

Issue: 6

Date: 17/7/2026

The GLC Parent Newsletter



Message
from CEO



GLC Events



Communication



GLC Vacancies



Marketing



As we draw to the close of what has truly been an exceptional year at the GLC, I've had the pleasure of reflecting on our many achievements and the positive contribution we've made to our community. I am immensely proud of how we've continued to collectively brought our motto to life: "All Different: All Equal Together, Improving Upon Our Best."

It is an absolute privilege to work with such a talented, compassionate, and aspirational group of young people, dedicated staff, supportive parents and insightful, committed governors, and directors. We are also incredibly grateful for our partners, whose diverse perspectives consistently enhance and enrich our offer. This year we have particularly enjoyed working with Back on Track as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund and with Onside, as they prepare to open in the next academic year.

Celebrating Academic Excellence

Across the GLC, our primary results continue to be very strong, with all results above the national average. Our phonics outcomes all exceed the national average, and our times tables test results are at least double the national average!



At Key Stage 2, we are absolutely delighted with all our results. Reading, a key area of focus for us, has seen significant improvement, with 80% of our pupils transitioning to secondary school as confident readers who read for both knowledge and pleasure. While these are fantastic results, we still aspire to inspire *all* our children to become avid readers. So, please do continue to read to them and encourage them to read over

the summer – it not only widens their vocabulary but also contributes significantly to their happiness and well-being.

Furthermore, we are especially pleased to announce that our Greater Depth results are also a strength in many areas. These pupils are now on a strong trajectory to achieve grades 7, 8, and 9 when they sit their GCSEs – a truly remarkable achievement!

These achievements are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our pupils and staff and the support and encouragement of parents and carers.



Nurturing Talents and Community Spirit

Beyond the excellent academic results, what truly makes the GLC special is the amazing range of opportunities our children and young people have. These experiences enable them to develop our core values, discover their unique talents and skills, and ultimately become active and thriving citizens. This is as a result of our entire community collaborating on plans, policies, performances, and events throughout the year. We're currently working on our fourth video to showcase a selection of these highlights, which we look forward to sharing with you in September.



Our Valued Team

At the end of the year, we bid farewell to a few valued members of staff. Some are moving on to well-deserved promotions, while others are relocating or taking on new opportunities. We wish them every success in their future and know they'll remain part of the GLC family. We've also been delighted to welcome some new staff recently, and have a couple more joining us in September, ensuring we are fully staffed across the GLC. I'm incredibly excited to see what next year brings for our community!

Thank You

Last but certainly not least, I want to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude for your continued support. It is truly appreciated.

Wishing you all a very happy and restful summer holiday!

Please do scroll to the end of this newsletter for some fantastic opportunities for you and your children to enjoy during the break.



Have a nice summer!



We received some wonderful feedback from Megan Prigmore, Lower Thames Crossing.

"I just wanted to drop you a message whilst I remember! I attended an event today for Onside Youth Zone Thames Gateway where 3 of your students presented."

Elwen, Abbie and Eliza from Year 9 spoke at the event to a group of approx. 30+ attendees which included local businesses, MP's and charities. They each spoke so clearly, in a confident manner that outshone their years, they really done themselves and the school proud!"





Year 6 Visit to the Thurrock Drama Festival

On Wednesday 3rd June, Year 6 pupils enjoyed a visit to the Thurrock Drama Festival at the Thameside Theatre, hosted by the Royal Ballet and Opera.

The children experienced a morning of inspiring live performances, gaining a valuable insight into the world of theatre and drama. The visit supported their understanding of performance and provided inspiration for the musical productions they are currently working on in school.

We were extremely proud of how well the children represented our school and the enthusiasm they showed throughout the event.





Spanish Food Tasting

Year 5 pupils across the trust took part in a Spanish food tasting activity during their Spanish lessons, a fun and engaging way to bring Spanish language and culture to life.

They explored a range of traditional Spanish foods, including chorizo, tortilla española (Spanish omelette), pan con aceite (bread with olive oil), magdalenas (traditional Spanish cakes), and the infamous olives!

Throughout the activity, pupils practised their Spanish manners and language skills by asking for more food, giving their opinions, and using expressions such as *¡Qué asco!* ("How disgusting!") and *¡Qué rico!* ("How delicious!").

The clear favourite was the magdalenas, with many pupils finishing the lesson saying, "Mmmm... *¡Qué rico, me encantó!*" ("Mmm... Delicious, I loved it!").



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Windrush Celebration

The Community Windrush Celebration on 23 June was a vibrant afternoon celebrating the rich heritage of the Windrush generation and 75 years of steel pan culture. The event brought the community together through inspiring performances, students from The Gateway Learning Community (GLC) schools, Woodside Academy, Tilbury Port, Bumps, Birth and Beyond, and the Thurrock Steel Orchestra. Through music, storytelling and creativity, the celebration honoured the lasting cultural legacy of the Windrush generation while showcasing the power of music and community to bring people of all ages together.





#WeWill

Summer Arts Festival 2026

The Gateway Learning Community Summer Arts Festival was a wonderful celebration of creativity, talent and achievement, showcasing the fantastic work our children have produced throughout the year. Families enjoyed a varied programme of performances, including inspiring pieces from the Choir, energetic rhythms from GLC Bloco, expressive poetry recitals, Modern Foreign Languages songs and poetry, and a selection of outstanding dances from the GA Annual Dance Show. The festival highlighted the enthusiasm, confidence and artistic talents of our students, celebrating the rich and vibrant arts culture across our learning community.





Residential Trip to Stubbers

The year 6 children and staff had an amazing time on their residential trip. Children had the opportunity to raft build (and sail), climb, bell boat, laser tag or archery combat, bushcraft, team games. They also got to camp out and become independent. Everyone was impeccably behaved (the children) and very tired (the teachers) after such a fun-filled weekend. If any Year 5 children are considering going next year, we would strongly recommend signing up before the deadline closes.





#WeWill

Thurrock Infant Music Festival

On Monday 6th July, Year 2 pupils took part in the Thurrock Infant Music Festival. The children proudly showcased the songs they had been learning over the past few weeks alongside pupils from other schools across Thurrock.

As part of the festival, Year 2 performed sharing an inspiring message of kindness, acceptance and inclusion, reflecting the values of the GLC. The children sang with enthusiasm and confidence, representing the GLC brilliantly throughout the performance. We are incredibly proud of all the pupils for their hard work, dedication and outstanding behaviour. It was a fantastic celebration of music, teamwork and community, and a memorable experience for everyone involved.





