

# Head of School

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

Firstly, thank you to all Year 8 parents who attended our online Parents Evening this week. I hope this was a fantastic opportunity to gain information about your child's academic progress in school.

This week has been National Careers Week with members of staff sharing their education and career paths both in assemblies and at the start of their lesson.

On Tuesday we had SALAD Day, which stands for 'Speaking and Listening Activity Day' for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. This is where all of the lessons for the day involved little to no writing to encourage students to speak and listen. Normally, the classrooms around school are quiet and calm, but the decibels were notched up as we encouraged students to learn differently for the whole day. There was debating, presenting, group discussion, teamwork activities and much more. There have been some fantastic lessons planned by teaching staff across all subjects to incorporate speaking and listening in the classroom.



Also, this week I have seen some excellent student work in History. Students in Year 9 have been learning about the Holocaust. In these lessons they have created Holocaust memorial speeches for their speaking and listening assessment and designed and created some thought-provoking models to symbolise this time in History. There has been some fantastic work created by Year 9 students.



Use of the new Fitness Suite is now well underway with students accessing this during PE lessons and also visiting this fantastic facility afters school. The Fitness Suite is open to students until 4.30pm on the following evenings next week:

- Monday Year 9 and 10
- Wednesday Year 10 and 11
- Thursday Year 7 and 8
- Friday Year 11



We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday, where our Year 7 students were able to celebrate 'World Book Day' by arriving at school dressed as their favourite character from a book, which includes many classics, young adults fiction, graphic novels and biographies. It was optional for students to participate in, and we were impressed there were so many amazing costumes with lots of thought, effort and imagination gone into them. To reward our students for taking part, we held a 'Best Costume' competition in the Library where there were gift voucher prizes and certificates to the winners. It was very difficult choose a winner! Congratulations to Amanda Avekse (1st place), Sophia Dickinson (runner-up) and Lenni Elwood (runner-up) and also everyone who took part.



Students in Year 11 this week have received their Easter Revision Sessions timetable. It is a perfect opportunity to utilise the advice, teaching and support of their specialist teacher in this holiday period to support revision for their upcoming examinations. Students will need to book into these sessions by Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 via the link in the letter received. In addition to this, Year 11 Leavers Hoodies are now available to order via the online shop [www.leavershoodies.com/giles-academy-2024-leavers](http://www.leavershoodies.com/giles-academy-2024-leavers). Once ordered via the online link they are posted by the company to the home address. The hoodies are very popular with all Year 11 students and are a great memento of their time at Giles Academy

Thank you to all parents who continue to support their child's excellent attendance to school. Over the past few weeks there has been a significant improvement in all year groups and we are really sustaining excellent attendance to school from all years. Our Year Leads hold an in-school competition to aim to be the attendance champion of the week. Mrs Wesley, our Year 10 Year Lead is extremely competitive and is hoping for a real push in a positive direction from all Year 10 students as they now need to escalate from last position to first very quickly! Well done to Year 8 students who have stolen the show for fantastic attendance this week!

This week we have seen our Year 11 Food students complete their final practical examination, I have been so proud of every one of them. There have been some amazing dishes served in the Giles MasterChef kitchen where there had been an outstanding menu of International Breakfasts. Well done to all students involved!

Next week we have Year 10 Pearson Set Assignments for all Year 10 Health and Social students. This is very important as it is a 'real' examination period that contributes to their overall grade. This is being held all day on Tuesday next week and Friday Period 1 and 2. This is a polite reminder for all parents of our Health and Social students.

Finally, I would like to remind parents/carers that on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024, it is Comic Relief / Red Nose Day and we will traditionally hold a non-uniform day at the school. A letter has been sent out this week to remind parents/carers about the non-uniform clothing that can be worn on this day.

Kindest regards,



**Miss Katie Belcher**

Head of School, Giles Academy

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