

Fortnightly Newsletter

GATEACRE SCHOOL

13th February 2026

Excellence, Enrichment, and Expectation: A Welcome from the Principal

I am delighted to share our latest bulletin with you. This edition serves as a powerful reflection of the dedication and collective effort of our staff in championing our students' academic success, personal growth, and overall wellbeing.

Within these pages, you will find essential dates for your diary and our regular attendance snapshot. We remain incredibly proud of those featured on our **100% Attendance Leaderboard**, as consistent presence is the foundation of all achievement. We also celebrate our **Student Spotlight** nominees - individuals who truly embody the values of Gateacre School - and share key insights from our recent assemblies to keep you connected with the messages we are sharing with your children.

Enrichment remains at the heart of our offer. This month, we provide an update on our **Cadets** and a look into **Life in Year 12**, with a specific focus on how meaningful work experience is shaping the future pathways of our Sixth Formers.

We are a school that believes in the potential of every child. Our **Inclusion & SEND** section provides updates on how we are tailoring support for all learners, while our **Fuel for Learning** feature highlights the vital link between nutrition and classroom focus. To maintain our calm and purposeful environment, you will also find a reminder regarding our **Uniform and Standards**; your support in upholding these expectations is greatly appreciated.

Finally, to our **Year 11 families**: we continue our **'Road to GCSE Success'** series. As the exam countdown begins, we have included practical strategies for revision and advice on digital wellbeing to ensure our students feel confident and supported during this pivotal season.

Thank you for your unwavering partnership. By working together, we ensure that every student at Gateacre is equipped to thrive.

PRINCIPAL - MR N. JAMIL

In This Edition:

Student Spotlight

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Attendance Matters: Celebrating Success at Gateacre School!

We are delighted to report a significant improvement in attendance across the school over the past two weeks. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support in ensuring our pupils arrive regularly and punctually.

Year 8 Lead the Way

A special mention must go to **Year 8**, who have made the biggest improvement and are currently leading the school - well done to all our Year 8 students for setting such a fantastic example!

Attendance Support

Excellent attendance is fundamentally linked to student success. Should you require any support or wish to discuss matters regarding your child's attendance, please contact our dedicated team at: attendance@gateacre.org.

Celebrating Commitment

We are continuing to celebrate positive attendance every Friday. Our rewards program recognises both **consistent excellence and most improved attendance**. These awards have been very well received by the students and are helping to foster a strong culture of commitment and pride within the Gateacre community.

Health & Attendance Guidance

We understand that it can sometimes be difficult to decide whether your child is well enough for school. To help, we encourage parents to refer to the official NHS guidance, which provides clear advice on common illnesses:

[🔗 NHS Advice: Is my child too ill for school?](#)

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in supporting your child's education and wellbeing.

Year To Date 100% Attendance Leaderboard

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Sixth Form
Abeera	Aahil		Abbie		Callum
Anniemay	Abigail		Baktash		Calum
Bobby	Charlotte		Ellie-May	Carson	Elliott
Celine	Edwin	Anna	Emaan	Charlotte	Evan
Ethan	Elizabeth	Hugo Eric	Enyah	Chris	Hadia
Eveline	Emilie	Isaac	Euan	Daisy	Jakub
Florence	Emma	Karlene	Hannah	Julia	Lukas
Frankie-Rose	Joseph	Karol-Anne	Holly	Katelyn	Mohammed
Gio	Lacey	Mya	Jaden	Lewis	Oscar
Lucius	Leighton	Oliver	Louise	Lucy	Sammy
Mario	Mark	Ruby Grace	Max	Luke	Vanessa
Mohammed	Millie		Owen	Nathaniel	Alec
Nicholas	Neila		Patrick		James
Orinta	Reuben		Roman		Niamh
Zachary	Sahibjot		Zach		Reece
	Willow				

A massive well done to everyone on our 100% Attendance Leaderboard!

