

# Head of School UPDATE

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026



Dear parents/carers and students,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a fantastic festive break and have been able to spend quality time with friends and family.

It is with great pleasure to be writing my first newsletter to you as Head of School at Giles Academy. I am incredibly proud of our school community, our students and staff, and excited to continue building on the successes we have achieved in recent years.

It was fantastic to see the students return to school this week, despite the snow! Please can you ensure students have a coat available during this cold snap. When students have been outside at break and lunchtime please rest assured we have been able to provide an indoor space if students wish to remain indoors.

This week, assemblies have been delivered by the new CEO, Mrs Jemma Curson, and myself, as the new Head of School. Mrs Curson shared her vision for the Trust, after which I outlined my vision for the school and reminded students of our core values, aligned with our motto: *Aspire, Challenge, Achieve*.

Students have adapted back into the school routine very quickly and this week, we have been holding year group assemblies to remind students of the uniform and behaviour expectations. We have also been congratulating and rewarding students that have no strikes on their Strike Card and therefore, entered into the Strike Card Prize Draw.

Both Mrs Curson and I highlighted to students this week how important student voice is for driving school improvement. Students have been reminded to record their ideas on the 'Students Say, We Listen' button on the school website ([www.gilesacademy.co.uk/students-say-we-listen](http://www.gilesacademy.co.uk/students-say-we-listen)), and to ensure they are realistic in relation to our school environment - no McDonalds to be built on site or outdoor ski slope! All student views will be read and considered by the Senior Leadership Team to conclude which ideas we are able to take forward.



We have a range of enrichment activities during lunchtime and after-school available to all students. These activities are extremely important for providing new opportunities and experiences for students outside of the learning classroom. Please see the Term 3 Extra-Curricular and Enrichment timetable at this end of this update.

We are also excited to launch 'Rowanuary' - a whole-school House challenge inviting students to see which House can row the greatest distance throughout January. It has been wonderful to see both staff and students embracing the competition with such enthusiasm, teamwork, and determination. To help your child take part, please encourage them to bring their trainers so they can join in during their allocated session. Each participant has five minutes to row as far as they can, and every distance, whether from students or staff, contributes to their House total. We can't wait to see which House comes out on top!

The Year 11 summer examination series is now fast approaching, with only around 15 school weeks left. With this in mind, students should have now started to consider constructing their revision timetable and organisation to support additional study - this may be lunchtime interventions, afterschool interventions, GCSEPod or independent revision. Students will receive their PPE results, in a mock GCSE results day on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026. Following this, our Year 11 online Parents Evening this term will take place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026. A letter outlining the details of the evening will be sent to all Year 11 parents/carers in due course.

Year 10 students who study one or more of the following subjects; Performing Arts, IT and Health & Social, will also be taking part in formal PSA (Pearson Set Assignment) examination sessions. Highlighting the importance of this - PSA's contribute 30% of the overall grade students receive at the end of Year 11. Students who study these subjects have now received a PSA timetable which identifies important dates for full attendance in school. Parents of these students are soon to receive a letter which outlines all details of the PSA sessions.

Finally, I would like to thank our students and staff for the warm support they have shown me as I begin my role as Head of School at Giles Academy.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards,



**Mr Chris Wright**

Head of School, Giles Academy

## For the latest news

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

- [www.gilesacademy.co.uk](http://www.gilesacademy.co.uk)
- [www.instagram.com/GilesAcademySLAT](https://www.instagram.com/GilesAcademySLAT)
- [www.facebook.com/GilesAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/GilesAcademy)
- [www.x.com/GilesSLAT](https://www.x.com/GilesSLAT)

# GILES ACADEMY

## Extra-curricular activities

**TERM 3** (Monday 5th January to Friday 13th February 2026)



### Lunchtime extra-curricular activities

MONDAY				
Drama	Dance Club	All Years	Drama Studio	Miss Bunce
MFL	KS3 MFL Games Club	Years 7/8/9	B06	Ms Platt
Science	Science Intervention (Higher Tier)	Years 10/11	D12	Miss Cassidy
Science	Science Intervention (Foundation Tier)	Years 10/11	D15	Mrs Webb
Sport	Basketball Shooting Practice	All Years	Sports Hall	Mr Dodd
Sport	CNAT Sports Intervention	Year 10	A07	Mr Reed
TUESDAY				
Geography	Geography Intervention	Years 10/11	D03	Mrs Stones
History	History Homework Club	All Years	D05	Miss Brader
History	History Explorers Club	Years 7/8/9	D02	Miss Clayforth-Scott
Maths	Maths Challenge Club	Years 7/8	C04	Mrs Macleod
Music	Live Lounge	All Years	A09	Miss Cocks
Sport	CNAT Intervention	Year 10	A07	Miss Ward
WEDNESDAY				
Art	KS3 Art Club	Years 7/8/9	A03	Miss Salisbury
DofE	The Duke of Edinburgh's Award	Year 10	A09	Miss Cocks
English	Creative Writing Club	Year 7	E01	Miss Spring
English	Debate Club	All Years	E06	Mr Kelly
History	History Intervention	Years 10/11	D01/D02/D05	Miss Brader
Science	STEM Club	Years 7/8/9	D13	Miss Holland / Mr Castley
THURSDAY				
Art	Intervention GCSE Open Studio	Year 10	A03	Miss Salisbury
Drama	Drama Club	All Years	Drama Studio	Mr Robinson
Crochet Club	Crochet Club	All Years	Careers Area	Mrs Whitehead
Maths	Maths Club	All Years	C08	Miss Wright
Sport	CNAT Sports Intervention	Year 10	A07	Mrs Cooper
FRIDAY				
Chess	Chess Club	All Years	D06	Mr Taylor
Health & Social Care	Health & Social Care Intervention	Year 10	A06	Miss Harris
PSHE	LGBTQ+ Club	All Years	Careers	Mr Kelly/Mrs Whitehead
Religious Studies	Religious Studies Intervention	Year 10	A08	Mrs Harker
Science	Steps to Success	Years 10/11	D12	Miss Cassidy/Mrs Webb
Sport	CNAT Sports Intervention	Year 10	A07	Mr Dodd

