

GATEWAY TIMES

Friday, 27th March 2026

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

Issue #2

Tilbury, Chadwell St Mary

Bringing you the most up to date Gateway News in each half term

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

It has been a brilliant academic year so far, and I want to say how proud we are of our students and everything they have achieved.

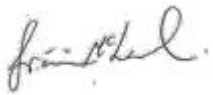
As we move closer to the summer examination period, I would encourage parents and carers to speak with your child about their preparation and the importance of staying focused during this important time.

There is so much to celebrate across our academy. Our Year 11 students are already receiving conditional offers from sixth forms and colleges, which is wonderful to see. We have also enjoyed great sporting success in basketball and netball, alongside our Jack Petchey Award winners and the large number of merits being awarded to students for their hard work and positive attitudes.

Our attendance continues to be above the national average, which is fantastic. We ask all parents to continue supporting us with this. Good attendance makes a real difference to students' success:

- Students with higher attendance achieve stronger academic results.
- Regular attendance helps students keep up with learning and avoid falling behind.
- Students who attend school consistently feel more confident and engaged in lessons.
- Good attendance supports positive friendships and wellbeing at school.
- Strong attendance habits help prepare students for future education and employment.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mrs G McLaughlin



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Time	Event
21st April		Formative Assessments Year 7-10 during this half term
23rd April	19:00	Year 9 Parents' Evening and Options
11th-17th May		Mental Health Awareness Week

[Click here](#) for full parental Calendar

CAREERS

[Ms Fuller]

It has been a busy term for our students as they look beyond the classroom and explore the exciting possibilities of the "real world." Here is a look at our recent highlights:

Whole School Careers Fair

The entire school recently participated in our annual Careers Fair, hosting 30 different stallholders ranging from local businesses and global organisations to sixth forms, colleges, and universities.

For many students, the professional world can feel like a distant concept. This event successfully bridged the gap between classroom learning and future careers, allowing students to:

- Discover unique job roles they never knew existed.
- Build confidence by practicing professional networking skills.
- Gain firsthand insight into various post-16 and post-18 pathways.

University Spotlight: Anglia Ruskin

Our Year 10 students recently visited Anglia Ruskin University for an immersive look at higher education. The trip focused on the incredible diversity of careers within the Healthcare Sector, giving students a taste of both campus life and the vital roles that keep our health services running.

Employer Assemblies

Our assembly programme continues to provide a window into the workforce. We are regularly welcoming a variety of employers and next-step providers to speak with different year groups, ensuring our students receive consistent inspiration and practical advice for their next chapters.



EQUIPMENT EXPECTATIONS

At The Gateway Academy, we know that being well-prepared sets the tone for a successful day of learning. As we look ahead to the 2025–2026 academic year, we're asking every student to arrive at school fully equipped and ready to engage.

Having the right tools not only supports effective learning but also encourages personal responsibility and independence—key traits we nurture in all our students.

Here's what every student is expected to bring each day:

- 2 black pens
- 1 red pen
- 15cm clear ruler
- Pencil, eraser, and sharpener
- Clear pencil case
- Yellow highlighter
- The Gateway Academy journal
- School books for the day's timetabled lessons
- Scientific calculator (Casio FX-85GT)
- Laptop and charger

We're confident that, with the right preparation and mindset, every student can thrive. Let's start strong and stay consistent—because excellence begins with the basics.

RAMADAN 2026

[Ms Daud]

As we approach the end of Ramadan, I would like to take a moment to wish all those celebrating a very happy Eid al-Fitr. Eid is a time for joy, celebration, and togetherness. It is a time to reflect on our blessings and to show gratitude for all that we have. Whether you are celebrating with family, friends, or colleagues, I hope that this Eid brings you happiness, peace, and prosperity. Once again, Eid Mubarak to you and your loved ones.



PLATFORM PERFORMANCE 2026

This term, some students have been taking part in private vocal lessons and have been practising regularly to develop their skills and confidence. Some of our singers, Abigail T, Katy W and Scarlet M had a wonderful performance opportunity to sing and represent The Gateway Academy at the Thurrock Music Services Informal Platform Performance, held at Thames Park Secondary School.

