

ISSUE NO.27  
SPRING TERM 2025

Heard it

through  
the...

# cherryvine

GATEWAYS SCHOOL'S TERMLY REVIEW

INSIDE:

*Gateways  
beyond the  
Gates*

*Focus on  
...Academic  
Leadership*

Meet our  
Head of School  
...Colleen Ray



# Introducing our Head of School...

## COLLEEN RAY

Being Head of School is a busy and fulfilling role; as well as being visible at school events and carrying out public speaking duties, the Head of School leads the team of prefects and is seen as an ambassador for Gateways.



Our current Head of School is Colleen Ray, who is very much involved with all these duties.

“ Gateways has been the foundation of my academic success, providing me with a challenging and supportive environment. The nurturing atmosphere has not only helped me achieve excellence but also built my confidence. Being the Head of School has improved my confidence with public speaking, which is crucial to the role. I've also really enjoyed helping to plan and organise school events. ”

Colleen joined Gateways in Early Years aged 2, moving onto Prep School then High School and is now in her final year at Sixth Form. She is studying biology, chemistry and maths at A Level and regularly attends the maths and chemistry clinics during lunchtimes. Outside of school, Colleen is a talented dancer and has completed exams to a high level (A Level equivalent), in several areas of dance – ballet, tap and modern.

### Plans for the future...

Colleen's aim is to study chemistry on a 4-year integrated master's course at the University of Leeds.

“ The thing I have enjoyed most about being Head of School is being a role model for younger pupils and being involved with events. I also communicate with staff about ways to improve school life and get to meet parents at information evenings and events. I'm proud to have been given the opportunity to represent Gateways! ”

### The Prefect Team

Colleen is supported by two Deputy Heads - Chloe Brogan and Esme Grinion. In addition to this there are six lead prefects and eleven prefects. The lead prefects cover the following areas: academic, equality, diversity and inclusion, pupil voice, outreach, sports and art.



# Extra-curricular - new initiatives

## GIFTED & TALENTED ART PROGRAMME

We have recently introduced a Gifted and Talented Art Programme in Prep School for a select group of pupils who consistently demonstrate originality, creativity, and a passion for art and design.

These pupils not only extend the briefs they are given but also show enthusiasm for exploring artistic expression beyond the classroom. Currently, the programme is open to Lower 3 (Year 6), however we hope to expand it across Upper Key Stage 2 to celebrate exceptional talent.

The group, led by Miss Adamson, meets weekly as part of an extra-curricular club, where the pupils are given creative tasks to explore both in school and at home. So far, they have completed two exciting projects: one based on the theme 'Imagination and Fantasy', and another where they studied an artist of their choice, creating an artwork inspired by their style while adding their own unique flair.

Next, these talented artists will play a key role in designing props and backdrops for the Lower and Upper Key Stage 2 productions.

- 1 *Balloon* - Harper studied some of the work of Banksy and took his famous 'Girl with balloon' painting as inspiration. She incorporated a real love heart balloon to mix 2D and 3D art, bringing her work to life.
- 2 *Dragon* - Sophia D made this dragon as part of the 'Fantasy and Imagination' task. It is made from cotton wool pads surrounded by pipe cleaners and the fire has been made from coloured felt.
- 3 *Apple* - Sophia D was inspired by the work of Vladimir Kush and imitated his 'Butterfly Apple' painting in crayon.
- 4 *Swirled painting* - Mekaheel is a fan of Van Gogh and took his style and applied it to the 'Fantasy and Imagination' theme, creating this mysterious swirly image.

## STRIVE PROGRAMME

This year in High School, we launched an exciting new initiative for our Lower 5 pupils: the STRIVE Programme.

STRIVE stands for Success, Talents, Resilience, Independence, Volunteering & Elevation; its core aim is to develop pupils into independent academics, equipping them with the skills to undertake research projects and present their findings in a clear and professional manner.

At the end of the programme, pupils will deliver their own 'TED Talk' to an audience of family and friends, who will be invited into school for an evening of learning and discussion.

