

Gartree High School

Ridgeway, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TQ



11th May 2018

Dear parents and carers,

Great teaching depends on a great curriculum. A school's curriculum tells you a lot about a school, its values and the intellectual development that is planned for its young people. We believe it is important that our students have a broad understanding and respect for the world. They gain a breadth of knowledge and understanding from a full range of subjects and experiences as they grow and develop into engaged young people – ready to make a full contribution to society.

Being clear about what we want our students to learn over the course of a lesson, a week, a term or a school year is vital to our planning. This quote from Alice in Wonderland, by Lewis Carroll, makes the point well and can help in all sorts of situations when a distinct goal, aim or outcome is desired.

One day Alice came to a fork in the road and saw a Cheshire Cat in a tree.

"Which route do I take?" she asked.

His response was a question: "Where do you want to get to?"

"I don't know," Alice answered.

"Then," said the Cheshire Cat, "it doesn't much matter."

Being clear about our destination is always helpful – engaging students with different experiences is important too. Our curriculum is not only the lessons that take place every day. It is also the extra-curricular activities, the challenge activities and home study tasks our students tackle; it is also our assembly themes, educational visits and outside speakers they enjoy. All of these things coalesce in our curriculum and in our students' experience. They are carefully pieced together in a coherent way, making links, building transferable skills and reinforcing key concepts along the way. It is often this blend of opportunities that make learning memorable. I can still remember the residential trips from my primary school days – and that was a very, very long time ago!

Back to more recent events! On Tuesday a group of students travelled to Loughborough University to be flag bearers for the U-17 Germany v Serbia European football match. This was a wonderful experience for the girls, in front of a very large crowd!

The Year 8/9 boys cricket team have qualified for the county knockout stages. Nearly 30 students train every Wednesday, so competition for places in the team is extremely intense.

The girls' cricket club is up and running with the help of specialist coaching from Leicestershire County Cricket Club. Twenty-seven girls attended the first session. The session was superb - no doubt even more girls will be in attendance at subsequent sessions.

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

Next week, many of our students will be out and about, learning through experience. A group of Year 7 students will be travelling to Normandy to improve their French and participate in outdoor activities; others will be visiting Lincoln Cathedral and Castle to learn about Medieval England. Year 8 are visiting the Black Country Museum to learn about the Industrial Revolution and life during Victorian times. Our Year 10 are out all week on work experience, learning about the world of work and developing their employability skills and confidence in the work place.

On Friday, students selected from all year groups will represent Gartree High school at the area sports athletics competition – good luck to all of those involved! I hope some of our students will progress to represent South Leicestershire at the county sports competition on 9th June.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '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