

# connect

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

## A message from the CEO



As we reflect on another dynamic term, I'm delighted to be sharing the latest highlights and achievements from across the Mulberry Schools Trust.

Our recent *Shoulder to Shoulder* fundraising event at Wilton's Music Hall was a resounding success, underscoring not only the generosity of our community but also the exceptional performance of our students. Their dedication and talent were on display throughout a joyful evening of celebration and unity.

As ever, this term was busy with enriching experiences beyond the classroom, with students embarking on international trips that have broadened their global perspectives, and a special visit for families to the Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd factory. I am hugely grateful for the dedication of our schools and the unwavering support from our families to make all these experiences possible. You can find articles about all these and more in this issue.

Our Trust continues to innovate in education – from Mulberry College of Teaching's induction day for trainee teachers to the upcoming Global Girl Leading Conference and our Attendance Summit – we are committed to excellence in all our endeavours.

In this, our final newsletter of the school year, you'll find plenty more about the initiatives and outstanding achievements that distinguish our schools, showcasing the dedication and creativity of all our students and staff.

I hope you are all able to relax, rest and rejuvenate during the summer break. I look forward to the beginning of another exciting year for the Trust.

Dr Vanessa Ogden CBE  
CEO

## Mulberry Schools Trust lights up Wilton's Music Hall



On Wednesday 10th July, Mulberry Schools Trust took over the legendary Wilton's Music Hall in Shadwell.

*Shoulder to Shoulder* featured students from across the Trust performing in a wide variety of pieces, including a group from the Trust Choir and Trust Orchestra, a drama performance exploring the past, present and future, the premiere of *Letters to Our Daughters*, and a special performance of My Shot from *Hamilton* with actor Karl Queensborough.

Students performed to a warm and generous audience full of friends of Mulberry, trustees, governors, parents and carers, and our community.

The event was held to raise awareness and funds for the Mulberry Schools Foundation, the charitable arm of the Mulberry Schools Trust. This hugely successful event raised more than £20,000, enabling the Foundation to start offering new opportunities to young people from across our schools and the communities we serve.

You can learn more about the Foundation by contacting us on [info@mulberryschoolsfoundation.org](mailto:info@mulberryschoolsfoundation.org).

**"I have been given great opportunities to perform through Mulberry. Over the last year I have developed my confidence to act and, as a result, I have recently gained a place in the National Youth Theatre."**

**Shamari Cooke, Mulberry UTC**

## Current and former students visit Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd

On Tuesday 25th June, eleven Mulberry STEM Academy students – five from Year 13 and six currently at university – enjoyed the opportunity of a special visit to the Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd factory.

A special reward from the Mercedes F1 Team, the trip recognised students who particularly demonstrated one of our PRIDE values: Passion, Respect, Innovation, Determination and Excellence.

During the inspiring visit and exclusive tour of the factory, families learned about the fascinating history of F1 and the Mercedes team, and enjoyed networking with team members.

Everyone felt it was a ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ experience and we’re hugely grateful to the entire team at Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd for including our parents and carers in this wonderful partnership.



**“Coming back to the Mercedes F1 headquarters and seeing everyone again was an amazing experience. Both my parents loved the facilities and thought it was a brilliant day and they enjoyed the tour.”**

**Zaquan, Year 13, Mulberry Academy Shoreditch**

## University of Bath engineering trip

On Tuesday 30th April, all Year 12 Mulberry STEM Academy students travelled to the University of Bath to learn more about studying engineering. Members of the student-led Engineers Without Borders society gave a campus tour, followed by inspiring talks from PhD students about their ground-breaking research and achievements in competitions such as Team Bath Racing. With thanks to Ms Gillot for organising such an enriching experience, which also gave students a chance to explore the city.



## STEM careers conference inspires students

On Wednesday 22nd May, STEM scholars were given their first opportunity to network in person at the Mulberry STEM Academy careers conference, hosted by Mulberry School for Girls.

Graduates from Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd – including the Head of Mechanical Design, a programme planner and an aerodynamicist – joined the conference virtually with inspiring speeches about their careers.

Students engaged in conversations with speakers, asking questions and seeking advice and guidance on how they too can pursue and succeed in STEM careers.

## Mulberry’s Greenpower racing begins

The Mulberry Schools Trust Greenpower competition season is well under way and scholars in Years 10 and 12 have attended three races, competing in heats for the International Finals in October 2024.

On Saturday 22nd June, the Mulberry Canon Barnett team competed in its first ever Greenpower Goblin Race at Ford Dunton in Essex. The young students thoroughly enjoyed designing and building their Greenpower Goblin car, *Tremendous Tigers*, during workshops with Mr Bakhtiar, and many families joined us to watch their children racing.





## MPAA students explore theatre technology

On Thursday 6th June, MPAA students attended the UK's largest theatre industry trade show at Alexandra Palace.

The ABTT Theatre Show is where specialist suppliers supporting live performance technology and production gather to connect with those who deliver the performance in the world of theatre, events, festivals, music and more. Students spent an enjoyable day exploring the show, networking with industry professionals and engaging in a variety of activities, skills workshops and seminars. Students particularly enjoyed a skills workshop led by The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. 'Getting to know pleats and pleating' offered students a chance to craft their own samples, helping them understand the intricate pleating process and how it shapes the silhouette of a costume.

The day ended with an engaging seminar run by live event specialists TAIT on the behind-the-scenes secrets of *MJ the Musical*, with industry experts from automation and the scenic workshop.