Pupils meet every Monday lunchtime for workshops covering essential skills such as evaluating sources, critical thinking, and public speaking - key tools to

support pupils on their research journey. They are now beginning to explore their chosen topics, which currently include fascinating questions such as: 'Why do we laugh?' 'What role does colour play in how we interpret films?' and 'Does having more information make us less happy?'

The STRIVE programme will provide pupils with an excellent foundation for future academic pursuits such as the Extended Project Qualification, A Levels, and university studies, as well as their future careers.





# Beyond the Gates

## TRIPS AND VISITS

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

### Ski trip to Italy

69 pupils from Upper 2 to Upper 6 spent the February half term break away on the annual school ski trip to Folgarida in Italy. Pupils had fantastic skiing conditions and as well as their daily ski lessons they took part in ice-skating, swimming, karaoke, quizzes and team building exercises.



### Lower 4 Liverpool trip

In March, Lower 4 enjoyed their cultural residential to Liverpool. Their trip included a tour of Anfield stadium, an open top city sights bus tour and a visit to the World Museum and Western Approaches (a World War 2 bunker and interactive museum). Pupils also enjoyed a performance of Blood Brothers at the Liverpool Empire Theatre which linked to work they studied in their drama lessons.



Non-residential trips this term included Upper 2's visit to Eureka, Lower 1's day at Pontefract Castle and Askham Bryan Wildlife Conservation Park and Transition learnt all about plants at Harlow Carr.



### Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

*Colour Sergeant Berry*

This term, our CCF cadets have taken part in a series of challenging exercises that have tested their skills, teamwork, and determination.

**Exercise LOST PATROL** was a navigational exercise that pushed cadets to their limits. Tasked with using their map-reading and directional skills, the cadets worked in teams to navigate through a series of checkpoints. The exercise was not just a test of navigation, but also of leadership and teamwork - resilience and problem-solving abilities were on full display, and it was a fantastic opportunity for them to develop practical skills in real-world situations.

Later in the term, the cadets took part in an exciting residential weekend, **Exercise HALFWAY**, at Altcar Training Camp in Liverpool. The weekend provided the perfect setting for a comprehensive training session that included first aid, navigation, and fieldcraft. The cadets spent their time learning critical survival skills, from dealing with medical emergencies to mastering the art of map reading and outdoor techniques. By the



end of the weekend, each cadet had earned their star badges, a reflection of their hard work, commitment, and success in completing the training. In addition to their training, the cadets had the opportunity for a bit of friendly competition in an E-Karting race at Gravity Max.

# Events

## PRODUCTIONS

The annual Dinner at the Musicals provided a fantastic evening of music. With over 50 pupils taking part and over 30 songs included in the programme it really was a wonderful display of music and pupils' talents. Highlight performances include a performance of 'Dreams' by The Cranberries with everyone on stage and our newly formed Gateways Band taking the lead on some of the songs.

At the end of the Spring Term, the children in Upper 1 and Lower 2 cast a spell on us all with their magical production of *Wiz Wham Alakazam!* The Lower 2 children treated us all to expressive, confident performances in their role as the wizards and fairies of Sun Castle as they learned to work together to save their home from the ice creatures, who were played with great gusto by the children in Upper 1.



PARENTS & FRIENDS  
ASSOCIATION

## UPDATE FROM THE PFA

The PFA runs regular events throughout the school year to raise donations to support the school.



Total  
Raised  
**£2,994**

The PFA Spring Chocolate Fair took place on the 26th March raising £2,994! There were incredible luxury chocolate prizes for the raffle and tombola, as well as an array of spring themed kids games with chocolate themed prizes!

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



@gwaysPFA



@GatewaysPFA





# Focus on... Academic Leadership

At Gateways, we have two Deputy Heads who are each responsible for the academic life in their part of the school. Mrs Carver performs this role in the Senior School with Mrs Prince taking the academic lead in the Prep School.

They both work closely with Subject Leaders, Heads of Departments and teachers across the school to ensure that best practice, as evidenced by the latest educational research, is firmly embedded within the curriculum and classrooms.

