

Gartree High School

Ridgeway, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TQ



6th January 2017

Dear parent/carer,

Happy New Year! We have had a great start to 2017. Years 6 and 7 had assembly this week, and this gave us the opportunity to reflect on the events of 2016. We looked at a range of images that had been captured throughout the year. Some were significant and some less so. Some were tragic and others celebrated life. Nothing is constant and we always do our utmost to prepare our students for the rough and the smooth, teaching them how to cope with challenges but also to enjoy and acknowledge all of the small magic moments in each day. This acknowledgement of our favourite moments can be very personal - but increasingly, in the digital age, such moments are captured as a photograph and shared.

Many of our students in school use social media as an everyday part of their life, for example by using Facebook and Instagram even though they should be 13 years old before doing so. Yesterday, the Children's Commissioner published a report entitled 'Growing Up Digital', based on a year-long study. This included statistics on the amount of time spent on social media and some of the dangers associated with doing so. We all have a different view of what limits should be imposed on many areas of our lives, but it is important to discuss the digital world your child operates in, and to ensure they are engaging with a full knowledge and understanding of what they are doing. Should you be concerned that their behaviour or wellbeing are being adversely affected, then please do not hesitate to contact school. My message to the students this week is to focus on creating magic moments at home, at school, with friends and with family – and to enjoy the moment!

I look forward to seeing Year 7 parents at Parents' Evening on either Tuesday 10th or Wednesday 11th January.

Have a great weekend.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Singleton".

Sonia Singleton
Headteacher

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