

Gateway Times



More news...
Read about mental health awareness



Bringing you the most up to date Gateway News fortnightly


Month Event/Celebration

WELCOME

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL:

The buzz of excitement continues to sweep through our Academy, bringing with it a wave of positive developments in every corner of the school. From the outset, my vision for the Academy has been to cultivate an environment of excellence in education, fostering a profoundly positive ethos that calls for collaboration akin to a close-knit family. I am pleased to share that we are steadily progressing towards realising this goal. Remarkable achievements are unfolding across various facets of the Academy. Students and staff alike are gearing up for the upcoming High School Musical, while The Gateway Gators are making notable strides in the realm of basketball. Additionally, our Student Leadership Team is actively contributing to the implementation of impactful initiatives, such as the Black History Month events.

Furthermore, the Academy's outstanding performance has garnered attention, attracting visits from several other schools this month. The exceptional progress scores achieved by our students stand as a testament to the collective efforts of our extraordinary staff, dedicated students, supportive parents and carers and engaged community. Together, we consistently strive to achieve exceptional feats day in and day out. It is an absolute pleasure to be part of the Gateway journey. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,


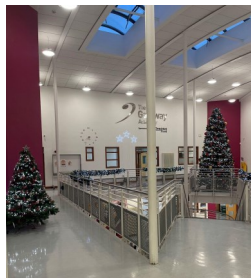
Mrs G McLaughlin
HEAD OF SCHOOL

PARENTAL CALENDAR 2023 - 2024:

<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 updates.

CHRISTMAS IS HERE!

Special thanks to Premier Ltd, Kings Family Church, Rayvac, and Upminster Windows for their generous donations this year, contributing to the Academy's delightful Christmas tree.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

DEC	Thur	14 Dec	1600—1900	Year 7 Parents' Evening
	Mon	18 Dec		Reward Trip
	Tues	19 Dec	1800	GA School Musical
	Weds	20 Dec	1800	- GLC Christmas Jumper Day (wear a Christmas Jumper with uniform) - Whole School Christmas Dinner - GA School Musical
	Thurs	21 Dec	1200	End of Autumn Term
Friday 22 December—Friday 06 January Christmas Holidays				

Year 7 News

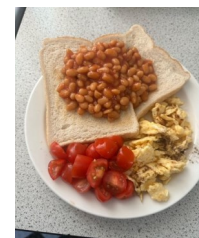
What a fantastic couple of weeks it has been for Year 7. The students successfully completed their first round of summative assessments across all subjects and in exam conditions. Their performance has been truly impressive, and we are eagerly anticipating the publication of their results.

In Food Technology, students have been actively engaged in cooking their breakfasts, showcasing not only their culinary skills but also creating appetising dishes. It's great to see such creativity and enthusiasm in the classroom.

Our Year 7 sportswomen have been making us proud with their dedication and hard work in both basketball and football. They have secured victories in Thurrock competitions as well as in broader Essex competitions, demonstrating their skill and commitment.

A special mention goes to some of our Year 7 students who are putting in extra effort during Thursday rehearsals for the school production of High School Musical. We invite everyone to come and support them; we've been assured it's going to be a wonderful show!

Lastly, a reminder to parents of Year 7 students, the parents' evening is scheduled for 14th December from 4-7 pm. This is an excellent opportunity to engage with teachers and discuss your child's progress at the Academy. We look forward to seeing you there.



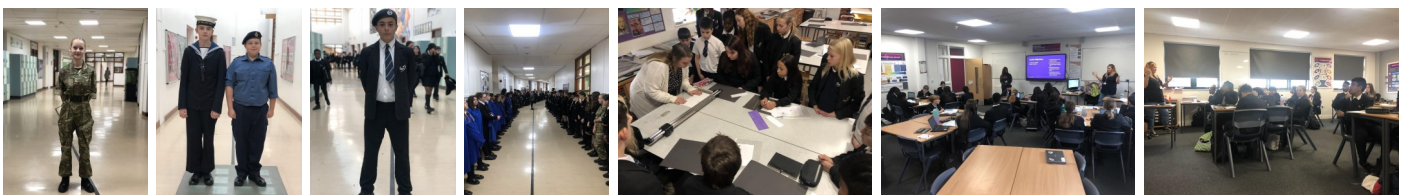
Year 8 News

Year 8 has experienced a fantastic few weeks marked by dedicated efforts from students. They have demonstrated commendable pride in completing their assessments and have diligently prepared for the challenges they faced. Staff members from all departments are thoroughly impressed with their hard work.