#WeWill

Thurrock Junior Music Festival

Pupils from across The Gateway Learning Community were proud to take part in this year's Thurrock Junior Music Festival, showcasing their talents as members of both the choir and the Bloco percussion ensemble. Performing alongside children from schools across the borough, they demonstrated outstanding musical ability, enthusiasm and teamwork. Their hard work and dedication were evident throughout the performances, making it a memorable celebration of music and creativity. We are incredibly proud of all the children who represented The Gateway Learning Community so brilliantly.





#WeWill

Year 6 Musicals - The Greatest Show

What an incredible way to round off the year! Our Year 6 pupils across The Gateway Learning Community have now all performed The Greatest Show to fellow pupils and proud families. The performances have been a wonderful celebration of their talent, confidence and teamwork, and every child should be immensely proud of what they have achieved.

Over the past few weeks, the children have shown outstanding commitment, working hard to learn their lines, songs and choreography while supporting one another every step of the way. Their enthusiasm, resilience and dedication have shone through, making each performance of The Greatest Show a memorable occasion for everyone who watched.





Environment Project

This term, photography students visited a local garden centre to capture macro photographs for their Environment Project. They produced some outstanding work, exploring a variety of subjects and techniques to create a diverse and engaging collection of images. The visit provided an excellent opportunity to develop their close-up photography skills while observing the intricate details found in the natural environment.



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Trip to Hunger Games on Stage

The GA drama students enjoyed an exciting trip to see the stage production of The Hunger Games: On Stage, this term. The performance brought the popular story to life through impressive staging, powerful acting, and creative special effects. Students were inspired by the production's innovative use of theatre techniques and gained valuable insight into how a well-known novel can be adapted for the stage. The trip was both entertaining and educational, providing a memorable experience for everyone who attended.



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Masterclass - Gateway Learners Explore Animal Psychology

On Monday 15 June, 35 of our more able students took part in an engaging and intellectually challenging masterclass on Animal Psychology, delivered by former Gateway Academy student Abiaz Afzal, who is currently in his fifth year studying Medicine at the University of Cambridge.

The session provided students with a fascinating insight into an area of study far beyond the scope of the secondary school curriculum. Drawing upon concepts typically encountered at university level, Abiaz introduced students to key theories and research surrounding animal behaviour, cognition and decision-making, encouraging them to think critically about how animals perceive and interact with the world around them.

Throughout the masterclass, students explored complex psychological concepts, examined real-world research studies and discussed the implications of animal intelligence and behaviour. The session challenged students to develop their analytical thinking skills and demonstrated how scientific research can be applied to answer important questions about the natural world.

As a former Gateway student, Abiaz was also able to share his own academic journey, offering valuable insight into studying at one of the world's leading universities and inspiring students to aim high in their own educational aspirations.

The masterclass forms part of Gateway's commitment to providing enriching opportunities for our more able learners, exposing them to university-level thinking and broadening their understanding beyond the classroom curriculum.

We would like to thank Abiaz for giving his time to support our students and for delivering such an informative and thought-provoking session.



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Year 11 Graduation

The Gateway Academy's Year 11 Graduation Ceremony was a memorable occasion celebrating the hard work, resilience, and achievements of our students as they reached an important milestone in their educational journey. Surrounded by family, friends, and staff, students reflected on their experiences, celebrated their successes, and looked ahead to exciting new opportunities. The event was filled with pride, inspiration, and recognition of the dedication shown by the Year 11 cohort, making it a fitting farewell as they prepare for the next chapter of their lives.



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Year 10 - From Starch to Pasta

The Year 10 students have successfully made pasta from starch and prepared a pasta sauce from scratch, demonstrating their understanding of how raw ingredients can be transformed through practical processes. By working through each stage, they explored the science behind starch and its role in creating dough, while also developing an appreciation of how fresh ingredients can be combined to create a balanced and flavourful sauce. This hands-on experience helped them develop their technical skills and confidence in the kitchen, allowing them to connect theory with practice while producing a tangible and rewarding final product.



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Year 11 Prom

The Year 11 Prom at Orsett Hall was a wonderful evening and the perfect way to celebrate the end of an important chapter. Students arrived dressed to impress, enjoying a memorable night with friends, music, dancing, and laughter in the beautiful surroundings of the venue. It was a fantastic opportunity to reflect on their time at school, celebrate their achievements, and create lasting memories before beginning their next exciting journey.



