



# THE EAGLE

Engage, Endeavour, Excel

## Message from the Headteacher

As the overcast skies of the British Winter give way to lighter evenings and some much needed Spring sunshine, the calendar continues to be packed with activities, trips and co-curriculars for our students.

Slightly later than usual this year (due to the knock-on effects of RAAC), we have recently completed interviews for 33 students applying for the positions of Head Boy and Head Girl, Deputies and Ambassadors. At the end of the process, all of us involved agreed that it was nothing short of a delight to speak with so many aspirational young people.

Our Year 10 students have completed a week of work experience within businesses and organisations both locally and beyond. This forms a valuable part of our Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance provision. In addition, a steady stream of Alumni have visited the school to deliver Future Friday careers talks.

Meanwhile, Year 11 students have completed the last of their mock examinations before the real examinations commence in May. Students conducted themselves very well. With continued endeavour in these last few weeks of their Gilbert careers, students should be very well prepared. Leavers Hoodies are on sale now.

Finally, our Ofsted report has been published and the school continues to be assessed as Outstanding. Thank you to all those who responded to Parent View. You can read the full report [here](#).

We hope you enjoy this March edition of The Eagle.

Mr J Mitchell  
Headteacher

## Headteacher's Award

It was an honour to present three Gilbertians with the Headteacher's Award last month. Sophie Hamilton received her award in recognition of the exceptional kindness, empathy and leadership she has shown in her role as a SEN Inclusion Leader. Through patience, support and understanding, a new student made a positive start to their transition to the school thanks to Sophie. Sophie demonstrated true dedication, compassion and consideration for others.

Archie McKenzie received his award for his dedication, skill and passion for aviation. Archie was one of only four Cadets to attend the Royal Air Force base in Lincolnshire and gain his Blue Wings badge. This achievement is a testament to Archie's commitment to excellence and potential for further success in the field.

Sia Raval's award recognised her dedication, compassion and consideration for others. Through her hard work, creativity and commitment, Sia has raised a considerable sum over the last four years for *Children in Need* to help and support children and young people.

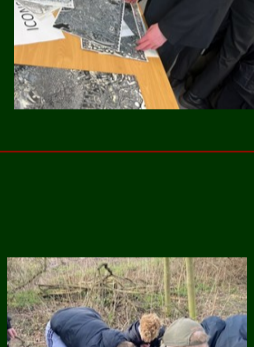


Mr J Mitchell  
Headteacher

## Year 11 Art Workshop

Year 11 experienced a fabulous practical workshop with fine artist and illustrator Colin McAllister as part of their Fine Art GCSE. McAllister's work encompasses hours of detailed drawings (approx 300 hours per A2 artwork), his inspiration taken from the world around him, aerial views and developed through intersecting and curved lines, 3-point perspective and the idea of looking through a fish-eye lens. Students enjoyed experimenting with the artist's methods to create a personal response to his work that combined free-hand drawing with different forms of straight and curved lines.

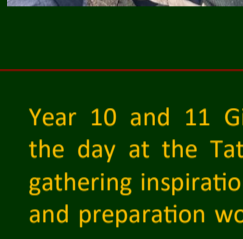
Mrs N Sayer-Schofield  
Subject Leader of Art



## Year 9 Team Building

On 28th February, a group of Year 9 students enjoyed a sunny, team building and activity day at Layer Marney Outdoors Centre. This was a positive experience for all involved.

Mrs L Moore  
Assistant Head of Year 9



## Year 10 and 11 Art Trip

Year 10 and 11 Gilbertian artists spent the day at the Tate Modern in London, gathering inspiration for their coursework and preparation work for their final GCSE exam.

Students sketched their ideas, experienced static and installation art and explored the various exhibition spaces which were full of enriching textile, sculpture, photography, painting, printmaking and mixed media artworks.

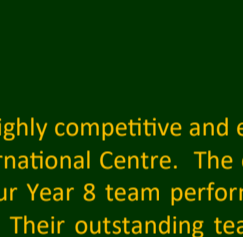
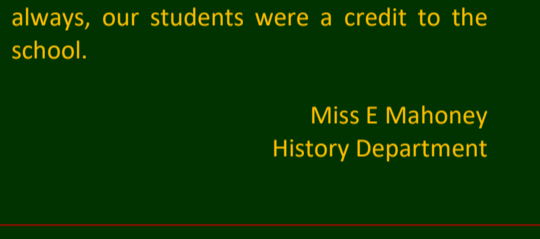
Mrs N Sayer-Schofield  
Subject Leader of Art



## Hampton Court Palace Trip

On 27th February, 90 Year 10 GCSE historians enjoyed the spectacular sights and sounds of Hampton Court Palace. As always, our students were a credit to the school.

Miss E Mahoney  
History Department



## VEX ROBOTICS National Finals

Two teams from Years 8 and 9 took part in the highly competitive and exciting VEX IQ National Finals on 2nd and 3rd March at the Telford International Centre. The competition was fierce, with teams from all over the UK competing. Our Year 8 team performed exceptionally well, securing a top 20 place out of the 60 finalists. Their outstanding teamwork, creativity, and engineering skills earned them recognition in a highly competitive field. Some unfortunate disqualifications impacted the overall score and placement of the Year 9 team. However, their performance was highly commendable, showcasing great resilience and problem-solving skills under intense pressure. Well done to all who took part.

