

The GLC Parent Newsletter



**Message
from CEO**



GLC Events



Communication



GLC Vacancies



Marketing



Our Spring newsletter is full of fantastic opportunities that our young people have taken part in during the first half term of 2026.

I am so proud of our wonderful community and I am very pleased that our academies continue to be full of amazing young people and staff who demonstrate our values; aspiration, compassion, resilience and responsibility. This helps us to achieve our mission of developing active, thriving citizens within a diverse, truly fair and equal community.

Thank you for all your support in making sure that children are ready for their learning in school and the support and encouragement you provide at home-it really does make a difference.

This was recognised by Bridget Phillipson who sent letters of recognition for the exceptional outcomes achieved at The Gateway Primary Free School, Lansdowne and Pioneer.

Across the GLC our young people are working hard to improve upon their best. We are seeing excellent results and progress in all year groups across the whole curriculum. Thank you for all you do to support your children by reading with them and supporting them with their homework. We also appreciate all you do to support their attendance at school, ALPs, events and after school provision.

A message from Bridget Phillipson



Dear Colleague,

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at your school achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.

There are real opportunities available for you to support improvement for a wider group of pupils including through:

- engaging actively with [your region's RISE networks](#) and partnering with nearby schools and trusts;
- contributing to regional roundtables and professional communities to spread the approaches that are working in your context, and
- sustaining excellence by continuing to focus on disadvantaged pupils

Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to your staff and pupils. I look forward to working with you as we strive together to raise standards for all.

Your sincerely,

Bridget Phillipson

Secretary of State for Education



We have been working hard on developing many events at the GLC again this year, especially thinking about how our young people can take the lead and how we can involve and work with families as part of our All Different: All Equal work:

- This term our 'Creating Our Futures' group put the spotlight on one of our values-aspiration. Have a look at the video <https://youtu.be/6nmbc-TaNPA> to see what our primary children experienced.
- At The Gateway Academy, students have been developing cooking skills which will not only be useful for a career in catering but will be used in everyday life. The Gateway Academy will have a Careers Fair next half term.

At the end of the bulletin there are lots of opportunities available for families and children to be involved in over the break. There is also an exciting family arts project on page 6. If you are interested in taking part contact claire.couves@theglc.org.uk





Year 3 Nutcracker Workshop

The GLC Year 3 pupils stepped into the spotlight during Autumn 2 during a fantastic Nutcracker workshop with the Royal Ballet and Opera! The children took a virtual journey through the history of the company – from Covent Garden to our local community in Thurrock – and discovered the many 'behind-the-scenes' roles that bring a production to life. Highlights included dancing with professional performers and getting an up-close look at real costumes and pointe shoes. These firsthand experiences and performance clips provided wonderful inspiration for the children's writing projects





The GLC Young Voices Performance

On 13 January, choirs from across the Gateway Learning Community came together to perform for parents in a special shared rehearsal. The pupils sang the songs they will be performing later this month at the O2 Arena as part of the Young Voices concert, using the event as a valuable practice run. The performance showcased their musical talent, confidence, teamwork and enthusiasm. **Well done to all of the children and the choir leads for their hard work, dedication and commitment in preparing for this exciting opportunity.**



Young Voices at The O2

What an unforgettable experience! The GLC choir children had the most amazing time performing at Young Voices at The O2. From the buzz of the arena to singing their hearts out alongside thousands of other young voices, it was a day full of music, smiles and memories to last a lifetime. We are so incredibly proud of them.





Art Group with Together Productions

Our art group is working in partnership with Together Productions on a community-based project. Some of our families are taking part, creating artwork together and engaging in a range of artistic activities. The aim of the project is to introduce more arts opportunities within our community, support well-being, and encourage new friendships. This is an open and ongoing project and is available to all of our families to join and participate.





#WeWill

The GLC Primary Careers Week

The GLC Primary Careers Week was a truly inspiring week of aspiration, and we were overwhelmed by the incredible number of volunteers who gave their time to share their experiences with our pupils. Our head pupils worked hard to find out which volunteers the pupils were most interested in meeting and promoted the event in assembly to their peers. The children were a credit to their schools – they listened attentively, engaged fully with the visitors, and asked thoughtful, curious questions, showing real enthusiasm for learning about different careers and pathways for the future.






Take a look at the celebration video - Press to play!








<https://youtu.be/6nmbc-TaNPA>

Spring 1 Attendance Data

Highest Attending Classes In Trust

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|  Gateway Academy |  Gateway Primary Free School |  Herringham Primary Academy |  Lansdowne Primary Academy |  Tilbury Pioneer Academy |
| 10A 98.5% | 2B 98.7% | 3 Rowan 96.6% | 3P 97.0% | 1L 95.9% |

Most Improved

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|  Gateway Academy |  Gateway Primary Free School |  Herringham Primary Academy |  Lansdowne Primary Academy |  Tilbury Pioneer Academy |
| 9B Up 6.4% | 5L Up 2.2% | 4H Up 5.8% | 3W Up 7.9% | 4B Up 1.2% |

Message from Ms McLaughlin

Firstly, can I take this opportunity to express my absolute gratitude to our exceptional students, who make working at The Gateway Academy a truly wonderful experience. Every day, we continue to reach new heights, and it is a testament to the culture, ambition, and commitment that exists across our academy.

We are increasingly welcoming visitors from other schools who come to see the outstanding work taking place here on so many levels. Most recently, we were delighted to host colleagues from BOA Academy, who commented:

“We thoroughly enjoyed the visit and came away with a wealth of ideas to reflect on for our own school. It was also truly heartening to see the journey the Trust has been on and to witness first-hand the profound impact it is having on the lives of the students it serves, both academically and in their wider development.”

What is clear is that, supported by our exceptional staff, our students are achieving success across a wide range of fronts. Our basketball teams are competing at a national level, academic achievement is above the national average, staff and student attendance continue to exceed national figures, and staff retention remains above 95%.

We are incredibly excited about how far we can go. We firmly believe our students have the heart, determination, and work ethic to compete with the very best — and the future of The Gateway Academy has never looked brighter.



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Students across Key Stage 3 have shown outstanding commitment to developing their reading and language skills through our online literacy programmes, Sparx Reader and Bedrock Learning.

