



## Headteacher's Newsletter

### Summer Term

17<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the summer term draws to a close I reflect back on what again has been a difficult term and year for all our community particularly with regard to school closures. However, our community certainly rose to the challenge and I thank you again for your support.

On a more positive note, during this year and directly this term, we have seen the return of school trips from France and Belgium, London and around the country in the Tall Ships Expedition. We once again can welcome this wider experience to school life, that was lost during the Covid pandemic and we look forward to further trips that are planned for the next academic year.

In addition, numerous experiences here within school have also enriched all that have been involved. The school production of Frozen, the Art Exhibition and the reintroduction of bands nights. All of these events supplement and enrich our school experience and offer opportunities that in recent years we were unable to provide due to Covid restrictions.

In recent weeks we welcomed our future Year 6 students to a creative and activity led day that gave them all a flavour of what Gateacre School offers to those lucky 255 students who have managed to secure a place here in September. Gateacre School is now one of the most first preference schools across Liverpool with a growing waiting list and increasing number of appeals from parents/carers to gain a place. This is a position this school has not been in for some time and it is down to several factors: the dedicated, hard work of staff, the recognition from parent and carers of these efforts and the guided support from our 42 different primary schools across the City. May I thank you all for placing us in this wonderful position.

With that in mind, we are now reintroducing, from September, the 'Home School Agreement' that was in place before the Covid pandemic. This will be sent out to you via Edulink-One and it is available for you to sign now and will close on the 8<sup>th</sup> September, then click on the link below.

- Home School Agreement can be found [here](#)

Part of the Home School Agreement is attendance. School attendance will become statutory from September 2023 and as always is our whole school priority. Attendance will be scrutinised, both at local authority level and at national level for all schools in England. As part of the drive to improve school attendance, Gateacre School has employed its first Attendance Officer.



Mrs McIntyre will contact you if we feel that your son/daughter's attendance is not where it should be or if we feel that it may become a concern in the near future.

- Further information around DfE statutory implications on attendance can be found [here](#).
- Further information regarding Gateacre School and our attendance policy can be found [here](#)

Uniform is similarly important and also part of the Gateacre Way. In preparation for September please view the relevant uniform page of our website, to avoid any discrepancies. In September blazers should be worn once again whilst outdoor coats removed when entering the building.

- Details regarding correct uniform for September may be found [here](#)

Prior to Christmas I wrote to you regarding changes to the length of the school week. Gateacre School does **not** currently operate a 32.5-hour week. In order to meet this requirement from **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September, Gateacre School will increase the length of the school day from 3:05 to 3:20.**

As the number of young people attending Gateacre School has increased during the year and will continue to do so from September 2023, I am mindful of how we as a growing community communicate effectively with each other. Access to school and school staff is a priority for us all, however, I am aware that with this growing number of young people places pressures on school colleagues for responses that on occasions are unachievable. Therefore, I am sharing with you the communication guidelines that Gateacre School will operate from September.

- The School Reception is staffed between the core hours of 8.00am - 4.30pm. Outside and within these hours there is a facility to email the school on [admin@gateacre.org](mailto:admin@gateacre.org)
- Phone calls will be returned within 2 working days of parents/carers call.
- Replies to emails will be returned within 2 working days of receipt.
- Acknowledgement of a written letter will be within 2 working days of receipt.
- Communication sent at weekends will not be dealt with until the following working week.
- Emails sent during holidays will receive no reply until term-time.



On occasions when teaching colleagues have been unable to communicate with yourselves during the working day, due to their teaching commitment, some of our community, albeit a very small minority, have communicated with school colleagues in an unprofessional and unpleasant manner resorting to abusive and rude language and behaviour. This is not acceptable and on occasions such as those, should not ever occur. The Parent Code of Conduct identifies the procedure.

- Please find the Parent Code of Conduct document [here](#)

Earlier in June many of you received unauthorised communication from school in the form of messages regarding the addition of behaviour points, detentions and the setting up of extracurricular activities in the form of clubs. At the time I informed you of what the school did in response to those; informing the necessary authorities including the Local Authority, Police and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). After consideration of the case the ICO felt that they did not need to take any formal regulatory action due to the nature and seriousness of the breach and the action taken by the school at that time. I can confirm police investigation has concluded and the necessary actions have been taken.

As the return to school will come very quickly, may I take this opportunity to give you details for September.

**All students return to school on  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at the following times:**

Year Group	Arrival time	Assembly Time	Notes
Year 7	08:40	08:45 – 09:15	Students to return to form room after assembly
Year 8	09:15	09:20 – 09:50	Students to return to form room after assembly
Year 9	09:50	09:55 – 10:35	Students to return to form room after assembly
<b>Year 11</b>	<b>11:15</b>	<b>11:20 – 11:50</b>	Students to go to form room before assembly
Year 10	10:35	10:40 – 11:10	Students to return to form room after assembly
Year 13	12:00	12:00	Students go straight to assembly
<b>Year 12 students to arrive at school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 08:40</b>			
<b>All taught lessons will start Period 3 at 11:50</b>			



We are saying goodbye to a number of colleagues who have been with us for a number of years. May I and all Gateacre School colleagues wish them well in the future as they pursue a variety of different avenues and thank them for their dedication and commitment to Gateacre School.

Ms Chapman	Deputy Headteacher
Mr McCallum	Mathematics
Ms Bloxam	Mathematics
Mr Arroyo-Carcel	Mathematics
Mr Fairclough	History
Mr Pollitt-Clay	History
Mr Walker	Technology
Ms Morgan	Physical Education
Ms Cheng	Inclusion
Ms Putinja	Inclusion

Similarly, may I extend a welcome to incoming colleagues in September as they continue or embark with their careers here in Gateacre School.

Mr Boughey	Inclusion
Ms Harrison	Inclusion
Mr Davies	History
Mr Philips	History
Ms Simpson	Mathematics
Mr Pennington	Mathematics
Mr Wood	Technology
Ms Burns	Physical Education

School will close to all students at **12:30 on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023**. Could you make the necessary arrangements to meet you son or daughter at this earlier time or can you ensure that they make their way home safely.



On a final celebratory note, Ms Chapman joined Gateacre School in 2013 and has been committed to serving the Gateacre Community from that date. She has dedicated those years to the students and staff who have entered these doors and will be hugely missed for many reasons. Students and staff alike will miss the warmth of her smile and the support she provides for all of our young people. May I take this opportunity to thank her for her continued support and determination to see our community thrive and succeed. As with all these things, there are better people than me to sum these things up; *“teachers reach deep inside their students and find their hidden strengths. They never give up on students and believe passionately in their futures. Now is the time to enjoy your future. Enjoy retired life”!* This very much encapsulates what Ms Chapman does for the teaching profession. Thank, you Cath for all that you have done.

Finally, may I wish you all a warm, restful and enjoyable summer holiday whatever your plans may be. See you all in September.

Yours faithfully,

Gareth Jones