June 2026

THE EAGLE

Message from the Headteacher

June and July are significant months in the school calendar, particularly for our Year 11 students. The Class of 2026 have now completed their examinations and recently attended their Leavers' Assembly, led by Mrs Burman and Mr Owens (Head of Year and Assistant Head of Year respectively). This was a moving occasion, during which students conducted themselves with great maturity and dignity. We wish them every success as they move on to the next stage of their journey; we also look forward to welcoming them back for the Summer Ball in July, Results Day on 21st August, and the GCSE Awards Evening in November.

On 9th and 10th July, our annual Creative Arts Exhibition will take place in the Queen Elizabeth Art Block from 6.00–7.30pm. This will showcase work from students in Years 9–11 across Food, Art, Textiles and Design Technology. Parents are warmly invited to attend and enjoy the exceptional quality of work on display prior to the Awards Evenings taking place on those evenings.

Year 10 students have now begun their mock GCSE examinations, an important milestone in their preparation for next year. Alongside this, we look forward to a number of key events, including Awards Evenings, Sports Day, and the much-anticipated Year 7 residential visit to Danbury.

It was a pleasure to welcome 320 new Gilberdians to the school for our Year 6 Induction Days on 24th and 25th June. We wish them well as they complete their primary education and look forward to them joining us in September as they begin the next stage of their educational journey.

As always, a wide range of events and achievements have taken place both within and beyond the classroom since the last edition of *The Eagle*. We hope you enjoy reading about these in the pages that follow.

Mr J Mitchell
Headteacher

Year 7 Trip to LEGOLAND

Year 7 students recently enjoyed an exciting and enriching trip to LEGOLAND Windsor, where they participated in an engaging robotics workshop. During the session, students worked collaboratively to assemble and customise their own LEGO robots before programming them to navigate a track, complete with images and sound. This proved to be both challenging and rewarding, requiring students to apply their problem-solving skills and resilience to overcome a range of obstacles.

Beyond the workshop, students also had the opportunity to experience many of the park's attractions, making for a memorable and enjoyable day. They returned with a wealth of fantastic stories to share and a real sense of achievement from their learning experience.

Mr N Shave and Mr K Karantzis
Teacher of Mathematics and Lead Teacher of Science

Year 9 STEPS Trip to Maes-Y-Lade Centre

A group of Year 9 Gilberdians recently took part in a STEPS residential trip to the Maes Y Lade Centre, just outside Hay-on-Wye. During the course of the week, students embraced a wide range of outdoor challenges, including hill walking, gorge walking, laser tag, caving and canoeing.

In addition to these exciting activities, students demonstrated excellent independence by taking responsibility for cooking meals, as well as washing up and keeping their accommodation tidy throughout the week.

They approached every challenge with determination and resilience, supporting one another and stepping outside of their comfort zones. The trip was a valuable opportunity for personal development, and all involved should be commended for their positive attitude and commitment.

Mr N Baldry and Mr J Parsons
STEPs

CEIAG Future Friday Talks

We were pleased to welcome representatives from the East of England Co-op to The Gilberd School for an informative and engaging session on the retail industry and the diverse career opportunities it offers.

Students benefited from learning about different pathways and progression routes, gaining valuable insight into the sector.

We are very grateful to Sammy and Emilee for sharing their experiences, knowledge and advice, and for inspiring our students. The visit was greatly appreciated by both students and staff.

We were delighted to welcome Rick Goldsbrough, Chief Operations Officer of Colchester United F.C. to our school for an engaging and informative Future Friday with our students.

The visit provided students with valuable insight into the wide range of career opportunities available within the sports industry, from operations and management to coaching, media, events, business and beyond. Students also explored the various progression routes into sport, including the importance of developing skills, gaining experience, and pursuing opportunities that can help turn their passions into successful careers.

We would like to thank Rick for inspiring the next generation to consider the many exciting pathways available within the world of sport.

We were pleased to host visiting Social Workers as part of our Future Friday programme, who spoke about the rewarding career opportunities

available within Social Care.

Our students gained valuable insight into a profession where no two days are the same, and where there is a real opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of children, young people and families.

We are very grateful to our visitors for taking the time to share their experiences and inspire our students.

Mr R Samjawon
Assistant Headteacher

The Tendring Show Front Cover Competition

We were pleased to take part in the Tendring Show Front Cover Competition, which attracted over 2,000 entries from 24 schools - a fantastic display of creativity.

