

WELCOME

A message from the Head of School

Mrs G McLaughlin

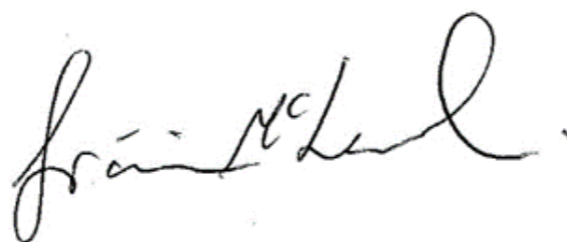
I am pleased to share that our commitment to being exceptional remains unwavering as we continue to enhance our students' learning experience. Following our highly positive Ofsted report which praised both our students and staff, we are pushing forward on all fronts.

From West End theatre trips and student leadership events— including a special Valentine's Day celebration— to our basketball teams competing at national level, a student trip to Barcelona, the Army Candidates Force programme, and outstanding performances in Mensa testing, we are providing our students with a wealth of opportunities that rival those of any school in the country.

We continue to uphold the highest expectations of our students. In the classroom, they are expected to stay focused on their studies and prepare diligently for their upcoming assessments next half term. Year 11 students will receive their PPE results on 6th March, and together, we must support them in achieving their full potential in their examinations.

Early next half term, I will be writing to you regarding planned changes for September 2025, aimed at further strengthening our students' success. My commitment to ensuring our Academy continues to thrive remains steadfast.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



Mrs G McLaughlin

HEAD OF SCHOOL

GLC Gateway Academy

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

JUST EXCEPTIONAL - OFSTED

We have now received the absolutely brilliant Ofsted report for The Gateway Academy. As Mrs McLaughlin said to staff, 'It is a beautiful reflection of the work we are all doing and the work we will continue to do for the young people in our care.' There is so much to be proud of:

- There is a palpable sense of community at The Gateway Academy. Pupils, including those who are disadvantaged, thrive in their wellbeing due to the ethos of kindness. Pupils and families praise the wide-ranging support. For instance, there are well-attended learning activities before and after the school day. Pupils are safe and happy at the school. This also helps them have high attendance.
- Behaviour is excellent. Classrooms are purposeful. Pupils work hard and are eager to learn. Throughout the day, they are orderly and polite. Pupils help to build this positive culture. For example, anti-bullying ambassadors are instrumental in resolving any unkind behaviour.
- Pupils benefit from high expectations for learning. This is in all subjects but especially in English and mathematics pupils are highly successful. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) do really well.
- Pupils live and breathe the school's values. They demonstrate aspiration and responsibility through the many leadership roles. For example, pupils present the regular video news bulletin confidently. Pupils engage frequently with the wider community, such as sitting on the board of the borough council. They learn compassion, for instance when they help the school provide Christmas presents for others who might not get them.

Please see the link to the full report here: [The Gateway Academy Ofsted Report](#)

FAIRER SCHOOLS INDEX

The *Fairer School Index* has been released, and it provides a more holistic approach to ranking schools nationally. This index takes into account several important factors, including the proportion of students eligible for Free School Meals, language diversity, gender balance, SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) provisions, neighbourhood context, and even the month of birth of students.

When these factors are considered, The Gateway Academy has achieved an outstanding result, ranking in the **top 17% of schools nationally** and securing **3rd place in Thurrock**. This is an incredible achievement and a true testament to the many years of hard work, dedication, and meticulous attention to detail by the entire school community.

We are extremely proud of this recognition, which reflects the unwavering commitment of our staff, students, and families in striving for excellence.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

| DATE | Time | Event |
|-------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| 24 February | All week | Year 7 – 10 PPE Start |
| 6 March | 16.00 – 19.00 | Year 11 Parents' Evening |
| 27 March | 16.00 – 19.00 | Year 8 Parents' Evening |

[Click Here](#) for the full parental Calendar

JACK PETCHEY AWARD:

The Gateway Academy is proud to celebrate Macie-Lyn P. for winning the Jack Petchey Award, recognizing her outstanding achievements and contributions. This award highlights Macie-Lyn's hard work, dedication, and the positive impact she has made within the school and wider community. Macie also received a headteacher award last week. Her commitment to excellence and kindness to others has inspired both peers and staff. This well-deserved honour reflects her exceptional character and potential for a bright future.



Fairer Schools Index (FSI)

DFE Ranking

| Thurrock Schools | Ofsted Rating | KS2 APS | % Dis | FS |
|---|-----------------------------|---------|-------|----------------|
| 1 Harris Academy Chafford Hundred | Outstanding (2011) | 106.7 | 8 | 1.04 |
| 2 Grays Convent High School | Good (2023) | 105.5 | 24 | 0.76 |
| 3 Harris Academy Ockendon | Outstanding (2024) | 105.1 | 25 | 0.46 |
| 4 Harris Academy Riverside | Good (2018) | 104.8 | 27 | 0.23 |
| 5 The Gateway Academy (Top 31% of schools nationally) | Good (2019) | 103 | 31 | 0.07 (NA-0.03) |
| 6 William Edwards School | Required Improvement (2019) | 104.3 | 13 | -0.29 |
| 7 St Clare's School | Good (2018) | 104.3 | 20 | -0.34 |
| 8 The Hathway Academy | Good (2018) | 102.9 | 27 | -0.38 |
| 9 Ortu Gable Hall School | Inadequate (2022) | 105.2 | 19 | -0.51 |
| 10 Ormiston Park Academy | Good (2023) | 102.6 | 31 | -0.73 |
| 11 Ortu Hassenbrook Academy | Requires Improvement (2023) | 103.9 | 32 | -0.76 |

Fairer Schools Index

| Thurrock Schools | Ranking | FSI Ranking | Change |
|---|---------|-------------|--------|
| 1 Harris Academy Ockendon | 870 | 518 | +352 |
| 2 Gray Convent High School | 352 | 536 | -184 |
| 3 The Gateway Academy (Top 17% of schools nationally) | 1011 | 548 | +463 |
| 4 Harris Academy Chafford Hundred | 471 | 870 | -399 |
| 5 St Clare's School | 2023 | 1876 | +147 |
| 6 Harris Academy Riverside | 1704 | 2089 | -385 |
| 7 The Hathway Academy | 2247 | 2583 | -336 |
| 8 William Edwards School | 2582 | 2834 | -252 |
| 9 Mossbourne Fobbing (Gable Hall) | 2740 | 2861 | -121 |
| 10 Mossbourne Port Side (Hassenbrook) | 2831 | 2929 | -98 |
| 11 Ormiston Park Academy | 3189 | 3187 | +2 |

FSI ranking = Over 3261 schools nationally

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

- 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



YEAR 7

Mrs Dixon

The wonderful Year 7 pupils have been fully embracing academy life, getting involved in a wide range of activities and making an excellent start to their secondary school journey. They have shown great enthusiasm by attending numerous extracurricular activities, break and lunchtime clubs, and even supporting older students with various events happening across the academy.

