

# Fortnightly Newsletter

GATEACRE SCHOOL

30th January 2026



## Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come!

Welcome to our new-look bulletin, shaped directly by the feedback we have received from parents and carers.

You told us you wanted a clearer, richer picture of school life - and this edition is designed to do just that.

Inside, you will find key dates and attendance updates alongside a broader celebration of what makes our school community thrive: academic ambition, inclusive practice, enrichment beyond the timetable, and the everyday experiences of our students from Year 7 through to Sixth Form.

From curriculum highlights and Scholars in action to Breakfast Club, assemblies, and post-16 pathways, this bulletin captures the rhythm of learning and life across the school.

We hope this wider snapshot keeps you informed, connected, and proud of the journey we are taking together as a school community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership.

Enjoy this fortnight's newsletter!

**PRINCIPAL - MR N. JAMIL**

In this newsletter you can expect:

Attendance Update

Journey to the Bay of Naples

Sixth Form: Future Legal Minds

Curriculum Spotlight: Latin & Classics

Supporting Every Student to Succeed

Sports News

---

# Attendance: Every Day Matters

Attendance % (by the end of the school year)	Equals to number of <u>days</u> of missed learning	Equal to number of <u>weeks</u> of missed learning	Equals to number of <u>hours</u> of missed learning
100%	0	0	0
97%	5 days	1 week	25 hours
95%	10 days	2 weeks	50 hours
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 hours
85%	29 days	6 weeks (half a term)	150 hours
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 hours

Research is clear: consistent attendance is the secret ingredient for positive wellbeing, strong mental health, and better life earnings. By ensuring your child is in school every day, you are directly investing in their future. We would appreciate your support in making this term our most successful yet. Here is how we can work together:

## The Impact of Absence

The table above highlights how even a few days off can quickly add up to lost learning opportunities.

## Reporting an Absence: What You Need to Know

If your child is unwell or unable to attend, please let us know as early as possible so we can ensure they are safe.

- **The Deadline:** Please report all absences by 8:45 AM.
- **Option 1 (Best):** Use the Edulink One App. It's fast, secure, and the most efficient way to update us.
- **Option 2:** Call our Pastoral Administration Team on 0151 363 1111.

For frequent or long-term illness, we may request medical evidence to authorise the absence.

## Our Commitment to Safety

If a student is absent and we haven't heard from you, we treat this as a safeguarding priority.

To ensure your child is safe, our team may conduct a same-day home visit or contact external agencies if we cannot reach you. Communication is key to avoiding these steps!

## We Are Here to Help

We understand that every family's circumstances are unique, and we are committed to working with you to overcome any barriers to your child's education.

If you are facing challenges or would like to discuss what further support Gateacre can offer, please reach out to us. We are here to help.

Whether it's pastoral support or a simple chat about your circumstances, we want to work with you.

Let's talk: [attendance@gateacre.org](mailto:attendance@gateacre.org).

Together, we can ensure every student at Gateacre stays on track and feels supported.

---



## Scholars Spotlight: Journey to the Bay of Naples, July 2026

We are delighted to announce an inaugural opportunity for our KS3 Scholars: an immersive overseas educational expedition to the Bay of Naples in July 2026.

This four-day residency is far more than a sightseeing tour; it is a deep dive into the heart of the ancient world. Our scholars will stand in the shadows of Mount Vesuvius as they explore some of the most significant archaeological sites on the planet, including:

- **Pompeii & Herculaneum:** Walking the preserved streets of Roman cities frozen in time.
- **Paestum:** Home to some of the best-preserved ancient Greek temples in the world.
- **The Heart of Naples:** A guided cultural exploration of this vibrant, historic city.

### Bridging the Classroom and the Ancient World

This visit has been meticulously designed to bring the **KS3 Classical Civilisation and Latin** curriculum to life. By engaging directly with primary archaeological evidence, students won't just learn about history - they will experience it.

Through expert-led tours and hands-on field activities, our scholars will develop high-level skills in historical interpretation and critical thinking, gaining a profound understanding of how Greco-Roman culture continues to shape our modern world.

We look forward to seeing our Scholars embark on this memorable and academically rigorous journey - one that promises to be a defining highlight of their time at Gateacre.



