

ISSUE NO.23
AUTUMN TERM 2023

Heard it

through
the...

cherryvine

GATEWAYS SCHOOL'S TERMLY REVIEW

INSIDE:

*Gateways
beyond the
Gates and
Events!*

*Focus on
...Growth*

Meet Gateways
Alumni -
Sherri Hyer



Facilities developments

The majority of refurbishment work and facilities updates take place during the school holidays. The following updates took place during the summer holiday and October half term...

LODGE RENOVATION

Complete renovation of the Lodge to provide an additional building for Sixth Form and Key Stage 4 (Lower 5 and Upper 5). The Lodge has 3 classrooms, a collaboration room (with lockers) and a study room (with 6 study booths), as well as luxury toilet facilities. The interior has been designed and refurbished to the same high specification as the Old Vicarage (Sixth Form Centre).



FACILITIES REFURBISHMENT

Toilet / washrooms totally refurbished in the Dower House, the PAC and Youngers (Prep) and the Sports Hall. The Sports Hall entrance was also refurbished and an extension was fitted to the girls changing rooms.



OLD VICARAGE EXTENSION

This was undertaken during the summer to create two new rooms – an extra study booth room and a locker room.



OTHER FACILITIES UPDATES INCLUDE:

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New waste disposal company recruited who operate in a climate friendly and carbon neutral manner; updated fire alarm system in Schofield (High School), the Performing Arts Centre (PAC) and Sports Hall; new projector and screen (purchased by the PFA) installed in the PAC and a replacement red door for the Dower House.

Meet... alumni Sherri Hyer

Former pupil Sherri Hyer attended Gateways from 2001 to 2012 and studied A Level Psychology, Religious Studies and English Language.

After Gateways, Sherri studied psychology at York University achieving a 2:1. Keen to pursue a career in teaching, Sherri returned to Gateways in 2015 to work as a Learning Support Assistant in both the Prep and High School before starting her PGCE in Harrogate.

Her first teaching job was at a small primary school in London, before moving onto teach Year 4 and 6 (and being the subject coordinator in religious education and mathematics) at an independent girls' school in South Hampstead. More recently, after getting married, Sherri moved outside London to teach at a large co-ed Prep School in Hertfordshire where she is the Head of Year 3.

What did you enjoy most about going to Gateways?

I loved everything about Gateways; some of the happiest moments of my life were at school. Gateways always felt like a second home and I had an amazing relationship with all my teachers, some of who I am still in contact with today. The school taught me to be myself, to give things a go and to have the resilience to carry on.

It is rare as a child (particularly a teenager) to look forward so much to going to school every day but I really enjoyed my school years at Gateways.

.....
Gateways will always have a special place in my heart and the friends I made, are still some of my closest friends today.
.....

What were your favourite subjects and why?

One of my favourite subjects at school was maths but I chose not to study it further after GCSE as I didn't want to fall out of love with the subject. I had amazing maths teachers during my time at Gateways.

My favourite subject of all was psychology which I undertook at A Level. Having loved having Mrs Hayward as my geography teacher for five years, I knew I would really enjoy being taught psychology by her. Mrs Hayward is an incredible teacher with a caring approach and always made lessons fun with creative, educational and inspiring games which made us forget we were 'learning'. These ranged

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from CSI (which Mrs Hayward designed especially for my birthday) to Cluedo and Jungle Trails. I enjoyed psychology so much that I went onto study it further at degree level.

Did you take part in any extra-curricular activities?

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Throughout my time at Gateways, I involved myself in many of the different clubs. I was an avid member of Amnesty International from Upper 3 through to Sixth Form. I took part in the debating club and was on the school council for quite a few years and took part in numerous house activities.

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

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If you are thinking of joining Gateways, just do it! Enjoy all the opportunities provided and make the most of every day. Gateways is a family and offers you an all-encompassing education filled with dedication, experience and care.

.....
Not only does Gateways provide you with the confidence to stand your own in the real world, it leaves you with the happiest childhood memories.

How would you sum up Gateways in 3 words?

.....
A second home.



A second home.

Beyond the Gates AND EVENTS...

TRIPS AND VISITS

Here's a summary of some of the trips and visits which have taken place this term:



Willersley Castle

At the start of the term Upper 3 went on a three-day residential to Willersley Castle in the heart of the Derbyshire Dales. This outdoor centre was the perfect opportunity for friendship-building activities which included a scavenger hunt, grass sledging, kayaking and canoeing, aeroball, zip wire, river swimming, and even indoor fencing. Despite the very wet weather, the pupils had a fun-packed few days and it was great start to High School.



