

Head of School UPDATE

Friday 20th March 2026



Dear parents/carers and students,

We have had another great week this week at Giles Academy and it's nice to see a much needed improvement in the weather!

Today is Comic Relief / Red Nose Day, and we celebrated by holding our annual non-uniform day to support this incredible charity. I am delighted to share that we have raised an impressive total of over £4,000 across the Trust. This fantastic achievement would not have been possible without the generosity and enthusiasm of our students, staff, and wider community. It was wonderful to see so many students showing their support by wearing something red. The students' smiles and creativity truly captured the spirit of Comic Relief / Red Nose Day.



Over the past two weeks, it has been fantastic to see the Year 11 Food Practical Examinations. The Food room was transformed into a MasterChef-style kitchen, and the dishes produced by our students were outstanding. Members of Senior Leadership and the Pastoral Team thoroughly enjoyed visiting at the end of the exams to take part in the tasting session. We are incredibly proud of the talented young chefs in Year 11 who produced professional-quality dishes - well done to everyone involved.

We continue to encourage our Year 11 students to revise as much as possible to make the most of the time remaining in school. A reminder that the more loyalty cards completed, the more prizes students can earn by attending intervention sessions. We have had a good uptake so far for the Easter revision sessions which is encouraging, attending these extra Easter sessions is really very well while.

I would also like to remind parents of Year 11 students that there is still time to sign up to attend the Exam Success Evening taking place next Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 6.30pm.

On Tuesday this week, Year 9 students had a special assembly which explained the process for choosing their GCSE and BTEC option subjects in preparation for Year 10. I would like to encourage students to make sure they look at the Options page on our website (www.gilesacademy.co.uk/year-9-options) over the next few days so that they are able to make an informed decision on which subjects they would like to continue with next year.

On Wednesday, we held SALAD Day (Speaking and Listening Activity Day). All lessons for Years 7, 8 and 9 involved little to no writing, encouraging students to focus on speaking and listening. While classrooms are usually calm and quiet, the volume was certainly raised as students took part in debates, presentations, group discussions, team-based tasks, and more. Staff across all subjects planned engaging lessons to promote communication skills throughout the day.

One of the fantastic literacy initiatives we have to encourage students to engage with reading is our Accelerated Reader programme. This is where our Year 7 and 8 students have time during their afternoon registration to read their chosen books, which can then be carried on as home learning. They can then use the Accelerated Reader portal to check their targets, progress towards their targets and take quizzes. Congratulations to the following students who are top achievers in their House for Term 3.

Blue House	- Meeting Points Target:	Teja Macijauskaite
	- Completed Reading Bookmark:	Sam Gibbons
Green House	- Meeting Points Target:	Austin Beecham
	- 100% on a Reading Quiz:	Noah Williamson
Orange House	- Meeting Points Target:	Parker Kirley
	- Completed Reading Bookmark:	Emelia Pearson
	- 100% on a Reading Quiz:	Leja Petrulyte
Purple House	- Meeting Points Target:	Oliver Kavanagh
Red House	- Meeting Points Target:	Elsie Bangert
	- Most Improved from last STAR Test:	Niamh Kinloch and Xander Cuthbert
Yellow House	- Meeting Points Target:	Jacob Wilson
	- Most Improved from last STAR Test:	Nia Fileva

Also, on Wednesday, we welcomed Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind who delivered an interactive workshop to some of our Year 9 students on how wind energy is used to generate electricity. Students were tasked with making a small wind turbine whilst reflecting on the cost of the materials. The electrical output was then tested to see which design could generate electricity at the lowest cost. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students and we were really grateful for Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind to take the time to work with our students and help them explore the many STEM careers available locally.



Finally, our sports teams continue to shine this week, with outstanding performances across multiple year groups. Our Year 8 girls (pictured) secured victory at the Netball SLAT Games and followed it up with an exceptional 37-0 win against Haven High Academy. The Year 8 boys also impressed, finishing second in the Football SLAT Games after a closely contested with Bourne Academy. Adding to the week's achievements, our Year 7 boys celebrated a strong victory against Haven High Academy in their football fixture. A huge well done to all students involved!

I hope you all have a fantastic weekend.

Kindest regards,



Mr Chris Wright
Head of School, Giles Academy



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- www.gilesacademy.co.uk
- www.instagram.com/GilesAcademySLAT
- www.facebook.com/GilesAcademy
- www.x.com/GilesSLAT