The Year 8 students were a credit to their community as they observed the two minutes silence on Remembrance Day. We were fortunate to witness several students attending in their cadet uniforms, wearing them with great pride. It was not only a sight to behold but also impressive to learn about their community contributions in their cadet roles.

PAD sessions for Year 8 have featured guest speakers from local charities in almost all tutor groups. These sessions aimed to enlighten students on how they can support the fantastic work carried out by these organisations. Currently, all Year 8 students are competing in the 'First Give' project. This initiative involves each group putting in hard work on their presentations, culminating in a grand finale where they will be judged on their awareness and fundraising efforts.

In addition, a substantial number of Year 8 students are actively participating in various roles in the upcoming High School musical. Some of them have secured lead singer positions in the show. We invite you to book your tickets, attend the event, and show your support on the day.





MORE NEWS

Year 9 News

Well done Year 9 on a fantastic return to school after the half-term break. It's been truly inspiring to witness the Year 9 students stepping up their efforts over the past few weeks. Within the year group, we've identified a group of students to lead the anti-bullying ambassadors campaign. These students have taken on a prominent role in guiding this initiative and supporting the younger year groups. They've also been actively involved in assemblies, addressing students across the entire school. It's wonderful to observe students enhancing their confidence and leadership skills. During the half-term break, a group of students was selected to participate in October school. It was heartening to see numerous Year 9 students dedicating themselves to self-improvement over the holidays. As a reward for their efforts, these students enjoyed a fantastic trip to Flip Out at the end of the week.

Year 10 News

Congratulations to Year 10 for successfully completing their first set of summative assessments over the past two weeks. The challenges were significant, with some students facing up to two assessments in a single day, yet they rose to the occasion and conducted themselves in a commendable and professional manner. This experience provides a valuable preview of what lies ahead when they undertake their actual GCSEs, fostering resilience in their approach to learning. I am eagerly anticipating the publication of the data and am thoroughly impressed with the effort and dedication demonstrated by Year 10. Well done. A special mention goes to the students who have been dedicating their time and energy to the upcoming school musical. Year 10 is heavily represented in the cast, with some students taking on leading roles and significant responsibilities, while others contribute behind the scenes to ensure a seamless production. Best of luck to all our students involved, whether in a major or supporting role.

I would also like to commend the students who actively participated in supporting 'Black History Month.' Your efforts in preparing and sharing food samples throughout break and lunch times were truly appreciated. It was heartening to see your engagement and the celebration of Black History.

As we look ahead, there's much to anticipate in the build-up to Christmas at the Academy. We hope to see many students at the upcoming 'Festive Film Night' we'll be hosting in a couple of weeks. Stay tuned for more information, which will be shared with the students soon.

We have recently concluded our first round of assessments in Year 9, and students have demonstrated tremendous dedication and hard work over the past two weeks. In tutor time, students have been learning about effective revision techniques to enhance their preparation. Your preparedness and focus have been commendable, and I am eagerly anticipating the unveiling of your results.

As we approach Christmas, there are exciting events on the horizon. I encourage you to maintain and improve upon your attendance and consistently uphold the school values each day.

Well done, Year 9.

Year 11 News

It's been an incredible few weeks for the Year 11 students at our academy. We organized a thrilling movie night to fundraise for the upcoming prom, creating a spooky atmosphere for everyone. Alongside that, students received their latest Pre-Public Examination (PPE) results, providing them with valuable insights into their strengths and areas for improvement.

To further support our Year 11s, we unveiled our new study room, exclusively for their use. This space is available during breaks and lunchtimes, offering a conducive environment for revision, coursework, and homework. We've sweetened the deal with complimentary biscuits and hot chocolate.

In a bid to finance our Year 11 event in the summer term, students have been diligently running a tuck shop every other Friday. This initiative not only fosters a sense of community but also contributes to the success of our upcoming event.

Last week, we hosted the Year 11 Next Step Evening, which saw an impressive turnout of parents, carers, and representatives from local colleges, sixth forms, and organisations such as the NHS. The event provided invaluable career advice to our students, guiding them towards informed decisions about their futures.