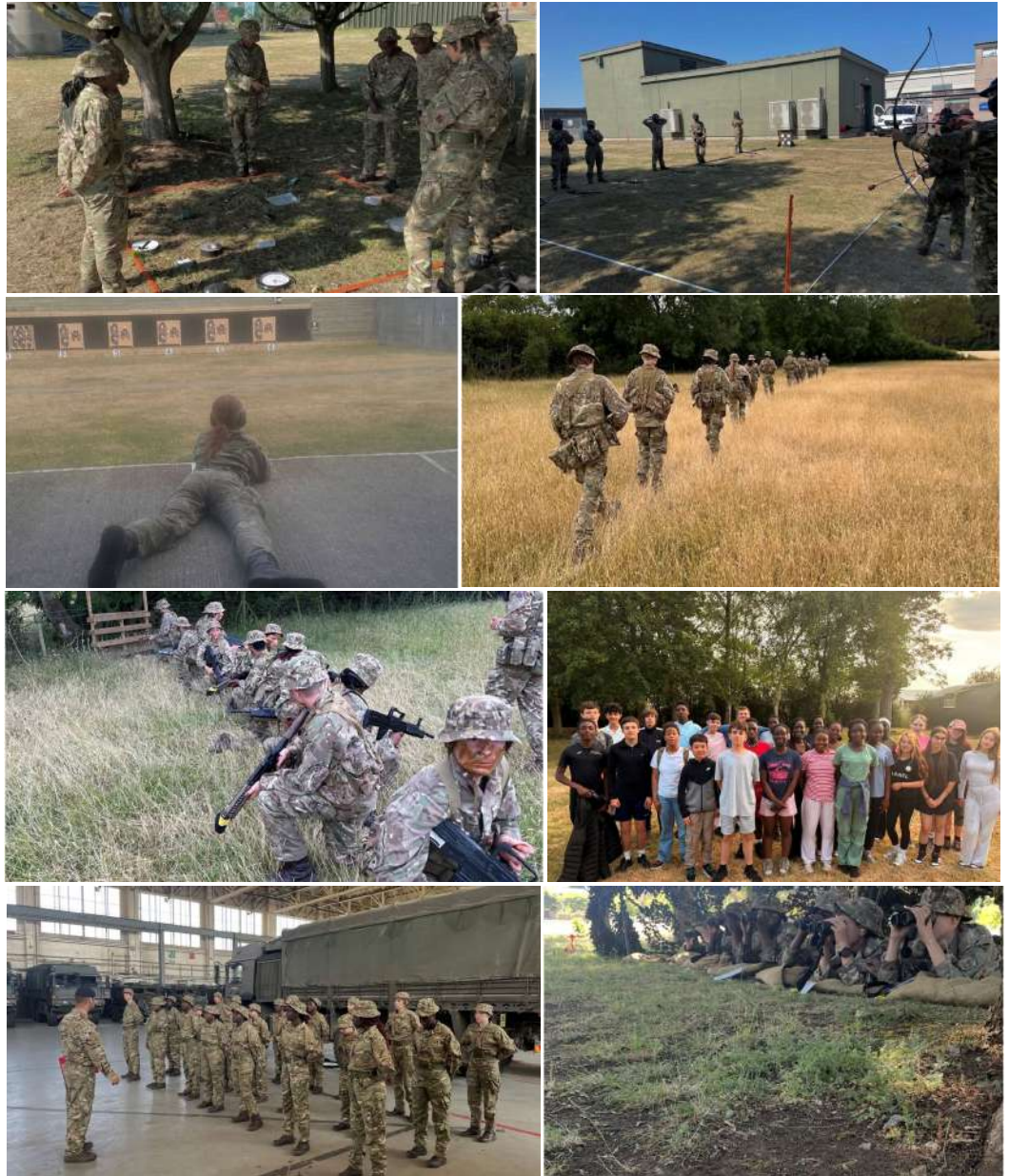
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Cadets Visit

Our cadets have enjoyed a busy and rewarding day, competing alongside more than 400 fellow cadets in a range of challenging and exciting activities.

Throughout the day, they demonstrated teamwork, determination, and resilience as they took part in drill, archery, problem-solving exercises, command tasks, and shooting competitions. It was a fantastic opportunity to develop new skills, build confidence, and represent the unit with pride.

Well done to all of our cadets for their enthusiasm and commitment throughout the event.



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The Gateway Academy, Inspiring the Community

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Christian Gould • 2nd
 Managing Director of Blossom, a social media and content agency...
 6d •

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Felt so inspired yesterday after interviewing some exceptional people in Tilbury for a series of films on behalf of [Thames Freeport](#). TF support so many amazing initiatives across Thurrock, Havering and Barking & Dagenham, making a huge difference to local people and their communities.

Supporting scholarship students through The Gateway Learning Community, the Headstart to Employment programme from One Community Trust, providing apprenticeships and training via SEATS for local SMEs and extending opening hours for Tilbury Library.

Films coming soon ' [Blossom Agency](#) [Alison Young](#) [MCIEx](#) [Beatriz Romão](#) [David Zeffie Samson](#) [O. The Gateway Learning Community](#) [Clare Leese](#) [Ruby Stalley](#) [Thurrock Council](#) [CWT](#) [Commodity Logistics UK Ltd](#)






Gateway Academy Sports Success

This year has been one of the most successful in our school's sporting history, with pupils achieving outstanding results across a range of competitions and demonstrating the dedication, commitment, and resilience that underpin our sporting culture. One of the standout achievements came in athletics, where all four of our ESAA athletics teams qualified for the Regional Finals. This marks the first time in the school's history that every team has reached this stage of the competition, a fantastic accomplishment and a testament to the hard work of both our athletes and coaching staff.

Our success continued at district and county level, with eight pupils selected to represent the district at the County Athletics Championships. Competing against some of the very best young athletes in Essex, our students performed exceptionally well. Tobi Salman secured an outstanding second-place finish, achieving the national qualifying standard and earning selection to represent Essex at the prestigious English Schools' Athletics Championships. This is a remarkable achievement and one that reflects Tobi's dedication and talent.

Further success came from Kimani Babatunde, who produced an excellent performance to finish fourth in the Discus competition. It was inspiring to see all of our athletes competing with confidence and determination at such a high level. We are also delighted to report that, following the recent District Athletics event, we were crowned champions for the fourth consecutive year. The margin of victory was particularly impressive, with our pupils amassing an outstanding 540 points, compared to 397 points achieved by the next highest placed school, making this our largest winning margin to date. This incredible achievement is once again a testament to the hard work, commitment and dedication of both our pupils and staff. Particularly pleasing were our performances across the field and technical events, which are a clear reflection of the significant time, effort and focus that has been invested in developing these areas. A fantastic achievement and one that everyone involved should be extremely proud of.

Away from the athletics track, our basketball programme continues to flourish. The Year 7 girls' team enjoyed a superb season, reaching the Junior NBA Finals, which will take place at the University of East London. Their achievement highlights the growing strength of basketball within the school and the exciting opportunities available to our young athletes.

These successes are a reflection of the hard work, commitment, and positive attitude shown by our pupils throughout the year. They should also serve as inspiration for all students as we look ahead to next season. With continued dedication and ambition, we are excited to see our sporting achievements reach even greater heights in the year to come.



100% Club

The Gateway Primary Free School 100% Club celebrates and rewards pupils who achieve 100% attendance throughout the half term. As a special treat, these children take part in a fun activity on the last day of term, recognising their commitment to excellent attendance and punctuality. During Summer 1, pupils enjoyed an exciting water fight, which was a huge success and provided lots of laughter and memorable moments.



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Eco Community Fest

Despite the forecast of poor weather, the Gateway Primary Free School Eco Community Fest was a fantastic success and spirits were not dampened. The event was moved indoors, where each year group transformed their classrooms into vibrant stalls showcasing and selling their eco-themed creations. Families enjoyed a variety of games and activities organised by the pupils, creating a fun and welcoming atmosphere throughout the school. The event was further enriched by community partners who joined us to inform, entertain, and offer a range of products and services to our families. It was a wonderful celebration of creativity, sustainability, and community spirit.



