

THE OFFICIAL GATEWAY COLLEGE MAGAZINE

# WORD ON THE STREET

SUMMER EDITION 2015  
ISSUE 8



Summer Nights at  
Gateway



Gateway Takes A Bite  
Of The BIG APPLE!



Aiming For The Stars



A Good Innings

**ALSO**

Meet former student Aliya and the new Director of Studies, find out about the Debating Society and Gateway's exciting new partnerships with De Montfort University PLUS LOTS MORE!



[www.Gateway.ac.uk](http://www.Gateway.ac.uk)



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summer 2015



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## Welcome To Word On The Street

Welcome to the summer 2015 issue of the Gateway College magazine which takes us into outer space, to New York City and De Montfort University before bringing us back home to Gateway College.

As well as writing the magazine, Gateway students have also designed the look and layout to create the distinctive visual style. Many thanks to these talented young people for their hard work and creativity, and to Blake Goddard, (Teacher of Media) and Tim Jones, (Teacher of English), for their expert guidance and direction.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of Word on the Street and welcome your feedback. You can read all previous copies of the magazine on the college website at [www.gateway.ac.uk](http://www.gateway.ac.uk).

Until next time, happy reading,  
Jade  
Gateway College Marketing and Promotions Officer

PAGE DESIGN  
MATTHEW COOPER

# Gateway Alumni Aliya Ladha

During my time at Gateway Sixth Form College I studied ICT and BTEC Business. Studying at Gateway provided me with the perfect platform and enabled me to gain skills which were transferable to university and in my career. In my first year at Gateway I took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award in addition to my studies which was an absolutely amazing experience and so much fun, not to forget such a big challenge physically and mentally! I enjoyed every second of it and also had the chance to learn a range of new skills and make new friends. Throughout my two years at Gateway I received the ICT award for best Web and Flash Animation design and best E portfolio development. These certificates and achievements helped me to progress on to university in Birmingham where I studied BSc Business Information Technology and obtained a First Class degree. Whilst at Gateway I also took part in a volunteer program called 'Right to Read'. This allowed me to go to primary schools to teach and help young kids to read and write English. I was awarded a certificate after completing the volunteer program.

Since graduating and starting employment I have received a Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM) award in 2013 as a Student Brand Manager and also Employee of the year in 2014. I currently work as a Marketing Executive in central London and solely manage a student network of over 1,200 Brand Ambassadors across the top 52 universities in the UK, to promote top graduate employers and brands on campus such as Amazon, Credit Suisse, Lidl and RBS to name a few.

I have been in my role for 5 years and believe Gateway taught me the importance of time management, presentation and organisation skills which are vital in my work. My time at Gateway College motivated me to do well with the courses provided and the excellent teachers always there to give any support when needed.

As well as working I am also currently studying a postgraduate course in 'International Student Advice and Support' at the University of Nottingham. I hope to progress to working as an International Officer for a top University. Gateway has immensely helped and been a real stepping stone in both my academic and career life after leaving the college at 18.



# LEADING FROM THE FRONT

WORDS TIM JONES



When I was at college, the cricket season lasted for a maximum of three days of sunshine between the spring torrents and the inexorable summer holiday. Not anymore. At Gateway College you can play cricket, enjoyably and competitively, all year long.

During the winter, students can take part in six a side indoor matches (hitting the ceiling is out so runs have to be worked for), and hone their skills in the indoor nets or at slip catching drill. After Easter, as the weather improves, they can make the smooth transition to their Syston ground for outdoor training and targeted coaching sessions. Competitive twenty-five or thirty over matches are then played once or twice a week throughout the summer.

When I spoke to team captain, Buddha Khatri, he was keen to emphasise the importance of motivating players to make the best of their skills, partly by encouraging hard work in training, and partly by leading from the front.

On Saturday June 6th at Welbeck College, Buddha did just that as he reduced the opposition from 46 for 1 to 46 for 6 by taking five wickets in five balls (four clean bowled and one caught close to the bat). This feat has never been achieved in one hundred and fifty years of first class cricket and extremely rarely elsewhere. Well played, Buddha!



