

February 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Many of our Year 10 students have started the new year positively, with 49 of our students achieving perfect attendance this term. Attendance is the first step in ensuring GCSE success – students need to be in school to learn, and attending every day significantly reduces any gaps in subject knowledge, therefore enhancing students' prospects at GCSE level. Remarkably, the following students have attended every day since the start of the academic year in September:

- ✓ Mike Butler, 10SS
- ✓ Scarlett McCombie, 10JT

A fantastic achievement, with both students securing fantastic attendance year on year since they joined us at the start of Year 7. I wish to congratulate both the students and their parents in achieving and maintaining brilliant attendance for almost four years – I am extremely proud of their commitment to their learning.

This term has also seen the relaunch of our student voice, The Giles Voice. Pleasingly, we have had a large number of students apply and I would like to thank those students for their valiant efforts – it was a closely fought election, with the successful Year 10 candidates Noah Brennan (10FMI) and Kiera Carlton (10MV) assuming positions within the team - congratulations to them both and I look forward to observing them playing a key role in our Giles community in due course.

Our students have embraced our new whole school home learning programme – it has been a pleasure to see the array of knowledge retrieval tasks Year 10 students have been completing in their own time – please see our Giles Academy Facebook page for some good examples from Year 10. By practising these tasks, students are improving their subject knowledge, using the 'little and often' retrieval techniques, and are ultimately 'knowing more and remembering more' - again, standing them in good stead for their GCSE examinations next academic year.

Our focus during PM registration sessions this term has been Careers, helping students to identify future career goals and exploring the influence of gender identity on career aspirations, stereotypes and pay. Our students have completed the following sessions:

1. The right career for me
2. Employability skills: CV
3. Careers in STEM
4. Rights & Responsibilities
5. Volunteering (Link to Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award)
6. International Women's Day

Next term, we will turn our attention to 'Living in the Wider World' topics which will provide students with a greater understanding of difficult, national issues and equip them with vital tools such as assessing risk, decision making and developing their moral compass. The following sessions will be completed:

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Headteacher: Ian Widdows

1. Criminal Justice System
2. Anti-Social Behaviour
3. County Lines
4. Money Laundering
5. Terrorism
6. Over & Covert Racism
7. Fake News and critical thinking

On 24th March 2020, we also have guest speakers joining us to deliver a workshop to Year 10. Students will participate in a 'Magistrates in the Community' interactive session discussing sentencing structure in the Criminal Courts. Students will take on the role of Magistrates, exploring a case study and deciding a suitable consequence. The workshop encourages 'team-working', decision making, social awareness, sound judgement, consequential thinking and public speaking.

I would like to wish students the best for the half-term break; we will return to school on Monday 24th February 2020, Week B.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Dyer', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mrs S Dyer
Head of Year 10