Students in Years 8 and 9 have been using Sparx Reader, a personalised reading platform that matches pupils with age-appropriate texts and checks understanding through carefully designed questions. Their engagement has been exceptional, with an impressive 2,127 books read and 2,753 hours of careful reading completed this term.

We are delighted to recognise our top readers:

Year 9: Archie R, Mckenzie T, James S, Adesola A, Eliza M

Year 8: Taybah S, Olivia B, Aisha S, Deborah E, Josephine K

Meanwhile, Year 7 students have been building strong foundations in vocabulary, grammar and comprehension using Bedrock Learning. The programme supports academic language development across all subjects and has been met with great enthusiasm.

Congratulations to our top Bedrock students:

Travay C, Oyindamola A, Shalom N, Deborah A and Talha K.

Well done to all students for their hard work and dedication this term — we are proud of the progress made and look forward to even more success next term.



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Gators - Travel Team, Belgium

Words could not really explain how proud I am of this group of young hoopers in our first ever European Tournament.

The U16 boys came together and made history. The first club level team from the UK to ever make it to the finals in the X-Mas Tournament in Belgium. Placing 2nd for Silver above some of the very best club teams in Belgium, France, Netherlands, Germany and beyond.

In many ways we were at a huge disadvantage having only practiced together once per month, and even then some of the players had only met for the first time on the minibus to travel out there.

The U14 boys with far less experience than the U16's put themselves in the runners up final too. Losing their first game to the tournament bronze medalist, they then went on to win 3 games back to back.

I rewind back to September 2023 and Gators Basketball started out with just myself, Coach Stephane and a handful of players at one session once per week on a Saturday afternoon at The Gateway Academy in Tilbury.

Today we are developing some of the best players in the area and with the addition of Coach Aks we are also attracting elite talent from London and the surrounding counties to compete in high level International Tournaments that feature some of the best clubs, academies and players in Europe.



In the grand scale of things, to some these may be very small victories but to us all at Gators it means a whole lot more. Community and pride. This piece of success is not just for Gators but for all of UK basketball.

We (UK) get very little respect in Europe and even the rest of the world for our international or domestic game. Rightly or wrongly so, other countries laugh at the current state of governance of our sport in the UK. It's not an easy job to fix either.

My hope is that what we have achieved here in Belgium may help to restore a tiny little bit of pride back to the UK and show that we have the talent to compete with some of the best in Europe on an International setting.

Thank you to all of the clubs, coaches, players, parents and The Gateway Academy who have all supported what we have started and will continue to do.



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Year 7s Sausage Rolls

The Year 7s have started their sausage roll making, and we're seeing some fantastic results!

They're working hard on their shaping, crimping, and presentation techniques, and the attention to detail is really showing. Keep up the great work – the results are looking delicious!



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Did you know that being able to joint a chicken into 8 prime cuts is a key requirement for professional catering qualifications?

This term, Year 10 have been doing exactly that! By learning to do this themselves, students aren't just practicing knife skills – they are also learning about portion control and cost-effectiveness in a commercial kitchen.

A huge well done to everyone for handling such a complex task with maturity and skill!



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The Gateway Academy Student Leadership Update

Year 9 Compassion group

Since September our compassion group have been working hard to raise awareness of issues within our community and have collected 400kg of food for Thurrock Food Bank and raised money for local homeless shelters by selling and delivering candy canes and teddies.

The Mental Health Ambassadors have held events for world mental health day, anti bullying week and are currently working on a project to look at resilience and wellbeing with year 7 students.

Our latest project is to spread love and kindness across The Gateway Academy in preparation for Valentine's day with roses, sweets and other presents available and kindness nominations for staff and students. Any money raised will also go towards the Thurrock food bank and other homeless charities.

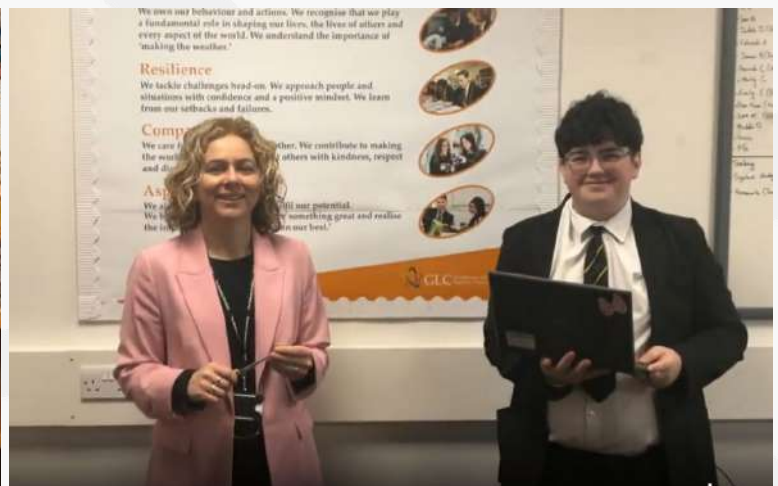


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Year 10 Pupil Leadership

Year 10 student leadership have been focusing on the key value of Aspiration and working on:

- 1) Careers fair for the entire academy on 12th March
- 2) Revision resources and strategies to share in assembly and in tutor time
- 3) Clubs to promote skills for the CV
- 4) Tv show for the academy showing the importance of aspiration and resilience including interviews with Mrs Mclaughlin and Kara Meade (Deputy Head girl)



