



## WELCOME

# A message from the Head of School

Mrs G McLaughlin

This term has been truly exceptional for our Academy. Our recent Ofsted visit was overwhelmingly positive, with the inspectors emphasising the outstanding qualities of our students. They described the Academy as a "special place" and were deeply impressed by our students' consistent embodiment of our core values: Responsibility, Resilience, Compassion, and Aspiration. I eagerly await the opportunity to share the full Ofsted report with you, which is expected to be released in late January.

I am also pleased to report some remarkable achievements this term. Staff retention at the Academy is over 95%, both staff and student attendance rates exceed the national average and our students continue to achieve academic results that surpass national benchmarks across a wide range of subjects. None of this would be possible without the collective efforts of our entire community—parents, students and staff—working together to make our Academy an extraordinary place to learn and 'improve upon our best'.

As we plan forward for next term, I assure you we will continue our relentless focus on continuing to offer our students an exceptional educational experience that is life-changing.

I wish all of our families a safe, happy and restful break and look forward to working together in the new year.

"We were not born to be average. We were born to be exceptional. We are The Gateway Academy."

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mrs G McLaughlin  
HEAD OF SCHOOL

## GLC Gateway Academy

All Different: All Equal: Together, Improving Upon Our Best

### JUST EXCEPTIONAL

A huge congratulations to Noah K for his fantastic performance in county hockey.

The first match was a close contest, with Essex securing a hard-fought 4-3 victory over Suffolk. In the second game, Essex truly dominated, defeating Suffolk with an incredible 10-3 win. Noah played a key role in this match, scoring two impressive goals to help secure the team's triumph.

The Essex team is now preparing for their next games, scheduled for January 5th. We're excited to see what Noah and his teammates will achieve in the upcoming matches.

Well done, Noah, and best of luck in January!



## MATILDA

Don't miss the highlights from our amazing production! Discover the talent, creativity, and hard work that brought it to life—read more on page 7....



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

** MONDAY 23 DECEMBER - FRIDAY 03 JANUARY - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS **			
SPRING TERM 2025			
JAN	Mon	06-Jan	** TRAINING DAY 3 **
	Tues	07-Jan	0815 All Years Start (Yrs 7-11)
	Fri	10-Jan	0800- Panoramic photographs for Years 7 and 11
	Mon	13-Jan	1530 Year 9 SEND Parental Event
	Thur	16-Jan	1600- Year 10 Parents' Evening
	Mon	27-Jan	Year 11 PPE 2 Exams (for 2 weeks 27 January - 07 February 2025)

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our student leadership groups have been hard at work this past term, making a real impact across the school community. From organising events to championing important causes, they've been unstoppable! Learn more about their fantastic achievements on page 2.



## PARENTAL CALENDAR

<https://www.theglc-gatewayacademy.org.uk/calendar/?calid=1&pid=16&viewid=1>

As well as other valuable information, for example, announcements, letters home and uniform can be found on The Gateway Academy website <http://www.theglc-gatewayacademy.org.uk/>.

Please check this regularly for any update.

## PARENTS' EVENING DATES

To accommodate all families, each year group will have a designated Parents' Evening. Please find the dates for your child's year group below in date order:

- ~~Year 11 & Next Steps Evening - Thursday 21 November 2024~~
- ~~Year 7 - Thursday 12 December 2024~~
- Year 10 - Thursday 16 January 2025
- Year 11 - Thursday 6 March 2025
- Year 8 - Thursday 27 March 2025
- Year 9 & Options Evening - Thursday 24 April 2025

Each evening will start at 16:00 and no appointments are required.

# MORE NEWS .....

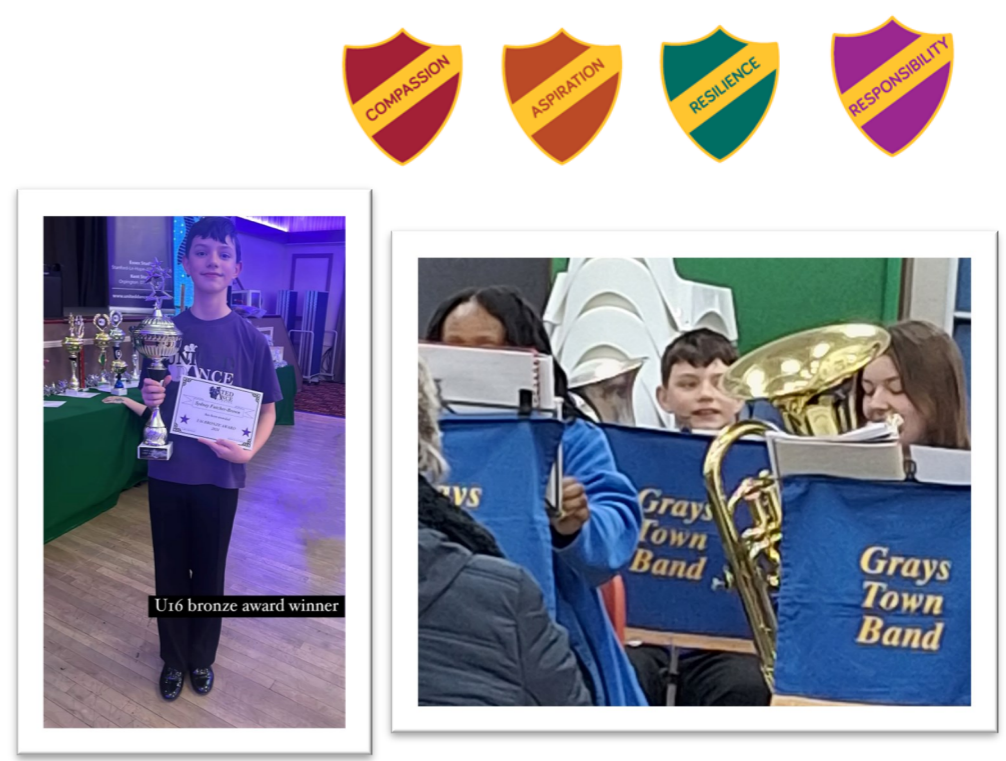
## SYDNEY SHINES IN MUSIC AND DANCE

Sydney has had an amazing few months, showcasing his talents in both music and dance!

