

connect

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

A message from the CEO



Welcome to the latest Trust newsletter, brimming with stories of opportunity from the Mulberry Schools Trust.

We start with the story of eight students who recently returned from a transformative Global Girl Leading programme visit to New York. These experiences are crucial for breaking down barriers and ensuring girls have a strong voice in future.

We are thrilled that our East London Teaching School Hub (ELTSH) has recently been re-designated for 2024-2028. It will continue to provide access to valuable development programmes for teachers at every stage of their career.

Other Mulberry Changemakers programmes – Mulberry STEM Academy, Mulberry Production Arts Academy and the Mulberry Scholars Academy – continue to reach students of all ages. These programmes are truly life-changing.

I'm also delighted to welcome Chris Harvey as the newly-appointed Principal for Mulberry Academy London Dock, and look forward to hearing more about his hopes and plans.

Turn the pages to find out more about all the wonderful work taking place across our schools. Innovative teaching methods are providing enriching experiences for everyone in both secondary and primary phases, and every story reflects and celebrates the dedication of all our staff and the boundless potential of all our students.

Thank you for all your generous support this term – I hope you have a wonderful break.

Dr Vanessa Ogden CBE
CEO

Mulberry students shine in UN Conference and New York Global Study Tour

As part of our Global Girl Leading programme, eight Year 12 students from across the Mulberry Schools Trust participated in a New York study tour in March 2024.

The students attended the prestigious UN International School Conference *Equal Rights Equal Heights: Climbing the Ladder of Gender Equality* in the United Nations HQ. The conference addressed the persistent issue of gender inequality. Conference speakers included UN Permanent Representatives from Iceland, Sweden and Malta, and our students contributed to discussion and debate, to help develop bold new ways to close the gap between the genders. They also shared priorities for girls' education, voice and leadership.

As well as participating in the conference, our students also visited several iconic New York landmarks including the Empire State Building, Rockefeller Center and Ellis Island. They also recorded video diaries about their experiences in the city, which will be included in an upcoming film about the trip.



"It was an honour to represent the UK at the UN as Ambassadors. Young people still have much work to do to change the predetermined discrimination still present in today's world and, as global citizens, we can make that change. We also enjoyed experiencing the rich history and culture of New York City."
Khadjia Nasir, Year 12, Mulberry Stepney Green

107 Mulberry STEM Academy students graduate

On Thursday 8th February, we celebrated the 107 students in our third cohort at the Mulberry STEM Academy, who successfully completed and graduated from the year-long extra-curricular programme.



the ceremony, which was attended in person by other special guests from the F1 Team: Chief Technical Officer James Allison, Chief People Officer Paul Mills, and Hiran Odedra, Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

James Allison said:

“It’s completely impossible to watch today’s ceremony and not be inspired by these bright, young adults brimming with ability and enthusiasm for the STEM programme that they’ve just completed”.

The students gathered at Mulberry UTC in east London with their friends and families, to celebrate all their achievements and personal growth.

Video messages from the Mercedes F1 Team Principal Toto Wolff and Sir Lewis Hamilton were played during

The graduation of our third cohort means we have developed a pipeline of 200 talented students pursuing STEM destinations into university and engineering.

You can watch the highlights [here](https://bit.ly/49bmEfi)  (bit.ly/49bmEfi).

Students succeed in EPQ

Mulberry Academy Shoreditch students have achieved outstanding results in their Extended Project Qualifications (EPQs) – a remarkable 50 per cent demonstrated their dedication and academic excellence with top grades of A* or A.

One high achiever, Amina Begum, impressed everyone with her innovative project: ‘The importance of how a user-centred approach to designing video game controllers can make the media more accessible to those with hand mobility issues’. Amina compiled a 5,000-word report, delivered a presentation to staff and students, and used CAD software to model her proposed design for an accessible controller.

This year’s Cohort 4 started their EPQ projects earlier this term with a launch event at Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, which leads the programme for our schools.



Former academy students join alumni network

This term we launched our Mulberry STEM Academy Alumni network with 29 outstanding alumni – who now attend some top universities – showcasing their achievements to inspire our current Year 13 students.

It was a wonderful convergence of innovation and talent, with guest speakers Hiran Odedra, Head of Equalities and Diversity at Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd, and Aisha Noor, second year Mechanical Engineering undergraduate at Queen Mary University of London.

The alumni network was established to support our former STEM students during their university journey with practical help and guidance, including mentoring and promoting industry year placements.



Welcome to Mulberry Academy Woodside

Nineteen Year 10 students from Mulberry Academy Woodside have embarked on their Mulberry STEM Academy journey and their enrolment evoked fond memories of the learning and experiences of past participants. The new students were particularly excited to start building their Greenpower car at the launch earlier in the term.



Graduation celebrates 2023 cohort

The Mulberry Production Arts Academy celebrated the graduation of its 2023 student cohort earlier this term.

Parents/carers, Trust staff, governors and special guests enjoyed a wonderful ceremony in the Embassy Theatre at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. It was a privilege to celebrate everyone's achievements and we eagerly anticipate their impact on creative and cultural industries worldwide.

