



January 2025

THE EAGLE

Engage, Endeavour, Excel

Message from the Headteacher

We are now three weeks into the Spring term and we hope that you have had a positive start to 2025.

As we embarked upon the new term, we were delighted to welcome four new teachers to The Gilbert School community. We welcomed Mrs Farrell to English, Miss Morton to History and Mr Essex and Mrs Flynn-Haddon to Mathematics. Our students have started the year in a most positive manner and are engaged in the new co-curricular programme for the Spring Term. Rehearsals for the school production of The Hunchback of Notre Dame are well underway and Year 10 Gilbertdians have embarked on the next stage of their school leadership career with Prefect and Mentor interviews in progress. We look forward to seeing students take up their new roles this term.

A number of trips and activities have taken place since the last edition and we hope you enjoy reading about these below.

Mr J Mitchell
Headteacher



Year 10 Food Bank Collection 2024

Year 10 students kindly donated a variety of items last month to support the Colchester Food Bank's Christmas "Reverse Advent Calendar" appeal. Phoebe Giddings, Emily Tuckwell, Latika Mamidipalli and Jemima Stephens accompanied Mrs Burman and Mr Owens to the Food Bank to deliver the items, where they also met the Mayor of Colchester, Lesley Scott-Boutell. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Year 10 students and their parents/carers for their kind donations which we hope made a difference to some Colchester families this Christmas.

Mrs N Burman
Head of Year 10



Bach Explored - An evening with Julian Lloyd Webber

We were delighted to be invited by Clacton and North East Essex Arts and Literary Society to attend an evening with Julian and Jiaxin Lloyd Webber on Monday, 13th January at The Princes Theatre, Clacton. The theme of the evening by the Lloyd Webbers was 'Bach explored'. To the delight of the audience, Julian's wife, Jiaxin played a number of Bach's suites on her cello followed by some interesting anecdotes from Mr Lloyd Webber about life as a classical musician. Year 11 students and musicians, Gabriel Leung, Wynn Chia and Jayden Tan (pictured) along with Head of Music, Mrs Chamberlain, were lucky enough to be invited backstage during the interval to meet the Lloyd Webbers and ask them some questions about their musical career. An inspiring evening was had by all.

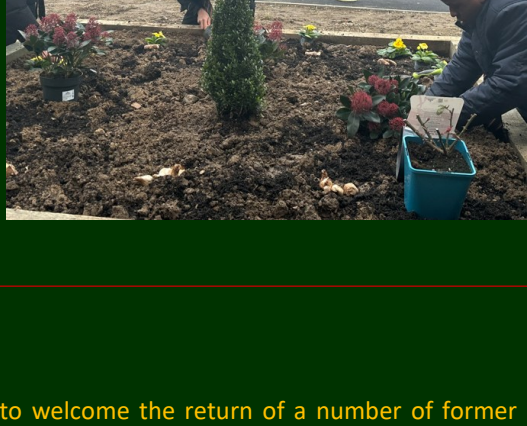
Mrs V Chamberlain
Head of Music



Geography Society - New planters planted!

We are delighted to announce that, as part of our ongoing programme of aesthetic and environmental enhancements to the school, we have built three new planters by Main Reception using railway sleepers. Funds for the sleepers were granted by Cllr Ball of Essex County Council. Members of the Geography Society generously volunteered to plant shrubs and perennials in readiness for the spring. The school has now received further funding from the County Council and we intend to build more planters at the front of the school on land vacated by our contractor's compound.

Mrs K Qusted
Subject Leader Geography



Former Staff visit

On Thursday, 23rd January we were delighted to welcome the return of a number of former staff members. Pictured left to right below are; Mrs L Exley (former Headteacher), Mrs J Massey (former Head of Mathematics Faculty), Mrs S Southgate (former 2nd in Mathematics Faculty), Mrs K Morrissey (former Deputy Headteacher), Mrs S Clemson (Former Head of Performing Arts Faculty) and Mrs L Houghton (former Head of Humanities Faculty).

Our visitors were treated to tea and sandwiches and a full tour of the school. They were delighted to see the improvements to the environment and commented on the excellent conduct of our students. We look forward to a return visit.

Mr J Mitchell
Headteacher



Year 10 Mock Interviews

As part of The Gilbert School's CEIAG provision, our aim is to equip all Gilbertdians with the vital skills required to gain an advantage in the competitive wider world.

The Gilbert School's annual Mock Interview Day took place on Wednesday, 8th January. A team of 40 interviewers from Further Education, Higher Education and the Business Sector came together to form the Interview Team.

The purpose of the day is to provide our students with the opportunity to practice and hone their interview skills and help prepare them for future interviews after The Gilbert School.

With the support from Form Tutors, Year 10 students completed their Personal Statements during their CEIAG lessons as part of the Tutorial Programme. Personal Statements were reviewed by an allocated interviewer on the day. Students were interviewed for 10 minutes each and received 5 minutes of verbal feedback. The professionals provided written feedback on their Personal Statements and interview performance.

Year 10 students were exceptional and rose to the challenge. Student feedback was very positive with many students reporting that they felt more confident and 'interview ready' ahead of post-16 and beyond.

Well done to all Year 10 students and our CEIAG Community for providing another successful Mock Interview event.

"Your students were an absolute credit to your school, not just from an academic perspective but it was so lovely to hear about all their endeavours" (Post-16 provider, 2025)

Mr R Samjawn
Assistant Headteacher



Careers and alumni

Join our CEIAG Community. Calling all Gilbert Alumni and employers to be part of our careers provision at The Gilbert School. Should you wish to be involved in events this academic year, working with our students and want to know more, please contact careers@gilberd.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Co-curricular Clubs

Follow the link [here](#) to view current clubs and societies timetable information.

Dates for your diary

Non Pupil Day
Friday 14th February

Assessment Weeks
3rd - 13th February (Year 9)
24th February - 7th March (Year 10)
w/c 24th March (Year 11)

Year 11 Examinations
Food Practical Exams - 3rd February - 13th February
Mock Oral Exams - 24th - 28th February
Drama Practical Exams—3rd—4th March
Core Mock Exams - w/c 17th March
Music Solo Performances - 24th - 27th March

Last Day of first half of Spring Term
Thursday 13th February

Half Term
w/c 17th February

Start of second half of Spring Term
Monday 24th February

Year 11 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 29th January Year (Y-Pop)

School Production
w/c 10th February

Year 7 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 26th February (X-Pop)
Wednesday 5th March (Y-Pop)

Year 10 Work Experience
w/c 10th March (X-Pop)
w/c 17th March (Y-Pop)

Year 9 Vaccinations
Wednesday 12th March
Thursday 13th March

Year 9 Options Evening
Wednesday 12th March

Year 9 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 26th March (X-Pop)
Wednesday 2nd April (Y-Pop)

Dance Showcase
Thursday 3rd April

Easter Ski Trip
Friday 4th April - Friday 11th April

Last Day of Spring Term
Friday 4th April (school closes at 15:20)