## Students craft realistic injuries

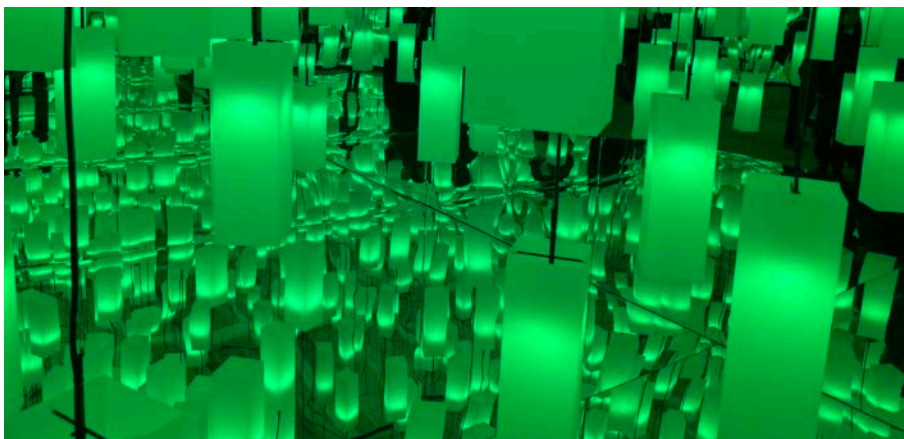
On Saturday 25th May, MPAA students participated in an engaging workshop at Mulberry UTC, hosted by Rc-Annie, an industry-leading company specialising in stage combat and special effects for stage and screen. Students learned about using fake blood in theatre and onscreen, and enjoyed creating their own gory-looking mock injuries using blood bags and capsules. The workshop gave students a rare opportunity to develop their understanding of special effects and stage make-up in theatre.



## Inspired by *Delight*

This term, MPAA students enjoyed a visit to *Delight: Media Art Exhibition*.

*Delight* uses sound, light and technology to create an entirely new type of large-scale visual and spatial installation, bringing the South Korean city of Seoul to London. This was an invaluable experience for MPAA students as they will soon be learning how to create their own immersive exhibition for the Mulberry Festival of Arts later this year.



## The art of prop making

MPAA students participated in a prop-making workshop devised by The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, creating prop doughnuts using clay, silicon, plaster and paint. To make the doughnuts appear realistic, students painted them with a biscuit-coloured wash, coated them in plaster 'icing', and topped them with chopped-up coloured cocktail sticks for 'sprinkles'.



## Mulberry College of Teaching welcomes its first cohort

Mulberry College of Teaching – the Trust’s own accredited provider of initial teacher education – recently opened the doors to its first cohort of trainee secondary English teachers.



Alice Ward, Headteacher of Mulberry School for Girls, spoke about the rewarding career ahead of them during an induction day, where they were able to meet our course leaders, the school-based mentor team and fellow beginner teachers.

The day was designed to help them develop their teacher ‘persona’, and included visiting lessons with their mentors to gather valuable insight into how established teachers use their voices to engage learners.

Everyone left equipped with practical advice on how to prepare for their training and the upcoming academic year, and we look forward to welcoming them back for the official start of their programme in September. As one beginner teacher said, “I look forward to starting this exciting journey”.

## Scholars excel in Oxbridge programmes

Our students are making great strides in their top-tier application journey. Early in the summer term, Mulberry Scholars Academy participants concluded their 12-week Oxbridge subject extension programmes, gaining valuable insights into their chosen fields of study from experienced mentors.

The focus has now shifted to the application process itself, and students have been introduced to the nuances of early entry applications and the requirements of top-tier universities. They have also started preparing for admission tests, completing a preparation day and embarking on a four-week course.

Students will be having one-to-one consultations to review their draft personal statements, providing them with specific areas to refine over the summer break. All these efforts are geared towards the early entry UCAS deadline on 16th October. We’re proud of their progress and excited for their future.

## Global Girl Leading

On Friday 11th October, the Mulberry Schools Trust will be holding its annual Global Girl Leading Conference at the QEII Centre in Westminster, London.



More than 400 students will be joining us, not only from the UK but also from across the world and we’re excited to be welcoming students from as far afield as Mexico, Kenya and America.

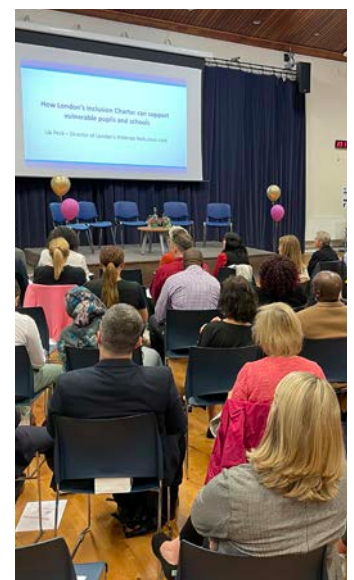
The event aims to help girls learn about how women are leading change on local, national and international levels, encouraging them to see themselves able to make change as part of a global sisterhood.

You can find out more information about the event, and about participating either in person or online, from the Mulberry Schools Foundation by emailing [info@mulberryschoolsfoundation.org](mailto:info@mulberryschoolsfoundation.org)

## Summit addresses student attendance

On Friday 5th July, Reconnect London and the Mulberry Schools Trust hosted a conference on the critical issue of student attendance. School leaders, policymakers, researchers and other key stakeholders came together to explore evidence and share effective practice. It was also an opportunity to celebrate the work of Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, a Department for Education designated regional ‘attendance hub’.

