



# THE EAGLE

Engage, Endeavour, Excel

## Message from the Headteacher

February has been a typically busy month in the school calendar. A number of trips and activities have taken place since the last edition and we hope you enjoy reading about these below.

The school show this year, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, concluded its five evening run at the end of last half term. All who saw the show agreed that it was a resounding success with performances that rivalled any professional theatre. We have been inundated with messages of appreciation for the work of our Performing Arts Faculty. The show was also watched by representatives from The National Theatre Awards and we are delighted to have been nominated in six categories. We look forward with eager anticipation to next year's production.

Finally, His Majesty's Inspectors (Ofsted) carried out an inspection of the school in February and we expect the report imminently. Thank you to those parents who supported the process via Parentview feedback. Students were a credit to the school throughout the process.

Mr J Mitchell  
Headteacher

## Dora Love Prize Launch 2025



On 21st January, eight Gilberdians attended the launch of the Dora Love Prize at Colchester Castle. The Dora Love Prize is an annual event where secondary schools produce projects on the topic of the Holocaust, other genocides and discrimination, and their prevention. This year's theme is "80 years after the liberation of the camps: time to stand up against a renewed wave of hate and exclusion." Our historians heard a talk from Professor Rainer Schulze and attended a range of workshops. They also listened to people share their experiences of discrimination, including a Holocaust survivor, Maurice Blik, who read an extract from his autobiography. Students left the event with many interesting, and sometimes shocking facts, and a sense of their importance in preventing prejudice and discrimination.

Eliza Vernitski  
Year 10

## British Army Band Workshop 2025



On 20th January, the British Army Band based in Colchester, held a workshop with some of our musicians from Years 7–11.

Students learned a variety of musical pieces which culminated in a performance in front of an audience of parents, staff and members of the Combined Cadet Force. We are immensely grateful to the British Army Band for their time, expertise and inspiration for our students. A rewarding experience was enjoyed by all.

Mrs V Chamberlain  
Subject Leader of Music



## An Inspector Calls Theatre Trip



We were delighted to take a group of Year 11 English students to see a production of An Inspector Calls, one of their GCSE Literature texts, at the Theatre Royal in Norwich. As always, our students were impeccably behaved and enjoyed this interpretation of the play.

Mrs P Slater  
English Department



## University of Essex Human Performance Unit

On 27th January, 90 GCSE PE students visited the University of Essex Human Performance Unit. We were the largest cohort of visitors the department has ever seen in one day!

The university lecturers and students provided our Gilberdians with an interesting taster session of Sports Science lectures.

In addition, they took part in muscular strength testing, plyometric sessions, biomechanics and cardiovascular testing. This experience has given our Year 10 students a powerful insight into the benefits of Sports Science and how the 1% really makes the difference in elite sport.

Mr A Hursey  
Assistant Curriculum Leader PE



## Kew Gardens Trip

On 23rd, 24th and 31st January, Year 9 students visited Kew Gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The famous glasshouses house plant species from around the world. The oldest potted plant can be found at Kew Gardens having arrived in 1775; it is still thriving! Students experienced the humid conditions of a tropical rainforest in the Palm House and a vast variety of plants collected from all continents around the world. Endangered plants, an important aspect of Kew Garden's work, were also on show. The tree top walkway was another popular attraction for those students who didn't mind heights. Once again, our Gilberdians were a credit to the school.

Mrs J Clarke  
Lead Teacher of Humanities



## Young Essex Assembly



Congratulations to Ishaq Ikram, Sarah Soetan and Pranav Yuvaraj who have been voted onto the Young Essex Assembly. They were competing against over 30 other students from Colchester for nine seats and were present at Essex County Council Chambers in Chelmsford when the results were announced. They will now attend regular meetings to put forward young peoples' views on local issues.

Mrs J Clarke  
Lead Teacher of Humanities

## Mathematics Nemo Competition

Congratulations to our mathematicians from Year 9 who took part in the North Essex Mathematical Olympiad at Thomas Lord Audley School.

One team were awarded second place overall, a brilliant achievement! Well done to William Oliver, Shayaan Jalib, Ethan Hunter, Jacob Wiekamp, Madison Gibson, Chloe O'Donoghue and Eloise Parmesser who took part.

Mrs A Duthie  
Assistant Curriculum Leader of Mathematics



## Careers and Alumni

Join our CEIAG Community. Calling all Gilberd Alumni and employers who wish 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

**Assessment Weeks**  
24th February - 7th March (Year 10)  
w/c 24th March (Year 11)

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

**Year 11 Examinations**  
Mock Oral Exams - 24th to 28th February  
Drama Practical Exams - 3rd & 4th March  
Core Mock Exams - 17th to 20th March  
Music Solo Performances - 24th to 27th March  
Dance Practical Exams - 28th March

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

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

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

**Dance Showcase**  
Thursday 3rd April

**Easter Ski Trip**  
Friday 4th April - Friday 11th April

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

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