

# connect

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

## A message from the CEO



I am so proud of the remarkable achievements and events that have defined another dynamic term at the Mulberry Schools Trust.

We were particularly honoured to host the Global Girl Leading conference in October, a truly empowering event bringing together young leaders from across the globe. The Mulberry Festival of Arts also showcased the incredible talent and creativity of our students, bringing our whole community together to celebrate their energy and achievements.

Our family continues to grow with our newest school, Mulberry Academy London Dock, opening its doors to offer exciting and enriching opportunities for its inaugural Year 7 cohort. The energy and enthusiasm within the school have been truly inspiring, and we look forward to seeing the students thrive.

Our school leaders play a crucial role in shaping our students' futures and fostering a nurturing learning environment, they continue to excel, and I am deeply grateful for their relentless dedication and commitment.

As we approach the end of term, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our families and staff for their unwavering support, and to wish you all a restful and rejuvenating holiday season.

**Dr Vanessa Ogden CBE**  
CEO

## Global Girl Leading 2024: Inspiring women's leadership across the world



On Friday 11th October 2024, more than 500 young leaders gathered at London's prestigious QEII Conference Centre for the annual Global Girl Leading summit, celebrating International Day of the Girl.

The event focused on 'women's leadership at local, national and international levels', featuring insightful panel discussions and distinguished speakers, including Tina Tchen, Executive Vice President of the Obama Foundation, and Her Excellency Josefa González-Blanco Ortiz-Mena, Mexican Ambassador to the UK.

Students engaged in thought-provoking discussions, participated in interactive activities, networked with inspiring leaders, and enjoyed some impressive performances including the Mulberry Schools Trust choir's powerful rendition of *Girl on Fire*.

The summit concluded with an exclusive reception at the House of Commons, where student conference leaders and special guests celebrated the day's success and reflected on the importance of empowering the next generation of female leaders.



## Mulberry STEM Academy graduate recognised with prestigious award



Congratulations to Mulberry STEM Academy graduate Mohammed Ishraq Ahmed, whose talent earned him recognition as a 'Highly Commended Apprentice' in the Engineering &

Manufacturing category at the prestigious Multicultural Apprenticeship Awards.

This accolade celebrates Ishraq's exceptional contributions to engineering and commitment to diversity and innovation in the field. We are incredibly proud of Ishraq and look forward to seeing what the future holds for him.

## Year 12 physicists inspired by cutting-edge research

Our recent visit to the *Physics in Action* conference in London featured five fascinating sessions led by leading experts in the field, covering cutting-edge research and the application of physics in the real world. A special session on exam success provided invaluable tips for our students. Overall, it was an enriching experience that left our students motivated and excited about the future of physics.

Topics included 'quantum photonics' with Imogen Forbes, University of Bristol; 'the Coriolis effect' with author and science communicator Simon Clark;



'ultrasound: not just for babies' with Rachel Edwards, University of Warwick; and 'weighing the neutrino' with Jonathan Tennyson, University College London.

## Mulberry Academy Shoreditch makes racing history

The Greenpower race season finale took place on Sunday 13th October 2024, at the iconic Goodwood motor racing circuit. Three Mulberry Schools Trust teams made it to the final – an incredible achievement after competing in race weekends across the country.

Representing the Trust were Mulberry Academy Shoreditch's F24+ (Year 13) and F24 (Year 11) teams, alongside Mulberry Stepney Green's Year 13 team. Mulberry Academy Shoreditch emerged as the Trust's top performers, finishing 4th out of 22 teams in the International Final. They also claimed 3rd place in the constructors' challenge for the F24+ kit category.

This year marked a milestone for the Trust, as Mulberry Academy Shoreditch's F24 team became the first Trust team ever to reach the International Final.

A huge congratulations to all teams for their dedication and effort this season, and a special well done to Mulberry Academy Shoreditch for their outstanding success.



## Incredible destinations for our Mulberry STEM Academy students

We are proud to announce the publication of the Mulberry STEM Academy Impact Report for Cohort 3, who completed their A levels this summer. Congratulations to the 46 Year 13 students on their outstanding achievements, including:

- ◆ an impressive average A level grade of B–
- ◆ 43% achieving A\*/A in Maths and 50% A\*/A in Computer Science

This year's cohort has progressed to some impressive destinations, such as Electronic Engineering at King's College London, a Degree Apprenticeship in Software Engineering with the Ministry of Defence, and Aerospace Engineering at Queen Mary University of London.

