

WORD ON — — — THE STREET

Summer Sporting Success At Gateway

How Gateway succeeded in sport and how our students are helping others to do the same

Gateway Alumni: Aakash Odedra

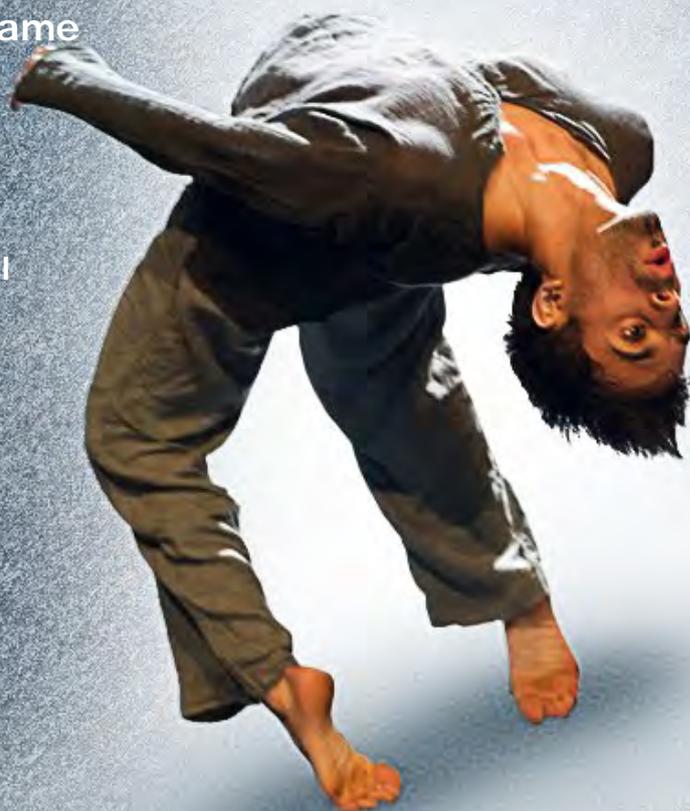
The ex-Gateway student, turned international dancing sensation

Battle of the Bands

Gateway musicians bring the noise

Dragons' Den

Gateway win county business competition



Aakash Odedra -
International Dancer

Contents



Summer Sporting **Success**
At Gateway



Shanez **Pattni** in the spotlight



Foundation
Learning Courses



Battle of the Bands



Dragons' Den and Alumni Feature

Welcome to Word on the Street

Welcome to the fifth edition of 'Word on the Street', the magazine created by Gateway students which keeps you up to date each term about life at Gateway Sixth Form College.

Thank you to the students who have contributed articles at this busy time, including Shanez Pattni and Tierney Cotton and, as always, a special thank you to Tim Jones, Teacher of English at Gateway for keeping the Word on the Street ship and crew on course.

The beautiful artwork for the magazine has been created by student Lucas Hayward.

If you would like to comment on what you have read or make a contribution to the next edition please email me at jwalsh@gateway.ac.uk. You can read this and the previous editions of the magazine on the Gateway College website: www.gateway.ac.uk.

Happy reading,
Until next time,

Jade

Gateway Marketing and Promotions Officer



Contributors:
Shanez Pattni
Tierney Cotton

Summer Sporting Successes at Gateway

The summer term has been a flurry of sporting activity with Gateway College students winning the County Further Education Sports Varsity title for a second year and BTEC Sports students organising a 'healthy living' event for young people.

The Leicester Sports Varsity Festival took place on 30th April 2014 at the University of Leicester with over 240 students from Gateway College, Regent College, Leicester College and Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I College taking part. Events included Rugby, Cricket, Volleyball, male 5-a-side football, female 5-a-side football, table tennis, female badminton, male badminton, female basketball and male basketball.

Chand Mistry, who is studying BTEC Sport and Business at Gateway College said, "It was a really fun day, I enjoyed seeing my friends from other colleges and competing against them. I got to watch and try other sports I haven't done before, which was fun."

Zie Vuma, who is studying BTEC Sport Fitness Instructing and BTEC Forensic Science added, "I got to try wheelchair basketball which was really difficult."

Jonathan Dick, Sports Maker at Gateway College said, "This event is the highlight of our sports calendar where we are able to take a large group of our students as a reward for their commitment and enthusiasm throughout the year. We had a

great day, with all students taking part and having fun and of course it was great to hold onto our title for another year."

Following their success at the Varsity Sports Festival, ten BTEC Sport Diploma students from Gateway College organised a 'Change 4 Life' event for over 120 local school children from Stokeswood Primary School, Mayflower Primary School and St Barnabas Primary School on 2nd May 2014 in partnership with the Leicester City School Sport Partnership.

