

Fortnightly Newsletter

GATEACRE SCHOOL

27th March 2026



Community, Culture, and Celebration

As we navigate through this term, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and engagement in our school community. Your involvement plays a pivotal role in the success of our students and fosters an atmosphere where every child can thrive. Together, we are creating an enriching environment that prioritises student well-being and engagement.

Attendance & Momentum

We've seen a notable improvement in attendance rates, which reflects the hard work of both our students and families in prioritising education.

Enrichment and Global Perspectives

- **Cadet Leadership:** Our cadets have been actively honing their leadership skills through community service projects, showcasing their dedication and commitment to excellence.
- **New Talent:** We are delighted to welcome new trainees to our teaching staff, who bring fresh perspectives and enthusiasm to our educational environment.
- **Spanish Exchange:** Recently, we enjoyed a wonderful cultural exchange with our partner school in Spain, enriching our students' understanding of global perspectives.

Sporting Success

On the sports front, we celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students, including **Blu**, who has excelled in Mixed Martial Arts, winning multiple medals and titles already this year. Looking ahead, our sports teams have been performing admirably with numerous victories. After the Easter break, we will begin **cricket trials**, aiming to build a school team that can utilise our state-of-the-art facilities for summer competitions.

The Gateacre Standard: STEPS and BEST

Our students are making significant strides in fostering a culture of kindness and politeness through our new STEPS acronym:

- Sir/Miss
- Thank You
- Excuse Me
- Please
- Smile and Positive Body Language

It has been truly heartwarming to witness students warmly welcoming guests with a cheerful, "Welcome to Gateacre School, we hope you have a wonderful day!"

In the classroom, pupils continue to be at their **BEST** (Backs straight, Empty hands & arms folded, Silent, Track the speaker). Teachers are already reporting that this focus means pupils require less clarification, and **Exit Tickets** are showing that key knowledge is truly "sticking."

Shaping Our Future: Pupil Voice

Early next term, we will be conducting **Pupil Voice** sessions. We want to hear from our students about everything from the structure of the day to lunch experiences and classroom culture. Our pupils are central to helping us shape the best version of Gateacre School.

A Grand Finale

Finally, this week will end with a **fantastic rewards experience** to celebrate the progress and achievement of our pupils across the school. They deserve to be recognised for their hard work, and we intend to do just that!

Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's education. Together, we can achieve great things!

PRINCIPAL - MR N. JAMIL

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Attendance Excellence: Celebrating Progress & Commitment

Attendance across the school - and particularly in Year 7 - continues to show a strong and encouraging upward trend. We are delighted to report that the number of pupils categorised as persistently absent (PA) has reduced steadily throughout the term.

This positive shift is a direct result of the collective effort from our pupils, families, and staff in prioritising the importance of being in school every day.

The Attendance Challenge: 65 Success Stories

Following our recent attendance challenge issued to 99 pupils, we are thrilled to announce that **65 students** achieved measurable improvement over the past four weeks. This is a fantastic achievement that demonstrates real grit, determination, and a commitment to learning. We are incredibly proud of every student who stepped up to this challenge.

Rewards and Recognition

Our recent Rewards Assemblies were a highlight of the term, where we celebrated:

- **The "100% Club"**: Students with perfect attendance records.
- **The "97% Standard"**: Students hitting our high-performance benchmark.
- **Most Improved**: Those who have shown the greatest dedication to turning their attendance around.

Well done to all of this term's winners - your dedication to your education is truly commendable!

Top Performing Forms

A huge shout-out to the following forms who are currently leading the way with the highest attendance figures in the school:

- **Year 7**: 0703 & 0707
- **Year 8**: 0804 & 0808
- **Year 9**: 0904 & 0908
- **Year 10**: 1003
- **Year 11**: 1106

We look forward to seeing this positive momentum continue as we move into the next term. **Keep up the great work, everyone!**



Champion in the Cage: Blu's Historic MMA Success

Gateacre School is bursting with pride as we celebrate the phenomenal international achievements of Year 11 student, **Blu**, in the world of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA).

Over the last few weeks, Blu has proven himself to be a world-class competitor, representing both his school and his country with incredible distinction.

