



Word on the Street

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EDITOR'S NOTE

So....we have come to the end of our academic year...and my, what a busy year it has been for Gateway staff and students!

In the past few weeks, we've had the Fix-Up team inspiring our second year students, students galloping about with horse riding, the Learning for Life and Work (LLW) students celebrating their successes as well as focussing on that all important progression route by hosting the HUB 100: Apprenticeship Event and Higher Education (HE) Fair.

We wish our leavers - whether you are going onto university, apprenticeships, work or exploring the world - "Good Luck" and "Thank you for letting us accompany you on your journey".

As always, the magazine was created by the college students with the help of staff members. To make sure you don't miss out, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for updates.

See you in September!

x

Special thanks to all staff and students who contributed this term's edition.

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On a wet May Friday afternoon, 10 students went on a Horse-riding trip to Ratcliffe Equestrian Centre. The trip organised by Su Peters, Head of the A-Level School.

Before the exam series got properly under way, we took a group of A-Level students horse riding to see if this might be something we should offer as an enrichment for September 2019. Once we had completed the necessary risk assessments, and everyone was booted up in borrowed wellies and yard boots, we headed off to the countryside in the mini bus.

The afternoon was really well organised by the riding school so that the students could experience both riding and grooming horses, or they could just enjoy watching their friends riding. The one thing that couldn't be organised though was the weather, and predictably, as it was the beginning of May and this is the UK, the rain was torrential.

But that didn't deter our students who all had a fabulous time, they loved both riding and grooming and found it really relaxing. They felt that it was like a bucket list achievement, and was something they would never have had the chance to do otherwise, so it is definitely on our list of enrichment activities for next term.

HORSE RIDING



"I have loved it. I really want to carry on doing this as an enrichment. Its so relaxing and fun." ELIZA



"I loved it! I've always wanted to do this! I'm so glad I've had the chance to do it now, I am going to carry on doing it over the summer before I go to uni!". AMY



Hamilton Art Exhibition

Thirty talented artists from across the Hamilton were shortlisted for the annual Hamilton Art Competition including ten Level 1 Art and Media students from Gateway.

The competition invited artists from 16 years old and upwards who live, work or study in the local area to submit work in any medium and on any subject matter they choose for this diverse and vibrant exhibition.

This year the standard of work was higher than ever and entries ranged from textiles, paintings, photography, mixed media and print. Applicants of all ages and backgrounds have come from across the community, bringing their own unique styles.

The judging of the artwork took place on Thursday 23rd May at Gateway Sixth Form College by the highly acclaimed artists, musicians and Gateway veterans Robert and David Calow.

The Calow brothers designed the current college building, which was opened in 2009. They list Cambridge and Oxford University Press, major design and advertising agencies nationwide and several musical organisations including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra as just a few of their high profile clients.

Robert and David feedback their critiques of the artwork to the budding artists as well as to the guests invited and awarded prizes to all.

The group meets every Thursday at Hamilton Library 2.00-4.00 p.m and all are welcome to join.



CELEBRATING THE LLW STUDENTS



Nageen collecting her certificate.

To celebrate the end of year, the Learning for Life and Work (LLW) department hosted a celebration presentation where students achieved awards on their attendance, their contribution and their personal successes. The teachers and support staff would like to express their congratulations to all of their students on a successful year.



Nebeela getting her certificate from Hamid.



Hiton shaking hands with Hamid.



Harjote being awarded his certificate from Vikram.

Our Employer Engagement Coordinator (EEC), **Viddhi Devani**, believes Work Experience is just not a one-off experience which you carry out in secondary school. The world of work is highly competitive and it is essential our students are work-ready and have opportunities to attend multiple work experience placements such as: the NHS, Santander, Boots and Mattioli Woods with plenty other companies.



Safety of our students is important. Therefore, Viddhi ensures all the necessary checks are carried out before we send out our students on placement. This includes:

1. Safeguarding forms are completed
2. Checking Employer Liability Insurance paper work
3. A Placement Visit before and during work experience
4. Regular phone calls to employer when our students are out on placement.
5. Ensuring employers are aware of any special needs, students might have.

This academic year has been a fantastic year for work experience, over 95% of LLW, Level 2, BTEC Level 3 and A1 students' completing their work experience during this year.

Viddhi's advice for prospective work experience students:

- Research the industry and see what areas you are interested in
- Contact with Viddhi about work experience you would like to do.
- Be proactive.
- Be prepared with a CV for informal interviews.
- Be polite and always respect your potential employers.
- And don't forget to enjoy your work experience!