The event aimed to foster stronger collaboration within the school system, connecting experts and practitioners to pursue strategies that improve attendance and support for all students.





## Finding connections

It was wonderful to see so many children at our Year 6 Friendship Fair just before the May half term break. We much enjoyed learning about each other, beginning to find connections across next year's founding cohort of children at Mulberry Academy London Dock. It was a pleasure to introduce some of the teachers who will be teaching Year 7, as well as staff from across the Trust.

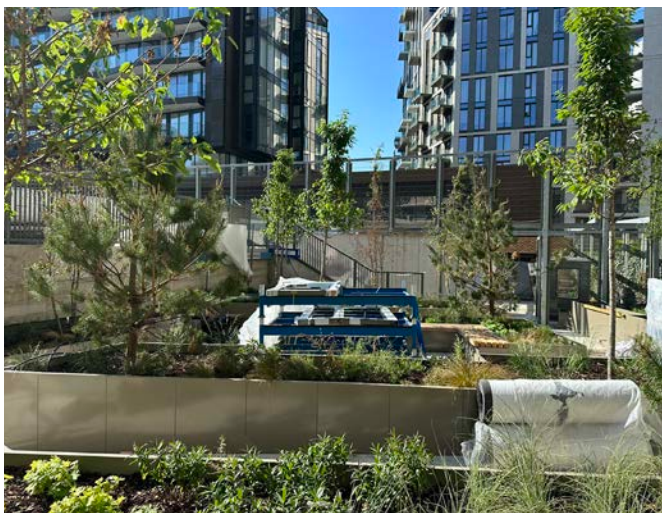
Beginning with a map featuring all the primary schools from where children will be coming to join us and learning what we have in common, we played 'find someone who', to learn each other's names and interests - we discovered everyone likes going on school trips, and many of us wanted to travel through time!

Our excellent Year 10 student ambassadors from Mulberry School for Girls and Mulberry UTC facilitated activities bringing children together in small groups to complete challenges, like building a newspaper bridge to go over the River Thames, sharing strengths to be inflated in balloons, and reflecting on what might worry us about joining secondary school. Everyone created stars to show we were all unique, and built a Lego wall of values that we believe are important for our exciting new school.



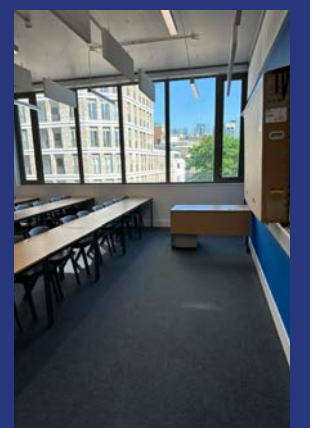
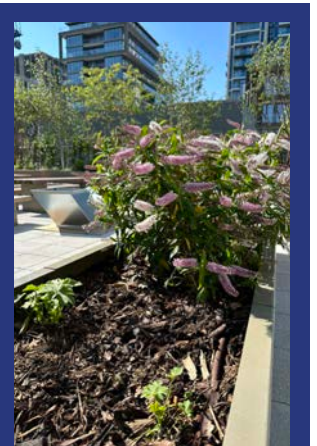
## A community school

As the first secondary school in Wapping, Mulberry Academy London Dock will play an important role in the community, and we've been busy meeting representatives from local organisations to build relationships in the area. From religious, community and business leaders who come together as part of the Wapping Collective, through to local charities like the Jesuit Refugee Service and Citizens UK. We've also appreciated time and insight from the Friends of St Katharine Docks and ward leaders, who have helped develop the school's travel plan.



## Nearly finished

We've been visiting the new school site regularly, to see how well contractors are progressing with work to complete each part of the building - having started on the fifth floor, they're now working on the ground floor. The three roof-top terraces will make great learning spaces outside and are already enjoying the sun, while the building's internal layout will also ensure the corridors and classrooms inside are filled with light.





## Mulberry Girls visit USA for Model United Nations

In April, a team of 12 students from Year 10 and Year 12 proudly represented the UK at the Global Classrooms International Model United Nations, held at the iconic United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Action kicked off with an opening ceremony in the UN General Assembly Hall, at the heart of international diplomacy. After weeks of intensive preparation, research and speech-writing, each Mulberry School for Girls delegate persuasively presented their country's policies during the formal opening session, before embarking on spirited phases of Moderated or Unmoderated Caucus and formal negotiations; collaborating to draft detailed resolutions within caucus blocs amid fierce competition.

Our delegation's efforts were widely recognised, with outstanding performances from Taibah and Yusra causing considerable celebration. The pride was palpable as the two Mulberry students distinguished themselves among the best and brightest in an arena teeming with more than 1,200 international students from the United States and nine other nations.



## Year 9 takeover day

On Friday 21st June, we hosted a careers takeover day for Year 9 students, which coincided with national Refugee Week.

Students joined celebrations of multiculturalism, acknowledging the journeys of all those people who had come before them. They explored the history of East London through a workshop with Oxford House creative community hub, and met Somali author Zainab Dahir and Bengali folk singer Syeda Nasim Queen. Students were also collectively involved in creating personalised wellness packs to end period poverty in conflict zones, working with organisations Fihri and Sisterhood.





