

## Gateways remembers former pupil, Fawziyah Javed, with memorial tree



As teachers, we always love to hear how our former pupils flourish after leaving Gateways. Fawziyah Javed is one pupil that I know will always stick out in my mind, even long after I've retired from the profession. Partly because she was in my first ever Lower 6 psychology class when I started at Gateways 17 years ago, but mainly because of her vibrant personality and the fact that no matter how busy she was, she would email me each and every year after she left the school simply to catch up.

Through our many exchanges over the course of fifteen years, I learned of Fawziyah's successes in life, of which there were many. From graduating with a law degree from the University of Sheffield and embarking on her career as a solicitor, to her charity work, which was always so important to her, Fawziyah was always someone with a positive attitude and a desire to help others.

So, to hear of Fawziyah's tragic death in September 2021 hit me hard to say the least. Reaching out to Fawziyah's family, it very quickly became obvious that Gateways would be a perfect location for a memorial for Fawziyah. And just before Christmas, we were able to make this a realisation with the planting of an "Eternal Flame" tree, donated by Fawziyah's family, in the grounds of the Old Vic. For me, this is a perfect way for the school to remember Fawziyah for it was at Gateways where we watched her grow into the young woman she became, ready to branch out into the world, yet always staying true to her roots and the community that nurtured her along the way.

Our thoughts go to Fawziyah's family, but we hope that it will offer them some comfort to know that the Gateways community will endeavour to live by the sentiment on the plaque accompanying the tree: "Every good deed is charity. Even your smile for others is charity".

Mrs Elizabeth Hayward