



# THE EAGLE

## Message from the Headteacher

June and July are important months in the school calendar, particularly for Year 11 students. Class of 2025 have finally completed their examinations and have attended their 'leavers' assembly led by Mr Banham and Mrs Phillips (Head of Year and Assistant Head of Year respectively). It was a moving occasion in which the students conducted themselves superbly. We wish them every success for their next steps; of course we will reunite for the Summer Ball in July, results day on the 21st August, and the GCSE Awards Evening in November.

On the 9th and 10th July, Food, Art, Textiles and DT will hold their annual exhibition displaying work from students in Years 9-11 between 6-7.30pm in the Queen Elizabeth Art Block. Parents are welcome to come along and enjoy the high quality work on display prior to Awards' Evenings on the same evenings.

Year 10 students have embarked on their mock GCSE examinations and we have Sports Day and the annual Year 7 Danbury camp trip to look forward to.

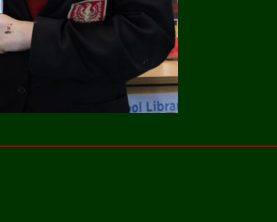
It was a delight to welcome 320 new Gilbertdians to the school for the Year 6 Induction Days on 24th and 25th June. We wish them a good send off from their respective primary schools and look forward to them joining us for the next stage of their educational journey in September.

Other significant events in June and July include the Summer Concert (25th June), CCF Summer Camp in Cumbria, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Bronze and Silver expeditions and Years 7-10 Awards' Evenings. These will be reported on in next month's edition of The Eagle.

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

Mr J Mitchell  
Headteacher

## Book Trust Represents Competition

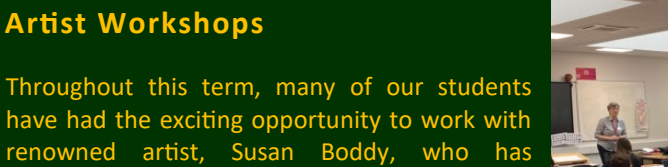
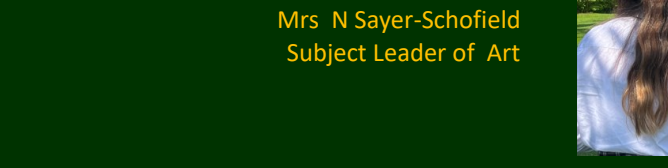
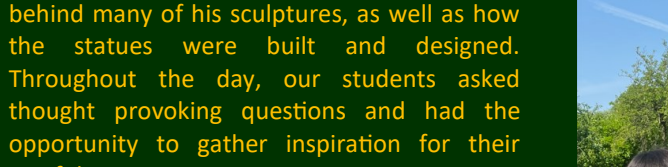


Year 7 and 8 students were recently offered the opportunity to enter the "Book Trust Represents" competition. They were invited to write about a book that reflects their identity. We are thrilled to announce that two of our Year 7 students have been awarded 'Highly commended' in this national competition. Very well done to Jessica Collins and Charlotte Pang and thank you to all students that entered. Please follow this link to find out more about the winning students and the Book Trust competition. Diverse representation in children's books is really important because it allows every child to see themselves or their own experiences reflected in the stories they choose. We strive to offer a broad range of books with diverse characters, worlds and cultures which may also help foster empathy and understanding for those readers who may not share the same life experiences. Our full catalogue of over 10,000 books can be viewed here: [Accessit Library](#)

Mrs C Jenkins  
Librarian

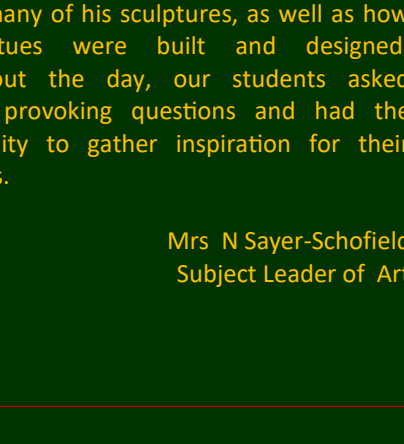


## Year 11 Leavers' Assembly



On Thursday 19th June, we bid farewell to our Year 11 students in time honoured Gilbert tradition, with the signing of school shirts and a superb assembly led by Mr Banham and Mrs Phillips that captured key moments of the Class of 2025's Gilbert School Journey. Every Year 11 student was given a delightful memento from Mr Banham in the form of a "positive potato", as shown in the photograph below. We hope Year 11 enjoy a well deserved, relaxing summer.