This event provided young people with the chance to perform solo pieces in a relaxed and supportive environment in front of friends and family. Open to both vocalists and instrumentalists of all abilities, the platform celebrated participation and musical expression.

Our students rose to the occasion and confidently showcased their talent, making us incredibly proud.



SPANISH SPELLING BEE

[Mrs Ciubotaru]



Jeremy V Ch



Esther-Daisy K



Muhammad U



Three talented Year 7 students (Jeremy V Ch., Esther-Daisy K and Muhammad U) have achieved outstanding success by winning the school phase of the Spanish Spelling Bee competition. Demonstrating impressive linguistic skill, confidence and dedication, they stood out among their peers to secure their place as school champions. They will now proudly represent the school at the regional competition on 23rd April, where they will compete against top-performing students from other prestigious schools, for a coveted place in the national finals which will be held at Cambridge University. We wish them the very best of luck as they take on this exciting challenge!

YEAR 7

[Mrs Shannon and Mrs Acton]

Year 7 Celebrate a Fantastic Term at Gateway

Year 7 students at Gateway have enjoyed a fantastic term and have truly settled into life at the school. Since joining in September, they have impressed staff with their positive attitude and commitment to their learning. In fact, Year 7 have been the strongest year group for attendance, punctuality to lessons, and the number of merits awarded for excellent classwork. Their hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed, and they should be extremely proud of their achievements so far.

There has also been plenty to celebrate in sport this term. The Year 7 boys' basketball team have been outstanding, training several times throughout the week and showing real commitment to improving their game. Their dedication has paid off, as they have successfully reached the final eight schools in the country. This is a fantastic achievement and a reflection of the time, effort, and teamwork the boys have put in. We wish them the very best of luck in their next game.

The Year 7 boys' rugby team also represented the school brilliantly this term when they competed in the Essex Plate competition. The team performed extremely well throughout the tournament and made it all the way to the semi-finals. Although they narrowly missed out on reaching the final, the boys gave an outstanding performance, worked incredibly hard, and demonstrated great teamwork and determination.



Meanwhile, the Year 7 girls' netball team have had an incredible season and remain unbeaten so far this year. They have competed against several schools within the borough and have won every match they have played.

The girls train regularly each week, developing their teamwork and continually striving to improve their performance. Their dedication and enthusiasm have been fantastic to see. Well done to the team, and good luck for the rest of the season.



Academically, Year 7 students have also shown great effort during the recent Spring term assessments. The approach taken by the whole year group has been excellent, with students demonstrating a positive mindset and a mature attitude towards their studies. Their effort and focus throughout the assessment period have been commendable, and we hope their hard work is reflected in their results.

A big thank you must also go to all parents and carers who have supported their children at home by helping them prepare for these assessments. Your encouragement and support make a huge difference.

To round off the term, students are looking forward to the upcoming Year 7 and 8 Party. Letters have already been sent home, and if your child would like to attend, please follow the link and information included in the letter.

Finally, we would like to wish all Year 7 students a wonderful Easter holiday. We look forward to welcoming them back next term refreshed, motivated, and ready for the exciting challenges ahead. Well done, Year 7!

YEAR 8

[Miss Dixon and Ms Davis]

Year 8 students have had a fantastic term, filled with many positive opportunities and achievements. Throughout the term, students have earned rewards and values badges, taken part in sports fixtures, attended trips, rehearsed for shows, welcomed guest speakers, completed assessments, and made strong overall progress in their learning.

We were delighted to host a brilliant assembly delivered by Anglia Ruskin University. During the session, students had the opportunity to gain a better understanding of university life, explore different courses of study, and learn more about pathways beyond Post-16 education. Students engaged enthusiastically with the presentation, asking thoughtful questions and participating in discussions, which was wonderful to see.

We have also seen an increase in the number of students making excellent use of the library after school to support their studies. In addition, many students are taking advantage of the study room during break and lunchtime to complete extra work and revision. A huge well done to these students — their dedication and commitment to their learning will no doubt be reflected in their upcoming assessment results.



