

End of Year Supplement

GATEACRE SCHOOL

17th July 2026



WISHING YOU A RESTFUL SUMMER BREAK

As we reach the end of another academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of the Gateacre community for making this a year to remember.

When I look back over the past twelve months, I feel an immense sense of pride in everything that has been achieved. Throughout this newsletter, you will see just some of the many successes that have defined our year - academic achievements, sporting triumphs, creative performances, enrichment opportunities, charitable work, student leadership, and the countless moments of kindness, resilience and determination that make Gateacre such a special place to learn.

None of this happens by chance. It is the result of the dedication of our exceptional staff, the unwavering support of our parents and carers, and, most importantly, the hard work and ambition shown by our students every single day. Whether representing the school in competitions, supporting the local community, achieving personal milestones, or simply demonstrating our values through their everyday actions, our students continue to make us incredibly proud.

Whilst we celebrate all that has been achieved this year, we are equally excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. Over the coming weeks, we will be sharing important information to help families prepare for September and outlining a number of developments that will further strengthen our partnership with parents and carers.

One significant change will be our move to ClassCharts, giving parents and carers a clearer, more accessible view of their child's behaviour, achievements and rewards.

EduLink will remain our primary communication platform for communication between home and school, ensuring that important messages continue to be shared quickly and effectively.

We are also delighted to introduce the Gateacre Diploma, a new way of formally recognising students who consistently demonstrate excellence beyond the classroom. The diploma will bring together our ABC values - Attendance, Behaviour and Community Service - rewarding students who embody these qualities throughout the year. Pupils will be able to achieve Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum Diploma status, celebrating sustained commitment, positive attitudes and contribution to the wider school community.

These developments form part of our continued commitment to recognising every aspect of student success and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive. We look forward to sharing much more information about both ClassCharts and the Gateacre Diploma in the coming weeks.

For now, I hope you enjoy reading about the many successes featured in this final newsletter of the academic year. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and partnership throughout the year. Together, we have achieved a great deal, and I look forward to building on these successes when we welcome everyone back in September.

I wish all of our students, families and staff a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break.

PRINCIPAL - MR N. JAMIL

In This Edition:

Bay Of Naples

Classics For All

Inclusion At Gateacre

Summer Concert

CCF: Summer Camp

Water Safety

SCHOLARS EMBARK ON AN UNFORGETTABLE CLASSICS TOUR TO THE BAY OF NAPLES

From 1st to 4th July, 36 of our Key Stage 3 pupils embarked on a spectacular educational journey to southern Italy. Immersing themselves in the history, archaeology, and culture of the Bay of Naples, our scholars brought their classroom learning to life with first-hand experiences of the ancient world's most iconic sites.

Bringing the Ancient World to Life

Our packed four-day itinerary balanced rigorous academic enrichment with unforgettable cultural experiences:

- **Pompeii & Herculaneum:** Walking the remarkably preserved streets of these ancient Roman settlements, pupils gained a profound, tangible understanding of the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79.
- **The Greek Temples of Paestum:** Exploring these magnificent, towering ruins allowed students to broaden their understanding of the ancient Mediterranean and the deep connections between Greek and Roman civilizations.
- **Naples & Sorrento:** A guided walking tour introduced pupils to the vibrant, historic streets of Naples, while time spent exploring the picturesque coastal town of Sorrento rounded out a brilliant tour.
- **Authentic Neapolitan Pizza Making:** A visit to a traditional working farm gave everyone a hands-on, delicious insight into local culinary traditions as they crafted their own authentic pizzas.

Exemplary Ambassadors for Gateacre School

Most importantly, our pupils were exceptional ambassadors for Gateacre School from the moment they boarded the flight. They embraced every historical site and cultural challenge with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a high level of maturity.

Their exemplary behaviour, respect for the local communities, and positive attitudes earned them praise wherever they travelled. We are incredibly proud of how impeccably they represented our school on this enriching international adventure!



