



THE EAGLE

Message from the Headteacher

We hope you had an enjoyable Easter break. It has been a delight to welcome students back for the final term of this academic school year.

The written GCSE examinations are now well under way for our Year 11 students; we are pleased that their conduct during these examinations has been exemplary and expect to see a continuation of this until the very last examination. We look forward to the final celebrations Year 11 will enjoy as Gilbertians - their Leavers' Assembly and the Summer Ball.

Year 10 will sit their mock examinations next month; the formality and rigour of these examinations will stand them in good stead for the future.

We remain very appreciative of those who give up their time to talk to, and inspire, our students in our fortnightly "Future Friday" presentations. Gilbert Alumni, parents and carers and friends and relatives of staff have given talks on a wide variety of careers ranging from aspects of the medical profession, the engineering industry, the building trade, to the police and accountancy to name but a few. We are always looking to develop our CEIAG provision further, so do please read the information at the bottom of this newsletter and email us should you be able to offer your support in this area.

As usual, many events have taken place in and beyond the classroom since our last edition of The Eagle. We hope you enjoy reading about these below. Please also remember to check the summary of events that are due to take place in the final months of this academic year.

Mr J Mitchell
Headteacher

Tie Giving Ceremony

On the 1st May, 103 Year 10 students officially became Senior Students. The Tie Giving Ceremony celebrated their achievements in front of a Year 9 audience. The Senior XXXIII, 24 Senior Prefects and 46 Senior Prefects swapped their red Gilbert ties for ones indicating their new role; green ties for Senior Mentors, black striped ties for Senior Prefects and green striped ties for the Senior XXXIII. Students have already actively engaged with their new positions. The Senior X are meeting regularly with Mr Mitchell, the Senior Ambassadors with Mr Tanton and Mrs Clark and the Mentors have begun Primary School visits with Ms Litton, Mr Banham and Mrs Phillips. We wish them all the very best as they embark on their new leadership journey.

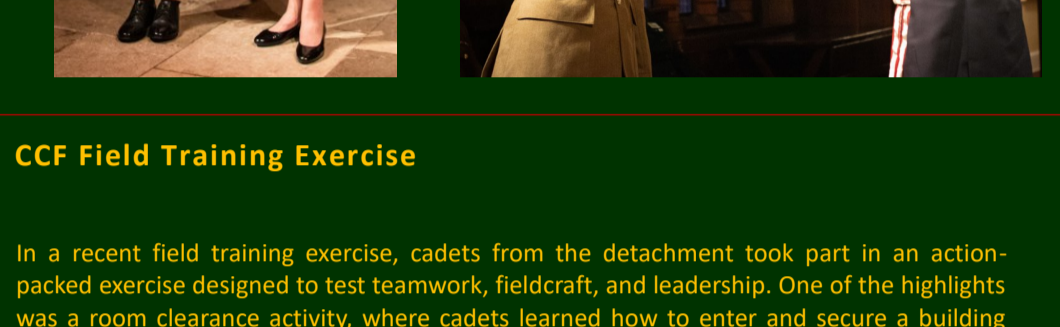
Mrs J Clarke
Lead Teacher of Humanities



Faraday Challenge

On 1st April, The Gilbert School hosted a qualifying event for The Faraday Challenge, a national competition where teams of six students from Year 8 work together to develop a prototype for an engineering problem. In their teams, students had to develop a solution to the issue of battery re-usage. Although we did not qualify for the national finals on this occasion, students still had an enjoyable experience and learned a lot. Well done to all those who took part.

Mr K Karantzis
Lead Teacher of Science



Lord Lieutenant's Cadet Ceremony

A proud moment for the school's CCF, saw Sophie Ryan being appointed as one of the Lord Lieutenant's Cadets for Essex in a prestigious ceremony. This honour recognises cadets who have demonstrated outstanding commitment, leadership, and service.

Sophie, will now assist the Lord Lieutenant at civic events throughout the year. She was nominated for this role due to her dedication to the Army Cadets and her teaching of First Aid.

Captain Blofield
Contingent Commander



CCF Field Training Exercise

In a recent field training exercise, cadets from the detachment took part in an action-packed exercise designed to test teamwork, fieldcraft, and leadership. One of the highlights was a room clearance activity, where cadets learned how to enter and secure a building using tactical communication and movement drills. The exercise also included, along with other stimulating activities, a navigation challenge and a patrol lane exercise involving paintballing.