With congratulations to all the students for their hard work and success, we're looking forward to following their onward journeys.

SCAN  
ME





# Showcasing creativity at the Mulberry Festival of Arts 2024

On Wednesday 13th November, the Mulberry Schools Trust held the second Mulberry Festival of Arts at Mulberry UTC. This vibrant event celebrated the creativity of students from all eight schools in the Trust, showcasing a diverse array of performances and artwork. The festival also highlighted the wealth of career opportunities in the UK's cultural and creative industries.



There were powerful dance, drama, music and spoken word performances, an art exhibition and the inspiring *Letters to Our Daughters* installation. More than 200 students played a part, with Mulberry Production Arts Academy (MPAA) students taking a leading role in curating, operating and stage-managing the festival – a remarkable celebration of the arts, made possible by the dedication of our students, staff, parents, carers and guests.

## MPAA students take centre stage

MPAA students have devoted themselves to preparing for this festival since September, attending Saturday workshops and giving up their half-term break to bring the event to life. They worked tirelessly to transform the Mulberry UTC Theatre, assemble the festival's art gallery and create the immersive *Letters to Our Daughters* installation. From rigging lights and setting up sound systems to programming lighting and sound cues during technical rehearsals, their meticulous planning ensured a seamless festival experience for all.

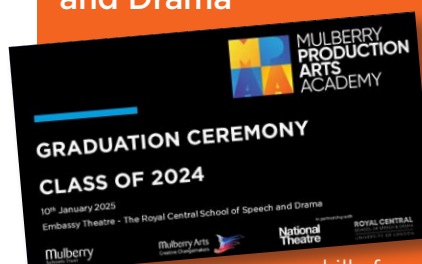


## Hands-on professional experience

Our students embraced their professional production roles on festival day, including box office management, compèring, stage management and operating lighting and sound systems. Their work offered valuable insights into the complexities of delivering a large-scale event, highlighting the essential contributions of every production role. This hands-on experience has equipped them with key skills for future careers in the creative and cultural industries.



## Celebrating MPAA graduates at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama



We are incredibly proud of our MPAA students and their professionalism in delivering the 2024 Mulberry Festival of Arts. Their ability to apply

skills from a year's worth of learning and development to create such an impressive large-scale event has been truly inspiring. We look forward to celebrating their achievements at the MPAA Graduation Ceremony we're hosting at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in January 2025.

## Mulberry students explore democracy and activism



On Friday 13th September, Ms Burlton, Head of Citizenship Studies, led nine teachers and 100 Year 11 students from Mulberry School for Girls on an inspiring visit to the UK Parliament. Part of their GCSE Citizenship Studies on Democracy at Work in the UK, our trip included an educational tour and workshop with UK Parliament's education service.

Students also visited Parliament Square to learn about iconic human rights campaigners, including Millicent Fawcett, Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi. They even witnessed a peaceful protest against plastic use, bringing real-world activism into focus.

The highlight of the day was a visit from Rushanara Ali, MP for Bethnal Green and Stepney, and an alumna of Mulberry School for Girls. She encouraged students to consider a career in politics, showcasing her own inspiring journey as a four-term MP.

The sunny day concluded with a picnic in Victoria Tower Gardens, with the Thames and Elizabeth Tower providing a perfect backdrop for reflection and discussion.



## Mulberry x Gresham College Inspiring lectures for A Level students

In September, we launched the prestigious Mulberry x Gresham College programme, offering 15 super-curricular lectures by top academics and industry leaders.

Delivered live on Wednesdays and streamed to schools across the UK, the series began with Professor Sarah Hart, the first female Gresham College Professor of Geometry, whose lecture on mathematical dimensions in literature was attended by 124 A Level students from five schools.

On Wednesday 2nd October, Professor Robin May captivated students with his talk on immune system evolution, followed by an interactive networking event. Students enjoyed continuing the conversation, with one suggesting "it was even better than the brownies!"

On Wednesday 20th November, Dr Ian Mudway's lecture on longevity and quality of life engaged students with thought-provoking questions about what it means to live longer. This bespoke programme of academic lectures with such esteemed partners is sure to continue inspiring and challenging our students on their learning journey.

## Super curriculum: Politics students gain insight from leading diplomats

Politics students attended an enriching super-curricular seminar with UCL Policy and Practice on small state diplomacy, featuring highly-experienced diplomats Ambassador Simona Leskovar and Sir Mark Lyall Grant GCMG.

