

Head of School UPDATE

Friday 15th May 2026



Dear parents/carers and students,

This week has seen the Year 11 examination season get fully underway, with full cohort exams in English, Maths and Science. The Year 11 students have been brilliant and are focused on achieving the best they can. I would like to thank all of our students for their respect and courtesy around the examination areas this week. This is such an important part of our Year 11 students' educational journey, and it is heartwarming to see our school community supporting them during this potentially anxious time. A reminder to our Year 11 students to continue working hard, stay focused, and make full use of all the resources provided.

Last Saturday, the PE department organised an unforgettable trip for a group of rugby enthusiasts to watch Leicester Tigers take on Northampton Saints in an exciting Gallagher Premiership clash. The match was a fantastic spectacle, with Leicester Tigers securing an impressive 41-17 victory in a high-intensity East Midlands derby. Both teams showcased the physicality and skill expected at the top level of the game, providing students with a real appreciation for the speed, strength and tactical awareness required to compete at this level. Students were inspired by standout performances from Jamie Blamire, who scored two tries, alongside George Martin, Ollie Hassell-Collins, Adam Radwan, and Freddie Steward, who all crossed the line. Fly-half James O'Connor also played a key role, orchestrating the game and adding valuable points from the tee. The trip was a fantastic opportunity for students to experience elite rugby and will undoubtedly inspire the next generation of players. Mr Dodd, Head of PE said *"Experiencing a live Premiership match at such close quarters was an invaluable opportunity for our students. Seeing the pace, physicality and decision-making of professional rugby first-hand will have a lasting impact on their understanding of the game and inspire them as they continue to develop their own performance."*



I am delighted to share that a group of our amazing students successfully completed their The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award training expedition on Saturday 9th May and Sunday 10th May 2026. They practised their camping and navigation skills at Sacrewell Farm, near Peterborough. This is a fantastic award that requires dedication and determination to complete. I am very pleased that the weather remained sunny for both our students and staff!

Also last Saturday, I had the pleasure of attending the Art Exhibition at The Sessions House in Spalding, where our talented student artists showcased their exceptional work. It was a truly inspiring event. Thank you to Mrs Dent and the Art department for their continued commitment to providing such enriching opportunities.

We are excited to be launching an Inter House Art Exhibition Competition, inviting students across the school to showcase their creativity and talent. Students are encouraged to create original artwork inspired by community, diversity or our school ethos, with selected pieces to be displayed proudly around the school. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to contribute to the look and feel of our school while earning valuable house points. KS3 students can also take advantage of a Wednesday lunchtime art club in Room A02 to develop ideas or work on competition pieces. We look forward to seeing the creativity our students bring to this exciting live project.

**THE SCHOOLWIDE
ART EXHIBITION
INTER-HOUSE COMPETITION**

OUR SCHOOL IS FULL OF INCREDIBLY TALENTED ARTISTS, AND WE WANT TO SHOWCASE YOUR AMAZING WORK! WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW PIECES TO BRIGHTEN OUR CORRIDORS AND INSPIRE EVERYONE WHO WALKS THROUGH THEM.

WHY GET INVOLVED?

- WINNING ARTWORK WILL BE DISPLAYED FOR STUDENTS, STAFF, AND VISITORS TO ENJOY
- A BRILLIANT OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE YOUR TALENT RECOGNISED
- A CHANCE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE LOOK AND FEEL OF OUR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- LARGE-SCALE ARTWORK (A3 UP TO A1)
- ANY STYLE, ANY MEDIUM – AS LONG AS IT MAKES AN IMPACT
- CREATIVE, EXPRESSIVE, AND ORIGINAL PIECES

TUESDAY 2ND JUNE

HOW TO TAKE PART:
CREATE YOUR PIECE AND SUBMIT IT FOR CONSIDERATION. WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT YOU PRODUCE.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: TUESDAY 2ND JUNE 2026

Congratulations to the 33 students whose poems were selected for publication in the Winter Wonderland poetry competition. Chosen from a wide range of entries, their work impressed judges with its creativity, imagination and use of language. Having their poems published as part of our third literacy competition is a fantastic achievement, and we are incredibly proud of everyone involved. Well done to all our young poets!

Making Maths Manageable is a new termly feature in this update designed to help families bring maths into everyday life in simple, practical ways. The aim is not to 'teach' maths at home, but to encourage positive conversations, build confidence, and show how maths is used beyond the classroom. Each term we will include a short activity, a real-life connection, and discussion prompts that can be completed in just a few minutes. One of the biggest barriers to confidence in maths is hearing phrases such as "Maths is hard." Instead, try saying, "This might take a bit of thinking, but we can work it out together." Positive language helps young people see challenge as part of learning rather than something to avoid.

This month, try a quick maths conversation during a car journey or walk by asking: ***"If we leave at 4.15pm and the journey takes 35 minutes, what time will we arrive?"*** Encourage your child to explain their thinking with questions like ***"How did you work that out?"*** to develop reasoning over just getting the 'right' answer. This type of maths is also used every day in careers such as transport, logistics and sports.

The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will be running a Safeguarding Children Week from Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July 2026 where there will be a series of free one-hour webinars on a variety of topics, which are either targeted towards either parents/carers/families or professionals.

For more information about each of the following webinars and how to book you free place, please visit <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/HSAIF6u0rNITsMiX>

Mon 29 th June	9.30am to 10.30am	Difficult Conversations - Everyone has a Closet
	1.30pm to 2.30pm	Do you speak dog? Safe interactions between children, adults, and dogs
	6.30pm to 7.30pm	Navigating Teen Relationships
Tue 30 th June	9.30am to 10.30am	Trauma Informed Practice
	1.30pm to 2.30pm	How to Support Children Experiencing Low Mood
	6.30pm to 7.30pm	Talking to Children about Drugs and Alcohol (Parents Session)
Wed 1 st July	9.30am to 10.30am	Re-engaging Disengaged Children and their Families
	1.30pm to 2.30pm	From the Margins to the Room. Engaging Fathers in Child Safeguarding Practice
	6.30pm to 7.30pm	AI - The Good, The Bad, The Ugly
Thu 2 nd July	9.30am to 10.30am	Responding to Self-Harm
	1.30pm to 2.30pm	Supporting children when a family member is in prison
Fri 3 rd July	9.30am to 10.30am	Child Neglect and Home Conditions
	1.30pm to 2.30pm	Talking to Children about Drugs and Alcohol (Professional Session)

Finally, thank you to all Year 10 parents and carers who attended the Year 10 Parents' Evening last night. The event was well attended and, we hope, informative following the recent sharing of PPE results and AOL data earlier this week.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards,



Mr Chris Wright
Head of School, Giles Academy

For the latest news

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

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