Dominance in Serbia: The European Championships

Last month, Blu travelled to Serbia to compete in the **2026 MMA European Championships**.

Competing on a massive international stage against the continent's elite, Blu delivered a masterclass performance to secure a historic victory. Reflecting on the grit required to reach this level, Blu shared: *"I have worked incredibly hard for this and have overcome many hurdles to succeed in MMA. It just goes to show that efforts are never wasted."*

Gold and Glory: The NAGA Belt

Blu's momentum didn't stop in Eastern Europe. More recently, he travelled to London to compete in the **NAGA (North American Grappling Association)** tournament. In a display of technical skill and physical resilience, Blu secured a **Gold Medal** and claimed the prestigious **NAGA Championship Belt**.

A True Gateacre Role Model

These accolades are not just a testament to Blu's talent, but to his unwavering discipline. Balancing the rigours of Year 11 studies with elite-level training is no small feat.

As a school community, we are immensely proud of Blu's dedication and resilience. He is a shining example of what can be achieved through perseverance, and we eagerly look forward to seeing what heights he reaches next in his sporting career.

Congratulations, Blu! We are all behind you for your next fight.



Curtains Up: Year 11 Drama Showcase Sets a High Standard

Following their formal GCSE examinations, our **Year 11 Drama students** took to the stage on Wednesday, 25th March, for a public showcase that proved to be both a technical triumph and an emotional tour de force.

From Examination to Excellence

The evening served as a vibrant celebration of the scripted performances the students had delivered for their examiners only twenty-four hours earlier. Opening the doors to parents, staff, and peers, our young performers transitioned from the high-pressure environment of assessment to the exhilarating experience of live theatre.

Artistry and Versatility

The repertoire throughout the night was as varied as it was ambitious. Each ensemble demonstrated a profound grasp of complex dramatic elements, including:

- **Nuanced Characterisation:** Students inhabited their roles with maturity, delivering dialogue with authentic emotional weight.
- **Dynamic Staging:** The use of the performance space was creative and deliberate, showcasing an understanding of spatial relationships and audience sightlines.
- **Theatrical Techniques:** From physical theatre to naturalistic dialogue, the breadth of styles on display highlighted the versatility of the Year 11 cohort.

A Testament to Dedication

Beyond the technical skills, the showcase was a testament to months of rigorous rehearsal, collaborative script analysis, and sheer commitment. The ability to engage and sustain a live audience is no small feat, and our students did so with confidence and poise.

The Drama Department would like to extend a huge "well done" to all the students involved. Your hard work has not only met the requirements of the curriculum but has also provided our school community with a night of truly high-quality entertainment.

Next Step: Final Results! We are incredibly proud of the artistic journey these students have taken.

Road to Success: Year 11 Summer 2026 Examinations

With only one school week remaining before the **Summer 2026 GCSE examinations** begin, the atmosphere at Gateacre is one of focused determination. Our Year 11 students received a significant boost this week as we shared their latest mock exam results, which highlighted the exceptional progress made since the Autumn term.

The Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday provided a vital opportunity for collaborative discussions between teachers, parents, and students, ensuring everyone is aligned on the final steps required to secure success this summer.

Key Assessment Milestones

From the second week of the Summer Term, the formal assessment period begins:

- **Modern Foreign Languages:** Speaking tests will commence across all studied languages.
- **Creative Arts:** Students will complete their 10-hour practical examinations in Art, Graphics, and Photography.
- **Written Examinations:** Following the practicals, the five-week formal written exam period begins.

Having completed three full rounds of mock exams since Year 10, our students are thoroughly prepared for the rigors of the hall. While this is a demanding season, it is also a time for our students to shine, showcasing their knowledge and seeing their hard work finally come to fruition.

Easter Revision & Intervention Sessions

To maintain this momentum, we are delighted to offer a comprehensive range of revision sessions during the Easter holidays. These sessions are specifically tailored to address key areas for improvement identified in the recent mocks.

The Schedule: Sessions will run for the **first four days** and the **final four days** of the Easter break, allowing for a full four-day rest period over the Easter weekend for students to recharge with family and friends.