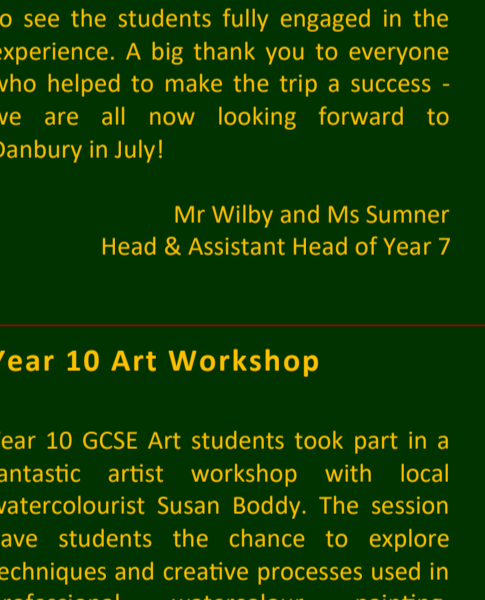
Captain Blofield
Contingent Commander



VE Day

On 8th May, the History Society celebrated VE Day with a special event to honour the importance of this historic occasion. As part of the celebration, we hosted a traditional tea party, created memorial bunting, and sang popular songs from 1945. We also viewed a presentation created by our members, reflecting on the significance of VE Day and how its legacy continues to impact us today. Mr Mitchell delivered an assembly to all year groups and we flew a commemorative flag to honour those who gave their lives in World War Two.

Miss J Lambert
Acting Subject Leader of History



Visit from Revis Lyceum Doorn, The Netherlands

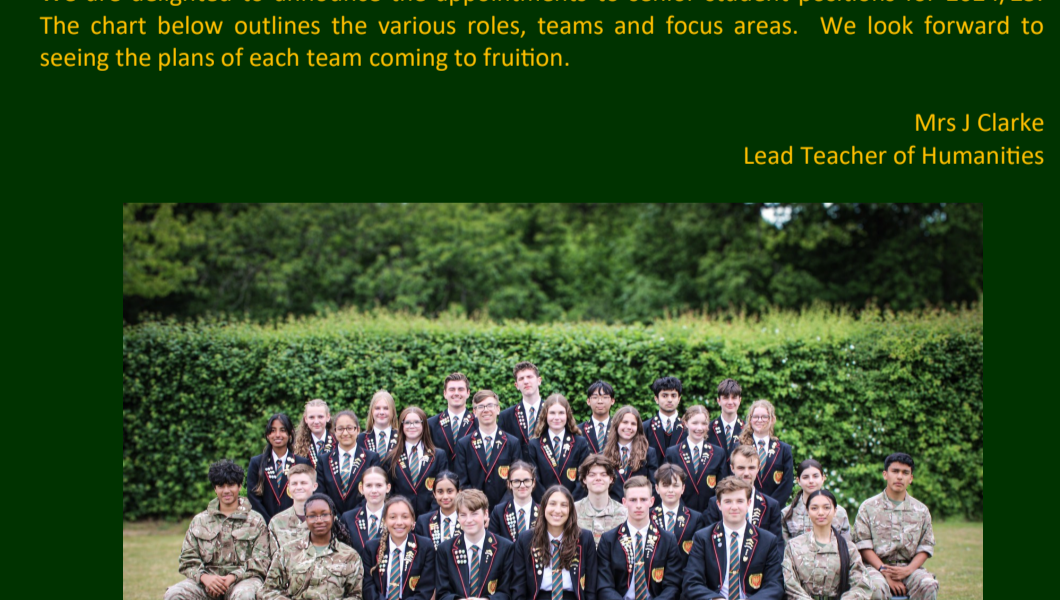
On 19th May, The Gilbert School hosted a visit from 54 students aged 13 to 14 and their teachers from the Revis Lyceum Doorn, a school in the Netherlands. The group participated in a range of lessons alongside Gilbertians. Our student leaders across Years 8, 9 and 10 embraced the opportunity, taking our visitors on a school tour and holding talks about 'school life' in England and in the Netherlands.

The Dutch students were very impressed with our school community and the history of The Gilbert School. They left Colchester to continue their trip, travelling to Cambridge and to London before returning home. We are very grateful the school chose to spend part of their schedule with us. *Een goede reis gewenst!*

We thank all the staff and students who were involved in this international school visit which has created a memorable experience for all.

