

ISSUE NO.26  
AUTUMN TERM 2024

Heard it

through  
the...

# cherryvine

GATEWAYS SCHOOL'S TERMLY REVIEW

**INSIDE:**

*Gateways  
beyond the  
Gates*

Facilities  
developments

*Enrichment*

*Focus on  
...Languages*



# Facilities Developments

The majority of refurbishment work and facilities updates take place during the school holidays. Below are a few of the most recent projects...

## NEW ELECTRIC BUSES

To help reduce our carbon footprint, two new electric buses have been added to the Gateways fleet to replace the older, leased diesel vehicles. A new electric charger has been installed for the electric buses and we will be taking delivery of a third new electric bus in January 2025.



## SIXTH FORM OUTDOOR PODS

During the summer two new pods were installed in the Sixth Form Centre garden; the pods are installed with electric points and provide additional social and study space for our Sixth Formers.

## NURSERY OUTDOOR REVAMP

In the Nursery the outdoor area has been re-vamped and re-surfaced with colourful artwork added and new play equipment purchased.



# Enrichment Programme

As well as complimenting, reinforcing and extending academic learning, extra-curricular activities build confidence, and develop emotional, social and creative skills.



Prep 'Just Dance' club



High School basketball club

They allow growth, contribute to wellbeing and give children the tools they need to succeed... and maybe most importantly, they're fun!

Last term, two of our staff members took on the extra duty of being enrichment coordinators for Prep and High School. Mr Woodfine (Prep School) and Mr Davies (High School) have created a programme of varied extra-curricular activities; each term the activities are reviewed and the timetable updated for the next term.



# PREP ENRICHMENT

In Prep, our extra-curricular programme provides a wide variety of activities covering the recreational, the physical, the creative and the cerebral and we aim to provide something for everybody.



Refereed football club



Magic club

As well as offering paid-for clubs run by external providers, we offer a range of free clubs run by Prep School staff. The majority of the Key Stage 1 clubs take place after school and most Key Stage 2 clubs are run at lunchtime.

At the moment, we're running perennial popular favourites such as 'colour, chat and chill', 'art' and 'lego' as well as new ventures such as 'just dance', 'magic' and 'karaoke'. We've also expanded the refereed football club provision beyond Transition and Lower 1 and hope to expand it further in future.

# HIGH SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

In High School, enrichment offers an incredible array of activities designed to inspire, challenge, and nurture pupils' interests, reflecting our core values of growth, wellbeing, and success.

The autumn term featured just under 50 clubs, with something for everyone. Some of the most popular clubs are badminton and ultimate frisbee, which encourage teamwork, strategy, and physical fitness in a fun and inclusive environment. For those seeking something unique, 'biscuits and bluffing' adds an entertaining twist, combining strategy games with sweet rewards!

New clubs include flower arranging, Cricademia (led by external cricket coaches) and dance club. All pupils are



High School hula hoop club

required to attend at least one club, though they are welcome to participate in more if they wish. While some clubs have limited spaces due to resource constraints, leaders ensure inclusivity by rotating through waiting lists, giving every pupil the opportunity to get involved in their preferred activities.



Badminton club



DT club

Clubs are reviewed and changed regularly and we're always open to suggestions and recommendations. Is there something your child really fancies doing? Email our enrichment coordinators and we'll see what we can do.

# Focus on... Languages

The benefits of learning a foreign language are well known: linguists are analytical, logical, creative, good at problem solving and more empathetic as they literally have to adopt a new way of speaking and relating to others from different cultures.

These skills and experiences are transferable and highly valued in all workplaces. There is also scientific research using brain mapping techniques which proves how flipping from one language to another aids cognitive versatility and creativity. Last year we invited Rachel Boyd, former Managing Director of Human Resources at Goldman Sachs investment bank, to give a High School assembly in which she confirmed all of the above and explained that one of the main factors for recruiting her was the fact that she had foreign language skills.



Fostering a love of languages starts early at Gateways. Children in **Pre-Reception** and **Reception** have the opportunity to start learning the basics of Spanish with our external provider 'Smarty Pants' who offer an extra-curricular club during the day once a week.

In **KS1** we introduce the children to both the Spanish language and culture, via games and interactive activities. They first learn how to greet people in Spanish and introduce themselves, with good pronunciation and expression, before moving on to other basics of the spoken language – providing an excellent foundation for their learning as they progress up the school.