- **09:50 AM:** Free Breakfast served to all attendees.
- **10:00 AM – 12:00 PM:** Morning Revision Session (Expert teacher-led feedback).
- **12:00 PM:** Free Packed Lunch
- **12:30 PM – 02:00 PM:** Afternoon Revision Session.

Supporting Wellbeing and Ambition

Beyond these sessions, students have been provided with extensive independent study materials. At Gateacre, we believe that **thorough preparation leads to maximum performance**. We are committed to prioritising student wellbeing alongside academic excellence throughout this period.

By utilising the resources and support available, our students are positioning themselves to reach their preferred post-16 destinations and unlock a wealth of future opportunities. We are incredibly proud of their journey so far and look forward to seeing them fulfil their potential this summer.

Global Friendships: A "Beautiful" Week as Gateacre Welcomes Zaragoza

Last week, Gateacre School opened its doors to the world once again as we hosted our annual visit from our long-standing partner school in Spain.

We were delighted to welcome **30 Year 10 students from San Antonio de Padua School in Zaragoza**. Each visitor was paired with one of our own Gateacre students, embarking on a week of cultural exchange, language immersion, and the kind of friendship that transcends borders.

Living the "British School" Experience

The visiting students dived straight into Gateacre life, attending lessons alongside their partners to sharpen their English and experience the unique atmosphere of a British secondary school. From the bustling corridors to the classroom debates, our guests were fully immersed in our daily routines.

The exchange wasn't just about textbooks, though. One Gateacre student shared a highlight of the week:

"We played American football and I showed him all the cool stuff we have in our school. In return, he told me all about what life is like at his school in Spain. It was great to compare our lives!"

A Partnership Built to Last

This collaboration has flourished for many years, becoming a cornerstone of our school's commitment to global citizenship. These visits provide a vital cultural bridge, often leading to lifelong connections. Many of our students stay in contact with their Spanish counterparts long after the visitors return to Zaragoza.

One of our Year 10 students is already planning ahead:

"I'm definitely going to keep in touch with my Spanish partner. Hopefully, I'll be able to visit them in Spain in the future!"

"Just Beautiful"

Perhaps the most touching feedback came from one of our youngest participants. When asked how she got on with her partner, one of our Year 7 students summed up the entire experience in just three words: **"It was just beautiful."**

We would like to thank all the families, staff, and students who made our guests feel so welcome. We already look forward to the next chapter of this wonderful international friendship.

Did You Know? Gateacre students have the opportunity to practice their Spanish skills year-round through our Modern Foreign Languages department. Encouraging international dialogue is just one way we prepare our students for a global future!

Order in the Court: Gateacre Scholars Take on the National Mock Trial Competition

This term, our Year 8 Scholars stepped out of the classroom and into the courtroom as they participated in the **Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition**, a prestigious national programme run by Young Citizens.

Designed to provide a high-stakes, realistic insight into the British legal system, the competition challenges students to master the complexities of criminal law, evidence, and public speaking.

The Preparation Phase

In the weeks leading up to the event, **Mr. Bowes** worked closely with the Scholars to deconstruct a specially written criminal case. The students didn't just read about the law; they lived it- practising both prosecution and defence roles, building airtight legal arguments, and learning the strict etiquette of a real courtroom.

"We spent weeks preparing our case and practising what to say so we felt ready on the day," explained **Alex (Year 8 Scholar)**.

The Trial: Defence, Prosecution, and the Bench

The competition consisted of two intense rounds where students rotated through various high-pressure roles. One of the most challenging tasks was serving as **Magistrates**.

Tasked with the responsibility usually reserved for a jury, our students had to listen to conflicting testimonies, take meticulous notes, and remain impartial.



One participant reflected: *"Being a magistrate was really interesting because you had to listen to both sides and make a fair decision."*

The deliberations were equally gripping. "It was challenging because not everyone agreed at first," another student described, "but we worked together to come to a final decision - a unanimous verdict in favour of the defence!"

Standing Up to Scrutiny

In the second round, the Scholars pivoted to the Prosecution. Alex took the stand as a witness, facing intense cross-examination. This role required immense composure and the ability to recall details of the suspect and the crime under pressure.