In a time of widespread conflict, students valued the opportunity to learn about the Security Council's role in international relations. With Ambassador Leskovar sharing her experiences advocating for Slovenia's election to the UN Security Council and Sir Mark Lyall Grant offering insights from his time as UK Ambassador and four-time President of the Security Council, students were left with a much richer understanding of global diplomacy.





## Parents make memories at Buckingham Palace

On Tuesday 17th September 2024, 20 adult learners from our community of Mulberry parents and carers embarked on a private tour of Buckingham Palace, with an expert guide sharing fascinating insights into royal heritage and the palace's rich history.

Highlights included the newly commissioned portrait of King Charles by Jonathan Yeo. A picnic in the beauty of St James's Park, connecting with fellow parents and carers, rounded off a joyful visit that offered a memorable mix of history, culture and community.



## Education Minister of South Australia explores Mulberry

On Wednesday 18th September, we welcomed South Australia's Education Minister Blair Boyer MP and his team, whose time with us focused on our work in technical education and building strong partnerships with employers.

A live demonstration of the Greenpower project was a particular highlight, showcasing the innovation and creativity of our students. Minister Boyer was impressed by the Mulberry STEM Academy students and their endeavours, and left energised by everyone's talent and enthusiasm.



## Intelligence Squared event with Oleksandr Zinchenko

On Wednesday 23rd October 2024, students attended an Intelligence Squared event with Oleksandr Zinchenko, Arsenal's star and former Manchester City player. Zinchenko shared his experience of overcoming the challenges on his inspiring journey from Shakhtar Donetsk to the Premier League.

Students were particularly moved by his empathy and dedication to supporting Ukraine amid the ongoing war. Zinchenko also shared insights from his autobiography *Believe*, discussing leadership and his football career. Meeting him was a highlight for all.



## Winning strategies with Marcus du Sautoy

A super-curricular lecture, venturing into the world of games, captivated A-Level Maths students this term. At a special Intelligence Squared event, world-renowned mathematician Marcus du Sautoy explored the history of games, unravelling their societal significance and sharing insights into the mathematical tactics that underpin winning strategies.

Students discovered how mathematics can be used to analyse games, predict outcomes, develop strategies and solve complex problems and they much enjoyed the opportunity to meet and question du Sautoy, the Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science at the University of Oxford.



## Adventuring together in the Lake District

Ullswater, in the Lake District National Park, provided the breathtaking backdrop for 156 Mulberry students during a challenging and enriching week of adventurous outdoor activities that will be long-remembered by everyone.

Expertly facilitated by the team at Outward Bound, students climbed, walked gorges and built rafts, testing both their physical endurance and problem-solving abilities.

Congratulations to all on the teamwork, determination and perseverance that made us all immensely proud.





## Guest speakers at Mulberry UTC

Our Mulberry UTC Charter helps us ensure all our students are involved in a wealth of career related opportunities, a key element of which is our Key Speaker Programme, sharing insight on a wide variety of different careers.

Since the beginning of the year, more than 25 visiting speakers have enlightened students on potential pathways like forensic psychology, visual effects, publishing, midwifery, clinical psychology, costume making, care home management, human resources and a wide range of careers in law and healthcare.

Engaging with our specialist speakers has not only brought students helpful information and guidance on careers they might have in mind, but also introduced new fields they may not have considered. Many have been inspired to investigate these routes and made applications for related courses. We look forward to welcoming more speakers from our expanding network of industry partners in future.



## Celebrating Black History Month

Mulberry UTC marked Black History Month with a series of vibrant activities inspired by student feedback. Highlights included making loom bands, a movie night featuring *Black Panther*, and a 90s-themed non-uniform day.

A special showcase event featured Tanzanian musician Freddy Macha, student performances and a Ghana vs Nigeria jollof rice cook-off. Participants contributed £1 per event to help fund students from Kenya's Lenana Girls High School attending the Global Girl Leading Summit in London. The month also featured themed assemblies, tutor activities and African-Caribbean cuisine.

## Healthy intergenerational connections

This term saw the beginning of Level 3 Health and Social Care students' year-long intergenerational arts project with the charity Magic Me. After a successful partnership with our Key Stage 4 students last academic year, our Sixth Formers are now getting the chance too.

The sessions enable students to share stories and get creative, exploring art and poetry with the older people living in a local care home, and producing some powerful poems and striking self-portraits. Students embraced the opportunity to communicate and connect with the residents, sharing experiences to find out just how much they had in common.

Everyone connected over their love of food, music, film and art, we've already been inspired by the participants and are looking forward to following their journey over the coming months.





