

ISSUE NO.20
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Heard it

through
the...

cherryvine

GATEWAYS SCHOOL'S TERMLY REVIEW

INSIDE:

*Gateways
beyond the
Gates and
Events!*

*Focus on
the new
Sixth Form
Centre*

Meet Gateways
Alumni -
Sofie Woon



Facilities update...

The school summer holiday is often the busiest time for our facilities team who carry out maintenance and improvements to our school building and grounds.

Some of the key changes made during the summer and over the past few months have included: the installation of a new visual intercom system, a new rope fence around the car park and in front of the main school grassed area, new pathways to hard standing areas, a new fenced bin storage area near the kitchen and a new temporary 'ecodeck' car park on the field to ease the pressure on car parking during drop off and pick up times.



Path to tennis courts



New fencing - bin area



New fencing - Sixth Form Centre



NEW SIXTH FORM CENTRE

The 'Old Vicarage' building, next door to Gateways School, was also totally refurbished to become our new Sixth Form Centre which was no small feat... [read more about the new centre in our Focus On...](#) section.

NEW ROLES

In addition to all the facilities work, we have created some key new roles within the school. As pupil numbers have increased, in line with our planned controlled growth, we have recruited two Curriculum and Assessment Leads. These roles, one within High School and one within Prep School, will be data focused, primarily concerned with academic standards, ensuring we are using, analysing and reporting on data effectively throughout a pupil's journey from EYFS, through Prep and into High School. This work will enable us to tailor the curriculum to meet the individual needs of our pupils.



Miss Kirsty Bond
Prep School
Curriculum &
Assessment Lead



Mrs Gemma Carver
High School
Curriculum &
Assessment Lead

Meet... alumni

Sofie Woon

Former pupil Sofie attended Gateways from 2002 - 2016 and completed A Levels in Maths, Physics, Art and Further Maths.

Tennis ace Sofie took a gap year after finishing her A Levels, to play full time tennis travelling in the UK and Europe. She was awarded a tennis scholarship at the University of Exeter to study a 4 year degree course, an MEng in Electronic Engineering. Whilst at the university, Sofie captained the women's first team for 3 years and represented 'GB Universities'. She graduated with a 1st and was awarded the IET (The Institution of Engineering and Technology) prize for outstanding academic achievement for her final grade.

Sofie is currently working as a graduate electronics engineer in the R&D department for a company that designs and manufactures lower limb prosthetics. As well as enjoying this challenging role, she ensures she finds time to continue playing plenty of tennis!



What did you enjoy most about going to Gateways?

I loved my time at Gateways – I think the small size meant that the whole school was a really close-knit community. We were also given every opportunity to experience a wide variety of activities. For example, everyone could take part in all the various house events, which were always really fun - my favourites were house music and sports day!

What were your favourite subjects and why?

My favourite subjects were maths and art. I found that I grasped maths relatively naturally and really enjoyed problem solving. I loved art because it allowed me to use my imagination and I enjoyed experimenting with different techniques, whether that be with painting or sculpture. I think these subjects led me to want to pursue a career in engineering as I felt like it combined maths/science with a bit of creativity.

Did you take part in any extra-curricular activities?

As well as being part of the school choir and band, I was involved in various sports clubs, including athletics, netball, rounders and ultimate frisbee! I really enjoyed being part of the teams and representing the school. Playing netball for Gateways was definitely a highlight and I was fortunate enough to go on two netball tours whilst at Gateways, to Barbados and South Africa.

.....
"Participate in as much as possible! It's such a great time to find a hobby or passion that you can carry on after school."
.....

Do you have any tips for pupils thinking of joining Gateways?

Participate in as much as possible! It's such a great time to find a hobby or passion that you can carry on after school. Although I didn't play tennis at school, I found when I went to Uni joining a sports club instantly gave me a group of friends and since I've started work I've joined a netball club, which was a great way for me to meet people in a new area.

How would you sum up Gateways in 3 words?

Supportive, friendly and fun!

Supportive, friendly and fun!

Focus on... the new Sixth Form Centre

"It's great - there's a good balance of working and socialising areas. The working spaces are quiet and relaxing which helps me focus."
Pupil

Our fabulous new Sixth Form Centre opened in September 2022. The building is situated adjacent to Gateways School and can be accessed from the grounds of Gateways via a short path.

Pupils can now experience independence with their own building, yet still benefit from all the great facilities of Gateways close by!



The new centre is based in "The Old Vicarage" which was formerly a residential property. Once the 'change of use' status had been granted, which allowed the building to be used as an educational facility, a total refurbishment of the building and grounds took place during 2022. The original features of the building have been maintained, however extensive renovation was necessary to transform the building into the modern, high specification facility that it is today.

