



THE EAGLE

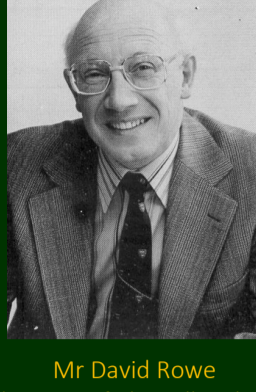
Engage, Endeavour, Excel

Message from the Headteacher

November has seen the handover of all remaining RAAC affected buildings back to the school and we are now fully operational; other capital projects will now resume to enhance the facilities of the site. The removal of the temporary classrooms has enabled completion of a significantly expanded and improved car park; we will now press ahead with plans to improve the on-site security and traffic management of the school.

On 21st November, we were delighted to celebrate the success of the class of 2024 at The Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall on the campus of The University of Essex; former students returned to receive GCSE certificates and special awards. The key-note speech and awards were presented by Barrister, Queenet Awesu LLB who left the school in 2015.

Finally, we were saddened to learn of the death of former Headmaster, David Rowe who passed away on the 29th October 2024. Mr Rowe was the second longest serving Headteacher in post from 1977 to 1994. He will be remembered for his kind nature and his leadership of the school during one of the most notable changes in its history, the transition from selective grammar to fully comprehensive school.



Mr David Rowe
Headmaster of The Gilbert School
1977—1994

Mr J Mitchell

Remembrance Day 2024



On Monday 11th November, the school remembered our nation's fallen heroes through a two minute silence. Students from the CCF and other uniformed organisations held an additional two minute silence, after the playing of the Last Post. All week, five students from the CCF delivered a moving remembrance assembly that they had researched and written themselves.

Miss A Bird
First Deputy Headteacher

Youth Residents' Panel

On 7th November, two Gilbertians - Noah Buckley and Eloise Parmessur - were invited to take part in a Youth Residents' Panel on the topic of 'Clean Air in Colchester' at Colchester Town Hall. The students discussed how pollution is formed, how it impacts health, and put forward ideas on how to reduce pollution in Colchester. They also looked at safety of pedestrians and cyclists. Both students were highly commended for their maturity and ability to contribute to, and lead, the discussions. The next Youth Residents' Panel will be focused on tourism.



Mr C Wilkinson
Teacher of Science and Visit Leader

NEESA Cross Country Championship

On 13th November, thirty students from Year 7 to 11 represented The Gilbert School in the NEESA Cross Country Championship at the Northern Gateway Sports Park. As always, the students excelled in terms of their commitment and behaviour. Eve Boggis, Lawrence Gordon, Luca Rogers, Hayden Fox and Megan Mooney all finished in the top 10 and have qualified for the next round of this event.

Mr A Hursey
Assistant Curriculum Leader PE



The Great Historical Debate



On Tuesday 12th November, two members of The Gilbert Historical Society competed in the regional heat of the Great Historical Debate at Colchester County High School for Girls. The theme of the debate was "How can our local history tell a global story?" Anaya Butt delivered a speech on Boudica and the importance of standing up to aggressors and repression. Bianca Biltac challenged the stereotype of the "Essex Girl" and debated the importance of two local suffragettes. Both Gilbertians represented the school superbly on the night, with Bianca being awarded second place.

Miss J Lambert
History Department

Student Safety

Now that we are approaching the winter months, we would be grateful if you could reinforce the need for students to stay safe on their journey to and from school. Those who cycle should be wearing cycle helmets and ideally high-vis jackets. They should not be wearing ear pods. In addition, students should ensure they have working bicycle lights if they cycle home after a co-curricular club.

We would also like to remind parents/carers that cars should not be driven onto the school site before or after school, unless you have a scheduled appointment. Instead, students should be dropped off along one of the approach roads to the school site where they can then walk into the school site. Please support us in keeping the site safe for our many pedestrians at these key times.

Miss A Bird
First Deputy Headteacher



NHS Careers Fayre

On 20th November, twenty-four Year 10 students attended the NHS Careers Fayre at Colchester United Stadium. The students had the opportunity to talk to working professionals in the NHS and participated in career discussions. All career stands were highly engaging, including an interactive element for the students to take part in. Thank you to all students, Mr Owens and Mr Tavner for another successful CEIAG experience.

Mr R Samjawn
Assistant Headteacher



Co-curricular Clubs

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

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

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. We look forward to hearing from you.

Dates for your diary

Non Pupil Days
Friday 29th November
Friday 14th February

Year 10 GCSE Short Course RE Mock
Tuesday 10th December am

Assessment Weeks
25th November - 6th December - Year 8
13th - 24th January - Year 7
3rd - 13th February - Year 9

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

Year 11 Examinations
Art Mock Exam - Wednesday 27th November
Textiles Exam - Thursday 28th November
or Thursday 5th December
Food Exams - 27th January - 14th February

Year 10 Mock Interviews
Wednesday 8th January

Start of Spring Term
Monday 6th January

Year 11 PE Practicals
w/c 2nd December

Year 10 Information & Support Evening
Wednesday 15th January

Winter Concert
Wednesday 4th December (5pm and 7pm)

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

Year 11 Mock Examinations
9th - 19th December

School Production
w/c 10th February

Half Term
w/c 17th February