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Year 3 Visit to Hyde Hall

Year 3 enjoyed an exciting educational visit to Hyde Hall, where they had the opportunity to explore the beautiful gardens and learn more about plants, habitats, and the natural environment. Throughout the day, the children took part in engaging activities that brought their classroom learning to life and encouraged them to develop a greater appreciation for nature. They represented the school brilliantly, showing enthusiasm, curiosity, and excellent behaviour throughout the visit.



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Year 2 Trip to Colchester Zoo

Year 2 enjoyed an exciting educational visit to Colchester Zoo, where they had the opportunity to see a wide variety of animals from around the world. The trip helped bring their learning to life as they explored different habitats, discovered interesting animal facts, and developed a greater understanding of wildlife and conservation. The children were enthusiastic and engaged throughout the day, making it a memorable and enjoyable learning experience for all.

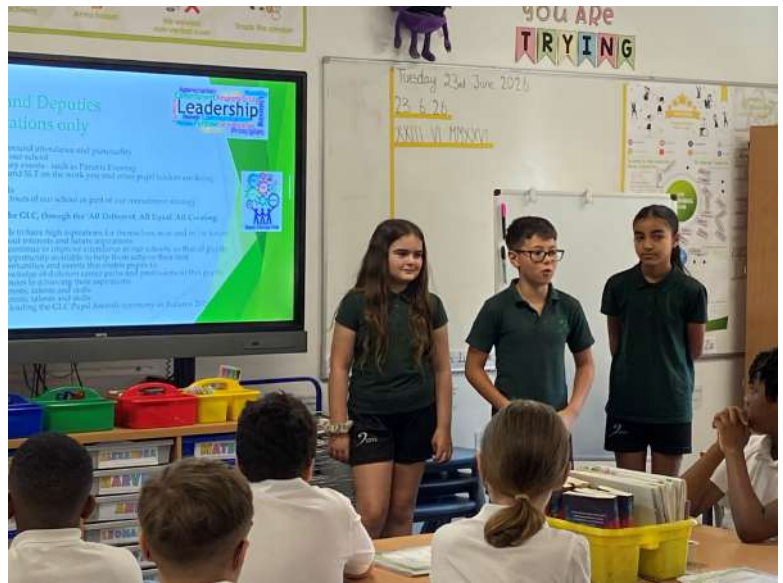


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Inspiring Our Future Leaders

Our Head Pupils and House Captains recently spoke to our Year 5 students about the exciting leadership opportunities available in Year 6, as applications for next year's roles are now open. They shared their experiences, explained the responsibilities of each position, and encouraged pupils to consider how they can make a positive contribution to the school community through leadership.



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Year 1 Visit to Chalkwell Beach

On Thursday 2nd July, Year 1 at GPFS enjoyed a fantastic trip to Chalkwell Beach as part of their Geography topic on the seaside. The children explored the coast through activities including crabbing, rock pooling and building sandcastles, while identifying human features such as the promenade and cafés, and physical features including the beach, sea and rocks.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity to bring their classroom learning to life, and the children represented GPFS brilliantly with their excellent behaviour and enthusiasm. To round off a wonderful day, everyone enjoyed a well-earned ice cream!



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GPFS Sports

It has been a fantastic term for sport at GPFS, with our pupils achieving outstanding success across a range of competitions. Our KS2 team finished 1st in the track events and 3rd overall at the Thurrock Borough Olympics, while our KS1 team secured 3rd in the track events and 4th overall, with more than half of the children winning medals. To round off an incredible sporting term, both our Year 5 Gators boys' and girls' basketball teams were crowned champions, each finishing 1st overall. We are immensely proud of every child for representing GPFS with such determination, teamwork and resilience.



Little Achievers Award

We are absolutely thrilled to share some wonderful news with our school community.



Huge congratulations to our pupil, **Safiyah**, who won the **Little Achievers Award** at the Thurrock SEND/AP Awards 2026!

Safiyah truly embodies our school's core values, consistently demonstrating incredible **aspiration** and **compassion** in everything he does. He has already achieved so much, and the entire school community is incredibly proud of him.

Join us in celebrating Safiyah's fantastic achievement!

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Sports Day

Herringham Primary Academy's Sports Day was a fantastic celebration of teamwork, determination and sporting spirit. Pupils from across the school took part in a range of exciting events, demonstrating resilience, enthusiasm and encouragement for one another throughout the day. It was wonderful to see children challenging themselves, celebrating successes and showing excellent sportsmanship. Thank you to all the staff, families and supporters who helped make the event such an enjoyable and memorable occasion for everyone involved.



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Year 3 Trip to Hyde Hall

Year 3 had a fantastic trip to Hyde Hall, packed with hands-on learning and discovery. The day began with the children becoming plant scientists, exploring seeds and learning where everyday foods come from – there was great excitement in discovering that chocolate comes from cocoa pods and corn from sweetcorn! They then took part in a range of activities across outdoor and indoor learning zones, including plant hunting, creating nature bookmarks, building bird nests, making texture rubbings, learning about pollination, and designing their own recycled plant pots to take home. The children had an amazing time and demonstrated exemplary behaviour throughout. We are incredibly proud of them and would like to extend a huge thank you to our parent helpers for their invaluable support in making the day possible.



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HPA's Eco Community Fest

Herringham Primary Academy's Eco Community Fest was a vibrant and engaging celebration that successfully combined creativity, environmental awareness, and community involvement. The event welcomed pupils, families, and members of the local community. Each year group proudly showcased and sold their eco-themed creations, while a variety of games and stalls provided enjoyment for visitors of all ages. Local organisations and businesses made valuable contributions by sharing their knowledge, interacting with attendees, and presenting a range of services and products.



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Year 1 Visit to Chalkwell Beach

The Year 1 children enjoyed a wonderful visit to Chalkwell Beach, where they explored the seaside environment and took part in a range of engaging activities. The trip provided an excellent opportunity for the children to develop their observational skills, learn about coastal habitats, and appreciate the natural world around them. They demonstrated great enthusiasm throughout the day and returned with many happy memories from this enjoyable outdoor learning experience.



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Reception Visit to the Sealife Centre

Our Reception children enjoyed a fantastic day out at the Sea Life Centre in Southend, where they discovered a wonderful variety of fascinating sea creatures and learned more about life beneath the waves. After their visit, the children had fun exploring the beach, making the most of the seaside atmosphere, before rounding off their adventure with an ice cream treat. It was a memorable day filled with learning, laughter, and smiles.