Otley Science Show

In November, the Prep children from Key Stages 1 and 2 visited the Otley science show. Each year focuses on a different theme; this year for KS1 the topic was 'Amazing air' and for KS2 the theme was 'Ghosts in the machines' which looked at investigating the science around paranormal activity.



DofE

Mr A Berry, DofE Co-ordinator

During the first term back at school, the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) participants have been actively involved in a range of activities with 30 pupils joining the bronze award level and 12 pupils successfully progressing to the silver award level. The new DofE pupils participated in their first training session, laying the foundation for their upcoming expedition training.



Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Sjt A Berry

Cadets have actively participated in a range of engaging activities this term, such as laser shotgun, BB, and paintball shooting, utilising the CCF's new state-of-the-art equipment.

A select group of cadets had the extraordinary privilege of attending the 160 Welsh Brigade summer camp. This immersive week-long fieldcraft camp allowed them to refine their skills and knowledge, culminating in a thrilling simulated hostage rescue mission, where they utilized cutting-edge night vision goggles and paintball weapon systems.



The CCF cadets demonstrated their exceptional abilities by securing an impressive second place in a regional competition, earning them the coveted silver trophy.

Seven of our senior cadets attended a Senior Cadet Instructors Course (SCIC), where they all passed; this means they are now able to instruct and pass on their invaluable experience and knowledge to junior cadets.



Events

PRODUCTIONS



November saw the eagerly anticipated High School production of *Legally Blonde JR* which was a huge success. Crowd-pleasing numbers including 'Ohmigod You Guys' and 'Legally Blonde' were skilfully performed. Lucy Sherman totally embodied the part of Elle Woods. Well done to all pupils involved in the show.



What a joy this year's EYFS Christmas Concert was! Children in Pre-Reception and Reception classes performed 'Away in a Manger', a delightful nativity play about a proud mule called Maurice, who became rather attached to his manger and wasn't impressed when he had to share it with a stream of visitors.



Key Stage 1 put on a fantastic performance of the nativity 'Baarmy Bethlehem', a story about three party sheep who love to 'Baa Baa Boogie'! The children worked hard to learn the songs, their lines and all the dance moves.



PARENTS & FRIENDS
ASSOCIATION

UPDATE FROM THE PFA



Total
Raised
£3,496

The annual PFA Festive Fayre took place at the end of November. As well as the usual array of stalls selling gifts, there were plenty of fun games for pupils to take part in. The raffle and tombola were as popular as ever and not forgetting Santa who met lots of excited children in his grotto. The total amount raised from this event was £3,496.

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



@gwaysPFA



@GatewaysPFA

Focus on... Growth

At Gateways, we have three core pillars - Growth, Wellbeing and Success. In this issue we are focusing on 'Growth'.

The growth pillar covers one's own knowledge, skills and confidence as well as being able to support others to develop their own knowledge, skills and confidence.

Clearly this area covers both staff and pupil development but it can also encompass growth in a wider sense, whether that be in the growth of the school, our facilities or in the services we offer.

One of the key areas that staff have been working on recently relates to curriculum development. The world is always changing and the children we have in front of us today are very different to the children we had in front of us even just 5 years ago. Staff have therefore been supported to review their departmental offering and to produce development plans to take their area of the school forward.

Not only have staff acquired new knowledge and skills when completing this process, their confidence in regularly reviewing their offering has increased as well.



Ultimately the pupils will be the main beneficiaries of this as their experience at Gateways will be continually reviewed and enhanced to allow them to acquire the most appropriate knowledge, skills and confidence in order to best prepare them for the world they will face after Gateways.

Prep School and Early Years

Our offerings in the Prep School have grown over the previous 12 months, with a lot of new initiatives, events and extra-curricular clubs taking place throughout the academic year.

Prep School 'Open Doors' and 'Pop into Pre-Reception' events have welcomed parents into the classrooms to celebrate the academic successes of their children and to see life 'behind the scenes' in Gateways Prep School. These have been hugely successful events, where children have enjoyed showing off to their parents about all they have done in school and have helped to further embed our close teacher/parent relationships.



Calendar events such as our 'Celebrating Differences Day,' 'Odd Socks Day' and 'International Day' have all added to the children's knowledge and appreciation of other cultures, faiths and circumstances, allowing them to grow as individuals.