What Our Scholars & Parents Said

The massive impact of the tour was beautifully reflected in the feedback we received from our pupils and their families:

"My favourite activity was the pizza making because it was really entertaining and fun. I also learned that Herculaneum was buried under mud, unlike Pompeii." - **Year 8 Pupil**

"I really enjoyed making pizza with friends and seeing Herculaneum because it was so well preserved." - **KS3 Pupil**

"The trip to Naples was one of the best experiences for my son. It was fun, educational, and he learnt so much." - **Gateacre Parent**

"Trips like this are remembered long after they finish. They provide experiences that simply can't be recreated in the classroom." - **Gateacre Parent**

CLASSICS FOR ALL: GATEACRE OPENS THE DOOR TO THE ANCIENT WORLD

This year, Gateacre School - alongside our Trust sibling school, North Liverpool Academy - made a bold and pioneering decision: **introducing Classics to all Key Stage 3 students, as well as launching it as a brand-new Year 10 option.**

Historically, the study of Classics has been the preserve of privileged private education, with state-school students rarely given the opportunity to explore it. In fact, our very first lessons this year began with a simple question: *What actually is Classics?*

Now, our students are fully immersed in the fascinating ancient world, discovering how the Greeks and Romans shaped the modern society we live in today.

A Journey Through the Ancient World

Our curriculum is designed to stretch and challenge our students, offering them a unique academic experience:

- **Year 7:** Exploring the legendary deeds of the Greek city-states and the epic conquests of Alexander the Great.
- **Year 8:** Learning the Latin language and investigating the daily lives of citizens living under the ominous shadow of Mount Vesuvius in Pompeii.
- **Year 9:** Studying the high-stakes politics, rise, and fall of the kings and tyrants of Rome's illustrious history.

Award-Winning Dedication & Early Successes

This incredible curriculum would not be possible without the extraordinary dedication of our staff and students.

A massive congratulations goes to Ms. McCarthy, who took the inspiring step of learning Classics herself in order to teach it to our Scholars. In recognition of her phenomenal work, Ms. McCarthy was awarded the prestigious **Classics For All 2026 Impact Award!**

Her hard work is already yielding fantastic results:

- Our Year 9 students will soon receive their **Entry Level certificates** after passing their exams in Latin language and Roman culture.
- Our students won a **national competition** to interpret the work of the famous Roman poet, Ovid (and we have already signed up to compete again next year!).
- A group of our Scholars recently returned from a once-in-a-lifetime residential trip to Italy, exploring the ruins of Pompeii and the Bay of Naples first-hand.

Labour Member of Parliament for Liverpool Garston



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Our reference: ME
(Please quote in all correspondence
and reply to constituency Office)

Mr Nabil Jamil
Principal
Gateacre School
Hedgefield Road
Liverpool
L25 2RW

3 June 2026

Dear Mr Jamil,

I am writing to offer my sincere congratulations to Gateacre School on receiving a Classics for All award in recognition of your outstanding work in classics education.

At a time when access to Classical Civilisation is limited in many parts of the country, Gateacre School has demonstrated real vision and ambition by opening the door to a subject that deepens cultural understanding, strengthens critical thinking, and broadens academic horizons. I am particularly pleased to hear that pupils are already working towards formal qualifications for the first time, as well as entering national competitions, providing an opportunity to showcase their enthusiasm and talent on a wider stage. This reflects not only their hard work, but also the dedication of the staff who have championed the subject and created an environment where young people can thrive.

Please pass on my warmest congratulations to the teaching staff involved on this well-deserved recognition. I would be very happy to visit the school in the near future to meet with staff and pupils and learn more about the programme.

With best wishes,

RT HON MARIA EAGLE MP

Constituency Office
Unit House Speke Boulevard Liverpool L24 9HZ
Telephone 0151 448 1167
Email maria.eagle@parliament.uk

Looking to the Future

Led by Trust Lead Mr. Bartlett, alongside Assistant Lead Mr. Mallin and Teacher Mr. Brealey, the Classics Department is on a mission to build our students' cultural capital, strengthen their critical thinking, and deepen their understanding of how the ancient world heavily influences modern English.

Our efforts have even caught the attention of local leadership. We were incredibly proud to receive a letter of support from the **Rt Hon. Maria Eagle, MP for Liverpool Garston**, who praised the school's vision: "At a time when access to Classical Civilisations is limited in many parts of the country, Gateacre School has demonstrated real vision and ambition by opening the door to a subject that deepens cultural understanding, strengthens critical thinking, and broadens academic horizons." - **Rt Hon. Maria Eagle MP**

We look forward to watching our Classics department continue to grow and inspire our students in the new academic year!

INCLUSION AT GATEACRE: HEARING FROM OUR PUPILS

At Gateacre School, we believe every child should feel safe, valued, and empowered to achieve their absolute best.

Throughout this year, we have continued to strengthen our inclusive approach - working closely with pupils, families, and staff to foster a community where everyone truly belongs.

