

Head of School

Friday 17th January 2025

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

It has been a very busy second week in Term 3. Christmas feels like a distant memory!

Firstly, thank you to all of the parents and carers for supporting their child with excellent attendance to school. As you may be aware, improving school attendance is a whole school focus area and we are currently, not only maintaining excellent school attendance, we are smashing it above the national average! Thank you to everyone for the part you play in this, we are now being rewarded by the fantastic positive impact it has within our Giles community.

Following my update last week, I would like to remind Year 11 parents about the Year 11 Online Parents Evening held on Thursday 30th January 2025. This is the last parents' evening at Giles Academy for your children and the last milestone to receive advice, guidance and progress information prior to the summer exams. Please can parents support their child by making availability to sign up to this event. Details have been sent however, please contact the school if you have any further questions.

Next week, our Year 11 students will receive their PPE results in an extended assembly during Thursday afternoon. Students will be immersed within a 'mock' results day – this will generate a clear indication to where the students have been successful in areas of their revision and also, where there needs to be more focus to support them achieving the GCSE grades they deserve between now and their first examination.

For Year 10 parents, we are now at the stage of advertising the role of the Prefect to our Year 10 students. Year 11 prefects now need to focus on their revision and examinations studies and therefore, it is time to hand over the reins of this important role within the school. Next week in assembly, we will be informing students about the role and the application process. We will be looking to appoint excellent role models and school ambassadors to these positions and we urge parents and carers to encourage their child to apply for a role.

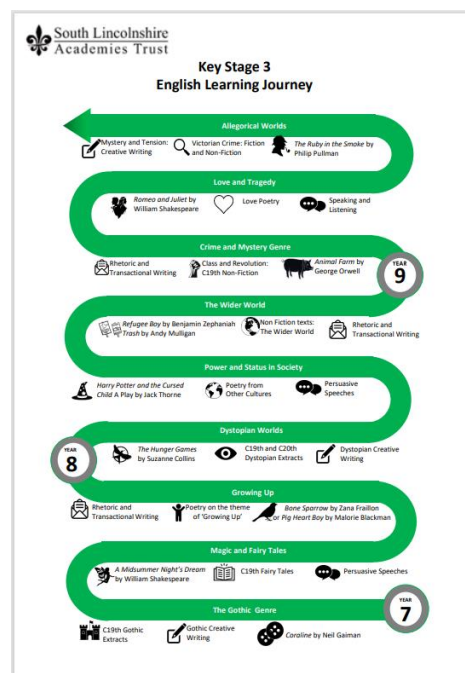
There are a multitude of exciting House competitions our students can be involved in. This week we have been running a Futsal House Competition. Futsal is a variant of football which is a faster paced game with the opportunity for more goals to be scored as it is played on an indoor pitch with a smaller ball. Winners of the competition will be revealed next week. In addition to this, during this term, we have an Eco Competition, and a Literacy Competition based around 'Riddles', It is fantastic to see so many students getting involved in these inclusive events!



On the school website - www.gilesacademy.co.uk/curriculum, we provide detailed information about the curriculum available for specific subjects. We are immensely proud of the outcomes our students achieve through our curriculum, including their exceptional GCSE results in the core, EBacc subjects, in the technical and vocational areas and in becoming independent, hardworking and caring young people. We believe that, without exception, our students have individual talents and abilities and are committed to providing a curriculum which is broad, rich and balanced in order to meet the needs of all.

We know that parents and carers want to know what their child is studying at school throughout the year and how the work that they are currently undertaking fits into the bigger picture for each subject area. The school website is packed with useful information on the overall curriculum and for each subject area. Curriculum information can be found under the 'Academic' section on the website. Here you will find 'Curriculum Intent' and 'Student Road Maps' for each subject area.

The Student Road Maps (example opposite) are a learning journey showing the topic areas that students will meet throughout their school life in that particular subject area. In addition to the academic subjects can also access student road maps for PSHE and Careers. The Curriculum Intent documents for each subject give more depth and may show how certain topics are linked, either by content or skills and how students progress through these skills over time. These form a useful guide to the skills and knowledge that students will be acquiring over the year.



I would like to promote our Young Carers scheme across our Trust that supports the wellbeing of all students classed under the definition as a Young Carer. A Young Carer is a person under the age of 18 who helps to look after a relative with a disability, illness, mental health condition, drug or alcohol problem. A young carer may support a parent or sibling completing additional jobs in the home or/and physical and emotional support. If you think your child may be a Young Carer please can you contact school via enquiries@gilesacademy.co.uk or phone the school number on 01205 870693 to discuss further opportunities for additional support for your child.

Finally, I was really impressed with the high number of Aspire badges awarded last term, in particular Year 7 students presented some fantastic high-quality evidence to gain their bronze Aspire badge. I have now challenged our Year 7 students to aim high and go for Silver and Gold badges for those who are eligible – it would be fantastic to see all of our Year 7 students wearing a badge by the end of their first academic year!

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards,

Miss Katie Belcher
Head of School, Giles Academy



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