

WORD on the STREET

Spring/Summer 2020 Issue 16

Editorial

Well, what to say eh??? It has certainly been a unusual few months hasn't it??? It is a year that none of us would or could ever imagined. You may feel like you want to skip this year and fast forward to a year or a month where Coronavirus (Covid-19) doesn't exist. Where life was like before...when life can just be normal. But...we shouldn't wish time or our life away.

At the moment, uncertainty is probably a feeling that you are currently experiencing...and that's okay. You probably made so many hopes, dreams and plans. Now they feel that they will never happen. But they will—those hopes, dreams and plans that you hold dear to your heart are not lost...they are just simply 'on hold'. All they are waiting for is for you to be safe again so you can live and enjoy them well.

For now, until normality returns again, use this time wisely and have fun with it! Why don't you learn a new skill? Tackle that to-do list that you been meaning to do or maybe, just be kind to yourself. It is a challenging time...and you will make it through.

So, until we meet again, and we will, we are saying "Hi, how are you?", "Are you looking after yourself okay?", and most importantly, "We are still here for you".

Keep well our dear readers,
The Editors x

P.S. For the most up-to-date information about the college closure, support available and summer assessments go to www.gateway.ac.uk.

P.P.S. This magazine contains articles created prior to lockdown and social distance restrictions.

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Covid-19: A student guide on how to get the best out of this time

By BTEC student Jessica.

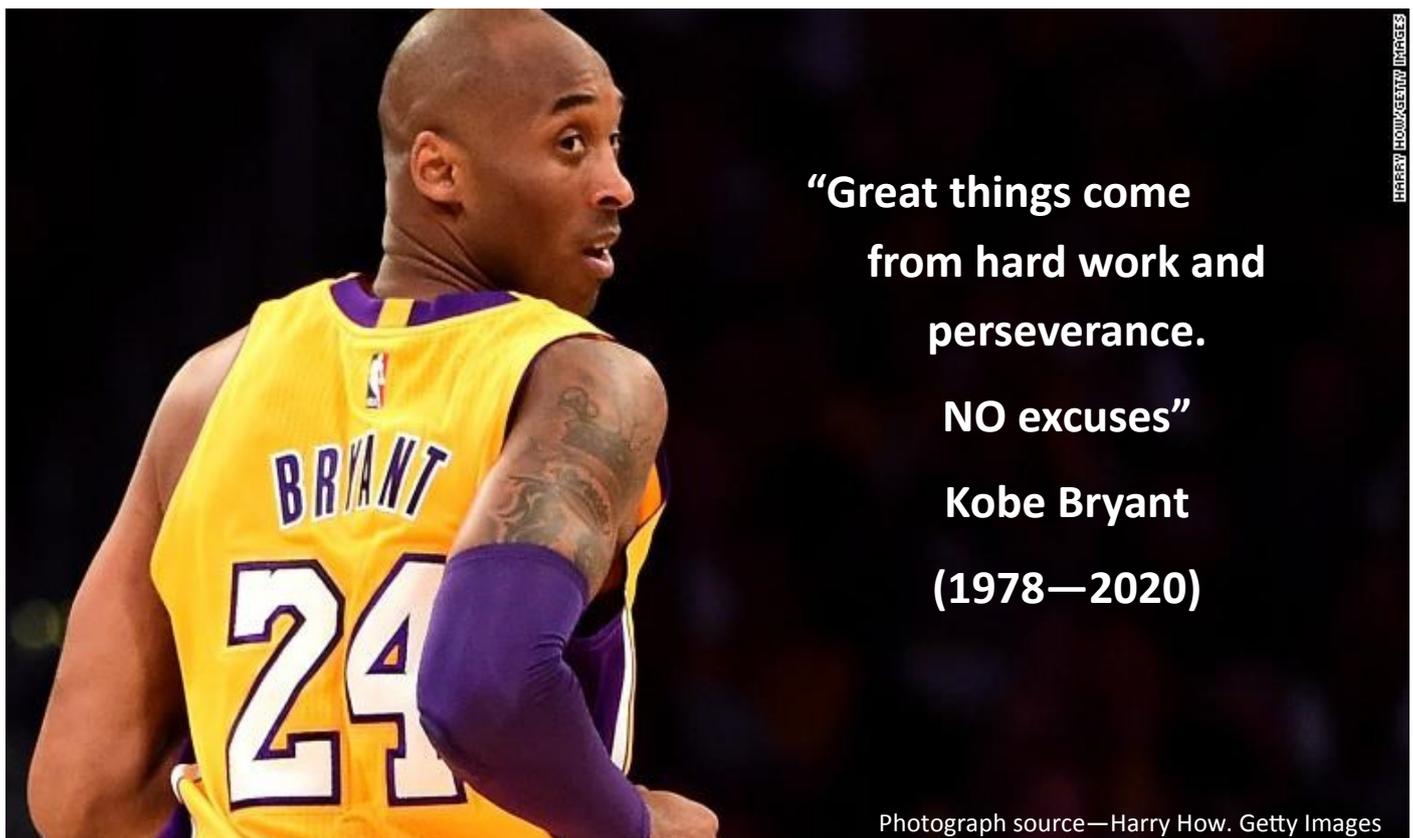
- Do your best not to listen to the news every single day if this worries you, instead only listen to the news maybe twice a week. This will help to keep you calm during this unprecedented time.
- Just because the world is on a halt, doesn't mean your education should be. This is the best time to catch up on work and learn new things you usually wouldn't have time to do. For example, learning a new language or taking an online course about a subject of your interest. Remember, it's okay if you are not productive every single day; just try your best to do what you can each day.
- Make sure to stay in contact with your friends and family, ensure that they are doing well and staying safe during this time.
- It is vital that during this time you do not neglect your mental health, try to keep as active as you can, make sure to utilise your allowed exercise every day and stay hydrated.
- It is important to take this period of time to reflect on your life, goals, how far you have come and take a moment to praise yourself
- Appreciate the little things, in the hustle and bustle of everyday life it is very easy to forget that having the simple provisions like bread and milk are a blessing. For some people around the world, they are not even able to eat one square meal.
- If you can and feel comfortable to, there are many opportunities to volunteer during this pandemic. This can be helping your elderly neighbour do their weekly food shop for example. However, remember to always abide to the social distancing rules.