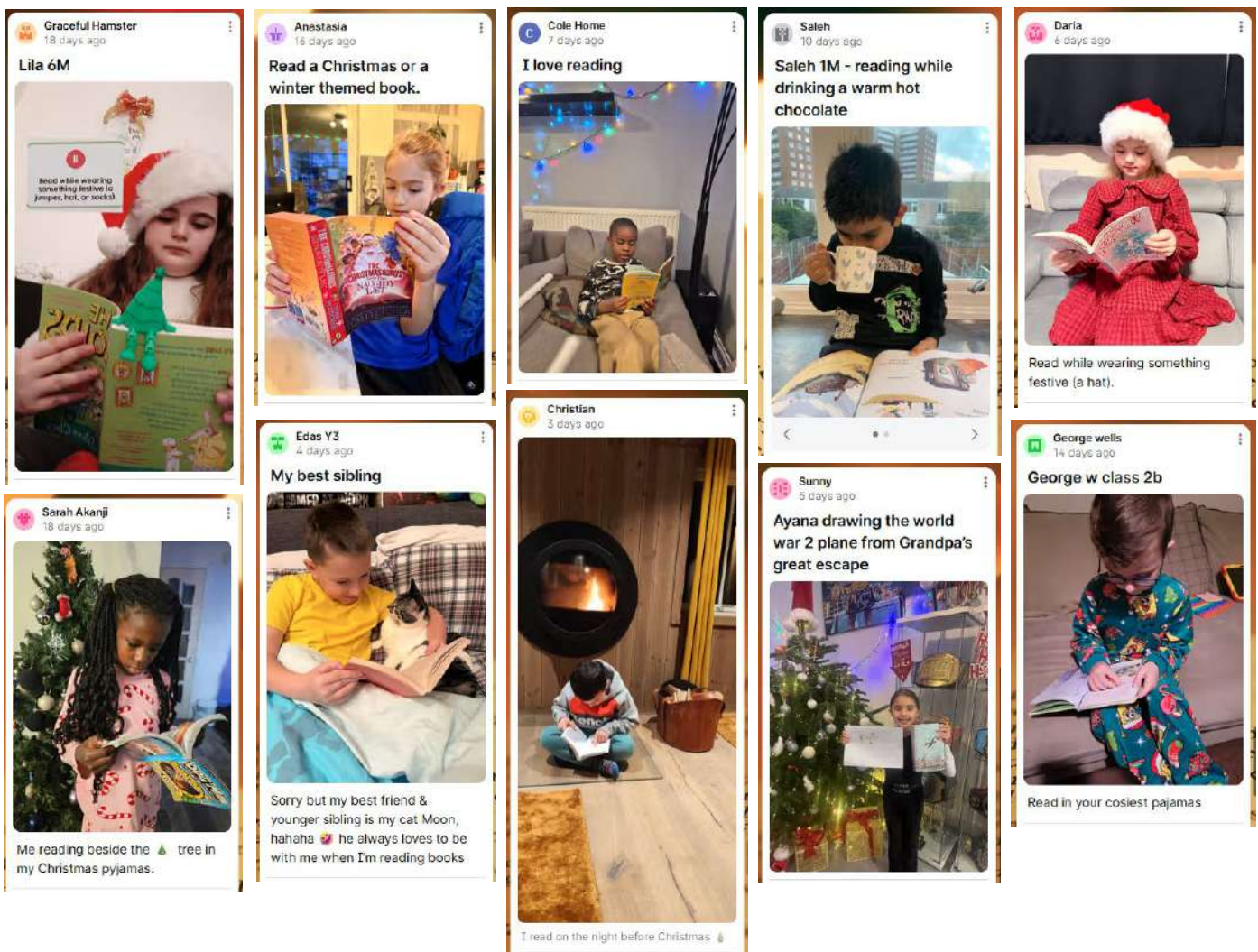
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Christmas Reading Challenge

Our Christmas Reading Challenge was a huge success! It was fantastic to see so many children getting stuck into a book over the break – especially those who shared photos of themselves reading in some very unusual spots!

Here are just some of children who took part, well done to all that posted your photos on the Padlet

https://padlet.com/The_GPFS/christmas-reading-challenge-gk5zy2ss0ztqx8jt



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Learning about London in The Burrow

This term, our topic focus is London, and the children have been thoroughly enjoying exploring it through a range of sensory and interactive activities. Our first class text is *Paddington Goes to the Palace*, which has been a fantastic starting point for learning. Through a sensory story approach, learners have enjoyed listening to a marching band, wearing police and soldier hats, and exploring different sensory experiences such as smelling flowers. These activities support attention, listening skills, and engagement while making learning fun and meaningful.

Our cooking sessions are also linked to Paddington, with learners making marmalade sandwiches. This has provided wonderful opportunities to practise fine motor skills, develop independence through hand washing, improve cutlery skills, and explore new foods and textures.



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Exploring in Nursery - 'Where I Live'

This term, we are becoming explorers and detectives! In our "Where I Live" topic, we are looking at our local community and celebrating the wonderful differences in how people live and work around the world.

In Maths, we've turned into Pattern Detectives, spotting and creating sequences everywhere—from our clothes to our classroom blocks!

Meanwhile, our phonics journey continues with a new sound every day, supported by "funky finger" playdough and tweezer challenges to build those strong muscles for writing. It's going to be a busy, brilliant term!





Year 2 Trip to The Tower of London



Year 2 pupils at GPFS were very excited to visit the Tower of London. Despite the rain, the pupils had a great time exploring the Tower and learning more about its history. During the visit, pupils got to see the Crown Jewels and participate in an exciting workshop all about the Great Fire of London. We were very proud to show all of our knowledge, such as where the fire started, how long it lasted, and how it spread across London. We also learned many new facts, including how many people were affected by the fire and what people did at the time to help stop it.

One of our favourite parts of the day was watching the guards outside the Crown Jewels. We enjoyed watching them march up and down, and we were very excited when we even managed to make them laugh. Overall, the pupils had a fantastic day and returned to school with lots of new knowledge and happy memories.

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Year 6 Family Learning Session

Gateway Primary Free School recently hosted a family learning session focused on healthy food preparation, where families worked together to make a range of fresh dips, including salsa, hummus and guacamole. Participants learned how to use kitchen equipment safely, practising careful knife skills for chopping and using a blender with confidence. The session was a fun, hands-on way to build practical cooking skills while encouraging teamwork and healthy eating at home.



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Year 4 Trip to the Imperial War Museum [Duxford]

Year 4 pupils from Gateway Primary Free School enjoyed an exciting and educational visit to the Imperial War Museum Duxford, where history truly came to life. The children explored a range of fascinating aircraft and exhibits, learning about significant events from the past and the role aviation has played in shaping history. They asked thoughtful questions, showed excellent curiosity, and represented the school brilliantly throughout the day. It was a memorable trip that enriched their classroom learning and inspired plenty of discussion back at school



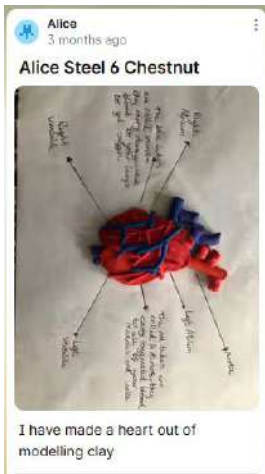
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Family Learning Project

We've loved seeing the fantastic work the children brought back; the variety and imagination on display have been a real highlight of our first week back. More here:

<https://padlet.com/adminherringham/aut-2-25-family-learning-project-z6hgz4m79z7jrtyo>



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Essex Police Visit to Year 6 - Cyberbullying Workshop

This term, we welcomed Essex Police, who delivered an informative talk on cyberbullying and what to do if we are affected by it. The children engaged thoughtfully with the session, demonstrating both compassion and creativity as they reflected on how to keep themselves and others safe online.



