



THE EAGLE

Message from the Headteacher

We hope you had an enjoyable Easter break. It has been a pleasure to welcome our students back for the Summer Term.

The Spring Term culminated with the appointment of senior students to their various prefect roles. Following this process, I am delighted to announce the appointment of Jacob Narhkom as Head Boy and Sienna Connor as Head Girl. We also congratulate those students appointed to the Senior X and Ambassador roles. A full list of those appointed, alongside their roles, can be seen further along in this newsletter.

The Easter holiday was a busy time for our Year 11 students, with many attending revision workshops in a variety of subjects. I would like to thank those teachers who gave up their time during the holiday to run these.

I would also like to thank our many Future Friday visitors, who provide such interesting and inspiring talks about their careers for our students. In our fast changing world, it is so useful for students to have these real-life insights. Please do contact us if you are able to support our students in this way.

As always, a lot has been happening in and beyond the classroom at The Gilberd School since the last edition of The Eagle, and we hope you enjoy reading about these events below.

Mr J Mitchell
Headteacher

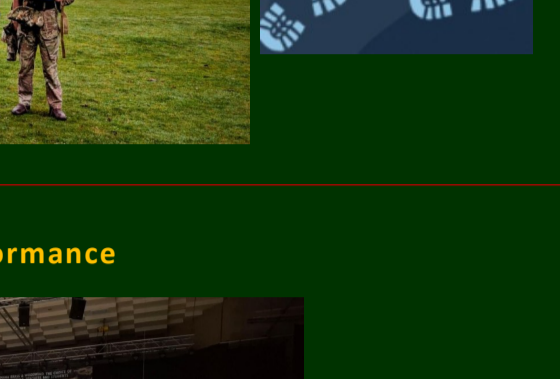
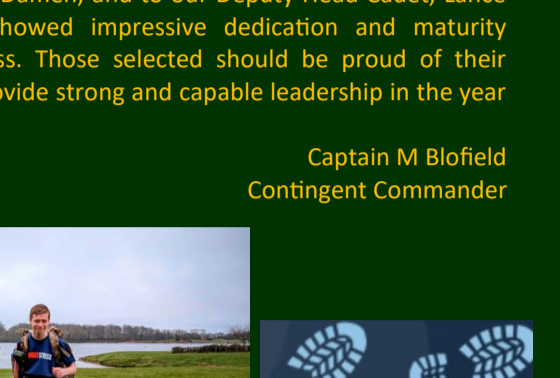
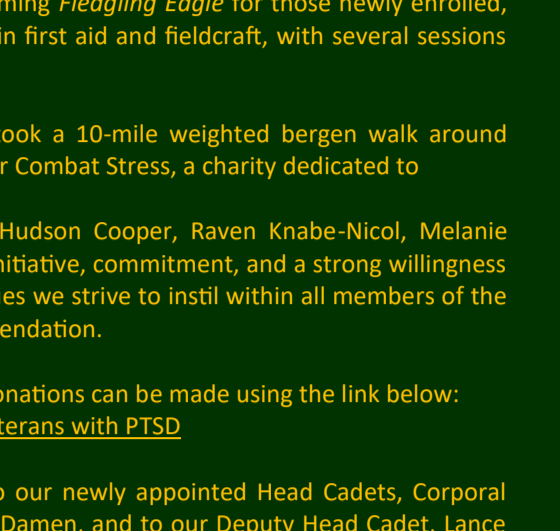
VEX Robotics National Finals

Last month, four of our Year 9 Gilberdians represented The Gilberd School at the VEX Robotics National Finals in Telford after an excellent performance at regional level, placing them among the top 60 teams in the UK.

Competing against teams from across the country, they showed great teamwork, determination and problem-solving skills, gaining valuable experience on the national stage.

The trip also included a short visit to The Iron Bridge, giving students the chance to see an iconic piece of engineering history. We are extremely proud of our Year 9 robotics - well done!