The event was opened by The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Leicester, Councillor Mustafa Kamal at Aylestone Leisure Centre and aimed to encourage year 3 and 4 children aged from 6 to 8 years old to learn about healthy living and nutrition in a fun and interactive way.

The event was organised by Basid Ali, Pak Chingombe, Kudzai Matondo, Elliot Sentence, Jorge Loseby, Ace Haji, Mahim Dagia, Kyle Syrett, Sydney Palmer, Kyle Mistry as part of their BTEC Sports qualification.

Sydney Palmer, one of the students who helped to organise the event said, "We taught the young people about nutrition and having a balanced diet so that the kids can have the knowledge of what food can do to them if they eat fatty food all the time".



ShanezPattni

In the spotlight

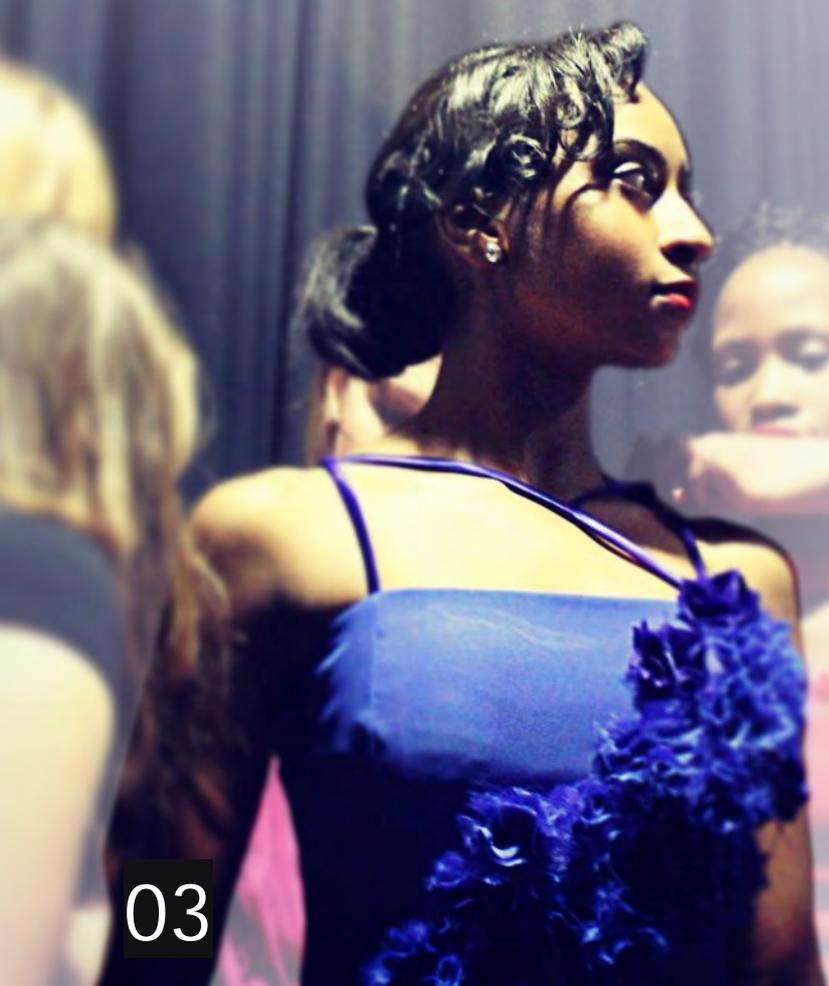
If someone asked me four years ago what I wanted to do as a career, I would have said, like most 14 year olds, 'Ermmmm'. However, since studying at Gateway, my career paths have never been clearer! I knew from the first performing arts lesson that I belong with that department and that would be my passion and my career goal. Now, when people ask me what I want to be, I say 'an actress' or 'a dancer' without a moment's thought. Of course they then go on to say, 'There aren't many jobs out there, have you got a back-up?' but with good A-level grades in English Literature and Law, the college has ensured that I have. After all, you need a back-up for absolutely everything you do in life. Believe it or not, I had my first ever dance lesson here, at the age of sixteen, and it was nothing like I expected. In my head, I saw stuck up dancers and strict teachers. It was the complete opposite! Everyone was in

the same boat as me and we became a family that supported one another, regardless of the situation. My natural specialism in dance is 'Street Dance'. That was all I knew until I started my training here, but the Level Three course is all about matching training and technique to natural ability, and with commitment you can learn fast. For example, I had never danced in tap shoes until the beginning of last year, and I received a Distinction for my first assessment!

