

The Gorse Red Tigers Karate Club – From beginners to belts!



At the start of the school year, Sir John Townsley and Miss Rhodes brought local karate instructor Neil Blakeway in to the school to start an extra-curricular karate club on Monday and Tuesday evenings for some of our students at The Ruth Gorse Academy. What started as a fun introduction to the discipline of karate turned into much more, as our club has now developed into one of the most popular activities in the Academy, alongside Rowing and Volleyball.

As the students improved week on week during September and October, it was decided that our dedicated regular attenders should be given the opportunity to grade for their red belts before the end of the year, in a grading ceremony that took place on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th December.

After almost three months of hard work, practice and commitment to memory, 7 different attacks and the 'Kata', a 20-move sequence that needs to be completed in perfect order, our students blew away the visiting judges with their movement, discipline and concentration to all successfully receive their red belts and certificates! There were smiles all round as the students finally got to savour the end product of all of their hard work. Their success is a testament to the resilience of our students, as many felt they would struggle to grade but kept practising hard to ensure they would do themselves and the academy proud.

A huge thank you to our 'Sensei' (Japanese for Teacher), Neil Blakeway, for always encouraging our students to achieve and helping to create a really fun atmosphere at the karate club – not to mention helping Mr. Webb get through his red belt grading, for which he definitely deserves a medal!

Thank you to Sir John Townsley and Miss Rhodes for their support in starting the Karate Club and to Mr. Webb and Miss Morton for taking part and generally making the students look better! Special thanks must also go out to our two student volunteer 'Sensei's', Libby Vernon in Year 9 and Joshua Temple in Year 7, for working with our students on their technique over the past three months – without their help and support, running the club would have been extremely difficult!

Finally, massive congratulations to all 30 of our students who successfully graded for their red belts this week and to all those who have taken part in the club since September and will be grading for their red belts in January.

The club will be continuing after Christmas and is open to new and returning students, so whether you are starting out on the journey to your red belt or making the next step up to grade for your yellow belt, we look forward to welcoming you to the Gorse Red Tigers in 2018!