## T Level media's first cohort

Mulberry UTC is maintaining its trailblazing leadership in vocational media education with the T Level in Media, Broadcast and Production. Our partnership with The National Theatre and the Royal Ballet and Opera means our students will be in the vanguard of specialists in the Live Events and Venues Technician pathway.

Students are already praising the weekly work placement as one of the best parts of the course, and have also been enjoying the breadth of the courses available. Early feedback suggests "the T level is like a mix of many different subjects" and "we're doing loads of different stuff every day".



## Plentiful placements for T Level Health



T Level Health students have enjoyed an exciting start to the academic year, branching out into the various departments within Barts Health NHS Trust to hone skills in all specialist areas. Our students have had the privilege of

building clinical skills within Gynaecology, Midwifery, Neuroscience, Thoracic, Oncology, Dementia, Surgery and more, with placements in two hospitals within the trust. Royal London Hospital and St Bartholomew Hospital have been welcoming and enabling, helping learners access otherwise rare opportunities for employment, apprenticeships and university places when they qualify. With ongoing partnerships like these, we're clearly making learning work.

## Getting creative at Half Moon Theatre

Our Year 10 students were given a rare opportunity to engage with all aspects of theatre, working with industry professionals and students from other schools to lead onstage and backstage specialisms to create a play in a day.

Students specialising in acting, lighting, sound, design and stage management came together on and off-stage to produce and perform their final piece at the end of the day, and operated all the technical equipment independently.



## Careers at the Royal Ballet and Opera

Our Year 12 Performing Arts students recently attended a specialist careers fair at the Royal Ballet and Opera, focused on non-performing theatre craft. Students enjoyed the privilege of discovering and exploring a range of careers from directing, stage management and producing, to marketing, lighting and costume design.

This was an inspirational look at the rich and varied opportunities in the creative industries that our students are working towards.





## A Sicilian journey through history and culture

For three days at the beginning of October, 29 students from Societies across the Trust went exploring in Sicily, starting the moment they arrived in Palermo. They visited Agrigento in the south, a significant city in Mediterranean history with ancient origins in the sixth century BC. With a two-night stay in Letojanni they enjoyed trips to Siracusa, L'Ortiga and Catania, and saw the recently erupted Mount Etna – the tallest and most active volcano in Europe. The students enjoyed the local cuisine including arancini, pasta alla Norma, cannoli and, of course, lots of ice cream. The students were a great pleasure to accompany, and a credit to the Trust.



## Building teams and resilience in the Lake District

A week-long trip to the Lake District in mid-September involved our students in camping, gorge walking, canoeing, rowing and rock climbing. Marwa in Year 8 felt, "My favourite activity was gorge walking because we got to climb rocks while we were in the water. My most challenging moment was climbing the mountain because I'd never climbed one before. We were able to show teamwork by communicating with others while doing the activities and I showed resilience by keeping going and never giving up!"

## Bringing democracy to life at Westminster

On Friday 20th September, Year 13 A Level Politics students visited the Houses of Parliament for a tour and workshop. Tours of the chambers in both the House of Commons and House of Lords as well as Westminster Hall, brought to life everything they have learned about government and politics in the UK. During the workshop students formed their own political parties, delivered speeches outlining their manifesto pledges and took part in a mock election. It was a fascinating and lively trip that enriched their study of the UK's political system.

## Big Quiz unites students and parents in friendly competition

The House Team held its annual Big Quiz in the Library after school on 26th September. Students from all the Houses gathered to answer questions about a range of subjects, including geography, films and Roald Dahl novels, and we even had a backward song round. This year we also fielded a parent/carer team but they were no match for our winning group of Thames, Trafalgar and Tower students. With thanks to all the students, parents and carers who joined us to make it such a wonderful event.





## Blending football with economics at Stamford Bridge

On Tuesday 19th November, Economics and Sports societies braved a snowy start to visit Stamford Bridge, the home of Chelsea football club. Students spent time in the Chelsea museum taking penalties against Manuel Neuer, testing their reflexes on the goalkeeper training lights or competing on FIFA. A tour around the Bridge included sitting under the bright lights of a press conference, hanging out in the Chelsea dressing room and sitting out in the famous dugout, all while learning about the finances of the Premier League.



## TrailFam Race Team shines in night run

On Saturday 2nd November, TrailFam Race Team competed in Maverick Lights Dark Exposure, a night time trail run in Alice Holt Forest Hampshire. They really enjoyed their first night time race, and congratulations are due to Dylan Vernall who came 2nd overall, despite being up against adults, and Mr Ahmed who came 3rd. With thanks to Ms Armstrong for supporting us and a big well done to all who ran!