A big shoutout to our hardworking Year 11 students – keep up the fantastic work!

Best,
The Year 11 Team



Anti Bullying week

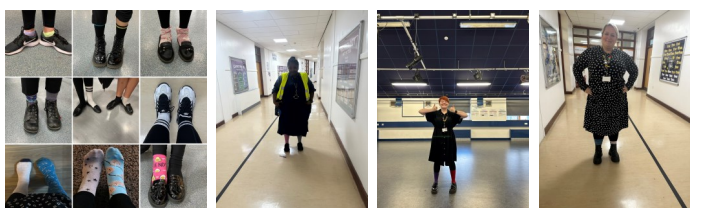
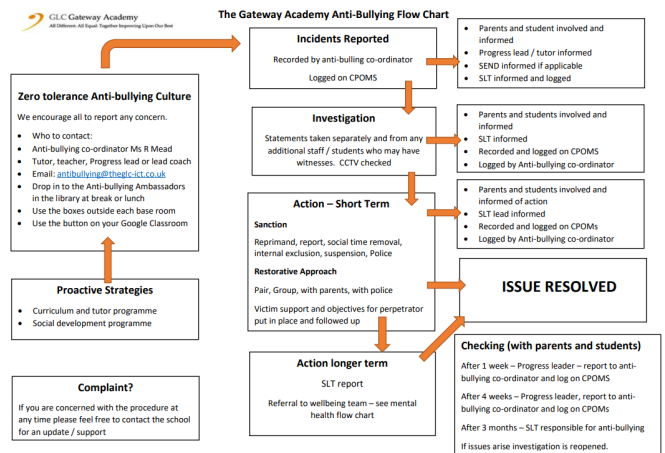
ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 13th-17th NOVEMBER

Last week, we enthusiastically celebrated Anti-Bullying Week across the Academy, embracing this year's theme, 'Make a Noise.' Our kickoff event for Anti-Bullying Week was Odd Socks Day on Monday 13th November, where students were encouraged to wear mismatched socks in solidarity with the Anti-Bullying Alliance. Odd Socks Day conveys a crucial message to our students, emphasising the importance of embracing individuality and celebrating the unique qualities that make each of us special.

Throughout the week, students engaged in discussions on how to 'make a noise' about bullying during tutor time and through their weekly assemblies, with a specific focus on distinguishing between 'banter and bullying.'

As a proactive measure, the Academy has appointed a dedicated group of students as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. These ambassadors underwent comprehensive training at Hassenbrook School, delivered by the Diana Award, and are now certified anti-bullying ambassadors. They actively collaborate with both students and staff to cultivate a culture of respect throughout the Academy. These ambassadors are equipped to recognise and respond to instances of bullying, and they also serve as part of the student voice, conveying concerns raised by their peers. During assembly this week, the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors launched their new initiative, "No-One Sits Alone." This initiative aims to establish a safe and welcoming environment during break and lunch where students can make new friends, participate in activities, and feel supported throughout these times in the academy day. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all students involved in this initiative.

For further information on how the Academy addresses reported bullying incidents, please refer to the flowchart below. Your continued support is appreciated.





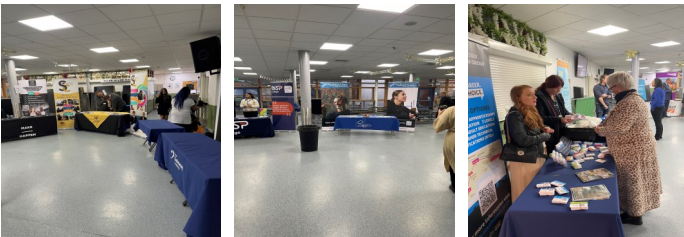
Parental News

In November, we hosted an immersive family event that saw an impressive turnout, with 88 families in attendance, totaling approximately 300 individuals on that memorable night. It's noteworthy to mention that some families have more than one child enrolled in the Academy. Of the attending families, 38 of them, accounting for 43%, have children classified as disadvantaged, while 34 families (38%) have children who are recipients of free school meals. This diverse representation underscores our commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for all members of our school community. We are grateful for the strong engagement and participation from our families, reflecting the collaborative spirit that makes our Academy a vibrant and inclusive place for learning.



