

# Head of School UPDATE

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026



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 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 and this is traditionally named as Spring Term 2. Let's hope the weather starts to look more Spring-like!

On Wednesday, we ran our popular DEAR Time sessions for Years 7 to 10, 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. All classes focus on a different subject area so if they normally have an art, history or maths lesson, their reading text will be relevant to art, history, or maths. 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.

As a 'Reading School', one of the highlights of this term has been the opportunity for me to spend time in the Library listening to students read. Seeing their fluency, confidence, and enthusiasm grow each week has been brilliant and this progress has been clearly reflected in their improved reading test outcomes.


There have been over 30 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. Next in line will be our new Year 10 temporary prefects, as they begin to take the baton from our current Year 11 prefects, who are now moving closer to their exams and focus their attention fully on achieving those important GCSE and BTEC grades. Next Thursday, we will hold the final Year 11 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. 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!

Next week, on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026, we will be holding our first Young Carer Breakfast. Students who are Young Carers are invited to attend a free breakfast event in our school canteen. We are very mindful that our Young Carers may be involved in various roles around the home and community and sometimes this can be a little overwhelming. If your child is a Young Carer and you feel the school is not aware, please email their Year Lead so we can look to further support. All Young Carers are to arrive at the school canteen on Tuesday morning where we will be offering a free drink and pastry.

Also next week, as part of our PSHE provision, we are supporting the national Children's Mental Health Week which is organised by the Charity Place2Be. We will be highlighting key messages from the campaign, reminding students of the mental health and wellbeing support available from school, and we are currently running a 'My Safe Space' House Competition.



If you are interested in teaching, or know someone else who may be interested, next week on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026, from 5.00pm to 6.30pm we are running 'Get Into Teaching' drop-in events at both Giles Academy and Cowley Academy. At these informal events, you will discover how you can gain a recognised teaching qualification with our one-year school centred Initial Teacher Training. You will learn about the different training pathways, entry requirements and details about student finances. We can 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)




## Get Into Teaching DROP-IN EVENTS

Wednesday 11th February 2026 • 5pm to 6.30pm  
AT COWLEY ACADEMY & GILES ACADEMY

Discover how you can 'Get Into Teaching' and gain a recognised teaching qualification with our one-year school centred Initial Teacher Training.



TRAIN TO TEACH WITH  
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South Lincolnshire  
Academies Trust

In addition to this, if you are interested in working for any schools in the Trust, there are always teaching and non-teaching vacancies advertising on our Trust website: [www.slat.org.uk/vacancies](http://www.slat.org.uk/vacancies)

Finally, an advanced reminder that we have World Book Day after half term on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and this year we are inviting all students in Year 7, 8 and 9 to come dressed as a character from the book. If you would like any further details - please see the letter sent to all parents via ParentMail this week outlining further information and the 'Best Costume' competition!

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)
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