

Gartree High School

Ridgeway, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TQ



Friday 22nd June 2018

Dear parents and carers,

Another week has passed. It seems unfathomable that we have just three weeks of the term left! Our House competition is hotting up as we get to the end of term, with the deciding event being our Sports Day on Tuesday 3rd July. The current House points are as follows: Arctic 19894; Atlantic 16196; Caspian 20806; Pacific 21027.

There is much research on the role of competition in schools, outlining the benefits and the detriments. However, competition is a reality of life and we work hard to strike a good balance between collaboration and competition, both of which require developing in school. Well-structured and carefully designed competition can foster collaboration and team work, particularly when students have a challenging task to address together. Students who recently completed Duke of Edinburgh expeditions will know this!

Knowing that others are aiming to achieve the same goal can be very motivating. A purposeful and challenging activity that sparks intrinsic motivation can be a greater reason to participate than one with an external reward for very little effort. Promoting intrinsic motivation will help our students to overcome the challenges ahead, developing mental toughness (grit) and learning how to bend, not break, under pressure. We learn a lot about ourselves in a competitive situation and learn to cope with the stress that comes with it. It is true and easy to say that competition creates winners and losers, but how we celebrate the 'non-winners' is vital. Providing a safe environment to take a risk and not win is essential for everyone to thrive.

Our school environment is one of cooperation, team work and community - with healthy competition. It is human nature to make comparisons – I know the students do it! Our challenge is to enable all to learn from it and learn to move on quickly and enthusiastically from the disappointments faced. Please join us if you can on Sports Day, where you will see our blend of competitive and collaborative activities in action.

Our school choir is competing at the Schools Choir of the Year Finals at the Haymarket Theatre on Wednesday July 4th (tickets available from the Haymarket Theatre box office). You are welcome to join us for what promises to be an entertaining evening. In addition, our choir, orchestra and soloists will be performing at our Summer Showcase on Thursday 5th July at 6pm at school (tickets available from the school office). I, for one, am looking forward to this event – what a lovely way to spend a summer evening. Please join us!

On Tuesday, thirty-seven sports leaders travelled to the Fischer County Ground to watch Leicestershire CC play India A. The students watched India score over 400 runs in a blistering batting performance. The trip was a reward for the hundreds of hours the students have volunteered to coach, officiate, time

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

keep and teach this academic year. They have been a huge credit to the school. Without their help, Gartree's sporting calendar could not have happened.

On Wednesday the Year 8 cricket team travelled to the Bowden Cricket Club to play Robert Smyth Academy. What a match it turned out to be! Adil and Nofal starred with bat (both retiring on 25 runs) and Adam and Kavi put in wonderful performances with the ball. In a really tense match, Gartree were pipped to the post - with Robert Smyth hitting the winning run on the penultimate ball of the match. Well done to all involved- it was a great advert for the game.

Finally, congratulations to Daisy in Year 9, who has also qualified for the swimming English Nationals this year.

Have a great 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