

Head of School

Friday 21st November 2025

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

Despite the chilly weather, it has been another fantastic week here at Giles Academy, filled with learning, achievements, and community spirit.

As the festive season approaches, we are excited to continue our tradition of spreading joy and supporting those in need within our local community. This year, each form group will be creating a Christmas hamper to donate at the end of term. These hampers will be delivered to The Minstrels Care Home in Wrangle, helping those who need extra support during this time of year. We kindly ask for your contributions of non-perishable items to help fill these hampers.

On the theme of giving, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our recent Children in Need 2025 appeal. I am delighted to share that our non-uniform day raised over £800, and across the Trust, we collectively raised more than £4,000 for this incredible cause. Your kindness and commitment to charity are truly inspiring.

Looking ahead, we have a variety of festive events and activities planned to celebrate the season. Please see the attached section at the end of this update for full details.

One of these events is a Sparkle & Bright non-uniform day on Wednesday 3rd December 2025. After 35 years of working in education, Mrs Conley is retiring at the end of 2025 and to commemorate this achievement and dedication, we are holding this special one-off event!



Wear something
bright or that
sparkles!



SPARKLE & BRIGHT

NON-UNIFORM DAY • Wednesday 3rd December 2025

IN SUPPORT OF
YOUNGMINDS
fighting for young people's mental health



Aspire • Challenge • Achieve



Aspire • Challenge • Achieve

This week, Year 8 students took part in their Multi-Agency Day as part of our PSHE curriculum. They engaged in workshops on important topics such as hate crime, online safety, healthy relationships, alcohol and drug awareness, and road safety. These sessions provide valuable knowledge and skills to help our students make informed choices.

Our Year 10 Geography students travelled to Lincoln this week to complete their Geography Field Trip which is part of their GCSE coursework. The students were commended for their exceptional behaviour on the trip which saw students enthusiastically gathering information and data to aid their GCSE exam.

For Year 11 students, preparations for PPE examinations are well underway. Timetables have been distributed, and an exam assembly was held this week to ensure everyone is ready for the start of exams on Monday 8th December 2025. We offer a range of intervention sessions during lunchtimes and after school to support students through this crucial period. Please note that excellent attendance is essential, and any absences must be supported by a medical note. Missed exams will be rescheduled during the final week of term.

Next week, some of our Key Stage 3 students will be competing in the first ever Trust Debate Competition, which will be held at Spalding Academy. There will be a variety of topics debated including AI, the environment, finance and sport. If you want to be part of the audience, details have been sent out to parents/carers by ParentMail – the last date to book is Sunday 23rd November 2025.

We have been celebrating students who have already completed their Aspire Passport Bronze Award. This is a remarkable achievement so early in the academic year! We look forward to more students reaching this milestone and joining us for the special Christmas rewards film during the last week of term.

We are also delighted to celebrate the outstanding number of positive points awarded this week. In particular, special recognition goes to those students who achieved a perfect week - attending every day without any negative points or late marks. The large number of students reaching this milestone has added real momentum to the points competition between the Houses, making it more exciting than ever. Congratulations to all who contributed to this fantastic achievement, and a special well done to Blue House, who are currently leading the points race this year.

We currently have a variety of teaching and non-teaching vacancies across the Trust. If you are interested in finding out more or applying online, please visit: www.slat.org.uk/vacancies. Alternatively, if you know someone else who may be interested, please forward them details.

Non-teaching vacancies across the Trust

- available for immediate start

- **Cover Manager** (Giles Academy)
- **HR Senior Administrator** (Cowley Academy or Giles Academy)
- **Receptionist / Administrator** (Bourne Academy)

The closing date for these non-teaching vacancies is 8am on Tuesday 25th November 2025.

Teaching vacancies across the Trust

- start in April 2026 or September 2026

- **Teacher of History** (Bourne Academy)
- **Teacher of ICT** (Bourne Academy, Spalding Academy or Cowley Academy)
- **Teacher of Mathematics** (Spalding Academy)
- **Teacher of MFL** (Bourne Academy)
- **Teacher of Religious Education** (Bourne Academy or Spalding Academy)
- **Teacher of Science** (Bourne Academy or Cowley Academy)

The closing dates for these teaching vacancies are 2nd, 3rd or 4th December 2025 (please check job advert for exact closing date).

Applications for the School Council have now closed, and we would like to thank everyone who applied. Heads of House and the Senior Leadership Team will now take on the difficult task of selecting this year's council members, a process that reflects the high level of enthusiasm and commitment shown by our students.

Finally, a reminder for Year 9 parents/carers that our online Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 11th December 2025 from 4.30pm to 7.30pm. This is an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress and upcoming Key Stage 4 (GCSE) options. Details on how to book appointments will be released next week - please ensure you book in advance.

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing you all a wonderful 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
- www.facebook.com/GilesAcademy
- www.x.com/GilesSLAT

FESTIVE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dear parents/carers,

We are delighted to share the festive activities planned for our school community this December. These events are designed to celebrate the season and create joyful experiences for our students.

Sparkle & Bright Non-Uniform Day

• Wednesday 3rd December 2025

This year, we are introducing a special non-uniform day with a theme of wearing something bright or that sparkles, or both! After 35 years of working in education, Mrs Conley is retiring at the end of 2025. Instead of leaving presents, she would like to raise money for the national Young Minds charity, which helps young people access mental health support. Donations are welcome to help us raise funds for this important cause (minimum donation of £1 please).

Wear a Christmas Item Day

• Friday 19th December 2025

Students can wear a festive accessory or festive clothing item to celebrate the last day of term.

Christmas Lunch

• Wednesday 3rd, 10th and 17th December 2025

The school canteen will serve a traditional Christmas lunch on the last three Wednesdays of term. This will be £3.20 for the Christmas lunch and 80p for dessert. We are very much looking forward to serving our fantastic Christmas lunch on these designated dates.



Charity Hampers

Our House tutor groups will be creating charity hampers to support local families in need. Across the Trust, we will be dividing our fantastic donations between local care homes and food banks (each school will donate to different organisations). This was very well supported by our families last year and we hope again to be donating some spectacular gifts to brighten up the day of those in need.

Film Festival

As part of our Aspire Reward celebration, students will enjoy a festive film and treats at the end of term. All students who have received an Aspire badge by Friday 5th December 2025 will be invited to attend the Festive Film event – therefore please encourage your child to get completing their challenges to enable them to be recognised and rewarded for their efforts.

Thank you for your continued support in making this festive season special for our students. Further details will be shared in the Head of School Updates closer to each event.