

Head of School

Friday 24th May 2024

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

Our Year 11 students have been working incredibly hard over the last term as they embark on their GCSE examination journey. The students are halfway through their examinations and they have taken these in their stride. I am pleased to share that our Year 11 students have signed up to over 200 revision sessions over the May half term. Yesterday, we said goodbye to our Year 11's as they headed off on study leave. The students had an end-of-year celebration assembly, t-shirts provided by the Trust for signing, a variety of reward vouchers and an ice-cream van where they were all treated to a Mr Whippy! We wish all of Year 11 good luck with the rest of their exams and remind them to maintain their hard work all the way through to the end.

As a Trust, we provide an environment that is calm, safe and free from distraction so all students, whatever their background, can learn and thrive. For this reason, our Trust's stance on mobile devices in school has always been at the forefront of our mobile device policy, being **'never used, seen or heard'**. We acknowledge there is a need for mobile phones for student safety for their journeys to and from school. We also recognise by the age of 12 that research shows 97% of students own a mobile phone, so implementing a ban on mobile phones in school would not be helpful or manageable for students, staff or parents/carers. Students at our school understand and upheld our **'never used, seen or heard'** mobile phone stance.

We are delighted to see that the Department of Education has recently released new guidance for schools on mobile devices. Within this document, our stance of **'never used, seen or heard'** is now supported by the Government, as they have recognised the distraction mobile devices has become for young people.

I would like to remind you of our sanctions if a student is found on their mobile phone. We will confiscate the device and hold this until 3.15pm, where students can then collect the device. If this continues, we will confiscate the mobile device and ask you to collect the device from school. Repeat of this will result in the students handing in the mobile device at the beginning of each day, so the device cannot become a distraction to theirs and others learning.

We firmly believe our mobile device stance continues to be in the best interest of student's academic focus and overall wellbeing. As usual, we kindly ask for your continued support in reinforcing our stance with your child and emphasising the importance of responsible mobile device use both inside and outside of school. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this updated policy, please do not hesitate to contact us.



We continue to provide as many enrichment opportunities for our students. Last weekend, four of our Year 10 students took part in their The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award expedition. I just wanted to highlight the following students Bea Harrison, Skye Panther, Daniel Murray and Henry Woodhall for their commitment to the award and demonstrating hard work and resilience to complete this expedition.

This week we have had Student Council Meetings, House Assemblies and more students achieving their Aspire Passport Rewards. Well done to all of our students!

On Tuesday we had the opportunity to celebrate with our local team, Boston United FC, who have won the play-off final and have been promoted to the National League North. The trophy was brought into school to show our Year 8 boys football team and Year 7 and 8 girls team to enable them to share the celebrations. Mr Wright, Mr Mason and Mr Dodd were all very keen to see the trophy as all have close links to the team. Thank you to Boston United for sharing the local community success with the school!



With the announcement of the General Election, it is important to make sure you are registered to vote so that you can ensure your voice is heard. To vote in the General Election you must be aged 18 or over on Thursday 4th July 2024. British, Irish and qualifying Commonwealth citizens can vote in General Elections in the UK. You can register online via www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and the last date to register is Tuesday 18th June 2024. If you are unsure whether you have already registered, you can find out by contacting your local electoral registration office - their details can be found by entering your postcode here: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/your-election-information

YOUR VOTE MATTERS
DON'T LOSE IT

Make sure you're registered to vote
Register at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Finally, please remember parents/carers and our students have access to our 'Feeling worried or anxious' section on our website (www.gilesacademy.co.uk/feeling-worried-or-anxious) where they can also email worried@gilesacademy.co.uk during half term. This is monitored over the holiday period and we will respond to your email. If you feel there is an emergency safeguarding concern, please do not wait for an email response from the school - please always dial 999. We also have a wealth of wellbeing support on our school website for students to access during the holiday period.

I hope everyone has a restful half term. Please can I remind parents we return to school on Monday 3rd June 2024.

Kindest regards,



Miss Katie Belcher

Head of School, Giles Academy

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