Although I have performed in many events in Leicester, the showcases at Gateway have always been especially memorable. All of them have been equally important to me, as they symbolise the blood, sweat, and tears that we all put in. However, for Dance, the Christmas Dance Showcase was the best show I have ever performed in, and, in all honesty, the best Gateway has ever produced. Our dance teachers – Stacey and Kelly – worked extremely hard to organise the event, and with our commitment, it was a huge success!

In Performing Arts my training in acting technique has been in step with my progress in dance. The Acting course is comparable in the sense that it stretches you to achieve high standards of performance in a wide variety of different performance styles. In our most recent show, 'The Comedy Showcase', I performed my first ever stand-up! I was scared to do something where I'd be so exposed on my own, but it turned out to be one of my proudest achievements. I thought no-one would understand my jokes, but it turns out that everyone has embarrassing parents, not just me!

Shanez Pattni is studying BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts, BTEC Subsidiary Diploma in Dance, and BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Musical Theatre.



Foundation Learning Courses

at Gateway build confidence and foster skills that will lead to job opportunities when it is time to move on from college. In search of further information on the wide variety of available courses, I interviewed four young men in their third year of study here: Aiden McLeavy, Dominik Handzus, Larry Simon, and Tony Lord.

I was immediately struck by the enthusiasm and commitment each of the students displayed for the route they have followed since they started at Gateway. Although their career intentions are very different, they share a passionate belief in progression as the key to achievement in life.

They agree that work is there to be enjoyed when education has developed the appropriate vocational skills.

Aiden was an Entry Level three student when he began his studies at Gateway. Now he has progressed to Level one courses in Employability, Financial Management, and Personal and Social Development, while taking advantage of a Work Taster Option which has provided him with work experience at the local Tesco. Aiden has developed skills in packing, shelving, rumberling (this had to be explained to me), and security tagging, and is keeping a portfolio on the experience which will lead to a qualification.

Dominik has always loved sport, especially football and basketball, but he also enjoys helping young people learn. Three years ago he began a Level 1 qualification in Sport and Leisure. Now, as a member of the college's Sports Leadership Academy, he helps out at local primary schools involved in 'Challenge for Life', and is a Progress Coach in Sport for Entry Level students at Gateway. He says that he intends to move on and achieve his FA Coaching Award at Level 2.

Larry began his studies at Gateway as a Health and Social Care Student at Entry Level three. Now he is taking Level two courses in English and Business and gaining a work experience qualification in

Hospitality. This opportunity has again resulted from the college's connection with the local Tesco. Larry enjoys cooking and prepares his speciality pizzas, thai curries, and chocolate brownies for Tesco staff on Mondays and Tuesdays, as well as getting involved in food preparation, kitchen organisation, and setting out tables. Larry and other Hospitality students, like his friend Kobe Griffin, are entering the current Jamie Oliver competition for preparing a dinner party.

Tony was the last to arrive at our meeting, as he was busy working in the flourishing Gateway garden and couldn't leave his responsibilities untended for too long. Tony has 'been green-fingered for years'. Three years ago he began a Level one course in Horticulture, and now, like his three friends, he is a trainee on a Work Taster programme. He works in the college garden every day, nurturing apple trees, pear trees, and a variety of greenhouse and root vegetables that between them have produced crops sizeable enough to be part of the college canteen's daily menu. Tony also spoke enthusiastically about the 'Hamilton in Bloom' competition that the college is entering this summer. Horticulture can be exhilarating and competitive as well as healthy and relaxing.



Student Aneep Koont in the Gateway garden

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

The Musician

is one of the best and most prestigious venues in Leicester for live music. Partly this is a result of the place's atmosphere – intimate, almost scholarly. An audience at the Musician knows what it's listening to and rarely drops in on the off-chance. Partly this is because there is such a powerful sense of a continuing tradition in all kinds of popular music. Those well-known faces on the wall are a lot to live up to, but also a reassuring presence for performers who are aware of their responsibilities to the past as well as the present.

The annual Battle of the Bands is now itself becoming a musical tradition: a light-hearted competition which is also a celebration of the different kinds of music created by Music Performance students at Gateway College.