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Reception had a Visit from Professor Memo!

Reception had a very special visitor this term: the wonderful Professor Memo! She's on a mission to recruit some new palaeontologists for the Royal Dinosaur Club and asked our mini-explorers for their help. To get started, the children trained as palaeontologists, learning how to work as a team and use their trowels safely. Their hard work paid off as they uncovered bones, fossils, and even a mysterious orange blob with a bug inside! Through their research, they've identified dinosaur relics, compared herbivore and carnivore teeth, and discovered that fossilised tree sap is called amber. To top it all off, they've been busy perfecting Professor Memo's fossil song with actions. It looks like there might have been dinosaurs right under our school!



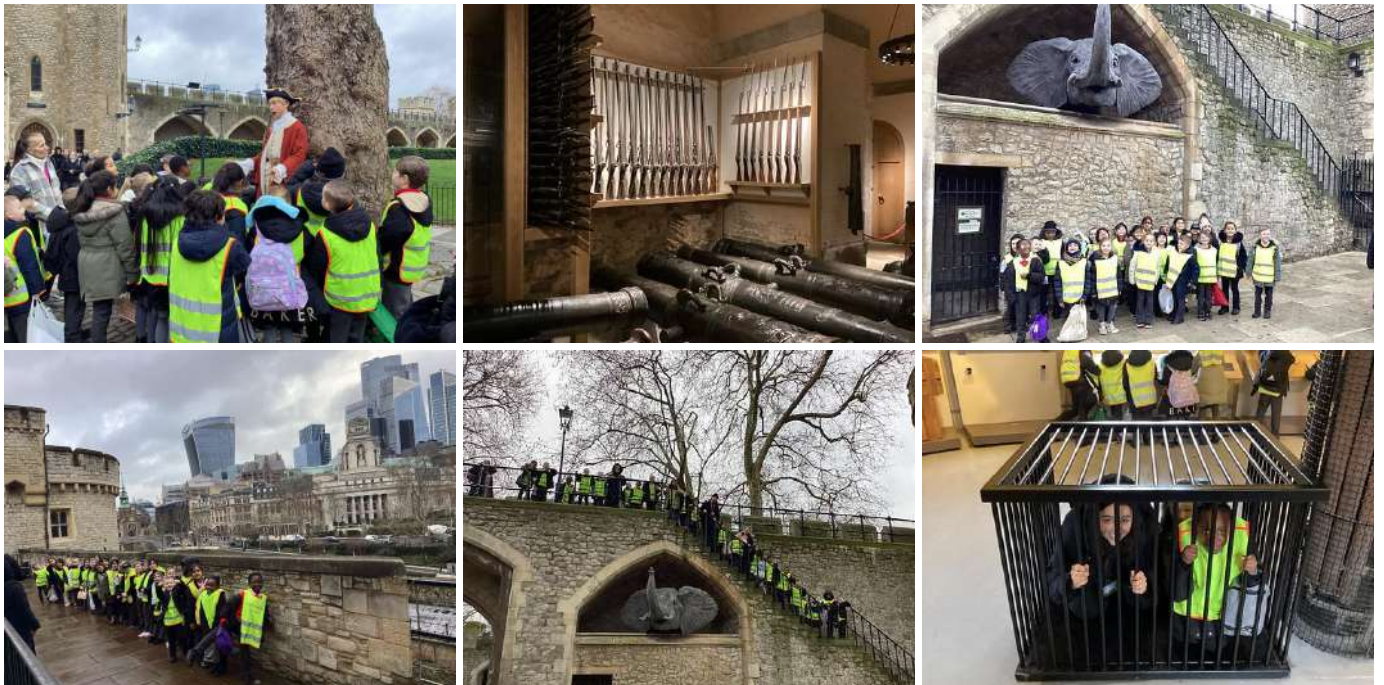
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Year 2 Visit to The Tower of London

What a royal adventure! This half term, Herringham's Year 2 explorers headed to the Tower of London for a day of history and discovery. From marveling at the Sparkle of the Crown Jewels to scaling 204 steps to the top of the tower, our students were on the go all day.

We stepped back in time with a hands-on workshop about the Great Fire of London and even managed to spot the Tower's famous ravens! The children's enthusiasm was infectious, making it a truly unforgettable day where history really did come to life.



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Year 2's Great Fire of London

This term, Year 2 watched their Tudor houses go up in flames as they recreated the Great Fire of London.

As the houses burned and turned to ash, the children recalled key facts about the event, bringing their learning to life through an exciting and memorable experience.



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Year 5 Trip to London – Tate Modern & River Cruise

Year 5 at Herringham Primary Academy enjoyed an exciting educational trip to London, travelling by river boat and visiting the Tate Modern. The river journey gave pupils a unique perspective on London's famous landmarks, while their time at the gallery sparked curiosity and discussion as they explored a variety of modern artworks. It was a memorable experience that enriched their learning beyond the classroom and inspired creativity and observation skills. 🍌🎨



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Christmas Reading Challenge

We love to see our children develop a passion for reading. Our Christmas Reading Challenge certainly highlighted this, with so many pupils getting stuck into a great book during the holidays. A huge well done to everyone who sent in photos of them completing the challenge – we were incredibly impressed by the unusual and clever places you chose to read! More here:

<https://padlet.com/Lansdowne/christmas-reading-challenge-2025-faduysma7uc5u38s>

Evelyn 5HD



I'm reading summer dream



Reading at Santa's Grotto before going to the cinema with my family

Aleksandra 2A



Sophia 2H



Sophia 2H reading a Christmas Carol.

The Christmas Spirit



This book is about a boy who encounters a Christmas miracle! In the middle of the night he sees elves surrounding his Christmas tree. He meets Santa and ends up having to save Christmas from the wicked grinch!!!

