



THE EAGLE

Message from the Headteacher

As we approach the final half-term of the academic year, the changing season offers a fitting moment to reflect on both achievement and anticipation across our school community. Our Year 11 students are now fully immersed in the examination season, and I am immensely proud of the maturity, impeccable behaviour and outstanding attendance they have demonstrated throughout this important period. They continue to represent the school with excellence.

At the same time, our attention is already turning to the future. Our Year 11 team is beginning preparations to welcome the new Year 7 cohort who will join us in September 2026. It has been a pleasure to see our student mentors and prefects visiting primary schools, meeting prospective students and helping to ensure a smooth and reassuring transition for all involved.

Looking ahead to the summer, we are once again investing in our school environment. A planned programme of infrastructure improvements will ensure that our facilities remain of the highest standard, supporting both current and future students in their learning and wider school experience.

We are proud to continue to develop our relationship with St Helena Hospice. You can read more about this below.

As always, thank you for your continued support during what is a busy and rewarding time in the school year.

Mr J Mitchell
Headteacher

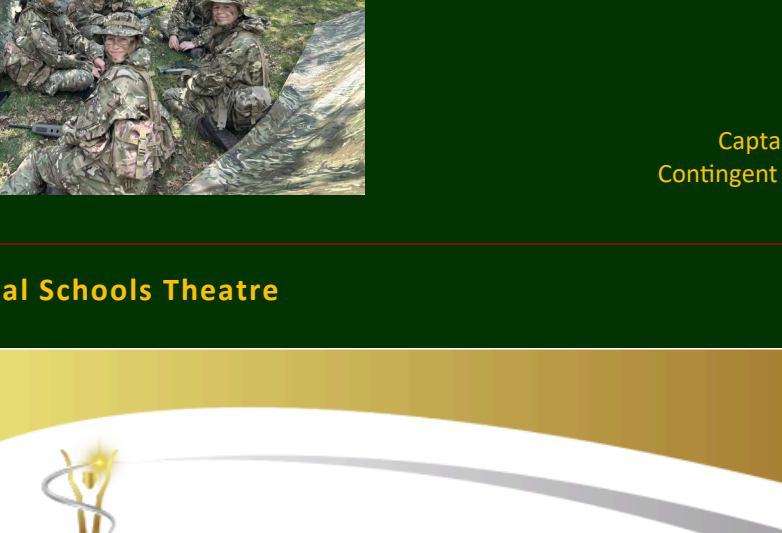
Tie Giving Ceremony 2026

We are delighted to celebrate the continued growth and success of student leadership within our school and to share some fantastic news with our parent community. Following a highly competitive four-phase application process, our new Senior Prefects were proudly appointed and presented with their insignia and uniform during our annual Tie Giving Ceremony on Tuesday, 14th April. This special and memorable occasion recognises outstanding commitment, responsibility, and leadership. We were also pleased to welcome our current Year 9 students to observe the ceremony, inspiring them to aim high and consider applying for leadership positions in the year ahead.

Our Senior Prefect team, now comprising over 100 students, plays a vital role in school life. They actively support staff during lunchtime by supervising designated areas, helping to promote positive behaviour and a calm, inclusive environment for all students.

We are also excited to be in the process of appointing House Captains and Sports Captains, providing even more opportunities for students to lead, represent their peers, and contribute to the wider life of the school.

We are incredibly proud of all our student leaders and the enthusiasm, maturity, and dedication they demonstrate every day. We look forward to seeing the positive impact they will continue to make throughout the year.



Mr P Tanton
Deputy Headteacher

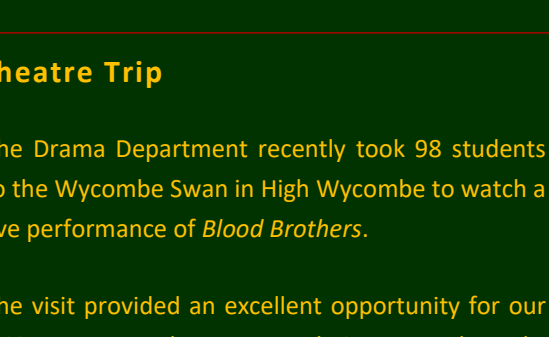
CCF Exercises

The CCF's Soaring Eagle Exercise took place during the weekend of Friday, 17th to Saturday, 18th April.

