

## A Warm Welcome to The Gateway

Dear Year 7 Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are all well?

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you all back to President Kennedy school in September, and into The Gateway, where you will begin the next stage of your school career.

I would like to take this opportunity to also reassure you that The Gateway team will all be here to support you in your transition back into school. To help reassure you further, we have asked our current Student Council to create a 'transition newsletter' in order to communicate *what it is like to be a Year 8 student* to our current Year 7s. This will provide you with some information that you will hopefully find helpful in preparation for September.

There will be further correspondence over the summer break, but for now, if you require any further clarification or information then please email: [gateway@pks.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:gateway@pks.coventry.sch.uk).

We wish you a restful summer break and we look forward to seeing our new Year 8 students on our induction day on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September**.

Kind Regards,

Mrs L Harris

Director of The Gateway

## The Gateway Leadership Team



Mrs L Harris is the College Director in The Gateway. My role is to oversee the provision and performance within The Gateway, ensuring that every student achieves their potential and demonstrates outstanding character in everything they do. I ensure that high standards are maintained in every aspect of school life.



Mrs D Bram is the Teaching, Learning and Progress Leader in The Gateway. My role involves making sure that all Year 8 students are make progress within their learning. I liaise with all departments and the College Director to ensure Year 8 students experience an enriching curriculum which supports and stretches their learning.



Miss K Sandhar is the Pastoral Leader in The Gateway. My main responsibility is to ensure that every student is fully prepared for their learning and I work closely with families to ensure that the student's welfare is of paramount importance.



Mrs R Murray is the Primary Liaison and the Leader of Literacy & Numeracy in The Gateway. I work with some primary students to support them transitioning into secondary education. I also ensure that our students in Year 8 have appropriate learning interventions to support their learning.



Miss C Cordner is the Learning Mentor in The Gateway. I make sure that all students are settled, happy and ready to begin their school day. I also work with targeted students on different strategies to support their learning and welfare.

## Hearing from The Gateway's Student Council: Class of 2020



“Throughout my time in The Gateway, I have learned many valuable skills that I use daily. One of these skills, is key to success in any area and it may at first sound rather cliché but having confidence and believing in yourself is vital to thriving not only as a student, but as an adult too. I have demonstrated this confidence in several forms over the past year. For example, I took part in an international book quiz which was a prestigious chance that I found incredibly beneficial as well as taking part in another reading quiz within Coventry and coming 2nd. At the beginning of the year, I also presented a speech during assembly applying for Student Council, this speech helped me to further my public speaking skills, confidence, and presentation skills. In year 8 there are several public speaking opportunities to participate in, I have presented to my year group several times and it has been fantastic.” (Gracie Rolinson, 8JL)

“There are some great opportunities in The Gateway, one of my highlights has to be volunteering at the school, particularly the Langar Aid event. The school put on a community feed to celebrate the 550<sup>th</sup> birthday of Guru Nanak. The school canteen area was transformed into a place of smiles and tranquillity. Later in the year, myself and a few other volunteers delivered a speech about our wonderful experience of the Langar Aid event for the Celebration Assembly. I had never done a speech in front of a whole year group before so I felt quite anxious, but The Gateway Team supported me by helping me to practice and by the time my moment came I was ready! Reading my speech out to everyone really boosted my confidence and made me grow as a person by allowing me to express my opinion.” (Stefanie Gazova, 8EA)



“I can guarantee that year 8 is a wonderful place to be. You will soon find yourself trying out a cluster of clubs, especially since The Gateway students are able to explore more of the school. As well as clubs, The Gateway staff offer many other experiences such as the Ivy League where many High Attaining students can enjoy after school activities. Other than the Ivy League, The Gateway takes part in charity work, supporting charities such as Langar Aid who serve the homeless, the vulnerable and those struggling with poverty in the UK. Year 8 has many wonders and has truly been a delightful experience for me and many others, I hope the new Year 8 students will find the same joy as I did.” (Nihal Poonia, 8JT)



