

# The Gladstone Post

JOURNALIST: THEA AND JASMINE

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## **BREAKING NEWS!**

### **THE TERRIFIC TRENTHAM GARDENS TRIP!**

**On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, Year 4 pupils from Gladstone Primary Academy met other Year 4 pupils from seven other schools within the Societas Trust at Trentham Gardens. The trip was arranged so that the children could work collaboratively to enjoy a day outdoors, learning about the environment, resilience and it was a chance to explore new skills.**

The excited pupils were transported to the popular Trentham Gardens, Staffordshire, by coach and after a quick toilet stop they were split into their four groups. As the sun shone, the eager children removed their shoes and socks and started the barefoot walk. The trail consisted of rocks, stones, warm rubber, wood and a big trench of runny mud. Squeals and screams could be heard all around as well as the outcry of 'ouch!'. The children all seemed to enjoy this unique experience and after washing and drying their feet they had a short time on the play area. This was the perfect opportunity for a snack whilst enjoying the spring sunshine.

The next activity was going on a beaver trail to find evidence of beaver activity. All children were given an activity pack and a pencil crayon and the hunt then began. Unfortunately, no beavers were seen as they are nocturnal animals BUT we did see their burrows and lots of branches that had been nibbled by the resident beavers. Along the trail, the children spotted several different rubbing plates which showed pictures of wildlife associated with beavers. The time flew by and then it was time to meet up with the other groups to have a yummy picnic lunch.

After a short time, we wandered past the bright, colourful tulips in order to arrive at the Capability Building.



When we entered the vast room, we were shocked at how many children were there. This is where we got our first glimpse of Darren Edwards. The inspirational explorer explained how he had travelled around the world, climbing mountains, until one day he fell off a huge mountain and broke his spine. From this day onwards, Darren was wheelchair bound. However, this did not prevent him from achieving more of his adventurous dreams. He explained how he had rowed from the very bottom of England to the top of Scotland in his kayak and he also showed pictures of him in 2023 completing seven marathons in seven days across seven continents. We were inspired!

Our final task, set deep in the forest, was disc golf. From the beginners tee we launched the frisbee towards the metal goal. We managed to complete quite a few holes despite getting lost in the woods. It was great fun as everyone was cheering for each other. A Year Four girl said "I don't want to go back to school!"

**What a WONDERFUL day it was!**