Recently, Sydney had the opportunity to perform with the Grays Town Band at their free Christmas concert. As the youngest player in the band, Sydney embraced the chance to help this incredible charity which supports young people in learning brass instruments. In the lead-up to Christmas, Sydney will continue to help the band by either fundraising or playing alongside them at Sainsbury's in Chafford Hundred or Morrisons in Grays.

In addition to his musical achievements, Sydney excelled in his U16 bronze dance exam, which he took in October. The exam tested him on two ballroom and two Latin dances, and Sydney achieved an outstanding 95%!

Well done, Sydney, for your incredible dedication and success in both music and dance. We're so proud of your achievements!



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP NEWS

The Wellbeing Ambassadors recently organised a fantastic session involving balloons and bracelets to raise awareness of their anti-bullying efforts, alongside Odd Socks Day. The students are passionate about ensuring that everyone feels safe at school and have implemented a variety of ways for students to seek help and encourage proactive action against bullying.

Additionally, there is now a podcast called *Safe Space* available on the Academy website, where students and staff discuss issues relevant to young people. This initiative will soon expand to include *Student Space* and *Parent Space*, offering support and advice related to the mental health and wellbeing of young people.



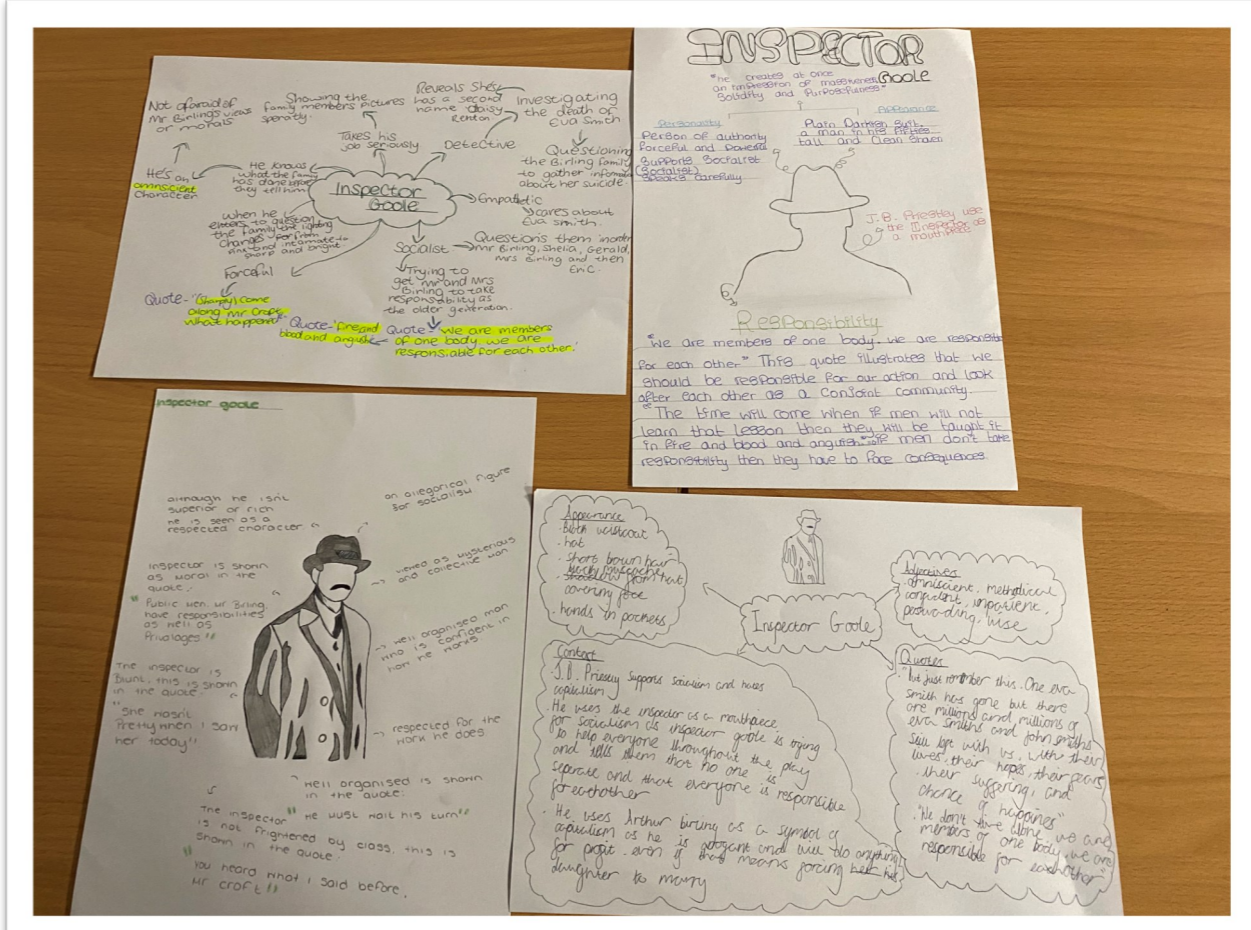
The Responsibility Group has been working hard to raise awareness about environmental issues and recently organised a successful bake sale, complete with educational materials. They have raised enough money to sponsor a polar bear for a year and make a donation to the WWF. To build on this success, they will be raffling off a giant polar bear in the new year to further expand their efforts.

