

Gartree High School

Ridgeway, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TQ



4th November 2016

Dear parent/carer,

I am always deeply moved when I hear The Last Post played on the bugle on Remembrance Sunday, played to commemorate those who have been killed in wars. It seems to capture a profound sense of loss and sadness.

For a small donation, poppies will be available in school from Monday. The poppy is perfectly fitting for its role. A symbol of hope and new life, it can grow abundantly in the most unpromising land. Poppies were the first flowers to colonise the graves on the fields of Flanders. It was their display on the devastated battlefields on the western front during WW1 that inspired the Canadian physician Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae to pen the poem *In Flanders Fields*. The poem was first published in Punch magazine on 8th December 1915 and was the inspiration for the first poppy appeal in 1921, when 9 million silk poppies were sold – raising the equivalent of £30 million pounds in today's values.

Poppies can evoke thoughts of war, suffering and sacrifice - they do not carry a single message. The poppy is a symbol of remembrance and hope. Red is the natural colour of the fields of poppies – poppies are not red to represent death, nor to show support for war, nor to reflect the colour of blood. Wearing a poppy is a simple act to show our unity and hope for a peace.



IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.

Headteacher: Ms Sonia Singleton
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On Tuesday we hosted matches against Wigston Academy and there were mixed results for our teams, with the Year 7 netball team winning 20-7 and progressing to the next round.

We have a number of events coming up this week:

- On Monday most of our Year 7 students will be going on a trip to the Natural History Museum.
- On Monday a group of Year 9 Design Technology students will be going to Warner Brothers Studios.
- On Wednesday we are holding our Year 9 Options Evening, from 6.00 – 8.00 pm.
- Auditions for *Gartree's Got Talent* will be taking place on Tuesday.

Tonight the Year 6 and 7 Guy Fawkes Disco will take place at Gartree and I am sure the students will have a great time!

Yours sincerely,



Sonia Singleton
Headteacher

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