

Head of School

Friday 13th December 2024

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

As we approach the end of Term 2, we have certainly been busy during this Festive period. This week, we have once again enjoyed a fantastic Christmas dinner from Mrs Dodd and the canteen team, tutor groups have been creating Christmas Hampers to support our local care home and yesterday and students enjoyed the 'Wear a Christmas Item Day' to raise monies in aid of Save the Children. It was wonderful to see so many staff and students wearing Christmas items to show support. Across the Trust, we raised an impressive amount, making a significant impact on the lives of many children.



Our staff team have been busy supporting our 'Just Giving Tree'. The appeal makes a huge difference to struggling families and vulnerable children across South Holland. The appeal helps to ensure that children dealing with adversity receive a little 'extra something' to open on Christmas Day. The Giles Academy staff team have been extremely generous this year – thank you to everyone who has donated to support this wonderful cause.



This week, I visited Crochet Club where it was fantastic to see students from all year groups enjoy crocheting to Christmas Carols as they continued with their project to make hats for premature babies. During the Christmas break all items made will be delivered to Pilgrim Hospital to support these families. All students are working with Mrs Whitehead, following her own expertise in this area and we now have advanced student leaders demonstrating their skills to new arrivals to the club. Crochet Club is held on Thursday lunchtime in the Careers area.

Sporting achievements this week include our Under 14 Girls' football team winning so they are through to the next round of the County Cup. Mrs Cooper said a huge congratulations to all the players involved in this fantastic team effort! There was excellent teamwork and skill displayed throughout the match. Hollie Cranfield scored the first goal, then in the penalty shoot, every player scored! Kayla Brookes received Players Player from the opposition and Florence Mackay was awarded Coaches' Player. Following the game, all players were rewarded for their fantastic effort with a treat from the canteen.



In addition to this, in the PE Department this week held a Netball Club Christmas Party. Included in this fantastic session was a snowman competition in addition to the amazing fun activities. It was a great way to reward our students following a long term of hardwork and commitment to sport from these students!



Thank you to all of the Year 11 students for their conscientious approach to their Pre-Public Examinations throughout these last few weeks. There has been endless independent revision undertaken, additional intervention classes attended and an extremely high usage of GCSEpod throughout this period. Students have been well supported and their conduct has been excellent, PPE's continue next week for all Art, Photography and Textiles students. We have designed the PPE's to take place before the Christmas holiday period so students can then enjoy the Christmas break with their families and friends without the additional worry about upcoming examinations. The results for the PPE exams will be held in January.

We understand that the Christmas holiday break can be a difficult time for some young people and families and, therefore, we are raising the awareness of support available to them. We continue to promote the worried@gilesacademy.co.uk email address which enables students to email any safeguarding concerns to our safeguarding team. During the holiday period staff will endeavour to respond as soon as they are available to – signposting support and offering advice.

In addition to this school email support, please be reminded that the national support service 'Kooth' offer a 24/7 service for students who are struggling with their mental health. This service is supported by trained professionals who can offer specialist advice and support to all children in a non-judgemental forum. We will be highlighting Kooth to students in assemblies and tutor time throughout next week to enable all of our young people to understand where to access support if needed. All details for this service will also be available on the safeguarding pages of our school website.



Whatever's on your mind during the Christmas holiday, we're here to listen

Free, anonymous and safe support for children and young people aged between 11 and 18 in Lincolnshire

Kooth.com



24th December	(Christmas Eve)	12pm – 8pm
25th December	(Christmas Day)	4pm – 8pm
26th December	(Boxing Day)	12pm – 8pm
31st December	(New Years Eve)	12pm – 8pm
1st January	(New Years Day)	4pm – 8pm

Other days over the holiday period will follow our usual live chat hours of 12pm – 10pm on weekdays and 6pm – 10pm on weekends.

It is incredibly important as we head towards the end of term to maintain high attendance. As we continue to remind all of our students that 'every lesson counts' as we continue to deliver our curriculum.

Finally, just a polite reminder that we finish school for the Christmas holiday at 3.15pm on Thursday 19th December 2024. Please remember all year groups return to school on Monday 6th January 2025.

I hope you all 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