Star Inspiration.

With the recent death of Kobe Bryant, BTEC science student Jessica, has written a tribute to the man who inspires her and so many others.

So you may ask how is this quote relevant to everyday life as a college student? All the hard work will eventually pay off one day so never give up! Hard work is essential in order for you to achieve your goals, whether that be getting the best grades in your course or getting into a Russell Group university. It is going to be hard work; you are going to have to make sacrifices and there will be a lot of sweat and tears but it will be worth it on the day you open that special email or your exam results that you have been working so hard for.

All the hard work will have paid off and it will have been totally worth all the sweat and tears. It just matters that every day you do the best you can do and keep pushing despite the procrastination and negative doubts!



HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

GATEWAY GETS GOLD

Gateway Sixth Form College has achieved Gold status for the Schools' Mental Health Award from the Carnegie Centre of Excellence and Leeds Beckett University.

The College is proud to receive the award in recognition of the work undertaken to promote mental health and wellbeing for staff and students. It is committed to ensuring the environment is positive and open and that staff and students feel well supported during any difficult periods that they may be experiencing.

Su Peters, Head of School and the project lead commented,

"Good mental health and wellbeing of staff and students is central to the work that is done throughout the College and we are always striving for ways to reflect on the impact of that work".



“After carrying out an initial self-audit reflecting on the work we already did, we created an action plan and continued improving the support we provide across the College, whilst embedding new initiatives such as hosting our own version of Mental health Day in honour to highlight World Mental Health day on October 10th”



“During the year, we collected evidence of the work that we are doing: from the Principal and Governors’ vision; in the classroom; the pastoral and support teams; and student led initiatives. This evidence shows that we have a deep commitment to the excellent practice that takes place, making mental health and wellbeing a part of our core business.”

The Gold Schools’ Mental Health Award is the highest level of achievement given to schools and colleges who have demonstrated that they have exemplary practice across their organisation and can show sustained impact in all eight competencies. This is a very exciting achievement and places Gateway College as one of the leading colleges nationally.



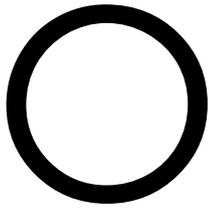
Celebrating FREEDOM



*“Equality is
Greater than
Divide”*

**Our Gateway Gang put their
message across on the gathering
and march.**





n Friday 31st January, many Gateway students attended De Montfort University's (DMU) second annual Freedom Event.