## Diversity workshops foster inclusivity and understanding

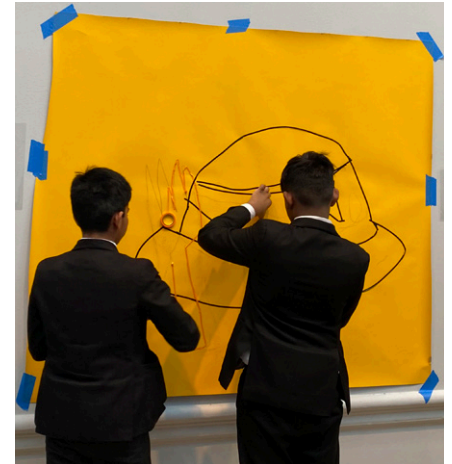
On Wednesday 20th November, Year 8 students participated in diversity role models workshops. The sessions aimed to foster greater understanding and inclusivity, encouraging students to embrace diversity in all its forms. Delivered by experienced facilitators, the workshops included personal stories from role models, providing unique insights into topics such as identity, discrimination and the importance of allyship. The interactive format allowed students to ask questions, creating a safe space to challenge stereotypes and reflect on their own attitudes and behaviour.

## Year 10 students embrace the Speak Out Challenge

This term, 52 Year 10 students at Mulberry Stepney Green participated in Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge workshops. This national programme, involving more than 200,000 young people annually, offers an exciting opportunity to build communication skills in a supportive environment.



Led by expert trainers from the Speakers Trust, students learned to speak confidently, express opinions respectfully, and communicate clearly while listening to others. By the end of the workshops, every student delivered a speech on a topic of their choice, focusing on creating a positive impact. Students reflected on how the workshops enhanced their presentation skills, including content, structure and delivery, and felt better equipped for the next steps in education, training and employment.



## Year 9 students explore creativity at the Royal Academy of Arts

Thirty-five Year 9 students from the creative arts department took part in an inspiring workshop at the Royal Academy of Arts, centred on the work of renowned artist Michael Craig-Martin.

The day began with a guided tour of his exhibition, where students explored his unique approach to the theme of 'Objects.' Drawing inspiration from his work, they created their own art pieces using a variety of materials, culminating in a group critique session.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and produced unique artworks that will contribute to their coursework portfolios.



## Preparing for careers with The Switch

This term, Year 12 students participated in a CV workshop with The Switch, gaining practical guidance on creating standout CVs for job applications now and in the future. Led by industry professionals from top firms, the workshop offered valuable advice on how to excel in competitive job markets.

Interactive activities included guessing the first jobs of professionals who are now CEOs and partners, which students found both fun and inspiring. They also impressed the professionals with insightful questions about work experience and networking.

Feedback from the guests was overwhelmingly positive, with many commending the students' curiosity and enthusiasm. The workshop has equipped Year 12 with essential skills and the confidence to pursue exciting career opportunities.







## V&A Museum inspires 3D design students

On Thursday 3rd October, 27 3D Design students visited the Victoria and Albert Museum to take part in an engaging design workshop. Exploring artefacts, posters, furniture and products, students were inspired to create placards based on the theme 'Design for Change.'

They learned how designers use bold visuals, colour and slogans to communicate powerful messages, creating mini placards that addressed issues important to them.

A big thank you to the Jack Petchey Foundation for making this creative and enriching day possible. The students were a credit to the school, fully engaging in the experience.



## Year 12 girls innovate at Apple HQ

Ten Year 12 girls had an unforgettable experience visiting Apple HQ, where they immersed themselves in the world of technology and innovation. Tasked with developing an app, the students transformed their group designs into functional prototypes using Swift UI code.

With guidance and mentoring from Apple team members, the students gained valuable insights into software development and coding. The experience sparked enthusiasm and inspired many to consider a future in software design.

## Year 7 inspired by Dan Freedman

On Wednesday 23 October 2024, Dan Freedman, author and football journalist, visited Mulberry Stepney Green to lead a reading session with Year 7 students. Freedman shared insights on the importance of reading and writing, answering questions about his career and how he overcame early setbacks as an author. Students were deeply engaged, and their enthusiasm shone throughout the session. Each student received a book as a gift, leaving them inspired to explore the world of literature further.



