

Head of School

Friday 28th November 2025

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

In the lead-up to Christmas, we have some fantastic festive events happening across the rest of this term!

We are proud to continue offering a wide range of opportunities for our students - from sports fixtures and enrichment activities to targeted interventions that support success.

To celebrate Mrs Conley's incredible 35 years in education before her retirement at the end of 2025, we are holding a special one-off non-uniform day on Wednesday 3rd December 2025. Students are invited to wear something bright or sparkly! This event will raise funds for Young Minds, a leading UK charity dedicated to supporting children and young people's mental health. They provide vital resources, campaigns, and support services to ensure no young person faces mental health challenges alone. Your contributions will help make a real difference.

For this non-uniform day, we would also like to remind parents/carers to ensure that items that students keep in their blazer are still brought to school (and not left in the blazer). This may include items such as canteen cards, bus pass, strike card, passes and their money donation.

As well as the non-uniform day - staff, parents/carers, current and former students can also donate to a Just Giving page (www.justgiving.com/page/young-minds-mrs-conley), to raise additional monies for Young Minds. As Mrs Conley has requested for no retirement gifts (no even one!) ... please donate instead and help ensure no young person feels alone with their mental health.



Wear something
*bright or that
sparkles!*

SPARKLE & BRIGHT

NON-UNIFORM DAY • Wednesday 3rd December 2025

IN SUPPORT OF
YOUNG MINDS
fighting for young people's mental health

BOURNE ACADEMY

Aspire • Challenge • Achieve

Over the next three weeks, our students can enjoy tucking into a traditional Christmas lunch every Wednesday on the 3rd, 10th and 17th December 2025. 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. 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 & Cranberry Turnover 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. For £4.00 students can get the main meal with a dessert and a Christmas cracker.



Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 3rd, 10th and 17th December 2025

Roast Turkey with Pigs in Blankets or Brie & Cranberry Turnover

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

Students who have completed their Aspire Passport and earned a Bronze badge will be invited to a Christmas Film event. Please encourage your child to share their Aspire Passport with you and complete it before the deadline of Friday 5th December 2025. Badges completed after this date will count toward the next reward event.

This week, students engaged in UK Parliament Week, a national event empowering young people to understand and participate in democracy.

Last night, two of our Key Stage 3 students - Lademi Akinfala and Awesome Okojie competed in the first-ever Trust Debate Competition held at Spalding Academy, debating topics such as AI, the environment, finance, and sport. A massive well done to Lademi and Awesome as their team were awarded the KS3 prize for their debating skills that were judged on content, effectiveness and style. It was an outstanding evening where students stepped out of their comfort zones to engage in the art of debate. It was fantastic to see parents joining in the experience too!



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 have been sent out and please ensure you book in advance.

Year 11 students begin their Pre-Public Examinations from Monday 8th December 2025. They have worked hard through interventions and independent revision, and we are confident they will give their best. On Tuesday, all Year 11 students will attend an assembly on exam rules and regulations. From then on, we expect 100% attendance for exams unless a medical note is provided. Please check your child has the correct equipment each day - thank you for your support during this important time.

I hope you all have a great 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.