

Gartree High School

Ridgeway, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TQ



25th November 2016

Dear parent/carer,

This week we appointed Mrs Khazi as our new librarian to work alongside Mrs Sneath in our busy and welcoming library. Our library provides the ideal atmosphere for learning and is full of students almost every break and lunchtime. It is situated at the heart of our school, both physically and socially, offering an ideal environment for students to read, research or study.

I am a huge fan of libraries and have been saddened to hear of cuts and closures of both local libraries and school libraries. In a digital age it would be easy not to pick up a book or a newspaper. Information is so accessible to us, and yet there is something special about a library – just being in one presents you with the possibility of gaining some new knowledge and can offer some moments of quiet in a world full of sound and activity. A library is home to books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, films, maps, prints, documents, e-books, audiobooks and much more, including access to technology that you may not have at home.

As an A-level student, I spent many hours studying in the central lending library on Belvoir Street in the City and as a university student the vibrant buzz of central London would fade away on entering Senate House. Libraries also serve as community spaces, playing a vital part in connecting the young and old. Whether you are there as an individual or a group libraries offer a space for people to come together.

Of course as a school, reading and learning are central to our aims. As our sons and daughters grow up and become independent readers, there is a temptation to leave them to it! However, there is still much to gain by discussing the books your child is reading. This is even more powerful if you have both read a book that you can share (or debate!) views on.

Listed below is a selection of books being studied this academic year:

Year 6 - 'Skellig' by David Almond.

Year 7 - 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo, 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell Boyce, 'Millions' by Frank Cottrell Boyce.

Year 8 - 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne, 'Holes' by Louis Sachar, 'Trash' by Andy Milligan, 'Tribes' by Catherine McPhail, 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo.

Year 9 - 'Stone Cold' by Robert Swindells, 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck.

City libraries can be found at <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/libraries/find-a-library/>
The Oadby library is located at 10 The Parade, Oadby.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Sonia Singleton
Headteacher

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