in the 'Best Early Years in School' category. In addition to this one of our Reception teachers, Miss Beth Hayter, has been shortlisted for Newcomer of the Year. The 'virtual' ceremony takes place in February so watch this space!

UPDATE FROM THE PFA

Kathryn Dyer, Chair of the PFA

Unfortunately since the pandemic began, we have not been able to do any PFA fundraising events, however we remain hopeful that the PFA will be back in action very soon!

During the summer, the new outdoor education facility was built, this project was entirely funded by the PFA using all the very generous donations from previous events during the 18 months prior to lockdown.

The school is already making good use of the facility across all age groups and the timing of its provision could not have been better to assist with social distancing and the need for fresh air.

The PFA's funds are significantly diminished and we hope that 2021 will be a successful year in replenishing these funds to assist with our next project. We are currently considering options and are keen to enhance the sporting facilities already offered by the school, hopefully modernising some of the outdoor courts to make them more useable for a wider range of sports.



**PARENTS & FRIENDS
ASSOCIATION**



The new outdoor education facility

Watch his space for future events and please follow us on social media



@GatewaysPFA



@gwaysPFA



New Art studio

Our new Art Studio was completed during the summer months and is now being used by form group Lower 3S and the rest of Prep for art lessons. We managed to make the most of the mild September weather and utilise the lovely outdoor area for both art and Mr Scholfield's PSHE lessons.

Christmas Celebrations

We managed to have a variety of Christmas celebrations this year, despite the restrictions.

EARLY YEARS AND PREP

Mrs Carol Batle and Miss Lucy Gould

Dressed in Christmas jumpers and sporting big smiles, our Early Years classes performed songs, jingles and rhymes. Christmas parties were held in our 'bubbles', yummy food, games, music and dance dominated the event. The new inflatable cinema offered relaxation after such a busy time and the cheeky elf made an appearance every day to keep an eye on everyone!

Pre-Reception recorded a short Christmas concert and had a mini party and a festive picnic lunch in Littleligates.

Key Stage 1 got creative and swapped a live audience for a video camera and filmed the Nativity in different locations around the school site. There was even a guest appearance by Mrs Wallis's dog as a donkey!



Pupils from Upper 1 to Lower 3 gave readings and performed Christmas carols in the Dower House which were recorded for parents to view.

HIGH SCHOOL AND 6TH FORM

Mr Ian Lenihan

Our carol service was a virtual affair this year. Counterpoint (the senior High School chamber choir) have been meeting after school each Wednesday and rehearsing in a socially distanced environment. Their performance of 'That's Christmas to Me' was wonderful considering the difficult circumstances. We also had some other musical items albeit in much smaller groupings such as a Lower 5 instrumental ensemble, a vocal solo and a duet with special percussive accompaniment.





REMINDER

Gateways parents should refer to the calendar on Firefly for event dates and times. All sports fixtures will be added on Firefly as and when these can restart.

Sport Update

Mrs Laura Braithwaite

IN PE FOR THE AUTUMN TERM WE HAVE FOCUSED ON HEALTH AND FITNESS AND HAVE CARRIED OUT WEEKLY CIRCUIT TRAINING SESSIONS.

The pupils have been able to select the activities on each station and can recognise why an order is necessary in preventing muscular fatigue. These sessions have included music to help motivation and it has been good to see that skills such as the plank and press ups are improving with practice.

In High School, the girls have been playing netball games and all of them have been encouraged to play different positions each week; this has then helped them know the role of each position when playing house netball matches.

The boys have been playing a mixture of basketball, rugby and football. Their competitive personalities are developing in both sports but their enthusiasm for basketball is superb and they can often be seen playing the game at break time and lunchtime.

It is not yet known when fixtures will start again but hopefully the fitness and games play this term have maintained our skills and fitness levels.

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Dates for your Diary

6TH JANUARY

Start of Term

14TH JANUARY

U4 Parent's Evening (virtual) -
from 4.30pm

23RD JANUARY

Yr 7 Entrance and Scholarship
Assessment Day

11TH FEBRUARY

U5 A Level subject information
evening

12TH FEBRUARY

Beginning of half term 4pm

22ND FEBRUARY

Term restarts

25TH FEBRUARY

L5 Parent's Evening (virtual) -
from 4.30pm

25TH FEBRUARY

U4 Options information evening -
from 4.30pm

4TH MARCH

World Book Day

9TH MARCH

L4 Parent's Evening (virtual) -
from 4.30pm

18TH MARCH

Upper 3 Parents Evening (virtual) -
from 4.30pm

19TH MARCH

Comic Relief

WEEK COMMENCING 22ND MARCH

Prep Parent's evenings (virtual)

31ST MARCH

End of Spring term

19TH APRIL

Summer term begins