Year 11 Next Steps

Last week, Year 11 students had the valuable opportunity to engage with several organisations, exploring possibilities for their next steps after school. We were delighted to welcome representatives from various organisations, including National Rail, the NHS, the British Army, St Cleres Sixth Form, and many more. These interactions are part of our ongoing efforts to enhance our careers programme at the Academy, skillfully overseen by Mrs. Fuller. We are committed to providing students with meaningful insights and connections that will contribute to their informed decisions about future career paths. This initiative reflects our commitment to supporting and preparing our students for the exciting journey that lies ahead after their time at the Academy.



Mental Health Day

Mental Health Ambassadors have been promoting awareness of mental health concerns among students through various initiatives, such as organising a bake sale, setting up a green station with a playful green dinosaur, and hosting a basketball tournament to highlight the connection between physical well-being and mental health. Congratulations to the Year 9 Basketball winners!



Green Station for Mental Health Awareness

Black History Month

Black History Month was commemorated by students through a series of assemblies and lessons. They actively participated in online seminars and concluded the month with a celebratory event meticulously organised by the Student Leadership team.



Remembrance Day

The entire school observed a minute of silence to honour those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom in past conflicts. Our students, in a gesture of respect, wore their uniforms representing cadet or scout organisations during this solemn moment.



Student Voice

The inaugural student voice session of the year was spearheaded by our Head students, who shared insights from the entire school on a diverse range of topics. Guiding their peers through presentations and discussions, they provided valuable input to Ms. McLaughlin. Our students raised thoughtful and compelling issues for the academy to address, contributing to ongoing efforts to enhance the overall quality of our academy experience.



Warm Spaces

Thurrock libraries offer you a warm welcome during the winter months.

From Monday 20 November 2023 until Friday 29 March 2024, at set times each week, many of our local libraries are offering residents a free hot drink in a safe and supportive space.

Grays library and Purfleet library are accepting winter coat donations during this period, to help those most in need to stay warm this winter. Purfleet library is also accepting donations of clean blankets (no duvets or other bedding). Contact the libraries below for full details.

Join us in our Warm Spaces on the following days and times.

Library	Day	Times
Aveley library	Tuesdays	2pm to 4pm
Belhus library	Wednesdays	2pm to 4pm
Chadwell library	Thursdays	2pm to 4pm
Corryingham library	Fridays	2pm to 4pm
East Tilbury library	Thursdays	10:30am to 12:30pm
Grays library	Mondays	10am to midday
Purfleet library	Tuesdays	2pm to 4pm
	Thursdays	2pm to 4pm
Stanford-le-Hope Library	Wednesdays	2pm to 4pm
Tilbury library	Mondays	2pm to 4pm

You can also enjoy our wide range of library services, such as free wi-fi, during these times and throughout our [library opening hours](#).

A list of other Warm Spaces in Thurrock is available online at [Stronger Together: Warm Spaces](#).

To find Warm Spaces throughout the UK, go to the [Warm Welcome Spaces](#) website.

For help finding more support, go to [support with the cost of living](#) and [Stronger Together: support for residents](#).

<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/whats-on-at-your-library/warm-spaces>



www.strongertogetherthurrock.org

THURROCK'S COST OF LIVING Market Place

A free drop in event providing residents with information, support, top tips and freebies to support the cost of living crisis including:

- Housing, utilities & Energy
- Finance & Debt
- Health & Wellbeing
- Community Food & Donation Stalls
- Employment & Training

FREE Refreshments & Raffle Tickets on entry!

Monday 4th December 2023
10:00am - 2:00pm
The Beehive Centre, West Street, Grays, RM17 6XP

With the cost of living crisis continuing, it's never been more important to know what support is available in your local area and across Thurrock.

Drama

Year 9 Drama students delved into the realm of Physical Theatre, drawing inspiration from renowned British theatre companies like Frantic Assembly. Excellently rising to the challenge, students honed their non-verbal communication skills and explored key themes, including relationships, in a unique style. Remarkably, some of the work produced by the students reached the standards expected at the Year 11 GCSE level.



FOOD TECHNOLOGY:

Year 7 students showcased their culinary skills by creating incredibly delicious breakfast muffins.