In **KS2**, the children continue their learning and development of the 4 key language skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing). They enjoy learning in interactive ways such as through song, conversing with peers and fun engaging games. This enables all children to access the Spanish language, practise their pronunciation and embed key phrases. Each week, a merit is awarded to a child from KS1 or KS2 who has showcased excellent skills in one of the 4 language areas.

In **High School**, our Modern Foreign Languages staff are multilingual and as such have experience teaching French, German and Spanish at both GCSE and A Level. Our teachers are highly experienced and most are examiners; this means that we know exactly how to prepare our pupils for the public examinations.

Our small class sizes mean that we can give the pupils the individual support that they need, which is particularly important as studying a language consists of four skills - listening, speaking, reading and writing. We are able to give regular individual feedback, which guides the pupils as to how they can develop their skills. Our teaching embraces a wide variety of methods including whole class presentations and activities, pair and group work.



One of the great things about language learning is the variety of games we play. Pupils learn vocabulary and grammar without even realising it as they are having so much fun! We use both traditional and competitive IT games such as Quizlet, Blooket, the new LingoTeach (which uses AI) and Textivate. In addition, pupils love writing and performing mini drama sketches and taking part in debates. As we have moved to using devices in lessons, we are discovering new ways to improve listening and speaking by using the dictation and transcribing functions.



One of the most rewarding experiences of studying a language is visiting other cultures and countries. In the summer term of 2024, 20 pupils from Upper 4 and Lower 5 had a fantastic time visiting Barcelona and later in the term 29 pupils from Upper 3 visited Valencia. They immersed themselves into the sights, language (and of course food!) with great enthusiasm.

We had some lovely feedback from parents:

*"You made the trip very special and they've enjoyed every moment!"*

*"I can't believe how much you managed to do, a truly wonderful experience for them all."*



## Mandarin

Prep pupils have the opportunity to learn Mandarin. In Upper 1 (Year 3) through to Lower 3 (Year 6) pupils have a 1 hour lesson per week where they look at basic words and learn about the culture of China. In High School, pupils continue with a 1 hour lesson per week then in Year 8 (Lower 4), pupils start with HSK 1, the first level of China's official language proficiency test. At this stage, the focus is on basic vocabulary, grammar, and 150 essential Chinese characters, enabling them to introduce themselves and have simple conversations.

Learning Mandarin isn't just about language – it's also about culture. Pupils explore Chinese traditions, festivals, and food, deepening their understanding of the language. With interactive lessons, technology tools, and cultural activities, Lower 4 pupils are laying a strong foundation for future language success and opening doors to new global opportunities.



Upper 4 and Lower 5 pupils had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Mandarin and immerse themselves in Chinese culture on the trip to China in April 2024 which was organised and led by our Mandarin teacher Mrs Day.



# Beyond the Gates

## TRIPS AND VISITS

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

### Upper 3 residential

At the start of the term, Upper 3 went on a three-day residential to a sunny Lockerbie Manor. The residential provides the opportunity for pupils to form new friendships as they start High School and try out a range of activities requiring teamwork as well as a mix of mental and physical skills. Activities included canoeing, kayaking, zip wire, climbing, abseiling, raft building, orienteering and a night walk!



In November, the Prep children from Key Stages 1 and 2 embraced all things science at the Otley science show. Each year focuses on a different theme; this year for KS1 the topic was 'Pyrotrickery' and for KS2 the theme was 'Animal Top Trumps'.

Other trips included Lower 1s visit to Abbey House Museum, Lower 3s visit to the Royal Armouries, Pre-Reception's festive trip to Born of the Forest and the Prep School's annual pantomime visit to City Varieties.



### Sports Tour to Gibraltar

During the first week of half term, 25 pupils from Upper 4 to Lower 5 spent a week in Gibraltar on the sports tour. The girls took part in netball matches whilst the boys honed their basketball skills playing against local teams. As well as the sports and plenty of beach fun, pupils also got to explore Gibraltar, including a cave tour inside the Gibraltar Rock!

### Art residential to Wales

GCSE art and DT pupils visited the Conway centre in Wales for a residential visit to enhance their skills and GCSE portfolios. They took part in workshops based on the theme of 'mapping the landscape'.



## UPDATE FROM THE PFA

The PFA have had a busy term with their festive events in the run up to Christmas.

Flower Power florists ran a wonderful wreath making workshop in the school library. Parents enjoyed drinks, nibbles and some festive music and went home with some wonderful wreaths for their front doors.

The annual PFA Festive Fayre took place on Monday 2 December. The PAC looked so festive with twinkly lights, a huge festive tombola, some lovely artisan gifts, treats and toys sold by external stall holders, games for the kids and of course Santa made an appearance in his grotto!