We have welcomed 40 new students from across the Trust into the academy's 2024 cohort. It is a great pleasure to bring this enthusiastic group of students



together, and we anticipate an exciting year of learning with tailored workshops to foster skills and an appreciation of the career opportunities in production arts.

Our students will gain key industry insights through the academy's mentoring and work immersion programme, and enjoy numerous opportunities to visit arts organisations, shows, exhibitions and events.

2024 cohort kicks off with team-building workshop

On Saturday 3rd February, the 2024 Mulberry Production Arts Academy student cohort enjoyed their first workshop at Mulberry UTC, where they were given an induction into the academy, participated in a variety of team-building activities, and engaged in an 'Introduction to Production Arts'.

Students particularly enjoyed the team 'Egg Drop' challenge, creating a landing craft from assorted materials to protect their eggs as they were dropped from the UTC Theatre balcony and grid, fostering team building and problem-solving skills.



MPAA launches outreach programme

We were delighted to launch the MPAA outreach programme across the Trust, starting with a scheme of work on production for Mulberry School for Girls Year 8 students during Drama lessons.

As the year progresses, the academy will start involving our Year 6 primary school students in production arts workshops, and expanding engagement to all Year 7 students across the Trust. The programme aims to broaden the understanding of career opportunities within production arts and the wider creative industries, and explore the close relationship between STEM and the arts.



Exclusive exhibition and campus tour at RCSSD

On 14th March, MPAA students visited the Tableau 2024 exhibition at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and went on a campus tour.



The exhibition was completely produced by BA (Hons) Theatre Practice students and gave our students first-hand insights into the breadth of creative specialisms and courses on offer in higher education.

East London Teaching School Hub re-designated for four more years!

We are delighted that our East London Teaching School Hub (ELTSH) has been re-designated for 2024–2028!

ELTSH, based at Mulberry School for Girls, is one of 87 Teaching School Hubs designated by the Department for Education. We are responsible for ensuring teachers and leaders from all state-funded schools in Tower Hamlets and Hackney can access the highest quality professional learning through our ECF and NPQ programmes. More than 2,000 colleagues have already engaged with our programmes and/or been supported by our Appropriate Body, and we look forward to working with many more.

We are also excited to offer a variety of teacher training routes, and you can find out more about all of the ways that you, your friends and family can train to teach with the Mulberry Schools Trust [here](https://bit.ly/3lxtscf) ↗ (bit.ly/3lxtscf).



Scholars receive one-to-one consultation with Oxbridge Applications

The Mulberry Scholars Academy recently hosted Oxbridge Applications, a part of the Dukes Education family of educators and advisers, at Mulberry UTC.

Sixth Form students gained exclusive insights from seasoned senior consultants, covering every facet of the admissions process in their one-to-one sessions that are a crucial component of the Mulberry Schools Trust's tailored programme for aspiring top-tier university applicants.

The consultations provided personalised guidance for scholars, shaping their university choices and outlining comprehensive plans for further preparation in their chosen fields.

Feedback from our scholars was overwhelmingly positive, as they embarked on their extraordinary journey with greater focus and enthusiasm. Having selected their desired university pathways, our scholars are now eagerly looking forward to subject-specific preparation for their chosen fields.



School to School Support

At a recent meeting with Claire Burton, the Department for Education's Regional Director, members of Reconnect London's School to School Support Steering Group discussed how it was assisting London schools that are facing challenging circumstances, by sourcing support for school leadership teams and governing boards.

With the support of the DfE and through the work of highly-skilled school leaders and governance professionals, Reconnect London is contributing to system-wide improvement and helping to shape the evolution of the school system in the city.

Mulberry Youth Conference tackles discrimination head-on

Now in its twenty-second year, our award-winning Mulberry Youth Conference brings together 200 Sixth Form students from across the UK every year.

For this year's theme, the Year 12 Youth Conference Planning Team chose the transformative potential of narratives in challenging discrimination: *Disrupting Discrimination: The Power of Storytelling*.

The exceptional line-up of speakers this year included award-winning poet Raymond Antrobus; renowned BAFTA and Oscar nominated filmmaker Waad Al-Kateab; successful author Eleanor Shearer; Free School Meals activist Christina Adane; and Fatima Rajina, an academic specialising in Bangladeshi women's experiences. Rounding off the line-up was poet and activist Mascuud Dahir.

The conference was, as ever, truly powerful and its success testifies to the persistent potential for young people to effect meaningful, sustainable change.



The adventure begins ...



I am excited to be Mulberry Academy London Dock's founding Principal, establishing the school as a world-class institution. We are bringing together a dynamic team of educators – all motivated by the opportunities an exceptional education can bring about inside and beyond the classroom – striving together for the best outcomes for all our students.



London Dock will be a child-centred community, where we value kindness in everything we do, priding ourselves on the positive relationships we have with each other, always celebrating the individual. With boundless energy, we will ensure the absolute best for our community, always expecting the highest standards of ourselves and each other. We have already had conversations with the families who will join us in September and are now busy planning visits to every student's primary school to support their transition over the coming months.