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Monster Pinch Pots!

Year 6 showed off their creativity skills in art when visiting the Gateway Academy, making monster pinch pots! They will be fired in the kiln and then given to the children in a few weeks to paint

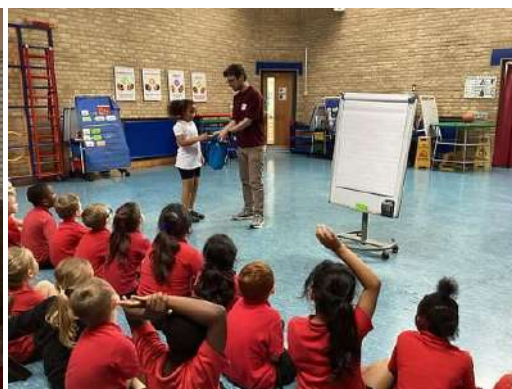


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Year 2 WOOF Time Traveller Workshop

Throughout Summer 2, the children took part in an exciting drama workshop that unfolded over several weeks. They began by creating and role-playing their own community, **Best Town**, where everyone had a different role to play. After a werewolf invasion and a town meeting led by Mayor Ari, the children worked together to uncover who was suspicious in a game inspired by *The Traitors*. Their adventure then took them on a mystery mission, solving clues to unlock a secret room where they met the Professor from WOOF (Wardrobes of Our Friends), who revealed that wardrobes were time-travelling machines! Inspired by messages from the future, the children created their own imaginative stories using random objects as prompts and prepared to perform them for a special time traveller. As part of their preparations, they decided they would teach Daniel Defoe three modern-day things: the Macarena, the song *Unwritten*, and how to use an iPad. The workshop concluded with a visit to the library, where, after a drama warm-up, the children performed their stories before an unexpected visit from Daniel Defoe himself, bringing their exciting time-travelling adventure to life.



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Nursery Adventure to the Gruffalo Trail

Nursery headed out into the "deep dark wood" for a day inspired by one of our favourite stories, The Gruffalo.

Here's a little peek at what our mini-explorers got up to:

Following the Gruffalo Trail: The children kept their eyes peeled for clues, searching high and low for Fox's underground house, Snake's log-pile house, and Owl's treetop branch.

Whipping up "Gruffalo Food": In our mud kitchen, the children got busy mixing up some delicious (pretend!) treats. We had bowls of "Scrambled Snake," plates of "Roasted Fox," and plenty of "Gruffalo Crumble" made from mud, leaves, and berries!

Crafting Pine Cone Owls: Back at our log tables, we put our fine motor skills to work! Using pine cones, wood chips, and autumn leaves, the children crafted their very own adorable woodland owls to take home.

Climbing Trees & Finding Balance: To top it all off, we tested our strength and bravery by climbing low-hanging branches and balancing on fallen logs.

We saw so much brilliant teamwork, sharing, and imaginative play today.



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Exploring Different Cultures in Reception

Reception have been exploring different cultures, traditions, and beliefs. During our family learning session, the Reception children shared aspects of their cultures, including traditional clothing and foods. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



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LPA's Successful Wellbeing Walk

Parents and pupils thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the Well-Being Walk organised by the Well-Being Ambassadors on 4th June 2026. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for families to come together, be active, and celebrate the Five Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give. As participants walked around the school grounds, they enjoyed spending quality time together, chatting with friends, and appreciating the outdoors. The afternoon was filled with smiles, laughter, and a strong sense of community, highlighting the importance of looking after our mental health and well-being. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event such a positive and memorable experience.



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LPA's Eco Community Fest

Lansdowne Primary Academy's Eco Community Fest was a lively and memorable event that brought together creativity, sustainability, and community spirit. Taking place on the school grounds, the festival welcomed pupils, families, and local residents for an enjoyable afternoon packed with activities, entertainment, and eco-friendly initiatives. Each year group proudly presented and sold their environmentally themed projects, while games and stalls offered plenty of fun for all ages. Community groups and local businesses also played an important role, sharing their expertise, engaging with visitors, and showcasing a variety of services and products. The event successfully highlighted the importance of environmental awareness while strengthening the bonds between the school and the local community.



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Year 5 Hamlet Workshop

This half term, our Year 5 writers have been diving into the dramatic and captivating world of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. To launch this exciting topic, the children took part in a brilliant, immersive workshop that helped them unpick the complex storyline and get to know the play's fascinating characters. Through the use of drama and creative freeze-frames, they actively brought the story to life, stepping directly into the shoes of the characters to explore their conflicting emotions and hidden motivations. This hands-on experience has not only built their confidence in interpreting classic literature, but it has also given them a rich foundation of vocabulary and ideas.



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Sports Day at LPA

The energy and atmosphere during Sports Day was absolutely sensational. This started from the pupils participating, the spectators cheering on and the teachers encouraging. A massive well done to all who took part and made the day such a great event, but a massive congratulations to the Nelson Mandela house who won with a whopping 319 points.



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Nursery Adventure Along the Gruffalo Trail

Nursery children who are going up to Reception enjoyed their trip to The Gruffalo trail at Thorndon Park. Children explored the woods, looking for all the characters from the story. They sang songs, pretended to be squirrels and used loose parts on the ground to create their own owls and snakes. We had such fun!



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Reception Visit to the Sealife Centre

The Reception children visited the Sea Life Centre for their end of year trip, where we saw lots of sea creatures.. The penguins and meerkats were a big highlight of the trip, and the children had a fantastic time exploring and learning.



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Sports Day

What a spectacular Sports Day! The sun was shining brightly, and while the summer heat certainly brought an extra challenge, it couldn't dampen the incredible school spirit on display. Since today was all about non-competitive fun, the focus was entirely on participation, teamwork, and trying our best. From laughter-filled obstacle courses to collaborative team activities, our students showed amazing encouragement and support for one another. A huge thank you to all the teachers, volunteers, and cheering parents who helped make the day such a blazing success—everyone went home tired, sun-kissed, and with big smiles on their faces!



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Eco Community Fest

Tilbury Pioneer Academy's Eco Community Fest was a fantastic celebration of creativity, sustainability, and community spirit. Held outdoors on the school grounds, the event brought together pupils, families, and members of the local community for an enjoyable afternoon of activities and entertainment. Year groups proudly showcased and sold their eco-themed creations, while a variety of games and stalls provided fun for visitors of all ages. The event was further enhanced by community partners who joined us to share information, entertain attendees, and offer a range of products and services. The Eco Fest was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate environmental awareness while strengthening connections within the local community.