Mrs K Chase  
Assistant Headteacher



## Henry Moore Foundation Art Trip

On Friday 13th June, our Year 10 GCSE Art students, accompanied by a few GCSE Year 10 Textiles students, enjoyed an insightful and informative trip to The Henry Moore Foundation. Whilst there, they were given a guided tour of the grounds, sculptures, buildings and maquettes. They learned about Henry Moore's practice and the context behind many of his sculptures, as well as how the statues were built and designed. Throughout the day, our students asked thought provoking questions and had the opportunity to gather inspiration for their portfolios.

Mrs N Sayer-Schofield  
Subject Leader of Art

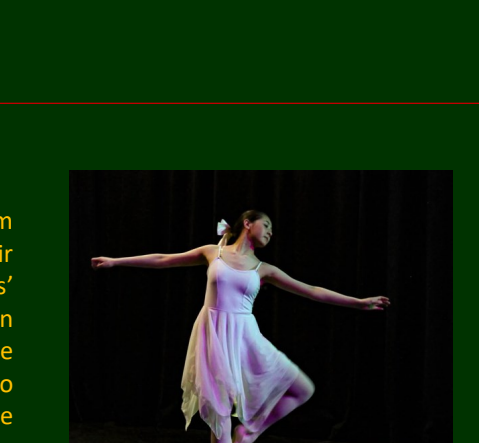


## Artist Workshops

Throughout this term, many of our students have had the exciting opportunity to work with renowned artist, Susan Boddy, who has delivered a range of workshops in her preferred medium of watercolours. Our KS3 students have worked with layers to create tones, negative spaces and textures, producing some wonderful outcomes which are on display in The William Gilbert Gallery.

Our Year 10 GCSE Art students were introduced to experimental ways of working with watercolours, using a variety of mundane items like plastic bags or bubble wrap to explore the mark making process and were encouraged to reflect on how the viewer could interpret these marks. They then worked with layers of tissue paper, PVA, watercolours and mark making to create an outcome specifically inspired by their independent portfolios.

Mrs N Sayer-Schofield  
Subject Leader of Art

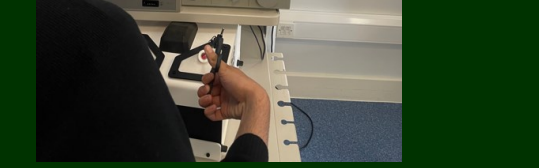


## Twelfth Night Theatre Trip

On Wednesday 11th June, 26 students from Year 9 attended the outdoor production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night in Colchester's Castle Park.

The actors brought vibrant energy to the stage, their comedic timing and brilliant multi-rolling was fantastic to watch. The clear warm summer evening added a magical atmosphere. Our group laughed at Malvolio's antics, cheered for Viola's disguise, and appreciated the 1990s music woven throughout. It was an engaging and charming experience that made Shakespeare accessible and enjoyable, leaving us all with a deeper appreciation for the play — and for open air theatre!

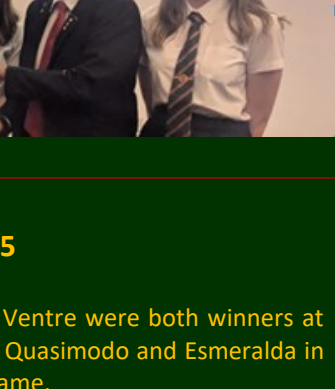
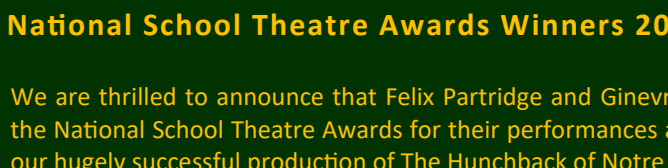
Mr J Betteridge  
Teacher of Drama



## Dance Showcase

On Thursday 19th June, our Gilbertdian dancers from across KS3 and KS4 wowed the audience with their highly skilful dance performances. The students' commitment to rehearsals and their determination and talent helped to create a most memorable evening for all those watching. We look forward to seeing these skills continue to flourish at The Gilbert School.

