



THE EAGLE

Engage, Endeavour, Excel

Message from the Headteacher

The end of September saw the handover of the Design and Technology Block from the school's appointed contractors, TJ Evers and we are delighted that fully resourced lessons are once again up and running in their permanent homes. The music block was handed back last week. We now await the final handover of the school's dining facilities which have undergone some additional improvements to enhance accessibility and the lunchtime experience of our students. The South Hall and Kitchens will be returned over half term and the North Hall will be completed in late November.

We also celebrate the fact that current Year 11 students have achieved some truly superb results in their first GCSE examination (GCSE RE short course). This demonstrates what can be accomplished with determination and endeavour in the face of significant challenges.

Finally, we are delighted that our new website will be going live after half term. We hope you find this new platform more user friendly on smart devices and a useful source of important information.

Mr J Mitchell

Open Evening 2024

On Wednesday 18th September, The Gilbert School opened its doors to visitors for our annual open evening. Over 300 Senior and Junior Prefects, Mentors and Cadets offered informative tours of our newly renovated school for prospective parents/carers and students. Many other students supported within faculty areas. We estimate that over 2000 were in attendance. The deadline for applications to the Local Authority for the September 2025 intake is midnight on the 31st October 2024.

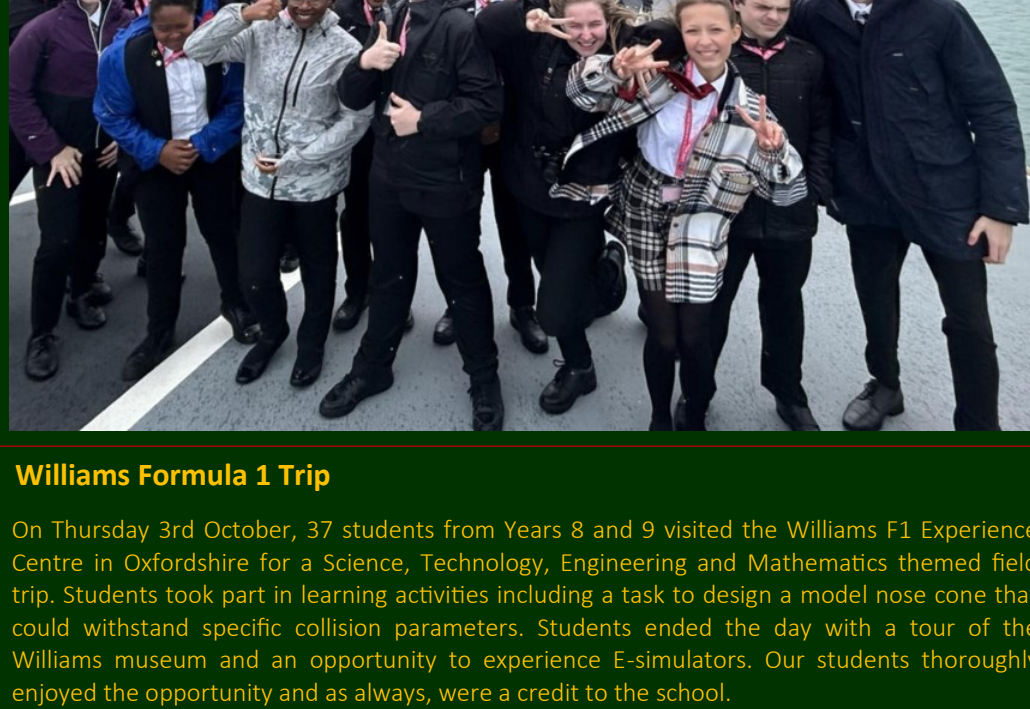
Miss A Bird
Deputy Headteacher



Royal Navy Trip

On Friday 27th September, Cadets of The Gilbert School Combined Cadet Force had an exciting opportunity to visit one of the UK's largest warships - aircraft carrier, *HMS Queen Elizabeth*. Once aboard the 65,000 tonne behemoth, Cadets were treated to a guided tour providing a rare insight into life aboard a Royal Navy vessel. Students experienced a range of naval-themed activities and gained valuable knowledge of some of the exciting career pathways available within the Navy.

Captain M Blofield
Contingent Commander



Williams Formula 1 Trip

On Thursday 3rd October, 37 students from Years 8 and 9 visited the Williams F1 Experience Centre in Oxfordshire for a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics themed field trip. Students took part in learning activities including a task to design a model nose cone that could withstand specific collision parameters. Students ended the day with a tour of the Williams museum and an opportunity to experience E-simulators. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and as always, were a credit to the school.

Mr K Karantzis
Lead Teacher (STEM)



Pioneer Trip

On the 4th of October, our Year 10 STEPS students took part in the annual Pioneer Trust sailing trip on board the *Pioneer*, a 70-foot Essex sailing Smack, built in 1864. On the first day, students sailed downstream on the River Blackwater to Maldon, anchoring off Osea Island for the night. On the second day, they sailed east to Gunfleet Wind Farm and, in the evening, learnt to row. On the final day, our budding sailors experienced traditional sail dredging and learnt about life at sea. The trip plays a vital part in the students' personal development curriculum, building their confidence, leadership and teambuilding skills.

Mr N Baldry
STEPS coordinator



Freshers' Fayre

On Tuesday 1st October, students in Years 7 and 8 attended The Gilbert School co-curricular Freshers' Fayre. The event showcased over 30 of our co-curricular clubs and societies with prefects and club leaders on hand to sign up new members.

Club and society membership is at the heart of our personal development curriculum and Gilbertians are encouraged to attend at least one club or society each term and more if they can. We look forward to welcoming our new members as the term progresses.

Mrs M Pleasance
Co-curricular coordinator



Co-curricular Clubs

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

School Musical 2025 Announced

The Performing Arts Faculty are pleased to announce that this (academic) year's musical production is *'The Hunchback of Notre Dame'*. At the time of writing, auditions are taking place for lead and principal cast members.

Tickets will be on sale in February 2025.

Mrs C Howard
Head of Performing Arts

Dates for your diary

Admissions Deadline for Year 6 students
Thursday, 31st October (Midnight)

Year 11 Music Performance Ensembles
w/c 18th November

Half Term
w/c 28th October

Year 11 PE Practicals
w/c 2nd December

Non-Pupil Days
4th November, 29th November

Winter Concert
Wednesday, 4th December (timings TBC)

Assessment Weeks
5th - 15th November - Year 10
25th November - 6th December - Year 8

Year 11 Mock Examinations
9th - 19th December

Year 7 Tutor Evening
Wednesday, 6th November (4.00-6.30pm)

Last Day of Autumn Term
Friday, 20th December (school closes early)