It's also brilliant to have the opportunity to think about all the practical details involved in establishing the school and developing its facilities: which books to buy for our wonderful library area to encourage reading for pleasure; whether to deliver textiles, food, graphics or robotics as subjects in Year 7; thinking about drama and the performance spaces; working out where to place digital signage; which offices to use – as you can imagine, it's a very busy time!

A living and breathing building

The school has been designed and constructed to achieve Passivhaus Certification, which means there is excellent indoor air quality along with extremely low energy consumption. It uses mechanical air supply to ensure CO₂ levels are kept below 1500 ppm, helping students to focus throughout the day.

Air for supplying into the school is gathered and filtered through rooftop air handling units which are furthest from the sources of pollution at



road level, and the increased air-tightness required in Passivhaus also limits noise in the building. We have carefully considered what plant species will help air quality and where we can plant them to improve the ecological impact across the site. You can already see our rooftop garden cherry trees blossoming from The Highway.

Following the flow of the river

Our new uniform is inspired by the River Thames, which flows nearby, and features a navy blazer with a porcelain blue trim on the lapel.



Reflecting the history of the area and recognising the former London Docks, the uniform represents Wapping's legacy of trade and migration, symbolising the connections and partnerships the school will establish on its journey.



A place to work, rest and play

The multi-level social areas in the courtyard are filled with plants and large trees, and provide opportunities to gather, play, socialise, or relax in peace. Sports and recreation areas throughout the multi-level terraces include a rooftop ball court, raised play deck on the ground floor and semi-covered multi-use games areas (MUGA) in the basement adjoining the sports hall. It won't just be the students enjoying these spaces, as there are bird-nesting and bat boxes, as well as biodiverse areas with planting and green walls for native wildlife species that need support to flourish in London's urban environment.



Students attend thought-provoking Gresham College X Mulberry lecture

At the beginning of March, we were thrilled to host 126 Key Stage 5 students from our Trust schools for the third *Gresham College X Mulberry* lecture.

Our speaker on this occasion was eminent scientist Dr Ian Mudway, Visiting Professor of Environmental Health at Gresham College and senior lecturer in the School of Public Health at Imperial College London. In his fascinating lecture, Dr Mudway outlined research that demonstrates how air pollution has profound effects on brain development, how we think and feel, our wellbeing and mental health and, over the long term, on the risk of developing dementia.

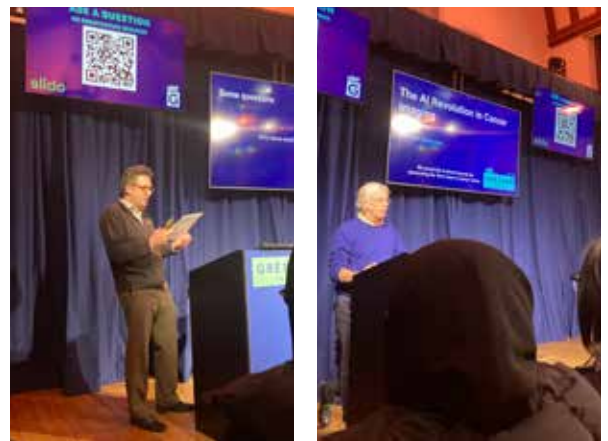
Students thoroughly enjoyed the lecture and posed questions throughout. It was a thought-provoking event and an important reminder that improving air pollution delivers measurable benefits for everyone's health. Our next event is with Professor Martin Daunton, Emeritus Professor of Economic History at the University of Cambridge.



AI lecture provides healthcare insights

Year 12 students hugely enjoyed a Gresham College lecture with Dr Richard Sidebottom, on how artificial intelligence is enabling safer, faster and more accurate healthcare, unlocking smarter cancer imaging as well as revealing new insights from medical scans.

This fascinating lecture looked at how deploying AI in radiology empowers healthcare professionals to provide even more compassionate and precision care for patients with cancer.



Sherriffs' Challenge success

The Sheriffs' Challenge is an annual speaking competition run by the City of London, where students deliver 8-minute presentations on a question related to the City.

This year's question was: 'Should the City of London do more to improve learning and career opportunities for those from less privileged backgrounds?'. Our students were up against four other schools in the heats at Anglia Ruskin University, and won! We are now heading to the finals at the Old Bailey.



Visiting the Centre of the Cell

Our students visited the Centre of the Cell at the Blizard Institute of Queen Mary's Medical and Dental Centre, where the engaging and hands-on interaction with scientific concepts really enhanced their understanding and retention.

Playing games inside a simulated cell and nucleus made learning about cellular biology both fun and memorable, and it's good to see educational institutions providing such innovative learning opportunities for students.



Contributing to the Idea Store

On 7th February, a group of Year 7 students visited the Watney Market Idea Store in Tower Hamlets to meet the local council's Children Services Development Manager, explore the space and offer their ideas and suggestions about the kinds of books, authors and activities they would like to see at this important community hub.

It was a great opportunity for the students' voices to be heard, and to inform the development of local services for young people in the community.



