



July 2025

THE EAGLE

Message from the Headteacher

As we reach the conclusion of the academic year and our final newsletter, it is pleasing to see another edition packed with the achievements of, and notable events enjoyed by, the students of The Gilbert School.

Earlier this month, we enjoyed celebrating the end of the secondary school journey for our Year 11 students at the Leavers' Summer Ball. We also celebrated the many student successes during our Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 Awards Evenings. The Art, Technology, Food and Textiles Exhibition, held on the 9th & 10th July, showcased some of the exceptional creative pieces our students have produced in Years 9 to 11; it was a delight to see so many parents and carers in attendance at these events. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout this year.

The end of an academic year always brings an element of sadness as we bid farewell to colleagues as they move on to pastures new. In particular, we would like to say a fond farewell to Mr Finch and Mrs Clark. Mr Finch is retiring from his role as Curriculum Leader of Technology after 20 years of service. Mrs Clark, Lead Teacher of Mathematics, is also retiring having supported many a trainee teacher over the years in her capacity as Professional Tutor. We wish them both a long and happy retirement.

Finally, it was a pleasure for me to visit our Year 7 students enjoying the 'Great Outdoors' at the annual Danbury Camp earlier this week. Although there were many tired young Gilbertians, I am assured they were having great fun and parents and carers will have enjoyed hearing about their adventures on their return!

As usual, many other events have taken place in and beyond the classroom since our last edition of The Eagle; we hope you enjoy reading about these below.

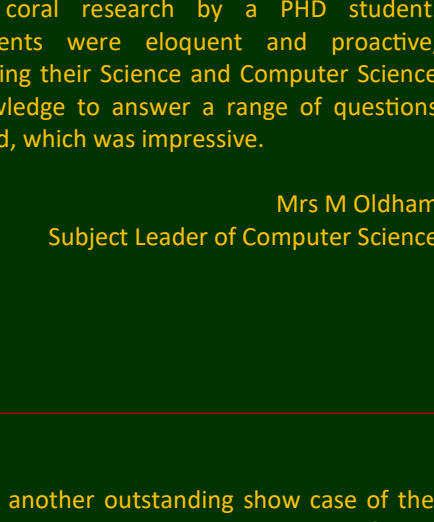
Have a wonderful summer.

Mr J Mitchell
Headteacher

Jimmy's Farm Trip

On 30th June and 1st July, Year 8 students went on a Geography trip to Jimmy's Farm and Wildlife Park to learn about unique environments, animal adaptations and related careers. During the trip, students had the opportunity to visit the 'Lost Lands of the Tundra' which contains Europe's largest polar bear reserve. They also received a talk from specialist park rangers about a range of environments and animals, whilst also learning about what important jobs are related to the running of the park. The students excelled in their behaviour and were very keen to further enhance their geographical knowledge.

Mr J Campbell
Geography Department



Year 9 Girls in Computing

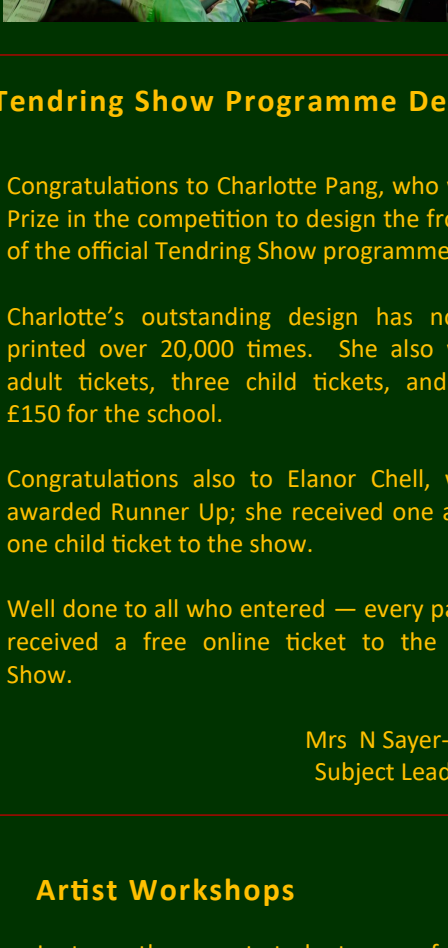


On 26th June, despite it being an INSET Day, 10 girls from Years 8 and 9 attended a Computer Science enrichment day at Essex University. Our Gilbertians were engaged in sessions on MicroBits, took part in coding and AI training and listened to a talk on deep sea coral research by a PHD student. Students were eloquent and proactive, utilising their Science and Computer Science knowledge to answer a range of questions asked, which was impressive.

Mrs M Oldham
Subject Leader of Computer Science

Summer Concert

Our Summer Concert held earlier this term, was another outstanding show case of the immense talent of our Gilbertian musicians, ex-Gilbertians, peripatetic staff and members of the Arts team and wider staff. Once again, the students excelled with the production of high quality performances for the packed audience. The finale of The "Greatest Show" was a fitting, spectacular end, performed not just once, but twice after a standing ovation. We look forward to seeing the talents of our students continue to grow next year.



