

DZE/JJA

26 February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: THE THAMES FREEPORT EXCEPTIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

We are delighted to share information with you about an exciting opportunity available to some of our students at The Gateway Academy: the Thames Freeport Exceptional Scholarship Programme, funded by Thames Freeport partners Forth Ports and DP World, with support linked to the Port of Tilbury.

This programme has been created to increase educational opportunities for students from resource-limited environments, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent talented, hardworking young people from achieving their full potential.

What is the Thames Freeport Exceptional Scholarship Programme?

The Thames Freeport Exceptional Scholarship Programme is a major initiative to support young people in Thurrock by helping students to feel more secure, aspirational and prepared as they move towards post-16 pathways.

For students who are selected, this programme offers structured support and investment to help them meet their academic goals and engage in wider opportunities that strengthen their readiness for the future.

What will students receive support with?

The programme is designed to support students with the types of costs that can sometimes act as barriers to success, such as:

- Educational resources to support learning and revision.
- Equipment or materials needed for study or enrichment opportunities.
- Travel support where required to access opportunities (subject to further funding from the Port of Tilbury).
- Support linked to academic progression, engagement and aspirations.

This scholarship is intended to ensure that students are able to fully engage with their education and make the most of opportunities available to them.

Who is the programme for?

This programme is targeted at students who show strong potential and commitment but who may face financial barriers. It is aimed at students in Thurrock, where significant levels of deprivation mean that some young people require additional support to access the same opportunities as others.

Students are selected because they demonstrate:

- Academic promise and a commitment to learning.
- A positive attitude and strong effort.
- A willingness to take part in wider personal development opportunities.
- A determination to succeed despite challenges.

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The Gateway Academy,
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The GLC Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (Registered Number 5853746). Registered office at The Gateway Academy, Marshfoot Road, Tilbury, Essex RM16 4LU.

Chief Executive Officer: Viki Reid.

The GLC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment.



What will the programme involve for students?

Students who are part of the programme will be expected to take an active role and to show that they are making the most of this opportunity. This may include:

- Regular engagement with school staff linked to the programme.
- Maintaining strong attendance and punctuality.
- Demonstrating consistent effort in lessons and independent study.
- Taking part in enrichment and development opportunities where appropriate.
- Conducting themselves as role models within the school community.
- A funded day in London towards the end of this term, with an experience at a corporate organisation, dinner and a clothing allowance per student to support them purchasing formal attire for Sixth Form.

We want students to recognise that this scholarship is both a privilege and a responsibility and that it reflects the belief others have in their future success.

Key dates for prospective applicants

KEY DATES	DETAILS
Wednesday 04 March	Launch to eligible students (8:20am Drama Studio) and applications open.
Wednesday 11 March at 6.00 pm	Deadline for applications to be received by Mrs McLaughlin.
Tuesday 17 March	Successful applicants to be notified.
Friday 20 March	Fully funded day in London (see details above).

How can parents and carers support?

Your support makes a huge difference. We encourage you to:

- Speak positively with your child about the importance of education.
- Support routines at home that allow time for revision and study.
- Encourage your child to be organised and ready for school each day.
- Celebrate achievements and help them stay motivated.
- Communicate with the school if you need any guidance or support.

Important note about future funding

The scholarship programme is designed to support students at key points in their educational journey. While we are proud to be part of this programme, we cannot promise any funding beyond the current agreed support and any future provision will depend on ongoing review and availability.

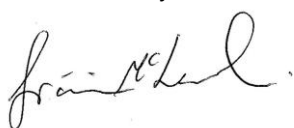
Thank you

We are incredibly grateful to Thames Freeport, Forth Ports, DP World and the Port of Tilbury for their investment in the young people of Thurrock. This support reflects a genuine commitment to community development, opportunity and aspiration and we are proud that Gateway Academy students are able to benefit from it.

Applications for scholarships should be made directly to Mrs McLaughlin using the attached application form.

If you have any questions about the programme, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Zeffie here at The Gateway Academy on david.zeffie@theglc.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Mrs G McLaughlin
HEAD OF SCHOOL