YEAR 8

[Miss Dixon and Ms Davis]

Year 8 Parents' Evening took place on **Thursday 26th March**. Thank you to all the parents and carers who have signed up via the Google Form. Attendance was extremely important, as parents/carers received their child's report containing grades from their most recent assessments. Parents also had the opportunity to speak with their child's teachers, gaining a clear understanding of their progress and how they have been working so far this academic year.

We were also looking forward to the Year 7 and 8 Party Night which took place on **Friday 20th March**. Students had a fantastic time at the school disco, enjoying the music, dancing with friends, and celebrating together. The atmosphere was lively and full of excitement, making it a memorable evening for everyone involved.



Finally, I would like to say a huge well done and thank you to all Year 8 students for their continued effort in their learning, participation in extracurricular activities, and their overall positive contribution to the academy. They are an outstanding year group, and I am extremely proud of each and every one of them.

YEAR 9

[Mrs Bruce, Miss Livingstone]

It has been another busy and positive period at school, with students across all year groups continuing to show great commitment to their learning. All students have been working incredibly hard in lessons and during recent assessments. These have gone very well, and both staff and students are looking forward to seeing the outcomes and celebrating the progress that has been made.

Sporting success has also been a real highlight. Our basketball and netball teams have performed exceptionally well this season, reaching the regional finals—an outstanding achievement that reflects the dedication, teamwork and determination of our students. Our football teams have also continued to represent the school with pride, showing great effort and sportsmanship in their matches.

Another exciting event recently was the Careers Fair for Year 9 students. The event was extremely well attended and gave students a valuable opportunity to speak with employers, colleges and training providers about future pathways. Many students came away buzzing with ideas and inspiration about possible careers and next steps.



YEAR 9

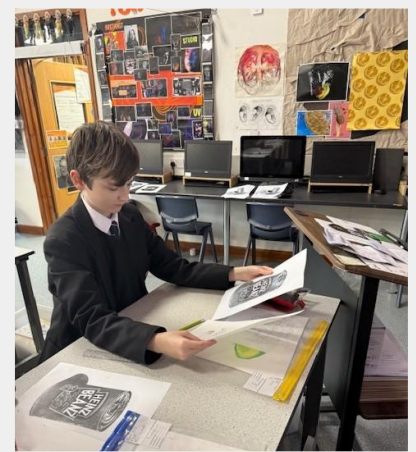
[Mrs Bruce, Miss Livingstone]



In addition, the Year 9 options taster sessions have been a great success. These sessions have been very well attended and have allowed students to experience a range of Key Stage 4 subjects before making their choices. The tasters have given students a real flavour of what each subject involves, helping them to make informed decisions about their future studies.

Looking ahead, the Year 9 Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 23rd April. This will be an important opportunity for parents and carers to discuss progress and future options with teachers. Following the evening, students will be able to finalise and submit their option choices for their Key Stage 4 subjects.

We are proud of the enthusiasm and effort shown by our students and look forward to the many successes still to come this year.



YEAR 10

[Mr Williams, Miss Uren]

It has been another busy and exciting time across the school, with students taking part in a range of events, competitions and opportunities.

Our Ladies' Film Night on 13th March was a fantastic success and a thoroughly enjoyable evening for everyone who attended. Students had a great time relaxing with friends, watching the film and enjoying the friendly atmosphere. It was an excellent turnout, and events like this are a wonderful opportunity for students to come together and enjoy school life outside of the classroom.



Recently, the school hosted a Careers Fair, which was a great success. It was inspiring to see so many students speaking with professionals, exploring different pathways and beginning to map out their futures. The ambition and aspirations shown by students were truly impressive.

We would also like to congratulate everyone who took part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. Students delivered speeches on powerful topics close to their hearts, demonstrating confidence, passion and maturity. A special well done to the eight students who progressed to the next round, which is a fantastic achievement.

In sporting news, a huge well done to the Year 10 boys' football team for their excellent performances. The team secured an impressive 4-1 victory over Hathaway, followed by another strong 3-0 win against Riverside, showing great determination and teamwork throughout.