The total amount raised from this event was £3,700.



PARENTS & FRIENDS  
ASSOCIATION



Please follow us on social media to keep up with PFA news and events [Facebook](#) @gwaysPFA [Twitter](#) @GatewaysPFA



# Events

## PRODUCTIONS

### High School Production

Pupils in year Lower 4 to Upper 5 took to the stage in November for two evening performances of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by William Shakespeare. Our gender-neutral casting allowed our young actors to stretch their abilities in every role, from strong, feisty leading ladies to love-struck, 'googly eyed' lovers, our pupils threw themselves into the joyous challenges of the play with gusto.



A Midsummer Night's Dream

### EYFS Christmas Concert

Reception and Pre-Reception joined together to perform the nativity 'A Bundle of Joy'. Although we were sure everyone had met most of the characters before, we were quite sure no-one had met Grumble – the grumpy donkey who travelled with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Everyone was charmed by this performance which told the traditional story with fun, humour and characters that brought a smile to everyone's faces!



A Bundle of Joy



The Donkey Seller

### KS1 Christmas Production

In December, Transition and Upper 1 gave a wonderful performance of 'The Donkey Seller' in the PAC. The nativity tells the story of a donkey seller who is fed up because he hasn't sold a donkey for ages. His donkeys are so bored but this soon changes when some very special travellers arrive on their way to Bethlehem - and they all need donkeys!



### Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

The CCF saw a successful recruitment of 24 eager new cadets, ready to engage in syllabus training and weekend residential camps. There were several promotions made at the CCF biennial review.

In early December, our cadets participated in a weekend training exercise focused on weapons training at a state-of-the-art military indoor digital rifle range. This preparation culminated in a live firing trip to Strensall Camp, where cadets had the opportunity to fire the MOD's 5.56mm rifle, showcasing some impressive shooting skills.

Sjt A Berry



### Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)

We launched this year's DofE programme, welcoming 31 new Bronze participants, while 12 pupils progressed to Silver and 10 to Gold. In September, we celebrated the achievements of last year's participants during our annual award ceremony.

Mr A Berry, DofE Co-ordinator



## Nursery World Award winner

Our Early Years provision has been officially recognised at the prestigious Nursery World Awards 2024. Gateways were crowned winners in the 'EYFS provision in school' category! Mrs Bartle and Mrs Watford were presented with the award at the Nursery World Awards event in London.



## Fundraising

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

Prep School were glowing in neon outfits for their costume parade in the Sports Hall which was followed by a teachers quiz in the PAC. In High School, the theme was 90's/00's and pupils enjoyed their costume parade in the PAC and then a teachers vs pupils netball match at lunchtime. The total amount raised for Children in Need was £1,263.



## Want to hear more from Gateways?

- "Like" us on Facebook @gatewaysschool
- Follow us on Instagram @gwaysschool
- Follow us on X (Twitter) @gatewaysschool

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 2025

- 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY  
Start of term
- 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY  
Reception Information Session, 2:45-3:15pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY  
Key Stage 2 Information Session, 2:45-3:15pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY  
Upper 4 Parents' Evening 4:30-7:30pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY  
SEND Information Session, 8:45-10:30am
- 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY  
Music Twilight Concert - Prep
- 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY  
Upper 2 High School Experience
- 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY  
Computing 'Robotics' Day (Transition to Lower 3)
- 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY  
CCF Ex Lost Patrol
- 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY  
Upper 5 Parents' Evening, 4:30-7:30pm
- 7<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY  
'Life Skills' Day (Transition to Lower 3)
- 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY  
End of term
- 15<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY  
Ski Trip
- 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY  
Start of term
- 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH  
World Book Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH  
CCF Ex Half Way
- w/c 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH  
Science Week (Reception to Lower 3 pupils)
- 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH  
SEND Information Session, 8:45am-10:30am
- 16<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH  
Lower 4 Residential to Liverpool
- 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH  
Red Nose Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH  
Lower 4 Parents Evening 4:30-7:30pm in the Library
- 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH  
PFA Spring Fair
- 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH  
EYFS Spring into Action Day, (Gatehouse Pre-Reception & Reception)
- 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH  
Transition science visit to Harlow Carr
- 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL  
Lower KS2 Production, 4:30-5:30pm in the PAC (Upper 1 & Lower 2 pupils)
- 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL  
Last day of term



**GATEWAYS**  
SCHOOL

Heard it through the Cherryvine is designed and printed by tig  
[www.tig.uk.net](http://www.tig.uk.net)

**tig**