

ISSUE NO.22
SUMMER TERM 2023

Heard it

through
the...

cherryvine

GATEWAYS SCHOOL'S TERMLY REVIEW

INSIDE:

*Gateways
beyond the
Gates and
Events!*

*Focus on
Wellbeing*

Meet Gateways
Alumni -
Laura Pitharas



A message from our Head, Dr Tracy Johnson



WITH THE SUMMER TERM NOW BEHIND US AND THE SCHOOL EERILY QUIET, WE REFLECT ON ANOTHER BUSY YEAR AT GATEWAYS.

In September 2022 we opened our new flagship Sixth Form Centre to rave reviews from parents, pupils and staff alike. The transformation of The Old Vicarage from a fairly run-down domestic dwelling to a sumptuous haven of a comfortable study base for our Sixth Formers was completed, or at least Phase 1 was completed. Phase 2 takes place this summer and will see an additional 2 rooms brought into use for next year's cohort. A complete renovation of The Old Music House, now to be known as The Lodge, will also take place this summer and will add to our high quality, small group teaching spaces within school.

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I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support of Gateways this year.
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But it is not just at the top end of the school where new provision is being planned and brought into use. For the younger end of the school, we are at an advanced stage with regard to our planning application for a new Prep classroom block. If granted, this will see all of Prep housed in the same geographical area of the school, creating space in the Senior School which will be repurposed in due course.

So, as we look ahead to a long summer break stretching out in front of us, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support of Gateways this year. And to our Upper 6 leavers I would offer them this traditional Celtic blessing;
*"May the road rise up to meet you.
 May the wind be always at your back.
 May the sun shine warm upon your face,
 The rains fall soft upon your fields,
 And, until we meet again,
 May God hold you in the palm of His hand."*



The Gateways school dog 'Cherry'



Sixth Form Centre

Meet... alumni - Laura Pitharas

Former pupil Laura Pitharas attended Gateways from 1998 to 2009 and studied A Level Art, Religious Studies and English Literature.

Laura went on to complete an art foundation year at York College before heading to London College of Fashion to study Fashion Design and Technology, specialising in Menswear Tailoring. During her degree, she interned at various British luxury design houses including Giles Deacon and Lou Dalton.

After graduating, with a first class honours degree, Laura moved to Paris to work as a design assistant to Tillmann Lauterbach. After a year, she joined the new womenswear design team at Belstaff before deciding to launch her own company and the Laura Pitharas label in October 2021.

We were delighted to welcome Laura back to Gateways recently, as our guest speaker at Prize Giving on the 30th June.

What did you enjoy most about going to Gateways?

Studying, seeing friends and working towards my future goals of working in the fashion industry. I enjoyed playing team sports for the school.

Gateways provided a safe space for me to truly explore who I was and helped build my confidence and self-belief.

What were your favourite subjects and why?

I loved studying art and using it as a means to express myself. I also loved to read and thoroughly enjoyed my English lessons with Mr Davidson - I found him to be fun and inspiring.

Did you take part in any extra-curricular activities?

I did netball for years as part of the school team as well as playing for Leeds. I also played basketball, football, hockey and rounders. In my earlier years I did singing lessons and drum lessons and I often sang in competitions.

I was a keen amnesty international participant and was the School Council prefect in Sixth Form.

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

Gateways is a great space to be able to embrace learning, grow as an individual, learn about yourself and your classmates and explore all that the school has to offer.

How would you sum up Gateways in 3 words?

Approachable, focused and unique.

Do you have a fun memory you could share with us about your time at Gateways?

I have many fun memories of Gateways we laughed a lot as a friendship group and didn't take ourselves too seriously but we were very focused on our education. In Sixth Form we did a play, pretending to be the teachers and built a story line and acted it out in front of the whole school. For me this represents Gateways in the fact that the teachers don't take themselves too seriously and have fun with the students.

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Gateways provided a safe space for me to truly explore who I was and helped build my confidence and self-belief.
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Approachable, focused, unique

Beyond the Gates AND EVENTS...

TRIPS AND VISITS

The summer term is always jam-packed with trips and events...

Five residential trips took place : Upper 1 went to Herd Farm, Lower 2 and Upper 2 went to Peat Rigg and took part in lots of outdoor team building activities, Lower 3 saw the sites of London as well as two west end shows and Lower 5 had 2 days of adrenaline packed rides at Alton Towers.



Lower 3 in London

In early July, the Lower 6 geographers spent a wonderful 5 days in Iceland. They undertook a microclimate study in the city of Reykjavik, walked through a rift valley, observed geothermal activity in action, visited black sand beaches, hiked up to the crater of a volcano, saw the mud pools at Seltun and finally relaxed at the Blue Lagoon.

Some of the other day trips this term : Lower 1 learnt all about chocolate at the York Chocolate Story; Pre-Reception had plenty of outdoor fun at Born of the Forest, Reception saw plenty of animals at Cannon Hall Farm and Transition and Lower 1 got active at Big Sheep, Little Cow.



