

# Head of School

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

Firstly, thank you to all parents and carers who joined the Parent Online Safety Event on Wednesday evening. I hope those who were able to attend found the information useful in supporting your child online. I would also like to thank all parents with encouraging their child with excellent attendance to school. We have seen a positive improvement in whole school attendance with Year 8 students this week securing 97% on one day!

PPE examinations for Year 11 have taken place this week. This provided a final opportunity to analysis the areas of revision for the last few weeks before formal exams begin. We actively encourage students to be revising, maximising the opportunities we are providing and utilising the revision platforms such as GCSEPod. In addition to this, on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 we are holding an 'Exam Success Evening' for Year 11 students and parents. We encourage you to sign up to attend this excellent opportunity for final advice and support regarding maximising your child's grade ahead of the summer examinations.

On Wednesday, Year 9 students received a variety of workshops from 'Prison Me No Way'. This provided a valuable insight into what it would be like to go to prison, the penalties and the consequences that would affect them for the rest of their life. They provided a full day of engaging workshops and activities, which were led by retired Prison Officers, Youth Engagement Officers, ex-offenders and volunteers from charities and other organisations. Each presenter was able to pass on their first-hand experiences and real-life knowledge to students so they could understand exactly what it would be like. This forms part of our PSHE programme which is an integral part of our curriculum offer at Giles Academy.



I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that we always encourage communication between home and school. However, I would like to remind parents that we will not tolerate any rude or abusive language communicated to our staff. We do not accept this from our students, so we will certainly not accept this from our parents. Our staff are extremely busy in the day supporting our 800 students during the school day and unfortunately, we cannot always accommodate parents arriving without an appointment slot. We do, where possible, meet parents when we can. Whilst such instances are extremely rare, I felt it was important to remind parents and carers on our stance with 'home and school' communication.

We held our annual non-uniform day to help raise funds for the Syria/Turkey Earthquake appeal as well as Red Nose Day. I am pleased to inform you that we raised over £650 which will be split equally to Comic Relief and to the DEC Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal. I would like to thank everyone for their support for these worthwhile charities, please remember to visit our website and social media for photos of students from today's event.

Finally, I wish Year 10 students the best of luck in their first practice examinations which start next week.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Kindest regards,



**Miss Katie Belcher**

Head of School, Giles Academy

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