## Year 12 explores Oxford

Year 12 students recently visited Oxford University through the Wadham College of Science Oxbridge Programme (WCS) on Wednesday 3rd May. They toured the College, attended workshops on admissions, and connected with undergraduates. Feeling inspired and supported, they left ready to pursue their higher education dreams. WCS's commitment to their journey continues as they aim for success.



## 'Aspiration Inspiration' careers fair

On Wednesday 24th April, Mulberry School for Girls proudly hosted its second annual career fair, 'Aspiration Inspiration'. With more than 30 highly-regarded organisations attending, our students were presented with a myriad of opportunities for inspiration and guidance. Guests included The Metropolitan Police, King's College London, University College London, Department for Work and Pensions, and BBC.

The event offered a gateway to explore numerous possibilities, providing students with valuable insights to help shape their future career paths. We were delighted to have been able to facilitate such an opportunity again, empowering our students to pursue their aspirations with confidence and determination.



## Raising thousands through Philanthropy Thursdays

This term, students have been involved in Philanthropy Thursdays, raising money for Doctors without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières) in response to the crisis in the Middle East. Students have organised and run sports tournaments, a talent showcase, a funfair and several bake sales. We were excited when parents/carers and families joined in with their very own fundraiser, and are thrilled we raised a total of £3,028.58.



## Clifford Chance mentoring

Since April, lawyers at Clifford Chance – one of the world's largest law firms – have been working with some of our students to help them plan their futures. This mentoring programme enables Clifford Chance employees to volunteer to work with students to guide them in planning their next steps. Sessions can cover how to approach revision, what to study or pursue in the future, and how to find opportunities for work experience. We were pleased to find out that at least one former student is still in regular contact with her Clifford Chance mentor.

## UTC connects with the National Theatre

Students at the UTC recently participated in National Theatre Connections – a productive partnership with professional theatre professionals.

The programme involves students working with a script written specially for young people by the National Theatre’s professional writers. Devising a production for their home venue, they then work in partnership with a West End theatre where they showcase their skills in a final performance.

Students at the UTC performed *The Periodicals*, a play exploring the damaging effects on young people’s mental health and education following the Covid-19 lockdown. Students from all year groups took part in every aspect of the show, to produce the performance they had devised together as a student-led company.

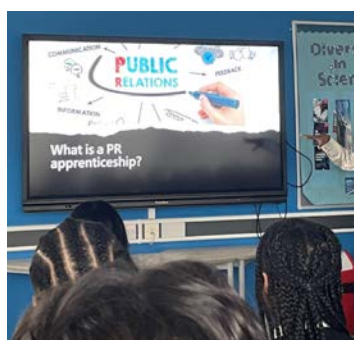
Students’ committed and productive work with a National Theatre director culminated in a performance at the West End’s Soho Theatre, where they worked with its professional technical team to gain an insider’s view of the performing and production arts industry.



## Futures Day at Mulberry UTC

This term’s ‘Futures Day’ gave all our Year 12 students a chance to investigate the kind of apprenticeships and university routes available to them when they move on from the college, exploring their intended pathways and the application processes involved.

Keynote speakers from the University of Hull and Goldsmiths, University of London, offered support and guidance on choosing the right course, and in-depth advice on writing the all-important personal statement.



Students interested in the apprenticeship route had the opportunity to attend an ASK apprenticeship programme, with three interactive workshops on the application process – application, mock assessments and interviews.

Whatever their aspirations, we will continue to support all Year 12 students in making informed decisions about their future education and development, helping them make the applications they will need to succeed.

## T Level Employer Set Projects

Our T Level students have excelled in another successful year for the Employer Set Project.

With the support of Barts Health NHS Trust throughout their assessments, students completed more than 14 hours of tasks: starting the journey of an adult nurse from a case study; researching a patient’s condition and situation; writing a report; role playing as a healthcare assistant with a (Barts Partners) patient; writing a healthcare plan; receiving peer feedback; presenting to a senior (Barts Partners) colleague; and ending with a reflection. Our Barts NHS partners paid tribute to our students’ development during the programme: “It was amazing to see how they started the year very shy, to knowing exactly what is expected of a confident healthcare assistant”.







## Future Professions Summer School

The new Lord Mayor, in collaboration with City, University of London, launched The Lord Mayor and Liveries Future Professions Summer School to equip young people with the essential skills they need for their future careers.

Eight lucky Year 10 students from Mulberry UTC were chosen to attend the initiative, which covered the skills needs of a wide variety of career pathways and professions including health, law, business, science and technology, policy, politics and creative industries. Our students made connections with employers and higher education institutions, joined practical workshops and benefited from personal career guidance.

## Year 10 health gets creative

Year 10 Health and Social Care students have had the opportunity to work collaboratively with a local arts charity, Magic Me, to put all their health knowledge into practice.



The sessions have been running since January and enabled the students to talk, share stories and get creative with the older people living in a local care home. The students have learned first-hand the value of creative communication and collaboration, and we are looking forward to celebrating the culmination of the project with a showcase of the intergenerational masterpieces they have made together.

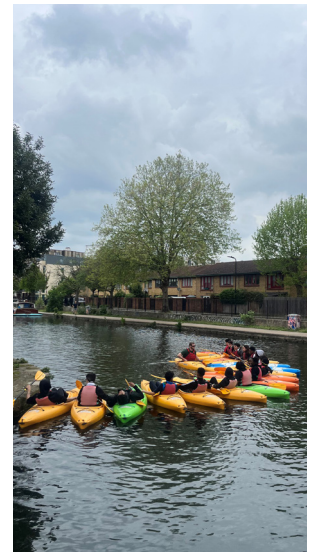
## On set at Pinewood Studios

Year 12 Media and Film students enjoyed a day at the Creative Media Skills Institute at Pinewood Studios, the world-famous production studio where many of film's most iconic scenes have been shot. A directing workshop, with a director and a cinematographer working in the film and television industry, helped them hone their skills in interpreting a script, directing actors, capturing the perfect shot and conveying narrative through the art of cinematography.



