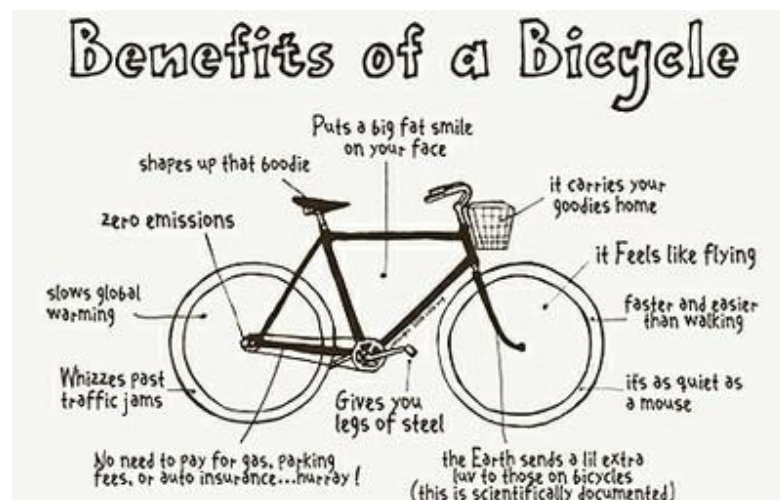


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Welcome Back!

Greetings to all, and welcome to our second parent and stakeholder newsletter. There has been much happening since our last newsletter in November. The students have completed their first successful term with celebration awards for attendance and achievement. Work experience is now well underway, and there have been lots of opportunities to work with industry partners. Our students have even had the opportunity to win a new bike!



Celebrating Success

Gateway continues to celebrate success...

We are now well into the first half of the year. There are positive indicators that this year's students will match the amazing success of last year, and Gateway College will continue to grow and improve, becoming a leading college in the sixth form sector. That journey is very much in progress, and we are extremely pleased and proud that Gateway College is now placed thirty-fourth out of one hundred and seven other colleges in the Department for Education Performance Tables (January 2019) for A-Level performance. This is something we want to shout about. Students are working hard and are keen to meet the high expectations the College is setting for them. Attendance remains good at 93% and punctuality is just as pleasing at 95%, with students acknowledging the need to develop good habits for their next steps -whether that be university or employment!

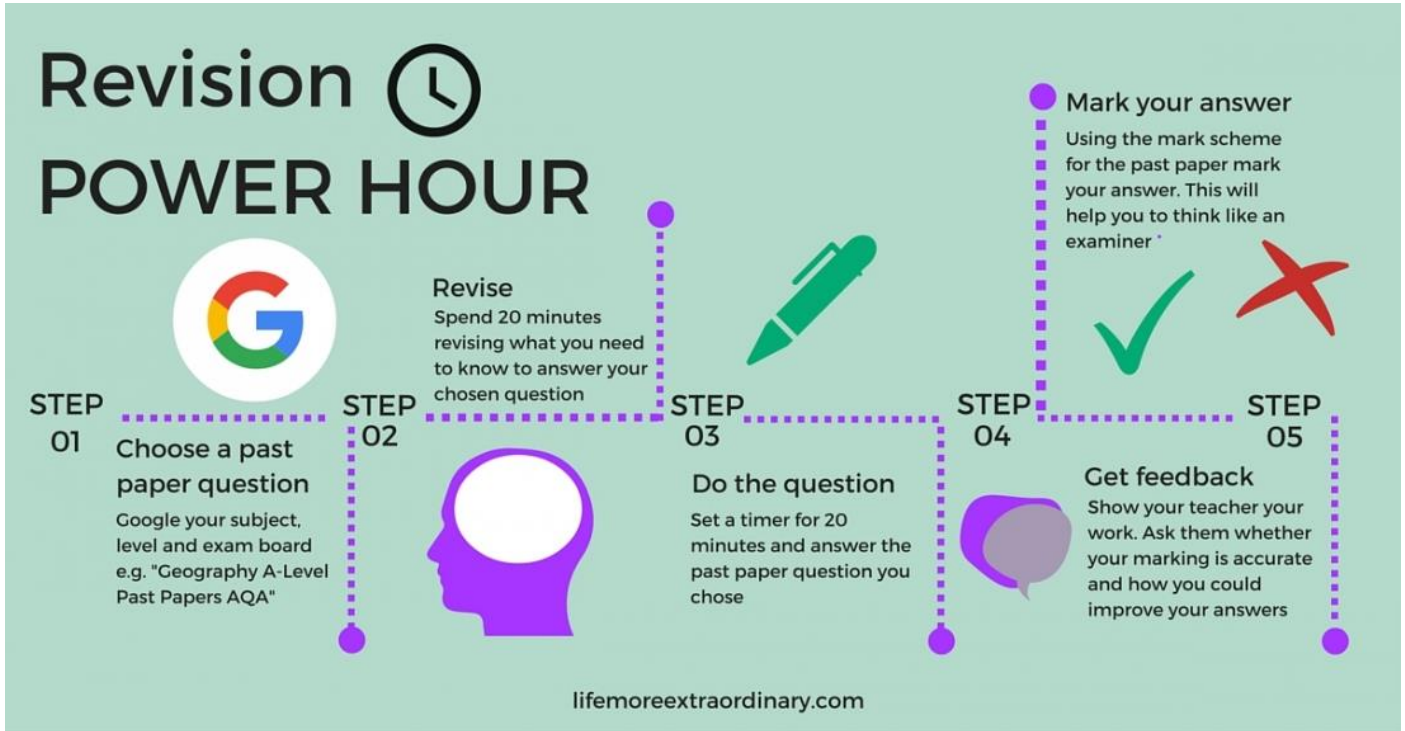


Parent Council

Nicola Martin, Assistant Principal, had the pleasure of meeting with David Potter, a member of our parent council, at the 12th December meeting. Many different issues were discussed; David had lots of positive thoughts and ideas as to how we should make course information clearer for parents and students. He also suggested that communicating with parents by text would be more effective than letter or email. We are keen to engage more parents on the council; if you feel you would like to contribute, please contact smartin@gateway.ac.uk

Preparing for exams

We are now in the final third of the College year. At this time of the academic year, we move into revision mode. We focus on equipping and preparing our learners for final exams and the all-important mock exams that will guide them into their second year. We ask all parents to offer support and encouragement to ensure their success. Use the revision power hour guide with your son/ daughter to ensure that revision skills are effective and purposeful.



