

GATEWAYS
THE CHALLENGE

CELEBRATING
25th
YEAR

Challenge Scenarios

Challenge Scenarios for 2026

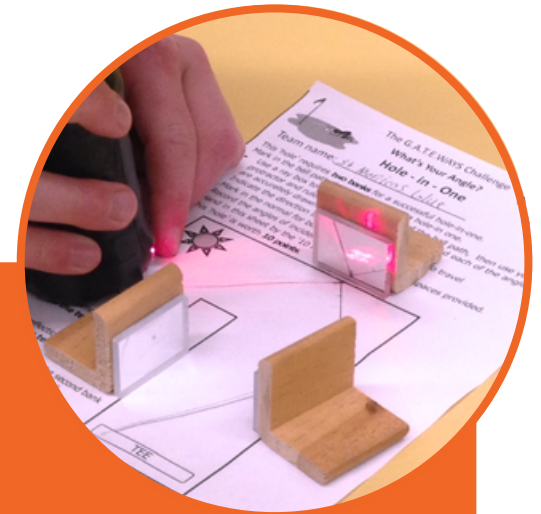
Each team will be presented with four different scenarios. See the following pages for the synopsis.

Important note:

All team members should complete the training activities for all four Challenges, not just the Challenge they will lead.

General advice for teams

- ✓ Each student is to be 'Team Leader' for one of the four rounds.
- ✓ Students should decide on a team name.
- ✓ Teams are encouraged to meet to prepare for the Challenge and to refine their teamwork skills.



Years 5 and 6

Lady Stanza's Last Sonnet

FOCUS: CREATIVE WRITING

CHALLENGER: DR. KIM EDWARDS

Everyone knows this famous story — about that eccentric old adventurer and poet called Lady Elizabeth Stanza who was rumoured to have hidden her vast fortune before she died, and the only real clue to its whereabouts is the mysterious poem she left in her will. Fortune hunters, literary scholars and cryptographers have all tried to solve it, but the secrets of Lady Stanza's last sonnet remain lost, and the treasure remains undiscovered...

Your team of enterprising poets and fortune-hunters are determined to employ your combined skills in rhyme and reason to finally reveal the mystery! Will you complete the strange sonnet, work out the location of the hidden treasure trove, and write an account of your adventure — or will Lady Stanza have the last poetic laugh?!



The Mathematician's Vault

FOCUS: MATHEMATICS

CHALLENGER: DR INDRAMOHAN SINGH

Somewhere deep in a hidden chamber, a legendary mathematician has sealed away their greatest discovery, protected by a three-letter code that only the sharpest mathematical minds can unlock. The vault will not budge for guesswork. It demands logic, pattern recognition, and precision.

"The numbers hold the secret. Arrange them, analyse them, decode them and the vault is yours."

In this challenge, students become code-breakers. They must work through three escalating stages. Every step demands both mathematical skill and careful reasoning. Get it right, and the vault opens. Rush it, and the secret stays buried.



Years 5 and 6

Star Struck Skaters

FOCUS: SCIENCE/ASTRONOMY
CHALLENGER: EMMA CARTER

A cosmic solar flare has just scrambled the pre-programmed navigation systems of the entire Intergalactic Roller Derby. The visiting teams are stranded, their sleek starships grounded, with no way to plot a course home.

Your crew is their last hope. Each anxious alien has crucial pieces of information about the star at the centre of their home solar system. They can describe its temperature, its key chemical composition, and the precise speed at which it is moving toward or away from our galaxy.

You are handed a stack of stellar spectrograms—the light-fingerprints of distant suns. Within these colourful bands and dark absorption lines lie the secrets of identity, motion, and elemental makeup.

Decode the spectrums. Match the data. Navigate the stars to send every homesick skater shooting toward the right pinprick of light. Time to roll!



Teamwork Round

FOCUS: TEAMWORK

Your team has been selected for a special mission. You've been given a complex problem to solve—but there's a catch. To succeed, it becomes clear that how you work together will matter more than anything else.

You'll need to:

- **Communicate** your ideas and listen carefully
- **Collaborate** to build solutions together
- **Contribute** by doing your part
- **Respect** every voice—because any idea could unlock the solution

Just when you think you're making progress... something changes. The challenge evolves. Your team must adapt. Will you stay focused? Will you adjust your approach? Will you support each other under pressure?

In this mission, success isn't just about solving the problem—it's about how your team works together when it matters most.



Get in touch with us

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