# Gateway Cricket Team

WORDS WILL WATERS

The college cricket squad maintain their enthusiasm throughout the winter with regular Tuesday evening sessions at our excellent indoor nets in the Sports Hall and participation in Indoor 24 competitions, where 2014-15 has seen considerable success. Each of six players bowls four balls and runs are scored both by running between the wickets and hitting certain target areas. In the local Leicester City League, Gateway College A ran out league winners after an exciting play-off with Regent College and Gateway College B finished in fourth place. Our team then went on to win the AOC East Midlands Indoor 24s and qualified for the National Finals at Edgbaston Indoor School in April.

Each year the summer season begins with outdoor nets at our associate club, Syston Town CC. Sufficient players attend to pick both a 1st XI and a Development X1 following practice sessions every Tuesday afternoon from 4.00pm. On the pitch, results have been mixed so far in 2015. A convincing win by the 1st XI over South Leicestershire College in the AOC T20 competition after scoring 257 for 5 in 20 overs, was followed the next day by a win by the College Development XI over Ratcliffe College by 8 wickets. A T20 game against Newark College saw the game called off with the opposition score on 27 for 7. With 2 points for an abandoned game and 3 points for losing a game, however, it was South Leicestershire College who advanced to Finals Day. On a day again interrupted by rain, the College were disappointingly defeated by 20 runs by Leicester Grammar School at the quarter-final stage of the U19 County Cup (Swatland Trophy), failing during the last quarter of the innings to maintain the required run rate. An excellent win against Welbeck College followed and a poor performance against Leicester College was made up for by good batting against Regent (192 for 5) and a notable victory by 87 runs.



The lack of a good spin bowler will prove crucial during the remainder of the season. Top order batting is very reliable and the middle and late order batsmen have done well. The new ball attack is excellent at times but the bowling lacks variation. It is hoped that the team will go from strength to strength despite the call on players made by examinations.

The squad continues to thrive under the careful guidance of our experienced coach, John Punchard (Syston Town CC), and the enthusiasm of the College Sport Maker, Jonathan Dick, and there is a full fixture list. The game between a College XI and a team of former students of the School and College, on the last Wednesday of term for the Blatherwick Cup is a fitting climax to the season.

Will Waters (Director of Cricket)

Played 8; Won 5; Lost 2; Abandoned 1. (at 04.06.15)

Honours to Date (2014-15)

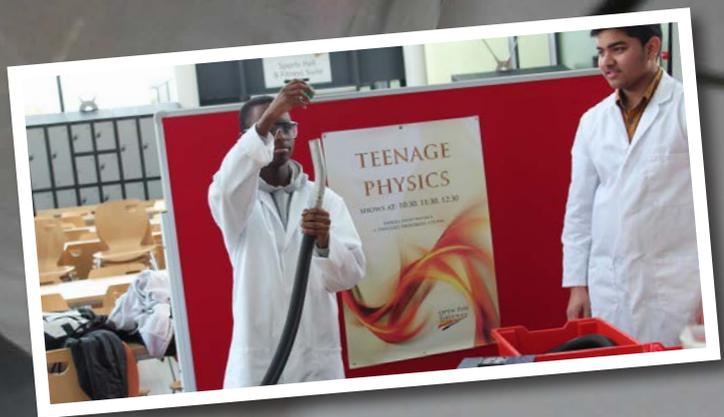
Leicester City League Indoor 24s - League Winners

AOC East Midlands Indoor 24s Competition - Winners

AOC National Indoor 24s Finals (Participation Section) at Edgbaston Indoor School

# Students Aim For The Stars

WORDS JADE WALSH



Gateway Sixth Form College teamed up with the National Space Centre to host an A level Physics Revision Conference for 30 students from colleges across Leicester and Leicestershire on Monday 30th March 2015.

The free event aimed to raise the aspirations and grades of students who were preparing to take their exams and embark on university life, further training or employment in the sciences.