Some of our Year 7 student leaders have taken the initiative to launch a *Gateway Challenge* event, which they will be leading every Thursday lunchtime. We are excited to see them take charge of this project, showcasing their leadership skills and creativity. Stay tuned for photos and updates on these events in the next newsletter!

Across all subject areas, Year 7 pupils have been producing fantastic work, and we are immensely proud of the progress they are making. A highlight this term has been the amazing opportunity for some of our Year 7 pupils to take the Mensa IQ test. The results were outstanding, with Rajveer Panesar achieving a remarkable result, placing in the top 1% of the world. Congratulations to Rajveer and to all the pupils who participated—you have done an incredible job, and we are so proud of you!

Looking ahead to the next half term, one key area of focus will be helping pupils take charge of their own revision schedules in preparation for their upcoming assessments. It is vital that they start revising early and avoid cramming at the last minute. During tutor time, we have been working on revision strategies, and there are plenty of resources available for pupils on their Google Classroom pages to support them in their preparations.

The Year 7 assessments will begin on **Monday, 24th February**, and will run for two weeks. We encourage all pupils to plan their revision carefully and take advantage of the resources and support available.



CCF TASTER EVENING



Combined Cadet Force

On Monday, 10th February 2025, immediately after school, the Gateway Learning Community (GLC) hosted a Cadet Taster Day for children considering joining the school's Combined Cadet Force (CCF). The event attracted over 75 children, who eagerly participated in a range of engaging activities, including rock climbing, air rifle shooting, and several command tasks designed to develop communication skills and teamwork.

Cadets from Harris Academy were on hand to support the event, providing insight into the CCF experience and sharing their expertise. The children also had the unique opportunity to explore and handle military equipment, such as clothing, rations, and camping gear, sparking curiosity and excitement about cadet life.

The day was a resounding success, with all attendees enthusiastically engaging in the activities and gaining a deeper understanding of the values and opportunities the CCF offers.

Following the event, applications for the school's CCF contingent are now open, with detailed information sent to families via Edulink. This marks an exciting step forward for the CCF program at the Gateway Academy, fostering skills in leadership, resilience, and camaraderie.



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ART NEWS

Mrs Hill

Year 10 GCSE students have been diligently working on their first coursework unit, *Still Life*. They have shown incredible dedication while mastering the manual settings on DSLR cameras, producing fantastic exposure photographs, and making outstanding progress toward becoming independent photographers.

With the five-hour exam approaching, students will focus on completing their final pieces, which will bring this project to an exciting conclusion.

After Easter, we will begin the next coursework unit, which promises to be just as engaging. Several trips are planned, where students will venture out in minibuses to explore local areas and capture stunning photography beyond the school setting.

As we near the halfway point of the academic year, I am exceptionally proud of the hard work, creativity, and progress demonstrated by our students.

CELEBRATING THE ARTS

We are thrilled to celebrate the achievements of these four students, who have been selected by their teachers as *Students of the Month* in the Art Department. They have worked incredibly hard to achieve an exceptionally high standard in their respective disciplines. We are extremely proud of them!

Photographer – Mario R. (Year 10)

Mario is a dedicated student who has worked relentlessly in Photography to ensure his coursework meets the highest possible standard. His work currently showcases exceptional technical ability and outstanding presentation skills. Mario should be incredibly proud of his accomplishments so far!

Dancer – Millie P. (Year 7)

Millie is a passionate and hardworking dance student who strives for excellence in everything she does. She dedicates her free time to attending clubs and extra sessions to refine her skills further. Millie not only works to be the best version of herself but also actively supports and motivates her peers, fostering a collaborative and inspiring atmosphere.

Actor – Alex G. (Year 10)

Alex is a diligent and conscientious Drama student who consistently gives 100% to both his practical and written work. Always eager to take on new challenges and diverse characters, Alex consistently exceeds expectations both inside and outside the classroom.

This month, Alex delivered a hilarious and unforgettable performance as Oggy Moxon in John Godber's *Teachers*. His vocal expression as a school bully and his mastery of Godber's exaggerated style were exceptional. In addition, Alex supported the department this month by confidently speaking to Year 9 students about the benefits of studying Drama. Congratulations, Alex!

Artist – Kara M. (Year 10)

Kara has been selected as Student of the Month for Art due to her exceptional dedication and consistent progress. She applies herself with enthusiasm during lessons and in her own time, regularly seeking feedback and acting on it with maturity.

In addition to producing her own high-quality work, Kara demonstrates leadership by supporting her peers with advice, ideas, and practical solutions. She has shown remarkable resilience when things haven't gone as planned, persevering until she achieves outstanding results. Well done, Kara!

We are proud to recognise these talented students for their hard work and accomplishments. Their dedication to the Arts is an inspiration to us all!



ENGLISH NEWS

Year 8 students are currently delving into the classic novella *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. As part of their studies, they are exploring the complex themes of power, manipulation, and control within the story.

In their recent lessons, students have been working collaboratively in pairs and small groups to produce analytical paragraphs addressing the question: *How are the animals manipulated in Animal Farm?* Through this activity, they are developing their critical thinking and analytical writing skills, focusing on how language, propaganda, and fear are used as tools of manipulation by the pigs, particularly Napoleon and Squealer.

This task not only encourages students to closely examine key moments in the text but also fosters meaningful discussions about the broader implications of the novella's themes, such as leadership, inequality, and the misuse of power. By working together, students are sharing ideas and learning to construct well-supported arguments, using evidence from the text to back up their interpretations.

As they continue their journey through *Animal Farm*, students are deepening their understanding of Orwell's critique of totalitarian regimes and the dangers of unchecked authority, while also honing their ability to articulate their insights with clarity and precision.



MORE NEWS



GATEWAY SPORTS

As we reach the end of the first half of the Spring term, we are delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievements and incredible participation levels in Gateway's sports program. Students from all year groups have demonstrated remarkable talent, determination, and team spirit across a variety of sports, making this one of the most successful starts to the year in Gateway's history!