The Aspiration Group is busy working on their next Careers Fair and would like to invite anyone who has time to donate to share information about their business and careers in that field. If you're able to help, please email our Careers Lead at [an.fuller@theglc.org.uk](mailto:an.fuller@theglc.org.uk).

The Compassion Group has been working hard to collect donations for the homeless charity once again, and we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of some of our families. In 2023, over 100 homeless people in Thurrock and Essex received a Christmas gift from The Gateway Academy and we are hoping to make this happen again this year.



## WONDERFUL "AN INSPECTOR CALLS" - read more on page 7



*Merry Christmas*



# MORE NEWS .....

## LILLY-SUE'S REMARKABLE JOURNEY



A huge congratulations to Lily-Sue for her incredible achievements over the past year!

Lily-Sue began her journey by participating in the Respect Project through school, in partnership with Essex Boys and Girls Club. The programme challenged her to step out of her comfort zone, culminating in a tough winter week in the Lake District—her first time staying away from home. Since then, she has taken part in trips to Wales, Mersea Island, and various challenge days at Layer Marney. These adventures included climbing mountains in freezing temperatures, navigating challenging treks through water, and learning survival techniques, all while working closely as part of a team.

Her dedication hasn't stopped there. Lily-Sue continues to attend weekly youth sessions and is now working towards her Young Leaders Certificate and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Her transformation has been remarkable, evolving into a confident and ambitious young woman. This incredible growth was recognised when Lily-Sue received a prestigious Jack Petchey Award for Outstanding Achiever. This award celebrates how hard she has worked and how far she has come.

We are so proud of Lily-Sue and look forward to seeing her shine at the larger awards ceremony at the Civic Hall in February.

Congratulations, Lily-Sue—you are an inspiration to us all!



## PARENTAL INFORMATION

We are pleased to be able to share an extensive range of resources with you which outline what your child will be learning this year in all of their subjects. The link to all subjects can be found here: <https://www.theglc-gatewayacademy.org.uk/page/?title=Subjects&pid=70>

At the bottom of each subject's page is a clickable link which will then open a parental overview. Within the overview are further links to Knowledge Organisers, Revision Resources and for Years 10 and 11, a link to the specification which goes into much greater depth about what your child needs to know and how they will be assessed.

We hope you find this information useful in supporting your child; please be aware that some of the links may require a Google login, and some pdf and Excel links may require downloading prior to viewing.

## YEAR 8 NEWS

Mrs L Bruce

The Year 8 students have been working incredibly hard throughout this half term, and it has been such a pleasure to witness their dedication during our learning walks. We've seen students cooking up delicious dishes in Food Technology, honing their basketball skills in PE, and becoming increasingly fluent in Spanish lessons. Their outstanding work ethic has been truly inspiring.

To celebrate the successes of this term, we concluded with a fantastic rewards assembly. Tutors nominated *two* students each for Tutee of the Term, recognizing their engagement, hard work, contributions, and overall work ethic. A huge congratulations to the following students:

Yosour M, James S, Scarlett H, Louis M, Jessy H, Kajus G, Lorin S, Cameron C, Trixy K, Tobi S, Lexi S, Zachary C, Ruby C, Morgan C, Precious B, Leo C, Oreo M, and Aiden Y.

Miss Livingstone awarded her Student of the Term to Hope C, while Chloe A was recognized as one of the kindest students following a student leadership vote.

In addition, 90 students earned Core Value badges for consistently demonstrating the academy's values. While there are too many names to list, we know these students will wear their badges with pride on their blazers—please do congratulate them when you see them!

To add a bit of fun and competition, the term ended with an X Band vs Y Band challenge to eat a selection box the fastest—an event as competitive as we imagined! Y Band emerged victorious, securing the Battle of the Bands title when combined with attendance, achievement points, and behaviour points.

Here's a breakdown of the tutor group awards:

- Best Attendance: 8I
- Most Achievement Points: 8B
- Least Behaviour Points: 8F
- Fewest SET Callouts: 8F
- The overall Tutor Group of the Term award went to 8F—very well-deserved winners!

We concluded the celebrations with our Progress and Attainment Awards, presented by our fantastic Head Students. The subject awards went to 26 students, with the following highlights:

Progress Awards:

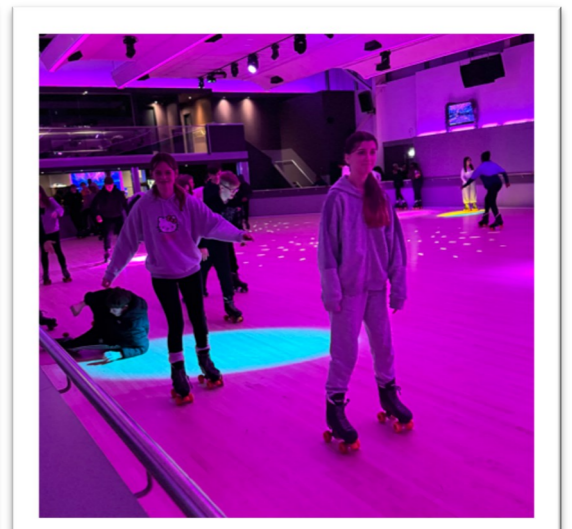
- Bronze: Ellie S
- Silver: Daizee-Marie L
- Gold: Aaliyah A

Attainment Awards:

- Bronze: Amelia M
- Silver: Tobi S
- Gold: Trixie N

The final, most prestigious award—Student of the Term—was given to Damilola A, a very deserving winner who has grown in confidence, demonstrated kindness, and shown exceptional hard work this term.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in 2025!



Merry Christmas

# MORE NEWS .....



## YEAR 7 NEWS

Miss A Dixon

Year 7 pupils have been amazing this half term and have achieved so much! We held our first Year 7 Parents' Evening which was very well attended by parents and carers. This event provided an excellent opportunity for students and their families to receive one-to-one feedback from teachers, setting everyone up for a fantastic return after the Christmas break.