## Warm Up Your Mornings at the Gateacre Breakfast Club!

As we settle back into the school routine following the Christmas break, the mornings have certainly taken a chilly turn. To help our students start their day on the right note, we are delighted to announce a new addition to our **Free Breakfast Club**.

Alongside our usual selection, we are now serving freshly made, hot porridge every morning with a variety of delicious toppings to choose from. It is the perfect way to warm up and fuel up before lessons begin!

## Join Us

### Why Choose Porridge?

Porridge isn't just a winter warmer; it's widely considered one of the best ways to start the day, especially for students. The benefits include:

- **Slow-Release Energy:** Unlike sugary cereals, porridge provides a steady release of energy, helping students stay focused and alert right through until lunchtime.
- **Brain Power:** Rich in complex carbohydrates and B vitamins, it supports cognitive function and concentration.
- **Immune Support:** Packed with essential minerals like zinc and iron, it helps keep those winter sniffles at bay.
- **Gut Health:** High in fibre, it's great for digestion and keeps you feeling fuller for longer.

The Breakfast Club is free for all students and runs every single day.

- **When:** Daily from 07:45 AM
- **Where:** School Restaurant
- **Cost:** Completely Free

We look forward to seeing you there for a warm bowl of porridge and a great start to the day!



---

# Future Legal Minds: Social Science Students Visit University of Liverpool



Our Social Science students took a significant step toward their futures during the first half of the Spring term with an enriching visit to the **University of Liverpool's School of Law & Social Justice**.

The day provided a real taste of the "High Achiever" experience, beginning with a sample lecture on Law that challenged students to think like undergraduates.

This was followed by a fascinating interactive seminar on contemporary research into **Dangerous Dogs and Dog Bites**, allowing our students to engage with real-world social and legal issues.

Beyond the classroom, the group explored the main university campus and attended a bespoke workshop on **UCAS applications**,



gaining vital advice on how to navigate the transition to university life and stand out in their personal statements.

This was an invaluable opportunity for our students to explore exciting career pathways and envision themselves in a higher education setting. As always, our students were impeccable ambassadors for Gateacre School.

Their conduct and engagement were so impressive that the university has extended a **standing invitation** for our students to attend all future events run by the School of Law & Social Justice.

Well done to everyone involved for representing our school with such distinction!



## Student Quote

*The trip to the School of Law and Social Justice was brilliant!*

*We got to experience lectures and seminars on interesting topics & studies, and I really enjoyed touring the campus, seeing the facilities and getting a feel for what it will be like as a student.*

*It was also good to hear about all the different combinations of courses that can be studied that are linked to law and social science.*

*I feel like I want to go to university even more now.*

---



## Inclusion at Gateacre School: Supporting Every Student to Succeed

At Gateacre School, inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. It shapes how we teach and how we build a calm, respectful culture where every child feels they belong, feels safe, and is supported to make strong progress. We hold high expectations for all our students, and we are clear that **SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) is never a barrier to ambition**. Instead, it is a call for us to work harder as a school community - removing obstacles, strengthening our teaching, and providing the right support so every student can experience success.

### Creating the Right Environment

Inclusion at Gateacre is visible in our day-to-day routines. We know that many students thrive when they know what to expect, so our classrooms are calm and purposeful with consistent lesson structures.

This predictability helps students feel secure and ready to learn.

Our staff use practical strategies to keep students engaged, breaking down complex tasks into manageable steps so that everyone can approach challenging subjects with confidence.

### Celebrating External Recognition

We recently welcomed an external SEND Consultant to review our progress, and their feedback was incredibly encouraging. They highlighted several key strengths:

- **Consistency:** Our uniform lesson structures across the school help reduce anxiety for students who rely on routine.
- **Practical Tools:** The use of visual timers, "visualisers," and specially designed worksheets was praised for helping students with SEND access learning more independently.
- **Expert Support:** Our intervention specialists were recognised for their focused sessions that target individual student needs.

Most importantly, the review found that in every lesson observed, students with additional needs were actively learning alongside their peers. This reflects our deep commitment to making sure the right adjustments are made within the mainstream classroom.

### The Student Voice

Our students' experience matters most. In recent feedback, students shared that they enjoy coming to school and feel well-supported in their lessons. When children feel safe and valued, they are more likely to attend regularly and achieve their very best.

