

ISSUE NO.19
SUMMER TERM 2022

Heard it

through
the...

cherryvine

GATEWAYS SCHOOL'S TERMLY REVIEW

INSIDE:

*Gateways
beyond the
Gates and
Events!*

*Focus on
Extra-
curricular*

Meet Gateways
Alumni -
Camilla Barker



A message from our Head, *Dr Tracy Johnson*

AS ANOTHER SUMMER EDITION OF THE CHERRYVINE IS PUBLISHED, WE LOOK BACK ON A YEAR DURING WHICH WE HAVE BEEN TOLD TO 'BEGIN LIVING WITH COVID' AND 'GET BACK TO NORMAL'.

Yet the response to a COVID infection still seems to be far from normal with self-isolation now not 'mandatory' but being 'highly recommended'. While the removal of COVID testing by schools has been broadly welcomed, there is no doubt that the pandemic still has the capacity to affect daily school life with pupil and staff absences. Hopefully the summer break will bring some respite and life can truly return to normal next academic year.

In recent months, Gateways has once again begun doing all the things that an

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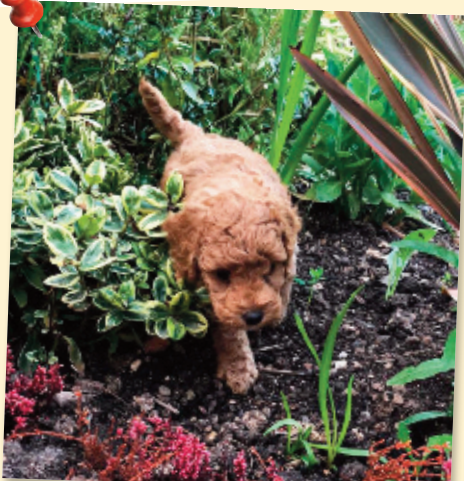


independent education brings its pupils – a plethora of sports fixtures against other schools, plays, performances, clubs, trips, residential to name just a few. It has been magnificent to have all our normal school events back too,

culminating in our first full Prize Giving since 2019! Public examinations have also returned, albeit with adjustments made to the syllabus content in most subjects, and we are looking forward to celebrating the results with our GCSE and A Level pupils in August.

One of my major focusses this year, along with Mr Davison, has been the successful transformation of The Old Vicarage into our new Sixth Form provision in time for September. The pandemic effect has been felt here too with a drastic shortage of skilled tradespeople and with the cost of building materials continually rising. Nevertheless, with the skilled negotiating tactics of our Operations Manager, Mr Robinson, we are on schedule and are excited to share our new building with everyone soon!

In the meantime, I hope everyone has a great summer and I look forward to the start of another exciting year in the life of Gateways in September when we will welcome a new canine member of our community along with our pupils, parents and staff, new and old!



The Gateways school dog 'Cherry'

Meet... alumni - Camilla Barker

Former pupil Camilla started at Gateways in 2001 and completed A Levels in Biology, English Literature and Geography as well as an A/S Level in German.

Camilla left Gateways in 2015 and attended Durham University to study Anthropology and Primatology before travelling throughout Africa working in conservation and raising various species of animal. Alongside this, she also trained as a crisis counsellor and Samaritan.

For the past four years Camilla has been studying Veterinary Medicine at the University of Zagreb, in Croatia. She chose this path initially as a way of working hands-on in conservation, however, along the way she discovered her passion and talent for medicine and surgery. Her areas of interest currently lie in emergency & critical care and shelter medicine.

Camilla recently qualified as a Marine Mammal Medic with the British Divers Marine Life Institute and is travelling to Thailand this summer having been awarded a scholarship from the Federation of Veterinarians in Europe to undertake an intensive surgical training course, run by the Worldwide Vet Service.

"I adore living in the Balkans and have even learned to speak Croatian. I have met people from all over the world and I would absolutely recommend studying or living abroad. Earlier this year, I became a surgical volunteer in our faculty clinics, and have travelled to the Ukraine border with an American veterinarian to set up vet clinics and treat refugee pets."



What did you enjoy most about going to Gateways?

I attended Gateways School my entire learning life, so I do consider myself to be somewhat of an expert on the subject. Thanks to the support I received from being a very small child to an adult, I was able to develop a solid work ethic that led me to believe anything is achievable, if I put my mind to it. I think every student leaving Gateways carries this sense of self-belief and strong roots, that allows them to succeed in whichever path they choose.

What were your favourite subjects and why?

English was always my favourite subject. I have nothing but fond memories of spending hours reading books in class (complete with dramatic voices), unearthing hidden meanings of poems and stories, and of course writing our own, usually to great hilarity.

I also loved geography, especially at A Level; I liked thinking creatively and writing essays using statistics. It also inspired me to travel.