## Year 10 PE summer fun

Over the summer term, our Year 10 students have been learning new skills and broadening their knowledge of physical education in various external PE lessons. They have braved the River Thames to learn about kayaking, and have more recently participated in a CrossFit session, a Muay Thai class, indoor parkour, boxing and ice skating. They will be finishing the term's physical endeavours at Flip Out adventure and trampoline park.



## Year 12 embraces work experience

This term, Year 12 students will be broadening their understanding of specialist subjects by putting learning into practice, as they gear up for work experience. Media students have placements with Barts Health NHS Trust Media and Communication Department and urban design and planning specialists Publica, science students will spend time in pharmacies, opticians and healthcare centres, and health students will attend primary schools, nurseries and care homes. These experiences support their learning, developing the understanding and skills they will need to thrive in their future workplace.

## Societies students make memories in America

In early June, Societies students from across the Mulberry Schools Trust, led by Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, spent five days on a thoroughly memorable visit to Washington DC.

They spent an enjoyably busy time on the streets of America's capital city, exploring its wide avenues, inspirational marble architecture, public squares and the National Mall. The subway transported them to numerous museums, monuments and memorials, including iconic buildings like the White House, the Lincoln Memorial and the Capitol Building, and to see world-renowned collections housed at the National Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of Natural History.

All Societies have enjoyed busy terms, with trips to the Royal Navy base at Worthy Down near Winchester, the National Army Museum, Strawberry Hill House and to Lord's for the Armed Forces Cricket Day; as well as a workshop at Queen Mary University of London and a lecture from Bank of England adviser Céline Gondat-Larralde.



## Year 7 conquers Olympic Velodrome

On Thursday 2nd May, Year 7 students spent an exciting morning at the famous velodrome in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. They started outdoors with a BMX session on the outdoor track, building skills to ride over the rollers and jumps, before heading into the velodrome for a taste of cycling around the iconic Olympic track. They were taught how to ride the brakeless track cycles and showed considerable perseverance, courage and a growing confidence as they rode higher and faster around the track as the day progressed. You can discover for yourself what everyone found so thrilling at the after-school clubs and school holiday sessions they run. Find out more at: <https://www.visitleevalley.org.uk/lee-valley>



## Gaudi's masterpieces amaze students

Our unforgettable school trip to Barcelona in early May left many awestruck by the historical Gothic centre, especially Antoni Gaudi's distinctive architectural masterpieces.

While the intricate design of the Sagrada Familia left a particularly lasting impression, many will also fondly remember unwinding after our adventures by relaxing on the beach, soaking in the Mediterranean sun. Barcelona's captivating blend of history, art and vibrant energy made this an unforgettable experience for all of us.







## Epping Forest expedition success

On Thursday 6th June, 12 Year 9 students embarked on their assessed bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition in Epping Forest.

This section of the award aims to build initiative and a sense of adventure with a self-sufficient team journey, and students successfully used maps and compasses for their trek, working in teams to put up tents and cook dinner on outdoor stoves. Well done to everyone who took part.

## TrailFam triumphs in Snowdonia

Trail running charity, TrailFam, has been particularly busy with the Mulberry Academy Shoreditch race team this term. In May, they spent four days in beautiful Snowdonia, climbed Snowdon itself, and did some mountain trail running in the spectacular Welsh countryside with Robbie Britton, the ultra-distance coach and athlete. Students helped at the aid stations, keeping the Ultra-Trail Snowdonia runners cool and hydrated, and competed in the children's race, which Leo won!

With many congratulations to Leo and TrailFam and many thanks to Mr Stokes, Ms Pitts, Ms Hassan and Mr Cox for making it all happen.



## Year 7 reaches Prince's Trust finals

Four Year 7 students made it through to the Prince's Trust Regional Finals in May, where they pitched a fantastic idea for a non-profit business to clean up our parks and local area. They also happened to be the youngest team competing and we are hugely proud of them all. Heartfelt congratulations to Maria Eduarda Da Silva Tripode, Zoya Ibnat Yakub, Sheikh Ibrahim Rahman and Mohammed Yusuf Alam.



## Leaders visit for insights on attendance

On Tuesday 18th June, senior leaders and attendance leads from schools across England had the opportunity to see how we approach our attendance practices, share insights and ideas at our final open morning for the London Attendance Hub. We're grateful to Mr Collis and Ms Montgomerie for organising this fruitful event.





## First Year 7 Culture Day a celebratory success

Following a request from the School Council, our Year 7 students recently enjoyed exploring the diversity of the school community during Mulberry Stepney Green's first ever Culture Day.

Celebrations – held on Friday 21st June – began with an assembly organised by Cultural Ambassadors from Years 8 and 9, and their teachers. Students learnt about what makes some of our staff and students proud of their heritage, and about some key demographics of our borough community. Students researched some of the cultures that contribute to the rich tapestry of our school as part of a House Competition, and took part in an inter-house cricket competition. Creative culture lessons through the day ranged from a food tech session and making Chinese lanterns in art, to a football-themed music lesson and a Polish games class.

