



# THE EAGLE

Engage, Endeavour, Excel

## Message from the Headteacher

December has been another busy month with Year 11 written and practical mock examinations taking place. Year 11 students have also finalised applications to post-16 providers following presentations from each of them during assemblies and in CEIAG (Careers Education, Information and Advice Guidance) events. A host of visits and trips have also taken place and highlights of these are detailed in articles in this edition.

As the end of term approaches, we say goodbye to four members of our teaching staff: Mrs Smith, Mr Fraser, Mr Gyarmati and Mrs B Clark. We wish them luck in their new endeavours, schools or retirement respectively.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a restful end of year break. We look forward to another successful year in 2025.

Mr J Mitchell  
Headteacher

## ASDAN RE Studies 2024



The RE department and RE ASDAN students have been busy this half term preparing multicultural meals as part of their coursework.

Students were required to select a country, research its traditional foods and then prepare and cook their chosen menu. They then served this to each other at a dinner party, complete with homemade decorations. Unfortunately, some lessons about the difference between an oven and grill were learnt too late for the garlic bread to survive, but students all tried something new, whether it was a new cooking skill or new eating experience.

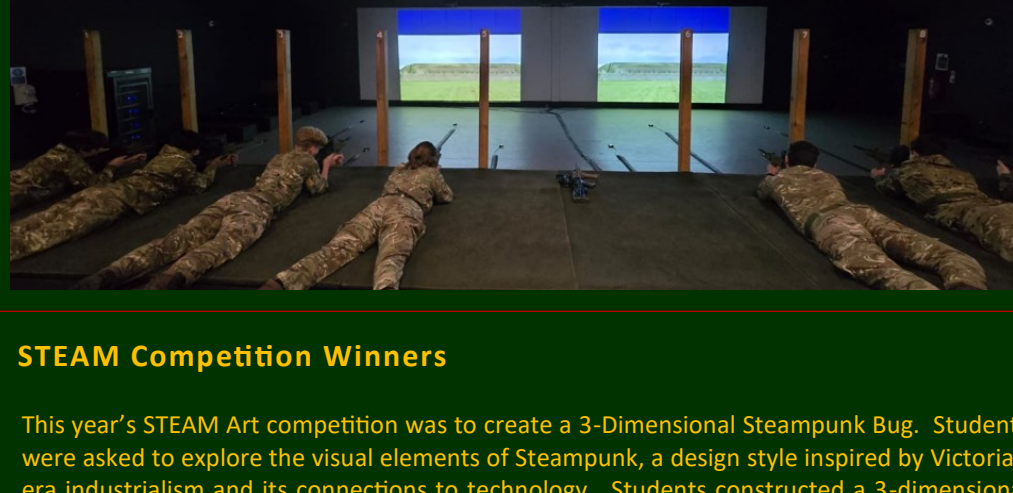
Mrs J Bishop

## CCF Update

Earlier this term, a group of Gilberd cadets successfully refreshed their weapon handling skills. Following this, they participated in a coaching session using the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer (DCCT) technology at Colchester Garrison for the first time. This cutting-edge system doesn't just provide virtual ranges; it also offers cadets personalised feedback by capturing data directly from their weapon. Through the DCCT, cadets receive detailed analysis of marksmanship factors. By examining this data, staff can pinpoint specific areas where each cadet may need improvement. These insights enable a highly customised training experience, where each cadet receives tailored coaching to refine their technique and so improve their accuracy.

We are also delighted that our new Year 8 recruits have been completed the selection process and have started to parade with us on Thursday evenings.

Captain M Blofield  
Contingent Commander



## STEAM Competition Winners

This year's STEAM Art competition was to create a 3-Dimensional Steampunk Bug. Students were asked to explore the visual elements of Steampunk, a design style inspired by Victorian era industrialism and its connections to technology. Students constructed a 3-dimensional creative response to the design brief, along with a short paragraph explaining context, meaning and the materials used in their creation.

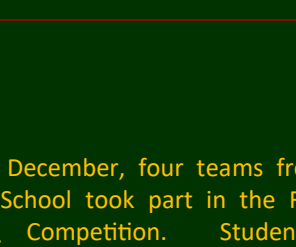
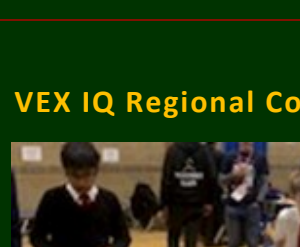
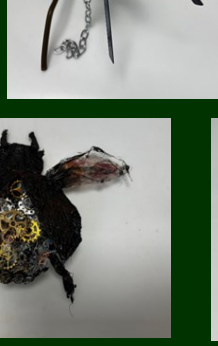
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Zachary Ogieglo 7XRGL