Showing up every single day is a huge achievement. Your consistency and dedication to your learning are truly impressive, and it doesn't go unnoticed.

Student Spotlight: Muhammad (Year 8)

We recently sat down with Muhammad in Year 8 to discuss his journey at Gateacre, his passion for problem-solving, and how he's pushing himself both in the classroom and on the court.

Driven by Logic

When it comes to academics, Muhammad's passion lies in Mathematics. "I love reasoning and solving equations," he explains. He thrives on the challenge of logical thinking and credits his progress to the support of his teacher, Miss Rowe. Following his recent Assessment Point (AP), Muhammad found her personalised feedback particularly impactful: "Her advice on how to improve the way I show my working out was really helpful and clear."

Stepping Out of the Comfort Zone

One of Muhammad's most impressive achievements this year happened outside the classroom. In October, he decided to try basketball to "get out of my comfort zone." His commitment paid off; he joined a team that went on to win the North Liverpool Academy tournament. This transition from beginner to champion has been a major highlight of his year.

Gateacre in three (or four)

words: *Academic, Challenging, and a Warm Environment.*



A Voice for Change

Muhammad is an active member of the Gateacre community, frequently assisting at Open Evenings and recently joining the newly formed **School Council**. He is a strong believer in the power of the "student voice."

He highlights the school's collaborative culture: "Students support each other by sharing revision notes, quizzing each other, and offering encouragement." He also noted how student-led initiatives, such as addressing litter through assemblies and collective responsibility, have made the school "feel like a better and safer environment."

Celebrating Success

While Muhammad values the end-of-term assemblies as a time to celebrate his peers, he has much to be proud of himself. With two subject award badges already under his belt, he cites his recent AP results as his proudest achievement to date - a testament to his hard work and dedication.

Well done, Muhammad! We look forward to seeing what you achieve next.



Empowering the Next Generation: Girls' Cricket Festival

We recently transformed our pitches into a hub of energy as we hosted a **Primary School Girls' Cricket Festival**. Six local schools joined us for a day dedicated to breaking barriers in sport and building lasting links with local cricket clubs.

The day was a resounding success, filled with impressive displays of batting, throwing, and catching. Central to the event were our own **Sports Leaders**, who mentored the younger pupils with incredible patience and skill.

This experience was more than just a fun day out; it served as a vital component of their **BTEC Sport** course, providing real-world experience in coaching, refereeing, and event management.

We were especially honoured to welcome **Phoebe Graham**, a star of the 2025 double-trophy-winning Lancashire Women's team and current lead for Lancashire Girls' Early Engagement. Her presence inspired everyone involved. Our students were a true credit to Gateacre, demonstrating outstanding leadership, respect, and commitment.



Fuel Your Day: The Breakfast Club Success Story!

It has been an incredible term at the Breakfast Club, and we are thrilled to see so many students joining us each morning. There is no better way to start a day of learning than with a warm meal and a friendly atmosphere.

Porridge Perfection

Our new **warming porridge station** has been the undisputed star of the term! We've loved seeing students get creative at the topping station. From fresh, antioxidant-rich berries to various seeds and drizzles, it's clear that a hearty, hot start is exactly what was needed during these colder mornings.

New for March: Pastry Fridays & The Loyalty Club!

We are excited to announce a delicious new addition to our menu. Starting the **week commencing 2nd March**, we are launching **Friday Viennoiseries!** To celebrate, we are introducing the Breakfast Loyalty Club. We want to reward our most consistent breakfast-goers with a taste of Paris to end the week.

How it works:

- **Join us for breakfast Monday through Thursday.**
- **Get your loyalty card stamped each morning before 08:30 AM.**
- **Enjoy a FREE delicious pastry on Friday!** Whether you're a fan of a classic Croissant or a Pain au Chocolat, make sure you're in early to collect your stamps.

Why join the Breakfast Club?