A special congratulations to Charlotte Yu, who achieved 2nd place, and to Florence Andrews and Louise Warwick, who were both highly commended. All winners received certificates along with free tickets to the show.

We are also pleased to share that Gilberd students can claim a free child's e-ticket (to be booked in advance) using the code: **GILBE**.

All who entered represented the school wonderfully, and we are very proud.

Mrs R Elliott
Teacher of Art

Year 10 Boys Football District Final

Congratulations to The Gilberd School Year 10 football team on an excellent 3–1 victory over Colchester Royal Grammar School in the District Final.

Following an early goal from the opposition, the team showed great determination and character to fight their way back into the game. Their resilience and strong teamwork saw them take control, producing a confident and composed performance throughout.

Louie Pocock was outstanding, scoring a superb hat-trick to secure the win in the closing stages. It was a well-deserved result against a strong opponent and a testament to the team's effort, energy and commitment.

Well done to all players involved on a fantastic achievement.

Mr A Hursey
Assistant Curriculum Leader of PE

CEIAG Colchester Institute Visit

A group of Year 10 Gilberdians recently visited Colchester Institute to explore the variety of post-16 pathways and progression opportunities available to them.

The visit provided valuable insight into further education, supporting students in making informed choices about their future studies and career aspirations. Through a range of engaging activities and informative sessions, they developed a clearer understanding of the courses, facilities and support on offer.

We would like to extend our thanks to the Schools Liaison Team for their excellent organisation and warm welcome. We greatly appreciate their ongoing commitment to supporting young people as they consider their next steps."

Mr R Samjawon
Assistant Headteacher

Community Ambassadors Supporting St Helena Hospice

Throughout June, our Community Ambassadors are proudly working alongside St Helena Hospice to plan and deliver a range of fundraising initiatives in support of this important local charity.

We are incredibly proud, as a school, to be part of this partnership and to see the positive difference our students are making within the wider community. Their enthusiasm, commitment and teamwork truly reflect the values we strive to promote at The Gilberd School.

Please keep an eye on our social media pages for further updates as we continue to support the fantastic work of St Helena Hospice.

Mr P Tanton
Deputy Headteacher

CEIAG Gilberd Alumni Year 9 Assembly

We were delighted to welcome back former Gilberdian Charlie, who delivered an inspiring assembly to our Year 9 students.

Charlie shared his journey towards earning a professional contract with Ipswich Town, speaking honestly about both the highs and lows of pursuing a career in football. His message highlighted the importance of resilience, hard work and determination when striving to achieve your goals. One quote that particularly resonated with our students was, "*Perseverance over luck any day.”*

This powerful message left our Year 9 students feeling motivated and inspired, reminding them that success comes from dedication and commitment, whatever their future passions and interests may be.

A huge thank you to Charlie for taking the time between A-Level revision, exams and training commitments to share his experiences and wisdom with our students. We wish him every success for the future and look forward to following his story.

Mr R Samjawon
Assistant Headteacher

Year 10 GCSE Music Opera Trip

Year 10 GCSE Music students were fortunate to attend a working dress rehearsal of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* recently, presented by Wild Arts. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to experience a live opera performance in a professional setting.

The production was of an extremely high standard, and students were particularly impressed by the stamina, skill, and expressive performance of both the singers and the orchestra.

The experience provided valuable insight into the demands of live performance and brought their classroom learning to life.

Overall, it was an inspiring and memorable visit that has enriched students' understanding and appreciation of opera.

Mr R Hanlon
Subject Leader of Music

"Read for Good" Readathon

We are delighted to share the fantastic news that our Readathon, held earlier this year, raised an impressive £372.00 for the charity *Read for Good*.

A huge well done to all the students who took part. Their enthusiasm and commitment made this achievement possible. We also extend our sincere thanks to families and friends for their generous sponsorship.

Special appreciation goes to our dedicated Student Librarians and Reading Leaders, whose hard work in promoting the event helped make it such a success.

Thank you to everyone involved for supporting such a worthwhile cause and for helping to inspire a love of reading across our school community

Mrs C Jenkins
Librarian

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

Year 10 Gilberdians, Ella, Kamsi and Arabella visited Highwoods Community Primary School recently as part of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge.

Following her outstanding achievement of second place in the regional finals in April, Kamsi performed her speech for the pupils, confidently showcasing her talent and public speaking skills.