"It's like a new way of learning and I like the independence. It's good preparation for Uni."
Pupil



Lots of planning and thought went into the design of the building to ensure that it offered different zones for different ways of working, from informal spaces with comfy sofas and reading lights, through to traditional study booths.

All areas are furnished with high specification furniture and features with additional fun touches such as quirky artwork and sweet dispensers for the times when students are in need of a sweet treat!

There is a well-equipped café space with break and lunch service as well as barista coffee provision; upstairs there is a classroom, an additional collaborative working area and a room with individual study booths. Sixth Formers can access the main school sports facilities, but they also have their own airconditioned gym which is kitted out with cardio equipment such as Peloton bikes, a treadmill, rowing machine, strength machines, suspension trainer, free light weights and a punch bag for those stressful days! There are three luxury bathrooms with showers and a garden/terrace area which we are sure will be well used in the spring/summer months.



It's not just about the building and facilities though, it's about the whole Gateways Sixth Form experience...

Gateways is known for its small class sizes and 'family-feel' and this definitely extends to our Sixth Form where the average A Level class size is 5 pupils. Pupils benefit from individual support from our excellent teaching staff who really get to know them as individuals.

Sixth Formers play an integral part in the wider Gateways community, taking the lead on events such as house music, sports day and fundraising events. They recently worked in small teams for a creative house challenge on their Halloween sleepover in the new centre to create three amazing (yet slightly horrifying) escape rooms.



Enrichment opportunities include study skills sessions, careers talks and guidance as well as more practical elements such as personal finance and cooking; university and careers modules are embedded within this. Students also have the opportunity to be involved in trips and visits overseas, several of our Sixth Formers have just returned from the recent music tour to Paris which took place in October half term.



“Our Sixth Form Centre is designed to be a welcoming and homely space which allows students to focus on their studies whilst giving them those all-important social spaces and relaxation areas. We're delighted with the result and have had very positive feedback from students, staff and parents”
Dr Tracy Johnson - Head

Alongside their A Levels, students can participate in additional qualifications such as the Level 3 Advanced Certificate of Speech, Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and the Level 3 Sports Leaders Award.

Phase 2 of the refurbishment project will take place next summer and will see 2 additional rooms brought into use within the building in order to accommodate the growing Sixth Form at Gateways.

To find out more about our Sixth Form, visit gateways.co.uk/sixth-form



Beyond the Gates AND EVENTS...

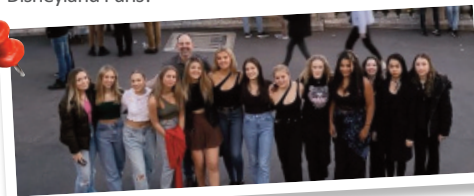
TRIPS AND VISITS

Our pupils have travelled far and wide this term as we re-introduced our overseas trips. Below is a summary of some of the trips which took place during the Autumn term.

Barbados was the destination for our High School sports tour; 26 pupils from Upper 4 to Upper 5 and 4 members of staff took the long flight from Heathrow during October. They played a variety of sports against local teams (cricket, basketball, netball and hockey) as well as experiencing sight-seeing excursions ranging from a catamaran cruise to a jeep safari.



13 of our talented singers and musicians also travelled overseas during October half term on our **High School music tour to Paris**. As well as enjoying Paris by night from the Montparnasse tower, taking a cruise on the Seine and enjoying the rides at Disneyland Paris, they performed at several concerts including a slot at Disneyland Paris!



Lower 4's residential was in Liverpool where they had a busy 3 day itinerary which included Anfield Stadium, the Beatles Museum and Chester Zoo.

Prep and Early Years pupils got into the Christmas spirit; Pre-Reception enjoyed a trip to Born of the Forest in December, pupils from Transition to Lower 3 travelled to Leeds for their annual panto outing to watch Dick Whittington and Reception enjoyed the performance of Stick Man at the West Yorkshire Playhouse.



Upper 3 enjoyed a 2 night residential to Willersley Castle on the edge of the Derbyshire Dales. They took part in different outdoor activities including canoeing and kayaking, aeroball, via ferrata, climbing, initiative exercises and axe throwing!



Combined Cadet Force (CCF) *Capt Col Davies*

28 cadets and 4 staff from the CCF took part their first residential camp with the Army Cadet Training Team at the start of the summer. The cadets from both Horsforth and Gateways School, spent five days away at the Cadet Training Centre in Driffield and took part in army and adventure training activities.