Nabila 4R



Reading to my little brother Ayad

Albie parkinson reading in his pj's... class 5HD



Ayden Zeeshan 5HD



Reading to my little friend



Nathan 1S

Amaya 4L



Reading to my precious cat called Waffles 🐾❤️

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Boccia County Finals



Following their brilliant 1st-place victory at the Thurrock event, our Boccia team recently headed to the County Finals! Our students have been working tirelessly during their lunch hours, honing the skills and precision needed to compete at the highest level.

The competition was fierce, featuring over 100 schools from across Essex, but Lansdowne rose to the challenge—finishing in 5th place with only one loss! Their dedication and teamwork truly paid off. Beyond the scoreline, our pupils were fantastic ambassadors for LPA, embodying our core values at every turn. We are so proud of everything they have achieved!

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Year 2 All About London

The pupils have been showing lots of excitement about learning new knowledge in their topics. In history, the pupils have been learning all about the Great Fire of London. They already know so many facts, such as; the fire started in a bakery in Pudding Lane in London when the King's baker Thomas Farriner did not put the fire out properly. They are very excited about using their historical enquiry skills to find out more!

The pupils had a tremendous day on their school trip to the Tower of London, during their workshop with Jane the maid they learnt all about why the fire spread so quickly and how it was eventually put out. They loved exploring the historic building.



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Discovering Dinosaurs in Reception



We had a very special visit from **Professor Memo!** Before her arrival, Professor Memo set the children a number of exciting tasks, such as creating camouflage to help her return safely to the land of the dinosaurs, building a shelter for her, and completing many other challenges. The children were extremely excited to dress up and welcome Professor Memo for her special visit!

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Year 6 London Trip Tate Modern/ River Cruise

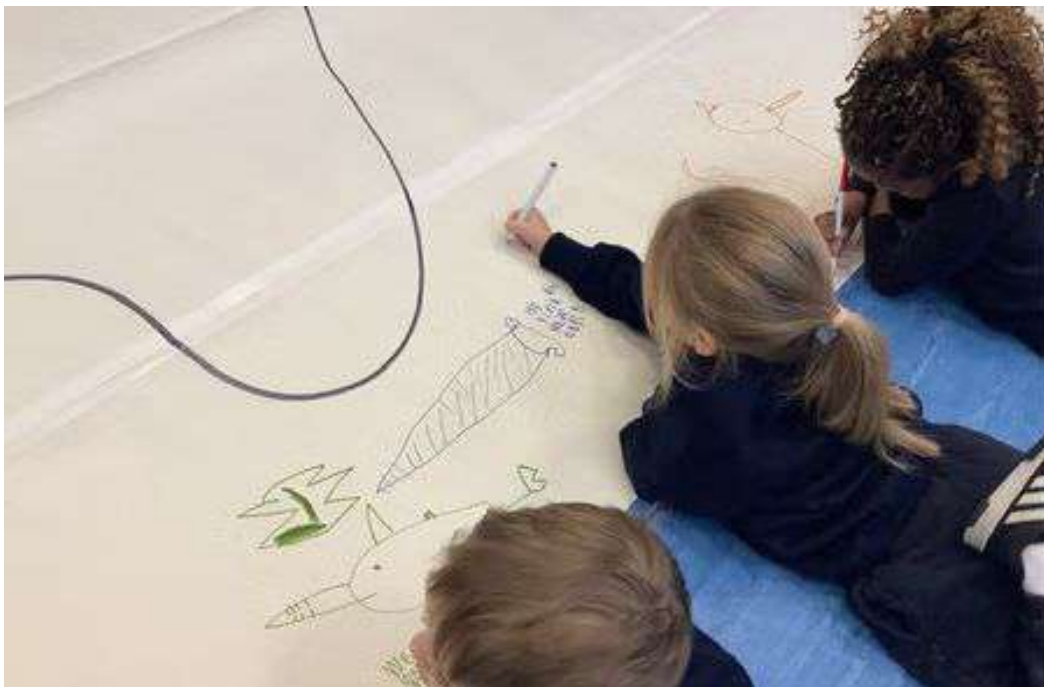
Year 6 at Lansdowne Primary Academy enjoyed an exciting educational trip, travelling by river boat and visiting Tate Modern. The river journey gave pupils a unique view of London's landmarks, while their visit to the gallery inspired curiosity and discussion as they explored a range of modern artworks. The trip was a memorable experience that enriched their learning beyond the classroom.



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Year 1 The Drama Geezers Workshop

The highlight of the half term was the Drama Geezers workshop! Pupils thoroughly enjoyed using their imagination to bring ideas to life and collaborating to create a story together. They demonstrated fantastic creativity, teamwork, and confidence as they explored different characters, scenarios, and storytelling techniques. It was a truly engaging and inspiring experience for everyone involved.



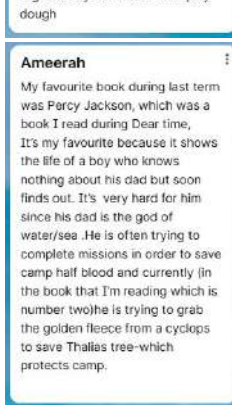
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Pioneer Your Learning

It has been an absolute joy to look through the **Pioneer** family learning projects completed over the Christmas break. The effort and creativity demonstrated by both our pupils and their families are truly impressive. More here:

<https://padlet.com/TilburyPioneer/pioneer-your-learning-autumn-2-2025-9gok9xg5d6cbm8lu>



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Tate Modern/ River Cruise Trip

Our Year 5 students recently embarked on an action-packed trip to the Tate Modern, trading the classroom for the vibrant South Bank to bring their current art and geography units to life.

Art: From "Materials" to "Cityscapes"

The day began with an immersive tour of the Tate's Materials and Objects gallery, where pupils examined how artists transform everyday items into extraordinary works of art. This was followed by a visit to the Media Networks gallery, sparking discussions on how technology and art intersect in our modern world.