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A Seaside Adventure at Chalkwell Beach

Year 1 had a wonderful visit to Chalkwell Beach, where they enjoyed exploring the seaside environment and learning outside the classroom. The children observed natural features such as the sand, shells, and sea, while taking part in fun, hands-on activities that sparked their curiosity about the coast. The trip provided a great opportunity for them to build confidence, work together, and create happy memories in a new and exciting setting.



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Year 2 Visit to Colchester Zoo

This term, our Year 2 pupils enjoyed an exciting visit to the zoo as part of their science learning. The children had the opportunity to observe a wide range of animals up close, linking their observations to their work on habitats. Throughout the day, the pupils demonstrated excellent behaviour, curiosity, and enthusiasm. The visit also supported the children's understanding of conservation and the importance of protecting endangered species. Staff were incredibly proud of how well the children represented the school. It was a memorable and valuable experience.



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TPA's School Council meets MP Jen Craft

Some of our fantastic School Council members met with local MP Jen Craft this half term! They led her on a 'Beat the Street' walk to show how the game benefits our health and community.

The pupils also shared our recent Pupil Voice survey results to advocate for local improvements. Impressed by their passion, Jen Craft has invited the council to send her formal letters detailing these issues so they can work on solutions together. We are so proud of our Pioneers for making their voices heard!



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Adventure at Hyde Hall

We had the most wonderful school trip to Hyde Hall exploring real life meadows and gardens! The children had a blast with some fun indoor activities before heading outside to walk through the beautiful grounds. They spotted scurrying squirrels, watched ducks, and looked at a vibrant array of flowers. To top off a fantastic day of learning, everyone scavenged for fallen leaves to create their very own nature bookmarks. It was a truly magical day out.



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Culture Day

Culture Day was a wonderful opportunity for the children to celebrate the rich diversity within our school community. Everyone was invited to wear something that represented their own culture, heritage or family traditions, proudly sharing what makes them unique. Throughout the day, we celebrated the many backgrounds, customs and experiences that make our class so special, encouraging respect, curiosity and appreciation for one another. It was a fantastic reminder that while we may come from different cultures and traditions, we are all part of one inclusive school community where everyone is valued and celebrated.



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GLC Events Overview

Dates for your diary: take a look at the GLC events happening throughout this half term. If you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact Claire Couves, claire.couves@theglc.org.uk

Dates for Your Diary
[GLC Calendar 2025-26](#)

The GLC Primary Competencies

Click on the icons to view the GLC video relating to each competency.



Check it out!

The GLC LPA Thrive Hive
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The GLC Lansdowne Primary Academy Thrive Hive

Investing in Our Families: Support the Lansdowne Primary Academy Thrive Hive



Our Vision

To foster a welcoming space where all parents and carers are empowered to lead fulfilling lives (no matter their path), thrive personally, and collaborate with The GLC to nurture their children as active, thriving citizens within a diverse, truly fair and equal community.

Our Vision will be achieved by:

1. Actively listening to our parents and carers, understanding their experiences, their strengths, and the obstacles they face. We're designing it with them, ensuring it truly meets their needs and empowers them to overcome any hurdles in their path.
2. Providing a welcoming sanctuary, a warm and accessible space that extends its embrace beyond the school day.
3. Providing a community living room - a place where parents and carers can connect with others, share experiences, and simply enjoy a cup of tea in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.
4. Continuing to work with a diverse range of organisations, making vital support readily available - from health and housing advice to opportunities for adult education, debt management guidance, and the expertise of Citizens Advice.
5. Making the Thrive Hive a central point for connection, guiding
6. Providing targeted support programmes, to equip families with the understanding to foster good school attendance, establish positive routines and habits, and promote healthy lifestyles through engaging workshops on topics like cooking and well-being.
10. Running evidence-informed parenting programmes, like the Triple P parenting programme, making a real difference to family life.
11. Offering targeted support to equip parents and carers with the knowledge, skills and understanding to actively support their children's learning and development.
12. Providing specific training focused on building early language skills, expanding vocabulary, understanding phonics, and fostering a love of reading - crucial building blocks for future success.
13. Providing access to desktop computers and a printer, empowering parents to navigate online forms and applications for vital services.

In this section

Calendar

Latest News

Term Dates

The GLC Lansdowne Primary Academy Thrive Hive



The GLC Thrive Hive

Lansdowne Primary Academy



Our Vision

To foster a welcoming space where all parents and carers are empowered to lead fulfilling lives [no matter their path], thrive personally, and collaborate with The GLC to nurture their children as active, thriving citizens within a diverse, truly fair and equal community.

**Scan the QR code
to make a donation**

<https://checkout.justgiving.com/c/3776794>



For more information

<https://www.theglc-lansdowne.org.uk/page?title=The+LPA+Thrive+Hive&pid=57>



Contact us via email to discuss partnership opportunities, offer support, or learn more about our Community Thrive Hive:

LPA-thrivehive@theglc.org.uk



Our People Strategy

Our aim is to attract great people who want to help us to achieve our motto, mission and values. We are committed to creating working practices which enable all members of our team to thrive in a supportive environment.

Click on the images below for more information



Thinking about buying an e-scooter for your child this summer?

Before you do, make sure you know the law.

Many people don't realise that privately-owned e-scooters can't be ridden on roads, pavements or cycle paths. They can only be used on private land with the landowner's permission.

So far this year, we have seized more than **180 e-scooters** being used illegally. Riders can face penalties, and parents, grandparents or guardians who allow illegal use could also be committing an offence.

Let's keep everyone safe this summer by knowing the rules before you ride. Think before you ride. Find out more on our website: [Advice on e-scooter usage | Essex Police](#)





Please see the details of the latest **vacancies**:

Check out the new vacancies webpage [Gateway Learning Community - Vacancies](#)

GA	GPFS	HPA	LPA	TPA	GLC
Invigilators			Assistant Head with Responsibility for Personal Development		GLC Cover Supervisor GLC Inclusion Advocate Level 6 Finance Apprentice

Please share with your friends and family and on your social media platforms to encourage the right candidate to join our team. #jointheglctrust

As part of the GLC recruitment strategy the GLC will pay current employees a finders' fee of £500 (subject to necessary deductions) for every appointed teacher and/or LSA they recommend (please see recruitment and retention policy for full details).