It is important at Gateways that the children understand how fortunate we are and to have empathy with those in different circumstances to ourselves. These new additions to our calendar help us achieve this objective.

High School and Sixth Form

In High School, opportunities for personal growth are supported by the enrichment programme for our Sixth Form.

Lower 6 pupils enjoy exploring titles for their extended project qualification (EPQ). The work, which can take the form of an artefact, research based written report, event or experiment offers pupils academic growth beyond their core A Level programme. Universities are always keen to hear from candidates who complete an EPQ as the process develops planning and research skills in addition to skills in analysis and reflection.



Our school prefects always take a lead in organising assemblies and initiatives on themes such as equality and diversity, black history month and school charities. They work closely with academic staff and provide crucial food for thought to our Upper 5 pupils, ahead of them making important decisions as part of the Sixth Form transition process.

Careers advice and support is offered throughout High School, this is adapted to the year group. Lower 6 and Upper 5 recently visited the University and Apprenticeship Search Fair, supporting them to reach well-informed, reflective and independent decisions about their next steps within education or the world of work.



Pupils across High School and Sixth Form have enjoyed a growth in facilities; as well as the opening of the new Sixth Form Centre in September 2022, this September we opened the Lodge. Situated close to the dining hall, the newly refurbished building offers areas for independent study, small group work and options teaching.

Our CCF contingent has grown over the years and some members of the current cohort demonstrated their survival and military skills, earning second place in the Black Rat competition which took place over a weekend in October at the Driffield army base.



Personal growth has been achieved by our 30 DofE completions which were awarded during a recent presentation evening.

The diversity of opportunities to grow at Gateways never fails to impress and just under 40 pupils from High School/Sixth Form worked together for the recent school production of **Legally Blonde**. The performance took place over 3 nights and has undoubtedly contributed to a growth of confidence and team spirit in all those involved, whether they were on stage or working behind the scenes.



Pupils are also provided opportunities to get involved in raising awareness of those less fortunate and to contribute to societal growth. Participation in school wide activities to support initiatives such as Anti-Bullying week, the collection of books for the Children's Book Project, Children in Need fundraising and the ongoing donation of clothing to The Clothing Bank are just a few of the recent charitable initiatives that help to achieve this.



Fundraising

Raised
£2,486
for Children
in Need

OUR LARGEST FUNDRAISING EVENT OF THE AUTUMN TERM IS **CHILDREN IN NEED**.

This year the pupils and staff embraced the dressing up theme and we saw a wide selection of outfits on show for the costume parade in the Sports Hall, followed by a bake sale, various house-based activities and a raffle for tickets to our 2024 Fireworks Extravaganza.



Other fundraising events this term have included the Tinned Tuesday collections in Prep for St Georges Crypt, tinned dog/cat food for Prickly Pigs charity, donations of clothing for the Clothing Bank and books for the Children's Book Project.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising challenges this term.

Want to hear more from Gateways?

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Subscribe to the weekly newsletter via the school website or by emailing newsletter@gatewaysschool.co.uk

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

SPRING TERM

8TH JANUARY

Start of term

w/c 8TH JANUARY

GCSE and A Level Mock Examinations
Upper 5 and Upper 6

10TH JANUARY

Upper 4 Parents' Evening (onsite) 4.30pm

27TH JANUARY

Year 7 Entrance &
Scholarship Assessment Day

31ST JANUARY

UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

8TH FEBRUARY

Upper 5 Parents' Evening (onsite) 4.30pm

w/c 12TH FEBRUARY

Half term

w/c 12TH FEBRUARY

Ski trip

19TH FEBRUARY

Start of term

27TH FEBRUARY

Lower 5 Parents' Evening (onsite) 4.30pm

w/c 4TH MARCH

National Careers Week

6TH MARCH

Lower 4 residential (Liverpool)

7TH MARCH

World Book Day

w/c 11TH MARCH

Science Week, Reception to Lower 3

w/c 11TH & 18TH MARCH

Prep Parents' Evenings (onsite)

13TH MARCH

Lower 4 Parents' Evening (onsite) 4.30pm

19TH MARCH

PFA Spring Fair

23RD MARCH

DoFe Bronze practice

21ST MARCH

Spring into action:
Nursery, Pre-Reception & Reception

25TH MARCH - 4TH APRIL

China cultural visit

26TH & 27TH MARCH

Lower Key Stage 2 Production
Upper 1 & Lower 2

28TH MARCH

House Music Competition
Last day of term

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