There was a tangible excitement throughout the day as students embraced the cultural exchange – just as keen to be learning about others' cultures and the diverse backgrounds of classmates and teachers as they were celebrating their own heritage by proudly wearing cultural dress or the colours of their flags.



## Sports Day celebrates school and Olympic values

We view our annual Mulberry Stepney Green Sports Day as similar to the Olympic opening ceremony, sparking enthusiasm for the following two weeks of inter-house sporting competitions. This year's hugely successful gathering – on Thursday 13th June – was no exception, with students from Years 7 to 10 competing in a whole variety of athletics events.

These competitions enable students to contribute points for their House in activities they excel at, promoting a sense of inclusion and teamwork. However, like so much of the activity across the Trust, Sports Day also goes beyond competition and we actively encourage students to embody the Olympic and Paralympic values: Excellence, Respect, Friendship, Determination, Inspiration, Courage and Equality. We believe in celebrating personal bests and recognising how each student contributes to the collective effort.

## Year 10 bowled over by rewards

This term, Mulberry Stepney Green celebrated its role model students, rewarding their achievements, perfect 100 per cent attendance and positive behaviour, with a trip to Hollywood Bowl.

These students consistently contribute to the school community and we're hugely grateful to the Jack Petchey Foundation for funding a fun day of bowling, lunch and arcade games that gave us the opportunity to show our appreciation for these exceptional individuals.

The fact that venue staff commented on how well-behaved and polite they were just added to our reasons to be proud of them, and sealed the success of the day.





## Awards ceremony inspires girls

Mulberry Stepney Green's girls had an inspiring time at the Asian Women of Achievement Awards on Thursday 27th June.

Celebrating success in law, medicine, sport and business, students also had the privilege of meeting Cherie Blair, who personally welcomed them and offered encouragement. The students left feeling inspired by the achievements of the women they met.



## Teamwork triumphs at Escape Room

On Thursday 6th June, 28 students enjoyed a memorable trip to the Sherlock Holmes Escape Room, generously funded by the Jack Petchey Foundation. The immersive experience tested students' problem-solving, teamwork and critical thinking skills as they tackled the mysteries and puzzles, drawing inspiration from stories of the legendary detective.



## Students explore urban art

This term, students have been working on their new 'Urban Environments' project, exploring new artists and materials to build their skills. They started by looking at works by contemporary Korean artist Sunga Park, exploring different buildings and refining work with a fine liner pen.

The second artist they explored, Tom Quigley, uses Manchester as the backdrop to his paintings. The students used acrylic paint, rather than oils, to explore techniques for layering, building texture and mixing colour.



## Students grow food and friendship

On Wednesday 26th June, a group of SEN students had the exciting opportunity to participate in a food growing and outdoor learning project at Stepney City Farm. This aimed to teach invaluable gardening skills and provide opportunities for hands-on experience of local agriculture.

Beyond the educational aspects, the project was an opportunity for the students to enhance their social skills, interact with others and build friendships. They also literally enjoyed the fruits of their labour, as some students had the chance to taste the broad beans they planted.







## All the fun of the fête for the Foundation

Mulberry Wood Wharf's first ever school fête, on Friday 28th June, really showcased the wonderful spirit and unity of the Wood Wharf community.

The sun was shining brightly, creating the perfect backdrop for a spectacular afternoon of joy, laughter and community spirit. Parents/carers and students were truly instrumental in bringing the fête to life, donating their time, effort and resources to raise money for the Mulberry Schools Foundation. It was a real team effort to choose the range of stalls, from 'shoot it out' soccer and face painting, to ice creams and a raffle with many great prizes. We could not have managed without the help of the students from Mulberry UTC and Mulberry School for Girls, who dedicated their time and energy, helping build and strengthen our relationships with other schools in the Trust.

The children were the stars of the day, radiating happiness, kindness and gratitude. From the henna stall to 'hook a duck', everyone found something to enjoy, and all their smiles and laughter were the highlight of the event.

## 'Oh I do like to be beside the seaside!'

This term, Blue Whale and Tiger classes enjoyed a wonderful trip to the seaside, a short coach journey away at Chalkwell beach.

Many children had a splash and swam in the cool water, while other children created sandcastles. Many young explorers found baby crabs and other sea creatures before the tide swept in, and everyone enjoyed lunch around picnic blankets, gazing at the beautiful beach view with friends and family. A refreshing ice lolly ended our delightful day, which many children felt was "the best day ever!". As all the adults also enjoyed our great day out, everyone was a winner!



## Spectacular summer show

Mulberry Wood Wharf students certainly showcased the full range of their talents with their confident and joyful performances in the final show of the school year.

Everyone's personality really shone throughout a rich programme of song, dance, readings and artworks. Some energising Latin, street and contemporary dance from the after-school dance classes launched the show; Blue Whale and Tiger classes sang a song about a caterpillar, drawing on their learning about life cycles; Panda class had written a poem based on A A Milne's *Now We Are Six*; and all classes displayed some striking artwork. After a performance from the school choir, we all sang some shared songs together, using the sign language we have learnt over the year.





## Crawly caterpillars

We welcomed some new visitors into school this term ... caterpillars! The children had much to say as they gathered around the caterpillar jars to make observations, including Nephi's "Look ... they have little spikes on their backs!", and while Muntaha felt that "The caterpillars are very small", he also suggested, "They will get fat like the *Very Hungry Caterpillar!*".