Level 2 H&SC students enjoy pasta-making workshop

A week of work experience is just one of the many future-enhancing opportunities available to Mulberry School for Girls students.

This term, Level 2 students studying Health and Social Care enjoyed a pasta-making workshop as part of an additional food hygiene qualification.



Exploring radical generosity and infectious optimism

On Tuesday 20th February, Year 12 and Year 10 students were treated to an engaging talk by author and filmmaker Jon Ronson, in conversation with Chris Anderson, the head of TED Talks.

The discussion explored the transformative impact of radical generosity and infectious optimism, emphasising how powerful ideas can shape the world for the better. A special thank you to Intelligence Squared for orchestrating another thought-provoking and inspirational event.



Mulberry unites in celebrating UN International Mother Language Day

Every year, Mulberry School for Girls commemorates United Nations International Mother Language Day with a gathering of the whole staff and student community, to embrace and celebrate our rich linguistic and cultural diversity.

Student-led events marking this year's celebrations on 21st February featured the creation of multilingual poetry and lessons in more than 17 languages, with the day's lively highlight, the Culture Fair, offering a joyful blend of music, clothing, colours and cuisine to showcase the linguistic and cultural richness of our community. Students and staff sharing the diversity of their heritage made the Culture Fair a truly vibrant and memorable occasion for the entire school community.





A captivating visit to Google HQ

An eye-opening journey to Google Headquarters in Victoria provided Year 13 Media students some rare insight into the inner workings of a leading tech company's workspace.

Our students were particularly struck by the innovative atmosphere and bespoke decor that offered a blend of functionality and fun.

Complimentary massages, an all-you-can-eat canteen and a variety of leisure facilities in this workplace like no other, left students 'wowed' at every turn. Beyond the amenities, the students were struck by the culture of trust among Google's staff, the blending of professionalism with enjoyment, and how important passion and dedication are for organisations that thrive on innovation.

The transformative experience stressed the productive connection between a conducive work environment and excellence, igniting sparks of ambition in our students; the gourmet buffet at YouTube Headquarters only enhanced the overall experience. This experiential learning opportunity gave students valuable insight into the diversity in the workforce and business practices of successful global organisations like Google.



Adventures in theatreland on both sides of the river

Our Performing Arts students have experienced a diverse range of live theatre across London this term.

In January, they attended the National Theatre's Live Theatre Review Student Conference, learning how to write about theatre from a critic. They also participated in workshops with acclaimed physical theatre company, Gecko. These explored the company's use of physicality and performers' mother language in productions, and culminated in watching them perform *Kin*, their hugely moving physical retelling of refugee stories.

In February, students saw *Samuel Takes a Break* at the Yard Theatre. Set in 2019, Ghana's Year of Return, it explored colonialism's impact on British identity, a theme they were able to explore further when they met playwright Rhianna Ilube after her workshop at the UTC.

The adventures continued at Theatre Peckham, for Pilot Theatre's production of *A Song for Ella Grey*, a retelling of the Orpheus myth produced as a piece of teen theatre, before concluding with a fast-paced adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* at Shakespeare's Globe.



Care and creativity with Magic Me

Year 10 Health and Social Care students have embarked on a project with Magic Me, a charity using arts and creative activities to bring generations together and help increase individuals' confidence and wellbeing, while building connections across different faiths, cultures and backgrounds.

This enriching opportunity connects our young people with service users of a local residential care home, and involves using creative flair to devise a character to collaborate, connect and converse with the older people.

The students can see first hand all their knowledge about human growth and development applied in real life, opening their eyes to the importance of social care in practice; supporting both the physical health and emotional needs of an individual.



MUTC take over Ernst & Young

As part of the EY Foundation programme, MUTC students were the first in Tower Hamlets to be formally invited to spend a day at the spectacular Ernst & Young HQ in Canary Wharf.

The Year 10 students were exposed to the exciting world of business and consultancy and our budding consultants worked in teams to produce a pitch to their clients to grow their business. They had to demonstrate team working, problem-solving and presentation skills under strict time guidelines. Some of the students can already picture themselves in the corporate world.



National Apprenticeship Week 2024

Students from across the UTC have had the opportunity to discover the variety of routes into apprenticeships in a packed week of activities that included the Apprenticeships Fair.

A talk from beauty practitioners B by C Studio focused on how studying a STEM apprenticeship works as an entry route into the beauty industry and, through progression and development, can lead to starting your own beauty business. The Metropolitan Police, PWC and Berkeley Group PLC presented on the opportunities available in their organisations, and the government's ASK programme provided students with advice about the application process, including covering letters, psychometric testing and interviews.

5-11 FEBRUARY 2024

#NAW2024

IT'S NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

Pitching to the BFI

This term, learning in Digital Media prioritised subject and industry expertise, alongside developing student experiences that simulate professional encounters.

Year 13 students have been engaged in an employer-led project with the BFI, following a brief to develop a one-minute promotional film about the work of the BFI as an institution.

The 17 students worked on three pitches, met staff at BFI, had the opportunity to film 'on location' there, and had a behind-the-scenes tour of the IMAX where they saw the film roll in the projection booth. They're looking forward to presenting their work to their 'clients' at the end of term.



