

Hello!

Welcome to Gateshead's Winter 2024 SEND Network Newsletter.

In Gateshead we believe that the voice, opinions and experiences of children and young people with SEND and their families should be at the heart of everything we do. For more information go to www.gateshead-localoffer.org, follow the Gateshead SEND Local Offer [Facebook page](#) or visit the [Gateshead Local Offer YouTube channel](#).

A simplified version of this newsletter can be found at <https://gateshead-localoffer.org/gateshead-send-network-newsletter/>

Meet Our Supported Interns!

Gateshead Council's Learning and Skills group have welcomed six new learners onto their Supported Internship programme. Kai, Cherry, Charlotte, Kye, Adam, and Chelsea began their new course in September, each with the aim of developing their employability skills and finding paid work at the end of it.

"It's been quite a long journey for me", says 19-year-old Kye. "I've been looking for something since I was sixteen and tried a few different training courses. This course seemed like a great opportunity and a good programme. I'm really enjoying it, it's a good course."

"This is the best opportunity I've found to get a job", agrees Adam. "You can't get a job if you don't have experience, and this gives you experience. I love to get my hands dirty and do stuff!"

A supported internship is a type of study programme specifically aimed at young people aged 16 to 24 years of age who have a learning disability or other special educational need. The programme offers personalised support to individuals while they are in the workplace, helping them master their job role and gradually develop the confidence to gain the skills and experience needed to move into paid employment.



"I feel incredibly lucky to have the privilege to be able to give our young people the support and skills they need to access the world of work", says programme tutor Leanne. "They have so much potential they just need the opportunity to be given the chance to shine and I feel like we provide that for them."

Gateshead Council Learning and Skills are now recruiting for their next cohort of Supported Interns starting in September 2025. For more information and details of how you can sign up, visit <https://mylearningskills.co.uk/supported-internships>, email supportedinternships@gateshead.gov.uk or phone 0191 433 8646.

Furrowfield School Remembrance Respect Day

Furrowfield School dedicated their full day on 11 November to the history and commemoration of those who have died or were injured in the line of duty from the First World War up to the present day. Multimedia supported this with a bugler playing the last post and a piper playing the lament after the two-minute silence. 'In Flanders Fields' and 'For the Fallen' were read whilst students presented Year Group wreaths and poppy crosses.

"This was a day when the whole school stopped to think and pay their respect to those who had given their lives so we could have the freedom we have today," said Head Teacher Miss H.E.Scott.

Throughout the day the full curriculum was linked to Remembrance with students in English studying war poetry, in Maths code breaking co-ordinates were the theme, in science how soldiers who had died were identified was investigated. In art, installations such as 3D poppies and air-drying clay poppies were made. How businesses supported the troops in both World Wars was researched in Business, whilst in geography why the Great War was known as a World War was investigated. In History, the focus of the day was on the Western Front. In Music, The Last Post and the poignancy of this was reviewed whilst in PE fitness testing and how this was done in WW2 was looked at. In Food Technology Bread and Butter Pudding and Woolton Pies were made.

"It was a very interesting day," says a Year 10 student. "We looked at Remembrance in all subject areas and having the full school service really brought it home about the sacrifices that were made for us all today. We will remember them'.

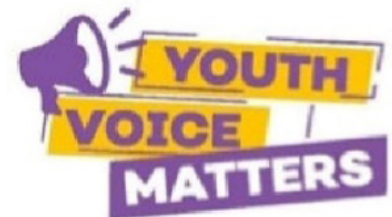


Furrowfield School is a specialist provision in Gateshead for students who need additional support for their Social, Emotional Mental Health. For more information visit <https://www.furrowfieldschool.uk/> or email furrowfieldschool@gateshead.gov.uk

FLARE Young People's Group

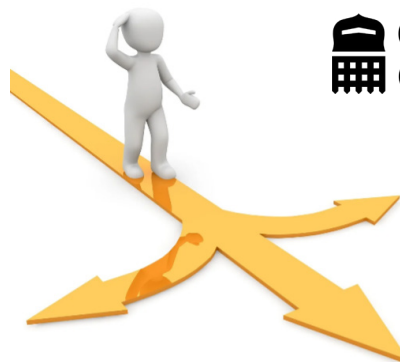
FLARE is the Department for Education's national young SEND advisory group. FLARE, which stands for Friendship, Learning, Achieve, Reach and Empower, is a diverse group of young people up to the age of 25 with SEND from across England who work together to share their views and experiences with the Department for Education and other organisations, helping them understand how children and young people with SEND want to receive the support and services they need.