Beyond the food, the Breakfast Club is a great space to catch up with friends, prep for the day ahead, and ensure your brain is fuelled and ready to go.

The Breakfast Club is **free** for all students and runs every single day.

- **When:** Daily from 07:45 AM - 08:30 AM
- **Where:** School Restaurant
- **Cost:** Completely Free



Year 11 | The Road to GCSE Success

Our Year 11 students have reached a pivotal milestone, having just completed their final set of mock examinations. With only **eight school weeks** remaining before the formal GCSE series begins, the countdown is officially on. These mocks have provided our expert teaching staff with the "diagnostic data" needed to pinpoint exactly where to focus support, ensuring every student can turn their areas for development into strengths during this final stretch.

Equipping for Excellence

To kickstart this final phase, all Year 11 students recently attended a high-impact **Revision Conference** led by Mr. Jones, our Subject Leader for Science. To ensure they have the tools to match their ambition, every student received a **Personalised Revision Pack**, featuring:

- A dedicated Gateacre Revision Planner
- Active revision essentials: Flashcards, highlighters, and sticky notes
- A structured study notebook and pens

Mastering Active Revision

Success in the summer is not just about how much students study, but how they study. During the conference, students moved beyond passive reading to master Active Revision Techniques. They practiced creating high-level mind maps and transforming dense information into portable flashcards.

A particular focus was placed on the **Cornell Note-Taking System**. Developed at Cornell University, this world-renowned method helps students move beyond simple listening to deep processing. By dividing their page into three distinct zones - **Keywords/Questions, Detailed Notes, and a Summary** - students create a "self-testing" document that makes reviewing information significantly more effective.

The Final Push

To maximise attainment this summer, it is now imperative that students commit to a **structured revision timetable**. By combining these evidence-based techniques with consistent effort, our students will head into their exams with the confidence and knowledge they need to succeed.

We look forward to seeing their hard work pay off in the coming weeks.

Looking Ahead

Careers Fair -
26th February

Year 9 Options
Evening -
26th February

Year 11 Future's
Evening -
26th February

Viennoiseries
Friday's -
launches w/c
02nd March

Gateacre Launches CCF Army Section



Gateacre School began 2026 with an exciting milestone: the official launch of our **Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Army Section**. Our Year 8 cadets have made an exceptional start, impressing the staff with the speed and dedication they have shown while mastering their Basic Military Knowledge. A particular highlight for the group was the long-awaited moment they received their official uniforms and boots!

Training and Leadership

The contingent parades every Tuesday afternoon, expertly supported by our School Staff Instructor, **Captain Chris Bate**. The syllabus is currently being delivered by **Mr. Byrne and Mrs. McCarthy**, who are both undertaking intensive training as Potential Instructors as they work toward becoming Commissioned Officers.

Heritage and Hands-on Experience

We are immensely proud to be affiliated with the **Royal Tank Regiment**. Our cadets have already begun immersing themselves in the regiment's rich history and storied traditions.

Recently, the group participated in a highly successful **Scorpion training** day, where they demonstrated great focus to become proficient in air rifle handling.

Looking Ahead: Summer Camp and Expansion

The future looks bright for our new recruits. Subject to completing their upcoming modules, cadets will have the opportunity to attend the **Altcar Summer Camp**. This residential experience offers a thrilling range of activities, including:

- **Water sports**
- **The obstacle course**
- **Advanced shooting and fieldcraft**

We look forward to watching our cadets' confidence grow throughout the term. We are also excited to announce that the contingent will expand this September, when the rising Year 8 students will have their first opportunity to apply.



Year 10 Historians Shine at LJMU

Our Year 10 pupils continue to impress beyond the classroom! On Wednesday 11th February, 13 of our students visited **Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU)** for an immersive taste of higher education.

The group participated in a specialist session on the benefits of studying History at degree level, followed by a rigorous mock seminar focusing on the **Black Panther Party**.