This event allowed cadets to learn and experience close-quarter combat, house raids, 9-liner casualty evacuation, and a night recon and assault on a container compound, recovering intel and evacuating casualties.

Day two featured pairs fire-and-maneuvre with paintball guns, a march-and-shoot with air rifles, and a stalk exercise.

A tough but brilliant weekend with great teamwork and resilience shown by all the cadets.



The weekend of Friday, 8th to Saturday, 9th May saw the successful running of the CCF Fledgling Eagle exercise, introducing new cadets to key fieldcraft skills.

Cadets developed teamwork and resilience while learning basic techniques, including spending a night in the field under a basha. They approached every challenge with enthusiasm, building confidence and a strong foundation for future training.

Well done to all cadets and staff involved.

Captain M Blofield
Contingent Commander

National Schools Theatre

We are delighted to announce that The Gilbert School has been nominated again for the National School Theatre Awards. Following the judges' review of our recording of Les Misérables, they felt compelled to write a review in acknowledgement of the production.

The review states that this production was "the embodiment of excellence in school theatre" and "was far from a typical school performance. It was immersive, thoughtful, and nuanced, serving as a fitting showcase for the extraordinary talents of the cast, creative team, and technical crew. The Gilbert School has managed to take one of the most demanding scores in the musical theatre canon and deliver it with a level of maturity and vocal prowess that would be the envy of many professional touring companies".

We are hugely proud to have been nominated for the following awards: Best Female Solo - Emily Klarner; Best Actor - Hugh Henderson-Hill; Best Supporting Actor - Kobe Boyce; Best Ensemble and Best Musical. We will find out in June whether we have been successful.

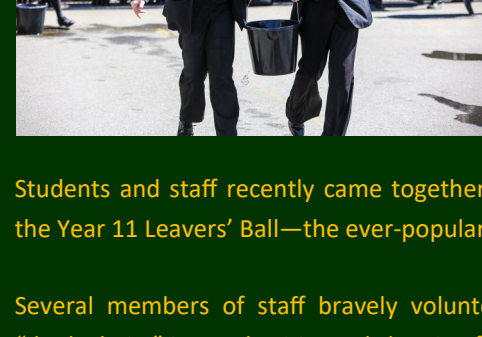
Well done to the entire company and to those who helped behind the scenes to support our school production of Les Misérables this year. We are immensely proud!

Mrs C Howard
Curriculum Leader of Performing Arts

Years 9 and 10 Blood Brothers Theatre Trip



The Drama Department recently took 98 students to the Wycombe Swan in High Wycombe to watch a live performance of *Blood Brothers*.