Several city post-16 providers took part in workshops and talks throughout the day centred around the theme of freedom and what it means to many groups in our diverse society. Some of the university's societies, such as the DMU Stompers and the Adventists, as well as groups such as The Centre representing the LGBT community, organised workshops to educate and inspire the young people present to take advantage of the freedoms they are privileged enough to have due to the fight of the generations before.

Gateway College took part in this event suitably armed with several cold but energetic students and a homemade, or rather, college-made banner emblazoned with the message, 'Equality is Greater than Divide'.

We listened to several motivating speeches and performances and participated in some lively debates.

The event was inspired by Martin Luther King Day, which falls on the 20th January. His struggle to earn freedom for the generations to follow him is a lesson to us to never take the opportunities we have for granted, and to make the most of every day.

The Freedom Event was a great experience overall and definitely encouraged every person present to stand up for their rights and defend the freedoms won for us by our predecessors.

Mighty Gateway Students Showcase Talent

As awards season opens, Gateway Creative Arts students have swept the board with prizes, awards and nominations in the city for their work. Students from the Art and Design Foundation Diploma, A Level Art, A Level Photography and Level 3 Art and Design courses all had work selected by the judging panel for the annual Open 30 exhibition held at the iconic New Walk Museum, with one Gateway student winning two of the top prizes.

The prestigious show, which was supported by Leicester City Council and Arts Council England, featured work from exhibitors of all ages and backgrounds. Nominees chose their own subject, style and medium for their work, creating a diverse and vibrant representation of the best art by professional and amateur artists in Leicester right now.



A Level student Vibhuti was honoured with two prizes for her work 'Dada Sleeping' - the first in the Youth Category and the second as runner-up for the top prize, the Attenborough Award in the Adult Category.

The exhibition was open to the public during December 2019 and January 2020 and the invitation features one of last year's winners, Gateway student Sanaa.



'Dada Sleeping' by Vibhuti who says, "I am very proud of this photograph of my Grandad sleeping."

Vibhuti's image has also been selected for The Royal Academy of Arts Summer Show for Young People 2020 and The Mighty Creatives 'Be Mighty' Awards.

The Mighty Creatives 'Be Mighty' Awards

'Dada Sleeping' has caught the eye of the judges at the Mighty Creatives 'Be Mighty Be Creative Awards 2020' along with fellow creative student Bilal's work. Both students have been shortlisted for the second stage of judging in the 'Emerging Artist' Category. To have got this far in a regional competition of this standard is an outstanding achievement, we congratulate them both on their success.



Vibhuti collecting her award at the Open 30 exhibition

Young Writers Competition

Young Writers is a publishing house that runs competitions for aspiring writers from primary school right up to college age students. Two Gateway A-level first year English Literature students, Chantelle and Maryam, entered this and have won the prize of having their work selected to feature in the Young Writers Anthology of Best Works.

Chantelle and Maryam beat fierce competition from across the UK to be selected for this prestigious accolade. Their challenge was to write a mini-saga in just 100 words on the theme of “Hunted– Adventures from the UK”. They were allowed to write from the perspective of the hunter or the prey.

Chantelle and Maryam both have a passion for writing and have aspirations to become professional writers. With both students having an abundance of talent, we wish them luck in their writing journey.

Maryam contributes regularly for this magazine where you will find many of her articles, past and present. You can also read both winning pieces of prose on the next page.

Ready or Not

by Maryam

Dark space. Heavy air. Smell of fear, or sweat.

Do not breathe.

Crouch lower. Watch the crack of light flicker.

Do not make a sound.

Footsteps thunder past. Gust of air swept along with them.

This is it.

Footsteps stop. Sliver of light dimmed. Door opens.

“Found you!”

Groan, grin. Step outside. Stretch. Hands over eyes.

Start counting.

Soulmate Searching

by Chantelle

I still have nightmares about it; I'll never be able to rid my memory of his face. Black bulging sockets where his eyes once lived, gouged out by yours truly, leaving blood trickling down his gorgeously porcelain skin. I had no choice. If the government introduces a day where we are made to hunt down our soulmates, surely it's only natural that I kill him before he confesses to me. Isn't it? So I roll over, my horns resting on my pillow, trying not to imagine blood violently gushing out of his veins. Why did he fall for the devil?