One of the most important ways we evaluate our progress is by listening to the young people themselves. Their feedback highlights just how much they value having trusted, caring adults who listen, understand, and provide support when it is needed most.

What Our Pupils Say

To help showcase the impact of our inclusion teams, we have grouped some of our favourite pupil comments from this year into three key areas:

1. A Safe Space and Trusted Support

"It is a safe place to talk about things, and there are lots of adults who can help you if you are stressed or anxious." - **Year 7 Pupil**

"The people who run the SEND department are nice, and the SENCO is very helpful." - **Year 9 Pupil**

"My teachers help me understand the work by giving me clear instructions and explaining the examples well." - **Year 10 Pupil**

2. Academic Progress & Targeted Interventions

"When I started school, I found reading difficult, but my reading intervention has helped me become a more confident reader." - **Year 7 Pupil**

"I understand maths much better now because of my maths intervention lessons." - **Year 8 Pupil**

3. Building Social Confidence & Lifelong Skills

"My support lessons help me understand how I am feeling. They have given me the confidence to make friends and speak to other people." - **Year 9 Pupil**

"I really like all the clubs, especially Dungeons & Dragons, Chess, and Wellbeing Club. They have made me more confident when I speak to people and helped me make friends from other year groups." - **Year 8 Pupil**

Celebrating Neurodiversity and Overcoming Barriers

These heartwarming reflections - particularly from our neurodiverse pupils - capture the essence of what we strive for every single day. We are dedicated to ensuring that all students feel safe, are supported to overcome barriers to learning, and develop the self-belief and life skills they need to thrive both in the classroom and beyond.

A Thank You to Our Parents and Carers

We are equally incredibly grateful for the positive feedback, kindness, and encouragement we have received from parents and carers throughout the year.

Your messages of thanks for our staff's dedication and the collaborative partnerships we have built between home and school mean the world to us. We deeply value this partnership and the trust you place in us every day.

Looking ahead to the new academic year, we remain fully committed to growing our inclusive environment so that every single pupil feels welcomed, supported, challenged, and inspired to reach their full potential!

CELEBRATING SUCCESS AND NEXT STEPS: SUMMER 2026 RESULTS DAYS

Now that our Year 11 and Year 13 students have completed their examinations and enjoyed their well-deserved celebratory events, our focus turns to the upcoming results days in August.

After two years of exceptional hard work, dedication, and resilience, we are eagerly anticipating results that reflect the high standards of our student community. Our absolute priority is to ensure every student is supported in securing their first-choice destination - whether that means continuing their education, moving into higher education, or taking their first steps into employment.

Key Dates and Arrangements

To ensure both mornings run as smoothly as possible, please note the specific arrangements for each year group:

Year 13 (A-Level & Vocational Results)

- **Date:** Thursday 14th August 2026
- **Time:** Available from **8:00 AM**
- **Location:** The Sixth Form Study Area
- **Support:** A dedicated team of staff will be on hand to guide students through their next steps, including UCAS/university admissions, clearing, apprenticeships, or employment.

Year 11 (GCSE & Vocational Results)

- **Date:** Thursday 21st August 2026
- **Time:** Throughout the morning (Staggered times will be communicated shortly to avoid lengthy queues).
- **Location:** Main School [or specific hall if applicable]
- **Support:** Staff will be available to discuss options and facilitate immediate enrolment into our Sixth Form for a September 2026 start.

Important Note: Exit Interviews

On both results days, **every student will take part in a brief exit interview** after collecting their results. This ensures they fully understand their grades and leave with a clear, supported, and finalised plan for their future.

Information for Parents and Visitors

Both results days are a fantastic opportunity for classmates to come together, celebrate their achievements, and catch up with their teachers. Light refreshments will be available throughout both mornings.

- **Parent Attendance:** Parents and guardians are incredibly welcome to accompany their children to share in the moment! To ensure a smooth process and keep the collection area clear, we kindly ask parents to wait in the dining area while students collect their results envelopes.
- **What's in the Envelope?** Envelopes will contain official statements of results from the exam boards. Formal, hard-copy qualification certificates will be published and available for collection after the October half-term holiday.

Alternative Arrangements

If a student is unable to collect their results in person on the day, they must take action in advance:

- Contact **Exams@gateacre.org** using their school email address to request alternative arrangements.
- Please ensure this request is made **at least 48 hours in advance** of their respective results day.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents, carers, and staff for their unwavering support throughout the year, and to wish our students the very best of luck. We look forward to celebrating your well-earned success with you in August!