Did you take part in any extra-curricular activities?

I sung in the choir from the age of 7 right up to 18! My favourite memories are the Christmas concerts. I participated in LAMDA and I was a member of the Literary Society (in which we discussed good books we had been reading). In Sixth Form, I was head of the school council, which I really enjoyed, as I liked making friends with pupils in different years.

How would you sum up Gateways in 3 words?

Innovative, supportive, familial.

.....
"Without Gateways, I wouldn't have had the courage to do half the things I've done in my life. Gateways teaches you to be independent, to have faith in your own abilities, and to work through any obstacles that may appear in your path. I will be forever grateful to this school."
.....



Beyond the Gates

AND EVENTS...

TRIPS AND VISITS

We have had so many trips this term, unfortunately far too many to feature here in detail! In summary...

Our youngest pupils travelled to Born of the Forest and Reception children also had a lovely time outdoors at Hesketh Farm Park. Lower 1 explored Skipton Castle and also visited Thornton Hall Country Park with Transition.



Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Capt Col Davies

Over the Easter holidays 15 cadets and 4 staff from Gateways School CCF (which also hosts Horsforth School), departed for the Isle of Wight on exercise 'Spring Splash'. The event took place at the UK Sailing Academy, where the participants gained national governing body qualifications from the Royal Yacht Association.

11 of the cadets gained their RYA Youth Stage 1 in Windsurfing. Two of the junior cadets achieved RYA Youth Stage 2 and the two senior cadets achieved RYA Adult Level 1 in Dinghy Sailing. Three of the adult staff also gained the RYA Powerboat Level 2 qualification, in preparation for them becoming Dinghy Sailing Instructors in the future.

Our weekly training sessions culminated with the annual summer camp during the last week of term at Wathgill Training Camp in Catterick.

DofE

Capt Col Davies

Lower 5 successfully completed their assessed silver expedition this term, which took place in Wensleydale. They spent 3 days walking and 2 nights camping which was no easy feat with the long distance and undulating ground. All of the participants had to be completely self-sufficient for the whole duration including preparing their meals on their Trangia stoves. Each team had carefully planned their route cards and had worked out how far and how long it would take to complete each leg, where they were met by their assessor. Towards the end of the term the DofE gold expedition took place in the Yorkshire Dales. Participants spent 3 nights and 4 days in a challenging environment and all successfully achieved the award.

Well done all and thanks to Mr J Dixon, Mr J Crosby and Miss B Hayter for supporting the teams.



It was the welcome return of the residential this term as Upper 1, Lower 2 and Upper 2 got active (and wet!) at Peat Rigg and Lower 3 marvelled at the sounds and sights of London as well as fitting in a selection of West End musicals!

In High School, Upper 3 had plenty of team building fun at 'Live for Today' in Ripley Castle, and Lower 5 had an overnight stay and plenty of thrill-seeking moments at Alton Towers.



Events

PRODUCTIONS

We were treated to several productions this term.

Upper 1 and Lower 2 performed 'Go for Gold' to a packed Performing Arts Centre earlier in the term, followed by Upper 2 and Lower 3's rendition of 'Hoodwinked' a modern take on the story of Robin Hood.

The pupils really got into their roles and we were treated to some fantastic stage props and costumes.



In the run up to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Pre-Reception and Reception gave us a heart-warming and patriotic Jubilee Concert.

It was lovely to be able to invite parents to Sports Day this year to cheer on their children. Pupils from Early Years right through to Sixth Form took part competing for their house. The winners of this years Sport Day were Beningbrough.



Gateways sporting stars were also recognised at the annual Sports Dinner which took place on the evening of June 27th.



PARENTS & FRIENDS
ASSOCIATION

UPDATE FROM THE PFA

Kathryn Dyer, Chair of the PFA


The PFA Summer Ball fundraising event took place in July. The most glamorous event on the PFA calendar offered some fantastic auction prizes. The event and associated activities managed to raise a staggering £21,833 meaning the target of £20,000 to contribute towards upgrading the outdoor sports courts has been exceeded. Huge thanks to all the event sponsors, those who kindly donated auction and raffle prizes and to everyone who helped support the event.

Raised
£21,833



Our next fundraising event will be the ever-popular Christmas Fair.

Please follow us on social media to keep up with PFA news and events -

 @gwaysPFA

 @GatewaysPFA

Focus on... Extra-curricular

Extra-curricular activities are a fantastic way for children to explore new hobbies and interests, develop skills in a particular area, make new friends, learn social skills and most of all have fun!

Our clubs start in Pre-Reception where children as young as 3 can try Rugbybots, creative dance classes and Spanish classes. In addition to this when children start Reception they can also develop their skills in tennis and speech and drama classes. If a gentler approach is preferred, Hama beads club provides space and time for mindfulness and creativity.