Netball Success: District Dominance and County Campaigns

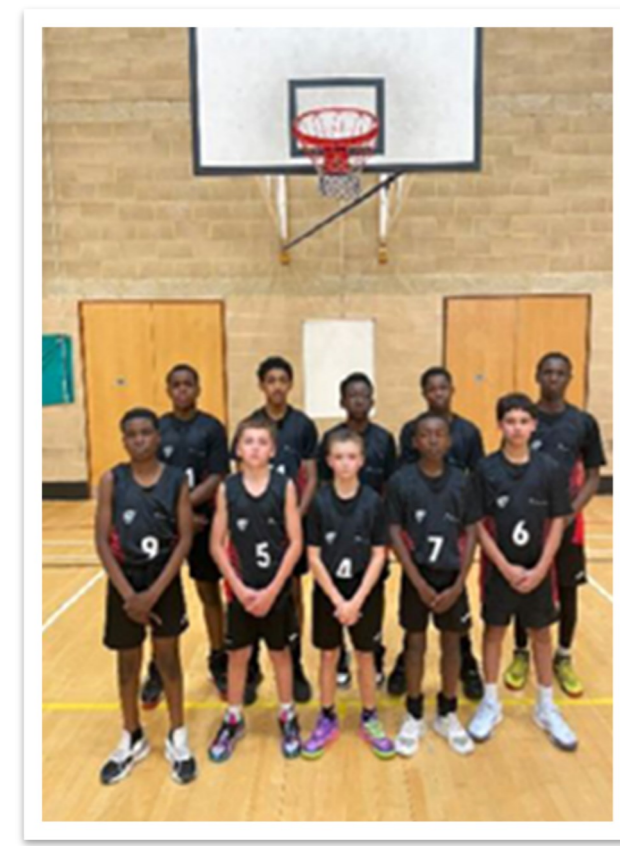
Netball at Gateway has reached new heights this term, with all of our district teams remaining unbeaten in their matches so far. The players have consistently demonstrated exceptional teamwork, dedication, and skill, earning impressive results that make the entire school proud.

On the county stage, our netball teams continue to excel, still in the running against some of the region's strongest competitors. This combination of district and county success reflects the hard work and commitment of both the players and our coaching staff. The future of Gateway netball looks brighter than ever!

Rugby Triumphs: Essex Festival Achievements

Our rugby teams have also kicked off the season with tremendous success. The U13 boys stood out by finishing as runners-up in their Essex Festival, showcasing their skills, resilience, and sportsmanship against incredibly tough opponents.

Across all year groups, Gateway rugby players have left their mark at Essex Festivals, consistently competing at a high level and making a strong impression. These achievements underline the exciting potential of rugby at Gateway.



Basketball Brilliance: Essex Cup Campaigns

This term has also been a fantastic one for basketball at Gateway. Both boys' and girls' teams have performed exceptionally well in the Essex Cup.

The U13 and U14 boys remain unbeaten, delivering remarkable victories that reflect their hard work and dedication. Meanwhile, the U13 girls are proving themselves to be fierce competitors, holding strong in the campaign with just two games left. Their progress has been thrilling to watch, and we eagerly anticipate their next matches.

Football Highlights: Strong Competition and Progress

Football has been another area of strength for Gateway sports this term. Teams across multiple age groups have delivered impressive performances, with the U14 girls standing out by qualifying for the third round of the Essex Cup. They are set to face their next challenge in January, and we have every confidence in their ability to make Gateway proud.

Cross Country: Medal-Winning Runs and Top Finishes

This term's cross-country events have been a showcase of endurance, perseverance, and athleticism. Several students achieved outstanding individual results:

- **Allie (Year 7):** Silver medal
- **Macie (Year 10):** Silver medal
- **Dominykas (Year 11):** Gold medal



In addition to these podium finishes, many students placed in the top ten of their respective races, demonstrating both skill and competitive spirit. A huge congratulations to all our cross-country runners—you have done Gateway proud!

Elite Athlete Programme (EAP) Relaunch: Supporting Our Sports Stars

A major highlight of this term has been the relaunch of our *Elite Athlete Programme (EAP)*, designed to nurture and support the school's most talented young athletes. We are thrilled to announce that over 60 students are currently enrolled in the program, benefitting from specialised coaching, tailored resources, and focused development opportunities to help them achieve their full potential.

The enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment shown by these young athletes have been truly inspiring, and we look forward to seeing them continue to thrive in their respective sports.

A Heartfelt Thank You

A massive thank you to all the students, coaches, and parents who have supported Gateway sports this term. Your hard work and encouragement have played a vital role in making this term such a success. Let's keep this fantastic momentum going as we move into the second half of the year. **Go Gateway!**

COOKING UP A STORM

Over the last few weeks, students in Years 7, 8, and 9 have been hard at work in the kitchen, creating some truly impressive dishes in their Food Technology lessons.

Year 7 students wowed everyone with their delicious broccoli and cauliflower cheese bakes. From perfecting their cheese sauce to presenting their final dishes, they showcased not only creativity but also fantastic teamwork and culinary skill.

Year 8 have been mastering the art of pizza-making, crafting their own tasty creations from scratch. Students experimented with a variety of toppings, designing unique flavor combinations, and learning valuable techniques such as dough preparation and oven baking. The results were both delicious and professional-looking!

Year 9 took on the challenge of preparing hearty fish pies, focusing on perfecting both their fillings and toppings. The students worked hard to balance flavors and textures, producing comforting dishes that looked and tasted amazing.

It's been a week full of culinary creativity, teamwork, and plenty of fun in the kitchen. The students have thoroughly enjoyed putting their culinary skills to the test, and we couldn't be prouder of their fantastic efforts! Well done, everyone!