“I have had lots of opportunities in The Gateway to meet new people and develop skills such as confidence, team work, public speaking, creativity and organisation. Over the year, I have taken part in the Langar Aid event, the Christmas tree competition, and given a speech in the Celebration Assembly. My advice to the new Gateway students would be to try new things, be organised and don't be nervous! All in all, Year 8 has been a wonderful experience for me!” (Carter Wilkinson, 8JG)

### FAQs: answered by The Gateway's Student Council

#### How is the The Gateway lunch time different to The Bridge?

One of the best things about being in Year 8 is that now you are more mature and you are able to access the tennis courts, the whole school canteen, the library and the field as well as your heart space. You can also use these spaces at lunchtime, or if you prefer, you can just stay in the Year 8 heart space for lunch with your friends and play some board games or card games.

#### Will I get more homework?

You might feel like you are getting more homework in The Gateway, but it always seems like a lot more when you have had 6 weeks off for the summer! If you stay organised and on top of your homework then you will be fine! The Gateway also offers Homework Club twice a week so you can get all your work done and then chill out when you are home.

#### What opportunities will I have in the Gateway?

The Gateway loves to provide their students with as many opportunities as possible. Some of the opportunities that The Gateway Class of 2020 took part in were: The Ivy League, STEM opportunities, English opportunities such as book pitches, theatre trips, writing competitions and book quizzes. Along with charity events such as Langar Aid, Christmas boxes for less fortunate children, and many cake and sweet sales! The Gateway are also a competitive year group who like to win everything! We all had plenty of fun taking part in the 'PK Christmas tree decorating competition' and the Tutor Competition.

**The school will continue to follow government guidelines in September. Some opportunities to the Gateway Class of 2021 may differ to last year due to the current Health and Safety regulations.**

#### What equipment will I need to bring in to school?

Your Gateway 5 are similar to your Bridge 5: pen, pencil, reading book, dictionary, literacy journal and The Gateway planner. You will be given a Gateway Planner on the first day of Year 8 in September which you need to look after. If you have lost your dictionary, pens or

pencils then you will need to buy a new one. You will not need to bring in your P.E kit on the first day of school, but you will be expected to bring it with you for future lessons once you receive a new timetable in September.

**How many Project rotations are there in year 8?**

There are 7 Project rotations throughout the year. However, you do not complete a Project 3 in year 8 or Drama, instead you have a rotation where you do IT, STEM, Design and Technology, Art or Music as a Project 2. Project 1 involves Religious Studies, Geography and History.

**The Student Council’s Review on Enrichment Opportunities**

**Taming of the Shrew Theatre Trip**

“‘Taming of the Shrew’ is a Shakespearean play that some students will study in English. We were given an opportunity to see the play at the Royal Nottingham theatre. Personally, I would advise you to take advantage of this phenomenal opportunity if it is offered again as it will deepen your understanding of the topic as you will be able to further explore the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the manner in which the play was conducted. Furthermore, attending the play will promote your understanding of William Shakespeare and will aid you in empathising with characters’ emotions. Consequently, the actors perform flawlessly which further adds to the experience of being in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. From watching the play on a stage, I was able to learn about: the social boundaries, entertainment and themes which existed. Moreover, this play assisted me in understanding how Shakespeare challenged social boundaries which further improved my contextual knowledge of Shakespearean plays. In conclusion, I would highly advice you to go and watch this play as it was very entertaining and widen my understanding of the theatre as well as Shakespearean plays.” (Nihal Poonia)

**Langar Aid**

“The Langar Aid experience was amazing! It was wonderful to meet new people and mix with other students that I wouldn’t normally mix with. It was my job to greet people and make them feel welcome. I felt very proud of myself.” (Carter Wilkinson)



**Lunchtime Clubs**

“At lunchtime there are many things you can do. A club that was new to The Gateway this year was the games room. In this club you can play a selection of board games which will increase your problem-solving skills and will allow you to talk to and mix with other students. I’ve had some great lunchtimes full of laughter because of this club.” (Amanjot Singh)

**STEM club**

“I have been a valuable member of STEM club for 2 years now. Whether I was building robots, learning how to arrange the periodic table, or constructing a da Vinci bridge in the middle of Coventry Cathedral, it was always a brilliant and unforgettable experience!” (Gracie Rolinson)