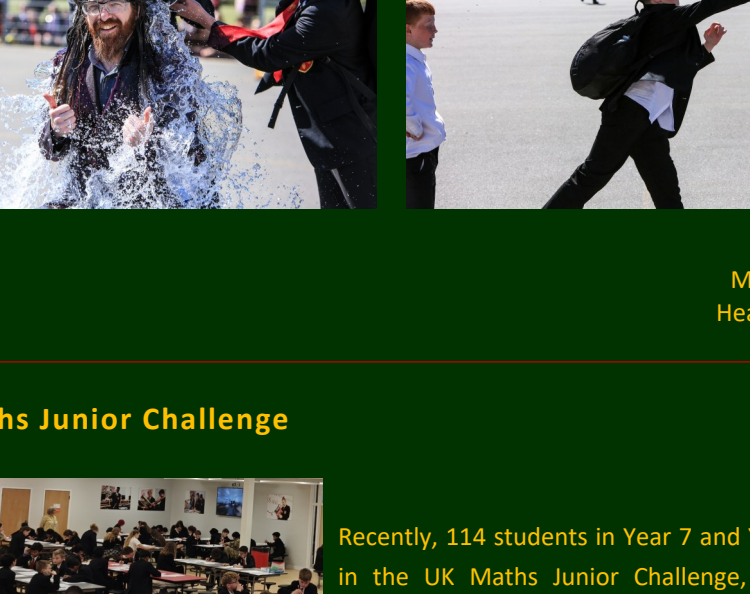


The visit provided an excellent opportunity for our GCSE Drama students to see their set text brought to life on stage, deepening their understanding of the characters, themes and staging choices. For many, it also offered a valuable insight into the professional theatre industry, from acting and direction to set, lighting and sound.

All students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and it was a fantastic day that combined both learning and inspiration beyond the classroom.

Mrs C Howard
Curriculum Leader of Performing Arts

Working Together with St Helena Hospice



We are proud to be developing our relationship with St Helena Hospice, one of our local charities doing incredible work to support people and families across our community. This partnership gives us a valuable opportunity to connect our students with the important role the hospice plays locally.

Over the coming months, our students will have opportunities to learn more about compassion, service, and the importance of giving back through awareness activities, joint projects, and fundraising events. These experiences will help them better understand the impact of community support and the difference small actions can make.

This partnership supports our commitment to helping young people develop empathy, social responsibility, and real world understanding beyond the classroom. We look forward to sharing more about this journey and the positive impact our school community can make together.

Mr P Tanton
Deputy Headteacher

CEIAG Future Friday Talks



We were proud to welcome Adam, Gilbert alumni, who has gone on to build a successful career with luxury fashion brand Chanel. Since leaving The Gilbert School, Adam has developed his path within the beauty/luxury retail industry, showing determination and a clear passion for his work.

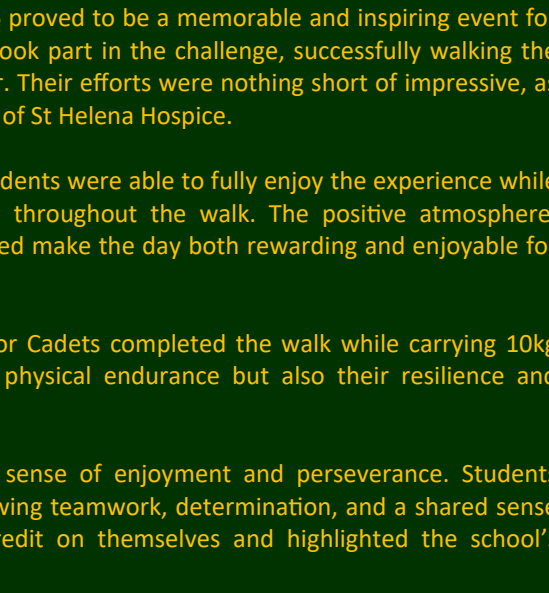
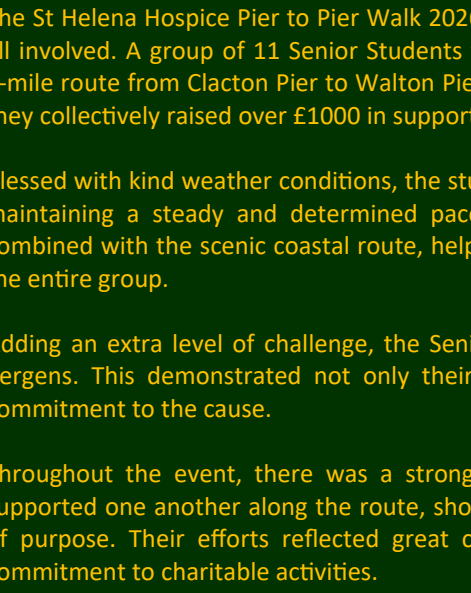
We were very pleased to welcome him back to the school at one of our recent Future Friday events, to speak with students, where he shared valuable insights into his journey, including the experiences, challenges and commitment needed to succeed in such a competitive field. His story was both engaging and inspiring, giving our current students a real sense of the opportunities that can come from hard work and ambition.