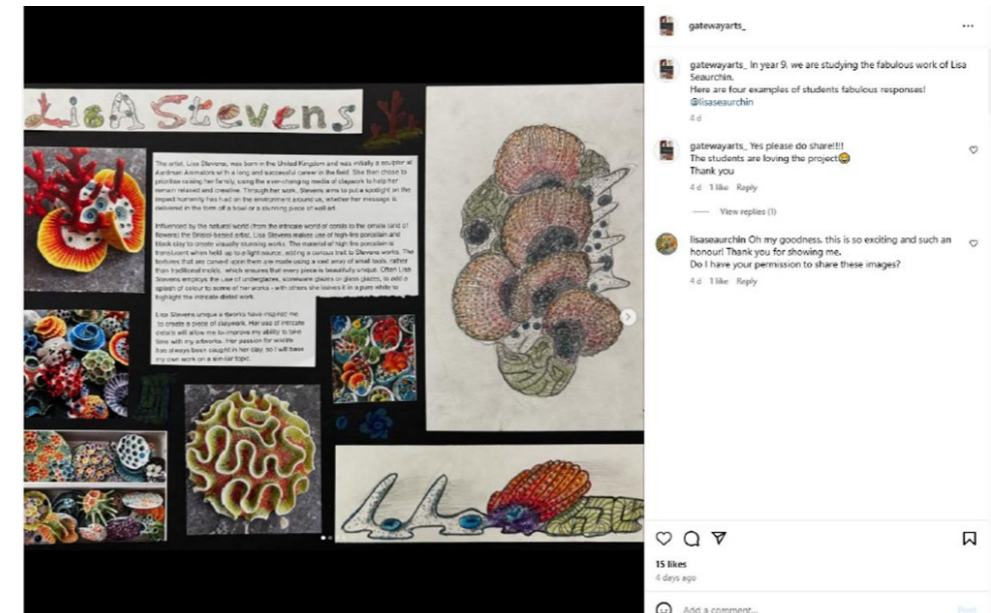


YEAR 9 ART

Our Instagram account, [@gatewayarts](#), recently showcased the fantastic work created by our Year 9 students as part of their project on renowned artist Lisa Stevens. The students have been exploring her unique style and techniques, producing some truly inspiring pieces that reflect their creativity and hard work.

Both teachers and students were absolutely thrilled when Lisa Stevens herself replied to the post! She expressed her admiration for the students' work, praising their talent and dedication. This acknowledgment from such an accomplished artist was an incredibly proud moment for everyone involved and served as a huge inspiration for our budding young artists.

A big well done to our Year 9 students for their outstanding efforts and for making such a positive impression on Lisa Stevens!



MORE NEWS



MENSA IQ SUCCESS

In December, 38 students from The Gateway Academy took on the prestigious Mensa IQ test, and the results, which arrived last week, have left us all beaming with pride. A remarkable four students scored within the **top 2% of the country**, earning them eligibility to join Mensa, the exclusive high-IQ society.

Top 2% Achievers (Eligible for Mensa):

- **Finley (Year 9):** IQ 161 (*top 1%*)
- **Raj (Year 7):** IQ 157 (*top 1%*)
- **Archie (Year 8):** IQ 152 (*top 2%*)
- **Gabriele (Year 9):** IQ 152 (*top 2%*)

These results highlight the exceptional talent and potential of our students. Finley and Raj, in particular, have achieved scores placing them within the **top 1% nationally**, an extraordinary accomplishment!

From previous Mensa tests, five more students from the Academy have already achieved membership eligibility:

- **Ethan (Year 9):** IQ 161 (*top 1%*)
- **Jessica (Year 10):** IQ 158 (*top 1%*)
- **Maddison (Year 11):** IQ 154 (*top 2%*)
- **Emmanuel (Year 9):** IQ 151 (*top 2%*)
- **Henry (Year 10):** IQ 151 (*top 2%*)

Top 10% of the country this year:

In addition to our Mensa-eligible students, several others achieved scores within the **top 10% nationally**, a reflection of their outstanding cognitive abilities:

- **Elsie (Year 9):** IQ 147
- **Maja (Year 10):** IQ 145
- **Ben (Year 11):** IQ 145
- **Fayaaz (Year 11):** IQ 145
- **Freddie (Year 7):** IQ 140
- **Vakaris (Year 7):** IQ 140
- **Nathan (Year 9):** IQ 136
- **Hiba (Year 8):** IQ 136
- **Nicholas (Year 7):** IQ 136
- **Chloe (Year 10):** IQ 133
- **Katy (Year 9):** IQ 132
- **Jack (Year 7):** IQ 131

These results showcase the immense academic potential across year groups, with students consistently performing at the highest levels. Their success is a testament to their dedication, curiosity, and hard work.

We would like to extend our congratulations to all the students who participated in the Mensa IQ test. Whether you scored in the top 1%, top 10%, or simply took on the challenge, your efforts and determination are something to be truly proud of.



DAN FREEDMAN

“It was an absolute privilege to visit The Gateway Academy again to help celebrate the joys of reading and writing with the students. I couldn’t have hoped for a better day—the whole event was such a positive experience. I thought the sessions went really well, and it was incredibly impactful to see how many students wanted to ask a question! The students were a wonderful combination of enthusiastic, polite, and attentive.”

“With the Year 7s, we explored the power of reading and writing, discussing how sport and storytelling can create bonds and build friendships. We also talked about resilience and how real-life experiences can be woven into fiction to inspire others. Meanwhile, in the Year 8 workshop, we delved into the wide variety of career opportunities available within the world of football. The students impressed me with their creativity and effort as they wrote fantastic job application letters.”

“It was a pleasure to speak with the students, and I was particularly struck by how much the school values the positive impact of physical books and reading on the overall development of its pupils. It’s clear that a love of stories is actively nurtured here, alongside essential life skills. I hope the day inspires the students to *Go For Their Goals* and chase their dreams.”



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Work Experience Support

We are seeking your support in providing work experience placements for students. These opportunities are becoming harder to secure, and your involvement would help students gain valuable skills. The programme runs from 30th June to 4th July 2025, and we aim to build a network of organisations to participate. Please complete the survey or share it with relevant contacts:

<https://forms.gle/WqardRCWtHaX1uz69>

Thank you for your support

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YEAR 8

Mrs Bruce

Year 8 have had a fantastic term so far. During our many learning walks, we have observed students working hard, enthusiastically engaging in turn-and-talk activities, and confidently sharing their thoughts and knowledge. It has been an absolute pleasure to see students enjoying their studies so much.

We have dedicated time during PAD sessions each morning to help students prepare successfully for their upcoming assessments which commence on Monday 24th February, and conclude on Friday 7th March. While students are away for the half-term break, they can access numerous resources and support via our Google Classroom page. This includes revision materials for the core subjects (Maths, English, and Science), as well as resources for effective revision techniques that we recommend students become familiar with right from KS3. It is incredibly encouraging to see so many students taking positive steps to ensure success in their assessments from the very beginning.

A huge congratulations to Macie-Lyn P who was awarded a Jack Petchey Award; what a well-deserving young lady—an incredible achievement!

Thank you to those parents and carers who have already responded promptly to the Parent and Carer Evening correspondence sent out by your child's tutor. If you have not yet confirmed your attendance, please do so as soon as possible. Parent and Carer Evening will be held here at the Academy on Thursday 27th March, from 4:00–7:00 pm. Starting at 3:30 pm, food will be available for attendees in our school canteen. Alongside this, there will be resources to take away and information shared about aspirations and careers. We strongly encourage every family to attend this important event in your child's educational journey.

