

ISSUE NO.29
AUTUMN TERM 2025

cherryvine

GATEWAYS SCHOOL'S TERMLY REVIEW

Heard it

through the...



INSIDE:

*Gateways
beyond the
Gates*

*Focus on
...Investment
at Gateways*

Meet...
Mr Thompson

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...

REFRESH OF EARLY YEARS

New spaces and areas created to entice exploration and maximise learning opportunities. New fittings and furnishings also added.



WALL ART MURAL AND NEW CARPETILES

Installed in High School - Watson building.



NEW SEATING BANK IN THE PAC



NEW STAIR TREADS

Stairs revamped in Prep School with key historical dates.



Enrichment Programme

Spotlight on... Flying Club



Gateways Flying Club is an exciting enrichment opportunity for pupils with a passion for aviation. Through a mix of practical workshops, flight simulator sessions and the possibility to book flights at a local airfield, pupils explore the principles of flight, aircraft design and factors that affect flight like the weather. With expert input from Mr Thompson, this club is perfect for anyone curious about the skies – from future pilots to aviation enthusiasts.

The club is open to pupils from Lower 3 to Upper 6. There are 3 sessions after school with a maximum of 12 pupils in each. The Wings syllabus is the introductory group and once pupils have successfully completed this level they can progress onto further advanced levels (Level 1 through to Level 4).



Meet... Mr Thompson

Mr Thompson has been the Flying Club instructor at Gateways since April 2025. He recently joined Gateways in a new role as School Staff Instructor within the CCF, helping Capt Davies with planning and managing exercises, alongside weekly cadet training for cadets from Gateways and Horsforth School.

What was your previous job before you joined Gateways?

My last full-time job was in the Royal Air Force as a Flight Operation Officer, completing over 31 years of service. I retired from the RAF in 2019, then spent my time being a house husband looking after my 3 boys.



FUN FACT

Mr Thompson used to take part in The Goodwood Festival of Speed and one year he met and dined with George Lucas of Star Wars fame!



What are you looking forward to about Gateways?

I'm really looking forward to working with the friendly close-knit community of students and staff. Having already had the privilege of working with some of the students in my role as Gateways Flying Club Instructor has been great.

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

I enjoyed the sciences, especially finding out how things worked and also found art a way to express my creativity, but mostly I really got stuck into sports, especially rugby.

I'm really looking forward to working with the friendly close-knit community of students and staff. 

What is your favourite book?

This is a tough one... I really enjoyed reading science fiction, from Isaac Asimov to Phillip K Dick. If I had to pick one though, it would be Dune by Frank Herbert.

Do you have someone who has inspired you?

I look back to the early pioneers of flight but what has had a lasting impression on me most has been the space race from the 1960s. I look at the men and women who worked tirelessly to advance humankind in the ability to reach space and further! All those who worked on the many space projects, Gemini to Apollo, still amaze and inspire me today.

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 enjoyed their first High School residential to PGL Newby Wiske. They took part in lots of activities designed to encourage teamwork and communication including aeroball, Jacob's ladder, climbing, problem solving, fencing, archery and abseiling.



Upper 3 residential

Prep children from Key Stages 1 and 2 enjoyed a day of science at the annual Otley science show. Each year focuses on a different theme; this year for KS1 the topic was 'Surprising Science' and Key Stage 2's topic was 'Superhero Science'. Both shows were hosted by Science Magician, Dr Matt Prichard.

Other trips included: Lower 1's visit to Abbey House Museum, Transition's visit to Eureka, Lower 3's trip to Eden Camp, Pre-Reception's trip to Born of the Forest, Reception's visit to the West Yorkshire Playhouse to see Stickman and the Prep School's annual pantomime visit to Leeds City Varieties.

Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Capt Davies

The CCF welcomed 14 new recruits from Upper 4 into the contingent, each already showing great enthusiasm and commitment. We are also delighted that our cadets from Horsforth continue to parade with us, further strengthening the sense of collaboration and shared purpose within our CCF community.

A significant milestone was also reached with the appointment of our very first Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major. Sixth Form pupil Finn has been promoted to the highest rank a cadet can achieve. Finn's leadership and example will undoubtedly inspire younger cadets as they progress through the ranks.