### Looking Ahead: A Partnership with Families

Inclusion is not just a school initiative; it is a promise. Moving forward, we will continue to refine our support systems and develop our staff's expertise.

However, inclusion works best when school and families work in partnership. To support this, we have two key opportunities for you to get involved:

**1. SEND Surgeries:** We continue to host dedicated surgery sessions. Details on how to use our appointment system will be shared with you shortly.

**2. Parent Coffee Morning:** We are planning a relaxed coffee morning featuring external professionals, giving you direct access to expert advice and guidance.

We look forward to working closely with you to ensure your child leaves Gateacre with confidence, high aspirations, and a clear path to a bright future.





## Curriculum Spotlight: Latin & Classics

Following the recent curriculum and assessment review by Professor Becky Francis, the national educational landscape is shifting.

The review highlights a vital truth: schools must have the flexibility to innovate and go beyond the "aspirational entitlement" of the national curriculum to meet local needs.

At Gateacre School, we have long championed this vision. We believe our students deserve a curriculum that is not only academic and demanding but also reflective of the excellence they are capable of - irrespective of their background.

### Breaking the "Privilege" Barrier

This year, we are proud to have broadened our horizons with the formal introduction of **Latin and Classics at Key Stage 3**.

For generations, a classical education was often viewed as a preserve of the few. However, a modern revival is underway in the nation's leading state schools.

Research consistently shows that classical subjects:

- **Raise Aspirations:** Connecting students to the foundations of Western thought.

- **Boost Literacy:** Providing a rigorous, structured approach to grammar and vocabulary.
- **Enhance Language Skills:** Building a powerful foundation for learning Modern Foreign Languages.

### Levelling the Playing Field

Beyond the classroom, a qualification in Latin or Classical Civilisation is a powerful asset.

It allows our students to compete on equal footing with peers from private and grammar school backgrounds when applying for elite universities and competitive professions.

Yet, the benefits are immediate. Latin and Classics have quickly become our most inclusive subjects. Because every student begins their journey at the exact same starting point, prior attainment is no barrier to success.

As our students engage with the timeless tales of gods and goddesses, senates and soldiers, they are doing more than reading history - they are building the cultural capital and critical thinking skills that will improve their life chances for years to come.

---

# Sports News



## Football: Success Across the Board

It has been a high-scoring period for our football squads:

- **Echo Shield Success:** The Year 9 team advanced to the next round with a dominant **4-2 victory over Calderstones.**
  - o Man of the Match: **Anthony K**
- **9B Squad:** Secured a thrilling **3-2 win against Manchester Grammar**, featuring two goals from **Jack G** and a dramatic extra-time winner by **Abdul A.**
- **Year 7A Debut:** Our youngest squad played their first game of the year. While the competition was tough, **Ethan B** was named Player of the Match for an unbelievable series of saves in goal.



## Rowing: Regional Champions

Gateacre continues to dominate on the water!

- **Regional Relay:** Huge congratulations to both the Year 8 Boys' and Girls' teams, who both finished 1st Place in the regional relay race.
- **London Bound:** A special shout-out to Evie O'D, who finished 6th out of 157 competitors, qualifying her for the prestigious London Rowing Championships.
- **Runcorn Regional:** Kudos to Harry G (2nd) and Mason B (3rd) for their podium finishes!



## Basketball: Season Tip-Off

The Year 7 Boys have officially started their league journey.

Despite a hard-fought opening game against Wirral Grammar that ended in defeat, the team showed great promise.

**Ethan B** led the scoring and currently sits as our top points-scorer for the season.

## Indoor Athletics: County Bound!

Our Year 7 and 8 athletes headed to the Liverpool city-wide competition to test their speed and stamina.

- **Year 7 Girls:** A sensational performance! Out of 15 schools, our girls secured 3rd Place, officially qualifying for the next round of the indoor competition.
- **Year 7 Boys:** Showed incredible heart to finish 5th, narrowly missing out on a County spot by the smallest of margins.
- **Year 8 Boys & Girls:** Both teams put up a fierce fight, with the Year 8 girls claiming a fantastic 3rd place in the 4 x 2 lap relay.