The children observed them over time, to learn all about life cycles, and after a couple of weeks we arrived at school to find out we had butterflies. We held a ceremony releasing them into nature and really hope they come back to visit us soon, as we became quite fond of having them in our classroom.



## Positive printing

Panda class has been learning all about printing in art lessons this term.

The children were inspired by Karen Lederer, an American printmaker, leading them to create their own printing tiles, working collaboratively to produce an art class masterpiece. They drew their favourite animals that they have explored in science, and carefully carved their drawings which they printed onto material with paint. Arielle said, "I like it that all of our prints are different, but they go all together perfectly on the material, I think we should put this on display".



## All aboard!

Panda class embarked on an unforgettable riverboat cruise along the Thames, turning a regular school day into an extraordinary adventure. As the boat travelled down the Thames, the children took in the sights, tapping into their History and Geography topics they have been working on throughout the year to talk about what they could see, and the history of the London landmarks. The trip offered the children a unique blend of enjoyment and education and, as Malcolm put it, "The boat went under the old bridge, and we went past some other big and old boats, it was the best trip ever!".

## Five little ducks went swimming one day ...

We were so excited to welcome some eggs into the school. They were inside a warm incubator and, after a couple of days, they began to hatch and out came some ducklings! The children fed, watered and cleaned the ducklings, ensuring they had everything they needed. They named the ducks and really enjoyed having cuddles, holding them gently and carefully in their hands. It was another great way to learn about life cycles and how to care for living things.



## The more you read, the more you learn

We recently held our first ever book fair at Mulberry Wood Wharf – an opportunity for our families to browse and buy books to take home, read and enjoy. A love of reading has continued to be a key priority for the school and we think it's fair to say that all the children now enjoy picking up a book to read.

## MAW students kick off conversation on mental health

Mulberry Academy Woodside students recently attended the *Inside Matters* conference hosted by the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation's Premier League Inspires programme at the football club's stadium in north London.



The event focused on promoting mental health awareness among young people and Year 8 and 9 students engaged in various activities to enhance wellbeing, including mindfulness workshops, managing stress through daily habits, and understanding the psychological impacts of music. They also practised meditation and breathwork.

The stadium tour was a particular highlight, offering a unique break and a fresh perspective on wellness.

All sessions were interactive, providing students with practical skills to support their mental health and the whole enriching visit underscored the importance of mental health education, demonstrating how sports organisations like Tottenham Hotspur can play an effective role in community health outreach. The day was both educational and applied, with students and staff providing positive feedback on how the practical insights they gained would enrich their daily lives.



## Catherine West MP launches new canteen provision

On Friday 17th May, Mulberry Academy Woodside celebrated the inauguration of its new canteen and after-school provision by Catherine West MP. The (now former) Hornsey and Wood Green MP joined governors and community organisations at the new school facility to mark the expanded offering of extended school hours for secondary students.

Students showcased a wide range of extracurricular activities, including the notable Mulberry STEM Academy programme in partnership with Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd. Catherine West recognised the importance of providing supportive spaces for students outside regular school hours and Headteacher Angela Wallace highlighted the school's mission to provide exceptional education and experiences, emphasising the new facility's role in enabling students to extend their learning and recreational opportunities.

## Year 9 visits Charles Dickens Museum

On Friday 14th June, our Year 9 and future GCSE History students enjoyed an engaging and informative trip to the Charles Dickens Museum and the Royal Courts of Justice. At the museum, they explored Dickens's home and learned about his life and crime and punishment in the Victorian period.

A workshop helped students understand the era's laws before they headed off to the Royal Courts of Justice, where students participated in a mock trial to establish the fate of Jack Dawson, much better known as The Artful Dodger. The trip was educational and engaging, deepening their understanding of Victorian society.







## Students participate in election hustings

On Wednesday 19th June, a group of Year 8 students were invited to the Southgate and Wood Green School Hustings at St Thomas More School, in anticipation of the general election. This event provided an exceptional opportunity for our young students to engage in the political process and familiarise themselves with local electoral candidates.

In front of a room filled with Year 10 and Sixth Form students, our students demonstrated their emerging civic awareness as they posed insightful questions to the candidates with remarkable grace and confidence.

## Author Tim Tilley visits Woodside

On Friday 7th June, we welcomed award-winning author Tim Tilley for an inspiring workshop.

The author read extracts from his debut novel, *Harklights*, and shared his passion for storytelling with Year 7 students, discussing his inspiration, research and creative process. He also suggested follow-up activities to encourage their own writing.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were thrilled to receive signed copies of *Harklights*. Tilley's visit left them inspired and eager to explore their own storytelling potential. We're most grateful to Tim Tilley for generously sharing his time and enthusiasm.



## Windrush Voices workshop

On Tuesday 4th June, Year 8 and 9 students visited a Windrush Voices workshop at the British Library, as part of Mulberry Academy Woodside's ongoing commemoration of the annual Windrush Day. The workshop provided students with an insight into the lived experiences of the Windrush generation and we were also invited as guests to visit *Beyond the Baseline: 500 Years of Black British Music* - a temporary exhibition at the British Library. Our students loved the variety of musical styles and artists on show.



## Football Beyond Borders Annual Showcase

On Friday 7th June, Mulberry Academy Woodside students attended the Football Beyond Borders (FBB) Annual Showcase, *Brave New World*, at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

The event celebrated FBB's tenth anniversary with partners Nike and EA Sports, featuring inspirational young people from across the country sharing their experiences highlighting the importance of trusted adult relationships.

