



THE EAGLE

Message from the Headteacher

It has been a pleasure to experience a calm and focused start to the 2025-26 academic year. Our new Year 7 cohort have embraced the beginning of their Gilberd journey in a most positive manner and we look forward to seeing them flourish as they embark upon new adventures.

We were, of course, delighted with the achievements of the class of 2025; students should be proud of the endeavours that led to their excellent results. We look forward to celebrating these achievements at the GCSE Awards Evening on Thursday, 20th November, at Essex University.

We are also pleased to inform you that the school is fully staffed with subject specialist teachers; we extend a very warm welcome to both the teachers and the support staff who have joined our hardworking team.

There has been considerable work over the summer to upgrade the school's IT systems and to further improve the upkeep of the school buildings. You will have noticed the improvements in the aesthetics and security that are underway at the front of the school site, as well as improvement works to the area by the Sports Centre; we look forward to the completion of these in due course. We have also welcomed our new catering contractors, Aspens, who have introduced some exciting new menus. Our student leaders will continue their partnership work with the catering team through the Bite Back Schools Programme.

I hope you find the first edition of The Eagle for this academic year informative. You can also follow us on our Gilberd Facebook page to read more about the positive achievements of our students.

Mr J Mitchell
Headteacher

CCF Update

During the summer holiday, 13 cadets attended the Brightlingsea Regatta, where they took part in a competition involving nautical games on the water. Competing against other units, our cadets demonstrated teamwork, resilience, and a great deal of enthusiasm throughout the event.



This term, we are pleased to welcome a new intake of cadets who have recently been selected. We look forward to seeing them in their uniforms and on parade with the contingent.



Several cadets who attended last year's summer camp have been awarded marksmanship, a level gained for their skill with the Cadet GP Rifle on the ranges.

We have many exciting trips and events being planned again for this year which I look forward to sharing with you.

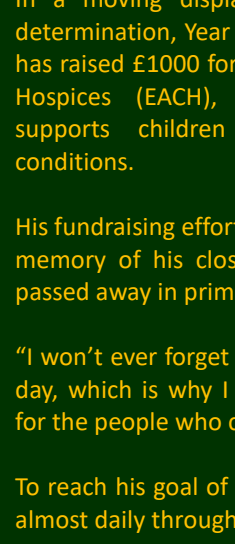
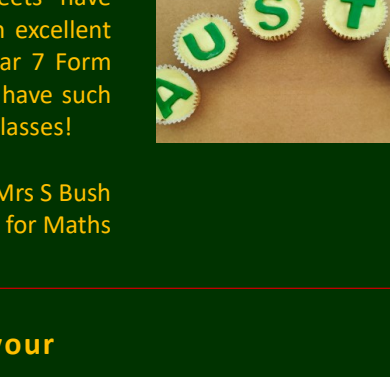
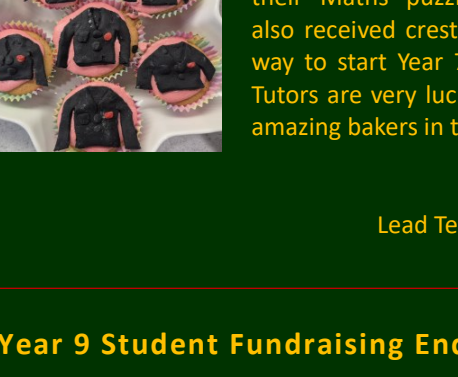
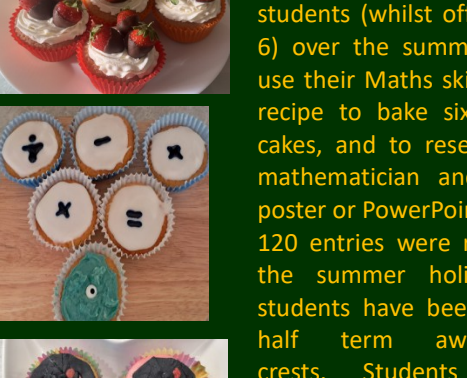
Captain M Blofield
Contingent Commander