Stay tuned: Mulberry TV



There is much activity beyond the classroom within the Creative Industries faculty where students are busy working towards achieving the UTC Charter, extending their skills and experiences for the future.

A passionate group of Year 12 and Year 13 Digital Media students have been working on journalistic content for 'Mulberry TV', led by Dr James Ohene-Djan, MUTC Governor and Senior Lecturer and Assistant Pro Warden at Goldsmiths, University of London. They are developing their skills in video journalism, interviewing people at the UTC and in the local area.

House victories at annual basketball competition

This term, we hosted our annual basketball competition.

We had a fantastic turnout of students from all years.

Congratulations to Barbican for winning the Key Stage 3 Boys' game, Tower for the Girls' game and a mixed team of Globe, Tate and Barbican for the Key Stage 4 Boys' game.

Thank you to all of the families that came by to watch, Coach Nasser for his support and Year 12 student Titi Hassan for his help with refereeing.

"I love basketball because, whenever I'm stressed, I go and play basketball and I forget about everything else. It's great to do something you love. I liked how the House Team did a girls only team because it made more girls join in and feel comfortable to play. It was nice to have my family come along and for them to see - even my little sister was there which was very cute. Next year I would think about refereeing a match."

Lisbeth Guacho 9C (Tower)



A Level students explore Belfast's rich history and politics

This term, A Level History and Politics students enjoyed the tremendous opportunity of a three-day visit to Belfast.

The activity-packed trip included visits to the Ulster Museum, Stormont (the seat of the Northern Ireland Assembly), the Crumlin Road Gaol, and a tour of the Belfast murals.

Although there was lots of walking, it gave students the opportunity to explore much of the city. The trip helped students understand more about the Troubles, the conflict in Northern Ireland taking place from the late 1960s until the Good Friday Agreement was signed in 1998.



Students conquer slopes in Italy

On Saturday 13th January, 41 students left Mulberry Academy Shoreditch to travel to Sestriere in Italy.

The students enjoyed four days skiing during a packed week, with five-hour lessons from trained instructors each day.

The progress all the students made is evident in the photos from the slopes. Everyone had lots of fun and some even managed 'red runs' by the end of the week. Having given their all for the whole week, our very tired group of students returned on Friday 19th January. We are already looking forward to planning next year's trip.



Dr Ronx discusses representation in medicine during assembly

We celebrated LGBTQIA+ History Month in February, with particular focus during tutor time. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from Dr Ronx Ikharia.

Dr Ronx graduated from Kings College Medical School London in 2011, and is an emergency doctor renowned for their contributions to CBBC's Operation Ouch! House leaders Jaya Green and Maggie Cunningham interviewed Dr Ronx during assembly, delving into their experiences as a queer, black, androgynous, intersectional feminist working within the NHS.



Annual Nobel Prize Awards recognise students' achievements

On Tuesday 6th February we held our annual Nobel Prize Awards event to celebrate the hard work and commitment of our amazing students in Science, Maths and Computer Science.

A big thank you to all the staff and students involved and to the fabulous audience - all the parents and carers who came along to support and congratulate their children at this really lovely event.



Van Gogh comes to life

The English and the Arts Society visited the amazing Van Gogh Immersive Exhibition on Brick Lane.

Through the VR machines and the 360-degree immersive virtual projection, students felt like they really stepped inside the paintings.



"My favourite part of the trip was the VR because it was a new experience and the forest part was other-worldly. The last room we went in was outstanding. It was like watching a movie of the paintings!"

Ahmed Ahmed, 9B

A Level game developers showcase creativity in 2D

Our A Level Computer Science students are progressing well with their projects - the majority have chosen to develop 2D games, showcasing creativity and technical skill.

Some notable examples include:

- Nabil Ahmed's project, resembling a Pac-Man style game, utilises Dijkstra's algorithm to determine the shortest path to the player.
- Amina Begum has combined elements of Tetris and Fireboy and Watergirl in her project, where Spiderman navigates challenges to reach the end goal.
- Mas'ud Sharif's project focuses on a car racing game, incorporating the laws of physics to ensure accurate acceleration and deceleration.

These projects highlight the students' innovative approach to developing games, demonstrating their understanding and application of various algorithms and principles in Computer Science.



A Level Geography students conduct in-depth study in Somerset

In February, our A level Geography students went on a four-day trip to Minehead in Somerset to complete field work, which involved students formulating their own unique questions to investigate, and planning, collecting and analysing their own data.

The students studied both the human and physical aspects of geography. They investigated Minehead as a 'place' - collating primary data from questionnaires and surveys to understand local people's perception of Minehead, and how places change over time and space, socially and economically. The students also studied the varied coastline, physical processes and how human interaction has changed the shape of the land through soft and hard engineering methods: collecting data on beach profiles, groynes and completing bio-polar analysis.

The visit provided students with the opportunity to gain invaluable skills and experience consolidating their learning with the real world.