Andy McMurray, Head of Teaching and Learning at National Space Centre in Leicester opened the day with a breath taking demonstration of how to make a comet which he described as a 'hissing, sizzling, dirty black snowball.' The masterclass studied the Rosetta space probes mission to be the first to land on a comet and the complex and revealing

Rebecca Evans, Programme Area Manager for Science at Gateway College said, "We were thrilled to be partnering with the National Space Centre and their National Space Academy for this event. This was the first time Gateway has held an event like this to promote physics and science to young people across the city, aiming to ignite their passion for learning. The event was full of fun, interactive activities and relevant revision sessions to ensure students were armed with the knowledge and confidence they needed to succeed in their exams."

Gateway student Nishil held the comet and said, "It's been a brilliant day, really fun and helpful. Making the comet was amazing; it was freezing when I touched it."

Sagar, also studying at Gateway added, "I've loved it! It was fun and interactive. It has helped with my revision, seeing how things were applied and made simpler. It made it easy to understand and remember and the comet was so cool."



data that has been returned from it. Mr McMurray challenged the students to be part of the next moon landing mission and illustrated how what they are studying now has been used in previous space expeditions

After this explosive start, the day went on to be packed full of revision workshops and interactive demonstrations with specialist speakers from the National Space Academy, the University of Leicester, De Montfort University and Gateway College. Information was also available about progression routes into careers in science.

Karl from Loughborough College said, "The facilities are really good at Gateway, I have been impressed with what I have seen. The pace was good; we covered a lot and didn't spend too long on anything. We looked at the whole syllabus so I felt prepared for anything that might come up in the exam".



# NEW YORK NEW YORK

WORDS JACKIE HANKINS

**New York New York – so good they named it twice!**

Well it was amazing. 18 Students from the Social Science area visited New York in February 2015 as part of their course studies. We left college at 2am which was our first challenge! Students were encouraged to sleep on the bus journey to the airport but of course the excitement was too much. Our 5 days were jam packed. We visited the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, the top of the rock, the Natural History museum, Trump Towers (that made everyone laugh), Times Square, Central Park and Bloomingdales to name but a few. The students and staff enjoyed the culture and history of the city. The 9/11 memorial was a moving experience for us all and students reflected on world issues. An evening on Broadway watching Matilda was a highlight.

Overall an amazing adventure for everyone involved.



# NICOLA MARTIN

WORDS LAUREN RAYBOULD

An Interview with new Director of Studies: Nicola Martin

Recently there has been a new Director of Studies appointed who is in charge of Performing Arts, Media, English and Art and Design. So, I wanted to go and interview her to see what her aims and plans are for the development of this area of study.

## **Did you study at University? If, so, which one?**

I studied Performing Arts and Media at the University of Manchester. After that, I became a professional actress for eight to ten years. I acted in theatres in Manchester, Germany and Sweden.

## **What is your vision for your future?**

I want to progress my career within the educational environment in management and leadership.

## **What draws you to the arts?**

I was always an expressive and creative child and I was good at drama so I thought it would be a good career choice. I wanted to explore the world through different mediums.

## **What advice would you give to the Art students about careers in the Arts?**

I'd say that they really do need to consider whether they want to choose a career in the Arts because it can be hard. My advice would be to consider the competition, but also be unique and stand out. English and Maths are very important, as well as employability skills. Any sort of experience or employability skills will look great on your CV. But, it is imperative for students to have a good, strong foundation of education.

## **What would you say to parents who are hesitant for their children to study a creative subject?**

Well, I would say that the creative arts are one of the largest employers in the country. It is growing and there is a lot of investment going into it. There are plenty of avenues to go down into in this sector.



## **What do you aim to develop within the area?**

I'm looking into raising the profile of the college and the courses in my sector by arranging school visits, fetes, live events, literary festivals, and so much more. I'm interested in looking at a more cohesive approach because I think it's really important for all of the subjects to embrace each other and collaborate. I want to include more of a commercial, entrepreneurial approach – giving students a chance to sell their work. This would boost confidence and give students experience in business. In the college, the long corridor is called 'The Street' right? So where are the shops?

## **How are you going to make yourself known to the students?**

I've started focus groups with students and will also be doing a certain amount of teaching in different subjects, so I will get to know the students through lessons.