Adventures at Essex Outdoors, Danbury

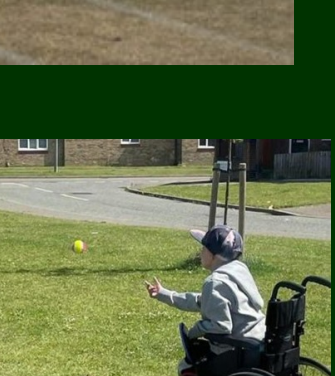
At the end of the summer term, Year 7 students took part in the annual residential trip to Essex Outdoors in Danbury; it was nothing short of brilliant: a four-day whirlwind of adventure, teamwork, and unforgettable memories. Students were challenged physically, mentally, and creatively through a range of activities from high ropes, to problem-solving challenges, to the infamous bush tucker trials, to kayaking, mountain biking, orienteering and t-shirt printing sessions. The Danbury Olympics sparked friendly competition and plenty of cheering, while games like capture the flag and a lively scavenger hunt kept spirits high.

The sense of community amongst the students was palpable, with support and kindness in abundance. The staff were incredibly proud of the year group and hope that students have memories they can treasure for years to come, as they embark upon Year 8.

Miss G Sumner
Assistant Head of Year 8



We were delighted with the engagement shown by our Year 7 students (whilst officially still Year 6) over the summer holidays: to use their Maths skills and adapt a recipe to bake six delicious cup cakes, and to research a famous mathematician and to create a poster or PowerPoint. 120 entries were received during the summer holidays, and all students have been awarded the half term award of 10 crests. Students who returned their Maths puzzle sheets have also received crests. An excellent way to start Year 7. Year 7 Form Tutors are very lucky to have such amazing bakers in their classes!



Mrs S Bush
Lead Teacher for Maths

Year 9 Student Fundraising Endeavour

In a moving display of compassion and determination, Year 9 student, Ben Thomas, has raised £1000 for East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH), a local charity that supports children with life-threatening conditions.

His fundraising efforts were dedicated to the memory of his close friend, JJ, who sadly passed away in primary school.

"I won't ever forget him and miss him every day, which is why I wanted to raise money for the people who cared for him," Ben said.

To reach his goal of 100 kilometres, Ben ran almost daily throughout June.



On the last day of term, Ben's challenge culminated in a final lap of the school's athletics track. Joined by his form tutor, Mr Karantzis, and several close friends, Ben crossed the finish line to the sound of his entire year group of 300+ students cheering him on. Meanwhile, other students helped to collect donations from the crowd.



Ben's efforts have featured in the local Gazette, celebrating his commitment and sharing details of the friendship that motivated him. Ben was particularly proud of his efforts to raise awareness about the charity, EACH, and the positive work that they achieve.

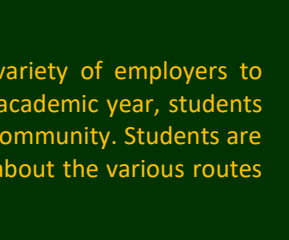
Mrs J Wren
Head of Year 9

Freshers Fayre 2025

On Thursday, 18th of September, the Year 7 and Year 8 students visited the Co-Curricular Freshers Fayre. Students were given the opportunity to explore the different Co-Curricular clubs that we have on offer at The Gilberd. Over 100 students from other year groups were present to showcase their stalls, promoting one of the clubs that they attend.