GATEACRE'S SUMMER CONCERT STRIKES THE PERFECT CHORD!

On a beautifully warm and summery Monday 13th July, students, teachers, and families gathered together for Gateacre's annual **Summer Concert**. The evening was an absolute triumph, with the audience treated to number after number of fabulous vocal and instrumental performances.

A Diverse and Dazzling Programme

The **Gateacre Orchestra** kicked off the festivities with a wonderful rendition of the Beatles classic, All You Need Is Love. From there, the stage came alive with a musically diverse programme that spanned genres and generations, including everything from pop classics and jazz standards to moving classical pieces.

The evening showcased the incredible depth of talent at Gateacre, featuring **over 60 musicians from every single year group** performing in a wide range of ensembles:

- The String Group
- The Guitar Group
- The Jazz Band

A Show-Stopping Second Half

The energy didn't dip for a moment in the second half, which commenced with a crowd-pleasing performance from our brilliant **staff band**. Keeping with Gateacre tradition, the night concluded with a powerful grand finale from the full Gateacre Orchestra, leaving the audience thoroughly entertained.

Congratulations!

The concert was incredibly well-attended, and its massive success is a testament to the weeks of hard work and dedication put in by our students and music department. A huge well done to everyone involved for giving us such a memorable evening of music!

GATEACRE SHINES AT SECOND ANNUAL NST SPORTS DAY!

On Wednesday 8th July, around 200 talented students from across Northern Schools Trust secondary schools converged on the Wavertree Athletics Centre for the highly anticipated **Second Annual NST Sports Day**.

Despite the soaring summer heat, our athletes rose to the challenge, showcasing spectacular grit, determination, and outstanding athleticism across a packed morning of track and field events.

Impressive Feats on the Track & Field

Competition was incredibly fierce as students pushed themselves to the limit in a variety of disciplines:

- **Track Events:** High-speed action in the 200m and 300m sprints, alongside gruelling displays of endurance in the 800m.
- **Field Events:** Showcases of power and precision in the Shot Put and Long Jump.

Bringing Home the Silverware

With two prestigious winner's shields up for grabs, the leaderboard was neck-and-neck throughout the entire morning. Gateacre put on a sensational performance across both age groups:

- **KS4 Shield Winners!** Our Key Stage 4 athletes made a spectacular comeback, dominating their events with immense power to claim the championship shield for Gateacre School!
- **KS3 Runners-Up:** Our Key Stage 3 team gave it absolutely everything, pushing North Liverpool Academy right to the wire and narrowly missing out on the top spot to finish in a very proud second place.

A Proud Day for Gateacre

A massive congratulations to every single student who stepped up to represent Gateacre with such pride and passion. Your sportsmanship and effort were exemplary! We would also like to extend a huge thank you to the staff and PE departments whose hard work behind the scenes made this fantastic event such a memorable highlight in the Trust calendar. We already can't wait for next year!



SIXTH FORM NEWS: PREPARING FOR BRIGHT FUTURES

Year 11 Take Next Steps at Pre-Induction Day

On Monday 6th July, we were delighted to welcome our Year 11 students back to Gateacre School for a dedicated Pre-Induction session, specially designed to support their transition into the Sixth Form.

The day was structured to give students a genuine taste of life as a Sixth Former:

- **Lunch with the Experts:** Students began the day by joining Sixth Form subject teachers for an informal lunch. This provided a valuable, relaxed opportunity to ask questions, explore course expectations, and gain deep insights into the subjects they are hoping to study this September.
- **Building a Community:** In the afternoon, students took part in a series of high-energy team-building activities. These challenges were aimed at strengthening communication, collaboration, and problem-solving - key attributes required for success at Key Stage 5.

The atmosphere throughout the day was incredibly positive, with students already laying the foundations for a supportive, close-knit Sixth Form community. We look forward to welcoming them officially in September!

Aspire Coaching: Elevating University Applications

Our Sixth Form students have been working hard alongside **Harry Doyle from Aspire**, participating in bespoke, one-to-one coaching conversations designed to maximise their potential as they eye higher education.

These personalised sessions offer targeted guidance to help students:

- Reflect deeply on their personal and academic strengths.
- Clarify their long-term career ambitions and course choices.
- Critically construct and refine standout Personal Statements.
- Navigate the practicalities of the UCAS application process with total confidence.