Finally, the Year 8 students who attended the *Mean Girls* theatre trip had a wonderful time and were an absolute credit to the Academy. To those students visiting Barcelona, we wish you a fantastic and safe trip—I can't wait to hear all about it!

Have a lovely half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming you back as the hard work continues.





MORE NEWS

YEAR 11

Ms Shannon

A massive well done to all our Year 11 students who recently sat their second round of PPEs. The students conducted themselves in a mature manner throughout the entire process, ensuring they were punctual, organised, and ready to go. Preparation is key, and it's something we've been working hard to instil in our students. It's fantastic to see that effort starting to pay off. We hope the students now feel more confident and prepared for their final exams in May.

Raising Money for a Great Cause



One of our incredible Year 11 students, Josh, will be heading off next year to work with the Scouts to help build a new school in Africa. This is a fantastic opportunity and a truly life-changing trip. Josh had to go through numerous interviews to be selected as one of just 25 students chosen for this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

As a school, we recently came together to raise money on their behalf for both the trip and the charity they are working with. We held a 'Doughnut Day,' where students showed their support by donating £1 for a doughnut. So far, we've raised over £100 to contribute towards the trip.

We know times are tough, but if you're able to spare anything to support our student, please see the link below for their GoFundMe page:

<https://gofund.me/53989e63>

Enjoy your half-term break, Year 11—it's very well deserved after such a busy term. Let's come back refreshed and ready to go for the final stretch!

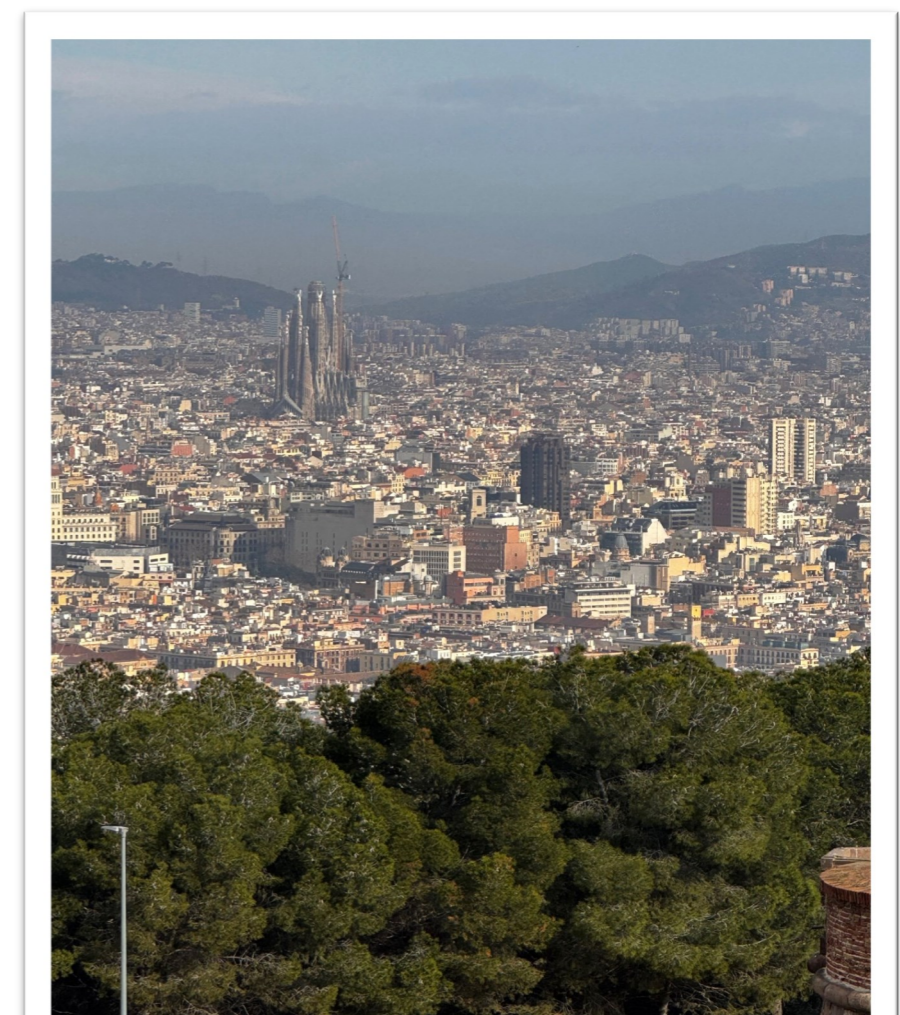
BARCELONA

group of students from the Gateway are currently immersing themselves in the vibrant culture and history of Barcelona. As part of their educational trip, they are not only exploring the city's iconic landmarks but also engaging in lessons at a local school to further enrich their learning experience.

On Friday morning, the students visited one of Barcelona's most renowned historical sites – the **Castell de Montjuïc**. Perched high above the city, the castle offers panoramic views of the Mediterranean coastline, the bustling city below, and the surrounding hills. The students had the opportunity to explore the castle's centuries-old architecture and learn about its fascinating history, which dates back to the 17th century when it was originally built as a military fortress.

Amid the breath-taking scenery, the students were able to capture moments to share with their peers back home, with one of them sending a stunning photograph showcasing the spectacular views from the castle's grounds.

This trip is part of a broader effort to connect students with global experiences, helping them to broaden their horizons and gain hands-on knowledge of the world beyond their classroom walls.