Celebrations!

The Vocational and A-Level Schools team ran celebration assemblies just before the Christmas holiday, recognising a range of student achievements, including subject specific academic awards, attendance awards and commendation awards for contributions to the community.



Students received a range of prizes and certificates and enjoyed celebrating each other's achievements.

Work Experience

Things are getting busy for Viddhi in the work experience office. As of January 2019, 457 places have been booked for work experience, of which 290 students have already undertaken their placement. Work to arrange the remaining placements is due to be completed in March, three months earlier when compared with this point last academic year. Viddhi says, "The learners are gaining vital skills, such as communication, team work, problem solving, motivation and time management, which will help them shape their future and be work ready. These are all soft skills which are essential to have in the workplace and are highly valued by employers."

Students have been extremely happy and positive about their experiences saying:

"I thoroughly enjoyed my placement. I enjoyed the class that I worked with and the teachers who I came into contact with. The class were very nice and enjoyed me being there. I wish that I could have had extra time working there."

"I loved this work experience. It was an amazing experience."

"Thank you for giving me this opportunity to work in a primary school. This work experience helped me improve my performance to work in future."

"It has helped me a lot, as I have now understood the responsibilities a teacher has towards children. I now know what the different roles of a teacher are when she is working with different age groups."

"The work experience at Seed Creative Academy was the best three days of my life."

"I am currently doing level 2 art and design. This work experience helped me realise what my next step is after this course."

"I had a very amazing work experience."

"I was exploring what career I wanted to do between pharmacy and engineering, and with the work experience it gave me an idea of how a pharmacy runs and the different procedures that are followed."

We also ask **employers** to feedback on our students.

"The student was smart and well presented at all times." *Visit Leicester*

"Willing to try hard." *Leicester City Council*

"Helpful and friendly." *Leicester City Council*

"All three students showed a willingness to support the class teacher in the day-to-day work of the classroom and showed a keenness to learn more about working in a school environment." *Whitehall Primary School*

"The student was good with the children. She would join in when asked and would follow instructions given by staff." *First Steps Beaumont Leys*

"Punctual, inquisitive and interested in the day-to-day routines." *Hand in Hand Pre School*

"Friendly, quick to learn." *Glenfield Woodlands*

"The student was dependable and very enthusiastic. The children were very fond of her, and she played an important part in the team's work whilst on her placement. She had become an important role model for some of the children here during her short stay, and her approach working with the children was consistent. She was a model student, and we hope she does well." *St Matthews Children's Action Group*

Mental Health Award

Over the next twelve months, we are working with Leeds Beckett University towards the gold standard for the School Mental Health Award. This reflects the excellent work that is taking place across the College and is being shared locally and nationally, promoting the mental health and wellbeing of all students and staff at Gateway College. We are judged against eight standards that demonstrate how mental health and wellbeing are part of our core business, and it is an integral part of the culture of the College.

The Carnegie Centre of Excellence
for Mental Health in Schools

Effective mental health support:
policy and practice in schools



Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)



After successfully completing the Budding Brunels young engineers project last term, our students have now received their accredited certificates along with excellent feedback. Due to their excellent work and contribution, two students have been offered a week's work experience from only five opportunities in the construction industry.

Progression Fair

Plans are already underway for our annual HE pathway Progression Fair where our Year 12 students will have the opportunity to receive guidance regarding progression after Gateway College. Students will have the opportunity to hear from The University of Nottingham about the UCAS process and the benefits of higher and further education. There will also be an information session about Student Finance and a marketplace session where students can talk first hand to over 30 providers about the opportunities available to them at their institutions. This year, we will also be running an evening session for our current Year 12 students to attend with their parents. Year 10 and Year 11 students of our partner schools will also be invited to see the fantastic progression routes they can access if they study at Gateway College. For more information about this please contact Amy, Careers Lead: aspencer@gateway.ac.uk

We recognise that university isn't for everyone, so watch this space for more news about our employability and Apprenticeship Hub100, coming up later in the year.

Lastly, Amy Spencer, our Careers Lead, is working with Nottingham Trent University to complete her Level 7 Careers Leader training. This will give Amy the tools to ensure that the Careers Programme provided is delivered across all curriculum areas, to all students, at the very highest level. Good Luck Amy!

DeMontfort University/Gateway College – Scholarships

In January, ten Gateway College Alumni who now attend DMU were nominated by their Gateway teachers for their achievement and excellent work ethic. They each received a £1000 scholarship from DMU during a presentation evening. This is the fourth year that the DMU has awarded the scholarships to our students, and it reflects the excellent relationship that we have with the university.



The evening was held in the historic chapel at Trinity House and was attended by the students and their parents, staff from DMU and Gateway College, as well our Principal, James Bagley.

It was a fabulous evening where we caught up with the progress of the students over refreshments, listened to moving citations written by Gateway teachers, and one brave student took the opportunity to do a short speech thanking his teachers and tutors for the support he received at Gateway.