We are incredibly proud to share that the university staff described our pupils as **"outstanding"** and **"deeply engaged"** throughout the academic discussions. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to experience a university-style seminar and develop their historical inquiry skills.

Sixth Form: Bridging the Gap to Professional Success



Our Year 12 students recently completed an inspiring week of professional work experience, with placements meticulously matched to their future career aspirations. By immersing themselves in real-world environments - ranging from clinical healthcare to creative media and high-level engineering - students have gained the "soft skills" and industry insights that are essential for successful university and apprenticeship applications.

Our cohort secured placements at prestigious local and national organisations, including **Picton Health Academy** for our aspiring medics, **The Big Condo Company** for creative industry enthusiasts, **HMRC** for those exploring finance and public service, **A & B Engineering** for future mechanical engineers, and various local farms for students passionate about agriculture, veterinary science, and environmental conservation.

Below, three of our students share their reflections on their professional journey.

This period of work experience has not only strengthened our students' CVs but has also ignited a renewed sense of ambition and motivation as they look toward their final year of Sixth Form.

Hadia – Picton Health Academy

Focus: *Clinical Skills, NHS Values & Medical Ethics*

"My placement at the Mersey Care Health Academy reinforced my long-standing ambition to pursue a career in medicine. The programme was a perfect blend of theory - covering NHS history, healthcare finance, and the diversity of roles within the service - and hands-on clinical practice. I particularly enjoyed learning how to use oximeters and ear thermometers, which brought my science studies to life.

We also focused heavily on communication. Through role-play and teamwork challenges, I learned how vital verbal and non-verbal communication is in a clinical setting. This experience has given me the confidence to present ideas with minimal preparation and has truly inspired me to contribute to the UK healthcare system in the future."

• **Key Skills Gained:** *Clinical Observation, Healthcare Communication, Team Leadership.*

Jakub – HMRC

Focus: *Project Management, Resource Coordination & Tax Systems*

"My week at HMRC was a fascinating dive into the world of large-scale operations. While I learned a great deal about tax systems, the highlight was a practical project management simulation. My team had to design and build a bridge using limited materials, but the challenge kept evolving - material costs rose, team sizes were reduced, and the project requirements changed mid-way through.

This exercise was a perfect demonstration of how professional environments differ from the classroom; it requires extreme adaptability and quick problem-solving. Working in such a historic, well-equipped professional setting was incredibly motivating, and I feel I've walked away with transferable skills that have significantly enhanced my employability."

• **Key Skills Gained:** *Adaptability, Strategic Problem Solving, Resource Management.*



Molly – The Big Condo Company

Focus: *Media Production, Digital Content & Brand Research*

"During my time at the Big Condo Academy, I deepened my technical understanding of the media landscape. My week was incredibly varied, involving everything from podcast production and special effects to brand research for professional musicians. These tasks helped me see how different creative components come together to produce a polished, professional outcome.

Beyond the technical skills, the experience pushed me to step outside my comfort zone. Collaborating with new peers boosted my confidence in public speaking and group discussion. I also gained a much clearer understanding of different business models, such as Community Interest Companies (CICs), which has given me a head start for my future studies in the media industry."

• **Key Skills Gained:** *Professional Collaboration, Podcast Production, Market Research.*



Mobile and Uniform Expectations

Mobile Phone Policy: 'Gate to Gate'

In line with recent national guidance from the Department for Education and Ofsted regarding "phone-free" environments, we are reaffirming our commitment to protecting the sanctity of the school day.

Our policy remains simple and consistent: **'Gate to Gate'**. From the moment a student enters our school gates until they leave at the end of the day, mobile phones must be switched off and kept out of sight in bags.

Why we uphold this standard:

- **Prioritising Social Interaction:** We want our students to build real-world friendships and communication skills during breaks, free from the barrier of a screen.
- **Protecting Wellbeing:** School should be a sanctuary where students can "unplug" from the pressures of social media and online conflict.
- **Maximising Focus:** By removing the "digital hum" of notifications, we ensure that students' cognitive energy is dedicated entirely to their learning.