MORE NEWS



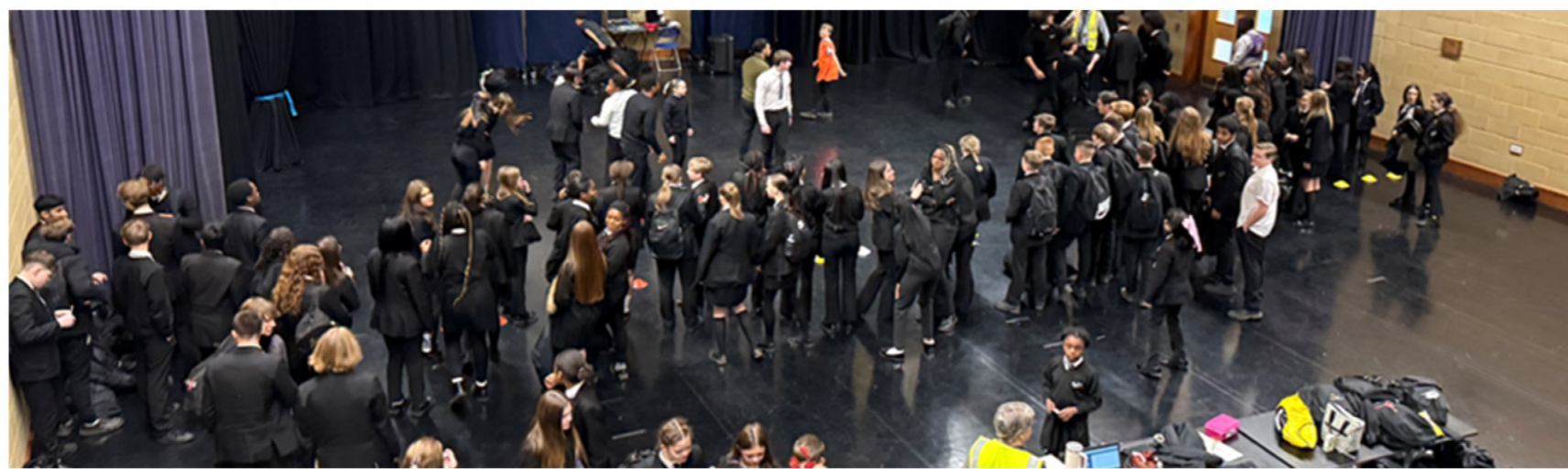
STUDENT LEADERSHIP

This half term, our student leadership teams have been hard at work preparing for Valentine's Day. On the 13th and 14th of February, they spread love and joy throughout the academy while successfully raising over £100 for charity. Students had the opportunity to purchase roses, sweets, chocolates, and a variety of accessories for themselves or someone special. Additionally, they could opt to have their hair sprayed in a colour of their choice, adding to the festive atmosphere.



Responsibility Team

Our Responsibility Team has been busy organizing some exciting Thursday challenges, starting with Tug of War. Students had a great time participating during break and earned reward tokens for their efforts. After half term, they will be launching an X Band vs. Y Band challenge, which will take place every Friday in Week 2.



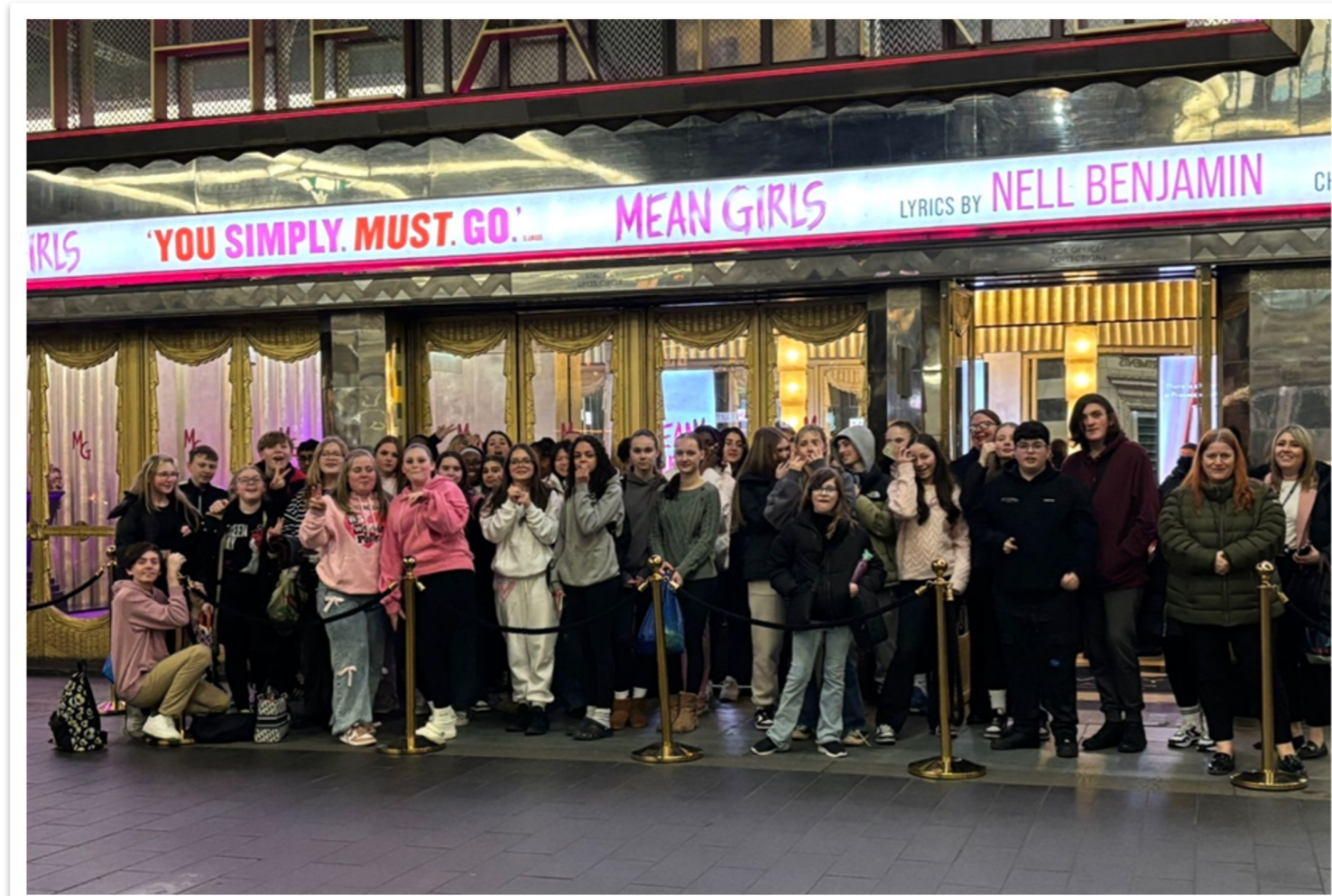
Aspiration and Wellbeing

Our Aspiration group is currently organizing a whole-school Career Fair set for the 13th of March. If you're able to attend and host a stand to share insights about your job, career, or employer, please contact Mrs. Fuller at anna.fuller@theglc.org.uk. We would greatly appreciate contributions from a wide variety of employers. Additionally, the group is planning a Science Fair to inspire and raise students' aspirations within the STEM program.

Meanwhile, our Wellbeing Ambassadors have been working hard on their podcasts and developing an online student space where important resources and information can be accessed. This complements the physical student space available during break and lunch, where students continue to support one another, fostering a kind and inclusive community.

To further promote awareness, we're producing a new video about bullying and banter, aiming to help students understand how banter—while often unintended—can affect the wellbeing of others in the school community.