*"The Creative Arts is one of the largest employers in the country."*

# GREASE

'Grease' was most definitely the word when I went to go see Gateway Sixth Form College's adaptation of the musical "Grease", one of my favourite films. The cast, who study BTEC Level 3 Musical Theatre, had everything down to a "T" (see what I did there), from the chemistry between Danny and Sandy, to the Pink Ladies and T-Birds Jackets and picking on Eugene.

Even the audience was singing along to the likes of "Grease Is The Word", "We Go Together" and, my favourite, "Greased Lightnin'", with me and a few friends doing the moves because we couldn't resist. As I'm sat here, writing this, I'm listening to the "Grease Soundtrack" because it's ridiculously catchy.

The students were very energetic and put 100% effort into their performance and staying in character. A couple of the performers really stood out and made the performance excellent, one was Hannah as "Teen Angel" and the other was Ali as "Kenickie".

Hannah hit all the right notes and I genuinely enjoyed her fantastic portrayal as "Teen Angel". I felt that Ali, on the other hand, stole the show with his portrayal of "Kenickie"; he had the style, the attitude, the voice and stayed in character throughout. His lines were delivered brilliantly, which was why when I went home, I had to watch the 1978 version of "Grease", starring Jeff Conaway as "Kenickie", which I think Ali's version of "Kenickie" was based on.

Many of the students are going on to university, studying a Performing Arts related degree. Hannah Alao, who is currently going through her second year at Gateway, studies BTEC L3 Musical Theatre and BTEC L3 Music Performance, and is going onto to do Musical Theatre at The University of West London. I asked her how her time at Gateway has helped her. She said, "The courses have helped me become more confident in myself and I have gained acting, dancing and singing skills. I've learnt to be more creative with my acting, which allows me to think for myself. I've really enjoyed my time at Gateway."



**April 20th**

I think that it's safe to say that I am going to die of a series of panic attacks because of the Grease rehearsals. Ok, I guess I'm being melodramatic, so shoot me, I am an actor, I'm allowed to be. So, it's now four weeks before the show and we have had our scripts from mid January now, and we were cast before the Christmas holidays, and some people don't know their lines. At least they remember the songs. We are currently in the stages of blocking the scenes from Act 1 through to Act 2; this is a very long but important process in the performing arts. Fortunately, when we went through our blocking for Act one, the majority of the main cast knew their lines along with their staging, blocking and movements. This included their exits and entrances onto the stage. This is quite a difficult obstacle that we are facing at the moment because when James is trying to block a scene to a song, we don't know how long it will take people to get from one side of the stage to another because it isn't up yet. Poor Stacey's\* baby, her first words are going to be, "Shut up side stage!" Let's hope that next week I won't have to bring a box of extra strong ibuprofen to ease my stress headaches.

\*Stacey is our (pregnant) teacher!

**April 27th**

God has answered my prayers! Hallelujah! How did we go from a train wreck to half decent in just a week? This week we had the privilege of rehearsing with our band, instead of just the piano. Not only did everyone know the songs, we were all off script too! The techies had also begun the process of putting the floor and staging down for the musical, which looks great. However, a few of us saw how high one part of the stage was and nearly died, so we had a quick discussion on writing our wills and agreed that if we die we die as a team. Just kidding, the staging is perfectly safe! (I hope). From the first scene in Act one of course some people still tried to hide with their scripts on stage, but hawk eye aka Stacey told them to get rid of them.

The targets that we were given for the next rehearsals, were again: to make sure that we are 100% off script and include more characterisation because it is one thing learning the lines and another when you actually take your character into consideration and apply them. Anyway, so that's my blog for this week, hope next week is even better!

**After the Performance**

I don't know how we pulled it off, but somehow we delivered a fantastic show. From the panic we were in 6 days before the show where some of the main cast didn't know their songs or words, no props were being used and people forgetting their blocking, everyone had finally managed to pull together to perform "the best musical theatre performance by Gateway students", (Stacey's words).

