

December 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Christmas is here and how fast the time has gone! It was great seeing so many of you at parents evening and discussing how well they have all settled into their new school. I think transition is a difficult time for anybody, but this year group have taken it in their stride, and I am very proud of them for doing so.

As you will also be aware, since parents evening, we have launched the Knowledge Organiser homework. Research suggests that using knowledge organisers and self-quizzing is the most effective way of retaining information. I really want students to invest time into this strategy from the beginning as I feel the long-term benefits will be huge. For the past 2 years I have been Head of Year 11 and I can confirm that one of the biggest issues students face in Year 11 is exam stress. Therefore, I am in full support of students' daily use of their knowledge organiser in order to reduce stress in the future.

This term students took part in a Lincolnshire County Council Stay Safe Day. It was fantastic as were the students. This day involved 5 different aspects of staying safe which included, Healthy Relationships, Alcohol abuse, Anti-social behaviour, Fire Safety and Online Safety. Each specialist presenter delivered a lesson to each tutor group throughout the day. Having reviewed the student feedback forms it showed that everyone had a good day and the information being delivered was great for preparing students. I look forward to days like this again in the future.

I am hoping that in the next term we do not have any interference from snow or very poor weather conditions. At Giles Academy, we understand that we are a vital community service and endeavour to remain open at all times. In the rare event that we do close or if we are at risk of closing due to extreme weather, we publish this information via LincsFm and Facebook. The decision to close would only ever be made on the morning.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I would also like to congratulate the students that achieved 100% attendance this term. I would like to commend the Year 7 dance club members for their fantastic performance in the Christmas concert. On judging the Year 7 Piano competition I was blown away by the outstanding effort made by all, it was an incredibly hard decision to make. There are far too many successes for me to mention them all, but I would like to congratulate each, and every one of the students for their achievements this term. Both myself and Miss Brader are very much looking forward to welcoming the students back in January. The students return to school on Tuesday 7 January 2020, on a week B and break up for half term on Friday 14 February.

Yours faithfully,



Mr A D Castley
Head of Year 7