In addition to this, the year group has participated in various trips, after-school activities, and other exciting events. A highlight of the term was the school disco, which was a fantastic evening and enjoyed by many pupils.

We are incredibly proud of everything our pupils have accomplished so far. Over 100 values badges have been awarded within the year group, along with 10 golden tickets—a truly incredible achievement!

We are already looking forward to next term and can't wait to see what else the pupils will achieve. Please continue to share your child's achievements outside of school, as we will be celebrating these during tutor time.

Lastly, a huge thank you to all our pupils and their parents and carers. Your support has been outstanding. Many of you attended Parents' Evening, the school show, and have been in constant communication with us.

Have a wonderful Christmas, however you choose to celebrate, and we wish you a very Happy New Year.

Best wishes,  
Miss Dixon and Ms Davis



<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

**Has something happened online that has made you feel worried or unsafe?**

Make a report to one of CEOP's Child Protection Advisors

**Should I make a report to CEOP?**

If you're worried about online abuse or the way someone has been communicating online, let CEOP know.

**What happens when I make a report?**

One of our experienced child protection advisors will be there to make sure you get the help that you need.

**How can CEOP help me?**

Online abuse affects many children and young adults every day, CEOP has helped thousands of people in need of support.

**Make a Report**

If you have been a victim of online abuse or you're worried about somebody else, let us know securely

**We have the button at the we**

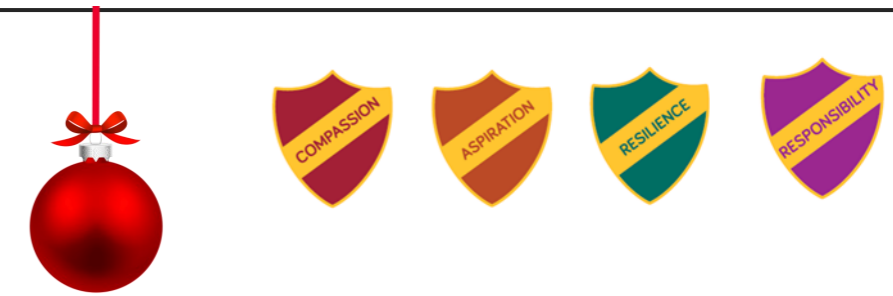
### Worried about a child?

- You can phone or write to The MASH about your concerns. Phone immediately if you believe it is urgent.
- Thurrock MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding hub), Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL, Tel: **01375 652802**.
  - Emergency Duty Team (for out of hours) **01375 372468**.
  - Police Child Abuse Investigation Team **01277 266822** or call **999** if you are concerned a child needs immediate protection.
  - Childline **0800 11 11** [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)
  - NSPCC **0808 800 5000** [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk); [www.facebook.com/nspcc](https://www.facebook.com/nspcc)

# MORE NEWS .....

## YEAR 11 NEWS

Ms Shannon



Term one of Year 11 is complete, and what a term it has been! The first round of Year 11 exams has taken place, followed by a results event. This event is a unique opportunity we provide at the Academy to give students a sense of what it will be like to open their actual exam results and see their final achievements.

We also held the first of two Parents' Evenings, focusing on next steps for the students. A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who attended—the turnout was fantastic, with over 160 students and their families present. We hope this event provided a valuable opportunity to meet with class teachers and discuss your child's progress. If you were unable to attend this time, don't worry! The second Parents' Evening will take place in February. We'll ensure you receive plenty of reminders and all the necessary information closer to the time.

The Alumni and Study Zones have been up and running for a few weeks now, offering fantastic opportunities for our students. We encourage you to support your child in taking advantage of these resources.

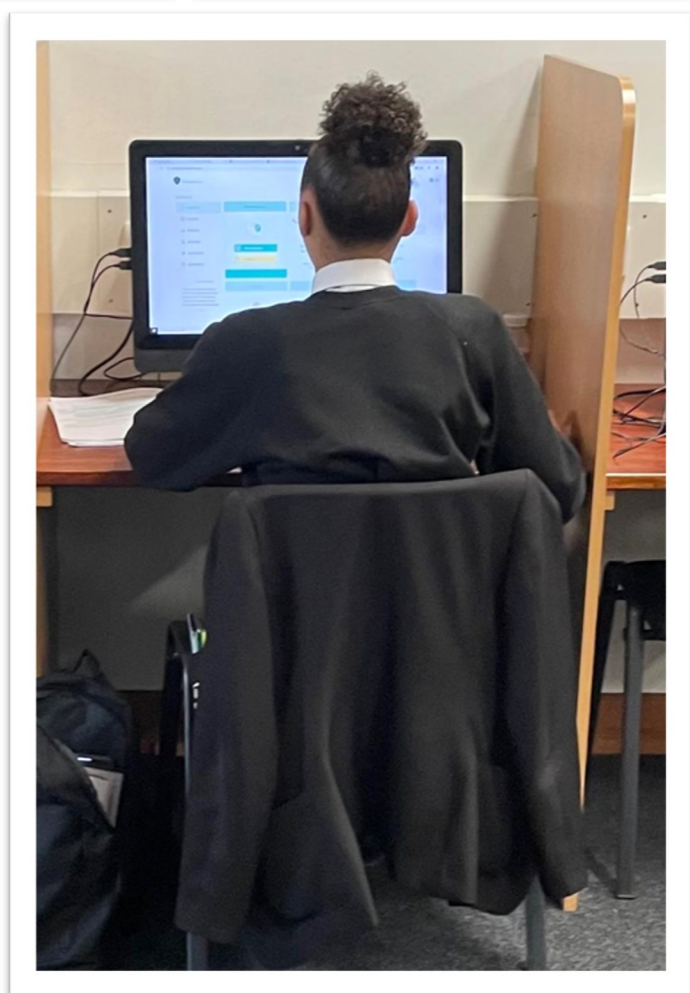
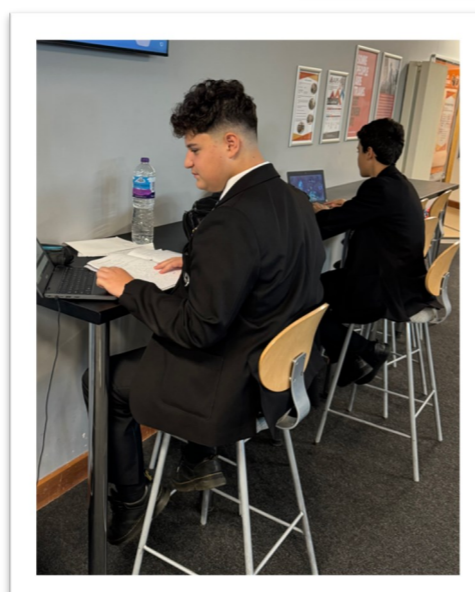
The Study Zone is open every day during break and lunchtimes, and the library remains open every evening until 5:00pm (4:00pm on Fridays). In addition, external tutors—ex-students who recently achieved grades 8 and 9 in their exams—are available from Tuesday to Friday. Having recently experienced the same challenges, these tutors can truly relate to and support our students during this important time. The full timetable for these sessions is available on the school website, has been shared with parents via Edulink, and is accessible to students on their Year 11 notice page. These are incredible opportunities for all students to incorporate into their revision plans and make the most of their preparation.



