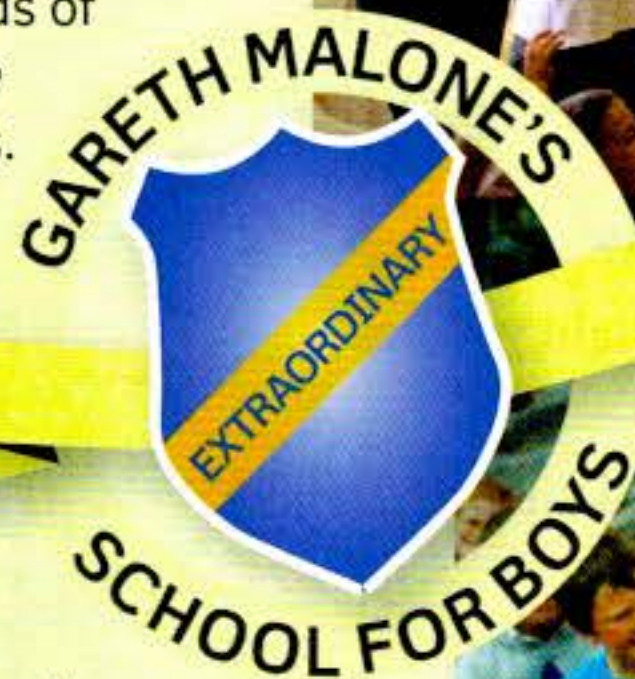


3 LISTENING

Gareth Malone first made his name on TV as a choirmaster in BBC Two's *The Choir*, a series in which he brought together all kinds of different people who had never sung before and turned them into accomplished singers.

Last April, Gareth took on what was perhaps an even bigger challenge. He became a primary school teacher for a term. His mission was to teach a group of 11-year-old boys from a mixed primary school in Essex in the south of England. Many of the boys weren't doing very well at school and, like many other boys in Britain, they were a long way behind the girls in reading and writing. The result is *Gareth Malone's Extraordinary School for Boys* – a three-part series for BBC Two...



- a Look at the photos above. What can you see? Now read about Gareth Malone's *Extraordinary School for Boys*. In your country, are boys usually behind girls in reading and writing?
- b (4 8))) Listen to **Part 1** of a radio programme about the experiment and answer the questions.
- 1 How long did Gareth have to teach the boys?
 - 2 What was his aim?
 - 3 What three things did he believe were important?
- c (4 9))) Listen to **Part 2**. Complete the chart.

Gareth made some general changes, for example:	1
	2
To improve their language skills he organized:	1 A _____ competition
	2 A _____ 'World Cup'
	3 A _____, which the boys (and girls) had to both write and perform

- d Listen again. How successful were the three activities?
- e (4 10))) Now listen to **Part 3** to find out what the result of the experiment was. Did the boys' reading improve?
- f What do you think of Gareth's ideas? Do you think they are appropriate for girls? Are any of them used in your country?

4 SPEAKING

- a In groups of three, each choose one (different) topic from the list below. Decide if you agree or disagree and write down at least three reasons.
- Boys and girls both learn better in single-sex schools.
 - Schools should let children wear whatever they want at school.
 - Cooking and housework should be taught at school.
 - Schools don't teach children the important things they need to know to be an adult.
 - Physical education should be optional.
 - School summer holidays should be shorter.
 - Children spend too much time at school on maths and IT, and not enough on things like music, art, and drama.
 - Private schools are usually better than state schools.

Debating a topic: organizing your ideas

- The topic I've chosen is...
- I _____ completely agree _____ that...
partly agree
completely disagree
- First of all, (I think that...)
- My second point is that...
- Another important point is that...
- Finally,...

- b Explain to the rest of your group what you think about your topic. The others in the group should listen. At the end, they can vote for whether they agree or disagree with you and say why.