If you have any questions regarding work experience, please see Viddhi in F008 or email her at: vdevani@gateway.ac.uk



Work Experience

Careers

Whether it is work, universities, apprenticeships or degree-apprenticeships, Amy Spencer, the Career Lead, has the knowledge to inform and prepare students on making these important decisions. Amy provides and offers 1:1 impartial advice for students on helping them to make positive decisions for the next stage of their progression.

"These days, progression has developed multiple routes – it is no longer deciding whether you want to pursue purely vocational or purely apprenticeship. You have the option to combine now", says Amy. However, whatever route you choose, employers and universities like students to have 'employability skills'. What makes you stand out from the rest? "I believe it is beneficial for students to have a job or volunteering work even if it's only a couple hours a week, this can help students to develop not only their independence but shows potential employers and universities that this student has commitment, willpower and can balance their studies with working. It doesn't even have to be in the same industry that the student want to pursue."

With the UCAS application currently underway, Amy has arranged three personal statements surgeries for October with several midlands universities. These surgeries allow those who applying for university to have a 1:1 appointment with an adviser where they read the student's statement and discuss improvements before the student submit their application.

As well as arranging career events such as Hub 100 and the Higher Education (HE) Fair, Amy also invites subject specific guests in to speak to students. During this year, Gateway has welcomed guests such as a former Gateway pupil, Tom Rand who discussed his Oscar Nominated Costumer Designer career, in the English Language department they had Dr Smaragda Kampouri discussing linguistics and the inspiring Amy Pilgrim, from the Accountancy firm Grant Thornton, who spoke to Accounting students about the world of Business and Finance. For the forthcoming academic year, Amy has arranged more subject specific guests coming in which shall be featured in the future issues of 'Word on the Street'. However, Amy is eager to get students involved and deciding on what they would like to see at college - whether a student want to have a specific guest speaker, a master class in a certain subject or arrange a visit to an employer; she will try her best to "make it happen".

To "make it happen", students can submit a suggestion form in the library where Amy is based. If you want to book an appointment to see Amy, please find the purple folder in the library.



Professor Sarah Knight, Leicester University, King Lear Guest Lecture, English students

Amy arranged these students to go the Budding Brunels scheme to which 2 managed to secure work experience with the company.



Careers Information, Advice and Guidance Request

Subject Area:

Level of Study:

Year of Study:

What type of event would you like?

Guest Speaker

Employer

University

Master Class

Subject Specific Lecture

Visit to an employer

Do you have a specific employer / company that you would like to invite in?

.....

Any other information:

.....

D Number/s:

HUB 100

This term there has been lots of work being done to support students that are looking to apply for apprenticeships when they have completed their studies at Gateway College. We have hosted a workshop by ASK Apprenticeships where students attended to learn different opportunities available and how to really stand out at interviews with training providers and employers.

This was followed by our annual HUB 100 apprenticeship event on Friday 7th June 2019. Eight training organisations from across the county and 40 students were matched for interviews for live apprenticeship vacancies from a wide range of sectors.

Gateway College is currently the only sixth form college that brings live apprenticeship opportunities direct to students in this way. Ensuring students are matched appropriately for the right opportunities and opening doors to training and employment.

Feedback from training providers has been fantastic saying they were “really impressed with all the candidates” and students being “really well prepared”. Now that students have been interviewed they are being referred to employers for the final stages of the process, where they will hopefully be offered an opportunity. We wish them all good luck.



Higher Education Fair

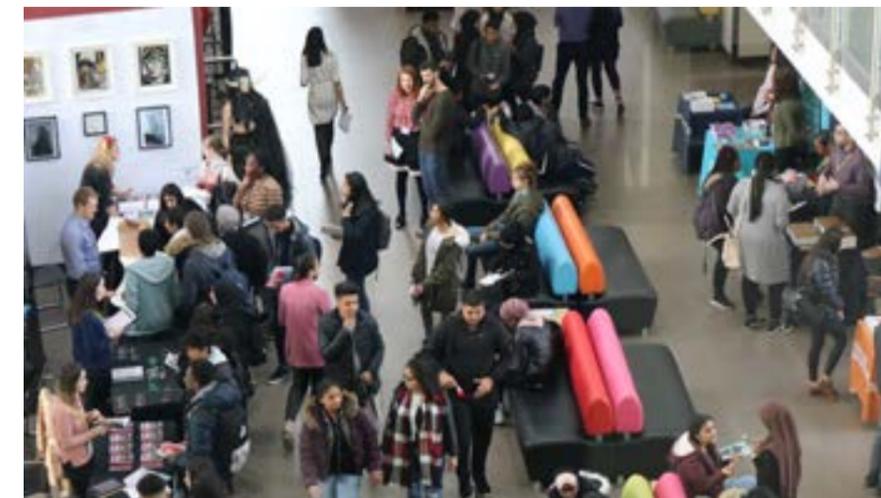
Young people considering their future career choices and pathways attended the annual Gateway Sixth Form College The HE Fair on Tuesday 9th April 2019. The event, aimed at raising aspirations and awareness of pathways into education and careers was organised by the Careers Lead, Amy.