*"Answering questions as a witness made me think on my feet and speak clearly under pressure, utilising my **LAMDA public speaking skills**,"* Alex noted.

More Than a Verdict

While Gateacre did not take home the overall trophy this year, the "legal win" was found in the skills developed. From critical thinking and teamwork to the confidence required to argue a case before a judge, the experience was invaluable.

As the team concluded: *"Even though we didn't win, it was a great experience and I learned a lot about how courts work. It was an enjoyable and rewarding opportunity that we would highly recommend to other students."*

Well done to all our budding legal experts!

From Classroom to Career: Celebrating a Landmark Month of Work Experience

It has been a defining month for the Gateacre community as our **Year 10 and Year 12 students** successfully completed their five-day professional placements. We are incredibly proud of the maturity and ambition displayed as our students stepped out of the classroom and into the fast-paced world of work.

Partnering for Excellence: Elevate Business Partnership

These invaluable opportunities were made possible through our strategic collaboration with **Elevate Business Partnership**. Their expertise in sourcing and coordinating placements ensured our students were matched with high-quality environments that both challenged and inspired them.

The feedback from the week has been exemplary; students reported a thoroughly rewarding time while gaining a "behind-the-scenes" look at the daily operations of diverse industries.

Architecting the Future: Skills & Applications

Our students weren't just observers - they were active participants. By engaging in "hands-on" tasks, they sharpened the **essential employability skills** that the modern job market demands: professional communication, complex problem-solving, and disciplined time management.

These experiences provide a significant competitive advantage. Whether our Year 10s are drafting **Post-16 applications** or our Year 12s are refining **UCAS and Higher Apprenticeship** personal statements, they now have concrete, real-world evidence of their professional capabilities to share with admissions teams and recruiters.

A Masterclass in Industry Diversity

We extend our sincerest gratitude to the vast range of local and national organisations that opened their doors to us. The breadth of sectors represented this month was truly impressive:

- **Public Sector, Healthcare & Wellbeing:** NHS, HMRC, Brownlow Health Group, Sedem Pharmacy, Care Pharmacy, and Childwall & Woolton Children's Centre.
- **Engineering, Utilities & Infrastructure:** Rolls Royce, British Gas, United Utilities, British Gas Sure Serve, Airwise Pneumatics, Sterling Services, Evolve Facility Services, and BIO 365 Specialist Services.
- **Education & Early Years:** University of Liverpool Management School, Booker Primary, Christ The King Primary, and Clarendon Nursery.
- **Legal, Finance & Professional Services:** First Legal Solicitors, Wealth at Work, Entrust Professional Services, Fischer Crowne, and Align Recruitment.
- **Retail, Hospitality & Creative Industries:** The Very Group, Amazon, The Jockey Club, The Big Condo Academy, Mersey Design Group, Sticky Fingers Bakery, Chantilly Beatles Cafe, and Volair.
- **Community & Environment:** Rice Lane Farm.

Meeting the Gold Standard: The Gatsby Benchmarks

Our work experience programme is a cornerstone of the **Gateacre Careers Strategy**, ensuring we exceed the **Gatsby Benchmarks** - the international framework for world-class careers guidance:

- **Benchmark 6 (Experiences of Workplaces):** First-hand involvement in a professional environment for every student.
- **Benchmark 5 (Encounters with Employers):** Direct engagement with industry professionals to understand required qualifications.
- **Benchmark 4 (Linking Curriculum to Careers):** Seeing the real-world application of school subjects in action.

Get Involved: We Need Your Expertise!

The continued success of our careers programme relies on the support of our wider community. We are always looking to expand our network of partners.

Are you an employer, parent, or guardian who could offer:

- A future work experience placement?
- A short "Career Journey" talk?
- Support with mock interviews or CV workshops?

To join the Gateacre Careers Programme, please contact our Careers Leader, J. Boyd, at j.boyd@gateacre.org.



Sixth Form – At a Glance: Cultivating the Next Generation of Leaders

Our Sixth Form provision continues to deliver a high-calibre blend of academic rigour and enrichment. We are dedicated to broadening student aspirations, deepening subject expertise, and ensuring every student is expertly prepared for the UK's most competitive higher education and employment pathways.

