



December 2025

THE EAGLE

Message from the Headteacher

December has been a very busy month, particularly for Year 11 who have sat their GCSE mock examinations. We are delighted with their mature manner and excellent behaviour which bodes well for the final examination series in the summer of 2026.

Year 10 students have been taking part in interviews for the next round of senior student leadership roles. As always, the quality of students' written applications has been impressive, as are the oracy skills that they have demonstrated in their interviews with staff. Throughout this term, all Year 7 Gilberdians have taken part in speaking workshops to build their confidence and skills in the art of public speaking. The important life skill of oracy threads through students' time at The Gilberd; in January every Year 10 student will have a mock interview with a member of our CEIAG community to practise their interview skills.

There have also been many co-curricular events and trips, culminating in our spectacular Winter Concert, which you can read about below.

Please visit the Gilberd Facebook page to read more about the positive achievements of our students, including the many sporting fixtures that take place.

Finally, I'd like to wish all members of The Gilberd School community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Mr J Mitchell
Headteacher



Reverse Advent Calendar 2025

Year 7 and Year 8 Gilberdians were tasked with the challenge of donating items to provide much needed supplies for Colchester Foodbank this half term and they certainly rose to the challenge. The students excelled at themselves, filling boxes with soup, tinned fish, biscuits, cereal, shower gel, shampoo and many other essentials.

The House Captains proudly delivered their boxes and were delighted to discover that the grand total of donations weighed an incredible 327 kgs!

Penney were the house winners, with Shackleton close behind in second place and Franklin securing third place. A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for supporting your children to help the most vulnerable members of our community.



Mrs A Phillips
Assistant Head of Year 7

Jack Petchey Achievement Award



We were delighted to learn that Year 11 Gilberdian, Abigail Sayers, was awarded the Jack Petchey Achievement Award at a prestigious awards ceremony held at Charter Hall earlier this term. Abigail was nominated through the Girl Guides Association. Abigail attends the Braiswick Girl Guides Unit as a Ranger. Her award is in recognition of the hard work, kindness and support that she exhibits as a Ranger. Very well done Abigail!

Miss A Bird
Deputy Headteacher

Gilberd Bake Off 2025



Congratulations to all those students who took part in this academic year's Gilberd Bake Off. The cakes made to represent the six Houses of The Gilberd were very impressive.

One cake was chosen by each of the House Captains to go through to the final round which was judged by Mr Mitchell and Miss Bird.

The overall positions were:

1st place – Shackleton

Maya Pawłowski 7yDSN

2nd place – Holmes

Ivy Karantzis 8yKHU

3rd place – Franklin

Amber O'Donoghue 7yKQU

4th place – Austin

Charlotte Pang 7yWH

5th place – Wren

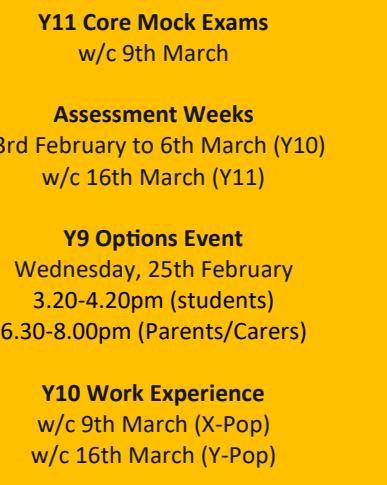
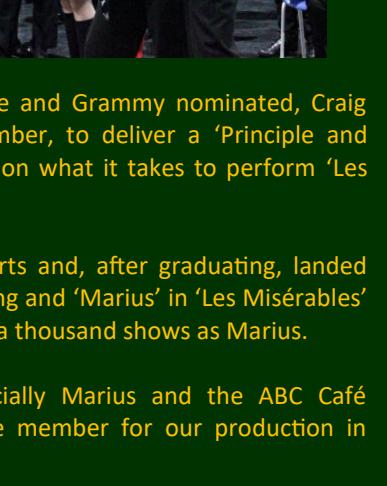
Lily Hart, Shelby Chiwora