Photo Fabian Lakasi / EyeEm / Getty Images file

MIScarriage

DISCLAIMER: This piece deals with issues around miscarriage that some readers may find upsetting. The author is a Level 2 student and this piece was written as an exercise in creative writing which explored the themes of loss, grief and acceptance. All views are the authors own.

Why has the world endorsed me in living in such desperation? What I long for is the gift that God has condemned all to have but has denied from me. A miracle, such a blessing, the baby I long for.

God, I have worshipped you throughout my whole adolescence, my devotion to you has sucked my life to a pure, devoted and holy life. I have never touched a fly let alone a human. Why is it that you have taken my baby? Part of me? The numerous attempts to conceive. My body has engulfed, attacked, killed numerous. The countless number of tests. Their results remind me of the callous act my body has done to one innocent, fragile, speck living independent of me.

People around me living in society never comprehended my thoughts and anger. They live and grow to nurture their own lives, but they cannot find the feeling I feel and the way it has infected me. Times and times of getting help has only found me with more problems. No one who is not in my position can ever know the devastating blow of miscarriage after miscarriage to a point that conception has become a difficult task.

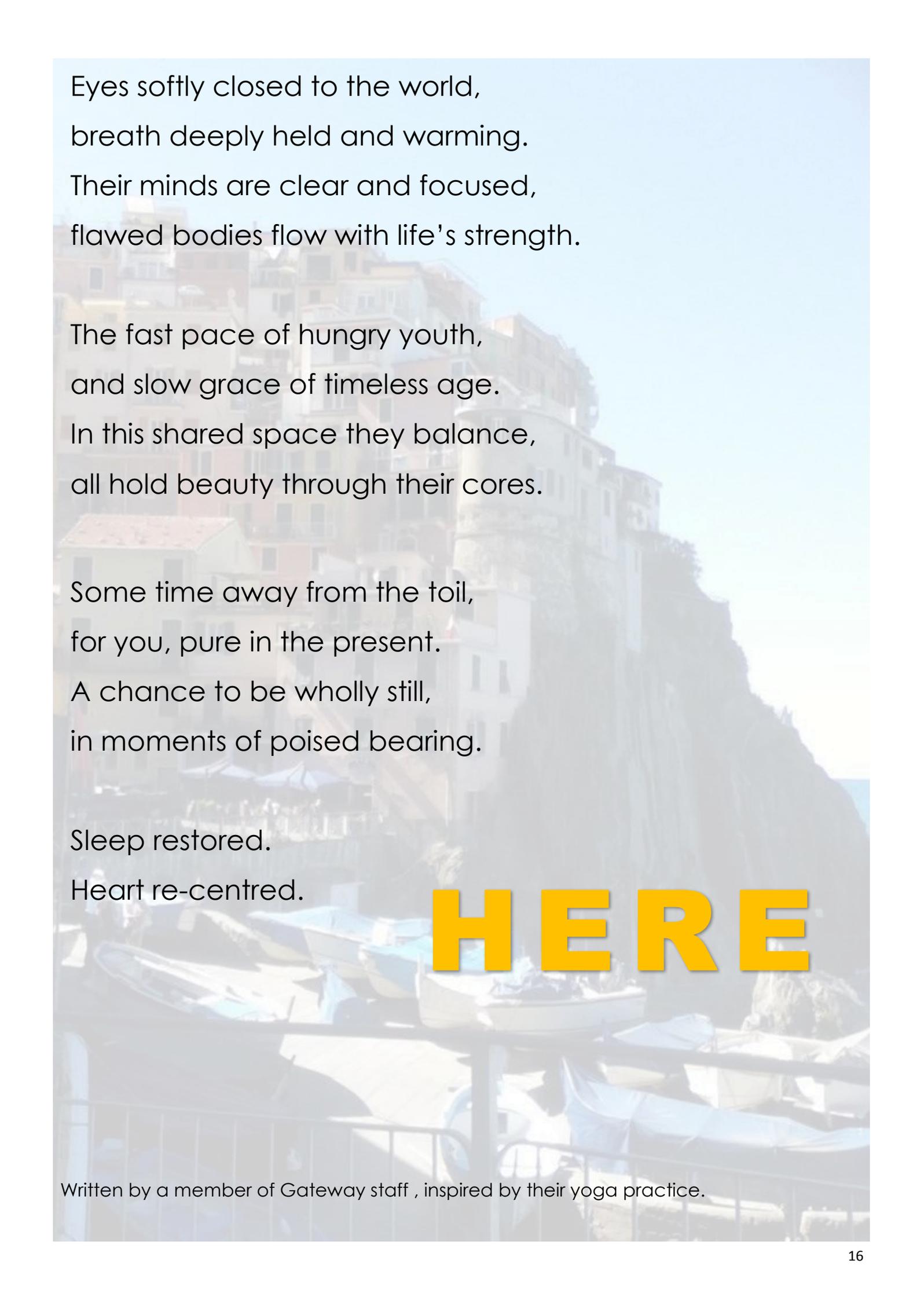
People are privileged to experience birth and pregnancy but for those who fail to do this, there is no such pride in such a process where life is formed.

