GILES ACADEMY

Headteacher UPDATE

Friday 16th 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.

On Thursday as part of our Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) and Personal Development programme, Year 8 students took part in an engaging and educational workshop delivered by Human Utopia, a nationally recognised organisation that works with young people to develop confidence, resilience, leadership skills and positive relationships. The event, entitled "Who Am I?", encouraged students to reflect on their attitudes, choices and behaviours whilst promoting respect, responsibility and personal development. Through a range of interactive activities and discussions, students were challenged to think about how they can make a positive contribution to their school community and beyond.

The programme focused on three key themes:

- Circumstances: What are the barriers to success?
- Choices: Seeing yourself in a different light and overcoming these barriers.
- Changes: What does your future look like and what changes do you need to make?

These sessions form part of our wider personal development and wellbeing programme and support our commitment to ensuring that all students are equipped with the skills, knowledge and character traits needed to succeed both in school and later life. The workshop also supports key areas of our PSHE curriculum, including resilience, wellbeing, communication skills, self-awareness, positive relationships and making informed choices. Year 8 students were exceptional and I was so pleased to see how they supported one another and demonstrated everything that we stand for as a school community.

Our enrichment programme is designed to provide valuable experiences beyond the classroom, and last weekend a number of Year 11 students successfully completed their practice expedition for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Throughout the expedition, students demonstrated resilience and teamwork as they camped, cooked, navigated unfamiliar routes, and endured all weather conditions. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and determination. Thank you to Miss Cocks for leading and supporting the expedition.

On Wednesday, it was wonderful to welcome Year 7 parents to our Reading & Numeracy Evening. The event provided valuable information and practical strategies to support students' literacy and numeracy development at home. We would like to thank all parents/carers who attended and engaged so positively, helping to strengthen the partnership between home and school as we support our students' success.

It has been another busy and successful week for the Sports Department at Giles Academy!

A huge congratulations to the Giles Under 14 Netball Team with an absolutely fabulous evening of netball at the Under 14 District Netball Tournament. The team won five out of six matches with a significant number of goals scored across the event. We scored 41 goals across all matches with only 15 scored against us. The entire team showed incredibly high levels of effort, skill, determination and confidence, and we are hugely proud of their achievement with second place across the entire Superzone.

There was further success for Giles Acadmy in the Inter Trust Year 11 SLAT Netball Tournament with three excellent wins across all matches in the tournament to ensure they became the champions of SLAT Year 11 Netball. We were undefeated against Bourne Academy (10-4), Cowley Academy (19-1) and Spalding Academy (10-7). There were 39 goals scored in total by Darci and Hollie with only 12 scored against us all tournament. All members of the team contributed confidently and successfully towards the final overall victory.

Our Year 9 boys competed in a closely contested cup fixture against Bourne Grammar School in challenging windy conditions. Despite a determined performance, they were narrowly defeated 2-1. The team battled hard throughout and can take plenty of positives from an encouraging display.

Our Year 7 boys were also in cup action this week and faced a tough challenge, ultimately losing 4-0. Despite the result, the boys' attitude and commitment were exceptional. They showed great resilience and determination, continuing to work hard and push forward right until the final whistle.

Today, a small number of Year 7 and 8 students proudly represented the school at the South Lincolnshire Cross Country event. All students demonstrated excellent determination, resilience and sportsmanship throughout their races, competing against strong opposition from schools across the region. Their effort, commitment and positive attitude were a credit to both themselves and the school, and we are extremely proud of their achievements. Well done to everyone involved.

‘Making Maths Manageable’ is our regular Headteacher Update feature 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 includes a short activity, a real-life connection, and discussion prompts that can be completed in just a few minutes. Young people often pick up on the attitudes they hear at home, so try to avoid saying things like “I’m no good at maths.” Instead, have a go together and say, “Let’s work it out!”

MATHS WHILE SHOPPING

A trip to the shops is an easy way to practice maths without it feeling like schoolwork. Comparing prices and special offers gives children the chance to use their number skills in a real-life situation. It’s also something adults do regularly, whether they’re working out the best deal on the weekly shop or managing costs in a business. Retail staff and shop owners use maths to check prices, manage stock and calculate profits.

Next time you’re shopping, have a look at two offers together and ask: **“Which is better value: 3 for £5 or £1.80 each?”**

Encourage your child to have a guess before working out the answer. You could then ask, **“How much would we save?”** or **“Would it still be worth buying three if we only needed two?”**

For an extra challenge, ask them to work out how much six packets would cost with each offer. Can they explain which option they would choose and why?

These little conversations can help children become more confident with numbers and see that maths is useful in everyday life, not just in the classroom.

After half term on Thursday 19th November 2026 we will be holding our annual Careers Fair during the school day. 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. 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.

As well as this event, the SLAT Sixth Form at Bourne Academy will be holding their Open Evening on Wednesday 11th November 2026 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. This event can be attended by students in both Years 10 and 11 from Bourne Academy, Giles Academy and other secondary schools across the region. 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

As mentioned last week, good school attendance remains one of the most important factors in a child's success at school. Every lesson counts, and regular attendance helps students make strong academic progress, build positive relationships with their peers and teachers, and fully engage in the wider life of the school. Even occasional absences can have a significant impact on learning, making it harder for students to keep up with classwork and achieve their full potential. We thank parents and carers for their continued support in ensuring that students attend school every day and arrive on time, ready to learn.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards,

Mr Chris Wright
Headteacher, Giles Academy

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

For the latest news

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