It has been a brilliant week, in my opinion the best show that we performed was the Thursday evening one when we had a full house. Although I can't reveal all of the gossip, here are a few words for the cast of Grease. You will always remember these: Chicken, Pregnancy, B.O, that damn tent, the sacred ladder and Josh vs Jas.



# LET'S TALK IT THROUGH!

What's all this chat about Debates?

WORDS TIM JONES

**Naima Hassan and Chelvia Mussa A2 Government and Politics students founded the Gateway Debating Society in 2014.**

**Chelvia says:**

The idea started in the summer when we were getting involved in class debates, and one topic would spark another until we ran out of time. Originally we were going to debate every fortnight but they got so popular we made them weekly at 12.00 Wednesday, the only time in the week that all students could attend. We saw the Debating Society as a way of keeping up with current affairs as they affected us all on a daily basis. Topics we selected included Feminism, Religious ideas, Nuclear weapons, Police Behaviour, and American foreign policy. We are leaving this year, but we hope future students will contribute time and energy to developing the society for years to come.

An Interview with Isabella Farnsworth, Government and Politics teacher and Debates organiser.

**Where did the debating idea come from?**

From the lively discussions that arose from US politics. Chelvia and Naima organised the meetings and took suggestions from those present for subjects to debate in the future.

**What's a Gateway debate like?**

Each meeting starts with a short introduction and an initial vote to see how people stand on the question. This is repeated at the end of the debate to discover how minds have changed. But although sessions were timed out after an hour, these burning issues were not resolved so easily! Every week the debate would continue into the corridors and common rooms as students who were not prepared to concede defeat continued to put forward their arguments.



**How many students got involved?**

Far more than any of us anticipated. After the first meeting we realised that we would be packed to the rafters for most topics. But the students don't want another venue. They like the energy of a standing room only crowd.

**Are Gateway students impassioned speakers?**

Very much so, especially on topics relating to religion or sexism, or global justice. I was continually impressed by their carefully considered and thoughtful arguments, even when strictly held convictions were involved. We have some excellent speakers here and they need an informal platform like this to express themselves. The applause (from both sides) to reward an intelligent and well argued response contributed to a very supportive atmosphere.

**And next year?**

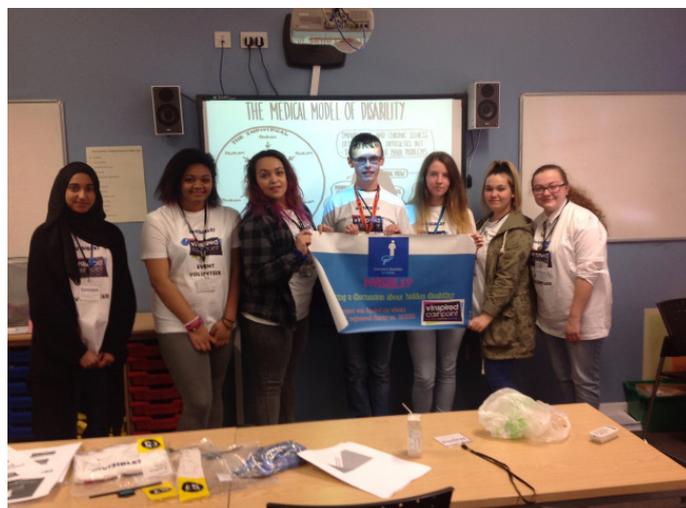
We are upgrading to a Current Affairs enrichment class. We will cover a diverse range of issues to do with culture, race, politics, and global justice. Students will all contribute to the choice of controversial topics for debate.

# inVISIBLE PROJECT

WORDS JHON BATEMAN

Over the last 5 months, in addition to my studies at Gateway, I have created and led a youth volunteering project called inVISIBLE to raise awareness of hidden disabilities. As a young disabled person I wanted to find a way to educate professionals and talk to the public about hidden disabilities to try and change perceptions in society.