## After school extra-curricular activities

MONDAY				
Sport	CNAT Sports Intervention	Years 10/11	A07	Mr Reed
Sport	Football	All Years	Sports Hall	Mr Dodd
Sport	Sports Leaders	Year 9	Sports Hall	Miss Ward
TUESDAY				
Sport	Netball	Years 7/8	Sports Hall	Miss Ward / Mrs Cooper
Sport	CNAT Sports Intervention	Years 10/11	A07	Mr Dodd
WEDNESDAY				
Art	Art Intervention Open Studio	Years 10/11	A02	Miss McDonald
Food	Food Technology Intervention	Years 10/11	D07	Mr Jagger
Sport	Basketball	All Years	Sports Hall	Mr Reed
Sport	Fitness Suite	Years 9/10/11	Fitness Suite	Miss Williams
Sport	Badminton	All Years	Sports Hall	Mrs Cooper
THURSDAY				
Sport	Netball	Years 9/10/11	Sports Hall	Mrs Cooper
Sport	Fitness Suite	Years 7/9/10	Fitness Suite	Mr Butler
FRIDAY				
Sport	CNAT Sports Intervention	Years 10/11	A07	Mr Dodd

# GILES ACADEMY

## Year 11 Revision sessions

**TERM 3** (Monday 5th January to Friday 13th February 2026)



### Lunchtime Year 11 revision sessions

MONDAY				
Business	Business Exam Intervention	Year 11	B01	Mrs Pell
Science	Science Intervention (Higher Tier)	Year 11	D12	Miss Cassidy
Science	Science Intervention (Foundation Tier)	Year 11	D15	Mrs Webb
TUESDAY				
Geography	Geography Intervention	Year 11	D03	Mrs Stones
Maths	Maths Intervention (Foundation A Half)	Year 11	C07	Mr Smith
MFL	Intervention – Speaking Sessions	Year 11	B06	Miss Platt
WEDNESDAY				
Business	Business Exam Intervention	Year 11	B01	Mr Kay
English	English Intervention – Target grade 4+	Year 11	E05	Mrs Jones
Geography	KS4 Geography Intervention	Year 11	D06	Miss Pearson
History	History Intervention	Year 11	D01/D02/D05	Miss Brader
MFL	Intervention – Speaking Sessions	Year 11	B06	Miss Platt
THURSDAY				
English	English Intervention with TA Support	Year 11	E08	Mr Woods
English	English Intervention – Target grade 7+	Year 11	E04	Miss Kamsika
MFL	French Intervention – Speaking Sessions	Year 11	B06	Miss Platt
FRIDAY				
Maths	Maths Intervention (Foundation B Half)	Year 11	C04	Miss Woolley
Maths	Maths Intervention (Higher Tier 11MA1)	Year 11	C03	Mrs Vrstiak
Science	Steps to Success	Year 11	D12	Miss Cassidy / Mrs Webb

### After school Year 11 revision sessions

MONDAY				
Health & Social Care	Health & Social Care Intervention	Year 11	A06	Miss Harris
Sport	CNAT Sports Intervention	Year 11	A07	Mr Reed
TUESDAY				
Sport	CNAT Sports Intervention	Year 11	A07	Mr Dodd
WEDNESDAY				
Art	Art Intervention Open Studio	Year 11	A02	Miss McDonald
Food	Food Technology Intervention	Year 11	D07	Mr Jagger

**THURSDAY**

English	English Intervention	Year 11	E05	Mrs Jones
Maths	Individual Maths Support	Year 11	Library	Miss Woolley
MFL	French Intervention – Exam Revision	Year 11	B06	Miss Platt
Science	Science Exam Intervention	Year 11	D12	Miss Cassidy

**FRIDAY**

Sport	CNAT Sports Intervention	Year 11	A07	Mr Dodd
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