As a reward for their dedication and hard work, some of our students had the chance to see *Mean Girls* the musical at the Savoy Theatre. It was a fantastic trip where everyone involved had an incredible time and represented the school impeccably.



MORE NEWS

YEAR 10

Ms Mead



A fantastic start to 2025 from our Year 10s, who continue to push themselves to achieve their absolute best.

Year 10 began this half term with a very positive and successful parents' evening, where students and parents/carers had the opportunity to discuss their child's progress with teachers.

There has been a strong focus on careers and next steps across the year group this half term, giving students the opportunity to explore their options for post-16 education. Students have attended assemblies led by local colleges, where entry requirements and the application process were explained in detail. This information is vital at this stage of students' journeys, providing them with the motivation to understand what they need to do to achieve their future goals. Students are also preparing for their upcoming work experience by securing placements in local workplaces. If you need any support with this, please speak with Mrs. Fuller.

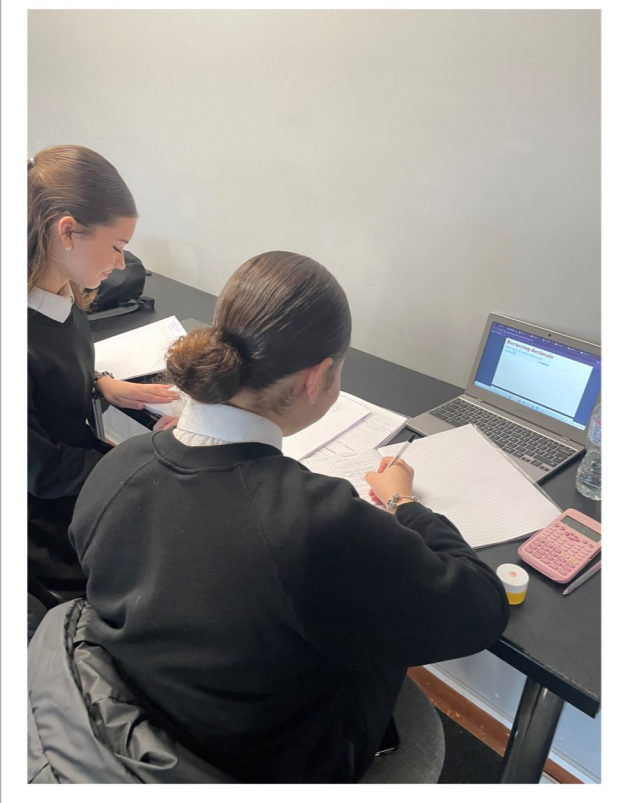
Students took part in two workshop performances this half term: the **Make Happen** performance titled *Working Wonders – A Careers Resilience Performance* and another focused on driving safety. Both companies spoke very highly of the year group, commending their positive behaviour and aspirations. Year 10s were also privileged to attend an inspiring assembly by ex-pupil Lennox Thompson, who shared his journey from The Gateway Academy to where he is today. He spoke about his pathway through college, university, and further education, inspiring students with the message that anything is possible if they keep moving forward.

Students have continued to strive, particularly in their option subjects, where they are being encouraged to reach their full potential. We have received such positive feedback from all options teachers about the dedication and hard-working nature of the year group. In photography, students have been learning how to use manual settings on cameras, creating fantastic, high-quality photos. In dance, students have completed their Component 2 performances to the highest standard. In drama, students are excelling in their performance skills and are also completing their coursework to an incredibly high standard.

Our fantastic **student leadership team** has grown in Year 10 this half term, welcoming some exceptional new students who we know will make a real impact across the Academy by representing the student voice. The Year 10 anti-bullying ambassadors also continue to lead the way across the school, running their own projects to support younger year groups. They have also delivered their new initiatives in assemblies to the whole school. A massive well done and thank you to all students involved in both of these leadership teams—your work does not go unnoticed!

As we move forward into the next half term, students' second round of assessments will begin. These start on the first day back after the break. Students have been equipped with the tools and revision skills needed to study independently over the holiday, ensuring they are well-prepared for their assessments. A massive good luck to all students—continue to push yourselves to achieve the best possible outcomes!

Well done, Year 10!



GLC Gateway Academy
All Different: All Equal: Together, Improving Upon Our Best

MORE NEWS

YEAR 9

Mr Scott



Year 9 students at The Gateway Academy continue to embody the school values of **Resilience, Responsibility, Compassion, and Aspiration**. Their dedication to academic success and personal growth is inspiring, particularly as they prepare for their upcoming assessments after the half-term break.

Students have shown incredible **resilience**, tackling challenging subjects with determination and focus. Their **responsibility** for their own learning has been impressive, with many attending revision sessions, engaging in independent study, and supporting their peers. This commitment will serve them well beyond the classroom.

With assessments approaching, maintaining momentum over the half-term break is essential. **Revision is not just about memorization—it's about deepening understanding, refining skills, and building confidence.** A structured revision schedule will help students showcase their hard work and abilities.

Compassion has been evident through peer study groups and resource sharing, fostering a strong sense of community. **Aspiration** drives students to set high goals and strive for success. These assessments provide an opportunity to demonstrate their progress and capabilities.

A huge thank you to parents and carers for their support in encouraging students to push and challenge themselves. Your involvement in their education and motivation to aim high have made a significant impact.

We also celebrate the fantastic improvement in **attendance** across the year group, a direct result of parental support reinforcing the importance of being present and engaged. This commitment fosters a culture of aspiration and responsibility, ensuring every student thrives.

I am incredibly proud of Year 9's dedication and enthusiasm. **Keep striving for success, support one another, and continue revising over the break—your hard work will pay off!**

Thank you for all you do.



MORE NEWS

SAFEGUARDING

<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 web

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
- NSPCC **0808 800 5000** www.nspcc.org.uk; www.facebook.com/nspcc

How to stay safe on TikTok

Choosing to **make your account private** allows you to approve or deny followers and restrict your uploaded content to followers only. To make your account private:

- Tap on the profile tab
- Go to the **three-dot** menu in the top-right corner
- Tap on **Privacy**
- Then toggle **Private account**

You can keep your identity secure by not including any personal information, such as name, address, phone number or age in your profile.

Users can also manage their experience through the **Digital Wellbeing** tool in their settings, using 'Screen Time Management' and 'Restricted Mode', to limit the type and amount of content viewable.

Thurrock foodbank

Since April we have distributed **TOP 5 FOOD ITEMS NEEDED: 1,606 food parcels** to our Thurrock clients, 746 of them being children.

