

# Head of School

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

Following a very rigorous process to appoint Head Students this year I am very pleased to congratulate Billy Mustill, Millie Wood, Ruby Morley and Charlotte Donnelly as our new Head Students for this academic year. Due to the high quality of applications and calibre of student we were able to also appoint the following student into the role of Senior Prefect: Jamie Turvey, Velvet Fowler and Abbie Murray who were all allocated specialist positions to focus on in line with our school priorities. This week they have been introducing themselves in year group assemblies to raise their profile to the whole school.

Following on from this, on Thursday we held our Prefect Breakfast, this is where Prefects and Head Students are provided with a complimentary breakfast and drink to thank them for their positive contribution to the whole school. We have a fantastic group of school ambassadors within the prefect team who have actively been organising duties and attending school events to promote the school during this first term.

We have been the first Trust school to have a student complete the Bronze Aspire Passport Challenge - Logan Burrell in Year 8 has completed his Bronze level challenge and is soon on his way to completing the Silver challenge. We are encouraging all students in



Years 7 to 9 to consider what their next challenge will be and whether they can focus on a challenge at home over the half term break. I am looking forward to seeing many students wearing their Aspire badge with pride.



For any student wishing to learn a new skill for their Aspire Passport or for any avid Chess player I would like to promote our after school Chess Club which is held every Thursday in the school library with Mr Taylor. The club runs from 3.30pm to 4.30pm and is available for any year group in the school.

One of the successful reading initiatives we run in all schools across the Trust is DEAR Time, which stands for 'Drop Everything And Read'. These popular timetabled sessions at Giles Academy take place three times a year (in Term 1, Term 3 and Term 5) with evidence that when students read for pleasure this will improve educational outcomes and personal wellbeing. This week Year 7 and 8 took part in DEAR, it was fantastic to see the wide variety of literacy activities taking place across all subjects.

Thank you to Year 10 parents and carers who have signed up to our 'How to Succeed at GCSE' evening next week. We now have over 100 parents signed up for the event on Wednesday evening at 6.30pm. This will be an invaluable and informative evening to support and prepare your child for their upcoming examinations which take place throughout Year 10 and 11.

In Year 11 this week teachers have been inspiring and promoting Higher Education to our students during our 'Considering University Week'. This has consisted of teachers presenting their own 'university experience' and career route prior to teaching. Students have really enjoyed listening to the personal experiences of members of staff.

We start next week with the fantastic news that our Cricket Leadership team will be filmed for television on Monday, this is very exciting for the school and more details will follow in next week's update.

Finally, thank you to all parents for supporting our 'sustaining high attendance' agenda, we have made a fantastic start to attendance during Term One and we are significantly maintaining a higher attendance than previous years at this particular time of year.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Kindest regards,



**Miss Katie Belcher**

Head of School, Giles Academy

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- [www.instagram.com/GilesAcademySLAT](https://www.instagram.com/GilesAcademySLAT)
- [www.facebook.com/GilesAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/GilesAcademy)
- [www.twitter.com/GilesSLAT](https://www.twitter.com/GilesSLAT)