We are incredibly grateful to Harry Doyle for his ongoing support and commitment to helping our students achieve their highest aspirations. *"My coaching conversation with Harry has really helped me to think about every single element in the university application process, rather than just focusing on one part. I feel this is the most important thing for making a strong application."* - **Hadia, Sixth Form Student**



GENEVA 2026: AN UNFORGETTABLE STEM & CULTURE TOUR

From Tuesday 7th to Friday 10th July, a cohort of our Year 11 and Year 12 students enjoyed an unforgettable four-day educational visit to Geneva, Switzerland, beautifully blending cutting-edge STEM learning with rich cultural exploration.

Scientific Discovery & Global Leadership

The trip provided students with a unique window into world-class scientific research and the power of global collaboration:

- **The United Nations Office:** Students took a guided tour of the UN, learning about the organisation's monumental role in promoting international peace, cooperation, and human rights.
- **CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research):** At the home of the world's most advanced particle physics facilities, students explored ground-breaking research and discovered how scientists from across the globe work together to unlock the secrets of the universe.

- **History of Science Museum:** The group traced the evolution of human ingenuity by exploring a fascinating collection of historic scientific instruments and exhibits. *"The opportunity to stand in the same room where so many international leaders work was incredible - it is an experience I will never forget."* - **Year 12 Student**

"I enjoyed every second of our visit to CERN. I found it extremely helpful as it has inspired me to follow a career path in Physics." - **Year 11 Student**

Experiencing Swiss Culture

Beyond the labs and lecture halls, students soaked up the breathtaking beauty of Geneva. They completed a biodiversity scavenger hunt in the stunning **Botanical Gardens**, enjoyed a scenic boat tour across **Lake Geneva**, and wandered through the historic architecture of the Old Town.

Throughout the trip, our students were exceptional ambassadors for Gateacre School, embracing every single opportunity with curiosity and maturity.

SIXTH FORM SUCCESS: CHLOE SECURES ASTRAZENECA WORK PLACEMENT!

During the first week of July, our ambitious Sixth Form student, Chloe, completed an invaluable week-long work experience placement with global biopharmaceutical giant **AstraZeneca** at their Speke site.

Securing a placement at a world-leading company like AstraZeneca is highly competitive. Chloe obtained this incredible opportunity entirely through her own initiative - proactively networking and securing the placement herself. This outstanding level of independence and drive perfectly reflects the ethos of our Sixth Form.

Hands-On Science in Action

Based at the Speke facility, Chloe was fully immersed in the world of cutting-edge science and manufacturing. Over the course of her placement, her activities included:

- **A VIP Site Tour:** Gaining a behind-the-scenes look at AstraZeneca's state-of-the-art facilities in Speke.
- **Lab Manufacturing:** Getting hands-on experience with real-world laboratory processes.
- **Technical Skill Development:** Learning how to operate specialised scientific equipment and mastering the precise art of aseptic (sterile) laboratory techniques.
- **Industry Insights:** Understanding how "Continuous Improvement" strategies are vital to keeping a major pharmaceutical company running safely and efficiently.

In Chloe's Own Words

"During my time at AstraZeneca, I gained valuable insight into the industry roles available after university through many practical activities. For example, I was taught how to use specialised equipment, how to work aseptically, and the importance of Continuous Improvement for a company."

I found my time at AstraZeneca to be extremely beneficial, as I have improved many necessary skills and now have a much better knowledge of the opportunities available to me in the future." - **Chloe, Sixth Form**

We are incredibly proud of Chloe for taking charge of her future career path with such confidence and professionalism.

She has set a fantastic example for her peers, and we cannot wait to see where her scientific journey takes her next!



SYSTRA INSPIRES FUTURE ENGINEERS & INNOVATORS

Our Sixth Form and Year 10 engineering students recently received a brilliant visit from **Systra**, a leading global engineering and transport consultancy.

Consultant Katie and Graduate Consultant Ollie delivered an engaging and highly informative careers talk, shedding light on the rapidly evolving engineering, transport, and infrastructure sectors.

Key Highlights from the Session:

- **Real Career Journeys:** The team shared their personal educational paths, outlining the exact skills and qualifications needed to break into the industry.
- **Local & Global Opportunities:** Students learned about the wide array of apprenticeships, graduate pathways, and work experience opportunities available close to home.
- **Transferable Skills:** The speakers emphasised the crucial role that communication, teamwork, and problem-solving play in the modern workplace.

Katie and Ollie also offered invaluable "hints and tips" for interviews and networking, including honest reflections on what they would do differently if they were starting their careers over again.