High-Stakes Investment: Northern Gritstone Engagement

Our Year 12 cohort recently engaged in a high-impact session with **Northern Gritstone**, led by CEO Duncan Johnson. This wasn't just a talk; it was a deep dive into the world of venture capital and the role of investment in commercialising cutting-edge research from Northern universities.

Key outcomes from the session included:

- **Strategic Insight:** A masterclass in career pathways within global finance and private equity.
- **Applied Logic:** Students conducted a professional **SWOT analysis** on potential investment opportunities, demonstrating elite analytical thinking.
- **Professional Pitching:** Teams presented their investment recommendations directly to industry professionals, receiving high-level feedback on their commercial viability.

Developing the STEM Leaders of Tomorrow

In partnership with the Leadership Foundation, our Year 12 students are currently undertaking the **STEM Leadership Qualification**. This programme is designed to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and real-world impact.

To mark **British Science Week**, our student leaders designed and executed a bespoke STEM workshop for Year 5 pupils. This "live" application of their leadership skills allowed them to:

- **Command Authority:** Stepping into authentic leadership and mentoring roles.
- **Community Impact:** Engaging with the wider Gateacre community to inspire younger scientists.
- **Practical Synthesis:** Translating complex academic concepts into accessible, hands-on learning.

Super-Curricular Excellence: The Brilliant Club

A select group of Year 12 scholars are currently participating in **The Brilliant Club Scholars Programme**, tackling a rigorous research project: "AI Lifelines: Technology that Saves Lives."

Working under the tutelage of a **PhD Researcher**, these students are experiencing the intensity of undergraduate-style tutorials. They are currently producing independent research essays that require:

- **Academic Synthesis:** Navigating and citing peer-reviewed sources.
- **Critical Argumentation:** Constructing sophisticated, evidence-backed theses.
- **Intellectual Autonomy:** Proving they are ready for the demands of the UK's most prestigious universities.

Horizons: Upcoming Key Dates

We are proud to facilitate these upcoming elite access opportunities:

- **Biology Undergraduate Immersion Session:** 20 March
- **University of Oxford Residential:** 24–27 March
- **University of Cambridge:** Magdalene College Residential & Subject Masterclasses (Dates TBC)

At Gateacre Sixth Form, we don't just teach for exams; we prepare for the world.



Year 10: Future Leaders in Action

It has been an action-packed few weeks for **Year 10**, starting with their **Work Experience placements**. Students gained invaluable insights into professional environments, with several staying on-site to support our own PE department. These students didn't just shadow lessons - they took the lead, successfully organising and officiating their own dodgeball tournament!

Furthermore, our **BTEC Sport students** have officially completed the second stage of their **Leadership Academy qualification**. This segment focused on **First Aid training**, equipping our students with life-saving skills and a deeper understanding of safety both on the pitch and in everyday life.

Rowing: National Success in London

A huge congratulations to **Harry and Eve (Year 8)**, who travelled to the capital last Friday to represent Gateacre at a prestigious national rowing event. Following a gruelling morning of competition, both athletes delivered standout performances:

- **Harry** secured an incredible **5th place** nationally, smashing his personal best by rowing 763m in just three minutes.
- **Eve** displayed brilliant form and determination, covering 715m in her three-minute heat.



Launching: The Gateacre Cricket Enrichment Programme

We are thrilled to announce a brand-new cricket programme starting Monday, 13th April. Whether you are an aspiring pro or have never picked up a bat, this is your chance to get involved!

What's on offer?

- **Expert Training:** Master batting, bowling, and fielding.
- **High-Tech Practice:** Train with our professional bowling machine.
- **The New "Flicx" Pitch:** Experience consistent, high-quality match play on our brand-new surface.
- **Pathways to Play:** Opportunities to represent Gateacre in school fixtures.