This term has been filled with numerous exciting trips and opportunities for our Year 11 students.

Students have had the chance to visit a local university, speak with various employers, and attend their first careers meeting with Mrs Fuller. We've also held several rewards trips, including visits to Hollywood Bowl and our annual Fright Night, a special event for Year 11 girls.

Additionally, 100 Year 11 students were invited to join the whole-school rewards trip to RollerCity. This marked the final trip for Year 11, making it a memorable way to celebrate their achievements.



Year 11 recently participated in an excellent workshop led by an external company, focusing on their journey toward their final exams. The session covered effective revision techniques and strategies for developing a positive mindset as they prepare for their exams.

The students were highly engaged throughout the workshop and left feeling motivated and optimistic. Many reflected on how they plan to approach this round of PPEs differently compared to the last, showing a much-improved attitude and determination.



It was incredibly encouraging to see the students so invested in their progress and eager to implement what they learned.

A huge congratulations to Logan H for earning his Essex cap for football! Logan has been a dedicated member of the team for several years and achieved this milestone by playing 10 competitive games for Essex.

Well done, Logan! Keep working hard, and we're confident you'll go far.

All that is left to say is we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

See you all in 2024.

Mrs Shannon and Mrs Action

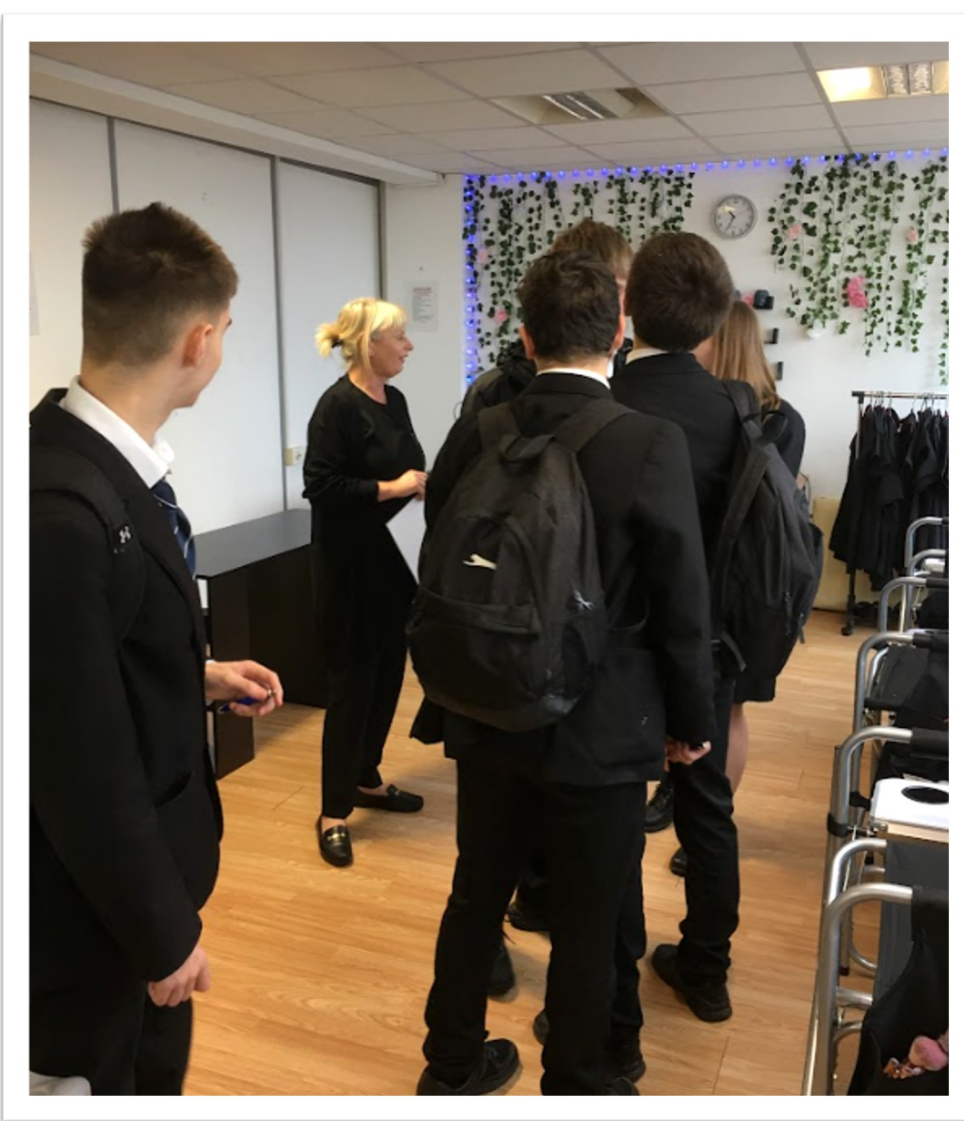


# MORE NEWS .....



## CAREERS

This term's assemblies have been held for most year groups and included South Essex College, Harris Chafford, the NHS and Murphy Group to support with next steps and careers. Some year 11 students who missed out on the Year 10 university trip, as they were representing the Gateway in the Districts finals, had a day on the Campus on University of Essex which was enjoyed by all and extremely informative. A group of year 11 students were also taken to a taster event at TCHC, an alternative provision, to help support their post-16 decisions. In November a Next Steps event was held during Parents' Evening made up of a variety of post-16 providers, University of Essex and various employers which gave both students and parents the opportunity to chat with them regarding careers.



## CHRISTMAS DINNER

At The Gateway, we had a fantastic Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day! Students enjoyed a free Christmas dinner, filling the school with festive cheer.

The day was packed with fun, including lots of karaoke and plenty of Christmas spirit. It was truly a wonderful way to celebrate the season together!



### 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING HEALTHY FRIENDSHIPS

Navigating the complexities of childhood and adolescent friendships can be challenging – but with the right guidance, children and young people can cultivate meaningful, supportive relationships, some of which may last for many years. These top tips provide a comprehensive approach to fostering healthy friendships among children and young people. It's important to remember, however, that each child is different, and will require an individual approach to relationship support.

- 1 GRANT FRIENDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**  
Encouraging children and young people to join extracurricular activities can foster healthy friendships by providing shared interests and common ground. Engaging in these pastimes offers a platform for interaction, sometimes alleviating the social pressure of knowing what to say, and helps children develop meaningful connections.
- 2 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**  