Adam's achievements are a wonderful example of what our Gilbertians and alumni can go on to accomplish, and we are grateful to him for taking the time to share his experiences. We look forward to following his continued success and hope his journey encourages others to aim high and pursue their goals with confidence.

Mr R Samjawn
Assistant Headteacher



"Dunk a Teacher" Year 11 Leavers' Ball Fundraiser

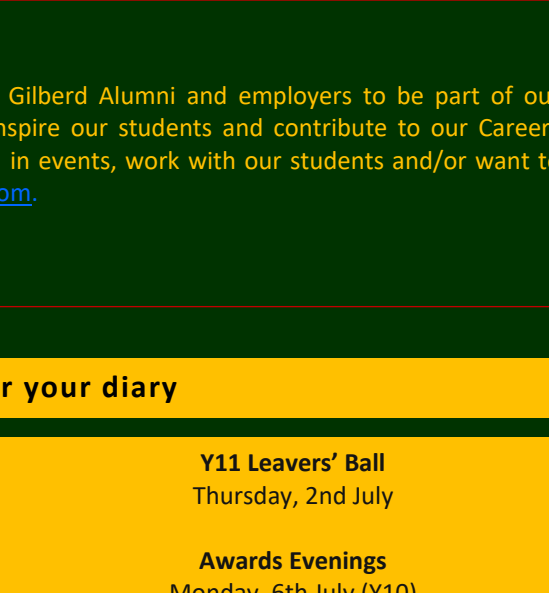


Students and staff recently came together for a fun-filled fundraising event in support of the Year 11 Leavers' Ball—the ever-popular "Dunk a Teacher" challenge.

Several members of staff bravely volunteered to take part, taking their places in the "dunk-chairs" in good spirits and showing fantastic support for this worthwhile cause. Their willingness to get involved created a lively and entertaining atmosphere, much to the delight of the watching students.

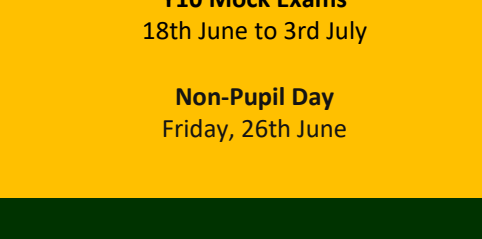
Students played a key role in the event's success, eagerly donating for the chance to "dunk" their teachers. Their enthusiasm and generosity were evident throughout, contributing to a fantastic turnout and a real sense of community.

Thanks to everyone's support, the event was a great success, raising an impressive total of £809 towards the Year 11 Leavers' Ball. This memorable event not only helped to fund a special end-of-year celebration but also brought plenty of laughter and school spirit to the day.



Mrs N Burman
Head of Year 11

UK Maths Junior Challenge



Recently, 114 students in Year 7 and Year 8 took part in the UK Maths Junior Challenge, representing a fantastic level of participation. It was wonderful to see so many students getting involved, embracing the challenge with enthusiasm and determination.

The excitement leading up to and during the event was clear, and students approached the problems with great focus and positivity, making it a truly rewarding experience for all involved.

We look forward to celebrating their efforts and achievements, with results due to be published over the coming weeks.

Mrs A Duthie
Assistant Curriculum Leader of Mathematics

Sporting Achievements

This month at Essex County Track and Field Championships, Head Boy and Gilbertian Jacob Narkom delivered an excellent performance on the track.

Competing in the U16 boys' 300m, Jacob won both his heat and the final to be crowned County Champion. He also recorded a personal best and achieved the qualifying time for the next round.

A very well-deserved achievement. Congratulations Jacob!

We are pleased to share the continued success of ex-Gilberdian Charlie Wood.

After a season on a professional contract with Ipswich Town FC, Charlie has been named Premier League Club Scholar of the Year 2025/26. He was presented with his award at a ceremony at Wembley Stadium, receiving it from football legend Alan Shearer.