“This year we added an additional evening session for parents and carers to give them the opportunity to meet and speak to providers and ask questions directly. There were also talks providing information on student finance, the application process and de-mystifying the variety of progression pathways available, from apprenticeships, higher apprenticeships and employment to university.” Says Amy.

Over 30 different universities and training organisations from across the UK exhibited at the event including local providers De Montfort University, the University of Nottingham, the University of Leicester, Leicester Employment Hub and the Armed Forces.

Shevani is now working as a Neo-Natal Nurse after leaving Gateway College in 2014 to study for a degree in Nursing at De Montfort University. She says of her role,

“Everyday is different, I would recommend Neo-Natal Nursing to anyone. It can be emotionally challenging but is also so rewarding. I received invaluable support when I was applying from the staff at Gateway; expert advice and guidance, help with writing my personal statement and interview tips and practise.”





My First Year at Gateway

by Aishwarya

My first year at Gateway has allowed me to become a much more confident, focused and proactive student. I have experienced a massive jump from secondary to sixth form, not just a change in the challenging course content, but also the importance of independence as you should never be dependent on teachers for your own work.

I currently study A-Level Maths, English Language and Accounting. All three courses are very different, but this allows me to bring all my academic abilities into play. I have learnt how to manage my time at Gateway, to stay motivated and most importantly, to have a positive mindset. You must be committed and the most helpful way to do that is write a list of your aims and that will allow you to stay motivated.

I have also learnt that it takes time and commitment to complete tasks, and in some cases when you don't understand something, you must ask the teacher for help, they're not going to think that you're stupid, instead they'll be glad that you are actually determined to work hard and thus come to ask for help. Plus, the teachers at Gateway are always willing to help and are extremely encouraging.

I have enjoyed this year a lot and have not even realised that we are almost approaching the end of the year in just a few weeks! I am excited, but also very nervous for my second year at Gateway and hope that I do well in my exams.

I hope you too have had an amazing year in Gateway!

Footprint to Success

Semi-professional Golfer, Saif won over 40 awards in his native Malawi before sacrificing it all to come to England to pursue his academic studies. However, the Level 2 Business Student who never studied this subject is now on the way building his own business in designing trainers. Saif was inspired to do this when a Marketing Module required him to create a business. With no reason in mind, he decided his platform was going to be trainers.

What seemed to be another college project became the reality for Saif when he found an online Italian company, which manufactures shoes once the order hits a certain figure. Saif then had to submit his application to the company with his shoe design under his new brand name of "ST" - a reference to the professional Golfer Tiger Woods' initialled brand. The company allows designers such as Saif to custom make their trainer or shoe using an online database of fabrics, colours and shapes. His colour choices of black and grey was personal to Saif as it reflected his negative mind-set before coming to Gateway; however, that has all changed now as seen in the photograph, it's the gold colour for the laces ringlets that is the most important; the gold representing positivity and success.

Once his application was accepted, it was up to Saif to market his trainers and to reach when he reach his specified sales target to have them manufactured.

Saif thought that marketing his trainers would be the easiest part but he found this part the most challenging. He went on to various social media formats to promote his trainers and persuade potential customers that they are buying a trainer that has style, good quality fabric and most importantly, they were durable.

With investment of his own time and being self-disciplined, he was able to reach his target. Saif has learnt that success does not come straight away and it is all about being patient; he is currently developing more sales and aspires to create his own range. In the meantime, Saif is also continuing his studies to achieve his Level 3 Business qualification.



For more information on Saif and his trainers visit:
<https://www.aliveshoes.com/saif-3>

Gateway News...



ITV and the Home Office hosting an event on Hate Crime.



A trip to St.Edmund's Hall, Oxford University.

Junior Crawford, a motivational speaker from the Fix-up Team Company fixing it for the A-Level Year 2's and reminding them of "making the days count".



Gateway College Alumni Network

Are you a former Gateway College student?

If you are a former Gateway student, join our growing alumni family by clicking the link below.

You will:

- receive regular newsletters and college magazines**
- be invited to events and Open Days**
- be invited to share your experiences since leaving with current students related to your education and career journey**
- be invited to take part in case studies, publicity and promotional activities**
- be invited to offer mentoring and work placements to current students**

Sign up here