In addition, they ensure that pupil progress is tracked and monitored against baseline data and they will coordinate meaningful intervention if the data suggests that there is more we could be doing to help our pupils to achieve the very best possible educational outcomes.

They meet regularly with the Head, Dr Johnson and the Head of Prep, Mrs Wallis to ensure that our teaching and educational principles remain aligned across the school and all areas of the school are working in partnership to bring our three pillars of Growth, Wellbeing and Success to life each and every day for all of our pupils.

However, they are also human beings with a story and a lived experience of their own which has made them the people they are today.

**Read on to find out more...**

## Meet Mrs Prince

"As Deputy Head within the Prep School I am fortunate enough to be able to become involved in lots of different areas of school life which is such a privilege. Not only do I get to do what I have loved doing for a long time - teaching English on a daily basis - I am also involved in overseeing the Prep curriculum as a whole."

### Have you always been a teacher?

Prior to joining Gateways in 2018, I worked at a primary school local to where I live. Before taking up my current role as Deputy Head in September 2024, I was Head of Pastoral Care in KS2 and prior to that I was Head of English in the Prep School.

### What made you want to go into a career in teaching?

After I finished my degree, I went straight into teaching. I knew I wanted to be a teacher because I loved primary school when I was a child and I had experienced the benefit of being taught by fun, caring and inspiring teachers whilst I was there. I was keen to take on that role and inspire a new generation of children myself.



### What are your favourite things about Gateways?

I love that every day is different and therefore never boring. I also feel very grateful to work in such a warm and welcoming environment where everyone, children and adults alike, supports one another.

### What was your favourite subject when you were at school and why?

My favourite subject was always English because I loved immersing myself in different stories and exploring the characters and the language.

### What is your educational philosophy?

I wholeheartedly believe that by really getting to know a child, you can meet their needs as an individual.

## What is your favourite book?

I love The Twits by Roald Dahl – I could read it over and over again!

## Do you have someone who has inspired you (or is still inspiring you)?

My mum is my inspiration. She is incredibly selfless, caring and hard working.



## Meet Mrs Carver

"As part of my leadership responsibilities I work closely with the Key Stage Pastoral Leads, Director of Digital Strategy, SENCo, extra-curricular and super curricular coordinators to plan, review and quality assure our Senior School provision. I'm involved in the key transition stages, I lead the options processes in both Upper 4 and Upper 5 and oversee all Senior School parents' evenings. I still manage to get some teaching time in and share responsibility for two A Level Psychology teaching groups and coordinate the EPQ qualification. As a qualified science teacher, I also occasionally do some teaching in that department too!"

## Have you always been a teacher?

Before Gateways, I was the Vice Principal at another local independent school which was a very similar role to this one. I have held other leadership roles in education - in Sixth Form and as a former Head of Department. I began my teaching career in a large comprehensive school and spent several years in the state sector before moving to the independent education. As a Psychology graduate, my early career was not in teaching; I started my career with an NHS Trust in clinical research and audit before moving into Primary Care working with vulnerable children in very deprived communities.

## What made you want to go into a career in teaching?

My work in vulnerable communities took me into schools

## What do you like to do in your spare time?

I love being outdoors as it calms and relaxes me. More than anything in the world, I love reading books with my two young boys.

## Can you tell us something about yourself that not many people know?

Before going to university, I spent 6 months training to be a nurse until I realised blood and gore aren't really my thing!

and I saw the difference that schools and teachers made to children. I wanted to be part of that and so started my personal journey into teaching.

## What are your favourite things about Gateways?

The relationships. Education here is about the people within it!

## What was your favourite subject when you were at school and why?

In High School my favourite subject was geography. I loved my teacher as he was fascinating and very kind. The subject enthused me as I was interested in the impact of humans on the environment. In Sixth Form, I loved psychology; I had so many questions and enjoyed the application to all areas of life.

## What is your educational philosophy?

Positive relationships are the cornerstone to supporting authentic growth, wellbeing and success.

## What is your favourite book?

I'm not sure I have a favourite. However, a contender would be Room by Emma Donoghue.

