

Head of School

Friday 28th January 2022

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

In my newsletter last week, I referred to the changing COVID guidance and this week we have seen restrictions being eased further as students no longer need to wear face masks anywhere in school. However, please be reassured that if some students wish to continue wearing a face mask that this is an acceptable personal choice. We have politely been reminding students this week that if they choose to wear a mask they need to be worn correctly. With the easing of further restrictions, there will also be the return of our full programme of extra-curricular clubs taking place, which started with the LGBTQ+ community club at lunchtime today... it was great to see clubs like this once again continuing!

In Key Stage 3, we have now introduced a new reading initiative to highlight the importance of literacy, communication, reading and the benefits that it brings. There has now been a significant investment in exciting and age-appropriate reading material at the school and over 100 students in Key Stage 3 are participating in the Rapid Plus Reading programme. Alongside this we are holding a Book Fair in our school library to encourage extended reading and reading at home ... please see our news stories this week for further information.

In Key Stage 4, we have been actively promoting prefect applications to our Year 10 students this week. Being a prefect is an important responsibility which enables our fantastic students to lead as role models to the younger year groups. On allocation of prefect status students are awarded their prefect tie and receive a number of additional privileges such as prefect breakfasts, reduction on their prom ticket and other opportunities throughout the year. To become a prefect is already proving popular and we hope that there are many Year 10 students interested in this opportunity and request an application from Mrs Wesley, the Year 10 Pastoral Lead. It is fantastic to see the Year 10 students already starting to take responsibility for being leaders in our school.

Thank you to the many parents/carers who attended the Year 11 Parent's Evening yesterday. Attendance was the highest for Year 11 that we have seen for a number of years and it was very pleasing to see the vast number of parents engaging in the evening to support their child in their final hurdle before their anticipated summer examinations. Additionally, on Monday 24th January 2022, the Year 11 cohort started their exam intervention journey, as they received their information packs and were regrouped in new tutor groups, linked to where they would most benefit from improving. The intervention plans are bespoke to each individual and cover the whole range of curriculum subjects. We hope that these additional opportunities will help to maximise their examination results and bridge any gaps in their



learning. I can honestly say the work ethos in Year 11 is absolutely amazing! The Executive Headteacher - Mrs Conley, along with myself, visit the Year 11 classes and spend time with the students at break and lunch often, to tell them how proud of them we are. They are all responding maturely to their studies and making well informed plans about their next steps after such disruption to learning over the past two years... they really are a credit to the school!

It has been a very rewarding experience to see the ongoing rapid improvements made at Giles Academy in recent months. There is a very positive atmosphere in classrooms and corridors and many visitors to the school have commented on the excellent behaviour and positive attitude and politeness of our students. We are very proud of the progress our students are making in all areas!

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kindest regards,



Miss Katie Belcher

Head of School, Giles Academy

For the **latest news**

You can follow Giles Academy on our official social media platforms as follows:

- www.instagram.com/GilesAcademySLAT
- www.facebook.com/GilesAcademy
- www.twitter.com/GilesSLAT

There have been some notable highlights this week which you may have seen on our website and social media pages. You can access the links below for the various news stories:

- www.gilesacademy.co.uk/get-your-head-in-a-book
- www.gilesacademy.co.uk/scientists-of-the-term-jan-2022
- www.gilesacademy.co.uk/rapid-plus-programme-launched
- www.gilesacademy.co.uk/year-11-mock-exam-results