How You Can Support Us:

To ensure this environment remains undisturbed, we ask for your partnership in two key areas:

1. Refrain from Direct Messaging: Please do not text your child during school hours. Even a quick "check-in" message puts them in a difficult position and risks the confiscation of their device.

2. Emergency Contact: For any urgent messages, please contact our **Year Group Administrators**. We have strengthened our administrative support to ensure that vital information reaches your child quickly and through the correct professional channels.

Why Uniform Matters

At Gateacre School, our uniform is much more than a dress code - it is a powerful symbol of our shared identity. It represents a level playing field where every student belongs to one community. Wearing the Gateacre uniform with pride fosters a sense of equality, reduces social distractions, and ensures every student arrives with a "ready to learn" mindset.

Maintaining High Standards

As we move into the next term, we ask for your continued support in ensuring your child's attire aligns with our requirements. Please check that blazers, ties, and footwear meet our school standards before the start of each week.

Our Official Supplier

Gateacre School uniforms, including blazers, PE kits, and ties, are supplied by Kitted Out Schoolwear.

They offer our full range of official items.

Kitted Out Schoolwear Details:

- **Website:** kittedoutschoolwear.co.uk
- **Store Address:** 114 Allerton Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, L18 2DG
- **Email:** info@kittedoutschoolwear.co.uk

Items are available for purchase both in-store at the Mossley Hill location or via their online shop.

Inclusion & Support: Navigating the SEND Journey Together

At Gateacre School, we believe that our students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) thrive best when school and home work in total harmony. While our pastoral and SEND teams are always here to support you, we know that navigating the wider system can sometimes feel overwhelming - especially as students approach GCSEs and post-16 pathways.

What is the 'Local Offer'?

One of the most helpful tools available to you is the Local Offer. Provided by your local authority, this is a comprehensive online directory designed to be a "one-stop shop" for families. It provides clarity on:

- **Education & Learning:** Understanding what support is "ordinarily available" in schools.
- **Health & Social Care:** Accessing therapy services, social care, and short breaks.
- **Preparing for Adulthood:** Navigating the transition to college, work, and independent living.
- **Community:** Connecting with local support groups and voluntary organisations.

Whether you are looking for specialist advice or just want to see what extra-curricular activities are available for your child, the Local Offer is designed to provide accessible guidance at every stage of their journey.

Accessing Support in Your Area

The support available depends on which local authority you live in. Please use the links below to explore the specific guidance and resources provided by your council:

- **Liverpool Local Offer** – For families residing in Liverpool.
- **Knowsley Local Offer** – For families residing in Knowsley.

If you have any questions regarding these resources or your child's specific provision at Gateacre, please do not hesitate to contact our Inclusion Team.



[ADDvanced Solutions](#) offers free educational programs and vital support services to equip families of neurodivergent children and young people with the tools they need to thrive.



Dedicated to child and youth development, [Transformation Partners](#) in Health and Care equips families and carers with expert resources aimed at helping children and young adults succeed and thrive.



The [National Autistic Society](#) supports children and young people with ASD through specialist advice and life-changing programs. They are a leading voice in transforming lives and challenging outdated perceptions of autism.



[The BDA](#) supports people with dyslexia and their families by providing vital advice and advocating for systemic change. Their mission is to remove barriers to success, ensuring that neurodivergent individuals can excel in education, employment, and life.



[YPAS](#) – CAMHS offers wide-ranging emotional and mental health support for young people and their families. With a focus on low-barrier access, the service provides walk-in support at local centres and an easy-to-use self-referral system for those seeking help.



Join us in celebrating [Neurodiversity Celebration Week](#) this March! We'll be highlighting the incredible talents of neurodivergent individuals and raising vital awareness to ensure every mind is valued and supported.