Mrs V Chamberlain
Subject Leader of Music



Tendering Show Programme Design Competition

Congratulations to Charlotte Pang, who won First Prize in the competition to design the front cover of the official Tendering Show programme.

Charlotte's outstanding design has now been printed over 20,000 times. She also won two adult tickets, three child tickets, and secured £150 for the school.

Congratulations also to Elanor Chell, who was awarded Runner Up; she received one adult and one child ticket to the show.

Well done to all who entered — every participant received a free online ticket to the Tendering Show.

Mrs N Sayer-Schofield
Subject Leader of Art



Artist Workshops

Last month, our art students were fortunate to work with Katie May, a local printmaker, known for her beautifully intricate lino prints. Students watched how Katie creates her nature and poetry inspired artworks by demonstrating the lino printing process. They were then able to create their own lino print, focusing on a word that inspires their creativity. Using the lino tools, they carved their typography and practised using the printing presses to create their art pieces. We look forward to displaying many of the outcomes soon.

Mrs N Sayer-Schofield
Subject Leader of Art



Year 11 Leavers' Ball 2025

On 3rd July, Year 11 students celebrated the end of their GCSE exams and the culmination of their Gilbert journey in style at the Gilbert Leavers Ball at Stoke by Nayland Resort. It was wonderful to see our Gilbert staff greeting the students as they arrived in style. Vehicles ranged from super cars to a mobility scooter. A police car with full blues and twos also joined the parade.

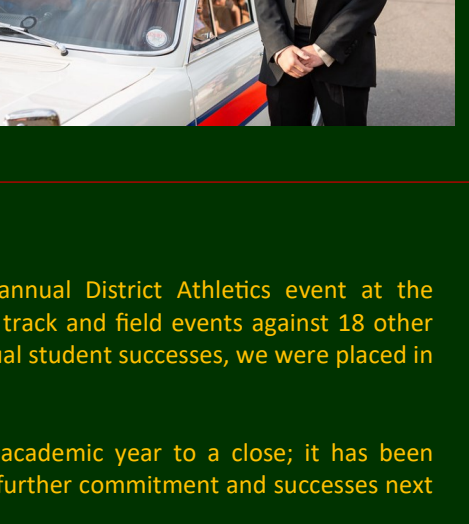
A joyous evening was had by all, with DJ Scott Dewing ensuring that the dance floor was full all night.

Students enjoyed delicious brownies supplied by Essex Bakery, as well as a tasty buffet and an endless supply of sweets!

We wish Year 11 well in their future endeavours and look forward to seeing them on Thursday 21st August 2025 for Results Day.

The full photo gallery can be found : <https://www.flickr.com/photos/146288744@N08/albums/72177720327459735>

Mr S Banham
Head of Year 11



District Athletics 2025

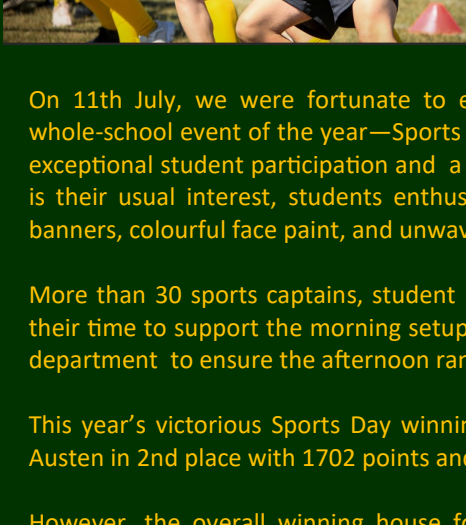
On 3rd July, 50 Gilbertians competed in the annual District Athletics event at the Colchester Garrison. Students competed in both track and field events against 18 other schools. Whilst there were some fantastic individual student successes, we were placed in 9th position overall as a school.

This event brought the sporting fixtures of this academic year to a close; it has been another incredibly busy year. We look forward to further commitment and successes next year.

Mr A Hursey
Assistant Curriculum Leader of PE



Sports Day 2025



On 11th July, we were fortunate to enjoy fantastic weather for what was the largest whole-school event of the year—Sports Day! It was a truly memorable occasion, marked by exceptional student participation and a positive Gilbert spirit. Regardless of whether sport is their usual interest, students enthusiastically engaged with the occasion, with vibrant banners, colourful face paint, and unwavering peer support.

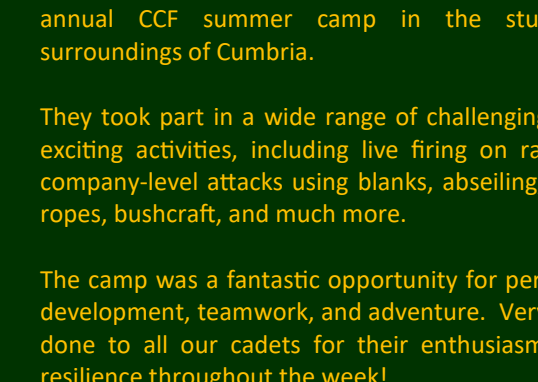
More than 30 sports captains, student leaders, and our Year 11 students generously gave their time to support the morning setup, as well as helping to run events, and assist the PE department to ensure the afternoon ran smoothly.

