GILES ACADEMY

Headteacher UPDATE

Friday 9th October 2026

Dear parents/carers and students,

We have enjoyed another fantastic week at Giles Academy, with students continuing to embrace the many opportunities available to them both inside and outside the classroom.

As part of our commitment to keeping students, staff and visitors safe, the Trust regularly reviews and rehearses its emergency procedures. On Thursday, we completed a practice lockdown exercise. I am pleased to report that our students were exceptional throughout, demonstrating maturity, respect and calmness at all times. We are incredibly proud of how responsibly they responded.

Our wide range of lunchtime and after-school enrichment clubs remains well attended, and we encourage all students to take advantage of the opportunities on offer. With activities catering for a variety of interests, enrichment plays an important role in helping students develop new skills, discover new passions, and build positive relationships.

One of the highlights of our careers programme is our annual Careers Fair, which will take place on Thursday 19th November 2026. We are delighted to welcome a wide range of businesses, employers and education providers who will help inspire our students and broaden their understanding of future career pathways. Representatives from sectors including construction and engineering, healthcare and medical services, business and professional services, uniformed services, and post-16 and post-18 education will be attending. Year 9, 10 and 11 students will have allocated timeslots during the school day to visit the fair, while all year groups will have the opportunity to attend during lunchtime. Please note that that there will not be an after school session at Giles Academy, however parents/carers from Giles Academy are welcome to attend the Careers Fairs at Bourne Academy or Spalding Academy.

We continue to place great importance on excellent attendance, as regular school attendance has a significant impact on both wellbeing and academic success. Students who miss between 10% and 20% of school days (around 19 to 38 days each year) have only a 35% chance of achieving five or more good GCSEs, compared with 73% of students who miss fewer than 5% of school days. Although 90% attendance may seem high, it still amounts to nearly one day of absence every fortnight, which can have a considerable effect on learning and progress.

Good attendance also helps prepare students for the future. Research shows that persistent absence can negatively affect employment opportunities and lifetime earnings. By developing strong attendance habits now, students build the reliability, resilience and commitment that are valued by employers. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school every day whenever possible.

South Lincolnshire Academies Trust

Good **attendance** counts

Attendance %	Number of days missed (in one academic year)	Number of lessons missed (five lessons a day)
95%	9 days	45 lessons
90%	19 days	95 lessons
Research suggests that 19 missed school days a year (90% attendance) = 1 GCSE grade dropped		
85%	29 days	145 lessons
80%	38 days	190 lessons
75%	48 days	240 lessons
70%	57 days	285 lessons

We are therefore delighted to announce that Giles Academy has been awarded a National School Attendance Award for the whole of the 2025/26 academic year. This recognising our attendance performance as being within the top 25% of similar schools in England.

This impressive achievement reflects the shared commitment of our students, families and staff to ensuring that attendance remains a priority. As a school, we will continue to reinforce the importance of attendance to continue the excellent standards achieved at our school.

Following the recent introduction of the new Giles Academy School App, we would like to remind parents/carers about the range of features and services available through the app.

- We would ask all parents/carers to ensure that you receive the latest communications from school in a timely and convenient way.
- The new app also provides a central hub for accessing the different online platforms used across the school. By selecting 'Hub', parents can access 'Learning Tools', where you will find links to platforms such as Bedrock, Satchel One and other learning resources used by your child.
- There is also a 'Useful Links' section within the app, which provides easy access to other important services, including ParentMail and UPAY.
- ParentMail will continue to be required for making purchases, including paying for school items, trips, activities and other services. We therefore recommend that parents and carers keep the ParentMail app installed and continue to use it when making payments.

We hope that the Giles Academy app will make it easier for families to access the wide range of platforms and services used by the school, providing a more convenient one-stop hub for school communication and learning.

In sports this week, our Year 7 football team secured an impressive 5-3 league victory against Cowley Academy. After falling 2-0 behind, the boys showed tremendous resilience and determination to complete a fantastic comeback, playing some excellent football along the way. The victory was a well-deserved reward for their hard work and teamwork. We now look ahead to next week, when our Year 7 team begin their County Cup campaign and our Year 9 team compete in the first round of the National Cup. We wish both teams the very best of luck.

The U15s girls also had success this week in football, with an outstanding performance against University Academy Holbeach in round 2 of the National Cup! The team started strongly and went into half-time with a well-deserved 2-0 lead. The Year 10's set an excellent example with some fantastic football, showing great teamwork. It was brilliant to see the Year 9's step up and rise to the challenge, building in confidence as the game progressed. The girls continued their impressive performance in the second half, adding another three goals to secure a brilliant 5-0 victory! Onto the next round!

On Thursday, it was another fantastic day for our U15 girls at the Boston United tournament! The girls faced seven other local schools in a series of competitive and closely fought matches. Every team brought a strong squad, making for a brilliant and very even tournament. The girls showed great teamwork, determination, and resilience throughout the day, finishing an excellent 2nd place overall! They also got the opportunity to look at post-16 options have explore the excellent facilities at Boston United Football Club.

Parents/carers of Year 10 and Year 11 students will be pleased to know that they child can continue their education in the Trust at the SLAT Sixth Form based at Bourne Academy. The Sixth Form consistently has outstanding results and will be holding their Open Evening on Wednesday 11th November 2026 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. For more information about the Sixth Form and to book fast-track entry for the event, please visit: www.gilesacademy.co.uk/sixth-form-open-evening-2026-invite

Today, students in Years 7 to 10 took part in DEAR Time (Drop Everything And Read) during their first lesson of the day. Students engaged enthusiastically with a range of reading materials, including within subjects where reading would not traditionally form a major part of the lesson, such as Physical Education. Initiatives such as DEAR Time help strengthen literacy skills and encourage students to develop a lifelong love of reading.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all parents and carers who attended our "How to Succeed at GCSE" evening this week. The event was extremely well received and provided valuable guidance on revision planning, supporting learning at home, and making the most of online resources. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, and it has been wonderful to see our Year 10 students already putting many of the strategies discussed into practice.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our outstanding Year 11 Prefect Team. They continue to carry out their responsibilities with maturity, dedication and enthusiasm, making a positive contribution to our school community every day. As a small token of our appreciation, we were delighted to host a special breakfast for them on Tuesday to recognise their hard work and commitment.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards,

Mr Chris Wright
Headteacher, Giles Academy

For the latest news

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