

Gartree High School

Ridgeway, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TQ



8th February 2019

Dear parents and carers,

Internet safety is my first topic this week, and thank you to all who joined Mr Bannister and Mr Wilson last night for the showing of 'Brecks' Last Game'. This short film will be shared with students on Wednesday 27th February. It will also be sent to parents that were unable to make the viewing, so that they can discuss the important issues and dangers highlighted in the film.

Your sons and daughters are navigating an increasingly complex world – it is very difficult parenting this! Getting the right balance between freedom and control is certainly difficult, as even the professionals in the field struggle to achieve a consensus.

Here is a recent BBC News article you may find useful to help parents manage children's screen time:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-46758809>

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) has issued screen time guidance:
https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2018-12/rcpch_screen_time_guide_-_final.pdf

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) has issued this fact sheet:
https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/201812/rcpch_screen_time_parent_fact_sheet_-_final.pdf

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) has produced this Infographic
https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2018-12/rcpch_screen_time_full_cyp_views.pdf

Writing news, and congratulations to the following students recognized in our Harry Potter Creative Writing competition: 1st Nicole–Mary, 2nd Poppy, 3rd Heidi, 4th Oliver. Well done!

Last Friday, our fantastic school choir performed with great enthusiasm to music educators from primary and secondary schools across Leicester. The singers were extremely well received and are now in even more demand to perform across Leicestershire.

As the KS3 students who make up the choir grow and mature together, so does their potential. This was made clear this week, as a special vocal masterclass was held for them by our singing teacher Sarah Woodall. Students enjoyed exploring new vocal techniques to take forward into their own performances.

On Monday, Year 10 students attended the GCSE Science Live event in Birmingham. This was an amazing opportunity to hear from leading scientists. During the day the students heard from Professor Lord Robert Winston, Professor Alice Roberts and many more. They particularly enjoyed hearing from Professor Jim Al-Khalili, who spoke about the possibility of time travel!

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On Tuesday, our Year 7 girls football team played Beauchamp girls. In an unbelievably close and enthralling match, Gartree were just pipped to the post, 1-0. It was a great advert for the girls' game.

On Wednesday of this week our Year 9 students watched a performance of 'Until it's Gone' - a hard-hitting production based on the stories of a young person drifting into homelessness.

Also on Wednesday, Gartree hosted the Oadby Primary Schools basketball competition. Our Year 9 sports leaders helped run the competition and refereed all the games. As ever, they were a total credit to the school. In a thrilling final match, Woodland Grange Primary School came out eventual winners. Well done to them!

Many of our Year 9, 10 and 11 students took part in the Maths Challenge yesterday. This is organized by the UK Mathematics Trust, a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people in mathematics. I had a look at the paper – it is really difficult! Well done to everyone who took part in this.

Next academic year our Year 10 students will have the opportunity to study Further Maths as an additional qualification alongside their GCSE studies. Mr Wills will be teaching a group of able mathematicians this additional course during lunch times, to allow the students a full breadth of option courses. This will be a challenging course but an excellent opportunity for students to really excel and engage their mathematical minds.

More music news, and good luck to eleven Year 9 students who are representing Gartree on a residential weekend, rehearsing for a special performance of The Greatest Showman. This performance, including showing off their new learnt circus skills, takes place in March at De Montfort Hall alongside our own choir.

It has been a very busy week in the PE Department. Next week is also a week crammed full of fixtures. It all starts on Monday, when our Year 9 boys' basketball team host Robert Smyth in the quarter final of the county. Good luck to all involved.

I can't believe we have just one week left of this half term. A reminder that school closes for the February half term break at **3.00pm** on Friday 15th February and re opens on Monday 25th February.

Have a great weekend.

Yours sincerely,



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