Upper 2 and Lower 2 at Peat Rigg



Lower 5 at Alton Towers

DofE

Capt Col Davies

I am delighted to announce the successful completion of both the Bronze and Silver DofE expeditions. 25 pupils from the Bronze cohort were bowled over after completing their assessed expedition in the Yorkshire Dales. The successful teams now need to ensure that they complete the rest of the sections, to complete the Bronze award.



of travel - the first time in over decade that we have run the expedition by canoe. It was easier on the legs of course, but the arms and core most definitely had a workout!

Well done to all the teams from both levels for completing the expeditions.

In June we celebrated Silver success, as the Lower 5 cohort successfully completed their assessed expedition on the River Severn, having completed their practice expedition on the River Wye in May. The teams chose canoeing as their mode



Events

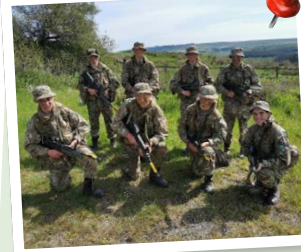
The annual Art Exhibition took place in May. The exhibition showcases GCSE and A Level work and is open to family and friends of GCSE and A Level Art/ Photography pupils.

Prep pupils welcomed in April with a Spring Extravaganza performed in the PAC with 'spring-themed' songs and dances from a variety of musicals such as Mary Poppins and Matilda.

Towards the end of term we were treated to the Upper KS2 production which this year was Peter Pan.



The annual sports award dinner took place on June 26th, the team of the year were the Under 16 Netball team.



Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Capt Col Davies

What an action-packed year for the CCF!



Cadets have been busy attending 3 weekend skill at arms training camps, 1 field day where they took part in live firing on a 25m range, 1 adventurous training camp on the Isle of Wight, 1 national competition called the Cambrian Patrol and finishing off the year on a CCF central camp!

In May, 6 cadets from Gateways and 2 from Horsforth took part in the Cadet Cambrian Patrol competition. The Cadet Cambrian Patrol replicates (only not as tough!) the Regular Army's competition of the same name, which is deemed one of the toughest patrol competitions for the British Army. 20 teams took part in a tactical based scenario; the cadets navigated across the Brecon

Beacons to checkpoints, where they were tested in a variety of military and leadership skills. The team found it a challenging event, both physically and mentally and came away from the event with a sense of achievement and satisfaction with winning a Bronze Medal.

During the last week of term, the contingent departed on CCF Summer camp to Swynnerton in Staffordshire, hosted by 160 (Welsh) Brigade. The cadets took part in a variety of military training, where they got to fire blank ammunition on an overnight field exercise, live ammunition at longer ranges and took part in various adventure-based activities.



PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

UPDATE FROM THE PFA

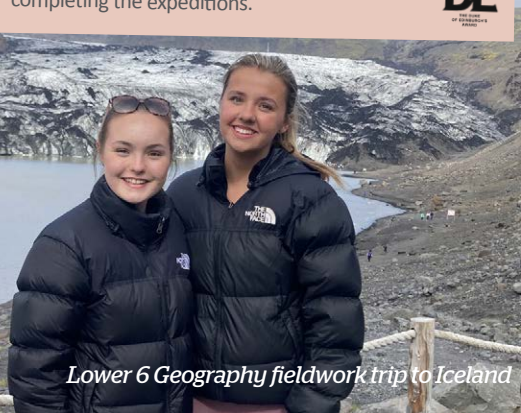
It's been another successful year for Gateways PFA thanks to the support of the school community and supporting businesses. During this term we sold over 1000 ice-creams, over 100 pieces of pre-loved uniform and supported the school with their end of year celebrations and Cabaret evening.

The main fundraising event was the Summer Ball on July 1st which raised £14,827. The PFA total for the year was an enormous £22,000, the majority of which will contribute towards the upgrading of the Prep School outdoor play equipment. Thank you to everyone for their continued support.



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

@gwaysPFA
@GatewaysPFA



Lower 6 Geography fieldwork trip to Iceland

Focus on... Wellbeing

W E L L B E I N G

The importance of wellbeing cannot be overstated. As pupils navigate the complex challenges of adolescence and early adulthood, their mental, emotional and physical wellbeing play a crucial role in shaping their overall development and future success.

Prioritising their wellbeing fosters resilience, self-confidence, and positive relationships. It equips them with the tools to cope with stress, build healthy habits, and make informed decisions. By nurturing wellbeing, we empower our pupils to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, laying a solid foundation for their lifelong journey of fulfilment and happiness.

At Gateways, we have three core pillars – Growth, Wellbeing and Success. These three pillars are intrinsically linked and if wellbeing is not prioritised, both Growth and Success will inevitably suffer.