This year's role of honour included a virtuoso performance of Jimi Hendrix's 'Voodoo Chile' featuring Harry Singlehurst on lead guitar, which would have thrilled audiences at *The Musician* at any point during the past forty years. Rebecca Robinson, Hannah Allao and Michaela Green/Elliott Ebert in duet, ably supported by the musicianship of Bhav Solanki, George Ireson, and Rhys Mault, brought us up-to-date by belting out covers of Lady Gaga, Rihanna, and Bruno Mars. Jacques Keeling, Danny Ingram, James Dann, Kya Edwards and Shiv Jethwa were victorious in the battle for the coveted cup because of the originality of their compositions, but this listener was particularly impressed by the six piece Radio Ska band *Blood Pressure*: Bhav and George on guitars with Arron Smart (drums), Jack Gutteridge (bass), Ayesha George (steel pans) and Serahne Rene-Sorhaindo (keyboards).

Many of these musicians also perform at *the Shed*, *the Sound House* and *the O2 Academy*. Their next appearance will be at *the Riverside Festival* on Saturday June 7th.



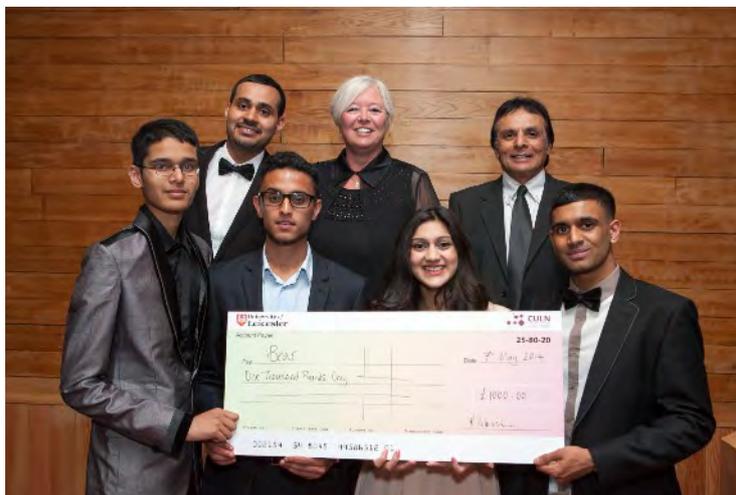
Dragons' Den

BTEC Business students from Gateway Sixth Form College were awarded first prize in a prestigious Dragons' Den event at the University of Leicester on 7th May 2014. The competition was open to Further Education students from colleges across Leicester and Leicestershire.

The winning team was made up of Nikita Solanki, Fezaan Tahir, Jamie Patel and Mohammed Arafat Khot who are all studying BTEC Business courses at Gateway College. They scooped the £1000 prize for their 'iBear' idea.

Runners up, Justin Parmar, Yagnesh Mistry and Shivani Gadhia, also studying BTEC Business Courses at Gateway College and deserve a special mention for their 'YouGym' idea.

Teacher of Business and Professional Development at Gateway College, Raheel Mohammed said, "All the students who took part from Gateway College developed their ideas as an enrichment activity in addition to their studies which makes this a particularly special achievement."



Gateway Alumni

On 9th April 2014, myself and other Gateway College students were lucky enough to watch the technical rehearsal for Aakash Odedra's show 'Inked' with Belgian

choreographer Damien Jalet at Curve Theatre in Leicester.

Aakash is a rising star of the international dance world, gaining a number of accolades in recent years for his innovative work with renowned choreographers and directors.

It was exciting to know that Aakash was a former student of Gateway College and I was keen to learn more about what he was doing now, and how he had got there. He told us that he had danced since childhood and had moved to India shortly after finishing at Gateway College to 'find himself'. While taking part in a dance workshop there he was scouted by chance to be in a performance and from there has worked hard to be successful.

Aakash described his biggest obstacle as his own mind and said that once he had told himself that he was capable of anything and started to believe it, it led to his career really taking off.

I found it enormously encouraging to watch Aakash rehearse and be able to see him perform. To see what can come from the belief he had for himself and the commitment to dance and performing, knowing in his heart that he belonged on the stage and no other job or career would fulfil the love he had for dance.

Tierney Cotton, BTEC Level 3 Dance student

Aakash Odedra is performing Murmur and Inked at Curve Theatre on 10th -11th November 2014

To join the Gateway Alumni community go to:
<http://bit.ly/1pis5xZ>

Written by Tierney Cotton

Aakash Odedra
Ex-Gateway student
& International
Dancing Sensation



Gateway Sixth Form College is celebrating its 85th year and supports around 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 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 jwalsh@gateway.ac.uk for alternative formats, comments and additions for the next issue.

Also available to read with all previous editions of Word on the Street at www.gateway.ac.uk



Scan or search:
goo.gl/86dvzz