Staff at Highwoods described the visit as a valuable experience, commenting on how wonderful it was to see Kamsi speak with such confidence. All three students proved to be excellent ambassadors for the school.

Our thanks go to Highwoods Community Primary School for their warm welcome.

Miss L Yates
Oracy Co-ordinator

Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

The second cohort of Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh's Award recently set off on their expedition, making excellent progress as they reached their first checkpoint at Great Bentley before successfully navigating their way to Thorrington Scout Camp.

The group enjoyed a well-deserved evening at camp, where spirits were high as they cooked their own meals, spent time playing games and rounded off the day by toasting marshmallows together.

Although Saturday morning brought challenging weather, with both rain and strong winds, all groups showed remarkable resilience and positivity. They demonstrated real determination and teamwork as they completed their journey back to school, maintaining high spirits throughout despite the conditions.

A huge well done to all students involved for their perseverance, enthusiasm and positive attitude. All students should be very proud of their achievements.

Mrs E Watts
Duke of Edinburgh Team

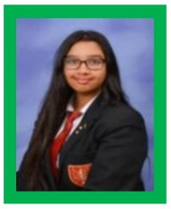
Year 9 House Captains and Deputies

House Captains and Deputies

Austen

Charlie Watts
House Captain

Grace Farrow
Deputy House Captain



Samaira Desae
Deputy House Captain

Holmes

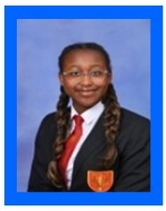
Sakshi Sriram
House Captain

Harry Pearcy
Deputy House Captain

Lekshmi Nair
Deputy House Captain

Franklin

Jenson Kerry
House Captain



Maira Al-Ganiyu
Deputy House Captain

Roxi Aldrich
Deputy House Captain

Wren

Wokafi Akanbi
House Captain

Chinyere William
Deputy House Captain

Winston Ho
Deputy House Captain

Shackleton

Raven Knabe–Nicol
House Captain

Ozzy Yusuf
Deputy House Captain

Freddie Hewes
Deputy House Captain

Penney

Aaisha Nadim
House Captain

Tomiwa Baruwa
Deputy House Captain

Jamie King
Deputy House Captain

At The Gilberd School, our House System remains a central part of school life, fostering a strong sense of community, teamwork and pride.

Led by our student leaders, it continues to inspire participation and a positive school spirit across all year groups.

We have been truly impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our Year 9 applicants this year. Through thoughtful applications, confident presentations and well-prepared interviews, students demonstrated a wide range of talents and a genuine dedication to contributing to school life.

We are delighted to announce our newly appointed House Captains and Deputy House Captains. They are a fantastic group of students who will no doubt make a valuable contribution to the school community.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the selection process.

Mrs J Clark
Lead Teacher of Leadership

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

We were pleased to welcome Hayley Ellen recently from Colchester Sixth Form College, who delivered a series of engaging Philosophy of Religion sessions to our full course Religious Studies students on the Problem of Evil. These sessions effectively built on students' GCSE foundations while also introducing more advanced A level concepts.

Hayley also met with a group of Year 9 students to talk about A level Philosophy and Religious studies, including Philosophy and Ethics (PRE), outlining what each course involves and highlighting the key differences between them. This has already helped to spark interest and encourage students to think about their future subject choices.

Students were highly engaged throughout and clearly benefited from the experience. We look forward to welcoming Hayley back again next year.

Mrs T Buckley
Subject Leader of RE

Essex Schools Athletics Championships

On Saturday, 13th June, Gilberdian and Head Boy, Jacob Narhkom competed at the Essex Schools Athletics Championships, representing North East Essex in the 400 metres, an event he had only competed in once prior to the competition.

Jacob delivered an exceptional performance, winning gold in the 400 metres by a significant margin. He recorded a remarkable time of 49.59 seconds, the fastest Under 16 time in the United Kingdom this year and making him the only athlete in his age group nationally to break the 50-second barrier.

As a result of this outstanding achievement, Jacob has been selected to represent Essex at the English Schools National Championships, held at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham, one of the largest athletics events in the world. He will compete in the 400 metres in July as part of the Essex team.

This is a truly outstanding accomplishment, and we are incredibly proud of Jacob's success.

Congratulations Jacob, we will all be supporting you in July!

Mr C McKay
Teacher of PE

Year 10 Food Bank Run

We were delighted to host our annual Foodbank Run once again this year, and it proved to be a highly successful and enjoyable event.

