

Gartree High School

Ridgeway, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TQ



1st December 2017

Dear parents and carers,

As Headteacher of Gartree I get to do some amazing things. Recently I was at Oxford University, Said Business School, where I met Dr Michael Foale, astrophysicist and astronaut for NASA. His story, that took him from rural Lincolnshire to Houston, is an inspirational one. This week in assembly I shared this with Year 9 and 10 students.

His story has a number of twists and turns, but there were key themes vital for his success. I will be sharing them with Years 7 and 8 students in assembly on Monday morning:

- The power of ambition – encourage goals and dreaming big.
- Self-belief and confidence – don't 'smack each other down'. Listen and believe.
- Resilience and planning – Show how far you will go and how you can work under duress.
- Perseverance, commitment and learning from mistakes – don't give up, wait for the opportunity to 'catch the wave'.
- Psychological safety – what do we do to make others feel safe and not fear looking stupid.
- Being prepared for a changing world – when the world changes, your plans have to change.
- Have a Plan B – always know what you will do if you don't make it!

It was also interesting for me to be learning in the context of space travel. This is not my specialist subject so the insight, images and films were both breathtaking and challenging. However, whenever I am looking at matters relating to the universe, it is a great reminder to me to not 'sweat the small stuff'. Looking into the sky on a starry night is a great leveller and provides perspective on life for all of us, no matter what age or stage we are at.

On Tuesday, our Year 7 boys had a successful evening in the English Schools 5-a-side football, South Leicestershire round. Gartree finished runners up and were the only team to take any points off the eventual winners, Thomas Estley. It was a wonderful effort from all involved. Also on Tuesday, the Year 8 girls table tennis team won silver medals at the County Championships at Judgemeanow Community College. There was a real fighting spirit and a great standard of table tennis was on show. Well done girls!

On Wednesday, Year 8 and Year 9 girls had a successful evening at the Oadby and Wigston Schools' Futsal tournament. They won one, drew one and lost one game. A fantastic effort from the girls who have all been training hard for the event.

On Thursday, our Year 9 Sports Leaders visited Loughborough University for the prestigious NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters event. Students watched international and Paralympic athletes play outstanding wheelchair tennis and then had the opportunity to participate in a range of tennis based

Headteacher: Ms Sonia Singleton

Deputy Headteachers: Mr Paul Bannister, Mr Ben Rackley

Telephone: (0116) 2717421 Fax (0116) 2720148

Email: admin @ gartree.leics.sch.uk Website: www.gartree.leics.sch.uk

activities to work on their leadership skills. It was a superb day and as ever, the students were a credit to Gartree.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

S. Singleton

Sonia Singleton
Headteacher



Headteacher: Ms Sonia Singleton
Deputy Headteachers: Mr Paul Bannister, Mr Ben Rackley
Telephone: (0116) 2717421 Fax (0116) 2720148
Email: admin @ gartree.leics.sch.uk Website: www.gartree.leics.sch.uk