

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 15 12TH JAN 2024

1. 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.

WELCOME BACK

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year. I hope that 2024 is a productive year for us all.

The Christmas break gave us all an opportunity to close the doors, enjoy time with family and friends and essentially unwind. It gave us those moments to recharge our batteries and to begin again. That indeed is exactly what has happened. This week has seen a busy start to this short half term. Tuesday saw the launch of the options process and CATs tests for all Year 9 students. The outcomes from these will give parents/carers, students and teachers an indication as to where your child's natural strengths are when relating those to curriculum subjects.

Presentations by subject leaders to students began this week and I would encourage you to begin having those conversations around subject choices with your son or daughter over the coming weeks. Parents' evening on Thursday 25th January 2024 will be an opportunity for you to discuss subject choices with subject teachers. Before that evening I shall be sharing with you, via Edulink, a copy of the options booklet for September 2024 which will give you the finer detail that sits behind each individual subject. I shall also share this document via our website. On parents' evening, I shall be offering a number of presentations to parents/carers outlining the options process and providing the details that you may wish to understand more. Details of the timings around those will be shared nearer the time.

Monday saw the visit of Gillian Keegan, Secretary of State for Education, to Liverpool, to launch the national campaign around attendance to schools. All schools nationally received details about how the Government intends to support schools and Local Authorities on raising the importance of school attendance. As this campaign gathers momentum, I shall be sharing more information as to how Gateacre School will be involved in this campaign. From Monday you all will begin to see the campaign slogan, "moments matter, attendance counts" on Government, Local Authority and school documents. It is vitally important for all of us to get behind this campaign and put attendance to school as a priority. I have included the link to a letter all headteachers and trust leaders received, as part of this campaign, from Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer. This letter can be viewed [here](#)

Thank you for your continued support around attendance and I wish you all an enjoyable weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Gareth Jones

2.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER

What a busy time it was for the Music Department just before Christmas! Our Music students have been an absolute credit to the school with their professionalism and hard work.

First up, our ever-expanding choir Pop Voices sang for the Lee Valley Pensioners at their annual Christmas dinner at the Millennium Centre in Bellevalle. The audience loved seeing our young people perform and even joined in with some carols too. This was also true of the audience at the Lister Steps in Old Swan on Sunday evening, who, despite not having connections to our students, gave them a standing ovation at the end!

Prior to this, Friday Rocks (our informal bands' night which was such a huge success last year) was another big hit with students and parents alike. It featured six bands with students from Years 7 to 11 participating, and even Gateacre's own staff band!

To conclude the festive season of music-making, we had our Christmas Concert on Tuesday night. This was another massive success, with another standing ovation at the end! The audience were treated to a musically varied programme of Christmas carols, Pop and Jazz. Again, students from all Year groups took part in addition to the staff band.

Our Music students have been an absolute credit to the school with their professional and hard work.

Year 7	89.2% up
Year 8	90.85% up
Year 9	89.4% up
Year 10	88.4% up
Year 11	86.55% up

MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.



3.

GATEACRE GREATS

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



4.

Year 7- Year 7 STEM Club

Completed a high-level practical with no fuss!
Amazing scientists!

Year 8- Millie Cresswell

Has been trying really hard in English,
contributing excellent ideas to class discussions
during revision lessons for AP1.

Year 9- Evan Switzer

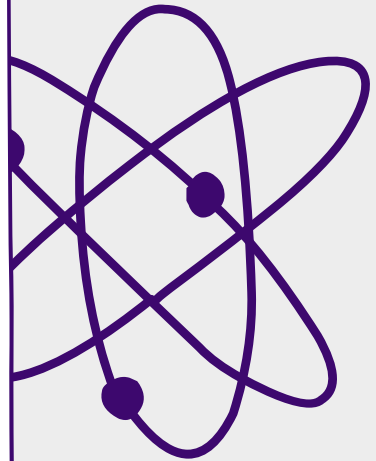
Fantastic improvement on attendance, I am
extremely proud of them.

Year 10- Tom Frankland Leatham

For always being an amazing all rounder and
offering quality answers in Drama class
discussions.

Year 11- Miss White's Biology classes

For working so hard every lesson!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

25th JAN

Year 9 Parents Evening

8th FEB

6th Form Open Evening

9th FEB

Break up for Half Term



FOLLOW GATEACRE SCHOOL ON