The thought of having to receive sympathy from someone who can never understand mocks me and reminds me of the pain of the unborn, lifeless creature whose existence has been stripped from it. Despite never being considered official as a living creature through a piece of paper. A paper that despite its small form holds a big part of you, showing the world the time and date of your first arrival, your first existence.

I ask for help only to find myself deeper in pain. My family's dream is for my acceptance of my baby's death, but how can I? How can I forget? Question after question separates me from the world, puts me in a stage where any form of help has become useless. Many of my partners have fled to someone different, someone who can conceive a baby, start a family. They have seen what I dare show to the world. I am nothing to the world. The sudden abandonment of my last partner reminds me of my problems. The numerous lies have surrounded my life with the fantasy of something that can never be what it seems.

I can say with adequate pleasure that I have now found one who has showered me with love and some sort of acceptance. If not my family... he. He has shown me how to live with my diligence of sad memories, only as memories and nothing more. He has showed me not to relive my memories as my present and instead remember them as the past. I can now see that what was once too far to reach is now in my grasp. I can now take life with a steady pace. Miscarriage is no longer the one thing that consumes me....

If you have been affected by miscarriage, the Miscarriage Association can offer you support and guidance. Go to www.miscarriageassociation.org.uk for more information.



Eyes softly closed to the world,
breath deeply held and warming.
Their minds are clear and focused,
flawed bodies flow with life's strength.

The fast pace of hungry youth,
and slow grace of timeless age.
In this shared space they balance,
all hold beauty through their cores.

Some time away from the toil,
for you, pure in the present.
A chance to be wholly still,
in moments of poised bearing.

Sleep restored.
Heart re-centred.

HERE

Written by a member of Gateway staff , inspired by their yoga practice.

Nostalgia

Yearning for the frozen depths of winters long past
ploughing through the sodden earth of January.
Misty breath and crispy whiskers shared old greetings.
Now a squelching gait and mud clad morning welcome.

No ice sculptured dung to daily chip and barrow.
Just acres of neglect and wheels abandoned
to sinking despair of ridge and furrow alike.
Having to create a hard standing oasis.

After months of lashings even the hardiest frogs relent.
Rugs gather dust and mouse nests in barns, forgotten.
Forage wastefully dispatched with reseeding prayers.
The dry January resolution broken.

Watch as the UK drowns and continents blaze.
Our ancestors would grieve our children's lost world.

BOLD and BRILLIANT: TEDx Leicester

Gateway College was delighted to host the prestigious TEDx Leicester Women 2019 event on Saturday 7th December. The sold-out event focussed on strong minds and voices, ranging from the outspoken to the innovator and all committed to breaking down stereotypes and myths.

Visitors immersed themselves in talks by nine internationally successful speakers chosen from a diverse range of sectors including technology, entertainment, media, art, science and politics as well as activities, performances and exhibitions created by students at the College. As well as taking place in front of a live audience, the event was also streamed live on the College You Tube channel and filmed to be broadcast across the TEDx online network globally.

Head of Media, Public Services and Sport and lead organiser for the event Laura Rawson said, “When we agreed to collaborate with TEDx we were never just a venue. We considered carefully how we could get the students involved and how it could benefit them. We found opportunities for collaboration everywhere. Our Art students created the extraordinary wearable artwork and portraits that were exhibited on the theme of ‘Bold and Brilliant’ women, they also made the TEDx stage sign and designed and printed the t-shirts and gift bags. Our Games students made animations that were screened between the TED Talks, our Media students liaised with the TEDx technical team to set up the event and then recorded it on the day, our Public Services students were ambassadors at the event and our Learning for Life and Work students set up a sweet market.”

