GILES ACADEMY

Headteacher UPDATE

Friday 6th November 2026



Dear parents/carers and students,

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

During the October half-term break, 44 students and staff from Giles Academy and Cowley Academy travelled for the first-ever SLAT Geography trip to the Bay of Naples in Italy. The week was packed with exciting experiences designed to enrich and support students' understanding of key geographical concepts studied in the classroom.

Following an early flight on Monday morning, students enjoyed a guided tour of the historic city of Naples. Highlights included exploring the remarkable underground tunnels beneath the city, an extensive network that has played a vital role in Naples for thousands of years. The day concluded with the opportunity to sample some of the city's world-famous cuisine, including pizza and gelato.

On Tuesday, students embarked on an unforgettable climb to the summit of Mount Vesuvius. Guided by expert volcanologists, they explored the volcano's impressive crater while learning about the tectonic processes that shape the region. The hike rewarded the group with spectacular views across the Bay of Naples and a real sense of achievement. In the afternoon, the volcanic theme continued with a guided tour of Pompeii, where students explored the remarkably preserved remains of the Roman city buried by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79.

Wednesday offered a change of pace with a journey along the stunning Amalfi Coast. The group stopped at several viewpoints to admire the dramatic coastal landscape before spending time in the picturesque town of Amalfi. A boat trip to Salerno provided a unique perspective of the coastline, allowing students to observe a range of coastal landforms, including sea caves and stacks.

The final full day began with a visit to a working organic buffalo mozzarella farm, where students learned about traditional cheese production, met the buffalo, and sampled freshly made mozzarella. The group then travelled to Paestum to explore the impressive remains of the ancient Greek settlement, including temples dating back over 2,500 years. The day's final excursion took students underground to the Pertosa Caves, where they travelled by boat and on foot through an extensive system of caves and underground waterways while learning about their formation. The trip concluded with a celebratory meal in Sorrento and an awards presentation recognising students' achievements throughout the week.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mrs Collinson for organising this trip as well as Mrs Kilby, Miss Pearson, Miss Sanderson and Mr Ball for their support throughout the week. Educational visits of this kind would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of our staff.

Despite being the first week back, we have had yet further success within sports this week!



The U15 girls regained their status as SLAT Netball Champions, winning all three of their matches in impressive fashion. The team scored an incredible 42 goals while conceding just 8 across the tournament. A fantastic achievement and a testament to their hard work, skill, and teamwork. Well done to all involved!

Our Year 7 boys football team produced a superb late comeback to defeat King Edward VII Academy 3-1 in the National Cup. After a tight first half ended 0-0, King Edward VII Academy took the lead in the second half. However, Giles Academy showed great determination, scoring three goals in the final five minutes through Harper, Henry, and Clow to secure a memorable victory and a place in the next round. We will now face Comberton Village College, Cambridge, in the next round of the competition. Well done boys!

As we approach Remembrance Day, we have begun to see poppies being worn proudly around the Academy. We will be marking this important occasion on Wednesday 11th November 2026. I would like to remind students who are members of cadet groups, Guides, Scouts or other uniformed organisations that they are welcome to wear their uniform for the 2 minute silence. Students in uniform are invited to join the Senior Prefects and me as we walk to the church in Old Leake to lay a wreath on behalf of Giles Academy as an act of remembrance. We encourage all students to wear a poppy throughout the week, and particularly on Wednesday, as a sign of respect and remembrance for those who have served and sacrificed. I am also proud to share that our Senior Students and Year Buddies will be representing Giles Academy with Mrs Pell and I at Boston's Remembrance Service on Sunday.

Next week, we will be celebrating students who achieved 100% attendance last term. We aim to increase the number of students receiving this recognition in the current term. As you know, good attendance has a significant impact on wellbeing and academic success. Students who miss between 10% and 20% of school (19-38 days per year) have only a 35% chance of achieving five or more good GCSEs, compared to 73% for those who miss fewer than 5% of school days. While 90% attendance may sound acceptable, it can still negatively affect progress and future lifetime earnings.

We are looking forward to supporting BBC Children in Need on Friday 13th November 2026. Children in Need raises invaluable funds to improve the lives of disadvantaged children and young people across the UK, providing support where it is needed most. Students and staff will have the opportunity to take part in fundraising activities and show their support for this fantastic cause. Further details of this fundraising event have been sent via the School App, and we hope our school community will once again help us make a meaningful contribution.



There are plenty of career and job opportunities available within the Trust that you may be interested in (or know someone else who may be interested). To register to attend the following events or apply for jobs, please visit www.slat.org.uk/vacancies

As the winter and summer exam seasons will be coming soon, we are looking to recruit additional **Exam Invigilators** to work in our schools. This is an important role to ensure that our students can sit their exams and achieve their qualifications. We will be requiring Exam Invigilators to start this role very soon and we always need a team of staff to help cover all of the exams that are scheduled.



There are also two recruitment events being held at Spalding Academy on Wednesday 18th November 2026. To inspire future teachers, there is a **'Get Into Teaching'** event - this is an fantastic opportunity for anyone who wants to work as a teacher at any of the schools in our Trust or in other secondary schools in Lincolnshire, Rutland and Peterborough. We are also holding a **'Become a Teaching Assistant'** event as we are looking to recruit even more Teaching Assistants to join our SEN team. Working as a Teaching Assistant is a great way to work into education and progress your career.





The Open Evening for the SLAT Sixth Form at Bourne Academy will take place next week on Wednesday 11th November 2026, which can be attended by students in both Years 10 and 11. Thank you to everyone who has registered to attend for this event that will help students plan their post-16 options after their GCSEs. For more information about the Sixth Form and to book fast-track entry for the event, please visit: www.bourneacademy.org/sixth-form-open-evening-2026-invite



Finally, at our Trust, we are committed to preparing students for life beyond school - helping them to be happy, healthy, and safe. As part of the National Curriculum, all students receive lessons in PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) and SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education). These lessons cover a wide range of important topics and are regularly reviewed to reflect both local and national needs. Our PSHE and SMSC programme is a cornerstone of the Trust's ethos and is taught weekly in Years 7 to 9, and through tutor time and fortnightly lessons in Years 10 to 11. In addition to our curriculum, we host PSHE events featuring talks and activities led by specialist external agencies such as PCSOs, Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, and Prison Me No Way. Visit www.gilesacademy.co.uk/curriculum for the PSHE section on our website.

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards,

Mr Chris Wright
Headteacher, 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