Looking ahead, there is growing excitement for the Year 10 vs Year 9 football match on 24th May. With plenty of friendly rivalry between the year groups, this promises to be an entertaining fixture. A tuck shop will be available, so students are encouraged to come along, support their year group and enjoy the match atmosphere.

We would also like to congratulate Katy W. and Alessia F., who proudly represented the school at an International Women's Day celebration event with our local MP in Grays. This was a fantastic opportunity to take part in an important event and represent the school within the local community.

Finally, as we move through the exam period, students have demonstrated excellent conduct and focus. We hope the results will reflect the hard work and dedication that has been shown.

Well done to everyone for continuing to contribute so positively to school life.

YEAR 11

[Miss Mead, Mrs Smith]

As we come to the end of another term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has truly been an excellent term for Year 11. Our students have shown remarkable resilience and determination, consistently pushing themselves to improve on their best. Their maturity, focus, and commitment to their studies have been evident throughout, and it has been a pleasure to see them rise to the challenges of this important year.

We were also delighted to see such a fantastic turnout at our recent Parents' Evening. The high level of attendance meant that students were able to have meaningful conversations with their teachers about their progress. These discussions provide clear guidance on how to improve further. This kind of feedback is invaluable at this stage, giving students the clarity and direction they need to make the most of the final weeks before their examinations. Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support in making this event so successful.

This term, we were proud to host a special Celebration Breakfast with the Headteacher. Twenty students were awarded a golden ticket in recognition of their exceptional PPE results, earning them an invitation to a breakfast with Mrs McLaughlin. This was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their hard work and dedication. We are incredibly proud of these students and hope they feel inspired to continue striving for excellence.

We also held our Pizza and Revision event, where 60 students were invited to take part in a focused revision session. The atmosphere was fantastic, with students working relentlessly to secure that next grade and support one another in their learning. Their efforts were recognised with pizza and sweet treats, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Due to the positive feedback from students, we are pleased to share that we will be running an additional event next half term.



YEAR 11

[Miss Mead, Mrs Smith]

Across all subjects, it has been fantastic to see such a high level of excellence in lessons. Year 11 students are demonstrating a strong work ethic, engaging positively with their learning, and truly pushing themselves in this final stretch before their GCSE examinations.

We ended the term on a high note with two celebratory assemblies. The first focused on academic achievement, where students were recognised for their progress and attainment across a range of subjects. The second assembly brought a more reflective tone, with awards from the Year 11 team and a series of team challenges. It was a lovely opportunity to come together, celebrate successes, and enjoy one of our final moments as a year group.



A reminder that the Year 11 Prom will be held on Thursday 2nd July 2026. Please ensure you have secured your child's place by completing the Google consent form and paying the deposit. If you have any questions or require support with this, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Overall, we have finished the term in a very strong position. As we look ahead, we are mindful that when we return, there will only be a matter of weeks before the GCSE examinations begin. With the continued dedication we have seen so far, I am confident that our students will approach this next phase with the same determination and positivity.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN ARTS

The following students have been nominated by their teachers from each year group in each faculty (Photography, Drama, Dance and Art) for the students of the months in ARTS.

Photographer—Grace K. Year 10

Grace is an exceptionally dedicated photography student who continually strives to improve her grades, spending countless evenings in the photography room refining her slides and perfecting her work.

Actor—Theia- Reign C. Year 7

Theia is an exceptionally energetic and creative performer who consistently brings enthusiasm and originality to every lesson. She demonstrates genuine compassion towards others, supporting her peers and contributing positively to the ensemble. She responds to feedback maturely and proactively, always striving to refine and develop her performance skills. Her commitment to Drama is outstanding - she attends Drama Club every lunch without fails, showing real dedication to her craft. A thoroughly deserved Actor of the Month.

Dancer—Elysia M. Year 9

Elysia is a truly deserving Dancer of the Month. Her commitment and dedication to dance shine through in everything she does. She is always present at rehearsals, consistently prepared, and gives her full effort every time. Her movement memory is exceptional, allowing her to learn and perform choreography with confidence and precision. Beyond her talent, Elysia is kind, supportive, and always willing to help her peers. She is a wonderful role model to her peers. Well done, Elysia!