Year 8 students explore art and French culture at the Wallace Collection

Twenty talented Year 8 French and Art students visited the Wallace Collection in Marylebone - a beautiful museum housing paintings, sculptures, furniture and armoury owned by four generations of the Wallace family, who bequeathed it to the nation in 1897.

Students took part in a workshop run by the resident artist. They learnt about the history of the museum and explored different parts of the building to get inspiration. They produced impressive drawings from different rooms in the house furnished with beautiful Rococo chairs, paintings and sculptures. Students shared their work and discussed what they thought of the beautiful surroundings.

After lunch, students went on a French treasure hunt around the museum, and returned to school thoroughly inspired by the whole experience.



Students conquer DofE outward-bound experience

Twelve students completed an exciting and challenging five-day Duke of Edinburgh Outward Bound course in Ullswater in the Lake District.

The wide range of activities included canoeing, scrambling, gorge climbing and a two-day expedition involving an overnight high camp in extreme conditions.

Students responded to these challenges superbly and grew in confidence, teamwork, environmental awareness and leadership.



Students dive into cartoon culture and masterpieces

Art and Graphics students recently visited the Cartoon Museum, where they had the privilege of meeting a professional cartoonist and artist with over three decades of experience. The visit provided them with valuable insights into this dynamic creative industry.

During the visit, students were treated to a personalised tour of the museum's permanent collection, and enjoyed the temporary 'Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers turns 30!' exhibition. Students also had the opportunity to appreciate diverse artworks at both the National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery.



More than 500 girls gather for athletics excellence at Lea Valley event

On Thursday 18th January, Mulberry Stepney Green organised and competed in the Girls Indoor Simmonds Cup at the Lea Valley Indoor Athletics Centre. This event brought together 15 top athletics schools from across London.

We take immense pride in our young female athletes, competing alongside more than 500 girls to showcase their talent among some of London's finest athletes.



Year 12 students thrive in mentoring session with global law firm

Our Year 12 students had the opportunity to participate in a mentoring session hosted by global law firm Clyde and Co.

The students distinguished themselves with their professional, proactive approach - the event enabled them to explore the intricacies of the legal profession and gain insights from legal professionals that will be invaluable on their journey towards fulfilling their own aspirations.



Imperial College London ignites Maths interest

Our Year 8 girls enjoyed a rich and rewarding workshop at Imperial College London, focused on igniting young women's interest in maths-related careers.

The students engaged with inspiring female mathematicians, helping them envision themselves pursuing mathematical paths, and everyone left with newfound confidence and a renewed passion for Maths.

Year 10 prepare for world of work

Year 10 students participated in mock assessment centre workshops to prepare for the world of work - these featured a variety of exercises, role-playing scenarios and simulated interviews to build confidence and capability in articulating ideas, interview techniques and teamwork.

We are really proud of the professionalism displayed by our Year 10 students, which bodes well for their onward progression into further education and the world of work.



Scientists in action at Mulberry Wood Wharf

This term, Panda Class visited the Soanes Centre in Tower Hamlets to explore more about their topic on 'materials'. The children applied their scientific skills in classification and observation to sort objects according to their materials.

They sorted everyday objects into groups categorised as metal, plastic, wood, animals, and rocks and minerals, and the class touched and described their material properties. They collected wooden sticks and firewood in the meadow outside and watched Dim, the leader of the trip, use them to create a fire. We began the process of transforming wooden sticks into charcoal.

"When I collected the sticks, I had to make sure that they made a snap noise and that they broke easily, the bendy sticks would not be able to start a fire."

Adam

"We had to be sensible and we were not allowed near the fire, the teacher said that fires can only ever be lit when there is a trusted adult doing it. First, there was a lot of smoke, I have never seen this happen before!"

Madina



Spectacular stories come to life

To mark National Storytelling Week, Blue Whale and Tiger Class visited Stratford Discover Centre where the children entered a world of storytelling.

They met an alien named Hootah, from the planet Squiggly Wiggly, who was looking for new stories to bring back to its home. The children developed their own stories through exploring the different areas in the immersive centre. Returning to Hootah, we created a story about a unicorn, donkey and fairy who travelled over a rainbow to another world. The characters then tapped their heels and magically arrived back home.

It was truly an amazing trip that inspired the children to create their own stories at school. Throughout the week, in the writing area, the children created their own stories about aliens, robots, unicorns and mermaids, and now each child has a unique story to share with their friends.



All the way to Antarctica!

Panda Class received a very special message from Antarctica this spring. The video message was sent from the class teacher's friend who is travelling in Antarctica. Kate showed the spectacular snowy environment while explaining how she keeps warm in the cold climate.

The children learnt to describe the location of the continent and the physical features. Anvit noticed melting ice in the ocean and Maria was excited to see snow-capped mountains. The class watched a second video message where they saw a colony of gentoo penguins relaxing on the frozen continent. Yashveer said penguins like swimming in the water and huddle together to keep warm.



“Oh no you didn’t!”

We were delighted to welcome some Year 8 students from Mulberry School for Girls who brought their travelling pantomime to perform in front of our Mulberry Wood Wharf students.