Follow us on Social Media

Let's get connected...

Website



The GLC

LinkedIn



@The Gateway Learning Community

Instagram



@thegateway learningcommunity

Facebook



@The Gateway Learning Community

www.theglc.org.uk





Thurrock Activity brochure - Summer Holiday 2026

With the summer holidays fast approaching, please see a link to our **Summer Holiday Activities in Thurrock** brochure. We would be grateful if you could share the below link to the brochure with your parents and carers:

<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/bea9ee3242.html>

The brochure brings together a wide range of activities, events, clubs, and opportunities taking place across the borough throughout the summer break. Whether families are looking for sports activities, creative sessions, outdoor adventures, community events, or low-cost and free things to do, the brochure provides information to help keep children and young people engaged and active over the holidays.

**PLACES KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2026**moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free**ANGUS STEAKHOUSE**

Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend

ASK ITALIAN

2 Kids eat free every day until Sept 6th 2026

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat free Sunday - Thursday

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

2 Kids Eat Free Breakfast with 1 paying adult

BILLSKids Eat Free weekdays until September 1st 2026**BREWDOG**

1 Kid eats free with 1 adult, 19th July - 31st August

CAFE ROUGE

Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week

CHIQUITO

Kids eat free during all school holidays

COCONUT TREE

Kids eat free Mon 13th July - Sun 6th Sept

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

Kids eat for £1 with an adult meal purchase

FARMHOUSE INNS

2 Kids eat FREE this summer holidays

FLAMING GRILL PUBS

Kids eat for 88p this summer holidays

FRANKIE & BENNY'S

Kids eat FREE during school holidays

FRANCO MANCIA

Kids eat FREE school holidays Mon-Thurs

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day

HARVESTERKids eat for £1 every day until Sept 1st 2026**HUNGRY HORSE**

Kids eat for 88p this summer holidays

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

LAS IGUANAS

Kids under 12 eat FREE via the App

MARCO PIERRE WHITE

Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend

MORRISONS

Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day

PIZZA HUT

Kids Eat Free Every Day after 3pm

PREMIER INN

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult

PREZZO

Kids up to age 12 eat for £1 during half terms

PUREZZA

Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal

SA BRAINS PUBS

Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

SIZZLING PUBS

Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm

TABLE TABLE

2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult

TESCO

Kids eat free every day this summer with a 65p spend

TGI FRIDAYSKids Eat Free until 6th September (Via App)**THE REAL GREEK**

Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

TRAVELODGE

2 kids eat for £1 with 1 adult breakfast

TOBY CARVERYKids eat for £1 every day until Sept 1st 2026**TURTLE BAY**

Kids eat free with every £15 adult spend via app

VILLAGE HOTELS

Kids eat free 20th July - 4th Sept via the village app

WHITBREAD INNS

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

YO! SUSHI

Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays

ZIZZI

Kids eat free via app during school holidays



THE COMMUNITY BIG LUNCH 2026

Summer events for the whole family!

12pm - 4pm



THUR
23 Jul

East Tilbury

Goblons Park, Princess Margaret Rd, East Tilbury, RM18 8TN

TUE
11 Aug

Corringham

Corringham Town Park, Gordon Road, Corringham, SS17 7QZ

TUE
28 Jul

South Ockendon

Dilkes Park, Fairham Avenue, South Ockendon, RM15 5NN

MON
17 Aug

Blackshots

Impulse Leisure Blackshots, Blackshots Lane, Grays, RM16 2JU

WED
5 Aug

Chadwell St Mary

Pyramid Resource Centre, Heath Rd, Chadwell St Mary, RM16 4XH

Entry and most activities are free but some may incur a small cost. Refreshments available to buy.



Grab a picnic and come along for a family fun afternoon.
Packed with creative activities, live entertainment, sports & more!
Scan the QR code for more information about what to expect.



 thurrock.gov.uk





2026/2



FREE School Uniform

free for everyone,
no referral needed!

Events

Fridays
3 - 4.30pm

17th July
21st August (extended
opening 10am-1pm)
4th September
16th October
20th November



Saturdays
10 - 11.30am

18th July
22nd August (extended
opening 10am-1pm)
5th September
17th October
21st November



Community Church Chadwell St Mary
Defoe Parade (enter from Brentwood Road)

RM16 4QR

Save the planet  **and your pennies** 
Hundreds of items in stock:

- Polo shirts
- Shirts & blouses
- Skirts
- Trousers
- Socks
- Pinafore dresses
- Fancy dress costumes
- Jumpers & cardigans
- Blazers & ties
- PE kit
- Plimsolls
- Black shoes
- Coats
- Bags

Clean, good condition school uniform donations accepted when space allows. Please check our facebook page to see if we are currently collecting. Search facebook for "The 180 Project" or email nicola.lambert@mycommunitychurch.org.uk

An event run by The 180 Project, part of Community Church.
Registered charity no. 1062301.





ACL

Family Summer Sessions

Looking for fully funded family activities this summer?

Find out what's on
& book your place:
aclessex.com

Suitable
for ages
5-11





ATF

FAMILY FUN GAMES

FREE SESSION

FREE FAMILY FUN IS CALLING! 🔥

JOIN ATF FOR ACTION-PACKED GAMES, SPORTS, AND NONSTOP EXCITEMENT. BRING EVERYONE AND LET'S PLAY!

**EVERY SATURDAY
12PM - 13:15PM**

📍 KOALA PARK, TILBURY

Kherring@atfcommunity.com





FOLLOW

Thurrock Cares Community Tuesdays

Come along and find out what local services, support and activities are available to help you live well, and stay connected within the community.

Morrisons Supermarket, Grays, in the old Barista Area,
10am to 12pm on the following dates:

Tuesday 4 August

Tuesday 17 November

Tuesday 1 September

Tuesday 1 December

Tuesday 6 October



thurrock.gov.uk/thurrockcares



thurrock.gov.uk





Anchor Park Tilbury

Anchor Park, Tilbury, RM18 8AH

**Come along and join ATF for a fun-filled
afternoon of football, boxing, and
refreshments!**

**Every Monday
16:00 - 17:00**



**Please contact Kelly - kherring@atfcommunity.com
for more info**





Your Aspirations, Our Priority

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Thurrock's Local Offer

Supporting Families

Support, information, and advice for families of children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Transitions

Health & Well-being

Leisure & Activities

Social Care & Support

www.askthurrock.org.uk





GLC Tilbury Pioneer Academy
All Different: All Equal: Together, Improving Upon Our Best



Friends of Pioneer

We're excited to share a fantastic fundraising opportunity thanks to Griffin Group! FOP has already received over £1,000 in funding support this year, and now you can help us raise even more - at no extra cost to you!