The children and young people in our lives see how we behave, the connections that we've made and the interactions between us and others. When we model healthy friendships, we set an example and help youngsters to understand what healthy friendships looks like and how to navigate them.
- 3 HELP THEM LOVE THEMSELVES**  
Healthy friendships aren't just about dynamics with other people. They're about our relationship with ourselves. For overall wellbeing, it's important for a child to have the space to build their self-esteem and a positive self-image, as these factors can have a notable influence on the friendships they form throughout life.
- 4 MONITOR SCREEN TIME**  
Too much screen time can affect some children's wellbeing in general, but it can specifically impact friendships if it results in fewer positive social interactions. In some cases, reducing screen time and encouraging children and young people to find ways to interact face-to-face can have positive results. It's also important to remember that young people can make positive friendships online, but they will require support to do this safely.
- 5 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING**  
Inevitably, friendships can run into problems. However, this is also an opportunity to support children and young people to work through any difficulties that may arise. It can be tempting to intervene and try to fix these issues for those involved, but helping them consider ways of resolving conflict or managing difficult situations for themselves can help them create stronger friendships.
- 6 EMPOWER THE CHILD**  
When we give children and young people the confidence to choose their friends, navigate interpersonal boundaries and consider how they want to interact with the different people around them, we empower them to take control of the friendships they have. When young people feel in control of these things, they're more likely to make positive choices and remain aware of the signs of a negative relationship.
- 7 TEACH EMPATHY**  
'Healthy friendships' doesn't always mean 'perfect'. Sometimes, disagreements can happen. When we teach children and young people to have empathy, we help them to see both sides of a relationship; to be mindful of the challenges a friend might be facing or whatever else might be going on. This can help children and young people to build stronger friendships.
- 8 BE OPEN TO QUESTIONS**  
Talking to young people about their friendships, who they spend time with and who they interact with can open the door to questions if they have concerns. Initially, these queries may be straightforward, but if we are receptive to discussion from the outset, young people are more likely to come to us for help when they're older as well.
- 9 UNDERSTAND BOUNDARIES**  
One of the keys to a healthy friendship is honouring boundaries. This can include anything from respecting personal space and belonging to accepting language and behaviour. Understanding the importance of setting these limits and upholding those set by others can help children stay safe. If young people figure out their boundaries and feel comfortable enforcing them, they're more likely to call someone out if they go too far.
- 10 SPOT THE SIGNS**  
We can't always supervise young people; sometimes, we need to step back and give them some space. However, it's important to consider any indicators that they may be struggling in their friendships. Are they becoming increasingly irritable? Does their behaviour alter when they've been with their friends? Are they becoming withdrawn or reluctant to take part in certain activities? These could all be signs that they're finding things difficult, and we should remain alert to such changes.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Becky Dawson is an experienced educator who has worked in primary and secondary schools for 20 years. She is a facilitator, consultant and coach working with young people and the adults who work with them, with a focus on developing understanding and skills around mental health, wellbeing and safeguarding.

