

7th March 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we continue to nurture the growth and development of our students, I want to take a moment to emphasize the importance of leadership and how we can work together to foster these qualities in our children.

Leadership is not just about holding a title or being in charge; it is about responsibility, integrity, and the ability to inspire and support others. True leaders demonstrate confidence, resilience, and the courage to make ethical decisions. These qualities will not only help students succeed academically but will also serve them well in their future careers and personal lives.

Whether it's leading a group project, volunteering, or mentoring peers, each experience helps build confidence and a sense of responsibility. However, leadership development does not stop at school, it is equally important at home.

As parents, you play a crucial role in shaping your child's leadership abilities. Here are some ways you can encourage leadership at home:

- **Encourage Decision-Making:** Allow your child to make choices and discuss the consequences of their decisions.
- **Promote Responsibility:** Give them tasks that require accountability, such as household chores or managing their own schedules.
- **Model Leadership:** Demonstrate positive leadership through your own actions, such as problem-solving and showing empathy.
- **Foster a Growth Mindset:** Teach them that challenges and failures are opportunities to learn and grow.

A standout leadership opportunity at GAA is the Year 10 Peer Leader Programme, where 38 students have recently been selected to serve as English/Maths academic mentors, Reading Leaders, or Peer Mediators. As part of their role, they will participate in a formal training session on Tuesday 11th March, focusing on coaching techniques and various leadership styles to enhance their effectiveness as KS4 leaders. This experience will not only help them approach their roles with confidence but also strengthen their planning, organisational, and communication skills.

I have the privilege of working with all student leaders at GAA, and this year, it is clear that those who participated in last year's SSAT leadership training day have greatly benefited from the experience. During the training, student form representatives from KS3 engaged in various activities designed to strengthen their role within the Student Council and introduce KS3 students to the concept of leadership. The Year 11 leadership team, working alongside the KS3 form representatives, have been impressed with their leadership skills and contributions so far this year.

Our Student Voice Advocates remain dedicated to representing the student body and ensuring every voice is heard. Recently, they have been working on enhancing the school lunch menu and introducing the Student Voice Opinions Box to encourage more student input. Their hard work and commitment are a true asset to the student community.

Please support your child by discussing potential leadership roles, boosting their confidence, and reminding them that every great leader starts by taking that first step. By working together, we can empower our children to become confident, compassionate, and capable leaders. Thank you for your continued support in shaping the next generation of leaders.

Yours faithfully,

Miss K Hughes
Assistant Principal
Behaviour Culture and Engagement