It included two short performances of *Cinderella* and *Little Red Riding Hood*. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the show and were captivated by the acting, storylines, singing and dancing while joining in with the traditional pantomime booing and “Oh no you didn’t!”.

Seeing older Mulberry students perform is so inspirational for our students – one day it could be them touring other schools, showcasing their performing talents.



All around the world

Panda Class have completed their most recent homework project where they had to create a 3D model of a world landmark.

This supported their learning in geography, finding out about continents, countries and cities. Models ranged from the Christ the Redeemer statue in Brazil and the pyramids in Egypt to Count Dracula’s castle in Romania.

The models have now been displayed in the school museum for all to admire, and it has been wonderful to learn about places in the world without visiting them.



Time to celebrate

We have had a busy term celebrating festivals and family traditions.

In January, we marked the Chinese New Year – by wearing red and taking part in a whole school dragon parade – and also Malanka, a Ukrainian folk holiday.

In February we made pancakes and spoke about Lent, and on the 1st March we had an assembly about a Romanian spring celebration called Martisor.

We continue to love learning about each other and our family traditions; we celebrate how different and unique we all are at Mulberry Wood Wharf.



Lights, camera, action!

Blue Whale and Tiger Class recently embarked on a trip to the Half Moon Theatre to watch *Luna Loves Library Fay*.

It was a brilliant show full of singing, acting and a storyline that included a young girl who loved reading and the imagination it awakened.

Our students were fully immersed throughout the mesmerising show. Their behaviour was excellent, and they showed exemplary manners when applauding the performers.



A mouse took a stroll in the deep dark wood ...

Blue Whale and Tiger Class put their creative skills to work as they designed and made their own snowy *Gruffalo's Child* story boxes.

Each scene included its own character from the story, and the children used their knowledge of their character's distinctive features, using clay and natural objects to craft something unique.



Mulberry Woodside student secures first place at public speaking competition

This term, Aleiya Francis (10Q) and Imani Miah (10Q), two students from Mulberry Academy Woodside, proudly represented the school at the Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge Regional Finals, held at Fortismere School.

Their outstanding speeches, fuelled by dedication and effort, received well-deserved recognition and brought immense pride to Woodside. A special congratulations to Aleiya, who secured first-place at the event. With this victory, Mulberry Academy Woodside earns the honour of hosting the Regional Final in the upcoming year's competition.

"Winning as Haringey's finalist is a big deal, and it's something I was pushed to do, and I can carry this amazing achievement with me moving forward. Even if I didn't win this final, I would have won the experience of making connections with other students from a range of local schools. If you're contemplating whether to step out of the box, do it for the outcome. You never know what's placed for you in the future!"

Aleiya



Doctor Who star teams up with Tender on healthy relationships

On Monday 5th February, Doctor Who star and Tender Ambassador Jodie Whittaker, attended a special Valentine's Day drama workshop at Mulberry Academy Woodside.

The workshop was organised by Tender UK and demonstrated how creative practice from theatre and the arts can help young people learn about healthy relationships, and prevent violence and abuse.

The workshop offered a taster of Tender's secondary school programmes, currently in action throughout the UK. With Jodie's help, Tender's expert facilitators guided Year 9 students through a series of activities to unlock their creativity, while embedding positive attitudes and behaviours.



The visit attracted media attention on BBC Breakfast and Sky News. You can watch our brilliant students in action here:

[BBC Breakfast](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56188888) [↗](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56188888) (bit.ly/3v8CXvw)

[Sky News](https://www.sky.com/news/health-56188888) [↗](https://www.sky.com/news/health-56188888) (bit.ly/3TwMy8U)

Wellbeing Group Programme recognises Year 7 graduate achievements

During the final weeks of the February half term, many Year 7 students graduated from the Wellbeing Group Programme, which culminated in their outstanding presentations in the Wellbeing Room.

Our Headteacher, Ms Wallace, and Deputy Headteacher, Ms Sanford, presented certificates to acknowledge the students' achievements.

This effective programme, aimed at Key Stage 3 students, fosters confidence, resilience and self-esteem while emphasising emotional wellbeing. With more than 70 students participating since October, the success of the initiative is encouraging more to join in the months ahead.



Songwriting workshop

On Friday 26th January, Year 10 musicians had an opportunity to engage in a songwriting workshop in a unique collaboration with Collage Arts.

They worked closely with a professional songwriter and producer, diving into the depths of music composition.

Themed around 'colours', the workshop urged students to explore varied musical elements and techniques, spurring creativity and teamwork. From engaging warm-up exercises to collaborative brainstorming sessions, students embraced the challenge of translating their ideas into compelling musical compositions. A highlight was creating the original song *Todo Somos Iguales* (*We're all the same*).



Basketball brilliance as Woodside teams showcase skills and resilience

On Wednesday 28th February, our Year 8 and Year 10 basketball teams showcased their talent and determination at the Annual Borough Basketball Competition

The Year 8 squad, featuring Lucas, Aimen, CJ, Kadir, Makarios, Jesus and Bryan, delivered standout performances and secured a well-deserved sixth-place. Meanwhile, the Year 10 team faced tough opponents, narrowly losing to Fortismere, but stunning Alexandra Park School with an impressive 11-3 victory! Aiden, Azeez, Haydar, Efe, Tyler, Luciano and Umut's teamwork secured this remarkable triumph, highlighting their resilience on the court as they beat the pre-tournament favourites.