FLARE members regularly record podcasts and write blogs on issues that matter to them. To listen to their podcasts, visit <https://our-turn-to-talk.zencast.website/episodes>. To read their blogs, visit FLARE Blogs (councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk)



Gateshead SEND Transitions Guide

Changes in a person's education, health, or social care services can be a difficult and challenging time for anybody. This can be particularly complex for children, young people, and families living with SEND. To help with this, Gateshead Council - in partnership with Gateshead's wider SEND system - is developing a SEND Transitions Guide. Led by SEND consultant Anne Hayward, the Guide aims to ensure that children and young people aged 0-25 and their families are aware of when and how changes occur to ensure as smooth a transition as possible when they happen.



Aiming to be published early in 2025, the Guide is currently being co-produced by professionals, parents, young people and children in Gateshead's SEND system. For updates on the process and to access the Guide upon completion, visit <https://gateshead-localoffer.org/>

Resources for Autistic Teenagers

The National Autistic Society have created the 'Know Yourself' series of free resources for autistic teenagers. The Know Yourself series is a set of free resources which includes videos and downloadable guides aiming to support autistic teens to understand what being autistic means.

The resources focus on young autistic people talking about their experiences and what has helped them. The aim is to offer information and ideas that will empower others to begin to explore their own experiences and understand themselves more.



The series will cover six topics in total over the course of three years. The first four topics, 'understanding yourself', 'energy accounting', 'exploring your identity' and 'setting yourself up for success' are available now.

For more information and to access the resources, visit <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/resources-for-autistic-teenagers>. For more information about the National Autistic Society, visit <https://www.autism.org.uk/>.

Sibs

For brothers and sisters
of disabled children and adults

Sibs is the UK charity for people who grow up with a disabled brother or sister. They support siblings who are growing up with or who have grown up with a brother or sister with any disability, long term chronic illness, or life limiting condition.

There are over half a million young siblings and over a million adult siblings in the UK. Siblings have specific needs that require attention at different stages of their lives, including relief of isolation, information, and strategies for coping with the situations they find themselves in.

For more information visit <https://www.sibs.org.uk/> email info@sibs.org.uk, or follow them on [Facebook](#).

Information and Resources



The **Gateshead SEND Activities Directory** has been developed to provide free and impartial information to families about activities suitable for those with SEND within the local and surrounding area and offered online.

Access the Directory at <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/28686/SEND-activities-directory>



Gateshead's Parent Carer Forum are hosting their annual **Christmas Party on Monday 23rd December, 1:30-3:30pm**. As always, it's a free event but is ticketed to manage numbers for the children. Mailing list members get priority access for ticketed events so, if you haven't already, **sign up here:**

<https://www.gatesheadparentcarerforum.co.uk/join-us>



Friends Action North East (FANE) is a Newcastle-based charity which aims to help support people with learning disabilities and autistic people to make and keep friends. Since 2004, FANE has supported people to make healthy friendships and connections, improve their mental health and wellbeing, and work with people to identify and overcome barriers to living a happy and active life.

For more information, visit <https://www.friendsaction.co.uk/>, email info@friendsaction.co.uk or phone 0191 231 4327.



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy 2023-26 Gateshead's SEND Strategy (www.gateshead.gov.uk/SENDstrategy) explains how the Council and those who work with the Council will improve the lives of children and young people with SEND. We want to know how you think we are doing since we launched the strategy last year. **Click here to take part in the survey:** forms.office.com/e/e81qvLcS23

Contact us:

Special Educational Needs and Disability Team, Gateshead Council

senteam@gateshead.gov.uk

0191 433 3626

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We value your feedback and to help us improve our newsletter we have created a short survey which you can access by clicking <https://forms.office.com/r/HFRHE6EHmd>