This year's victorious Sports Day winning house was Wren with 1751 points, followed by Austen in 2nd place with 1702 points and then Penney in 3rd place with 1666 points.

However, the overall winning house for 2025, with this year's Interhouse competitions combined with Sports Day, is Austen with 3192 points, followed by Wren with 3101, Holmes with 3027, Franklin with 3012, Shackleton with 2918, and Penney with 2726.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making Sports Day such a successful event for our whole school community.

Mr A Hursey
Assistant Curriculum Leader of PE



CCF Summer Camp 2025

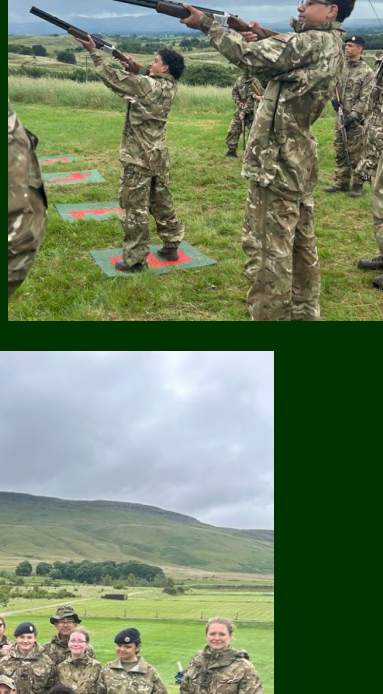


Last month, a group of our cadets embarked on the annual CCF summer camp in the stunning surroundings of Cumbria.

They took part in a wide range of challenging and exciting activities, including live firing on ranges, company-level attacks using blanks, abseiling, high ropes, bushcraft, and much more.

The camp was a fantastic opportunity for personal development, teamwork, and adventure. Very well done to all our cadets for their enthusiasm and resilience throughout the week!

Captain M Blofield
Contingent Commander



Student Leadership

It has been a busy term for our Gilbertians applying for leadership roles. 198 Year 8 students have been appointed as Prefects. 48 of these students supported the Year 6 Induction Days as part of the process to become a Lead or Head Prefect. Our congratulations to Esa Bakari, Jamie King, Wokafi Akanbi, Raven Knabe-Nicol, Sabrina Agosolim, Harry Taylor, Precious Emina and Imran Ikram who are our new Year 9 Head and Lead Prefects.

43 Year 9 students took part in a Dragons Den style presentation as part of the House and Deputy House Captain applications. We look forward to announcing the names of those appointed soon.

Our Senior Ambassadors and Ambassadors have been working on projects linked to their specialist areas. Teaching and Learning Ambassadors have chaired meetings with Year 7-9 Teaching and Learning Leaders to find out about student use of AI, reading strategies used, plus effective and useful homework. The Arts and Community Ambassadors are planning a cityscape mosaic for an area of the school, as well as a community mural. Performing Arts Ambassadors are working towards supporting a Culture Week with the Wellbeing Ambassadors. Personal Development Ambassadors have been reviewing the Personal Development resources used and are organising future assemblies to help students prepare for work experience and mock interviews. Finally, the STEAM Ambassadors are supporting a SteamPunk project, which involves making machines/sculptures from recycled materials.

Mrs J Clark
Lead Teacher of Humanities



Sports Leadership

We were inundated with student applications for the PE leadership roles of Sports Captain, Sports Leader and Sports Club Ambassador. The field was very strong, making decisions extremely difficult.

Students had to complete a written application and a practical style interview, where they were given the chance to show their leadership skills in action. Some outstanding leadership skills were illustrated. A huge well done to all who applied and to those that were successful.

Mrs C Pharaoh
Curriculum Leader of PE

Careers and Alumni

Join our CEIAG Community. Calling all Gilbert Alumni and employers to be part of our careers provision at The Gilbert School. Should you wish to be involved in events this academic year, working with our students and want to know more, please contact careers@gilberd.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Dates for your diary

Last Day of Term Friday 11th July (school closes 12.10pm)	Year 6 Events Admissions Deadline - Thursday 25th September Music Aptitude Tests - w/c 6th October
Year 11 GCSE Results Day Thursday 21st August (9.30 - 11.00)	Year 10 Work Experience Information Eve - Wednesday 10th September
Inset Days Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd September Wednesday 8th October	Open Evening Wednesday 17th September
First Day of Autumn Term for ALL students Wednesday 3rd September (8.40 start for ALL)	Year 7 Information Evening Wednesday 1st October
School Photographs Year 7 - Thursday 4th September Year 11 Panoramic - Monday 22nd September Year 8 to Year 11 - Wednesday 15th October	Year 10 Assessment Weeks w/c 13th and w/c 20th October
Freshers Fayre Years 7 & 8 - Thursday 18th September	Year 11 Information and Careers Evening Wednesday 15th October
Open Day Tours Friday 19th September Tuesday 23rd September	Flu Vaccinations Whole School - Friday 17th October
	Year 11 MFL Mock Oral Exams w/c 20th October