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 the Strensall ranges.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)

It's been an exciting start to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme this year, with an impressive 43 pupils signing up across all three levels; 31 Bronze, 7 Silver and 5 Gold participants. The enthusiasm for DofE continues to grow, building on last year's exceptional success where 39 pupils completed their awards, the highest number of completions in one year, in the school's history.

Mr Matt Hayes, DofE Co-ordinator

Events

PRODUCTIONS

High School Production - Little Shop of Horrors

Little Shop of Horrors was performed over three nights in mid-November to a packed-out PAC. The cast thoroughly enjoyed bringing the world of Skid Row to life! Our pupils and staff provided the live music and alongside a fantastic set design (with a couple of incarnations of Audrey II!), this dark comedy musical really came to life.



EYFS Christmas Concert

Early Years brought us happiness and joy with their nativity 'Christmas Counts'. The census-takers counted the people of Bethlehem, the wise men (and their camels) and were surprised to find that Jesus was the most important person to be counted! It was a musical story filled with cheer and a message that Christmas counts for everyone.



KS1 Christmas Production

KS1 treated us to a wonderful production of 'The Fleece Force' which told the story of some woolly police officers who are in charge of keeping order in a rather busy Bethlehem as the townspeople prepare for the census. Things get even trickier when shepherds, kings and angels, among others, start to arrive!



UPDATE FROM THE PFA

The Autumn term is always a busy one for the PFA. Events this term included the annual coffee morning, the festive wreath making workshop and the annual Festive Fayre. The raffle ensured there were some wonderful festive hamper prizes and the festive tombola was as busy as ever! The total amount raised was £2,872.

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

[@gwaysPFA](#) [@GatewaysPFA](#)

Focus on... Investment at Gateways

At Gateways, our ethos of Growth, Wellbeing and Success underpins every decision we make, driving us to create environments that inspire ambition and nurture individuality.

Investment into facilities is crucial because it directly enhances the learning environment, supports modern teaching methods and ensures the school remains competitive and financially secure. With over £2.5 million invested in our facilities in recent years, our pupils really do benefit from an excellent environment which nurtures growth, wellbeing and success.

Some of our major projects at Gateways over the past few years...



£175k

PURPOSE-BUILT ART STUDIO - creativity with a view

Creativity deserves a stage, and ours comes with panoramic views of the Yorkshire countryside. Our purpose-built art studio, benefits from plenty of natural light and opens onto a decked veranda. Pupils work in a space that supports wellbeing whilst inspiring imagination and creativity.

Why it matters: Through the provision of a purpose-built art studio, Gateways offers a tranquil space to let those creative ideas flow.



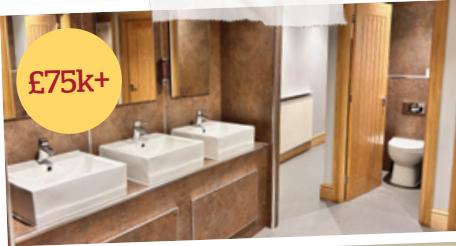
Why it matters: Many schools offer dedicated Sixth Form facilities, but few provide the level of sophistication and independence found at Gateways. We have set a new benchmark for preparing students for life beyond school.



THE OLD VICARAGE - a Sixth Form experience like no other

Our £1.7 million flagship development, The Old Vicarage, has the feel of a boutique university campus and offers a blend of independence and support. Students enjoy a variety of study and social spaces including collaborative garden pods, private study booths, a lounge, small classrooms, a dedicated gym featuring Peloton bikes and a stylish bistro, all designed to encourage academic focus and personal wellbeing.

Why it matters: Many schools offer dedicated Sixth Form facilities, but few provide the level of sophistication and independence found at Gateways. We have set a new benchmark for preparing students for life beyond school.



LUXURY CHANGING FACILITIES and toilet upgrades

Wellbeing isn't just about classrooms, it extends to every corner of school life; in the summer of 2024, we invested over £75,000 to completely transform our changing facilities in the Sports Hall, creating spaces that now feel more like a premium health club than a school. Floor-to-ceiling toilet and shower cubicles guarantee complete privacy, while high-end fixtures and finishes deliver comfort and style.

