

The Gilbert School

Part of the Alpha Trust



MBL/lsc
February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: CCF Soaring Eagle Exercise Friday Woods, Colchester – Friday 17th - Saturday 18th April 2026

We are pleased to inform you about an exciting overnight trip taking place from Friday 17th April to Saturday 18th April 2026 for our Combined Cadet Force students in Years 9 to 11.

This is an opportunity for cadets to practice and develop their military skills and expand their knowledge further. They will work on the skills that they have learnt during their time in CCF.

On **Thursday 16th April**, cadets should drop personal items into the CCF container at **08:00**. At **15:30**, students will pack their bergens and personal items and will be dismissed as soon as packing is complete.

On **Friday 17th April**, cadets should attend school in full CCF uniform. At **13:30**, they are to meet at the green gates near the bike sheds to depart by coach for the exercise location.

On **Saturday 18th April**, cadets should be collected from The Gilbert School promptly at **13:00**.

Please complete the [Medical Information and Consent Form](#) by **Thursday 12th March**.

To help offset the cost of rations we request a voluntary contribution of **£10.00** per student. Payment will be activated on ParentPay and should be made by **Thursday 26th March**.

Please note that no phones are permitted during the trip. However, students may place their phones securely in the CCF container and will receive them upon return on the Saturday.

If your child requires medication, please ensure it is clearly labelled with their name and full instructions. This must be handed to a member of staff on the morning of **Friday 17th April**.

A kit list is attached for your reference. All issued kit will be provided to cadets prior to deployment, and personal equipment should be brought in on **Thursday 16th April**. We do hold a limited number of sleeping bags and other items from the list. If you are struggling to obtain any equipment, please ask your child to speak to a member of staff.

Yours faithfully

Ms Blofield
Contingent Commander

Headteacher: Mr J Mitchell
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Alpha Trust

Registered in England and Wales Company No 07755713

Registered office: Norman Way, Colchester, Essex CO3 3US



Exercise kit list

On the Cadet

Equipment	Issued	Remarks
MTP Field Hat	*	
MTP Smock	*	
MTP Shirt	*	
T-Shirt	*	Green/black or of a subdued colour
MTP Trousers	*	With belt
Boots		
Notebook Pen/pencil		Ideally placed inside a waterproof bag

In CEFO (Webbing)

Equipment	Issued	Remarks
Water Bottle & Mug		Water must be filled prior to departing
Mess Tins	*	Or metal mug/cooking pot
Cooker & Fuel	*	
Rations	*	Rations to be broken down prior to departing
Spoon		If not carried in the smock pocket
Cam cream	*	
Green string	*	
Torch (with red filter)		Spare batteries may also be ideal

In the Bergen

Equipment	Issued	Remarks
Sleeping bag		
Bivi bag	*	
Roll matt	*	
Basher	*	
Bungees	*	Minimum x2
Tent Pegs		Minimum x4
Gore-Tex Jacket	*	
Gore-Tex Trousers	*	
Spare Socks		1 pair
Warm Clothing		Fleece/Puffer jacket/warm top hat, gloves. Preferable in dark colours
Gloves		If not carried in the Smock or Trousers
Warm Hat		For use at night or in sleeping bag
Wash kit (small)		Wet wipes/soap, toothbrush, toothpaste & face cloth
Boot cleaning kit		1x brush & polish tin

* = Items that will or have been issued to the Cadet by the CCF.