

Head of School

Friday 5th December 2025

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

We have had another fabulous week at Giles Academy!

As we enter the final preparations for our Christmas festivities, we were delighted to hold the first of our three Christmas Dinner Days on Wednesday. Our amazing catering team served over 160 delicious traditional Christmas dinners - thank you to them for all their hard work! The next opportunity for students will be on Wednesday 10th December 2025, and meals will be served on a first-come, first-served basis. Our Giles Christmas tree is now proudly displayed in our reception.

To celebrate Mrs Conley's incredible 35 years in education ahead of her retirement at the end of this year, we held a special one-off Sparkle & Bright non-uniform day on Wednesday. Across the Trust, this event raised over £4,200 for Young Minds, a leading UK charity supporting children and young people's mental health. Thank you for your generosity.

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. So far, over £7,800 has been raised for Young Minds and any further donations over the next few weeks is greatly appreciated.



I would like to congratulate Katie Winks, a Year 9 Giles Academy student who was commissioned to design this year's official Christmas Card for the South Lincolnshire Academies Trust. As you can see - what an amazing piece of professional artwork this is! Katie has a great talent for creating original designs and the end result was very professional and would look at place in any card store. Well done Katie.



Thank you to all students who have already started bringing in donations for our Christmas Hampers. A reminder that the deadline for donations is Friday 12th December 2025. We are grateful for any contributions received to help make this festive season special for those in need.

Year 11 students begin their Pre-Public Examinations next Monday. They have worked hard through lessons, interventions and independent revision, and we are confident they will give their best. A reminder to continue using GCSEPod as an excellent revision tool and the use of their revision guides.

School attendance this year has been very positive and we have celebrated the huge improvement, however as we head into the last few weeks of term please can I remind parents to communicate on the following email studentabsence@gilesacademy.co.uk if you child is too unwell for school. Please can I take this opportunity to remind parents that we also have a medical lead Mr Taylor and a support room should to support your child if they are fit to attend.

This week students have taken part in a special Aspire Week, giving tutors and students dedicated time to complete their Aspire Passport challenges ahead of today's deadline. These challenges are key to achieving their Bronze Award and securing a place at this term's Reward Festival. We've been so impressed by the enthusiasm and determination shown by our students. Well done to everyone working hard to reach their goals.

A big congratulations to Blue House, who continue to lead the way in this year's House point race. Keep up the fantastic effort!

We have also launched a House Christmas Competition, open to all students, with full details available on Show My Homework. There are lots of creative ways to get involved, including designing a bauble for our Giles Christmas Tree in main reception. We can't wait to see your festive creations!

Today marked our first SALAD Day (Speaking And Listening Activity Day). Instead of writing tasks, students focused on oracy and listening skills through debates, role-plays, and presentations. This initiative helps build confidence in communication - an essential skill for future careers and social situations. We also encourage students to "speak like a specialist" across subjects, using accurate vocabulary, full sentences, and standard English.

Finally, as I head into my last two weeks at Giles Academy, I have some fantastic festive events and activities to look forward too, including the Winter Showcase which gives our singers and instrumentalists an opportunity to shine and showcase their progress as a performer and our Drama students performing a 'Part-o-mime'. There are also two more opportunities for Christmas Lunch!

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope have a lovely weekend

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Belcher', is written in a fluid, cursive style.

Miss Katie Belcher

Head of School, Giles Academy

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