I just wanted to sing the praises of my year 10A option group (the ones that started this year). Last couple of lessons we've looked at pastry and how to present our work. This is their first time making this with me. They had options on how to cover their pie and most of them chose to do lattice work which would be a high level skill. They worked brilliantly. Very proud of them. Just wanted to let you know. Below are some pics.



DEPARTMENT / FACULTY NEWS:

PE NEWS

Gateway PE has experienced significant growth in recent weeks, and the hard work and dedication invested during the first half term are beginning to yield tangible results. The Year 7 boys' rugby team engaged in an exciting match against the well-established Redden Court, concluding with a draw of three tries each. This encouraging performance has filled them with confidence as they eagerly anticipate the upcoming Essex Festival.

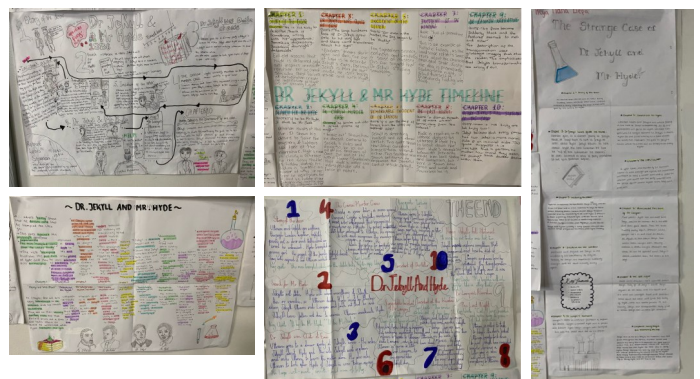
Meanwhile, the Year 7 netball team initiated their Essex Cup campaign with a convincing victory against Grays Convent, showcasing remarkable development over the past few weeks. This progress underscores the positive impact of genuine commitment to training. The senior netball team also contributed to the winning streak, securing a commendable victory against Gable Hall in the district league.

Basketball is gaining momentum at Gateway, thanks in no small part to the invaluable contributions of Coach Lee from Greenhouse Sports. The year 7 girls' team triumphed in their first two Essex Cup games, securing qualification from the group stage. The U16 boys celebrated a fantastic win against Woodlands in their inaugural game, while the U13 boys, despite losing to the formidable Westcliff High School for Boys, exhibited excellent basketball skills and demonstrated notable improvement throughout the game.

The school's participation in previously unexplored competitions is a source of great satisfaction, exposing the students to diverse sporting experiences. Although this journey is just beginning, the overwhelmingly positive start bodes well for the future of Gateway PE.



ENGLISH:





MORE NEWS

SEND Parental News

Meet the team below:



Please feel free to contact laura.hunt@theglc.org.uk for any information regarding SEND. This week we want to share some top tips for parents:

What is ADHD?

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a group of behavioural symptoms that include inattentiveness, hyperactivity and impulsiveness.

Developing strategies to work positively with children with ADHD

The best strategies for behaviour management of ADHD are those where the child is directly involved in, or leading, the plan so that they own it. Young people tell us that supportive relationships with one or more adults is key to making a difference.

You can provide support at home by helping your child with:

- Structure and organisation
- Waiting
- Rules and instructions
- Sitting and concentrating
- Impulsivity and distractions
- Not interrupting others

Medication can play an important role in treating moderate to severe ADHD, helping to reduce hyperactivity and improve concentration, which in turn improves learning skills.

Before School Breakfast Club:

FREE BREAKFAST CLUB

Free Breakfast for All
Every Morning in the canteen
7:30-8:10am

Research suggests that breakfast REALLY is the most important meal of the day. At The Gateway Academy, we offer **FREE** breakfast for all our students. This includes a variety of cereals, bagels and toast. Juice every Tuesday and Thursday and hot chocolate on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the winter months. Feel free to encourage your child to eat breakfast and kick start the day with the nutritious and positive meal.

After School and Extracurricular Activities:

Homework Club

	7AM-8AM	Break	Lunch	3PM-4PM
Monday	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tuesday	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wednesday	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thursday	✓	✓	✓	✓
Friday	✓	✓	✓	✓

ALL IN ROOM 4-206

ALPS

ADDITIONAL LEARNING PROGRAMME OF SUPPORT

Students must commit to taking part in **ALL** additional hours of learning every week.

