

The Gilbert School

Part of the Alpha Trust



RHA/lsc
May 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Year 10 GCSE Music Educational Visit to Layer Marney Tower

We are pleased to advise that we will be running an educational visit for Year 10 GCSE Music students to Layer Marney Tower on **Wednesday 3rd June 2026**, where they will attend a performance of *"The Marriage of Figaro"*.

This performance is an open dress rehearsal for the Essex Opera Festival, which officially begins on Friday 5th June, and is being provided to us by Wild Arts. Attending a live operatic performance of this kind will directly support students' study of Area of Study 1: The Western Classical Tradition, enriching their understanding of operatic conventions, orchestration, and performance practice.

Travel and timings

Students will travel by coach, departing The Gilbert School at **10:00am**. The opera will begin at **11:00am**, and we expect to return to school between **2:45pm and 3:00pm**.

Cost

The trip will incur a voluntary contribution of **£9.50 per student** to help cover the cost of transport. Parents/Carers should complete the consent form [here](#) by **Monday 18th May**. Once we have received your completed consent and confirmed your child's place on the trip, we will activate the trip on ParentPay with payment due no later than **Thursday 21st May**. If you do not currently have a ParentPay account, arrangements can be made through PayPoint. Please contact the Finance Office on finance@gilberd.com.

Please note that should there be insufficient contributions towards the trip, it may need to be cancelled.

Food and drink

Students should bring a packed lunch and water with them. There will be no opportunity to purchase food or drinks on site.

Students in receipt of Free School Meals will be provided with a packed lunch to take with them.

Uniform

Students should be in full school uniform.

Headteacher: Mr J Mitchell

Brinkley Lane, Colchester, Essex CO4 9PU

Tel: 01206 842211 Email: admin@gilberd.com Website: www.gilberd.com

Alpha Trust

Registered in England and Wales Company No 07755713

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



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Additional information

The run of The Marriage of Figaro at Layer Marney Tower is currently sold out for public bookings. A waiting list is available should you wish to attend the opera yourselves, which can be found [here](#).

We recognise that the turnaround time for this trip is short; however, this is unfortunately unavoidable, and we appreciate your prompt response.

This promises to be a valuable and inspiring musical experience for our students, and we are very grateful for your support.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully

Mr. R Hanlon
Subject Leader of Music

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