In Early Years and Prep School we devote a lot of time to wellbeing. PSHE lessons are delivered through a programme called Jigsaw which combines mindfulness, emotional literacy, social skills and spiritual development with the aim of helping children know and value who they really are. In the 'Healthy me' segment we focus on a range of topics such as healthy eating, exercise, medicines, peer pressure and mental health.

There are 10 Wellbeing Champions ranging from Year 2 to Year 6 who meet every half term to discuss events and how to improve wellbeing in the school.



Some of our Wellbeing Champions with the 'tinned Tuesday' collection for the Wetherby foodbank

Growth Wellbeing Success

The Head of Safeguarding recently introduced a termly safeguarding newsletter to bring help and advice to parents and staff about important topics relating to safeguarding, which often impact on pupil wellbeing.

The first newsletter focused on internet safety and coping with exam stress; future editions will feature a wide range of issues, from vaping, misogamy, to features on how to stay safe on popular apps and games. In addition to this, there is a termly wellbeing bulletin which was developed as a result of parents requesting advice and support particularly around areas of mental health. The bulletin is sectioned into age-specific material and signposts to useful websites. The latest issue focuses on self-enrichment – particularly useful for the summer holidays!



In Sixth Form, wellbeing topics are often the focus of Spoken English topics.

The Sixth Form building is designed to enable pupils to choose which study area suits their way of working, whilst providing space to decompress when needed, thus ensuring that pupil wellbeing is at the heart of life in the Sixth Form Centre. The cafe and gardens are relaxing areas to enjoy a coffee with friends between study sessions, and there is always a Matron available to chat to and get support about academic or pastoral challenges that our Sixth Formers may face.



In High School and Sixth Form, pupil wellbeing underpins everything we do pastorally.

Form tutors spend time with their forms three times a day, they get to know their tutees well and can address any concerns quickly.

As our class sizes are small, this helps them recognise if a pupil appears out of character and will initiate conversations to offer guidance and support. During form time, form tutors deliver sessions on a range of different topics, many of these are in line with national themed weeks such as around mental health awareness.



Assemblies also support pupil wellbeing; forms are encouraged to produce and participate in form assemblies.

This year, topics that support wellbeing have included bullying, healthy eating and how to use social media well. Staff deliver assemblies too, recent assembly topics delivered by staff members include: the 'Super Mario effect' - how the fear of failure might cause us never to try in the first place; resilience – understanding characteristics to help self-improvement; respect – for ourselves, others and the environment around us.

Pupils are often put into small groups to discuss topics in assemblies and form time, for example in Key Stage 4 pupils were recently asked to discuss their stresses and what coping mechanisms work for them. These small group peer-to-peer discussions allow ideas to be shared and problems halved.

A key area of focus in Key Stage 4 is around exam preparation and revision strategies.

Mr Holmes provides nutrition advice and education to the sports scholars, those on the Gifted and Talented sports programme and the GCSE PE programme. He uses his mindset and sport psychology expertise to help our pupils prepare and deal with adversity, challenges and expectations in academic life as well as in the sporting arena.





Prize Giving

PRIZE WINNERS, FAMILY MEMBERS, PUPILS, GOVERNORS, STAFF AND ALUMNI ATTENDED THE ANNUAL PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY IN THE MARQUEE.

Former pupil and fashion designer Laura Pitharas was our guest speaker and gave an inspiring speech about her journey from Gateways into the fashion industry and how she has carved out a niche in womenswear tailoring. We were also treated to some drama and musical performances from pupils including the Gateways Counterpoint Choir.



It was lovely to see some of our former staff and alumni at the event reminiscing about their memories of Gateways.

Want to hear more from Gateways?



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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

7TH SEPTEMBER

Meet the teacher
(Reception to Lower 3)

12TH SEPTEMBER

Individual and sibling photographs

18TH - 20TH SEPTEMBER

Upper 3 residential
to Willersley Castle

20TH SEPTEMBER

Reception information evening

12TH OCTOBER

Upper 5 & Lower 6 University
and Apprenticeship Search Fair

6TH OCTOBER

Open Day

7TH NOVEMBER

Fireworks Extravaganza

14TH NOVEMBER

Otley Science Fair (KS2)

15TH NOVEMBER

Otley Science Fair (KS1)

17TH NOVEMBER

Children in Need

21ST/23RD NOVEMBER

High School production
(Legally Blonde)

27TH NOVEMBER

PFA Wreath making workshop

29TH NOVEMBER

PFA Festive Fair

7TH DECEMBER

EYFS Christmas concert /
KS1 Christmas Production

8TH DECEMBER

KS1 Christmas production
Christmas jumper day

11TH DECEMBER

High School Christmas outings
Prep Christmas lunch

12TH DECEMBER

Prep carol service

13TH DECEMBER

Prep Pantomime trip
(Transition to Lower 3)

14TH DECEMBER

Prep parties
High School Christmas lunch

15TH DECEMBER

High School carol service
Last day of term

8TH JANUARY 2024

Start of term

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