

Gartree High School

Ridgeway, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TQ



20th April 2018

Dear parents and carers,

At last the sun is shining and today we had ideal conditions for our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award trial walk for Year 9. The group who walked last Friday were not so lucky!

We have had a great week in school. Students have been able to use the field at break and lunchtime for the first time this year. It really has made us all appreciate our lovely grounds.

This week Mr Bannister talked about the importance of honesty and integrity in assembly and used 'fake news' to illustrate some key points. The term "fake news" was popularised by Donald Trump during his presidential election campaign in 2016. He used the term to denigrate the reporting of the traditional news media. It is also used to describe news stories that attract significant attention even though they are seemingly false.

With social media and the internet, it's becoming much easier for false stories to be shared, with many people publishing these stories to get as many 'shares' as possible. In November 2017 Ofcom found that more than half of young people aged 12-15 got their news from social media platforms like Snapchat, Facebook and twitter – this is an important factor in the spread of false stories.

To avoid being caught out by fake news, when reading something on social media we would advise our students to ask themselves:

- Has the story been reported anywhere else?
- Is it on the radio, TV or in the newspapers?
- Have you heard of the organisation that has published the story?
- Does the website look genuine?
- Does the story sound believable?

If the answer to any of these questions is 'no' they might want to check it out before spreading the word!

This is part of learning to stay safe in a digital world. Linked to this and to support our students and parents, we will be having an E-Safety information evening on Tuesday 8th May 6.30-7.30pm. Your invitation should be with you on Monday, please join us if you can.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

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

Sonia Singleton
Headteacher

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