For more information about Revis Lyceum Doorn, please visit [here](#).

Mr R Samjawn and Ms K Chase
Assistant Headteachers



Year 7 Visit to Colchester Zoo

On 16th May, Year 7 enjoyed a fantastic day out at Colchester Zoological Society. Students had the chance to see a wide range of animals up close, from the giraffes to otters, with the parakeets being a firm favourite. Many hopped aboard the zoo's train to visit the lemurs, while others made the most of the sunny weather by treating themselves to an ice cream.

Overall, it was a brilliant day filled with memorable moments. It was wonderful to see the students fully engaged in the experience. A big thank you to everyone who helped to make the trip a success - we are all now looking forward to Danbury in July!

Mr Wilby and Ms Sumner
Head & Assistant Head of Year 7



Year 10 Art Workshop

Year 10 GCSE Art students took part in a fantastic artist workshop with local watercolourist Susan Boddy. The session gave students the chance to explore techniques and creative processes used in professional watercolour painting. Students were inspired to experiment with expressive surfaces, colour blending, layering and negative space. The workshop was a valuable opportunity to develop new skills and gain insight into the world of a working artist.

Mrs N Sayer— Schofield
Subject Leader of Art



Local Democracy

Our seven Senior Ambassadors met with Counsellor Jay and Counsellor Law on 19th May. They learnt about local democracy and prepared questions to pose to the councillors. Areas discussed ranged from opportunities for the school to engage with wider community projects, the future of Northern Gateway, a day in the life of a councillor and the importance of 'grass roots' democracy – Youth Assemblies and Parish Councils. The councillors were very impressed with the work our Senior Ambassadors are already organising in school, as well as their interest in the importance of a democratic society.

Mrs J Clarke
Lead Teacher of Humanities



Senior XXXIII

We are delighted to announce the appointments to senior student positions for 2024/25. The chart below outlines the various roles, teams and focus areas. We look forward to seeing the plans of each team coming to fruition.

Mrs J Clarke
Lead Teacher of Humanities

Name	Role	Focus Area
Sam Starling	Head Boy	
Bianca Biltac	Head Girl	
Hayden Fox	Deputy Head Boy	Prefects
Samuel Knights	Deputy Head Boy	Year 7 Mentors
Simmi Patel	Deputy Head Girl	Year 7 Mentors
Penny Reed	Deputy Head Girl	Prefects
Jemima Walkerdine	Head Cadet	
Jordan Hopkins	Head Cadet	
Rebecca Attwood	Deputy Head Cadet	
Vibhas Mallampati	Deputy Head Cadet	

	Senior Ambassador	Ambassadors
Arts	Dylan Secreto	Ellie Peagram, Elle Whiteley
Community	Bianca Mocanu	Gul Khan, Ann Rose Siby, Emily Tuckwell
Performing Arts	Felix Partridge	Noah Bevan, Phoebe Giddings
Personal Development	Finn Bates	Imogen Chandler, Olivia Field, Miles Heppel
STEAM	Will Martin	Aiez Abrar, Ekhad Chan
Teaching and Learning	Ava Turver	Josh Godwin, Tom Moad
Well-being	Sarah Soetan	Nada Elzoghbi, Daisy-Mae Lee

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.

Co-curricular Clubs & Societies

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

Dates for your diary

Assessment Weeks Year 7 - 2nd to 13th June	Non Pupil Day Friday 27th June
Year 8 Parents' Evening (on-line) Wednesday 4th June (Y-Pop)	Uniform Exchange Tuesday 1st July—15:20 to 16:30
Year 8 HPV Vaccinations Wednesday 11th June Thursday 12th June	Year 11 Leavers' Ball Thursday 3rd July
Year 6 Induction Evening Wednesday 18th June	Awards Evenings Year 7 - Monday 7th July Year 8 - Tuesday 8th July Year 9 - Wednesday 9th July Year 10 - Thursday 10th July
Year 11 Leavers' Assembly Thursday 19th June	Food, Textiles and Art Exhibition Year 9 to Year 11 - Wednesday 9th July
Dance Showcase Thursday 19th June	Sports Day Friday 11th July
Year 6 Induction Morning Friday 20th June	Year 7 Danbury Trip w/c 14th July
Year 10 Mock Exams 23rd June to 4th July	Last Day of Term Friday 18th July (school closes 12.10pm)
Year 6 Induction Days 24th and 25th June	
Summer Concert Wednesday 25th June	