"The talk wasn't what I expected - I thought it would just be information about a company. It was good to see how someone so close to us in age has been so successful so early in their career. It was actually really inspiring. It was also great to know that there are graduate opportunities close to home in my chosen field." - **Engineering Student**

HISTORY COMES ALIVE: A TERM OF UNFORGETTABLE DISCOVERIES

It has been an incredibly busy and rewarding term in the History Department, packed with enriching, hands-on experiences designed to bring history off the textbook pages and into the real world. From ancient medicine to battlefield visits, our students have engaged with the past in truly meaningful ways.

Year 10 Historians: University Life and Medical Milestones

Our Year 10 GCSE students have taken part in two fantastic opportunities to deepen their academic understanding and look ahead to their futures:

- **The Evolution of Medicine:** To support their GCSE Paper One topic, 'Medicine in Britain', we hosted an interactive workshop delivered by the experts at Zeitgeist Tours. Students got a hands-on, fascinating look at centuries of medical developments, tracing the journey from the crude practices of Medieval Barber Surgeons to modern-day treatments.
- **Liverpool University Summer School:** A group of our Year 10 scholars visited the University of Liverpool for an inspiring Summer School. They gained valuable insights into life in higher education and took part in advanced workshops to develop their historical research and critical thinking skills.

Year 8 Bring the Civil War to the Classroom

On Monday 6th July, our Year 8 students took a step back in time with an interactive **Civil War re-enactment workshop**. This high-energy session brought this turbulent and pivotal period of British history to life, giving students a memorable, tactile understanding of the conflict.

A Solemn Journey: The Somme & Ypres Battlefields

From 13th to 15th July, a cohort of Year 10 students travelled to France and Belgium for our annual educational visit to the historic **Somme and Ypres battlefields**.

This solemn and deeply significant trip is a cornerstone of our curriculum. Walking the historic grounds allowed our students to pay their respects to the fallen, stand in the trenches, and gain a profound, firsthand understanding of the scale and human impact of the First World War.

Looking Ahead to Next Year

This unforgettable trip concludes a fantastic year of historical enrichment at Gateacre. We are incredibly proud of how our students have engaged with these opportunities, and we look forward to offering even more exciting ways to explore the past in the upcoming academic year!



YEAR 10 HISTORIANS EXCEL: IMMERSIVE WORKSHOPS & UNIVERSITY VISITS

It has been a phenomenal few weeks for our Year 10 History students, who have been diving into the past through interactive workshops and higher education experiences. Our young historians continue to demonstrate an outstanding passion for the subject while representing Gateacre immaculately.

Bringing Medical History to Life: Zeitgeist Tours Workshop

A cohort of 43 Year 10 pupils took part in an intensive, highly interactive GCSE workshop delivered by the experts at **Zeitgeist Tours**. Designed to directly support their Medicine Through Time curriculum, the session allowed students to fully immerse themselves in the material.

Through fast-paced quizzes, deep-dive source analysis, and creative role-playing - where students took on the personas of key medical pioneers throughout history - the classroom became a hub of historical discovery.

The Feedback: Alison, who ran the session on behalf of Zeitgeist Tours, spoke incredibly highly of our students. She praised their immense enthusiasm, excellent behaviour, and sharp subject knowledge, specifically asking if she could return to work with Gateacre students again next year!

University of Liverpool Summer Fair: True Dedication on Display

Showcasing their incredible determination and genuine passion for the humanities, 21 of our Year 10 students chose to attend the **History, Languages, and Cultures Summer Fair** at the University of Liverpool - despite school being closed that day! Our students fully embraced the university experience, participating in various professor-led academic seminars, including:

- **The Power of Persuasion:** A deep dive into historical Propaganda.
- **Pharaohs on Film:** Exploring Ancient Egypt in Cinema.
- **Regional Identity:** Uncovering the rich history and culture of the Catalan region.

The Feedback: Once again, Gateacre pupils completely stole the show. Their impeccable manners, sophisticated behaviour, and academic confidence turned heads, with one University Professor explicitly noting that our students were significantly more knowledgeable and confident than any of the other schools in attendance!

A massive well-done to all of our Year 10 historians for their exceptional hard work and for being such brilliant ambassadors for our school. Keep an eye out for more exciting trips and activities from the History Department in the coming months!

CCF CADETS STANDARD TALL AT FIRST-EVER SUMMER CAMP!