They spent 2 nights under a 'Basha' (a 2-person military shelter) and had 48 hours' worth of army ration packs. Whilst on exercise they were taught how to handle a cadet rifle safely. Other activities included: high ropes; the 'Krypton Factor' obstacle course; 'field gun' and marksmanship on the air-rifle range and science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) challenges.

Six cadets, supported by the rest of the contingent took part in an inter-CCF competition, which involved a stand for drill, STEM, air-rifle and field gun. Narrowly missing out on 1st place by just 1 point, the team won the silver medal.

At the end of the camp, Cadet Corporals' Brogan and Johnson were promoted to the rank of Acting Cadet Sergeant. This term, Cadet Sergeant Brogan, Cadet Corporals' Hickman and Mudasar attended and passed the Senior Cadet Instructor Cadre (SCIC) with flying colours and Corporals' Hickman and Mudasar are now Cadet Sergeants. Cadet Sergeant Brogan is now a Staff Sergeant.

Events

PRODUCTIONS

Moana the Musical was our High School Production this year which involved a cast and crew of over 30 pupils in Lower 4, Upper 4 and Lower 5. They took to the stage in November for two sell out evening performances. Niamh Ray shone as Moana and Sebastian Sackville-Bryant optimised the flawed Demi god Maui.



Our Early Years Christmas Concert, 'Rocking Around the Christmas Tree', was a huge success. The children got into the true Christmas spirit with a medley of songs, rhymes and dances and performed in front of parents and friends. Wearing jolly Christmas jumpers, the Reception and Pre-Reception children sang their hearts out!



Pupils in Transition and Lower 1 performed their nativity, 'Prickly Hay'. After lots and lots of practising, the children were very excited to perform in front of the Prep School and their parents.



PARENTS & FRIENDS
ASSOCIATION

UPDATE FROM THE PFA

Kathryn Dyer, Chair of the PFA


The PFA Festive Fayre took place in November and raised £3,285. The event was well attended and featured plenty of festive games, gift stalls, the raffle and of course Santa's grotto.

Thanks to everyone who helped organise and support the event.

Raised
£3,285



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

 @gwaysPFA

 @GatewaysPFA



Fundraising

OUR MAIN FUNDRAISING EVENT THIS TERM WAS CHILDREN IN NEED. WE SAW FABULOUS COSTUMES FOR OUR 'MOVIES' THEME WHICH WERE ON SHOW IN THE WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY. PUPILS ALSO TOOK PART IN 'BEAR PONG' AT LUNCHTIME AND A BAKE SALE TOOK PLACE AT BREAKTIME. THE TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED WAS £1,785.

The Senior Leadership Team's fundraising challenge this year was a kitchen takeover! Breakfast and lunch needed prepping, cooking and serving on time (and still be edible!). The team did a fabulous job...assisted of course by Chef Wayne and the catering team and even received some positive feedback from the pupils! The total raised for the SLT challenge was £6,654.

Thanks to everyone who donated for Children in Need and supported our activities.

Raised
£1,785
Children in Need



Raised
£6,654

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Dates for your Diary

21ST JANUARY

Year 7 Entrance & Scholarship Assessment day

26TH JANUARY

GCSE Information Evening (Upper 4)

w/c 30TH JANUARY

GCSE and A Level Mock Examinations (Upper 5 & Upper 6)

31ST JANUARY

Upper 3 Parents' Evening - online

2ND FEBRUARY

Upper 3 Parents' Evening - on site

3RD FEBRUARY

Mindful minis (Reception to Upper 1)

9TH FEBRUARY

Prep skipping day (Reception to Lower 3)

11TH - 18TH FEBRUARY

Ski trip to Folgarida Italy

23RD FEBRUARY

Upper 5 Parents' Evening - on site

2ND MARCH

World Book Day

6TH MARCH

National Careers Week

7TH MARCH

Lower 4 Parents' Evening – online

9TH MARCH

Lower 4 Parents' Evening - on site

16TH MARCH

Non-uniform day

16TH MARCH

PFA Spring Fair

17TH - 19TH MARCH

Art residential to Wales (Lower 5 / Upper 5)

21ST MARCH

Lower 5 Parents' Evening - online

22ND MARCH

Spring into action (Gatehouse, Pre-Reception & Reception)

23RD MARCH

Lower 5 Parents' Evening - on site

23RD MARCH

School House Photography outdoor photos (Reception & Lower 3 pupils)

25TH - 26TH MARCH

DofE Bronze practice (Upper 4 Pupils)

28TH / 29TH MARCH

Lower Key Stage 2 Production (Upper 1 & Lower 2)