Mr K Karantzis
Lead Teacher of Science



Combined Cadet Force News

As the Combined Cadet Force reflects on the recent overnight exercise, *Soaring Eagle*, for senior cadets and looks ahead to the forthcoming *Fledgling Eagle* for those newly enrolled, cadets have been preparing through lessons in first aid and fieldcraft, with several sessions commendably delivered by their peers.

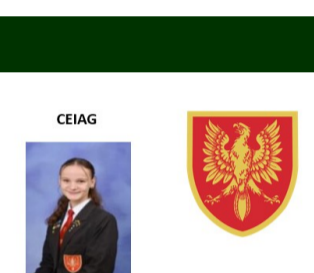
Six of our cadets also independently undertook a 10-mile weighted bergen walk around Alton Water, carrying 20-25lbs to fundraise for Combat Stress, a charity dedicated to supporting veterans living with PTSD.

Cadets Stanley Whatling, Jacob Langmead, Hudson Cooper, Raven Knabe-Nicol, Melanie Deleu, and Chris Kurobiowski demonstrated initiative, commitment, and a strong willingness to serve others - qualities that reflect the values we strive to instil within all members of the CCF. They are fully deserving of sincere commendation.

The six cadets managed to raise over £900. Donations can be made using the link below:
[Combat Stress - Operation raise money for veterans with PTSD](#)

Finally, I extend my warm congratulations to our newly appointed Head Cadets, Corporal Emma Chambers and Lance Corporal Xander Damen, and to our Deputy Head Cadet, Lance Corporal Chloe Chalmers. All applicants showed impressive dedication and maturity throughout the demanding selection process. Those selected should be proud of their achievement, and I am confident they will provide strong and capable leadership in the year ahead.

Captain M Blofield
Contingent Commander



25th Annual Schools Prom Performance

Gilberdians from the school orchestra and Advanced Vocal Choir proudly represented the school at the 25th Annual Schools Prom at Charter Hall on Friday 20th March. A wonderful evening showcasing talent from nine local schools culminated with over 350 musicians combining to deliver a spectacular finale performance of "Bohemian Rhapsody".

We are very proud to have played such a significant part in this event. Our thanks to Essex Music Services and former Chair of Governors, Nigel Hildreth, for giving our students this opportunity.

Mr R Hanlon
Subject Leader of Music



Senior X Students and Ambassadors 2026-2027



Senior X 2026-2027



Ambassadors 2026-2027

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our senior students to their leadership roles after a stringent selection process.

Mrs J Clark
Lead Teacher of Student Voice & Leadership

Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Regional Finals

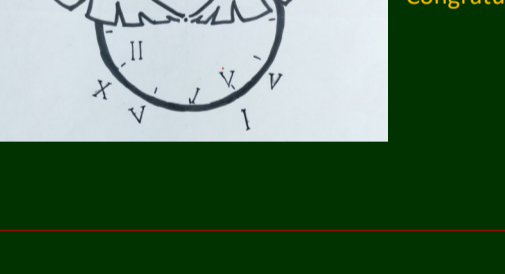


On the evening of Tuesday 21st April, Year 10 Gilberdian, Kamsi Okeke represented the school at the Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Regional Finals, where she achieved an outstanding 2nd place.

We are incredibly proud of Kamsi, whose speech, "What does it mean to be black?", was highly praised by both the judges and the audience. Delivered with confidence, insight and maturity, her performance reflected the significant hard work and preparation she had put into this achievement.