Gateacre's inaugural Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Summer Camp at Altcar was an exceptional success! Sixteen of our fantastic Year 8 cadets, accompanied by two highly experienced ACF cadets, packed their bags for a week of high-energy training, outdoor adventure, and character building.

Throughout the camp, our young cadets beautifully demonstrated the six core values of the forces in everything they did.

THE 6 VALUES IN ACTION

Courage & Fieldcraft

The cadets showed immense courage tackling live-firing ranges and advanced fieldcraft challenges. A standout favourite was the "sniper stalk." Dressed in full camouflage, the cadets loved sneaking through the woods to ambush the enemy, firing paintballs at Sergeant Byrne, Captain Morgan-Richardson, and Captain Bate! While Sergeant Byrne claimed, "*They didn't hit me once,*" the cadets strongly begged to differ!

Respect & Teamwork

By mixing with different cadet contingents from all over the country, our students forged fantastic new friendships and showed brilliant respect for others. This camaraderie was on full display during evening social events and when competing in a fierce volleyball tournament on the Altcar Challenge Day.

Selfless Commitment & Loyalty

Whether they were working in teams or pushing their limits, the cadets constantly supported and encouraged one another. Competition reached a fever pitch during a water sports day in Liverpool, where the boys' and girls' teams battled it out on giant paddleboards. We also witnessed outstanding leadership during a section attack in the sand dunes. Huge congratulations to **Cadet Leadbetter** and **Cadet Correia**, who were both promoted to **Lance Corporal** on the field for their exceptional performances!

Discipline & Integrity

Even after long, exhausting days of fieldcraft, our cadets showed impeccable discipline. They took the time to strip down, clean, and reassemble their equipment, adopting a "leave no one behind" attitude by immediately helping their peers the second their own work was finished. They approached every tough challenge with true integrity and a desire to do the right thing.

Special Recognition & Awards

- **The Contingent Commander's Award:** Awarded to Cadet Sarbutts for her incredible tenacity, grit, and perseverance through activities she initially found highly challenging.
- **Best Cadet:** Awarded to newly promoted **Lance Corporal Leadbetter** for his outstanding grasp of shooting and fieldcraft skills, alongside his natural leadership abilities.

In Their Own Words

"My favourite part was the fieldcraft. I liked the part where we shot but stayed hidden. I also really liked the water sports - the slide and watching Sergeant McCarthy jump in from the paddleboard were my favourite!" - Cadet Brocken

Brocken

"The shooting was fun. It's also just really fun and exciting to do all of this with your friends." - Cadet Sarbutts

"I enjoyed the shooting. I feel way more confident now because they taught us how to be comfortable doing the shooting and fieldcraft. I'd love to come again next year." - Cadet Jackson

Cadet Jackson

A Galactic Finale!

To reward the cadets for their incredible work ethic, the final evening concluded with an epic celebration! The camp pulled out all the stops, featuring a lively disco, a professional dancer teaching the group some new moves, ice cream and burger vans, and a surprise appearance from three life-sized Wookiees!

It was an unforgettable week, and our cadets are already counting down the days until next year's camp!



WATER SAFETY: STAY SAFE IN THE SUN THIS SUMMER

As the weather warms up and school breaks for the summer, cooling off with a swim is incredibly tempting. While swimming is a fantastic way to enjoy the sunshine, it is vital to remember that open water swimming carries significant, often hidden risks.

While public swimming pools are monitored by trained lifeguards and first aiders, unsupervised open water - such as **rivers, lakes, reservoirs, canals, quarries, and the sea** - can be extremely dangerous, even for the strongest swimmers.

The Hidden Dangers of Open Water

Unlike controlled indoor pools, open water presents several invisible hazards:

- **Cold Water Shock:** Even on hot days, open water temperatures are much lower than our bodies can handle. Sudden immersion can cause cold water shock, leading to rapid breathing, panic, and an inability to stay afloat.
- **Invisible Obstacles:** Deep mud, thick weeds, hidden rocks, and sudden drops in depth can easily trap or injure swimmers.
- **Strong Currents:** Undercurrents can be incredibly powerful, sweeping even experienced swimmers away from safety.

Whenever you are close to water, knowing how to stay safe can prevent accidents.

