

The Gilbert School

Part of the Alpha Trust



RSA/sma
June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Year 7 Modern Work Experience - Educational Visit to Colchester Zoo – Careers Exploration Business

We are pleased to inform you that we are organising an educational visit to Colchester Zoo for 180 students as part of their Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) provision.

The Department for Education (DfE) aims to ensure that all young people in England have access to modern, meaningful work experience throughout their secondary education. This includes engaging with employers and participating in workplace-related activities. The Gilbert School has been selected to take part in the Modern Work Experience Pilot, delivered in partnership with the Greater Essex Careers Hub. This initiative offers an excellent opportunity for Year 7 students to begin developing valuable workplace skills and experiences during their time at the school.

This trip has been designed to give students a valuable insight into the wide range of careers within a local zoo, including animal care, conservation, veterinary work, education, and business operations. During the visit, students will take part in a structured educational session delivered by the zoo's professional education team, helping them to better understand the skills, qualifications, and responsibilities associated with these roles.

Following the Careers session, students will have the opportunity to explore the zoo.

Trip Dates

The trip will take place at the start of Year 8 in September:

Tuesday 15th September – **X Population**

Wednesday 23rd September – **Y Population**

Trip Overview

Students will be taken to and from Colchester Zoo by coach.

8.40am	Students to register on the Year 7 MUGA
9.00am	Depart Gilbert School
9.30am	Arrive at Colchester Zoo
10.00am	Careers Workshop
12.00pm	Lunch
12.30pm	Zoo Exploration
3.00pm	Depart Colchester Zoo
3.30pm	Arrive at Gilbert School

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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Voluntarily Contribution and Criteria

The trip will incur a voluntary contribution of £11.75 per student. If your child holds a Colchester Zoo Annual Membership Gold Card, the voluntary contribution is adjusted to £6.75 per student. This includes transport, zoo entry, and the educational session.

As places are limited, if the trip is oversubscribed, priority will be considered using the following criteria:

- Students who were unable to attend the Legoland trip in May
- Students who were unable to attend the Danbury trip in July
- A random draw to allocate remaining places if demand exceeds availability
- Consideration of each student's contribution to The Gilbert Way

What Students Will Need

- Full school uniform
- School shoes or suitable trainers for walking
- Stationery
- Packed lunch and drink
- Weather-appropriate clothing (e.g. waterproof coat, sun protection)

If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals, they will be provided with a packed lunch (please indicate this on the consent form).

This visit supports students' understanding of real-world career pathways and helps to inspire future aspirations through engaging, hands-on learning experiences.

To apply for a place for your child on this trip, please complete the relevant consent form below by **no later than 09:00am on Monday, 22nd June**:

X Population - [Modern Work Experience - Colchester Zoological Society - X Population – Fill out form](#)

Y Population - [Modern Work Experience - Colchester Zoological Society - Y Population – Fill out form](#)

If your child is selected to attend, you will be informed by email, and the trip will be activated on ParentPay. If you do not have ParentPay account, arrangements can be made via PayPoint. Please contact the Finance Office on finance@gilberd.com for assistance with this. To secure your child's place, **payment should then be made by Wednesday, 8th July**. If you have indicated that your child has a Colchester Zoo Gold Card on your response form, this will need to be provided to the Finance Department by Tuesday, 8th September 2026.

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

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact our Careers Department (careers@gilberd.com).

Yours faithfully

Mr R Samjawon
Assistant Headteacher (CEIAG)

Headteacher: Mr J Mitchell

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