## Do you have someone who has inspired you (or is still inspiring you)?

Dame Kelly Holmes has always been an inspiration to me. She has overcome adversity and achieved huge success. I remember meeting Kelly as a young athlete at Gateshead Stadium and I have followed her achievements ever since. I admire her as she had to dig deep to maintain self-belief, determination, motivation to achieve her goals.

## What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy spending time outdoors in the countryside. I have a husband, two adventurous boys and a pet dog who I like to spend my time with. We hike together and love to ski as a family. I also enjoy the reward of a traditional country pub at the end of my endeavours!

## Can you tell us something about yourself that not many people know?

I am interested in interior design and my guilty pleasure is purchasing soft furnishings and house plants. However, my success rate in keeping plants alive is to date, very poor!



# ATHLETICS TRAINING - not just for the summer term!

**Mr Phil Holmes**

A major shift in focus for Prep School sport in the last 18 months has been towards athletics. There are so many positives to take from showing pupils how to run faster, jump higher and throw further and many crossovers to the power we require in most other sports.

Rather than wait until the summer term to start the activities, we are promoting movement and athletic awareness throughout the year. PE lessons often have a plyometric start, pupils bounding over hurdles and trying to hop in bigger strides as a means of promoting power. We now use this half term to cover indoor technical work and this prepares the pupils for the opportunity to move outside after the Easter break and for example, transfer their take off skills in long jump from the crash mats to the sand.

There has been a brilliant response from the children, many racing down to the lessons so they can cram in more exercise time, a genuine focus on improvement and a step up in competitive spirit as they try to push their own levels higher whilst trying to be the winner against a close friend.

Progress will be showcased on sports day of course, but our athletics programme has a holistic benefit for the pupils. We begin our extra-curricular club after the Easter break and allow pupils across different year groups to compare and learn from each other; the High School pupils often doing a wonderful job of encouraging and supporting the younger ones. The most pleasing aspect is seeing the sport being wholeheartedly embraced by a handful of pupils who are now training at various athletics clubs outside school hours.

*Want to hear more from Gateways?*

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

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



**GATEWAYS**  
SCHOOL

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

**tig**

## Dates for your Diary SUMMER TERM 2025

- 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL  
Start of term
- 22<sup>ND</sup>/23<sup>RD</sup>/24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
Prep School 'Open Doors'
- 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
Prep International Day (Transition to Lower 3)
- 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
LS Information Session
- 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
Prep School Dance & Music Showcase  
Individual Music Competition (Senior School)
- 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY  
Lower 2 & Upper 2 residential to Peat Rigg
- 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY  
UKMT Junior Mathematics Challenge  
(Upper 3/Lower 4)
- 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
Public examinations begin (Upper 5/Upper 6)
- 8<sup>TH</sup> - 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
Upper 1 residential to Carlton Activity Centre
- 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
Transition visit to Yorkshire Wildlife Park
- 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
Upper 1 visit to Harlow Carr
- 14<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
Lower 3 residential to London
- 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
Careers Information Evening
- 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY  
Art Exhibition (GCSE and A Level)
- 26<sup>TH</sup> - 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
Half term
- 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE  
Lower 3 Careers Day  
Moving to High School 2026 event (parents of Upper 2)
- 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
Lower 6 parents' evening
- 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
Upper 4 team building day
- 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
Prep School sports day
- 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
High School sports day  
Transition & Lower 1 visit to Big Sheep Little Cow
- 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE  
LS information session  
Sports Award Evening
- 23<sup>RD</sup>/24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
Pre-Reception parents' evening
- 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
Upper 5 celebration
- 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
House music competition
- 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
Prize Giving
- 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
Summer Ball
- w/c 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
High School Enrichment Week
- 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
PFA Summer Garden Party
- 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE - 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY  
Lower 6 Geography trip to Iceland
- 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE - 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY  
Lower 5 residential
- 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY  
Upper KS2 Production (Upper 2/Lower 3)
- 1<sup>ST</sup> - 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY  
Lower 6 enrichment trip to Krakow
- 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
Last day of term