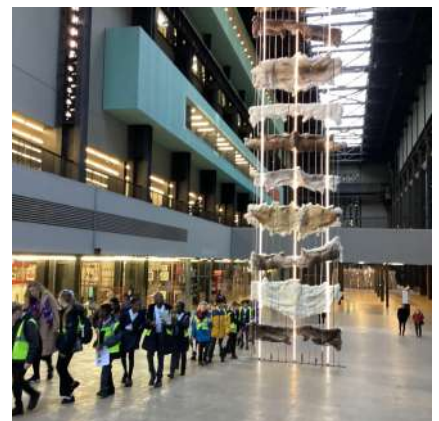
With their sketchbooks in hand, the children also spent time observing the iconic London skyline. This served as the perfect primary research for our Cityscapes unit, allowing them to capture the unique architecture and towering landmarks that define our city.

Geography: Life on the River

The adventure continued as we took to the water on the Uber Boat by Thames Clippers. This provided a front-row seat for our Geography unit on Rivers. Traveling along the Thames—our very own local river—the children were able to:

- Identify key landmarks such as the Tower of London and HMS Belfast.
- Observe the flow and function of a major tidal river.
- See firsthand how the river has shaped the development of London over centuries.

The behaviour of the students was exemplary, and their enthusiasm for exploring their local environment was a joy to see. A huge thank you to all the staff and parent volunteers who made this trip possible!



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Roaring Success for our Newest Palaeontologists! 🦖

This term, Reception at Tilbury Pioneer Academy turned into a live excavation site! We were delighted to welcome Professor Memo, who tasked the children with joining the Royal Dinosaur Club.

Through this immersive experience, students developed:

- **Fine Motor Skills:** Using trowels for delicate excavation.
- **Scientific Inquiry:** Comparing herbivore/carnivore diets and identifying fossilised tree sap.
- **Collaboration:** Working in teams to uncover "mysterious" finds.

The children have been so inspired by their research—we might have some future scientists on our hands! Well done, Reception!



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Year 2 Tower of London

This half term, Year 2 enjoyed an exciting trip to the Tower of London. We saw the Crown Jewels, took part in a workshop all about the Great Fire of London, and climbed 204 steps up the tower. The children were thrilled to spot the famous ravens and showed great enthusiasm throughout the day. Everyone had a fantastic time and it was a memorable way to bring our history learning to life.



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The Drama Geezers

The Drama Geezers visited Tilbury Pioneer Academy to work with our Year 1 pupils, delivering a fun and engaging drama session. The children enjoyed taking part in imaginative activities that encouraged creativity, confidence, and self-expression.

It was a lively and inspiring visit that gave pupils the opportunity to explore storytelling and performance in an exciting, hands-on way.



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Year 4 Trip to Duxford IWM

Year 4 had a fantastic time at Duxford Imperial War Museum, exploring historic Spitfires and discovering how aviation played a crucial role in Britain during World War Two. The pupils really engaged with the exhibits and came away with a deeper understanding of history in action.



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The Ormiston Trust



The Ormiston Trust believes in a future where all young people can lead fulfilling lives. With the right tools and support, young people and their families can become empowered to make a positive difference on the issues affecting their lives, communities, and broader society.

Ormiston Trust was established in 1968 after a family tragedy when Fiona Ormiston Murray and her husband tragically died on their honeymoon in 1968. Over 40 years, Ormiston Trust has provided added-value support, resources, and funding for projects and institutions to achieve these goals. One of our key programmes over the last six years has been uniting young people with a shared belief in the power of youth social action. This programme takes the lead from young people, who can develop their skills, resilience, and well-being and create change to tackle issues they care about.

We know we can make a difference by partnering with and investing in schools, charities, and organisations.

We are proud supporters of three Multi-Academy Trusts:

- Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT)
- The Gateway Learning Community
- Birmingham Ormiston Academy comprises BOA Stage and Screen Production Academy and BOA Digital Technologies Academy

We also support Ormiston Families, which runs a diverse range of services for children, young people, and families to improve the mental health, well-being, and life chances of the people we work with and ensure brighter futures for the next generation.



The GLC Primary Competencies

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




The GLC LPA Thrive Hive [Click here for more information](#)

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The GLC Lansdowne Primary Academy Thrive Hive

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



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- Latest News
- Term Dates

[The GLC 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.
7. Running evidence-informed parenting programmes, like the Triple P parenting programme, making a real difference to family life.
8. Offering targeted support to equip parents and carers with the knowledge, skills and understanding to actively support their children's learning and development.
9. 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.
10. Providing access to desktop computers and a printer, empowering parents to navigate online forms and applications for vital services.





The GLC Thrive Hive

Lansdowne Primary Academy



Our Vision

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For more information

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



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

LPA-thrivehive@theglc.org.uk



The GLC are Extremely Pleased to be Working with Thurrock Play Network



A small non-profit charity that provides advice, support and resources for play and recreation in the community. They give advice and support to individuals, voluntary groups and organisations

A small non-profit charity that provides advice, support and resources for play and recreation in the community. They give advice and support to individuals, voluntary groups and organisations.

The funding they receive enables them to provide activities and events, while providing access to a wide range of low cost resources for play and recreation via The Pyramid Resource Centre.

Check out their website: <https://www.thurrockplaynetwork.co.uk/pyramid-centre/>
Or follow them on social media.

Benefits of using the Thurrock Play Network (Pyramid Centre)

1. **Community Engagement:** The charity provides a range of play, recreational, and craft events that are inclusive to all ages.
2. **Resource Access:** The Pyramid Resource Centre offers a wide range of low-cost resources for play and recreation. This makes it easier for families to access materials for various activities.
3. **Support and Advice:** The charity provides advice and support to individuals, voluntary groups, and organisations. This can be invaluable for those looking to start or improve their own play and recreational programs.
4. **Environmental impact:** By promoting recycling and the use of scrap materials, the charity helps reduce waste and encourages sustainable practices.
5. **Educational Opportunities:** The network organises workshops and events that can help children and adults learn new skills.



Our Partners





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



Year 10 Work Experience

Every year, our Year 10 students benefit immensely from our work experience programme. It's a crucial chance for them to step into the workplace, gain real-world skills and prepare for their future careers.



We're facing a challenge: **finding suitable placements is getting tougher.** That's why we're asking for your help! Do you have any connections - as a parent, relative, or friend - to an employer who would be willing to host a student?

The programme runs for one week, from **29th June - 3rd July 2026.** We're hoping to expand our network and build a reliable pool of supportive organisations.

Please use the link below to share any contact information or forward it directly to an employer you know. We'll take care of the rest!