Mrs C Howard  
Curriculum Leader of Performing Arts

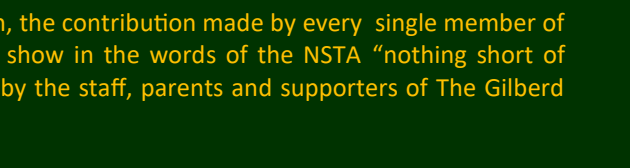


## NHS Innovation Day—CEIAG

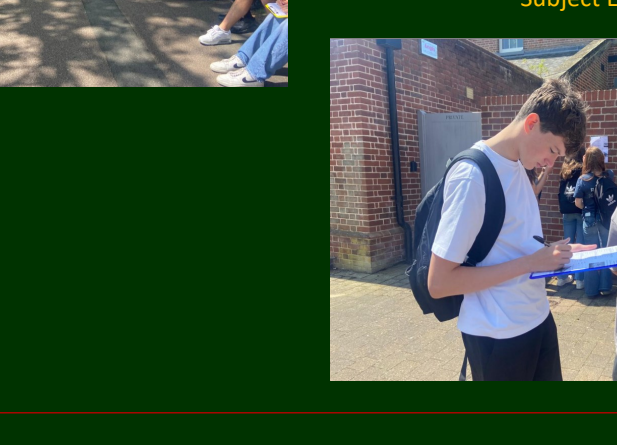
On Thursday 12th June, a group of Year 10 Gilbertdians were invited to attend an event at the ICENI Centre at Colchester Hospital. The vast majority of the attendees are considering a profession within the NHS in the future. Students took part in a range of exciting activities including hands on practice and VR headsets, as well as the opportunity to listen to valuable talks from surgeons in the field of robotic surgery. Students were able to experience the use of the da Vinci surgical robot which is worth £2 million.

Our Year 10 students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and The Gilbert School is extremely grateful to The East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust for providing this the opportunity.

Mr R Samjawn  
Assistant Headteacher

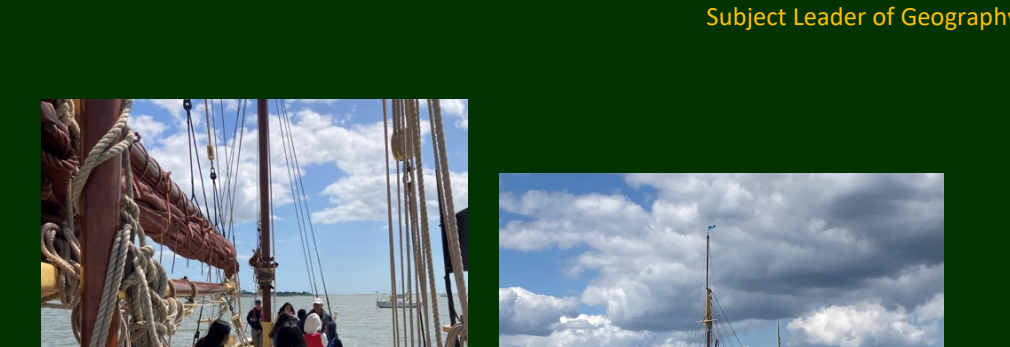


## Grand Final of the Dora Love Prize 2025



On Monday 23rd June, six Gilbertdians presented the project they had designed together for the highly thought-provoking Dora Love Prize, held at the University of Essex's Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall. This event was the culmination of many months work on the theme: "80 years after the liberation of the camps: time to stand up against a renewed wave of hate and exclusion." We are delighted that our team, consisting of Bianca Biltac, Sophia Burridge, Jemima Walkerdine, Imogen Chandler, Maddie Gibson and Rihan Wahalatantri, came second overall, an impressive feat, given the high standard of competition.