This project marked the start of a wider programme to upgrade all toilet facilities across the school, ensuring everyone experiences the same level of quality and care.

Why it matters: Gateways understands that the small things make a big difference to confidence and comfort.



DINING REDEFINED - a hub for community and wellbeing

Mealtimes should be moments of connection. Our transformed dining hall combines contemporary design with practical elegance: dual hot-food stations, a central salad island and stylish furnishings create a vibrant space where pupils can recharge and socialise. Our catering partner is Holroyd Howe who ensure that meals are fresh, nutritious and delicious.

Why it matters: Dining isn't just about food, it's about fostering community and wellbeing in an exceptional space.



THE LODGE - focused learning in style



From derelict to dazzling, the transformation of The Lodge is a testament to our commitment to excellence. This £400,000 refurbishment created bespoke classrooms for small-group learning, individual study booths and collaborative spaces, all finished to the same high standard as The Old Vicarage. GCSE and Sixth Form students benefit from an environment that feels calm, focused and aspirational.



Why it matters: Provision of additional high quality learning spaces for collaborative working and individual study.

In addition, the PFA have raised funds which have contributed to several school projects over the years. The most recent larger PFA funded projects are the design and installation of a new Prep outdoor play area and the creation of a strength and conditioning gym in High School.

FUTURE VISION £5 million Prep School development

Planning has been secured for a multi-million pound Prep School extension, designed to deliver state-of-the-art learning spaces for pupils from Pre-Reception to Upper 1. Spaces vacated by Early Years in the Littlegates building will become a cutting-edge area for technology in the High School, housing art, design technology, photography, textiles, food technology and computing.



Raised
£1,378
for Children
in Need

Fundraising

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

In Prep School, pupils came to school dressed as what they want to be when they grow up - we saw popstars, scientists, doctors, dancers, fashion designers and future teachers! The children enjoyed the teachers v teachers 'Family Fortunes' style quiz in the PAC before tucking into their doughnuts!

In High School, pupils enjoyed their costume parade in the PAC, followed by doughnuts at break. During lunch pupils could donate to take part in an obstacle course and/or 'sponge the teacher'! The total amount raised for Children in Need was £1,378.



Want to hear more from Gateways?

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GATEWAYS
SCHOOL

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Dates for your Diary

SPRING TERM 2026

6TH JANUARY

Start of term

12TH JANUARY

Reception Information Session 3.30pm (Pre-Reception)

15TH JANUARY

Upper 4 Parents' Evening

20TH JANUARY

Music Twilight Concert (High School)

21ST JANUARY

Lower 2 visit to Eureka!

22ND JANUARY

Gateways Got Talent (Lower 2, Upper 2 and Lower 3)

27TH JANUARY

Music Twilight Concert (Prep)

28TH JANUARY

Upper 2 High School experience day

3RD FEBRUARY

Upper 5 Parents' Evening

9TH FEBRUARY

KS2 Information Session

10TH FEBRUARY

CCF Ex Lost Patrol

11TH FEBRUARY

Pop into Pre-Reception

Upper 1 visit to Stump Cross Caverns

12TH FEBRUARY

'Life Skills' Day (Transition to Lower 3)
End of Term

14TH-21ST FEBRUARY

Ski Trip

24TH FEBRUARY

Start of term

5TH MARCH

World Book Day (Prep and EYFS)

Lower 5 Parents' Evening

6TH-8TH MARCH

CCF Ex Halfway

w/c 9TH MARCH

Science Week

11TH MARCH

Pop into Pre-Reception

17TH MARCH

Cabaret Evening

20TH MARCH

Red Nose Day

18TH, 20TH MARCH

Lower 4 Residential to Liverpool

20TH, 22ND MARCH

CCF Ex Merlin Manoeuvre

w/c 23RD MARCH

Prep Parents' Evenings

26TH MARCH

Lower 4 Parents Evening / Twilight Concert

31ST MARCH

Lower KS2 Production 4:30-5:30pm in the PAC (Upper 1 & Lower 2 pupils)

2ND APRIL

Last day of term

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.