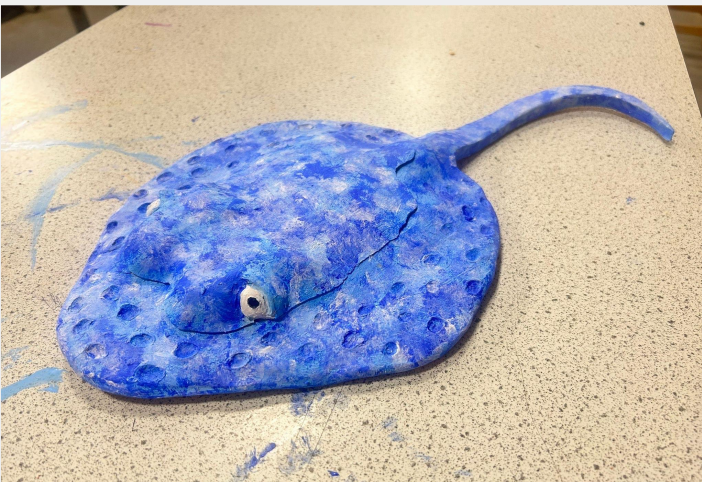
Artist—Szymon D. Year 10

Szymon is a very talented and reliable Art student, who challenges himself and regularly demonstrates his amazing imagination when coming up with concepts and articulates these in class with confidence. Szymon consistently applies his skills to his artwork to achieve a very high standard, which is clearly reflected in his recent exceptional sketchbook work.



ART CLUB

This term, the students were set the creative challenge of producing clay pieces based on the theme *"Under the Sea."* Despite it being their first time using clay wheels, they rose to the occasion and created some truly incredible masterpieces.



ART CLUB

Battle of the pottery wheel

All of the students showed great enthusiasm and determination, especially as it was their first time using the wheel. They should be very proud of their efforts.



DANCE SHOW 2026

[Miss Mead, Miss Dixon, Miss Thomas]

The stage came alive in a burst of rhythm and color as the dance show unfolded, captivating the audience from the very first beat. Each performance told its own story, blending movement, music, and emotion into a seamless expression of art. The dancers moved with precision and passion, their energy radiating across the auditorium and drawing viewers into every step and gesture.

The students demonstrated remarkable dedication and enthusiasm in preparing for the dance show. Over weeks of practice, they committed themselves to refining every movement, expression, and formation, showing true teamwork and perseverance. Their hard work was evident in the final performance, which was vibrant, energetic, and beautifully coordinated.

Each dancer brought their own unique style and passion to the stage, creating a performance that was both engaging and memorable. Despite the challenges along the way, they supported one another, stayed focused, and continuously strived for improvement.



DANCE SHOW 2026

[Miss Mead, Miss Dixon, Miss Thomas]

From graceful contemporary pieces to high-energy group routines, the show offered a rich variety of styles that highlighted both technical skill and creative choreography. Lighting and music enhanced the atmosphere, shifting the mood from dramatic intensity to joyful celebration within moments.

The dance show was not only a celebration of talent but also a reflection of the students' discipline, creativity, and determination. Their efforts truly paid off, leaving the audience impressed and proud of their outstanding achievement.



GATEWAY SPORT

[Mr White]

Our school has enjoyed another excellent term of sport, with impressive achievements across basketball, rugby, and netball. The enthusiasm, commitment, and teamwork shown by our students continue to strengthen the sporting culture at the school, and this term has provided many highlights.

Basketball has been a particular success, with four teams reaching their respective county semi-finals. The Under 12 boys, Under 14 boys, Under 15 boys, and Under 14 girls all progressed deep into their competitions, demonstrating great determination and skill throughout the season. A special mention must go to the Under 12 boys, who went one step further by qualifying for the county final for the first time in the school's history at this age group. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the hard work and progress made by the team.