As children move through school, skipping club, nature club, games club, drawing club and cheerleading are offered to name just a few. Often the thoughts and ideas expressed by pupils at school council meetings are considered when deciding which clubs to offer. There is something for everyone!

"I've been spoilt for choice when it comes to sport. During the year I get to play in inter-school fixtures in 5 different sports! It's great!"

Alfie, year 9



We have numerous sports clubs ranging from ultimate frisbee and karate through to football, rugby and cricket. Dance, tennis and karate are offered all year-round by external specialists whilst the team sports rotate in their offering on a termly basis.

In Prep and High School, girls have hockey, football and netball in the autumn and spring followed by cricket and rounders in the summer term. Ultimate frisbee runs all year and our team have had success nationally, coming 3rd in the Junior Women's National Tournament.

For the boys the offering opens with rugby in the autumn followed by football and hockey in the spring culminating in cricket for the summer. Basketball has been introduced in the last two years and runs all year round and has proved to be hugely popular with all ages.



If music is more to your liking, as well as private instrument tuition covering a wide range of instruments, we offer a High School and Prep orchestra where instrumentalists get the opportunity to play with other musicians in an ensemble setting. Recent music we have rehearsed includes a medley from 'Aladdin' and the 'Star Wars' theme.

We have four choirs in the school, a Key Stage 3 choir who are introduced to harmony singing, this choir is currently focussing on learning the repertoire from 'Moana' for our exciting production in November! We also have 'Counterpoint', our chamber choir for singers in Lower 5 and above where pupils have the opportunity to perform in three or four parts and sing in concerts in school, at Harewood House and even in international tours such as Paris and Tuscany.

In Prep, there is a vocal ensemble for pupils in Upper 2 and Lower 3 and a Prep choir consisting of all pupils from Lower 3, Upper 2, Lower 2 and Upper 1. Alongside this, we have a string quartet who rehearse each week and perform in concerts and other events at school.



Our staff members also run a varied timetable of lunchtime clubs for specific year groups which include chess, skipping, art, weighted hula hooping and running club as well as subject clubs for those wanting to practise or develop their knowledge in a subject area.

For those who love an adventure and the great outdoors we have our Combined Cadet Force and the popular D of E award scheme. Prep pupils can also get a taste for the outdoors and exploring nature in our Young Explorer Team Initiative (YETI) club which is for pupils in Lower 3 and Upper 3.

Read more about the recent CCF and D of E activity in our trips and visits section.






Prize Giving


IT WAS A WELCOME RETURN FOR OUR ANNUAL PRIZE GIVING EVENT ON 1ST JULY WITH OLYMPIAN MR KRISS AKABUSI, MBE AS THE GUEST SPEAKER.


It is fair to say that Mr Akabusi is a larger-than-life figure who really connected with pupils of all ages with his infectious laugh, huge smile and entertaining stories. He spent time speaking to pupils in the PAC and answering their questions before presenting this year's prizes and delivering his speech. Mr Akabusi's message that you are in charge of your own destiny and the importance of teachers in your life struck a chord with many in the audience, young and old.



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REMINDER

Please note these dates are subject to change. Gateways parents should refer to the calendar on Firefly for event dates and times. All sports fixtures will also be added onto the Firefly calendar.

Dates for your Diary

8TH SEPTEMBER

Meet the teacher
 (Pre-Reception to Lower 6)

13TH SEPTEMBER

Individual and sibling photographs

14TH - 15TH SEPTEMBER

Upper 3 residential to Willersley Castle

6TH OCTOBER

Careers Fair - Lower 5, Upper 5, Lower 6 & Upper 6

7TH OCTOBER

Open Day

12TH - 21ST OCTOBER

Sports tour to Barbados

14TH OCTOBER

House Music competition

17TH - 20TH OCTOBER

Counterpoint choir tour to Paris and Disneyland Paris

w/c 7TH NOVEMBER

Prep parents' evenings (remote)

16TH NOVEMBER

High School production - Moana

17TH NOVEMBER

High School production - Moana

22ND - 24TH NOVEMBER

Lower 3 residential to Liverpool

30TH NOVEMBER

Ski trip meeting

1ST DECEMBER

Prep Pantomime trip (Transition to Lower 3)

7TH DECEMBER

EYFS Christmas concert

9TH DECEMBER

Christmas jumper day

9TH DECEMBER

KS1 Production

9TH - 11TH DECEMBER

CCF Exercise First Knights

12TH DECEMBER

Prep parties

12TH DECEMBER

High School Christmas lunch

13TH DECEMBER

High School Christmas outings

13TH DECEMBER

Prep Christmas lunch

15TH DECEMBER

Prep carol service

16TH DECEMBER

High School carol service

16TH DECEMBER

Last day of term

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