Session Times:

- **Years 7 & 8:** Mondays (After school, 3:20pm – 4:20pm)
- **Years 9 & 10:** Tuesdays (After school, 3:20pm – 4:20pm)
- **Indoor Cricket (All):** Mon, Tue, Wed (Before school, 8:00am – 8:30am)

How to Join: We welcome all ages, abilities, and genders. No experience is necessary - just turn up and give it a go! Look out for more details on **EduLink**, from your PE teachers, or via your Form Tutors.

Combined Cadet Force (CCF): Discipline, Dedication, and Historic Firsts



Our Gateacre Cadets are making exceptional strides through the basic syllabus, demonstrating a level of effort and dedication that is truly outstanding. As we prepare for **Gateacre's inaugural Summer Camp** this July, it has been inspiring to watch the cohort bond into a unified, disciplined team.

Leadership on the Drill Square

Even at this early stage, several cadets are exhibiting natural leadership qualities. They are currently mastering the drill phase of the syllabus - a crucial foundation of cadet life. As the military saying goes, **"Discipline starts on the drill square,"** and our students are proving this through their precision and focus.

A special mention must go to our **Year 11 Cadets**. Their support in training younger peers perfectly encapsulates the CCF mission: fostering leadership and mentorship across year groups.

Individual Honours: A Gateacre First

We are incredibly proud to announce that **Cadet Corporal Leighton (Year 11)** has been selected to attend the **Senior Cadet Instructors' Course (SCIC)**. Leighton will be representing Gateacre School at this elite level - a historic first for our contingent. Congratulations, Leighton!

Staff Success: Promotions & Assessments

The strength of our CCF relies on the dedication of our staff, and we have significant achievements to celebrate in the instructor team:

- **Promotions:** A huge congratulations to **Sergeant McCarthy** and **Sergeant Byrne** on their promotions to the rank of Sergeant. Both have successfully completed all required courses and have proven to be invaluable assets to the contingent in a very short space of time.



- **Advanced Training:** Over the Easter holidays, Sgt McCarthy and Sgt Byrne will travel to **Altcar Military Camp** to undergo the **Basic Instructors Assessment (BIA)**.

Thank you to our staff and cadets for their continued commitment to excellence. We look forward to a busy and successful summer term!

Navigating Change Together: Support and Inclusion at Gateacre

Starting a new chapter is a milestone moment for young people and their families alike. It naturally brings a blend of excitement, anticipation, and questions. At Gateacre School, we take immense pride in our inclusive approach to these key stages, ensuring that no student - or family - ever feels they are facing change alone.

Welcoming Our Future Year 7 Students

The move from primary to secondary school is one of the most significant transitions a child will experience. Our goal is for every student to arrive at Gateacre feeling calm, confident, and ready to belong.

To achieve this, we work in close partnership with our feeder primary schools to understand each child's unique needs long before their first day. We recognise that for some, a little extra time makes all the difference. Our **Enhanced Transition Support** includes:

- **Personalised Visits:** Opportunities to explore the building in a quieter setting.
- **Summer School:** A fantastic chance to walk the corridors, meet familiar faces, and build friendships in a relaxed environment.

These small, thoughtful steps are vital in settling nerves and building the foundation for a successful September.

Year 11: Guidance Through Exams and Beyond

The final year of GCSEs can feel demanding, both academically and emotionally. We provide a multi-layered support system to help students navigate this period:

- **Academic Intervention:** Subject-specific revision strategies and after-school sessions delivered by expert teachers.
- **Wellbeing Support:** Our SEMH (Social, Emotional, and Mental Health) Coordinator works directly with students to manage exam stress and establish healthy study routines.
- **Study Spaces:** Our after-school homework and revision club offers a quiet, supervised environment for those who find it difficult to focus at home.

Planning the Next Step: We are here to guide you through college applications and vocational pathways. We recently hosted **Liverpool SEND Employment Support** to discuss supported internships. Due to popular demand at our coffee morning, we will be hosting an **evening session next term** to ensure more families can access this information.

Year 13: Preparing for Adulthood

As our eldest students prepare for life beyond Gateacre, we ensure they are equipped for independence:

- **University & Higher Education:** Comprehensive UCAS support, from personal statement workshops to **Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)** application guidance.
- **Diverse Pathways:** Expert advice on high-quality apprenticeships, training, and direct employment.