The esteemed speakers included Dr Amber Ghaddar - Co-Founder of AllianceBlock; Charlotte Carpenter - Composer and Founder of BabyWoman Records; Dr Ghida Ibrahim PhD – Advanced Network Analytics at Facebook; Dr Kierann Shah – General Manager at the National Space Centre and Dr Sharon Redrobe OBE – CEO of Twycross Zoo



Gareth Watts, Head of Creative Arts at Gateway College commented, “This was by no means a ‘safe’ collection of artwork or speakers. Provocative questions were posed across the various media and styles and viewers were taken to some unexpected places. A royal revolutionary writer; defiant survivors of violence and abuse; bold responses to notions of consent, objectification and ‘ideal’ body shape. Despite the clear theme, the ideas and work resisted homogeneity through its references to a diverse range of cultural expectations, norms, values and experiences. And that, for me, is our greatest strength as a College – we can boast of a diversity of voices that challenge expectations and we can pull at the threads of what could be possible for a better future”.

You can watch the Leicester Women TEDx talks here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsRNoUx8w3rPzZ9k-t7DeZjhakdNtDfYN>

My Experience at TEDX Leicester Bold and Brilliant Women

Nabeela is a Second Year Media Student who volunteered at this event and this was her experience of this event:

I had the opportunity to volunteer at this event. TEDX women is about empowering girls and women in a meaningful way. This was a really great experience as I got to hear a lot of inspirational talks from women in different industries and how they made a difference in their companies, businesses and other sectors.

This experience was very motivational to me because it changed my perspective of how women should be treated whether they are literate, illiterate or have a disability. No matter what - all women should be treated fairly. It shows that the poem 'jam is for girls and girls get jam' embodies this belief that women are strong, powerful and are capable of overcoming the struggles that they face from many situations. I was very moved by this poem because it relates some ideals from my religion as Islam says that men should cherish a woman and respect her. The other speakers talked very passionately about music, animals, cybersecurity, engineering and other job roles in different industries.

TEDX had arranged different stalls to engage the public with different ideas to show them how passionate a person can be. I found the event enjoyable due being able to help people out with their stalls. Being a media student, I was able to help the TEDX team prepare for the event beforehand and experienced what it was like working behind the scenes. This was an amazing and brilliant experience as I was able to meet and network with people in the media sector.





YOUNG ENTREPREISE ARE HERE FOR YOU

We are the young enterprise group representing Gateway college this year (Soha, Mohamedsaood, Anju, Mohamed, Myah, Sammak and Zaynab) Our business name is tranquillity. We have chosen this name as we are focusing on anxiety and how to deal with it to ensure that you remain calm.

We believe that anxiety should not be a taboo as everyone deals with it. Majority of people suffer through this without getting the needed help which causes it to worsen. We are focused on helping teenagers and possibly young adults through this stage of their life. This will ensure they find affective ways of handling these situations with the help of our products. The two ways that we would like to help everyone is by providing meditation sessions to create a safe space for people to leave their worries for a bit and focus on themselves.

Additionally we have already sold and provided self-help bundles with various items that we believe helps with focusing on yourself instead of your worry. Each bundle is made from items that the customer (yourself) can choose and includes a booklet that will explain every item and how to use it. There will also be personal stories from us about situations where we have felt anxious and how we have dealt with it. We believe that taking some time away from the factor that is giving you anxiety and clearing your mind will help to calm you down and be more productive.

We believe “Tranquillity” represents us and our goal for each customer. We are doing this so we can help teens and adults in a way where they will not have to step out of their comfort zone to help themselves. People find it hard to communicate with others about this topic as it is not a norm in society (even though it should be). We want to let everyone know that we are here for them and have dealt with similar situations to make them feel that they are not the only one (because they aren't).

On Saturday 29th February 2020, we took part in the annual Young Enterprise Trade fair which took place at Beaumont Leys shopping Centre. We joined students from schools and colleges across Leicester to sell our products to the public and met lots of people who were interested in our business including the Young Enterprise President, fitness guru and entrepreneur Rosemary Conley.



