

# Gartree High School

Ridgeway, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TQ



10<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Dear parents and carers,

Dr Seuss: *"You never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory."*

Exam season is here in earnest. The annual ritual of exams and the associated stress for students and teachers has begun - and we are very much a part of it. I know our Year 11 students have been working extremely hard, reviewing and revising their learning. Each and every one of them has responded differently to the challenges ahead; each and every one of them is finding a unique way of managing those demands.

I have always found exam seasons stressful. I become incredibly nervous, and I remember quite vividly the feelings and atmosphere of my O-Levels, (*I know, a long time ago!*), A-levels and first, second and final year exams at university. The dread of oversleeping and being late, of looking at the exam paper and my mind going blank, of missing the exam completely... the list of fears could go on. Preparedness has always been the key for me. If you have planned and prepared, you have a shot at doing your best - and that is all we can ask of anyone.

Revision can yield great benefits, not just for the exam performance but for other reasons too. For example, appreciating the value of working hard over a sustained period, the value of being focused on a goal, of pushing through and digging deep when you are tired or are having an 'off' day. In addition, of course, learning that comes with reviewing and recalling stuff that will stay with you forever.

The outcome of an exam season for any young person is broader than the results they achieve. It is a rite of passage that will challenge every aspect of them, and they will need the stamina, determination and support from parents and school to rise to the challenge.

Our Year 11 students had their final assembly at Gartree yesterday – I felt extremely emotional. This group of young people joined us when they were 10 years old. They are now young adults, and whilst it is the end of this chapter, it is really the beginning for them, and I am in awe of what they have achieved here.

On Wednesday, we had a coffee morning for parents of Year 6 children who will join us in August. A parent asked about the exams and how things were going with our Year 11 students, and in a lovely supportive way they said, "I'm sure they will do you proud." Without a beat of hesitation, I replied, "Oh they already have". Their conduct, honesty, attitude, humour, enthusiasm, confidence, manner and integrity, regardless of the of the GCSE outcome, have all been exceptional and I could not be more proud of them.

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

My very best wishes to year 11 who start an intensive, challenging exam season. May they always find the magic in life.

*“And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in magic will never find it.”*  
Roald Dahl

Have a great weekend.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Singleton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Sonia Singleton  
Headteacher

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