**#WakeUpWednesday** **The National College**

# MORE NEWS .....



## ENGLISH NEWS

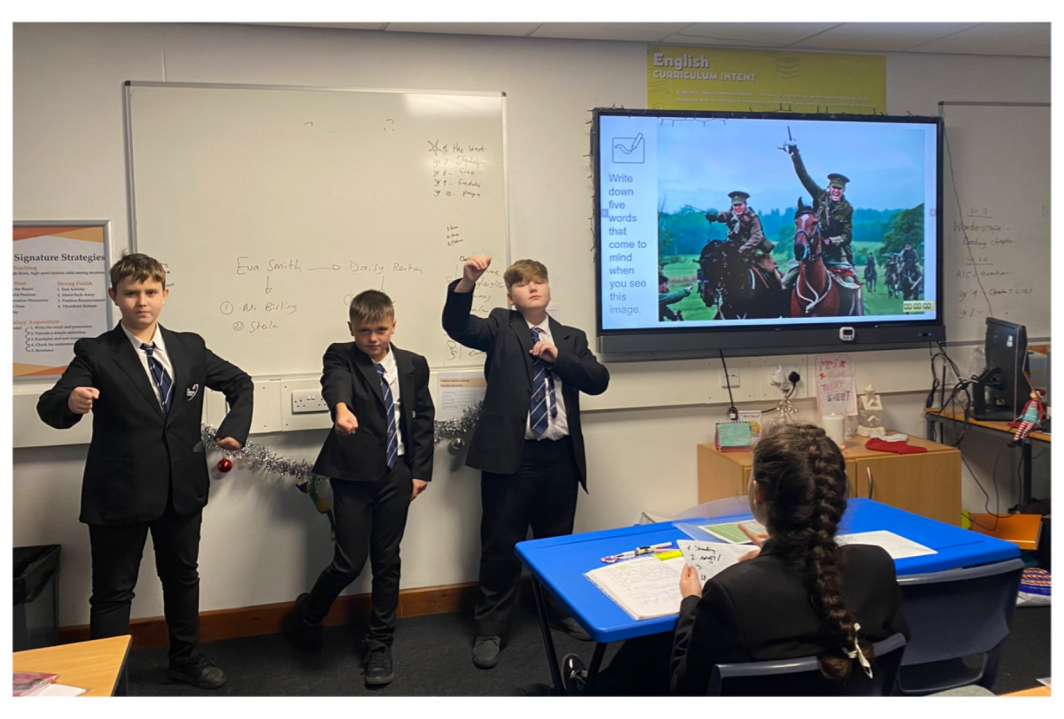
In English, we are currently reading *When the Guns Fall Silent*. Our Year 7 students recently enjoyed a fantastic lesson that combined creative writing with acting to bring their ideas to life.

"It was an absolute privilege to visit The Gateway Academy again and celebrate the joys of reading and writing with the students. I couldn't have hoped for a better day—the entire event was such a positive experience. I was particularly impressed by how many students engaged with enthusiasm and asked thoughtful questions!

"With the Year 7s, we discussed the power of reading and writing, emphasising how sport and stories can build friendships and foster resilience. We explored how real-life experiences can inspire and shape fiction. Meanwhile, in the Year 8 workshop, we focused on the diverse and exciting career opportunities in football, with students writing outstanding job application letters.

"It was a pleasure to work with the students, and I was especially struck by the school's commitment to the positive impact of physical books and the role of reading in personal development. I hope the day inspires the students to Go For Their Goals."

—Dan Freedman



"Our Year 10 students are diving into *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, exploring the complex duality of human nature. They've been hard at work analysing the text and creating detailed character profiles of Dr. Jekyll, delving into his intriguing personality and moral struggles."

## MATILDA Jr. THE MUSICAL

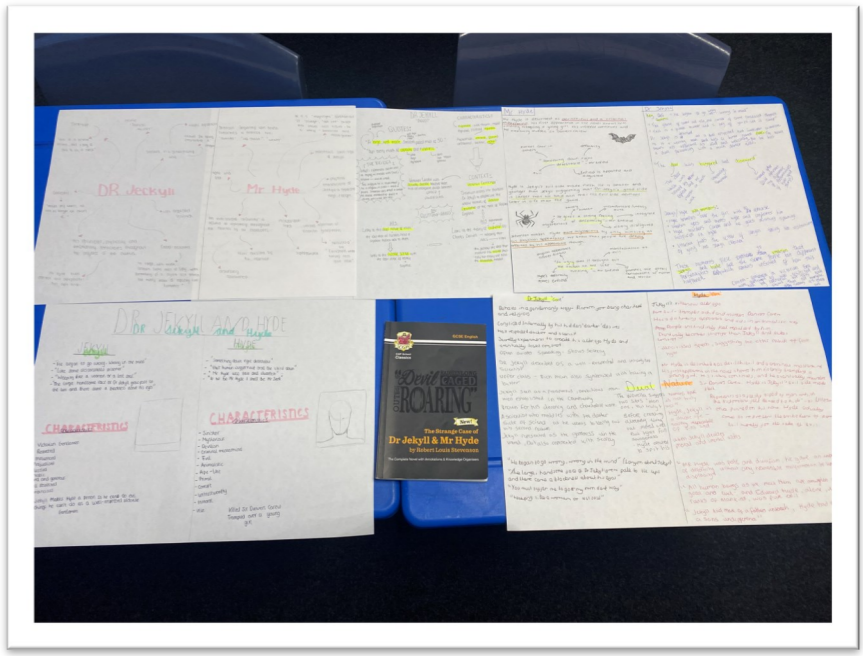
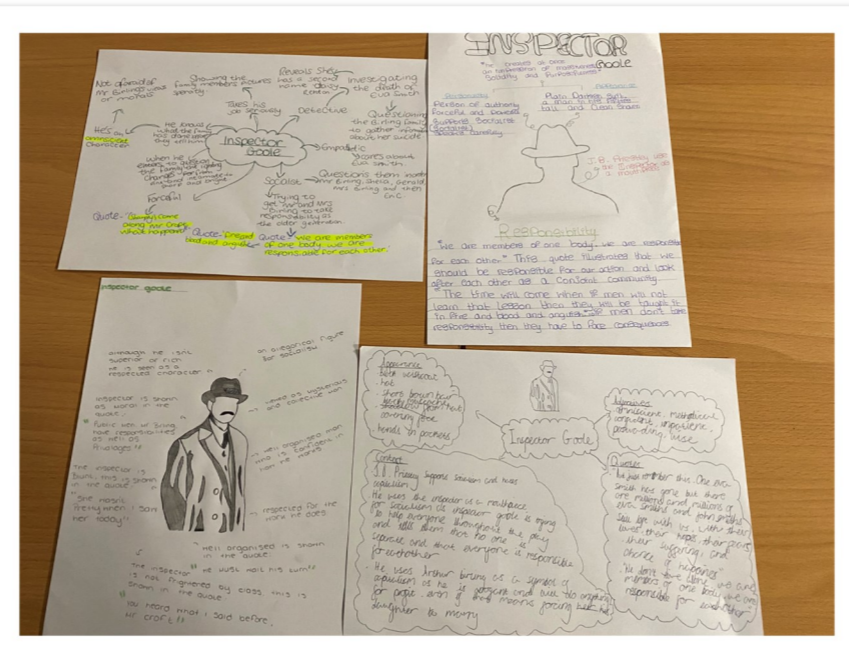
On Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th December, 100 primary and secondary students from the Gateway Learning Community took to the stage to perform *Matilda Jr. The Musical*. What an incredible show it was! The students were absolutely amazing, brimming with excitement as they showcased the results of 12 weeks of relentless rehearsals. Their dedication was truly extraordinary, and we are so proud of every single person who stood on that stage.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved, and to those who provided such wonderful feedback.

