



Gartree High School

Ridgeway, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TQ

26th January 2018

Dear parents and carers,

We have had a number of visitors to our school this week and our learning environment is always admired. I appreciate we are in a fortunate position as the building is in its eleventh year and the building design provides a light and airy atmosphere, but we have had thousands of children and teenagers through our doors for thirty-one school terms, so I must give credit to the students for the excellent care and respect shown for their environment. This is so important on a microscale - in our homes and work places - but even more so on a global scale.

I was so pleased to see the team responsible for the BBC Natural History series Blue Planet II receive the Impact Award at the National Television Awards on Tuesday evening. There were many poignant moments in the series and powerful scenes showing the devastating impact of our pollution of the oceans.

On receiving the award, David Attenborough said, "It was my privilege to provide the words for that series and you know and I know that what counted in that series was the pictures...What we were trying to do was raise an issue that is of great importance, not only to this country, but worldwide – it is what we are doing to our planet...Unless the flow of plastics and industrial pollution into the world's oceans is reduced, marine life will be poisoned by them for many centuries to come."

We can't always see the damage we are causing or the consequences of our actions and choices, but environmental awareness is vital to us all and particularly our young people. It is our actions now that they will feel in the future.

I spoke to our students recently about goal setting and how this should not just be for 1st January as a new year's resolution – but should be done whenever a change is needed. We are all custodians of our precious planet and whilst the government hopes to "eliminate all avoidable plastic waste" within 25 years, I'm left thinking: "What are we waiting for?" It seems that public concern, media and politics are at last aligning and perhaps we can all play a more active role in protecting and preserving our planet through our daily actions. Over the spring and summer terms we will be reviewing our practice and looking for ways that we can reduce our environmental impact. If you have any ideas about changes we could make to improve our environmental practice please contact Mrs Atton, Head of Science.

In sporting news, on Monday Gartree hosted the KS4 girls' dodgeball competition. Wednesday saw the KS3 boys and girls' badminton teams come out victorious 6-2 and 5-3 respectively against Manor. The boys, because of winning the league, will now go on to represent Oadby & Wigston Schools in the Badminton County Cup Finals on 1st March at Babington College. On Thursday the Year 7 girls were representing Oadby & Wigston Schools in the preliminary round of the Basketball County Cup. They beat St Paul's emphatically, 16 points to 2.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

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

Sonia Singleton
Headteacher

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