Our success in basketball has also extended to the national stage. The Under 14 boys have reached the last eight teams in the country and will face Bullers Wood School at home before Easter in what promises to be an exciting fixture. The Under 14 girls have also enjoyed an excellent national cup run and are now into the last 16, where they will play Redden Court School. Having two teams performing so strongly at national level is a brilliant achievement and highlights the continued development of basketball within the school.

Our rugby teams have also represented the school with great effort. The Under 12, Under 13, and Under 14 boys all competed in the recent county Rugby 7s festivals, facing strong opposition from well-established rugby schools.

The Under 12 team performed particularly well, reaching the Plate semi-final after a series of competitive matches. The Under 14 boys also reached the Plate semi-final, where they narrowly lost to the eventual winners of the competition. These performances were very encouraging and showed the continued progress of our rugby programme.

Netball has also had a very positive term. The Year 7 girls have made a fantastic start to their time at the school, winning all of their matches so far. Their teamwork, enthusiasm, and commitment have been outstanding and provide a strong foundation for future success.

As this term comes to a close, we now look ahead to the athletics season. Athletics has been an area of great success for the school in recent years, and preparations are already underway. With the strength and enthusiasm across the year groups, we are hopeful of another successful season ahead.



COMBINED CADET FORCE



The CCF have continued to be busy throughout the term with many exciting days lined up in the coming weeks. The first of which was held on Sunday (15th March) where 20 cadets were trained in the Army Air Weapon system (Scorpion), everyone proved themselves to be capable handling the weapon and all were good shots. Everyone who attended passed, so well done to all the cadets. In May we continue our weapons training with a two-day event at Colchester Barracks. Before that the whole contingent have an exciting 3-day adventure training weekend in the Peak District from the 16th- 18th April. Here the cadets will be participating in various outdoor activities including, mountaineering, caving and abseiling. We have further weekend activities lined up in May at the Gateway where the cadets have a Fieldcraft training day and a further shooting activity in June at Colchester barracks. The school year ends with a week-long camp in Lincolnshire which the contingent has been training for throughout the term during cadet parade days. Finally, the CCF will be expanding and will be opening up for recruitment during the summer term.



MORE ABLE PROVISION

[Mr Zeffie]

Chess Tournament

The inaugural Gateway Academy Chess Tournament was a fantastic success, bringing together a strong field of 20 players for an afternoon of high-quality competition. Matches were closely contested throughout, reflecting both the skill and determination of all involved.

The final ended in a draw between Henry C and Finley S-B, with both players sharing the title after an excellent display of chess. In the third-place playoff, Al-Hakam M secured victory against Ben T in another competitive encounter. The event was well supported and showcased the growing enthusiasm for chess across the academy. A huge thank you to all players for their commitment, sportsmanship and outstanding standard of play.



Masterclass "The Renaissance"

Gateway students recently took part in a brilliant masterclass on *The Renaissance*, led by our resident expert, Miss Skeet. The session was full of interesting insights and brought to life with a range of striking visual works. Time flew by, with students fully engaged throughout. It was clearly a hit—students loved it, and so did Miss Skeet. A really enjoyable and enriching experience for everyone involved. Thanks to Miss Skeet for all the hard work and passion that went into creating and delivering such a great masterclass.



MORE ABLE PROVISION

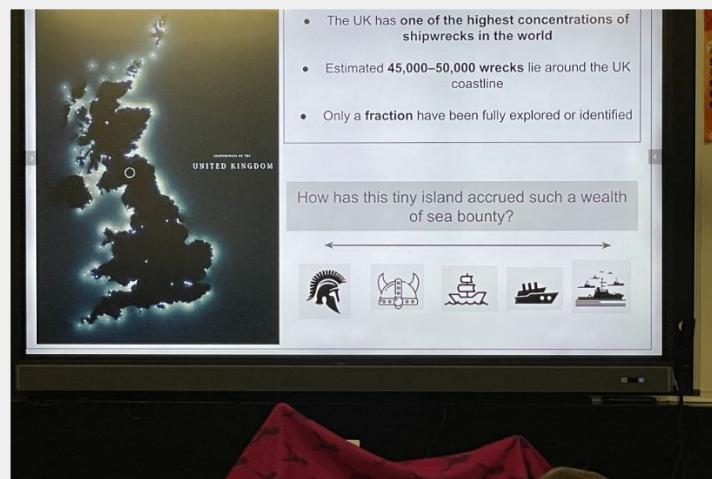
[Mr Zeffie]