—Mrs Hill and the fabulous Arts Team

*Matilda Jr.* is a charming adaptation of Roald Dahl's classic children's book *Matilda*. The story follows the life of a young girl named Matilda, who is exceptionally intelligent but constantly belittled and mistreated by her parents and the fearsome headmistress of her school.

<i>Matilda</i>	Alessia R
<i>Miss Honey</i>	Daina W
<i>Ms Trunchbull</i>	Eli C
<i>Bruce</i>	Jaxon M
<i>Amanda</i>	Seiri-Mei M
<i>Lavender</i>	Molly C
<i>Mr Wormwood</i>	Bobby A
<i>Mrs Wormwood</i>	Treasure O



# MORE NEWS .....

## PE NEWS



As Term 1 comes to a close, we're delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievements and exceptional participation levels in Gateway's sports programme. This term has been one of the most successful starts to the academic year, with students across all year groups showcasing their talent, determination and team spirit in a variety of sports.

### Netball Success: District Dominance and County Campaigns

Netball at Gateway has reached new heights this term, with all district teams remaining unbeaten in their matches. The players have demonstrated excellent teamwork and skill, achieving impressive results that have made the school proud. At county level, our netball teams continue to excel, competing strongly against some of the best teams in the region. This combination of district and county success is a testament to the dedication and talent of both our players and coaching staff.



### Rugby Triumphs: Essex Festival Achievements

Our rugby teams have also had a fantastic start to the season. The U13 boys particularly stood out, finishing as runners-up at their Essex Festival. Competing against high-calibre teams, they showed resilience and skill in every match. Across all year groups, Gateway's rugby players have made a strong impression at Essex Festivals, highlighting the bright future of rugby at our school.

### Basketball Brilliance: Essex Cup Campaigns

Basketball has been another highlight this term, with boys' and girls' teams excelling in the Essex Cup. Both the U13 and U14 boys' teams remain unbeaten, achieving remarkable victories thanks to their hard work and commitment. The U13 girls are also proving their strength, remaining strong contenders for qualification with two games to go. We're excited to see how far these teams will progress in their campaigns.

### Football Highlights: Strong Competition and Progress

Gateway football teams have started the season on a high, with impressive performances across various age groups. A particular highlight is the U14 girls' team, which has qualified for the third round of the Essex Cup. Their next match in January promises to be another exciting challenge, and we're confident they'll continue to make Gateway proud.

### Cross Country: Medal-Winning Runs and Top Finishes

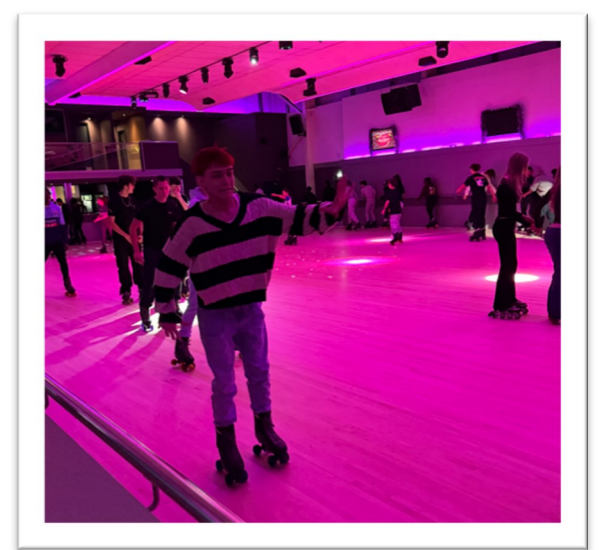
This term's cross-country events highlighted the determination and endurance of our athletes. Allie in Year 7 and Macie in Year 10 both earned silver medals, while Dominykas in Year 11 claimed gold in their respective competitions. Beyond the podium finishes, many students achieved top-ten placements, showcasing their competitive spirit. Congratulations to all our runners for their incredible efforts!

### EAP Relaunch: Supporting Elite Athletes

A major highlight of the term was the relaunch of our Elite Athlete Programme (EAP), designed to support the school's most talented sportspeople. Over 60 students are now part of the programme, benefitting from specialised coaching and resources to help them reach their full potential. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by these young athletes have been truly inspiring.



### A Fantastic Start to the Year



Check out our next issue with pictures from all our first term Academic Awards



*Merry Christmas*