and Ruby Newton 10yBE

6th place – Penney

Aylin Bulbul 7yLYA

Mrs J Clark
Lead Teacher of Humanities



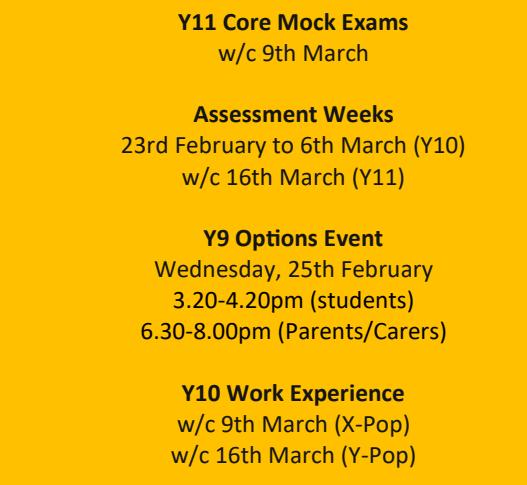
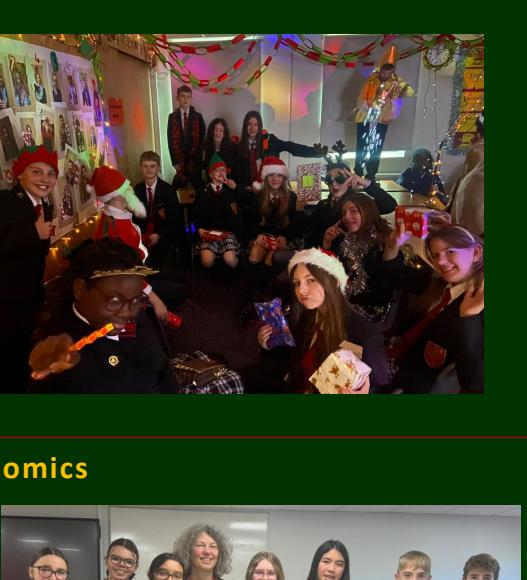
Year 7 Christmas Film Night

On Wednesday, 3rd December, 230 Year 7 students, dressed in an array of Christmas hats and jumpers, spent a festive evening in our PA Block.

Students drank hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream and ate popcorn and sweets as they watched the Christmas movie "Elf."

The evening's finale was a wonderful chorus of 'Santa Claus is coming to Town'.

Mrs A Phillips
Assistant Head of Year 7



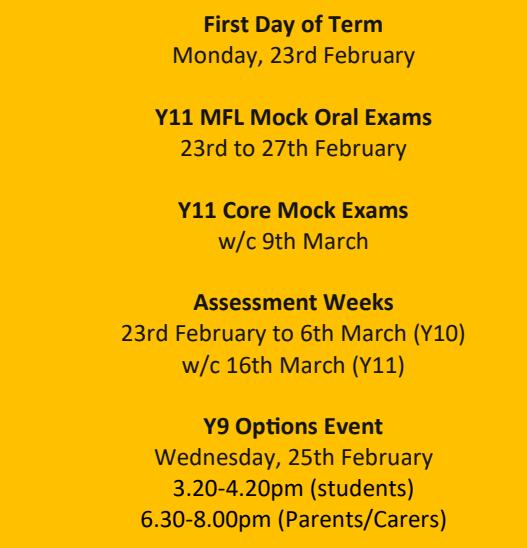
Year 8 Christmas Disco

On Wednesday, 3rd December, 230 Year 8 students, dressed in an array of Christmas hats and jumpers, spent a festive evening in our PA Block.

Students drank hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream and ate popcorn and sweets as they watched the Christmas movie "Elf."

The evening's finale was a wonderful chorus of 'Santa Claus is coming to Town'.

Mrs A Phillips
Assistant Head of Year 7



Year 9 Christmas Film Night

On Wednesday, 3rd December, 230 Year 9 students, dressed in an array of Christmas hats and jumpers, spent a festive evening in our PA Block.