Volunteering



On February 4th, DKMS came into college to drum up interest to students and staff to become stem cell donors for blood cancer. The project run was run by the Youth Worker Uzair, and the Student Union Charity volunteers who spent all day explaining the importance of signing up to us all. All staff and students had to do was to fill in a health questionnaire and provide a painless mouth swab which was then bagged up and sent to laboratory to match up with any potential donors. For more Information , please go to:

<https://www.dkms.org.uk/en>



On Friday 20th March, Student Union Charity volunteers spent the afternoon before lockdown going round to a local warden control flats to provide “grab bags” filled with vital food and body care supplies to the elderly and the vulnerable who were unable to go out due to advisory of self-isolation.

National Apprenticeship Week

Between Monday 3rd and Friday 7th February, we joined the rest of the UK in celebrating National Apprenticeship Week (NAW). Throughout the week, we shared useful information and advice with our students, their parents/carers and our staff about pathways and opportunities surrounding apprenticeships and work-based training and shared some of our previous student's successes.

An apprenticeship is essentially a programme that incorporates a balance of employment and study, leading to gaining knowledge and skills to progress onto a higher route or it may lead to a nationally recognised qualification in a chosen subject area. There are different types of apprenticeship programmes, starting from Level 2 (GCSE level) to Level 7 (equivalent to a Master's degree!).

Our Careers Service at college plays an important part in helping students prepare for life after they finish their studies with us and apprenticeships are another choice for our students who may be thinking about their next steps.

Gateway offers a range of courses that have very strong links to apprenticeship pathways including the Supported Internship, Health and Social Care, Business, Accounting, Games Animation and VFX, Sport, Public Services and IT. For more information go to our website www.gateway.ac.uk or www.apprenticeships.gov.uk. Meet two of our amazing alumni who are currently undertaking apprenticeships and work-based training in their dream jobs!



Shivam Vadher studied Level 2 and Level 3 Vocational Public Services at Gateway College.

Shivam has joined the British Army to train to become a Combat Medical Technician.

“ My first Public Services teacher told me about being a Medic as he had been a Medic in the Navy. From that moment, I knew that was what I wanted to do. I want to save lives on the frontline. ”

He has begun his basic training course which focuses on high standards of cleanliness, strict discipline, adopting professionalism and team work. The training has pushed him to become physically fit while he takes part in exercises such as patrols, ambushes and field attacks as well as outdoor pursuits that include rock-climbing and raft-building.

He has made a lot of friends with other army recruits and says that they are some of the best people he has met. They have bonded really well while exchanging encouragement for one another during exercise days.

“ My advice to anyone making their choices about their future is to do something you feel passionate about. Listen to what your heart says and then get as much advice and knowledge about the courses you need to study as possible. ”

His army experience has so far been life changing and he looks forward to continuing this journey in Medical training. Best of luck to Shivam!

Student success stories in support of #NAW2020

Jahzeb studied A Level Accounting, Economics and Maths while at Gateway College and set his mind on gaining one of the 240 coveted places out of 40,000 applicants on the Audit Apprenticeship Programme at KPMG, one of the top four Accountancy firms in the world!

Over the course of the five year apprenticeship Jahzeb will achieve a Level 7 ACA qualification, which is equivalent to a Master's degree as well as gaining invaluable on-the-job experience.

Jahzeb's role at KPMG requires him to assess and review the financial accounts of multi-billion pound clients. He says that his apprenticeship requires dedication and hard work and is a mix of good academic and interpersonal skills. There are many perks, in addition to a salary and his employer paying for his tuition fees Jahzeb says,



// I travel and see the world with clients abroad and across the UK. I am gaining priceless experience and endless exposure in the financial sector...the skills I am learning at such a young age are amazing. //

Jahzeb thanks the committed staff at Gateway College for the support he received when completing his application form and preparing for the three month, five stage application process. From subject teachers, personal tutors, administration staff and even the Vice Principal, he received guidance every step of the way to ensure his success.

// I had nothing to lose but everything to gain. Be proactive and don't think you're not clever enough to do it. If you have drive and passion anything is possible if you have the right mindset. //

Jahzeb aspires to successfully qualify in the accounting field and work towards financial freedom by creating multiple streams of income in the future.

We wish Jahzeb best of luck!

Student success stories in support of #NAW2020

#LookBeyond

 **Apprenticeships**
National Apprenticeship Week
3 to 9 February 2020

**FIRE
IT UP**



A

Gateway
COLLEGE

All visitors please
report to Reception



Reception



RECEPTION NO ENTRY NO ENTRY RECEPTION