GCSE RESULTS

What results will be in your envelope?

Additional learning to ensure you achieve your potential

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Year 11	Option A		Science-X Band Maths-Y Band		Science- Y band English- X band	Targeted Students
	Option C		Maths-X Band English-Y Band		Option B	Targeted students & Mr Lovelock 11C/Dt

Subjects in each of the options:

Option A Business PE Health and Social Care History Art Computer Science Psychology Photography	Option B Business Photography Child Development Design Technology Spanish History Computer Science Geography French	Option C Art Business Geography Psychology Creative Media Spanish Hospitality and Catering Dance Computer Science Design Technology History
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FREE Breakfast for ALL (7:30am – 8:10am)

Research suggests that breakfast REALLY is the most important meal of the day.

“Breakfast kick-starts your metabolism, helping you burn calories throughout the day. It also gives you the energy you need to get things done and helps you focus at work or at school. Those are just a few reasons why it’s the most important meal of the day.” Medical Doctors Association.

At The Gateway Academy, we offer FREE breakfast for all our students. This includes a variety of cereals, bagels and toast. Juice every Tuesday and Thursday and hot chocolate on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the winter months.

Feel free to encourage your child to eat breakfast and kick start the day with a nutritious and positive meal.

Free School Meals – YOUR FAMILY COULD BE ENTITLED

Your child/children could also be entitled to FREE:

- Lunchtime meals.
- Academic opportunities, such as a tutor.
- Resources including revision booklets.
- Pastoral opportunities.
- Wider Experiences e.g. trips.

To find out if your child is entitled, please click on the following link :<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. You will usually qualify if you are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income Support.
- Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance.
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Child Tax Credit with no Working Tax Credit and the total household income does not exceed £16,190.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Employment Support Allowance.

Once free school meal entitlement has been established, a daily allowance of £2.30 will be automatically added to your child’s catering account. **DON'T DELAY – APPLY TODAY!**

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

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Who is eligible?

Students may be eligible for free school meals if parents/guardians do not receive working tax credit but receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit – provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Universal Credit – provided your total net earnings are no more than £616.67 each month
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

The Thurrock website is the place to apply:
<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/school-meals/free-school-meals>



Scan the QR Code to apply for free school meals.

Contact Us:
Gateway Secondary Academy
Siobhan O'Dwyer
siobhan.odwyer@theglc.org.uk
07852 714618



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

Supporting Gateway Families

Community Uniform and PE Kit Donation Drive

In our community, there are several families in need of nearly new uniform and PE kit items. If your child has outgrown any items or you are willing to donate, please consider delivering them to the reception. Alternatively, your child can pass them on to Miss Newton in the Attendance Office.

We are specifically looking for the following uniform items:

- Blazers
- Trousers
- Skirts
- Shoes

For PE kit donations, we are in need of new items, including:

- T-shirts
- Shorts
- Leggings
- Jumpers
- Trainers

Your contributions will make a significant difference to families within our community. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, helping to ensure that every student has access to the necessary clothing for a successful school experience. Thank you for your support.

Family Fund:

Family Fund supports families living in England who are raising a disabled or seriously ill child up to the age of 17. Support is focused on those on low incomes with a child/children who have a high level of additional support needs arising from a long-term disability or disabling condition or a serious or life-limiting illness.

This funding is still available, and families can apply for a grant right now by visiting <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/FAQs/how-do-we-apply>. Families can apply online, by downloading an application form, or by ordering one to be sent to them.

Please see the attached for additional information for families who may be potentially eligible for a grant.



Family Fund
Update.pdf

Essential Living Fund:

The Essential Living Fund supports parents and carers who are not eligible for Free School Meals. Please click on the link for further information: <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/essential-living-fund/about-essential-living-fund>.



8935 Essential
Living Fund A5 flyer.

Young Thurrock's Youth Service

Address: 24-28 Orsett Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 5EB

Telephone: 01375 413 735

Website: <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/young-thurrock>

Careers:

If you are interested in employment opportunities at the Gateway Academy or any of our other schools within the GLC, please visit: <https://www.theglc.org.uk/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=43>

Here, you will find information on current job openings, application procedures, and other relevant details about joining our educational community. We look forward to welcoming passionate individuals who share our commitment to providing quality education and making a positive impact on the lives of students.