Dr J Theobald  
History Department



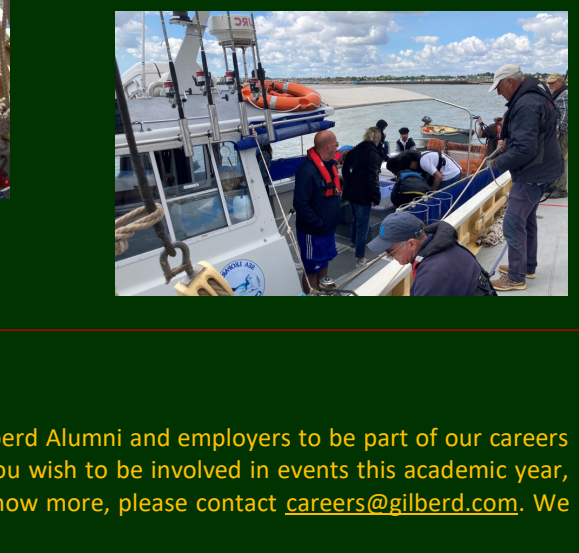
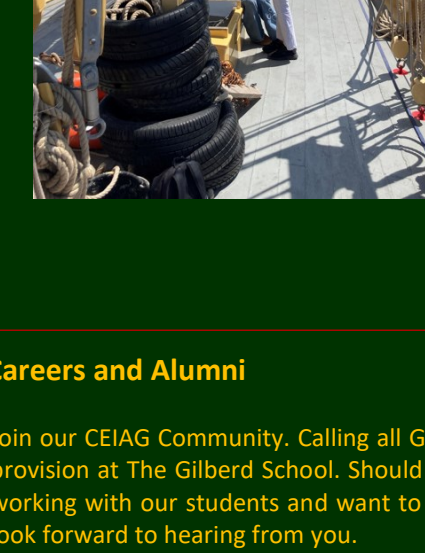
## National School Theatre Awards Winners 2025

We are thrilled to announce that Felix Partridge and Ginevra Ventre were both winners at the National School Theatre Awards for their performances as Quasimodo and Esmeralda in our hugely successful production of The Hunchback of Notre Dame.

We are immensely proud of both students and delighted that their commitment and performances have been recognised at a national level. Both Felix and Ginevra fought off tough competition from both state and independent schools, with over 20 students nominated for each award. We would like to thank the National School Theatre Awards for a fabulous star studded evening.

We would also like to acknowledge again, the contribution made by every single member of the company who helped to make this show in the words of the NSTA "nothing short of spectacular", as well as the role played by the staff, parents and supporters of The Gilbert Arts.

Mrs C Howard  
Curriculum Leader of the Arts



## GCSE Geography Field Work



The Geography department undertook its second field trip for their GCSE students this month, investigating the environmental quality of regenerated areas in Colchester. The weather was kind and the students were fabulous, carrying out traffic counts, decibel readings and environmental quality surveys.

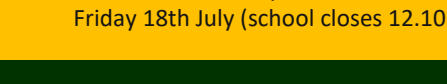
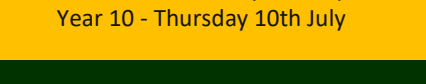
Mrs K Qusted  
Subject Leader of Geography



## Pioneer Sailing Trust Trip

30 Year 9 Gilbertdians spent a wonderful day at Brightlingsea Harbour on activities organised by the Pioneer Sailing Trust. The day involved team building activities; sailing on the Essex Smack Pioneer; dredging for sea life in a local fishing boat; water safety talks from the RNLI at Brightlingsea museum, who demonstrated how to float effectively and spoke about the common hazards on our beaches. The students enjoyed comparing traditional methods of communication at sea with modern day techniques. One student said it was "the best trip they have ever had!". If you have never visited before, we recommend this as a great local day. Many thanks to the Pioneer Trust for organising the trip on our behalf.

Mrs K Qusted  
Subject Leader of Geography



## 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](mailto:careers@gilberd.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

## Co-curricular Clubs & Societies

Follow the link [here](#) to view current clubs and societies timetable information.

## Dates for your diary

Year 10 Mock Exams  
w/c 30th June

Uniform Exchange  
Tuesday 1st July—15:20 to 16:30

Year 11 Leavers' Ball  
Thursday 3rd July—18:30 to 23:00

Awards Evenings  
Year 7 - Monday 7th July  
Year 8 - Tuesday 8th July  
Year 9 - Wednesday 9th July  
Year 10 - Thursday 10th July

Food, Textiles and Art Exhibition  
Year 9 to Year 11  
Wednesday 9th July to Thursday 10th July -  
18:30 to 19:30

Sports Day  
Friday 11th July

Year 7 Danbury Trip  
w/c 14th July

Last Day of Term  
Friday 18th July (school closes 12.10pm)