Throughout the day, there was a fantastic sense of energy and purpose, with Year 10 students and Year 9 prefects completing impressively quick laps while contributing donations in support of the Colchester Foodbank. It was particularly pleasing to witness such strong teamwork, enthusiasm and a genuine sense of community spirit.

My sincere thanks go to all staff and students who contributed to the success of the event, including those who took part in some notably creative attire!

A thoroughly successful occasion, and one we very much look forward to repeating next year.

Mr T Ratcliffe
Head of Year 10

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

The Gilberd School was delighted to welcome a representative from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, who delivered a series of engaging and informative assemblies to our Year 7 and Year 8 students.

The sessions centred on key aspects of summer and water safety, equipping students with the knowledge and awareness needed to stay safe during the warmer months. From practical guidance on reducing risks around water, to important seasonal safety advice, the assemblies offered valuable insights that our students will carry with them beyond the classroom.

We are extremely grateful for the time, expertise, and dedication shown by Essex County Fire and Rescue Service in supporting our students and helping to promote safety within our wider community.

Mr R Samjawon
Assistant Headteacher

Year 9 Modern Work Experience at Brentwood Community Hospital

We were delighted to take part in another successful Modern Work Experience event in partnership with Greater Essex Careers Hub.

Our Year 9 students visited Brentwood Community Hospital, where they gained valuable first-hand insight into healthcare careers by shadowing NHS Healthcare Assistants. From taking part in practical tasks to developing an understanding of patient care, students experienced the skills, compassion and professionalism required in this essential role.

We extend our sincere thanks to the NHS Healthcare Assistants and all partners involved for providing such an inspiring and rewarding opportunity.

Mr R Samjawon
Assistant Headteacher

Les Misérables at Sondheim Theatre, London

On Thursday, 18th June, the Performing Arts department took the cast and backstage crew of our school production on a theatre trip to London to see *Les Misérables*.

Students enjoyed a memorable evening, gaining inspiration from a world-class performance and experiencing the magic of live theatre beyond the classroom. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate their hard work and dedication, as well as to further develop their appreciation of performance at the highest level.

The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all and provided a wonderful shared experience for both students and staff alike.

Mrs C Howard
Curriculum Leader of Performing Arts

CEIAG Year 7 Personal Development Drop Down Day

To ensure our students have multiple meaningful encounters with employers and education providers during their CEIAG journey, The Gilberd School welcomed two inspiring visitors to speak with our Year 7 students.

Yanislav from The Royal Navy and Gilberd Alumni shared his journey since leaving The Gilberd

School in 2015, along with the wide range of career opportunities available within Britain's Naval Service. His experiences provided valuable insight and inspiration for our students.

We were also pleased to welcome Sue and Matt from Colchester Institute, who introduced students to the range of educational pathways available and encouraged early conversations about future post-16 choices.

A fantastic opportunity for our students to explore their futures and understand the possibilities ahead. Thank you to all our visitors for supporting our CEIAG provision.

Mr R Samjawon
Assistant Headteacher

Stay Connected with The Gilberd School

We're always keen to keep our school community informed, engaged, and connected. One of the best ways to do this is through our social media channels.

By following us online, parents, carers, students, and the wider community can stay up to date with the latest news, events, and achievements, as well as gain a real insight into daily life at The Gilberd School. We also share careers guidance, trips, guest speakers, and key milestones throughout the year.

We'd love for you to join our growing online community. You can find us on:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Gilberdschool
Instagram: @thegilberdschoolofficial

Be sure to like, follow, and share our posts to help us celebrate the fantastic work of our students and staff.

Share your good news with us! Email newsletter@gilberd.com with any student achievements, celebrations or success stories. We'd be delighted to highlight them.

The School Office

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.

Dates for your diary

Primary School Instrumental Day
Wednesday, 1st July

Y10 Mock Exams
29th June to 3rd July

Y11 Leavers' Ball
Thursday, 2nd July

Awards Evenings
Monday, 6th July (Y10)
Tuesday, 7th July (Y9)
Wednesday, 8th July (Y8)
Thursday, 9th July (Y7)

Art & Technology Exhibition
Wednesday, 8th and Thursday, 9th July

Sports Day
Friday, 10th July

Y6 New Uniform Sale
Monday, 13th July

Y7 Danbury Trip
13th to 16th July

Last Day of Term
Friday, 17th July (school closes 12.10pm)