With the support of vInspired, the UK's leading youth volunteering charity, I managed to secure funding to deliver a series of professional training sessions and a public awareness event. Many Gateway students volunteered at these events and we got to speak to many people about our campaign - it even got featured in the Leicester Mercury and on the radio! Although the project has now come to an end, it has been an exciting and unique opportunity to take an idea and develop it into a real project. Thank you to everyone who attended the professionals training sessions and to the young volunteers for coming along!



Jhon in the middle with his Gateway volunteers

Note: This project was funded [in whole] by vInspired, registered charity no. 1113255. "vInspired" means the independent charity known as 'vInspired' that was established following the recommendations of the Russell Commission and which aims to create a step change in the quality, quantity and diversity of volunteering opportunities for young people in England aged 14-25 years.

# Law Essay Competition



Law students from Gateway College were challenged to use their skills to analyse one of the most famous court cases of the century in a competition run by De Montfort University (DMU) Law School. The prize was the first ever DMU/ Gateway College Law Award which will become an annual feature for the partnering institutions.

Students were asked to submit an essay explaining the verdict in the trial of sports star Oscar Pistorius who shot dead his girlfriend Reeva Steencamp in 2013 and was found guilty of culpable homicide and sentenced to five years. The essays were judged by DMU representatives Sheree People, Head of the Law School; Tim Hillier, Associate Head, and Professor Gavin Dingwall, Professor of Criminal Justice.

The students and their parents were invited to DMU for the announcement of the winning entries. Winner Palaka Chauhan was presented with an iPad Air and the inaugural Gateway College and Leicester DMU Law School shield. Palaka said, "I was not expecting this at all. It was an exciting competition and I learned a lot about South African law."

All of the students who took part were given a certificate of commendation. They were: Mariya Salim Meman, Mercedes Rose Petrie, Farial Suleman, Kieran Oakley, Waseem Hassim, Aminda Dhanoa, Shriya Patel and Jigna Anand.



Jackie Hankins, Director of Studies at Gateway, said, "Law at Gateway College is very popular, we have 120 students either studying it as BTEC or A-level and about 70% of our students go on to study law at university. For this competition we wanted them to be able to argue their point and they have all worked very hard."

DMU judge, Sheree People, added, "We were really impressed with the students' work and we thought that they had worked hard to grapple with law that related to a different jurisdiction, trying to get their head around not just what the law says in this country, but what the law in South Africa says. We had a difficult task in judging the winners."

**WORDS JADE WALSH**

# Gateway Economics Team Forge Stronger Links With Local University



**Words** Khuzema Esmail

Having gone from strength to strength with A'level Economics results over the last 8 years, Gateway is continuing to offer excellent learning experiences for its students through an innovative partnership with De Montfort University (DMU).

In November, Professor Killian from the university was invited to deliver a seminar on globalisation tailored for delivery to sixth form students. This was followed up by an invitation to take current A'level Economics students on a tour of the Economics Department at DMU and to sample an interactive lesson from Andy Carreras, Programme Leader for Msc Business Economics.

Ed Smith and Khuzema Esmail, teachers of Economics at Gateway College, were very impressed with the staff and facilities at DMU. Mr Esmail said, "I think after visiting DMU and sampling the amazing levels of investment, particularly in Economics, we would certainly recommend DMU for our students wanting to continue their learning of the subject at a higher level."

The visit to DMU builds on links already established with Leicester University and Nottingham University by the Economics teaching duo who plan to add more exciting enrichments for the 2015-16 academic year.

Gateway Sixth Form College is celebrating its 85th year and supports over 1,500 learners from across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland providing a range of vocational and academic qualifications from Entry Level 1 to Advanced Level 3.

The College is based in Hamilton, Leicester on a purpose-built 12 acre site. Rated as being a 'Good' College by Ofsted, Gateway College enables students to have a personalised learning experience and aims to challenge, inspire and motivate, regardless of background or ability.

Gateway students are well placed to succeed in their chosen field whether that is further training, Higher Education or employment. This is recognised through the growing Gateway Alumni Community.

Contact [marketing@gateway.ac.uk](mailto:marketing@gateway.ac.uk) for alternative formats. You can read this issue and all previous issues at [www.gateway.ac.uk](http://www.gateway.ac.uk)

