

# Head of School

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

With only one week left of Term 3, I cannot believe where the time has gone since the Christmas period! Term 4 starts on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and this is traditionally named as Spring Term 2! Let's hope the weather starts to look more Spring-like!

On Thursday, we ran our popular DEAR Time sessions for Year 7 and 8, which stands for 'Drop Everything And Read'. This is where the whole class take turns to read a text and they then discuss what they have read to highlight key vocabulary and share their thoughts on the issues raised in the material. At Giles Academy, we value reading as an enriching activity, which can make a profound difference to our students' lives. As well as this, we appreciate that regular reading is linked to a developing vocabulary and improved skills in writing and that both of these skills are vital to success in all curriculum areas and life beyond school.

This week, we welcomed PCSO Marie Williams to integrate within the school community and begin to create positive relationships with the students. Some students were familiar with Marie from the project work she has supported at the local feeder primary schools over the many years she has been in post. Marie will be providing termly drop-ins at the school and will be visible on the yards during break and lunchtimes on occasion as a supportive measure to build mutual respect between students, the policing team and the wider community.

There have been over forty Year 11 prefects in post this academic year. Students wear their prefect tie and badges with pride and support the school community throughout the school day. As our Year 11 students move closer to their examinations, we would like them to focus their attention on those important GCSE and BTEC grades. Next Thursday, we will hold their final prefect breakfast reward. I would like to thank our students for their hard work and dedication over the past year, they have been incredible!

Year 11 are now working towards their forthcoming examinations and it has been a positive week for attending lunchtime interventions sessions which we provide every day. We continue to encourage completing GCSEPod revision and use all the tools we have provided to aid revision. In fact, Giles Academy is 1st in the GCSEPod SLAT schools competition and currently 5th out of over 500 schools this academic year for usage! To further support Year 11 students, we have launched the Loyalty Card scheme which students get signed every time they attend a revision class. There are plenty of prizes to be won!



A highlight of my week was visiting the fantastic series of wellbeing clubs we have on offer to all students at the school. This week, I visited our Pride Club where students from our LGBTQAI+ community joined together to work on projects to support the LGBTQAI+ agenda.

On Thursday I visited the Crochet Club led by Mrs Whitehead. This club is over-subscribed with students from all years crocheting items for the Premature Baby Unit at Pilgrim Hospital, it is amazing to see so many students engaged in creating hand crafted items for families of these children. We will be delivering all items during next term!



Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting their child maintain excellent attendance, as always those who maintain excellent or significantly improved attendance are rewarded. Last week our Attendance Officer, Miss Myers joined a multi-agency task force with the local police to keep young people safe and address local school truancy. The patrol team attended home addresses in the local town to support young people across the community understand truancy and address any barriers to attending school. This collaboration achieved positive results for the young, vulnerable students across the locality.

To keep students and parents/carers informed about the progress they are making across a Key Stage, reporting plays an essential role in education. Our school aims to provide parents and carers with a reporting system which is informative, frequent and clearly highlights the progress our students are making. Prior to any report being published the information undergoes a rigorous layered quality assurance process to ensure that all reports are accurate and well presented. There are two main types of report; Assessment of Learning and annual written reports.

- Assessment of Learning Data reports (AOL Data) is published three times a year timed to coincide with key events in the academic calendar so that Parents/Carers have the latest information on hand for Parents' Evenings or an accurate summary of grades achieved following Mock exams in Key Stage 4 or 5. The colour contained within these AOL Data reports makes them extremely user friendly, clearly highlighting each student's strengths and weaknesses. As each set of AOL data is added to these reports a picture of progress emerges from comparing grades from each of the 3 data points.
- Written subject reports primarily focus upon specific targets for students to improve upon in each subject. These are published annually in accordance with Department for Education guidelines between December and May (at different times for different year groups) specifically so that staff and students have time in the remainder of the academic year to act upon this advice in subsequent lessons in order to make difference in their studies.

As well as holding our 'Get Into Teaching' event at Spalding Academy on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 (see details at the end of this update), we are recruitment additional teachers to start in September 2025 in schools across the Trust. This is a great opportunity to join our Trust as all four schools have had a record number of applicants for Year 7 as well as our growing SLAT Sixth Form. There are currently the following teaching vacancies available across the Trust:

- Head of Religious Education (Bourne)
- Teacher of Business Studies (Bourne)
- Teacher of Geography (Bourne)
- Teacher of Health & Social Care (Bourne & Cowley)
- Teacher of Mathematics (Bourne, Spalding & Giles)
- Teacher of Science (Giles)
- Teacher/Instructor of Humanities (Bourne & Spalding)
- Teacher/Instructor of Religious Education (Bourne & Spalding)

All current job vacancies in the Trust are listed on the SLAT website: [www.slat.org.uk/vacancies](http://www.slat.org.uk/vacancies) and the closing date for these teaching vacancies is 8am on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Please share this with anyone you know who is interested in working for our schools.

I hope you have a wonderful and restful weekend.

Kindest regards,



**Miss Katie Belcher**

Head of School, Giles Academy

## For the **latest news**

You can follow Giles Academy on our official social media platforms as follows:

- [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)



TRAIN TO TEACH WITH  
LINCOLNSHIRE ITT



# Get Into Teaching

## OPEN EVENING

**Wednesday 12th March 2025 • 5.30pm to 7.00pm**

South Lincolnshire Academies Trust (SLAT) are now one of the **Lead Partners for Lincolnshire ITT** and can talk to you about starting your teaching journey with us. At this 'Get Into Teaching' event, which will be held at Spalding Academy, you will discover how you can gain a recognised teaching qualification with our one-year school centred Initial Teacher Training.

If any of the following applies to you, you will benefit from attending:

- Recently gained a Level 6 undergraduate degree (e.g. BA, BSc, BEd, BEng) in any subject
- Currently studying a Level 6 undergraduate degree (e.g. BA, BSc, BEd, BEng) in any subject
- Currently studying A-levels or Level 3 BTECs and wanting to get into teaching
- Wanting to change career and become a teacher
- Working in a non-teaching role within a school or college environment and wanting to get into teaching

**You could train either at the schools in our highly successful Trust (Bourne Academy, Spalding Academy, Giles Academy and Cowley Academy) or at a variety of other secondary schools in the Lincolnshire, Rutland and Peterborough areas.**

This event starts at 5.30pm where there will be a presentation then the opportunity to speak to staff informally. You will learn about the different training pathways, entry requirements and details about student finances. We will cover school placements, the course content, support available plus timescales. We can also provide help so you can successfully apply.

To attend, please visit [www.slat.org.uk/vacancies](http://www.slat.org.uk/vacancies) to register in advance.



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South Lincolnshire  
Academies Trust

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[www.slat.org.uk/vacancies](http://www.slat.org.uk/vacancies)