Support Beyond the School Gates

We understand that routines change during the holidays, and support can sometimes feel harder to reach. We are committed to connecting our families with the wider community.

- **Community Resources:** We highly recommend the events hosted by [ADDvanced Solutions in Belle Vale](#).

A Constant Partnership

Transitions are about more than just moving from one building to another; they are about growing in confidence and feeling secure in your environment. At Gateacre, that support is constant. Whether your child is just starting their journey, sitting their final exams, or stepping into adulthood, we are proud to walk alongside them - and you.

If you have any questions regarding college applications or available pathways, please do not hesitate to contact the Inclusion Team.

Shaping the Future of Education: Our Partnership with United Teaching

At Gateacre School, we are immensely proud of our role within Northern Schools Trust and our burgeoning partnership with **United Teaching**. Together, we are creating transformative opportunities for the next generation of educators, ensuring that high-quality teacher training remains at the heart of our school community.

Ofsted Recognition for Gateacre

We are delighted to share that United Teaching recently underwent an Ofsted inspection, during which inspectors spent time at Gateacre observing our trainees and their mentors. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, specifically highlighting the **excellent behaviour and well-established routines** embedded across our school. Inspectors also noted the **outstanding provision** we have in place to support trainee teachers as they grow. This recognition is a testament to the dedication of our staff and mentors, who work tirelessly to foster a supportive and aspirational environment for both staff and students.

Investing in New Talent

Looking ahead, we are committed to expanding our teacher training pathways. By offering both **salaried and unsalaried routes**, we aim to make the profession accessible to all aspiring teachers. Our goal is simple: to nurture confident, skilled practitioners who will make a lasting impact in our classrooms.

From Student to Teacher: Daniel's Story

One of the most rewarding aspects of this partnership is seeing familiar faces return to the Trust. **Daniel Fairclough**, a former student at North Liverpool Academy, is currently training to teach Geography right here at Gateacre.

Daniel shared his experience with us: *"I have found my route into teaching both challenging and rewarding. The United Teaching programme works seamlessly alongside the professional development on offer at Gateacre. I have access to a broad network of support from both the school and Northern Schools Trust, with so many experienced colleagues to learn from and mentors I can always turn to."*

Daniel's journey from a Trust student to a professional colleague is a wonderful example of the "homegrown" talent we strive to support. We look forward to seeing this partnership - and our trainees - continue to flourish in the years to come.

Interested in a career in teaching? If you or someone you know is interested in training at Gateacre through the United Teaching programme, please contact us for more information on our upcoming cohorts.



On Friday, 20th March, Gateacre School's premier live music event, **Friday Rocks**, returned for another high-octane showcase of our community's diverse talent. Following last year's monumental success, this year's "Bands' Night" raised the bar even higher, captivating an audience of students, parents, and local music enthusiasts.

An Immersive Atmosphere

The evening began with a sophisticated acoustic prologue in the Atrium. **Emily (Year 11)** demonstrated exceptional artistry, performing a set of her own original compositions. Her performance set a professional tone for the evening, highlighting the depth of songwriting talent nurtured within our music department.

A Diverse Line-up

The main stage featured a relentless schedule of six student bands, with performers ranging from our youngest talents in Year 7 to seasoned musicians in Year 12. In a highlight that bridged the gap between faculty and students, **Gateacre's Staff Band** also took to the stage, proving that musical passion is a lifelong pursuit.

Friday Rocks

We were also privileged to welcome back former student Chloe. Now a rising star on the Liverpool music circuit, Chloe's guest appearance provided our current students with an inspiring glimpse into the pathways available within the professional music industry.

Behind the Scenes: The Engine Room

The professional-grade sound and production were managed with precision by our **Level 3 BTEC Music Technology** students. Under the expert mentorship of our lead Music Technician, **Miss McMillan**, the tech crew ensured every set was mixed to perfection, gaining invaluable real-world experience in live event production.

Congratulations to the Performers

The energy and dedication displayed by every student - both on stage and behind the mixing desk - was a testament to the thriving creative culture at Gateacre. We are already looking forward to the next encore!