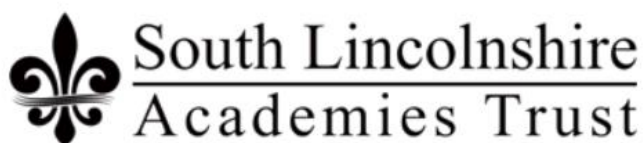


01 September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers and Students,

As you will be aware the South Lincolnshire Academies Trust (SLATrust) have been working to support the Giles Academy over the past months, since the school was graded as Inadequate and requiring special measures, following the inspection process in November and I am now extremely pleased to be able to share that the school will now transfer into our Trust, as of 01 September 2020.



The SLATrust was established in 2016 and currently has two schools, being Bourne Academy and Spalding Academy, with all of the leaders of SLATrust being experienced in improving schools, which includes maintaining ongoing success at Bourne Academy and moving Spalding Academy, previously Sir John Gleed in Spalding from Inadequate to Good in June 2019, within three years of being in the trust.

Unfortunately, the current national crisis has meant that we have had to pause some of our exciting plans that we were looking forward to presenting to the students, parents / carers and to the local community in a series of presentation evenings. This would have included detailing our vision for the future as we work hard to support and develop the school as it begins on a journey of rapid improvement.

For now however, our immediate thoughts and actions need to be on supporting the students in returning to school in September so they feel safe and secure and so that we can identify and bridge any gaps in knowledge. We will be working with the remaining current leaders at the school to make sure that the students are well guided and have appropriate work. Additionally, at this challenging time our thoughts are firmly with supporting our families, so we can keep our wider community as protected as it can be.

I hope that it will give students and parents / carers comfort at this time to know that the SLATrust has continued to work hard during the lockdown period to ensure that the Giles Academy would transfer to the SLATrust in readiness for 01 September 2020 and that we have been involved with the school so that we can welcome students back safely and so the necessary improvement needed in behaviour; teaching and learning can begin.

For my part, as the Executive Headteacher of the SLATrust, I see this as being an incredible opportunity for the Giles Academy to work as part of a wider group of non-selective secondary schools in Lincolnshire, the current SLATrust schools are hugely successful and this is what I want to see for the Giles Academy.

All young people deserve to go to a school which they are proud to attend and where they can achieve well and above the national average and it is my vision that all schools in the SLATrust will provide exceptional non-selective school education for all learners.

We have been asked by the Department of Education for the SLATrust to support other schools in the past, but feel strongly that the Giles Academy would be a good fit for our Trust and that we could have the most significant impact at this particular school. My expectation is that all SLATrust schools will perform exceptionally well, with the young people of Bourne, more recently Spalding and now in the Boston area, being able to enjoy their learning in Good schools that are either Outstanding or at least Good and aspiring to be Outstanding, with strong behaviour management and highly effective teaching and learning taking place.

I am supported by a team of very experienced and successful Executive Deputy Headteachers and wider trust leaders called the Operational Rapid Improvement Team (ORIT) and together we have already spent a significant amount of time at the school where we have been extremely impressed by just how much the staff and the students we met at the school want to work with us to bring about change.

All of the SLATrust Leaders have met some fantastic and welcoming young people that deserve a better school, one that is not graded as Inadequate.

I apologise for not having the opportunity to be able to meet with you in person at this challenging time as we start to bring the students back into Giles Academy, however I thought I would write to share some of the plans for the future and hopefully this will allow for the students to feel optimistic about the exciting future direction for the school.

From 01 September 2020, the Giles Academy will transfer to the SLATrust and will open its doors with a new unique reference number (URN), as a new school. The school will still be named Giles Academy.

Over the course of the academic year 2020-21, we will be working with the students to give the school a new identity. This will include a new cost effective, hard wearing and smart uniform, including a new blazer displaying a new emblem for the school and a new coloured tie, dependent on the year group. As we know the current financial situation for many families will be difficult at the moment, we wanted to inform you of this as parents look to replace uniform over the course of the next school year. I am pleased to share with you that this will include in September 2021, that the SLATrust will be providing a new blazer and tie for every student at the school with no cost to parents.

This offer is being put forward in recognition of the current national situation; the financial challenge that some families may be experiencing and our enthusiasm to work with the students to bring about change.

Additionally, some of the other developments include:

- Behaviour: The SLATrust places high value on good behaviour. Without good behaviour in school you have nothing! Therefore, there will be a new 4 Point Behaviour Plan introduced, that promotes a positive, consistent and supportive approach to behaviour management and allows for the regular recognition and rewarding of students who have a positive attitude to school life. For the SLATrust positive 'behaviour for learning' is the norm, with appropriate sanctions for any student who does not comply. We would like parents / carers and students to note that the use of mobile phones and / or headphones on school site will not be permitted from September, with these items not to be visible at any time.
- Well-being: Our Trust sees student welfare and well-being as a critical responsibility and we will be introducing a range of additional non-teaching support staff, who will play a vital role with our families. This is even more important as we help support our students in returning to school following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- House System: Over the course of the school year, we aim to introduce a new school House system and a semi vertical tutor system, which will allow students of different ages to mix positively within a controlled environment.

- Year Group Identity: From September, the students will also be given ‘Year Group Designated Areas’, which will also support the plans for returning to school following COVID-19, which will allow for year groups to meet in their own separate areas and allow for students to socialise with others of the same age and feel secure, with a clear year group identity.
- Curriculum: The curriculum has been refined at Giles Academy for September 2020, one that allows for students to have high aspiration and to be able to achieve well. The SLATrust operates a multi pathway curriculum with group sizes kept as small as possible. We highly value the academic subjects taught in school, but also highly value and promote the arts and sport and we also recognise the importance of vocational and practical subjects. In addition, we work hard to promote a vibrant and varied SMSC and PSHE programme that will broaden the education of students and will prepare them for life in Modern Britain.
- Timetable: The timetable will remain a 30-period week, i.e. 6 periods per day, but will be a one-week timetable. During the course of the school year we will be looking to move to a one-week timetable of 25 periods lasting one hour each, with 4 periods in the morning and one in the afternoon ... which will allow for improved concentration and ‘surviving’ Period 5!

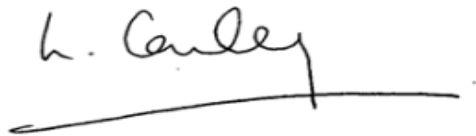
The SLATrust feel strongly that the school needs to start with a new identity and from September students can feel extremely excited about being part of the new Giles Academy ... a new school with new rules!

Please take the time to go through the film and power point for students available on the website that outline a few of the changes and will enable you to identify a few of the key SLATrust Leaders.

I apologise again for not being able to share all these developments with you in person and I thank you in advance for your understanding in my having to explain these changes to you in a letter. When we are able to return to school, I will arrange a series of assemblies for students and a series of parent information evenings to explain these changes in more detail.

Until that is possible, I would like to close this letter by saying that I very much look forward to working with you in the future and feel extremely privileged and excited about working with the young people at Giles Academy in the future.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Conley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that serves as a decorative underline.

MRS LUCY CONLEY
SLAT Executive Headteacher