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Fleur Gregory 9YLBE

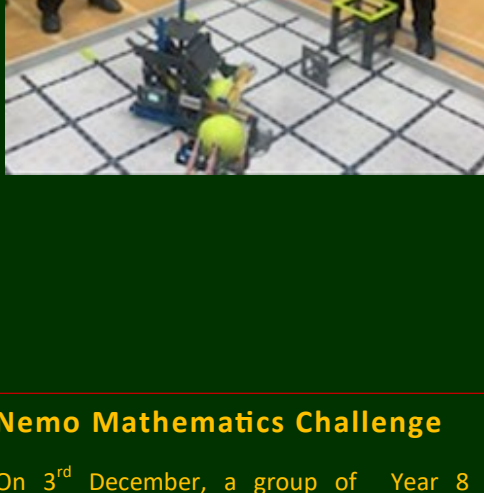
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Florence Andrews 7XRGL

Special Commendation: Quinn Jenkinson 8XKJA; Elsa Healey 8XMF1; Elanor Chell 7XMBL

Mrs N Sayer-Schofield  
Subject Leader Art



## VEX IQ Regional Competition



On 13<sup>th</sup> December, four teams from The Gilberd School took part in the Regional VEX IQ Competition. Students had designed and built their own robots to perform specific point-based tasks. All four Gilberd teams performed brilliantly, reaching the finals round. One of our teams looked set to win overall with 56 points. Gilberdians held their breath when the last competing teams stepped up. Unfortunately, victory was not to be; we were beaten by just one point.

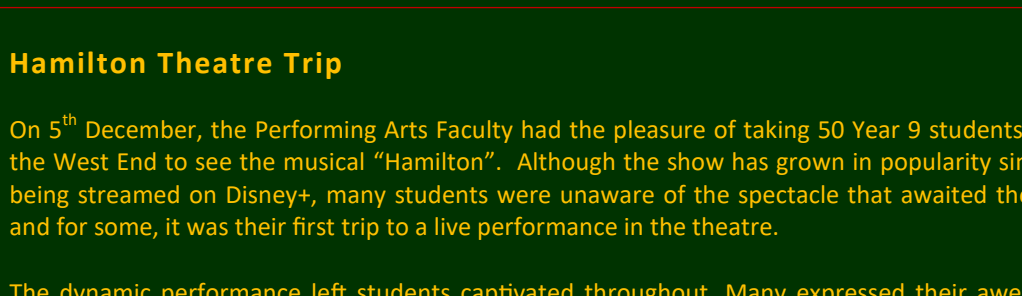
Our next competition will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Success here will mean that we qualify for the National Finals.

Mr Karantzis  
Lead Teacher of Science

## Nemo Mathematics Challenge

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December, a group of Year 8 mathematicians attended the Nemo Challenge at St Helena School, where they competed against other schools in a series of mathematical challenges. Well done to Daniel Crouch, Nayana Kolluru, Hei Shuen Chan, Will Hart, Theodore Lau, Michael Martinho and Chandrasekhar Kakaraparthi who represented The Gilberd School.

Mrs S Bush  
Lead Teacher of Mathematics

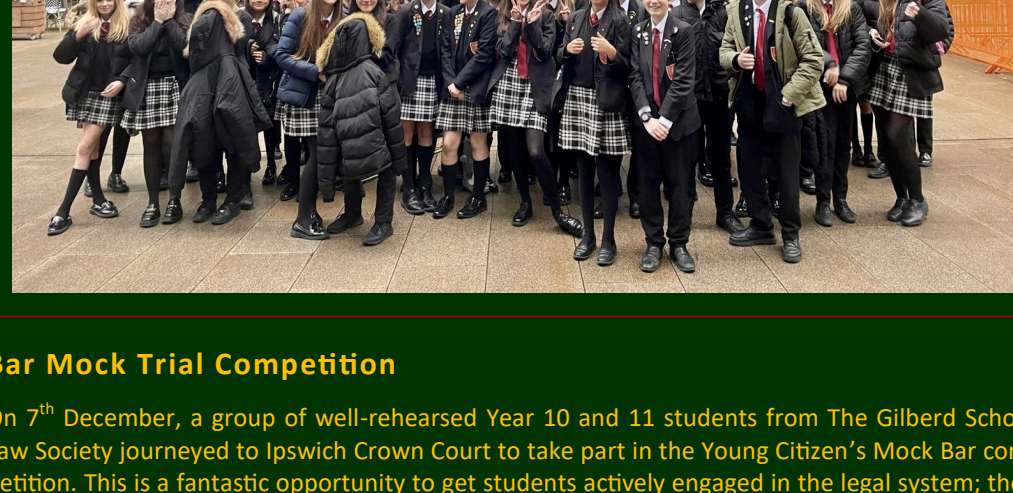


## Hamilton Theatre Trip

On 5<sup>th</sup> December, the Performing Arts Faculty had the pleasure of taking 50 Year 9 students to the West End to see the musical "Hamilton". Although the show has grown in popularity since being streamed on Disney+, many students were unaware of the spectacle that awaited them and for some, it was their first trip to a live performance in the theatre.