We truly appreciate your involvement. It's the generosity of our community that makes this vital programme possible.

<https://forms.gle/EJp6iBmTjo3UYii77>



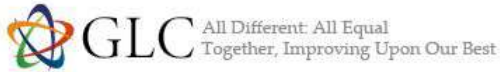
Please see the details of the latest **vacancies**:

| GA | GPFS | HPA | LPA | TPA | GLC |
|----|--|-----|---|-----|-----|
| | Sports Coach RWI Fast Track Tutor Midday Assistant | | KS1/KS2 Classroom Teacher -RWI Phonics Lead [TLR2B] Assistant Head - Early Years Role Assistant Head [Responsibility Negotiable] Lead Practitioner for Teaching & Learning: KS1/KS2 Classroom Teacher KS2 | | |

Click here to view our:

- [GLC Welcome Video](#)
- [Ofsted Reports](#)
- [Our People Strategy](#)

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



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





Check it out!

The *Thurrock Physical Activity Booklet* [February 2026] highlights a wide range of free or low-cost activities across Thurrock to support health and wellbeing. It includes sessions for all ages, such as children’s holiday clubs, inclusive fitness classes, outdoor walks, team sports, and dance. The booklet also promotes support services like the Thurrock Healthy Lifestyle Service and encourages community involvement through volunteering and local events.

<https://www.activeessex.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Thurrock-FLC-Physical-Activity-Booklet-Feb25.pdf>

Free & Low Cost Physical Activity in Thurrock
Version: February 2025

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Free | F |
| Low Cost (£5 and under) | LC |

Developed & updated by

Thurrock CVS

FIND YOUR ACTIVE

This is a living document, so for your content to be added or amended please contact Melissa.Huggins@thurrockcvcs.org



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) FEBRUARY HALF TERM 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

Kids under 10 eat for £1 during school holidays

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat free Sunday - Thursday

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

2 Kids Eat Free Breakfast with one paying adult

BILLS

Kids eat free Monday 17th - Friday 28th Feb

BREWDOG

Kids eat free this Feb Half Term

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

2 under 16s get free breakfast daily with 1 adult!

COCONUT TREE

Kids eat FREE from 10th to the 16th of Feb 2026.

CAFE ROUGE

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

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch

FRANKIE & BENNY'S

Kids eat FREE during all school holidays

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

LAS IGUANAS

Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' 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

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 eat for £1 from 6th Jan to 11th February 2026.

PUREZZA

Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal

PIZZA HUT

Kids Eat Free Every Day after 3pm

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

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

TRAVELODGE

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

TURTLE BAY

Kids eat free with every £15 adult spend

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 all day Feb 16th - 20th 2026



GLC Primary March Holiday Provision

THROUGHOUT THE DAYS THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE PART IN CREATIVE ACTIVITIES, MUSIC, PERFORMING ARTS, FOREST SCHOOL AND MULTI-SPORTS.

**Lansdowne
Primary Academy**

8:30AM - 3:30PM

**Spaces available
for Year 1 - Year 6**

£10 per child



Monday 30th March 2026
Tuesday 31st March 2026
Wednesday 1st April 2026



**SCAN TO FILL IN
THE HOLIDAY
PROVISION FORM**

<https://forms.gle/1MID2uhwEXsHDwS9>



Must bring a packed lunch and water bottle



Please bring a spare change of clothing



Job Title

Primary Teacher Apprenticeship [Salaried – No Tuition Fees]

Overview

The Gateway Learning Community (GLC) is seeking to recruit committed and enthusiastic individuals who wish to complete a Teacher Degree Apprenticeship as a route into primary teaching.

This programme provides the opportunity to earn a salary (£24,078 – Unqualified Teacher Salary) while gaining practical classroom experience, completing your bachelor's degree, and achieving Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

Who Can Apply

The programme is open to a wide range of applicants, including:

- Individuals currently working in schools who wish to advance their careers
- Recent school leavers
- Professionals seeking a career change into teaching

Programme Structure

- **Employment:** You will be employed by the Gateway Learning Community and receive a salary (conditions apply).
- **Practical Experience:** From the outset, you will be fully immersed in the classroom environment, working alongside experienced colleagues and becoming an integral member of the school team.
- **Training Model:**
 - 60% (three days per week) on-the-job training
 - 40% (equivalent to two days per week) off-the-job study, with the majority of sessions delivered online to support flexibility

Further Information

Further details about the Teacher Degree Apprenticeship programme can be found here: [Primary Teacher Degree Apprenticeship Programme](#)

Contact Information

For further details or to express your interest, please contact:

The Gateway Learning Community (GLC)
Email: HR@theglc.org.uk
Website: <https://www.theglc.org.uk>



Interviews

- Initial interviews for the programme will be conducted online.
- Applicants invited to interview will be able to select their preferred date and time.
- In addition, candidates will attend an interview at one of the primary schools within The Gateway Learning Community.

Entry Requirements

- A-levels: CCC
- BTEC: MMM
- International Baccalaureate: 26 points with three subjects at Higher Level
- Access to HE Diploma: Pass with 60 credits overall, including at least 45 credits at Level 3 (24 at Distinction and the remainder at Merit)
- T-level: Merit in the Education and Early Years or the Education and Childcare T-level
- (Other T-level subjects are not accepted)

Plus:

- GCSEs (minimum grade C or grade 4) in:
 - English Language
 - Mathematics
 - Science

If you do not hold the required GCSEs, please refer to information on acceptable equivalent qualifications.





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

THE GLC RECRUITMENT FAIR

Date: Thursday 30th April 2026

Time: 4:30pm - 6pm

Location: Tilbury Pioneer Academy,
Dickens Avenue, Tilbury, Essex, RM18 8HJ

We are looking for passionate and enthusiastic staff who are ready to make a positive difference to our young people and to support our mission of developing active and thriving citizens within a diverse, truly fair and equal community.