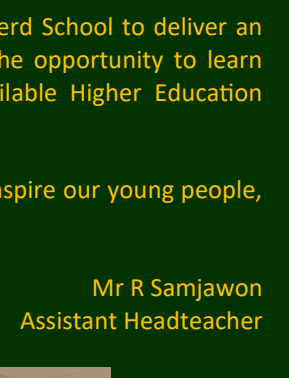


There are currently over 65 Co-Curricular clubs on offer at The Gilberd, ranging from Lego Club, to Geog Soc to Netball. For the most up to date Co-Curricular Delivery Map please visit the school website via the link below:



[Gilberd-School-Co-curricular-Delivery-Map-2025-26-Autumn-Termv2.pdf](#)

Mrs M Pleasance
Co-Curricular Lead



Future Friday Speakers

Every academic year, The Gilberd School welcomes a variety of employers to speak to our Gilberdians about their careers. Across the academic year, students will have multiple opportunities to hear from our CEIAG Community. Students are exposed to a wide range of industries/sectors and learn about the various routes into employment.

On Friday, 19th September, Essex Police visited The Gilberd School to deliver an informative presentation. Year 9 and 10 students had the opportunity to learn about the various roles within the Police and the available Higher Education routes including Degree Level Apprenticeships.

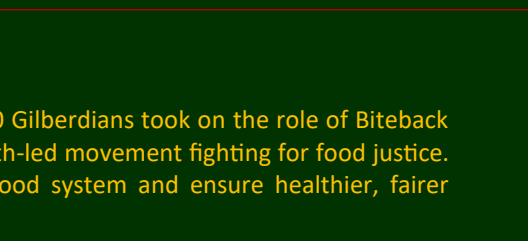
If you would like to be part of our CEIAG Community to inspire our young people, please contact careers@gilberd.com.

Mr R Samjawan
Assistant Headteacher



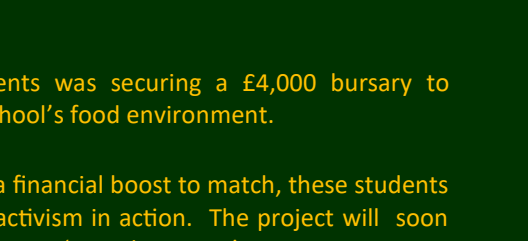
Year 9 Rugby V Finborough School

On Tuesday 16th September, our Year 9 rugby team travelled to the prestigious Finborough School for a highly anticipated fixture. Our Rugby Gilberdians conducted themselves with maturity and respect throughout the afternoon, both on and off the pitch.



The team produced a commendable performance, demonstrating teamwork, resilience and excellent sportsmanship.

Following the match, they enjoyed a meal with the Finborough players, further highlighting the positive spirit of the occasion. Finborough were exceptional hosts, providing our students with valuable exposure to a different competitive environment, which they embraced with enthusiasm and pride.



Mrs C Pharaoh
Curriculum Leader of PE

Bite Back Schools Programme

Last year, a dynamic team of 13 Year 10 Gilberdians took on the role of Biteback School Food Champions, a national youth-led movement fighting for food justice. Their aim is to transform the school food system and ensure healthier, fairer choices for all students.

Over the course of the year, the team conducted surveys, interviews, and observations in the school canteen to better understand the nutritional value and affordability of available meals. They have developed an awareness campaign and delivered a powerful end-of-year assembly to share their findings and highlight the positive changes already underway. The students' collaboration with the school leadership has already led to tangible improvements in the canteen.

One of the team's biggest achievements was securing a £4,000 bursary to support further enhancements to the school's food environment.

With their passion, determination, and a financial boost to match, these students have set a powerful example of youth activism in action. The project will soon be introduced to Year 9 students in our next 'Dropdown Day'.

Ms M Holland
Teacher of Food Technology and Project Coordinator

[Students at The Gilberd School are leading real change in their school canteen - Essex Magazine](#)

Dates for your diary

Y7 Information Evening
Wednesday, 1st October

Y7-Y11 Flu Vaccinations
Friday, 17th October

Music Aptitude Tests
w/c 6th October

Y11 MFL Mock Orals
w/c 20th October

Non Pupil Day
Wednesday, 8th October

Y9/Y10 Geography Trip, Iceland
24th to 27th October

Y10 Assessments
13th to 24th October

Half Term
27th to 31st October

Y11 Information, Careers & Support Evening
Wednesday, 15th October