Griffin Group has set up an exclusive referral scheme just for us:

Use our unique QR code to access the referral page.

Refer any business that is selling, mortgage-related, or letting.

For every successful referral, Griffin Group will donate 10% of profits directly to FOP!

We're one of only two schools given this amazing opportunity. Every referral counts and helps us continue to support our school community.

If you have friends or family selling, letting or buying a property, refer them to Griffin via our QR code or website



<https://www.griffingroup.co.uk/friends-of-pioneer/>



GLC All Different: All Equal
Together, Improving Upon Our Best





Get Creative!

How to create your entry.

- 1 Use everyday items like string and cardboard from home.
- 2 Pick up a **FREE** materials pack* from a local hub.

Pick-up Locations**:

The Pyramid Centre, RM16 4XH

Chadwell Library, Brentwood Rd, RM16 4JP

Need Inspiration?

Join a **FREE** workshop to spark your imagination!

Hosted by: **The Pyramid Centre**
Wednesday 29 July – Wednesday 12 August 2026

(please visit our website for full details)

Questions? Get in touch

contact@startthurrock.org

*One pack per household, subject to availability.

**Please check locations for opening hours.

***For full free prize draw terms and conditions visit:
www.startthurrock.org/window-wonderland-tcs/

Who we are

Start Thurrock is a 'Creative People and Places' programme funded by Arts Council England. We work in partnership with the people of Thurrock to help you choose, produce and take part in brilliant arts and cultural experiences on your doorstep.



Share with us

Post a photo or a reel of your designs on socials using **#ChadwellWanderland** and tag us to be in with a chance to win a **£40 voucher** for **Amarota Cafe**, 53 River View, Chadwell St Mary, RM16 4BJ. ***



@startthurrock



Start Thurrock



Chadwell St Mary's Window Wanderland

A Community Art Project
Saturday 15 – Sunday 16 August 2026

You are invited to add a little creativity and joy to Chadwell St Mary this summer and be part of a wider community project in our neighbourhood!

www.startthurrock.org

What is Chadwell St Mary's Window Wanderland?

This summer, Start Thurrock is launching the Chadwell St Mary Art Trail. Local people will transform spaces across Chadwell using their creative ideas.

As part of the trail, residents and businesses are invited to decorate their windows, windowsills and or front gardens for one special weekend.

When is it?

Saturday 15 – Sunday 16 August 2026

Your creation will be viewed from the street by people walking through the area over this weekend.

Who can take part?

Everyone is welcome to get involved!

You don't need to be artistic or an experienced creative. You can decorate one window or loads. Take part on your own, as a household, with friends, as a family or as a whole street.

All you need is a willingness to have a go.

www.startthurrock.org

Get involved!

Choose what works for you...

Whether you have 10 minutes or a whole afternoon, there are plenty of ways to get involved!

Hang decorations from string for a mobile effect.

Cut out shapes, add coloured tissue paper for a stained glass window effect.

Cut out letters from paper, cardboard, or magazines.

It could be made with LEGO, cardboard models, flowers, or any creative materials you enjoy.



You can also visit the Window Wanderland website (<https://www.windowwanderland.com/about/>) – the initiative that inspired this project – to see how other communities get involved.

Ideas from Chadwell locals

You don't have to follow a theme, but these ideas may help you get started. Choose one, mix them, or do something completely your own.

Dream View

Inspired by residents at Arthur Barnes Court, you can choose to celebrate nature and the plants and animals we love to see outside our windows.

A Place to Belong

Inspired by the Chadwell Amateur Boxing Gym community, this theme celebrates the safe and friendly spaces where our community feels like family.

Fictional Worlds

Inspired by students from USP Palmer's College, this theme is all about your favourite stories and wildest imagination!

Growing Together

Inspired by the Emmanuel Church community, this theme celebrates how we care for each other through gardening and the strong "roots" of our neighbourhood.



Scan the QR code to visit the Chadwell St Mary Art Trail & Window Wanderland webpage, where you can find more information, photo inspiration, and support to get involved.



Here is your June version of the Thurrock Free & Low Cost Physical Activity Booklet.

It can be downloaded [here](#).





Warm Spaces are safe, welcoming places where you can spend time to stay warm, meet others, and get information and advice.



thurrock.gov.uk/thurrockcares





Healthy Families: Growing Up



Healthy, thriving children and families



HENRY's free **Healthy Families: Growing Up** programme is for parents and carers of primary-school age children – it will help you develop a healthier, happier lifestyle that the whole family can enjoy.

The programme covers these 5 themes across 8 sessions and provides everything you need to help your children flourish.

- Feeling more confident as a parent
- Physical activity for the whole family
- What children and the whole family eats
- Family lifestyle habits
- Enjoying life as a family

Get
in touch
to sign up
now!

Programme details

If your child is above the national recommended growth percentile, Henry can support with:

- Family lifestyle habits
- Diet & nutrition
- Being active
- Emotional wellbeing

"This was the best thing I could possibly have done to help me be a better mum"



Contact Us

School Health Service
0300 300 1999 Opt 2



Essex

ACTIVate

Free holiday clubs, fun activities and food across Essex and Thurrock!

- ✓ Specialist SEND, mental wellbeing and youth clubs
- ✓ Sports and games, arts and crafts, cooking and so much more!
- ✓ Nutritious snacks and tasty meals
- ✓ Run by qualified, local club providers
- ✓ Family support, resources and guidance
- ✓ Discretionary paid and paid for spaces

WHAT IS ESSEX ACTIVATE?

Essex ActivAte is the name for the exciting activity clubs run by Active Essex! During school holidays, local club providers across the county deliver free holiday clubs and fun activities to get eligible primary and secondary children active, as well as support young people to make friendships and learn new skills, helping to enhance their wellbeing.

Please only book your child/ren a space at an Essex ActivAte club if they will attend. If they are booked on and do not attend, other children may miss out on this beneficial opportunity across the holidays.

www.activeessex.org



@EssexActivAte



SCAN ME