Top Water Safety Tips

- **Swim in Supervised Areas:** Always choose designated swimming zones or beaches where lifeguards are on duty. Avoid unsupervised areas like quarries, canals, and reservoirs.
- **Never Swim Alone:** Always swim with family or friends who can help or call for assistance in an emergency. If you are near water, make sure someone on land knows you are there.
- **Resist Peer Pressure:** Never enter the water because of a dare. It is always okay to say no if you feel unsafe or unsure.
- **No Diving or Jumping:** Never jump into open water. Hidden rocks, shallow beds, and debris can cause life-altering injuries.
- **Avoid Fast-Flowing Water:** Stay well clear of fast-flowing rivers, canal locks, and reservoir spillways.
- **Stay Sober:** Avoid alcohol or substances before or during any activity near water, as they severely affect your judgment and reaction times.



Float to Live: What to Do If You Get into Trouble

If you unexpectedly find yourself struggling in deep water, do not panic. Fight your instinct to thrash around and follow the RNLI's **Float to Live** advice:

1. **Tilt your head back** with your ears submerged in the water.
2. **Relax and control your breathing.** It can take a few minutes for the effects of cold water shock to pass - staying calm is key to survival.
3. **Gently move your hands and legs** to help you stay afloat.
4. **Spread your body into a "star" shape** - the more surface area you cover, the more naturally buoyant you become.
5. **Call for help.** Once your breathing is under control, shout "Help!" or swim to safety if you are close enough.

What to Do in an Emergency

If you see someone else struggling in the water, do not enter the water to rescue them. Instead, follow these steps immediately:

1. **Call 999:** Ask for the Coastguard if you are at the coast, or the Fire and Rescue Service if you are inland.
2. **Shout Instructions:** Tell the person in the water to float on their back in a star shape.
3. **Find a Flotation Aid:** If safe to do so, throw them something that floats (like a lifebuoy, a branch, or a plastic bottle) to hold onto.

There are so many safe, wonderful ways to enjoy the water this summer. By choosing supervised locations and making sensible decisions, we can ensure everyone stays safe. We encourage all families to take a few moments to discuss these safety guidelines together before heading out to enjoy the holidays.

Have a fantastic, safe, and happy summer break!



GATEACRE SPORTS ROUND-UP: YEAR 7 TRIUMPHS & OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

It has been an incredibly active and successful period for Gateacre's sports teams. From mastering brand-new sports to showcasing exceptional leadership, our students have represented the school with immense pride, determination, and sportsmanship.

Year 7 Master Kin-Ball and Dodgeball

Our fantastic Year 7 students took part in a high-energy dual tournament, splitting into two specialised squads to take on the competition.

Kin-Ball Debutants Reach the Final!

Despite it being their **first time ever** playing Kin-Ball (a fast-paced team sport using a massive, lightweight ball), a squad of five of our students picked up the rules instantly. Demonstrating brilliant communication and rapid teamwork, they cruised all the way to the grand final, finishing in a magnificent **second place** after a tense extra-time showdown. This group shows massive potential for the future!

- **Player of the Match:** Salman



BOCCIA SUCCESS & LEADERSHIP AT GREENBANK ACADEMY

Our students recently visited the Greenbank Sports Academy to compete in a highly competitive Boccia tournament.

Two Gateacre teams entered the competition, facing off against each other as well as squads from several other local schools.

Our athletes delivered an outstanding performance, securing an impressive **five wins out of seven games**. Throughout the day, their teamwork, focus, and mutual respect embodied the true spirit of Gateacre sports.

Dominating the Dodgeball Court

Our second Year 7 group took to the dodgeball court, showcasing the brilliant tactical skills and reflexes they have built up in training throughout the year. After a spectacular run in the group stages, the team advanced to the quarter-finals, where they were narrowly beaten in a thrillingly close match.

- **Player of the Match:** James

LSSP Celebration Day: Heartbreak on Goal Difference

Our Year 7 girls travelled to the LSSP Celebration Day to compete in both the football and netball tournaments, putting on a clinic in team organisation and grit.

Unbeaten in Girls' Football

The football team enjoyed a stunning, undefeated group stage, winning three of their four games and drawing the other. Incredibly, despite their brilliant performances on the pitch, they narrowly missed out on a semi-final spot by the cruellest of margins: a minor goal difference.

- **Player of the Tournament:** Charlotte F, who captained and organised the team superbly.



OUTSTANDING YOUNG LEADERS

In addition to our competitors, **six of our exceptional Young Leaders** played a vital role in helping to organise and run the entire tournament.

They were outstanding from start to finish, demonstrating immense confidence, responsibility, and professionalism. Their contribution was highly praised by the event organisers, and they represented the school impeccably.

Well done to all of our athletes and leaders on a fantastic week of sport!