Miss S Yates
Oracy Co-ordinator

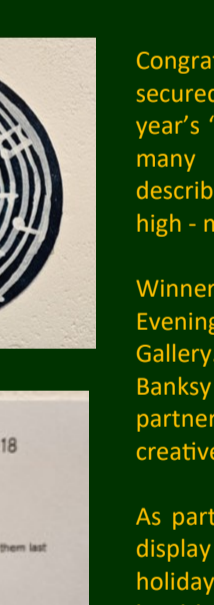
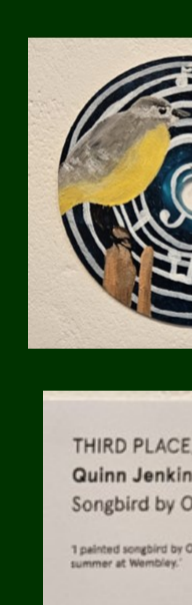
"Meet the Author" Event



We continue to celebrate and promote the National Year of Reading 2026. On Monday 13th April, students in Year 7 and 8 had the opportunity to take part in and online author visit with Scott Reintgen.

Scott joined us online from the USA and discussed his "Dragonships" book series which crosses the genres of fantasy and sci-fi. After a talk about his books, he answered numerous questions posed to him by our students about writing, publishing and what it's like being an author.

Mrs C Jenkins
Librarian



"Wind in the Willows" Performance



A huge well done to all The Gilberd students who took to the stage in "The Wind in the Willows" at the Mercury Theatre last month.

After weeks of hard work, they helped deliver four completely sold-out shows with the Mercury Young Company - a brilliant achievement and a fantastic showcase of their talent.

Mrs C Howard
Curriculum Leader of Performing Arts

CEIAG Veterinary Experience

Gilberdians in Year 9 recently visited Woodbridge School to take part in a hands-on veterinary experience led by industry professionals. During the session, students developed practical skills including learning how to suture, identify potential health issues in animals, and bandage injuries.

It was a fantastic opportunity for students to gain real-world insight into veterinary practice and explore careers within animal care.

Mr R Samjawan
Assistant Headteacher



"Heaven Can Wait" Art Competition



Earlier this year, Coffin Club Colchester received a wide range of high-quality entries for the 'Heaven Can Wait' Art Competition. Students were challenged to design a black and white logo representing their interpretation of "Heaven Can Wait," with the winning design set to feature on medals, badges, rosettes and T-shirts.

We are delighted to share that Christiana Tsoneva was awarded 1st place, competing against entries from many schools. Representatives from Coffin Club visited The Gilberd School to present Christiana with a £100 prize in recognition of her outstanding work.

Congratulations to Christiana on this excellent achievement.

Miss R Elliott
Art Department



"Are you the next Banksy?" Art Competition



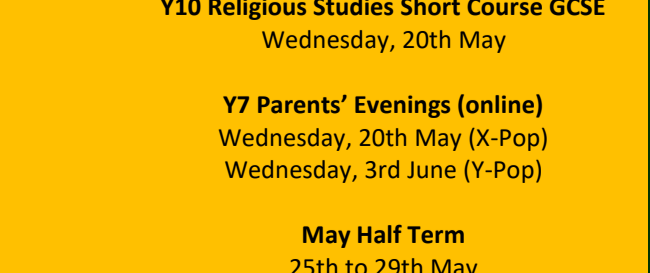
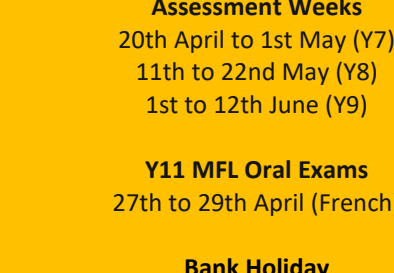
Congratulations to Quinn Jenkinson, who has proudly secured 3rd place in her age category in this year's "Are You the Next Banksy?" competition. With many impressive entries submitted, the judges described the standard of artwork as exceptionally high - making this achievement truly stand out.

Winners were honoured at a special Presentation Evening on Wednesday 25th March, at the Minorities Gallery. Families, competition judges, members of the Banksy team, school representatives, and local retail partners came together to celebrate the young creatives who made their mark in this year's event.

As part of her award, Quinn's artwork remained on display inside the Minorities Gallery over the Easter holidays, offering visitors the chance to enjoy the inspiring creativity of local young artists.