The dynamic performance left students captivated throughout. Many expressed their awe at the stage design, powerful singing and engaging storytelling. Equally impressive was the students' exemplary behaviour throughout the trip which was even acknowledged by members of the public. Gilberdians demonstrated respect, curiosity and represented our school with pride.

Ms C Howard  
Head of Performing Arts

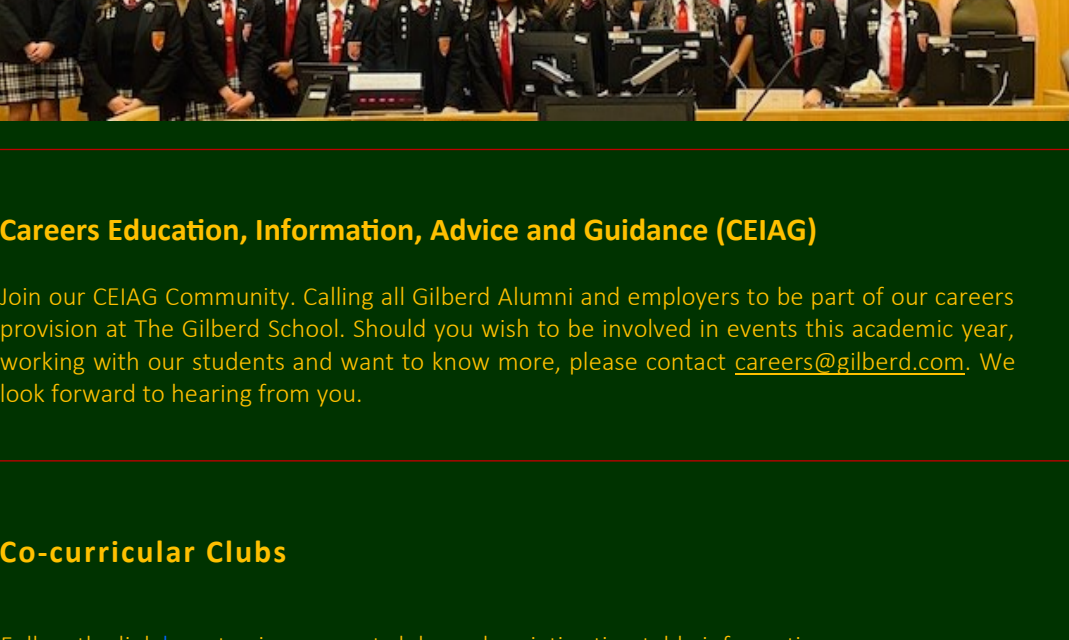


## Bar Mock Trial Competition

On 7<sup>th</sup> December, a group of well-rehearsed Year 10 and 11 students from The Gilberd School Law Society journeyed to Ipswich Crown Court to take part in the Young Citizen's Mock Bar competition. This is a fantastic opportunity to get students actively engaged in the legal system; they spend months combing through the evidence of a case and presenting legal arguments to both prosecute and defend. Students enact roles encompassing lawyers, witnesses and other court officials in order to run through the case as it would be in a real court.

Even in the heat of competition, our students held their own against the rival schools (and sixth form colleges). The day was a fabulous test of confidence, critical thinking and public speaking as well as a testament to the respect of friendly competition.

Miss M Kerrigan  
Mock Trial Coordinator



## Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

Join our CEIAG Community. Calling all Gilberd Alumni and employers to be part of our careers provision at The Gilberd 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

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

## Dates for your diary

**Non Pupil Days**  
Friday 14th February

**Half Term**  
w/c 17th February

**Assessment Weeks**  
13th - 24th January (Year 7)  
3rd - 13th February (Year 9)  
24th February - 7th March (Year 10)  
w/c 24th March (Year 11)

**Year 7 Parents' Evening**  
Wednesday 26th February (X-Pop)  
Wednesday 5th March (Y-Pop)

**Year 10 Work Experience**  
w/c 10th March (X-Pop)  
w/c 17th March (Y-Pop)

**Year 9 Vaccinations**  
12th & 13th March

**Year 9 Options Evening**  
Wednesday 12th March

**Year 9 Parents' Evening**  
Wednesday 26th March (X-Pop)  
Wednesday 2nd April (Y-Pop)

**Last Day of Autumn Term**  
Friday 20th December (school closes at 12:10)

**Year 10 Mock Interviews**  
Wednesday 8th January

**Start of Spring Term**  
Monday 6th January

**Dance Showcase**  
Thursday 3rd April

**Year 10 Information & Support Evening**  
Wednesday 15th January

**Years 7-9 Easter Ski Trip**  
Friday 4th April - Friday 11th April

**Year 11 Parents' Evening**  
Wednesday 22nd January (X-Pop)  
Wednesday 29th January Year (Y-Pop)

**Last Day of Spring Term**  
Friday 4th April (school closes at 15:20)

**School Production**  
w/c 10th February