

Head of School

Friday 14th July 2023

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

What an incredible week at Giles Academy...

Firstly, following last week's newsletter I said I would be able to reveal the overall House winner for Sports Day and this year it was Newton! Well done to Newton house and Head of House Miss Pearson who has been enthusiastically encouraging Newton to win with her competitive spirit!

Not only do we encourage participation in the expected athletic races, we also hold the annual Tug of War competition which many, many students like to be a part of and has been an annual Giles event for many years.

Congratulations to all students, participants and spectators who were actively cheering for their respective team, in particular congratulations to Jacob Cooper in Year 7. Jacob broke the school record for the 1,500 metres from the year 2000 by 3 seconds! The Sports Day was enjoyed by all and there was a fantastic atmosphere throughout the school.



Secondly, this week Year 10 students have taken part in a PSHE day delivered by external specialists. A varied menu of presentations were delivered to inform students of extremely important subjects such as road safety, online safety and healthy relationships. Our students were commended by the agencies for their mature attitude, sensible behaviour and inquisitive nature.

Student safety and wellbeing are at the heart of our Trust and the safeguarding of our students is our highest priority. Our safeguarding and pastoral teams are here to support all students during their school career when they need some extra support, whether the need is student mental health, advice on keeping safe, or simply being worried about a friend. Nationally, over the last few years there has been a rise in self-harm cases, which has increased partly due to posts shared on social media. It is important that you or your child knows how to report or block this content online. If parents/carers or students have any concerns, they can always contact our safeguarding or pastoral teams for support.

We are constantly reviewing our safeguarding provision and policies in our schools to fully support all our students. Therefore, with this in mind, we have reviewed our banned items list for our Trust and we feel now is the right time to ban students bringing into school any item that would be classed as a bladed item, which will include students' own scissors and pencil sharpeners. From September 2023, all classrooms will have a desk mounted pencil sharpener for students to access and we will provide other items needed for lessons, i.e. scissors as required. We feel this change is necessary to support our safeguarding measures. Please be reassured that we will update our student equipment list, safeguarding policy and behaviour policy to reflect this small modification.

We have also been preparing our students to be equipped with the knowledge and support they may need as they arrive at the six-week summer break. Next week in assemblies we will be reminding students how to keep safe over the summer period and signposting them to important contact numbers which can be found in our safeguarding area of the school website should they need some support, advice or help during the summer period.

On Tuesday evening we held our Annual House celebration evening. This was an opportunity to reflect on individual's performance within their house teams across the course of the academic year. Students were selected by their Heads of House, Miss Pearson, Mr Reed, Mr Dodd, Mr Jagger and Mr Fenwick for their outstanding performances within different categories. It was a great pleasure to see so many students and a hall full of parents, friends and family supporting the event as we reflected on House events across the year. Congratulations to all students who were presented with an award for their stand out contribution to school. A special mention must go to Leonardo Batley Year 8 who won a Reading Award and has made remarkable progress in increasing his reading age by 3 years and 9 months – what a remarkable achievement! The overall trophy winners were: George Skipworth, Riona Jorman, Logan Burrell, Luciella Crowfoot, Sophie Featherstone and Cristina Radu who were all top achievers in their respective categories.



Due to a rapid increase in student numbers we have had to review our House system for September. Next academic year there will be a slight change to the House teams as we are moving to four Houses from five, this is due to a need to include an additional tutor group in each House to accommodate the increase in numbers. Sadly, we are disbanding Franklin House (Red) and all students in this House will be allocated a new House and given a new House badge. Mr Jagger will now be the new Head of Flinders House (Orange).

We continue to have many exciting events in the final week as we head into the summer holiday period. Throughout the week selected students from all year groups will be able to experience our Film Festival rewards event, we will be holding a Sports celebration assembly and issuing Prefect ties to those students who have demonstrated exemplary conduct whilst in their role as Temporary Prefect. I am looking forward to another week full of celebration and reward!

Have a wonderful weekend.

Kindest regards,



Miss Katie Belcher

Head of School, Giles Academy

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