Masterclass “Coastal Wrecks of the UK”

Students were treated to a fascinating masterclass on *Coastal Wrecks of the UK*, led by our resident Dive Master, Miss Reynolds. Bringing the topic to life, she shared real artefacts recovered from wrecks, giving students a rare chance to see and handle pieces of history up close.

The session was packed with stories, new discoveries and insights into life beneath the waves, with students hooked from start to finish. There was a real buzz in the room as Miss Reynolds talked through different wrecks around the UK and the secrets they still hold.

It was a fantastic masterclass—engaging, memorable and something a bit different—which students thoroughly enjoyed.



Mensa Testing

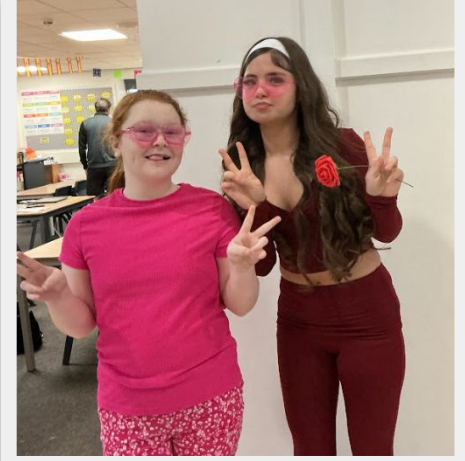
39 of our Year 7 students recently took on the world-famous Mensa test—and what stood out most was how seriously they approached it. There was a real sense of focus in the room from the outset, with students settling quickly and giving it their all.

It's a tough paper, designed to really stretch thinking, but they didn't shy away from it. Instead, they leaned into the challenge, working carefully through each question and showing great resilience when things got tricky.

It was a great opportunity for them to test themselves against something different, and they rose to it well. We're hopeful for some strong outcomes and really proud of the way they represented Gateway throughout.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our Student Leadership team have been working on some exciting projects this term including spreading love and kindness throughout the Academy. They have been selling valentines items, encouraging everyone to dress or accessorise in pink and creating awards for kindness for both staff and students. We have also been raising money for Cardiac Risk in the Young in memory of Kayla one of our previous students.

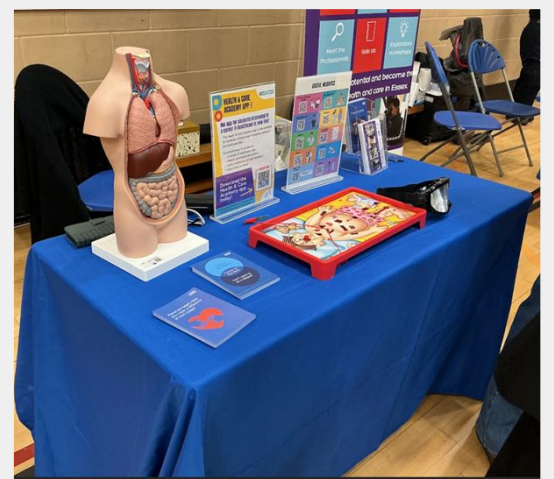


Our Wellbeing Ambassadors have led an assembly for year 7 about how to be resilient with their wellbeing, especially in their exams and are running workshops for year 7 about wellbeing and anti-bullying.

Our year 8 team continues to create challenges for their year group and are currently hiding bunnies in their tutor rooms, the most bunnies found will win a lovely big Easter egg. Year 7 are working on how we can improve our environment, focusing on light and air pollution and looking at strategies to improve our school and local community.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Year 10 students supported with the Careers Fair. We had over 30 different providers and all students were given the opportunity to speak to different employers and Further Education providers whilst picking up lots of freebies.



Thurrock
foodbank



SCAN ME



We have the button at the we



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