Mr K Karantzis  
Lead Teacher - Science



## World Book Day

The Gilbert was a hive of activity on World Book Day. Along with many staff, our Student Librarians and Reading Leaders dressed up as their favourite book characters. The library ran a Readathon sponsored read which has raised £425 for the charity Read for Good. A book swap stall was incredibly popular and thanks to some generous donations, we were able to give away many free books to our students. We received some amazing entries for our art competition where students were asked to depict a book or book character in an art medium of their choice, the judges had a very tough job choosing the winners. There was also a book emoji quiz and a challenge to guess which character the Librarian was dressed as.

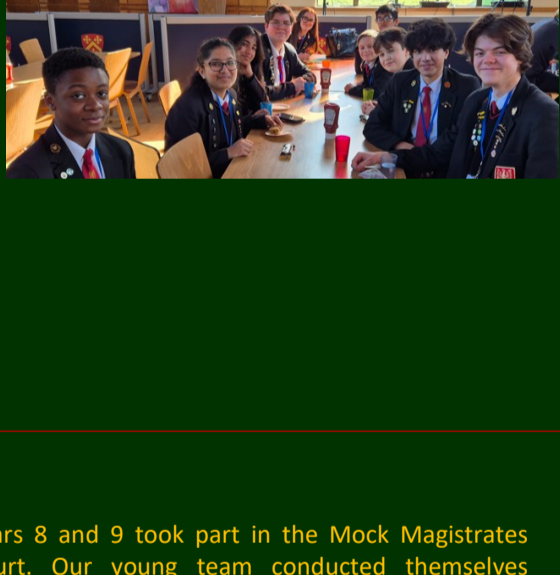
Mrs C Jenkins  
Librarian



## Model United Nations Conference

We are extremely proud of those Gilbertians who adopted the "role of Russia" at the Model United Nations Conference at Felstead School on 2nd and 3rd March. Despite being one of the youngest teams amongst the competing 400 students, our team performed superbly and according to the organisers, "they brought immense value to the event". Well done to all participants and especially to Adam Bryant in Year 10 who was awarded a highly commended for his resolutions and follow up debates.

Miss E Mahoney  
Mrs R Litton  
History Department



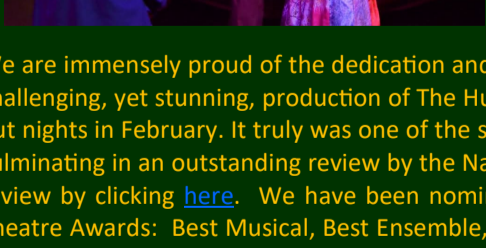
## Mock Bar Competition

On Saturday 15th March, students from Years 8 and 9 took part in the Mock Magistrates Competition, held at Basildon Crown Court. Our young team conducted themselves confidently and impressively throughout. Special mention should go to our Year 10 and 11 mentors, who have supported and trained the team over a period of months. We were honoured by the presence of HM Lord Lieutenant of Essex and the High Sheriff of Essex, both of whom spoke of their important roles within the County and English justice systems.

Miss M Kerrigan  
English Department



## School Production: The Hunchback of Notre Dame



We are immensely proud of the dedication and creativity of everyone involved with this year's challenging, yet stunning, production of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, performed over 5 sold out nights in February. It truly was one of the school's most memorable performances to date, culminating in an outstanding review by the National School Theatre Awards. You can read the review by clicking [here](#). We have been nominated in five categories by the National School Theatre Awards: Best Musical, Best Ensemble, Best Actress (Genevra Ventre), Best Actor (Felix Partridge), Best Supporting Actor (Noah Bevan and Harry Taylor) for 2025. We eagerly await the results which will be announced later this year.

Mrs C Howard  
Curriculum Leader Performing Arts

## 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

### Assessment Weeks

Year 8 - 22nd April to 2nd May  
Year 9 - 12th to 23rd May

### Easter Holiday

7th to 18th April  
Monday 21st April (Easter Monday B/H)

### Year 11 Exams

Dance Practical Exams - 1st and 2nd April  
Art Practical Exam - 22nd and 23rd April  
Textiles Practical Exams - 22nd to 25th April  
German Oral Exams - 24th and 25th April  
French Oral Exams - 28th to 30th April  
Written Exams commence - Thursday 8th May

### Year 11 Easter Revision

Monday 7th April to Thursday 17th April

### Year 9 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 2nd April (Y-Pop)

### Year 10 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 30th April (X-Pop)  
Wednesday 7th May (Y-Pop)

### Last Day of Spring Term

Friday 4th April (school closes at 15:20)

### Year 10 GCSE Exam

RS Short Course - Wednesday 21st May

### Easter Ski Trip

Friday 4th April - Friday 11th April

### Year 8 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 21st May (X-Pop)  
Wednesday 4th June (Y-Pop)

### Events

Schools Prom - Friday 28th March  
Dance Showcase - Thursday 3rd April