Our demand is still very high and we are short of quite a few items.

We are appealing for the following items

1. Custard
2. Noodles
3. Tinned Meat
4. Packet Mash
5. Tinned Fruit

SCAN ME



WHAT TRUSTED ADULTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT: SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

Social Media is often criticised as having a negative impact on children's mental health. Children and young people are now growing up in a technology dominated world, and social media plays a major role in their social lives. This balanced guide focuses on both the positive and negative impacts that social media can bring to young people and their mental health.

POSITIVE IMPACTS

EASY ACCESS TO SUPPORT AND HELP

This is helpful to young people getting help for their mental health or seeking support. They may sometimes reach out to access support from online services. Having professional advice on hand, even and broader social networks can be a great support. It can help them to feel less alone and more confident. When there are mental health issues which often repeat and problems, children can be provided with a great range of support.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS

SELF-ESTEEM & BODY IMAGE

There are 10 billion user-generated photographs on Facebook alone. It's easy to see how this can lead to young people being compared to others. This can lead to low self-esteem, which can have a negative impact on mental health. It can also lead to a feeling of isolation and loneliness. As a result, it can lead to a feeling of not belonging with their peers.

SUSTAINING FRIENDSHIPS AND MAKING CONNECTIONS

There is evidence to suggest that strong relationships can be a protective factor for mental health. Online social networks can help young people to stay connected with people they already know. Online social networks can also help young people to make new connections, thoughts and feelings. By sharing concerns or problems, advice and support, it can help them to feel less alone and more confident. When there are mental health issues which often repeat and problems, children can be provided with a great range of support.

FAKE NEWS

The online world provides the opportunity for anyone to spread false information and spread harmful advice. Children may believe what they see on social media. It's important that you teach your child to differentiate between what is true and what is false.

HARMFUL ADVICE

The online world provides the opportunity for anyone to spread false information and spread harmful advice. Children may believe what they see on social media. It's important that you teach your child to differentiate between what is true and what is false.

ADDICTION AND COMPULSIVE CHECKING

Social media addiction is thought to affect around 1% of teenagers. The Office for National Statistics found that children who spend more time on social media are more likely to be unhappy. It's important that you teach your child to take breaks from social media. It's important that you teach your child to take breaks from social media.

CYBERBULLYING

Over a million large-scale UK study showed that cyberbullying is one of the biggest challenges for young people. It's important that you teach your child to take breaks from social media. It's important that you teach your child to take breaks from social media.

Meet our expert

National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday

HELPFUL APPS:

- Head of House
- SafeZone
- SafeZone
- SafeZone

SOURCES OF HELP:

- Childline 0800 1111 or visit www.childline.org.uk
- NSPCC 0808 800 5000
- Thurrock MASH 01375 652802
- NSPCC 0808 800 5000

www.nationallinesafety.com Twitter: @nationallinesafety Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety

Talking mental health with young people at secondary school

Some advice for parents and carers

It's good to talk

The teenage years are both exciting and challenging for parents and children. Children who struggle to talk about their feelings and experiences can feel isolated and alone. It's important that you teach your child to take breaks from social media. It's important that you teach your child to take breaks from social media.

Mental health and wellbeing during secondary school

As parents and carers, it can be hard to know whether your child's feelings and behaviour are normal or becoming a problem. This is especially during adolescence when young people can feel a great deal of pressure and increasingly want to bossen their family ties.

Young people's need for independence is partly due to changes in brain development. This makes reading and understanding others more difficult than when they were younger. This can leave parents feeling that young people are in a world of their own, when actually they can be struggling to understand themselves and others!

A rollercoaster of changing emotions and feelings that come and go is completely normal at this age. Feelings and moods that become a problem are those which last a long time, become overwhelming, and stop your child from doing what they want to in their lives.

We know that having strong relationships lies at the heart of good mental health. As parents and carers we also have our own stresses such as money, job security and juggling family demands. These can put pressure on our capacity to respond sensitively to our children.

Talking can be a helpful way for young people to manage their wellbeing as it helps them to make sense of and manage difficult experiences and feelings.

Top tips for talking

- ★ Give your full attention, be curious and take it seriously. We all know it's not nice to be half listened to. Being actively interested in your child can be a powerful way to help them feel listened to and understood. Try to resist the urge to downplay or dismiss what your child is telling you.
- ★ Emphasise that you are always available to talk. It may be that your child doesn't want to talk, can't find the words at the moment or is trying to assert their independence. But don't be misled by your teenager's need for separation. They need you just as much as ever.
- ★ Take time to reflect. Research shows that thinking about what is going on in your child's mind and being aware of your own thoughts and feelings promotes secure attachment, good social skills and the ability to 'read' others.
- ★ Provide empathy. When children feel truly understood they start to be able to manage their emotions and this has a big impact on their wellbeing. Using empathy is also a great way to defuse tension.
- ★ Be aware of your own stress and negative feelings. They can really get in the way of feeling close to your child. Reflecting on the causes of stress can prevent it from spilling into your relationships at home.
- ★ Think about timing. Ask yourself 'Is this the right time to talk?' Choose a time when you can focus on your child and ignore distractions.
- ★ What should I do if I am worried? You can find some advice and guidance listed on the back of this leaflet. In particular, MindEd for Families provides comprehensive information on a range of mental health problems. If problems persist, become overwhelming or you feel your child is displaying particular symptoms, we strongly recommend that you visit your GP.

Where can I find advice and guidance?

Child in Mind: a series of podcasts we have developed at the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families. They feature BBC Radio 4 presenter Claudia Hammond interviewing our clinical experts, and have been shortlisted for the Mind Media Awards. They are freely available at www.annafreud.org

- The adolescent mind
- What is therapy and how does it work?
- Why do some people self-harm?
- What is trauma and how does it affect the brain?
- Is medication for mental health problems safe?
- The impact of sexual harassment
- What do we know about anxiety and what can parents do about it?
- What is ADHD and what help is available for children with ADHD?
- What do we know about eating disorders and how to cope?

ChildLine for 18s and under 0800 1111

YoungMinds Parent Helpline 0808 802 5544

Youth Wellbeing Directory youthwellbeing.co.uk

NSPCC 0808 800 5000

The Mix www.themix.org.uk

Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families www.annafreud.org

MindEd for Families www.minded.org.uk/families

About the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families
The Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families is a registered and delivered governing mental health care for over 80 years.

Our aim is to transform current mental health provision in the UK by improving the quality, accessibility and effectiveness of treatment.

We believe that every child and their family should be at the heart of the care they receive, working in partnership with professionals.