Fernando, now mentoring our Year 8 students, spoke about FBB's impact on their lives. The event also featured Chelsea and Matildas star Sam Kerr, who emphasised the importance of trusted adults in shaping young people's attitudes towards society.

The showcase underlined the transformative impact of FBB's work and their ongoing mission.





## Year 5 shines in STEM

We feel so privileged to be a part of the Mulberry STEM Academy. This year the Year 5 students have taken part in CREST superstar awards and have been involved in designing floating rafts, and making and testing band rollers.

In robotics lessons, they have learnt how to programme a robot to move, speak and dance. During the summer term, the students dedicated time on Saturdays to attend the Mulberry STEM Academy, where they designed and built an electric powered car, which they raced in a Grand Prix race in Essex.

With great determination they raced skilfully against other schools, and came very close to winning. It was a real pleasure to see so many families supporting their children at the event, which was a great day for us all – we couldn't be prouder.



## Celebration assembly

We have been incredibly proud of all our students and their achievements this term. The values Creativity, Resilience, Integrity, Respect, Independence and Ambition are not just words but lived experiences within our school community.

Every week, in the Fantastic Friday assemblies, teachers select two students who have been demonstrating the value of the week to give real life examples. As we continue to celebrate these values, we look forward to seeing even more outstanding accomplishments in future.

The *Attendance Award* is proving very popular and creating a lot of healthy competition amongst the year groups. The class with the highest attendance for the week wins the magnificent trophy, and this has certainly encouraged children to come into school every day!

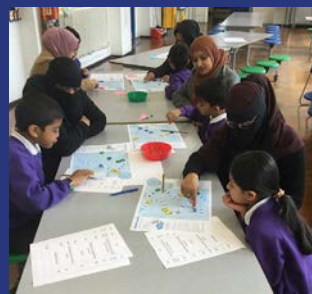
To continue with our celebratory theme, the photograph shows Year 2 enjoying a pyjama party – something they chose when their 'marble jar' was full. All students can earn marbles for demonstrating the school values, which get added to a class jar and, when it is full, they can select something of their choice as a reward. We have seen some fantastic teamwork to fill the jar this year.

## We are mathematicians

At Mulberry Canon Barnett we love to have fun with maths, and there seems no better way to do this than by playing games and involving parents and carers too.

Years 1 and 2 have taken part in the Ocean Maths workshops this year and we invited parents to take part in the games and activities too. Aliza's mum said: "I sometimes don't know how to teach maths to my daughter, it seems different to when I was at school. Coming along to the Ocean Maths workshops has given me the confidence to help her at home and we have had a lot of fun doing it together".

This term, Year 2 focused on multiplication and division and the children explored the great variety of vocabulary we use for these mathematical operations – how many words can you think of to describe 'multiply' and 'divide'? They played a great game using multiplication facts which involved strategic thinking to become the champion. Year 1 got to grips with the tricky concept of telling the time, learning about digital and analogue clocks and how the hands and numbers indicate 'o'clock' and 'half past'. The students are certainly becoming masters of mathematics.





## Students splash into teamwork

This term, our Year 6 students embarked on a memorable kayaking adventure, marking a highlight in their school journey. The trip taught new skills, built teamwork, and fostered a love for the outdoors.

The class travelled to Laburnum Boat Centre in Hackney, donned life jackets, and took to the water. They played games like 'rock, paper, scissors', 'thumb war' and kayak crashes, even managing to get a staff member in the water!

Laughter and cheers echoed as they raced, splashed, and celebrated their successes.



## Students inspired by Olympian

Years 4, 5 and 6 had the fabulous opportunity to take part in the *Run A Mile* event at Mile End Stadium. To begin, they met British Olympian athlete Tommy Reynolds, who told the students all about his ambition to be a runner. The classes took part in a warm up with him, and then ran two full laps of the track - a whole mile.

They were given a medal to celebrate their achievements, which made them all proud. We hope to see some more interest in running in the school, with Mikaeel already showing some ambition for the future: "One day I think I could run a marathon for sure".

## A quacking lesson in nature and nurture

Our Early Years classes recently experienced the wonders of nature right in their classroom. Children were thrilled to watch ducklings hatch, offering them a unique and unforgettable educational experience.

The journey began with the arrival of a special incubator and a clutch of duck eggs.

The children eagerly observed the eggs daily and the anticipation grew as the hatching day approached, with everyone eagerly awaiting the first sign of life. Excitement peaked when the first tiny cracks appeared and the children watched in awe as the ducklings worked hard to break from their shells.

Asmahan said: "I can see something peep out, like an eye and I can see a foot, it is so cute". Having the ducklings in the classroom provided numerous learning opportunities, particularly about the life cycle of ducks. The children had the chance to handle the ducklings, gently feeling their soft feathers. It was a sad day when they had to go back to the farm and the children are looking forward to similarly exciting and educational adventures in the future.



## Year 6 visits Cambridge college

Year 6 was invited to Clare College at the University of Cambridge, where they walked around the impressive grounds and seventeenth century Great Hall, taking in the prestigious environment.

With undergraduates starting exams, our students needed to be very quiet around the campus. Lunch included a delicious spread of sandwiches, crisps and desserts, enjoyed by the river.

After lunch, they visited King's Chapel and heard the organ being played. It was an inspirational glimpse into future university life.





# Mulberry

Schools Trust

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