We are very proud of Charlie and look forward to following his progress in the coming years!

Mr A Hursey
Assistant Curriculum Leader of PE

Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

The first Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh cohort of the season has officially set off—and what an incredible start it has been.

With beautiful weather from beginning to end, students enjoyed ideal conditions for their expedition. Clear skies and warm sunshine not only made the routes more enjoyable but also helped create a positive and energetic atmosphere throughout the weekend.

All groups performed exceptionally well, demonstrating teamwork, resilience, and enthusiasm at every stage. From navigating routes with confidence to supporting one another along the way, each participant showed the true spirit of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Staff were particularly impressed by the level of preparation and determination displayed by students, many of whom were experiencing this type of challenge for the first time.

Spirits were high across all groups, with plenty of smiles, laughter, and a real sense of achievement at the end of each day. Whether tackling tricky terrain or setting up camp, students approached every task with positivity and encouragement for one another, making the experience not only successful but thoroughly enjoyable.

This first cohort has set a fantastic standard for the rest of the season, and we look forward to seeing future groups follow in their footsteps. Well done to everyone involved for such a memorable and successful start to the Bronze DoE journey.

Ms G Sumner
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

Visit from Revis Lyceum Doorn

We were pleased to welcome visitors from Revis Lyceum Doorn in the Netherlands for their recent annual visit to The Gilbert School. This valued exchange continues to offer a fantastic opportunity for students to connect internationally, encouraging shared experiences and providing a unique perspective on life in a British school.

Our Student Leaders were instrumental in ensuring the visit was a success, offering a warm welcome and helping our guests feel comfortable and engaged throughout their stay.

We look forward to building on this strong partnership in the future.

Mr R Samjawn
Assistant Headteacher

St Helena Hospice Pier to Pier Walk

The St Helena Hospice Pier to Pier Walk 2026 proved to be a memorable and inspiring event for all involved. A group of 11 Senior Students took part in the challenge, successfully walking the 7-mile route from Clacton Pier to Walton Pier. Their efforts were nothing short of impressive, as they collectively raised over £1000 in support of St Helena Hospice.

Blessed with kind weather conditions, the students were able to fully enjoy the experience while maintaining a steady and determined pace throughout the walk. The positive atmosphere, combined with the scenic coastal route, helped make the day both rewarding and enjoyable for the entire group.

Adding an extra level of challenge, the Senior Cadets completed the walk while carrying 10kg bergens. This demonstrated not only their physical endurance but also their resilience and commitment to the cause.

Throughout the event, there was a strong sense of enjoyment and perseverance. Students supported one another along the route, showing teamwork, determination, and a shared sense of purpose. Their efforts reflected great credit on themselves and highlighted the school's commitment to charitable activities.

Given the success of this year's walk, it has been confirmed that the Pier to Pier event will become an annual fixture in the school charity calendar, providing future opportunities for students to challenge themselves while contributing to a worthy cause.

Mrs J Clark/Mr P Tanton
Lead Teacher of Leadership/Deputy Headteacher

Stay Connected with The Gilbert 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 Gilbert School. We also share careers events, 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](https://www.instagram.com/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 Gilbert Alumni and employers to be part of our careers provision at The Gilbert 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

May Half Term 25th to 29th May	Y11 Leavers' Ball Thursday, 2nd July
Assessment Week 1st to 12th June (Y9)	Awards Evenings Monday, 6th July (Y10) Tuesday, 7th July (Y9) Wednesday, 8th July (Y8) Thursday, 9th July (Y7)
Y7 Parents' Evening (online) Wednesday, 3rd June (Y-Pop)	Sports Day Friday, 10th July
Y6 Induction Events Wednesday, 17th June (Induction Eve) 24th to 25th June (Induction Days)	Y6 Uniform Sale Monday, 13th July
Uniform Exchange Thursday 25th June	Y7 Danbury Trip 13th to 16th July
Y10 Mock Exams 18th June to 3rd July	Last Day of Term Friday, 17th July (school closes 12.10pm)
Non-Pupil Day Friday, 26th June	