Miss R Elliott
Art Department

CEIAG Future Friday



We were pleased to welcome two guest speakers to The Gilberd School recently, offering students two very valuable insights into a range of future career pathways.

Robert from Offshore Wind Consultants spoke about his work as an engineer developing offshore wind farms across the UK, highlighting the importance of renewable energy and how STEM subjects can lead to meaningful and impactful careers.

In addition, Paul, a representative from the Bank of England visited the school to discuss careers in finance, sharing his own career journey and outlining opportunities across areas such as economics, policy, financial analysis and data.

These talks provided students with a broader understanding of diverse industries and the wide range of opportunities available to them in the future.

Thank you to both Robert and Paul for taking the time to inspire our students and share their experience.

Mr R Samjawan
Assistant Headteacher

Year 10 Work Experience

This year has marked another highly successful programme of work experience, with overwhelmingly positive feedback received from our wide range of placement providers. Our students have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, developing greater confidence, valuable new skills, and a deeper understanding of the expectations and realities of the world of work.

Several providers took the time to highlight the professionalism, maturity and empathy shown by our students while on placement. We were particularly proud to learn that two of our students were specially commended by their placement, EACH, after recognising the potential value of a donated Pokémon card. The students took the initiative to research the item thoroughly, and it later went on to raise an impressive £500 at auction in support of the charity!

Feedback from providers consistently praised our students' attitude and conduct. One visitor to St. Fillan's shared:

"I visited St. Fillan's yesterday to deliver my monthly talk to the residents and met two of your Year 10 work experience students. I just wanted to say that they were absolutely brilliant, assisting me with handing round visuals to the residents, talking calmly with them, and showing great empathy with, and understanding of, the individual needs of the people they were working with."

Another placement provider reflected on the exceptional contribution made by students across their organisation:

"I'd like to particularly share that every single one of the seven students who we've hosted have been absolutely fantastic. We've hosted students for many years, but this group were exceptional. We've loved having them and hope we've persuaded them that teaching is such an amazing career. They were an absolute credit to you and their families. Well done Year 10 from all of us here!"

We are incredibly proud of how our students represented themselves, their families and the school during their placements. Their success is a testament to their hard work and commitment, and we are grateful to our placement providers for their continued support in offering such meaningful and enriching opportunities.

Mr R Samjawan
Assistant Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Assessment Weeks 20th April to 1st May (Y7) 11th to 22nd May (Y8) 1st to 12th June (Y9)	Y10 Religious Studies Short Course GCSE Wednesday, 20th May
Y11 MFL Oral Exams 27th to 29th April (French)	Y7 Parents' Evenings (online) Wednesday, 20th May (X-Pop) Wednesday, 3rd June (Y-Pop)
Bank Holiday Monday, 4th May	May Half Term 25th to 29th May
Y11 GCSE PE Moderation Day Tuesday, 5th May	Y6 Induction Events Wednesday, 17th June (Induction Eve) 24th to 25th June (Induction Days)
Y11 GCSE Written Exams Commence Thursday, 7th May	Y10 Mock Exams 22nd June to 3rd July
Y9 Mock Religious Studies Short Course GCSE Friday, 8th May	Non-Pupil Day Friday, 26th June

Update your details please...

To help us keep communication smooth and to ensure that you receive all important updates, please take a moment to check that we have your most up-to-date contact details. If you have recently changed your telephone number, email address, or home address, or if any emergency contact information needs updating, please let the school office know as soon as possible via admin@gilberd.com. Keeping our records accurate helps us stay connected and respond quickly, whenever needed.

Thank you for your support.

The School Office

Co-Curricular Provision

Information on our co-curricular programme can be found [here](#).

Careers and Alumni

Join our CEIAG Community! We are calling Gilberd Alumni and employers to be part of our careers provision at The Gilberd School to inspire our students and contribute to our Careers programme. If you would like to be involved in events, work with our students and/or want to know more, please contact careers@gilberd.com.

We look forward to hearing from you.