Students drank hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream and ate popcorn and sweets as they watched the Christmas movie "Elf."

The evening's finale was a wonderful chorus of 'Santa Claus is coming to Town'.

Mrs A Phillips
Assistant Head of Year 7

Year 10 Christmas Film Night

On Wednesday, 3rd December, 230 Year 10 students, dressed in an array of Christmas hats and jumpers, spent a festive evening in our PA Block.

Students drank hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream and ate popcorn and sweets as they watched the Christmas movie "Elf."

The evening's finale was a wonderful chorus of 'Santa Claus is coming to Town'.

Mrs A Phillips
Assistant Head of Year 7

Year 11 Christmas Film Night

On Wednesday, 3rd December, 230 Year 11 students, dressed in an array of Christmas hats and jumpers, spent a festive evening in our PA Block.

Students drank hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream and ate popcorn and sweets as they watched the Christmas movie "Elf."

The evening's finale was a wonderful chorus of 'Santa Claus is coming to Town'.

Mrs A Phillips
Assistant Head of Year 7

Year 12 Christmas Film Night

On Wednesday, 3rd December, 230 Year 12 students, dressed in an array of Christmas hats and jumpers, spent a festive evening in our PA Block.

Students drank hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream and ate popcorn and sweets as they watched the Christmas movie "Elf."

The evening's finale was a wonderful chorus of 'Santa Claus is coming to Town'.

Mrs A Phillips
Assistant Head of Year 7

Year 13 Christmas Film Night

On Wednesday, 3rd December, 230 Year 13 students, dressed in an array of Christmas hats and jumpers, spent a festive evening in our PA Block.

Students drank hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream and ate popcorn and sweets as they watched the Christmas movie "Elf."

The evening's finale was a wonderful chorus of 'Santa Claus is coming to Town'.

Mrs A Phillips
Assistant Head of Year 7

Year 14 Christmas Film Night

On Wednesday, 3rd December, 230 Year 14 students, dressed in an array of Christmas hats and jumpers, spent a festive evening in our PA Block.

Students drank hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream and ate popcorn and sweets as they watched the Christmas movie "Elf."

The evening's finale was a wonderful chorus of 'Santa Claus is coming to Town'.

Mrs A Phillips
Assistant Head of Year 7

Year 15 Christmas Film Night

On Wednesday, 3rd December, 230 Year 15 students, dressed in an array of Christmas hats and jumpers, spent a festive evening in our PA Block.

Students drank hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream and ate popcorn and sweets as they watched the Christmas movie "Elf."

The evening's finale was a wonderful chorus of 'Santa Claus is coming to Town'.

Mrs A Phillips
Assistant Head of Year 7

Year 16 Christmas Film Night

On Wednesday, 3rd December, 230 Year 16 students, dressed in an array of Christmas hats and jumpers, spent a festive evening in our PA Block.

Students drank hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream and ate popcorn and sweets as they watched the Christmas movie "Elf."

The evening's finale was a wonderful chorus of 'Santa Claus is coming to Town'.

Mrs A Phillips
Assistant Head of Year 7

Year 17 Christmas Film Night

On Wednesday, 3rd December, 230 Year 17 students, dressed in an array of Christmas hats and jumpers, spent a festive evening in our PA Block.

Students drank hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream and ate popcorn and sweets as they watched the Christmas movie "Elf."

The evening's finale was a wonderful chorus of 'Santa Claus is coming to Town'.

Mrs A Phillips
Assistant Head of Year 7

Year 18 Christmas Film Night

On Wednesday, 3rd December, 230 Year 18 students, dressed in an array of Christmas hats and jumpers, spent a festive evening in our PA Block.

Students drank hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream and ate popcorn and sweets as they watched the Christmas movie "Elf."

The evening's finale was a wonderful chorus of 'Santa Claus is coming to Town'.

Mrs A Phillips
Assistant Head of Year 7

Year 19 Christmas Film Night

On Wednesday, 3rd December, 230 Year 19 students, dressed in an array of Christmas hats and jumpers,