

# Head of School

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

We have only got two weeks and four days left until the Christmas break – I cannot believe it!

In the lead up to Christmas we have got some fantastic festive events happening across the rest of this term. This evening at the Boston Christmas Market we have our singing students starring on the main stage from 4.00pm to 4.20pm and later in the evening, we have students representing the Art department as they parade their fantastic lantern creations through Boston Town Centre. We are very proud of every student who is taking part in this community event.

On Monday next week, all families will receive a letter about the 'Wear a Christmas Item Day' in aid of Save the Children, which will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024. As well as this our students are contributing to creating Christmas Hampers to donate to the local residents at The Minstrels Care Home in Wrangle. All donations for this event are gratefully received.

We will also be holding a Christmas Film event for those students who have completed their Aspire Passport and therefore, have received a Bronze badge. Please encourage your child to share with you their Aspire Passport in the hope that we can award as many students as possible who have been committed to the programme. The deadline for completion of the Bronze Passport for entry to the Film Festival is Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Any badges completed after this time will not be allowed access until the next reward event.

For the next three Wednesday's (4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December), the canteen will be serving the best meal of the year - Christmas Lunch! This seasonal feast will include roast turkey, pigs in blankets, stuffing, roast potatoes, Brussels sprouts and carrots with gravy and cranberry sauce. For vegetarians there will be a homemade Brie & Vegetable Wellington so everyone can enjoy this festive dinner together. There will also be a choice of festive desserts including Xmas Pudding, Yule Log and Mince Pies plus there are Christmas crackers. All of the main meal is freshly made on the premises in our school kitchen using quality ingredients so students can be assured of a tasty and nutritious lunch. For £4 students can get the main meal with a dessert and a Christmas cracker. If students only want the main meal and a Christmas cracker, this is just £3.20.



**Christmas Lunch**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Roast Turkey with Pigs in Blankets or Brie & Vegetable Wellington  
with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Brussels Sprouts, Gravy and Cranberry Sauce  
plus a choice of Xmas Pudding, Yule Log or Mince Pies

**£4** Main Course, Dessert and a Christmas Cracker!

£3.20 Main Course and a Christmas Cracker  
£2.50 Main Course      80p Dessert

Next week, our Year 11 students start their PPEs (Pre Public Examinations) mock exams. The students have conscientiously been attending additional interventions, and they have been engaged with independent revision. I am confident that they will all try their hardest to give their very best during this examination period. On Monday, all students will receive an assembly to remind them about exam rules and regulations – from that point on over the course of the examination period we expect 100% attendance for the exams, unless there is a medical reason your child is unable to attend, at this point we will request a medical note.

Also, please can parents support checking that their child has all the equipment required for the exam on that particular day. Thank you to all parents and carers during this time, we know it can feel like a difficult time for some, but I will be reassuring all students that we know that they all apply themselves and give their all.

On Wednesday, we held a SLAT Recruitment Roadshow at Giles Academy. It was wonderful to meet many local people considering how they can join the school or a school in the Trust. Our next Recruitment Roadshow is at Bourne Academy on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 from 5.00pm to 6.30pm – this event covers job vacancies and future positions available across all of our Trust schools. Please visit [www.slat.org.uk/vacancies](http://www.slat.org.uk/vacancies) to register your interest.

On Thursday, our Year 8 buddies were rewarded with a Buddy Breakfast. This group of young people have been absolutely fantastic in positively supporting our Year 7 students and they really did deserve a luxury breakfast. Well done to all students involved in this!



Applications are now open for the School Council for this academic year. Due to our expansion in House teams, we are now looking for a few additional members of the School Council. The School Council focuses on school development projects to support improving areas of the school. They also represent the school positively at internal and external events – the first project is the Student Wellbeing Charter. Applications will be open until Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and will be on Show My Homework for students to apply.

In the Trust, one of the key factors behind our schools' success is our strong emphasis on the Communications Agenda, which encompasses the core elements of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Next Thursday marks our first SALAD Day of the year, which stands for 'Speaking and Listening Activity Day.' On this day, students engage in minimal or no writing and instead focus on developing their oracy and listening skills across all subjects. Activities include debates, role-plays and presentations.

All of our Year 7 to 10 students participate in this day, and for the first time, our Year 12 students will also join in. Following the Covid pandemic and the further advancement of the digital age, we observed a decline in our students' confidence with speaking skills. SALAD is part of our initiative to bridge this gap and promote these essential skills. In future jobs, interviews, and social situations, students will need to articulate confidently, and we emphasise this by ensuring all departments are responsible for teaching these skills.

In addition to our SALAD Days, we use the term 'speak like a specialist' across the curriculum, encouraging students to use the correct vocabulary and terminology for each subject. Students are also encouraged to speak in full sentences, use standard English and communicate with clarity during lessons and around the school. Our various departments ensure that the promotion of these skills is integrated throughout the

topics studied by our students, with numerous opportunities for speaking activities throughout the year, not just on SALAD Days. We hope these measures will help all of our students become highly successful communicators who confidently command a broad vocabulary.

Finally, please can I remind Year 9 parents that next Thursday (Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024) is the Year 9 Parents Evening. Please ensure you have signed up for the event as it is a very important date in the Year 9 school calendar.

I hope you 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)