

# HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 13/14 15TH DEC 2023

The communication between school and parent is vital in reinforcing to students that the school and you, the parent, is a team with the same goal: to support children in reaching their potential.

## IT'S (NEARLY) CHRISTMAS

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we end the penultimate week of school and begin planning for the final week of term, I would like to remind you of a date for your diary.

Tuesday 19th December 2023 will mark the musical end of another year. The school Christmas concert is once again returning. For a number of years, due to Covid, we relied on virtual concerts to mark the beginning of the Christmas festivities. Those days are thankfully in the past and we once again welcome and ever-increasing number of musical performances, delivered by our talented young people. Please make some time on Tuesday evening to join us here in school to celebrate the start of Christmas.

Attendance, unfortunately does not reflect a similar pattern. School attendance this week is still below 90% with Year 7 students not setting the example they once did earlier in the year. As this final week of school begins can you ensure that not only Year 7 students attend but all our young people attend school regularly and consistently so that we can all mark then end of this academic year on a positive. A variety of rewards for students with good attendance, good attitude to learning and similar attributes will be celebrated and prizes awarded. "You have to be in to win"

Last week saw the return of His Majesties Inspectors, in the form of Ofsted. Could I thank all those parents and carers who completed the survey with positive, supportive comments about what we do for the young people of this community.

Friday 22nd December 2023 will see the final school day of 2023. As usual, we will be celebrating Christmas in a variety of ways during the morning and then releasing students at 12:15 onwards. As with any early finish, could you ensure that you make arrangements for your child on Friday next so that they arrive home safely. School will remain closed until Monday 8th January 2024 when once again we will reopen at the usual time. Any communication with Gateacre staff will not be dealt with until our return from Monday 8th January 2024.

In January, the options process will begin in earnest for our Year 9 students. As part of that process we will be holding CAT's tests for all Year 9 on Tuesday 9th January through to and including Thursday 11th January 2024. The data from the CAT's tests will be used to support option choices for all students. Mr Creed will be sharing with all Year 9 parents/carers a video explaining the process.

Enjoy the weekend when it comes.

Yours faithfully,

Gareth Jones

## WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

WEEK ENDING 8TH DECEMBER

Year 7	88.65% down
Year 8	89.7% down
Year 9	88.1% up
Year 10	84.4% down
Year 11	85.35% down

## WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

WEEK ENDING 15TH DECEMBER

Year 7	85.55% down
Year 8	89.4% down
Year 9	87.7% down
Year 10	86.1% up
Year 11	84.25% down

## BASKETBALL

Last week our year 7 basketball team travelled to Archbishop Beck to compete in the Liverpool basketball tournament. This was the first opportunity for the boys to play together as a team. Gateacre had a tough run of opening games having to face Cardinal Heenan, St. Margarets and Kings Leadership who were all favourites to win the cup.

Gateacre managed to clinch a last second shot to secure a win over Cardinal Heenan, filling the boys with confidence. However, the run of tough games with no break would be tiring as they suffered back-to-back defeats in their next two games.

The boys dusted themselves off and went on a winning streak of their own beating St. Margarets B and Bluecoat School. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to take top spot, but thanks to other scorelines and Gateacre's back-to-back wins of their own - it fired them into second place!

As usual the boys were a credit to the school-

Dareen Mohammadi  
Liam Murray  
Oliver Stephen McCann  
Jack Deane  
Jack Clarke  
Jacob Trey Isaac  
Daniel James Owen  
Leo Frankland-Leatham

### Year 7 Basketball



4.

## CHRISTMAS CHEERS AND SCARES!

Our Drama and Music Dept's have had a very Christmassy week this week. First off, our GCSE Drama class enjoyed a fantastic from @artsgroupie

Y10 had the wonderful opportunity of participating in a devising workshop using Christmas Ghost Stories as a stimulus which we are sure will have sparked lots of ideas for their upcoming devising component in the new year.

Our Pop Voices group spent an afternoon singing Christmas songs with our local community at the Millennium Centre with the members of the Lee Valley Pensioners. It's always a lovely event.

Their next 'gig' is this Sunday at The Old Library Lister Steps. Tickets are selling fast and are available [here](#)



If you get 100% Attendance for Week beginning 18th Dec you will be in with a chance to win £50 Morrisons voucher or a Christmas hamper.

The draw will take place on Friday 22nd December.

**YOU HAVE TO BE IN TO WIN!**

5.



# GATEACRE GREATS

A WEEKLY 'WELL-DONE' TO STUDENTS  
BEING THE BEST THEY CAN BE

## Year 8- Lillie Gledhill

She taught her fellow classmates a cheer routine in her PE lesson.

## Year 9- Aimee Welsh

For her excellent work and attitude in History.

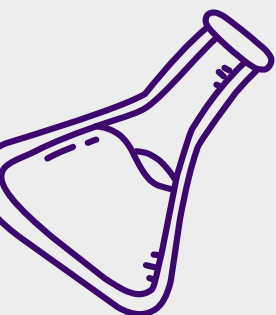
## Year 10- Anton Allen

Excellent effort in Music- both practical and academic.

## Year 11- Olivia Bolt

A fantastic photographer - it really is like teaching an A Level student. So independent, resourceful and focused in her studies. A pleasure to teach and be around in the classroom.

6.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

19th DEC

Christmas Concert

Tickets available from reception and Music Dept.

22th DEC

Break for Christmas

25th JAN

Year 9 Parents Evening



FOLLOW GATEACRE SCHOOL ON