#jointheglctrust

BENEFITS FOR TEACHERS WORKING WITHIN THE GLC

- **Golden hello:** Staff receive a golden hello payment of £1000 after a qualifying period of 12 months [Payable to Teachers and LSAs on MPS/UPS]
- **Flexible working:** All applications for flexible working will be considered in-line with the GLC flexible working policy
- **Employee assist programme & insurance:** All staff can take advantage of our health and wellbeing plan via our partnership with Westfield Health. This includes: 24/7 access to a doctor, a 24 hour advice & information line, dental treatment, various therapies, gym and retail discounts and a variety of rewards
- **Cycle to work scheme:** All staff can take part in our cycle to work scheme, enabling them to hire a bike and cycling equipment, with the cost taken from your monthly salary before national insurance and income tax are deducted



Drop in to The Gateway Learning Community Recruitment Fair

Register your attendance via our Google form:
<https://forms.gle/gJCb5w7yznkARmcc9>

Walk-ins
are welcome



Scan here to complete
the attendance form

www.theglc.org.uk




FREE School Uniform Events

free for everyone,
no referral needed!

Fridays
3 - 4.30pm

- 16th January
- 20th February
- 20th March
- 17th April
- 15th May
- 19th June



Saturdays
10 - 11.30am

- 17th January
- 21st February
- 21st March
- 18th April
- 16th May
- 20th June



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





February Half Term at Grangewaters



Monday 16 to Friday 20 February 2026
Outdoor fun for ages 8 and above including Archery, Bushcraft, Climbing, Longboat Sailing and more!
All priced at £12 per person, per activity



To book go online at grangewaters.co.uk

Discover your next adventure  thurrock.gov.uk




**FREE CRAFT
SESSION AT
TILBURY LIBRARY**

**CREATE A CHINESE
LANTERN**

**Wednesday 18 February
11.30am to 12.30pm**

Suitable for pre-school and primary ages.
No booking required

Tilbury Community Hub & Library
Civic Square, Tilbury RM18 8AD

 thurrock.gov.uk



Children's Winter Wonder Tales



Join us for a special children's story time
and a free, delicious hot chocolate!



TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

3:30pm to 4:30pm

TILBURY LIBRARY and Hub

Civic Square, Tilbury RM18 8AD

No booking required

01375 842612



SUITABLE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE

 thurrock.gov.uk



February Half-term Boredom Busters!

16th

Youth Takeover Day!

Join us for two fun-packed sessions:
Activities: lantern making, DJing,
karaoke, games, films & food!

19th

Lantern Making Workshop

Create your own lantern and join the
illuminated parade to Coalhouse Fort on
20th March!

No experience needed – just bring your
imagination for a night of art, light &
community.

*Keep your eye on our socials for more
information!*

hello@artsoutburst.co.uk 01375 386247



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Funded by
UK Government



Academic year 2025-26

Wraparound Care in your community

Before and after school care every day schools are open!



Book now

premier-education.com





YOUR NEAREST WRAPAROUND CARE CLUBS...

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| The Gateway Primary Free School | Herringham Primary School | Tilbury Pioneer Academy | Lansdowne Primary Academy |
| 3pm - 6pm | 3pm - 6pm | 3pm - 6pm | 3pm - 6pm |
| Monday to Friday | Monday to Friday | Monday to Friday | Monday to Friday |
| £15.00 per session | £15.00 per session | £15.00 per session | £15.00 per session |

Premier Education are honoured to be able to provide the wraparound care in your community.



Parents can relax knowing their children are in safe hands as all staff have experience working with primary school children, have been DBS checked, and hold Emergency First Aid and Safeguarding certificates.

Wraparound care sessions are open to children from Reception to Year 6, with no deposit or registration fee required. Healthy snacks are provided, with specific dietary requirements also being catered for.



WRAPAROUND IS BETTER WITH FRIENDS!



TREAT YOUR FRIENDS TO 20% OFF...AND GET 20% OFF TOO!

*Ts&Cs apply. Refer a Friend discount on new bookings only.





Pop into your local library and try something new!

BookTrust Storytime

Tilbury Library

11:30am-12:00pm



Alternate Thursdays



8 and 22 January
5 and 19 February
5 and 19 March



Tilbury Hub Civic Square Tilbury RM18 8AD



Come and have fun with stories.
It's FREE!



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

thurrock.gov.uk



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



T100 EXPLORE TALK CREATE

T100 is a free cultural programme that invites you to connect with Thurrock and its surroundings in new and unexpected ways. By exploring local places, sharing stories, and getting creative, we bring people together and celebrate the voices that make our communities unique.

Year-round events

In addition to hosting a month-long outdoor community festival each summer, our year-round offerings include guided walks and creative experiences (see reverse). We're also committed to supporting the next generation of leaders in Thurrock through our T100 Young Ambassadors programme.

How we began

What started as a 10-day walking celebration of Thurrock – 10 miles, 10 walks, 10 days – has evolved into a vibrant year-round programme of exploration, conversation and creativity. Over the past decade, we've embarked on this journey alongside a growing team of local volunteers, with each year organically shaping the theme for the next.

Volunteer with us

Interested in getting more involved in what we do? We offer a range of volunteer opportunities across our activities:

- Walk Team Member
- Garden Volunteer
- Young Ambassador Buddy
- Events & Project Team

Reach out to the T100 team at hello@t100festival.co.uk.

Visit T100festival.co.uk to learn more. Follow us at @T100festival





Want to help your local Museum and meet new people?

We need help to repack our artefacts and add important information to our Museum database.

Go behind the scenes at the Museum and:

Learn new skills

Meet new people

Gain work experience

Enhance your language skills

Contact thurrock.museum@thurrock.gov.uk or google Thurrock Museum Routes to Roots to find out more.



thurrock.gov.uk



Healthy Families: Growing Up



Join our parent group

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!

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



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

Contact Us

School Health Service
0300 300 1999 Opt 2



Together
productions

Together Create

Making art together. Making change together.

**Get creative, boost your wellbeing,
meet new friends and make a difference**

Free weekly sessions for all ages:

Singing / song-writing sessions in Grays, Wednesday 10am-12pm

Art / making sessions in Tilbury, Wednesdays 3:30-5pm



Sign up at www.togetherproductions.co.uk/events

Find out more: rachel@togetherproductions.co.uk

or message/call us on 07378 968443





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





Thurrock Frontline



**FIND
LOCAL
HELP
EASILY!**

-  addiction
-  advice
-  disability
-  family
-  mental health
-  older people
-  neurodiverse
-  young people
-  wellbeing

DOWNLOAD THE
'FRONTLINE REFERRALS' APP



Please visit us online

thurrock.essexfrontline.org.uk



Mid and South Essex
Integrated Care Board



thurrock.gov.uk