Year 7 students explore diversity through interactive workshop

On Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th February, the Year 7 cohort took part in a Diversity Role Model Workshop.

Run by expert facilitators and supported by inspiring LGBTQI+ and ally figures, our dynamic secondary school workshops are designed to foster critical thinking and essential skills.

We empower students not only to identify and confront gender and sexuality-based discrimination but also actively cultivate a culture of inclusivity and acceptance within their school community.



Respect takes centre stage during Praise Week

Mulberry Academy Woodside recently celebrated Praise Week from Monday 5th to Friday 9th February, during which students were recognised and rewarded for demonstrating our shared values of pride, respect and kindness.

Each Praise Week is dedicated to one of these core values, with this year's focussing on 'respect'. The students were encouraged to embody the spirit of respect in their actions and interactions, both in lessons and around the school. As a special incentive, students were awarded double points for exhibiting respectful behaviour.

Students worked together as a team, fostering a positive and supportive environment throughout the school. Each day, the winning form groups were rewarded with prizes that included breakfast sessions during tutorials and special pizzas at lunchtime.



Launching the term with goals and dreams

It was lovely seeing the children reconnect with their teachers at the beginning of term, as bright warm smiles thawed the characteristic chill of the season.

As ambition is one of our school values, it was also particularly pleasing to see such focus and alertness, as children and teachers quickly got down to the business of learning. Acting Deputy Headteacher Agata launched the new term with her assembly on 'goals and dreams' as part of the school's Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education. She shared the story of the Roman god Janus who symbolises beginnings, transitions, doorways and pathways.



The children reflected on how setting goals can create promising new pathways, we ended the week sharing our own goals and dreams for this term, and we look forward to seeing how the children work towards achieving them.

A fitting start to the day

With thanks to those parents and carers who attended the family breakfast during the week of 19th February to launch our whole school Magic Breakfast Club.

This has been enabled by our membership of Magic Breakfast, which has funded the resources and equipment we need to run the club.

All children are now welcome to join us from 8 am, free of charge, when Magic Breakfast will be delivering our warm and cold breakfasts, including everything from fresh fruit and cereal, to porridge, bagels and beans on toast.



Where parents/carers would like to contribute, the school will use the funds to buy new games for children to play with at the club.

Pop Up Book Hut has arrived

Now that our Pop Up Book Hut has arrived, all the children have received their book bundles and will soon be able to use the hut to swap books for others they would like to read. Children took their book bundles home over the February half-term and many returned hoping to see the book fairy.



Elephant class cooks up fun and apple pie with skills and creativity

Elephant Class has been exploring *The Gruffalo's Child* this term, and been busy using cutting and sticking skills to make their own shadow puppets. They loved using their puppets to cast shadows on the interactive board.

They also made a delicious apple pie. They love cooking weekly, which also helps build new vocabulary and develop skills such as maths, sharing and taking turns.



Year 3's cooking adventure with Country Trust

Each Thursday, Year 3 embarks on a cooking adventure with Kirsty from Country Trust. They were lucky to be visited this term by Jill Attenborough, the CEO, and Sophie Green to help them prepare chermoula and an indoor self-watering pot.

It was wonderful hearing the children talk about the ingredients and where they come from, and they showed great confidence in their ability to use various kitchenware and make decisions on how to adapt their recipe. According to one of the children, the chermoula was "exquisitely delicious"!



Year 4 resilience at Canary Wharf ice-skating trip

Year 4 were so excited to go ice skating at Canary Wharf. The whole class showed great resilience trying to skate and balance throughout their session.

The children haven't stopped talking about how much fun it was since returning to school, and have been writing instructions on how to ice skate and learning more about the sport by watching Olympic ice skaters.



Year 2 have a brainy adventure at the Science Museum

Year 2 enjoyed a stimulating visit to the Science Museum this term, where they explored the space galleries, learnt all about our brain and had much fun creating patterns with the interactive exhibits in the multi-sensory Pattern Pod.



Year 3 visit ancient Greek artefacts at the British Museum

Year 3 are learning about the ancient Greeks and they had an amazing time at the British Museum.

They went on a scavenger hunt, looking for artefacts around the museum and exploring what life was like during this period. Children were inspired by the beautiful pottery collection and drew designs that will be printed onto their vases in art.



Students thrive in climbing adventure

This term, our students had an exciting and challenging afternoon at Mile End Climbing Wall, a top venue for climbing in London.

Starting with the Secret Garden climbing wall, they soon progressed to the higher and more demanding walls. They tried bouldering – low-level climbing without ropes – and finished in the Monkey House, where they were challenged to hang from the walls for as long as physically possible.

Congratulations to Faiza who proved the strongest, and claimed her skills and techniques have developed from using the monkey bars in our school playground!


Mulberry

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