## Year 12 students attend Elephant Access launch

Twenty Year 12 students visited Senate House this term to attend the launch of the Elephant Access group, an initiative designed to support students in accessing top universities. The event featured representatives from Russell Group universities who shared insights into their programmes and offered advice on the university application process.



Students found the session valuable, particularly gaining an understanding of future career opportunities. This experience has equipped them with the tools and confidence they need to explore higher education pathways.



## Elephant class shines at the Festival of Arts

Elephant Class took to the stage with confidence and flair at this year's Festival of Arts, wowing audiences with a variety of stunning performances.

Their dynamic street dance routine set the tone, followed by a deeply moving poetry recital of *Ode to My Grandad*, written by the children themselves. A heartfelt solo performance of *Castle on a Cloud* captivated everyone, and the class closed their performance with an inspiring song celebrating the power within each of us.

The children's enthusiasm and energy were contagious, and their personalities shone through in every moment. Being on stage didn't faze them at all – in fact, they thrived under the spotlight.

We were equally proud to see their creative talents showcased in the gallery, with beautiful artwork from Reception and Year One children. A huge well done to all involved for making this event a truly memorable celebration of creativity and expression.



## Blue Whale and Tiger class visit Mudchute Farm

Blue Whale and Tiger Class had an unforgettable trip to Mudchute Farm, where they immersed themselves in farm life. The children were thrilled to meet and feed a variety of animals, including cows, llamas, sheep and pigs.

This hands-on experience provided a unique sensory journey as they were able to feel the textures of the animals' fur, wool and even their rough tongues during feeding time.

The visit wasn't just fun but also packed with learning. The children discovered fascinating facts about farm animals, from what they eat to how they are cared for.



This real-world experience brought their classroom topics to life, sparking curiosity and excitement.

It was wonderful to see the children fully engaged, building connections between their learning and the natural world. A huge thank you to Mudchute Farm for such an enriching day.

## Lion and Panda class explore Millwall Park

Lion and Panda Class enjoyed a visit to Millwall Park, combining outdoor learning with science and geography. As part of their studies, the children explored the park looking for signs of autumn, observing changes in leaves, trees and the environment.

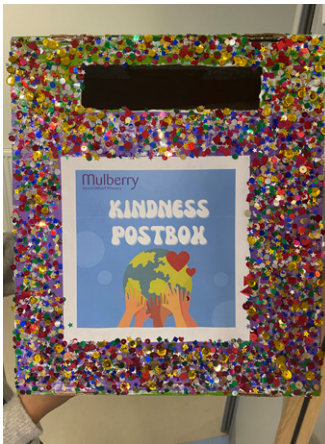
Equipped with maps, they also identified physical features like hills and trees, as well as human features such as pathways and benches. This hands-on experience helped them connect their classroom learning to the real world, fostering curiosity and a deeper understanding of their surroundings.





## Respect and kindness at Mulberry Wood Wharf

Respect and kindness, two of our core values, have been a big focus across all year groups this term. In PSHE, we've been celebrating difference and exploring the Anti-Bullying Week theme, 'Choose Respect'. Each class has created their own charter to reflect how we show respect every day.



We're also excited to relaunch our kindness post box – this year, it's even more sparkly, just like our wonderful school community! It's already filling up with messages celebrating acts of kindness across the school. We're proud to share that we magpied a lovely phrase from our sister school: "if you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours". Thank you, Mulberry Canon Barnett!



## Elephant class explores pond life at the Soanes Centre

Elephant Class had an exciting trip to the Soanes Centre, diving into the fascinating world of pond life. The children spotted creatures like tadpoles, water beetles and snails, observing their movements and habitats up close.

This hands-on experience perfectly complemented their Year 2 science learning about living things and habitats. Exploring the pond ecosystem helped them understand how these creatures survive and thrive in their environment. It was a fun and educational day that brought their science lessons to life.



## Blue Whale and Tiger class blast off to the moon!

Blue Whale and Tiger Class went on an imaginative adventure to the moon inspired by *Whatever Next* by Jill Murphy. The children brought their own teddies along for the ride and wore colanders on their heads, just like Baby Bear in the story.

This fun-filled activity sparked their creativity and brought the story to life, linking to our school's love of reading. It was a wonderful way to inspire a deeper connection with books and storytelling.

## Supporting Children in Need

Our whole school came together for Children in Need, raising nearly £500! Everyone looked fantastic in yellow and spots, showing their support for this great cause.



The highlight of the day was the Wood Wharf Bake Off, where children, parents, carers and staff formed the judging panel. The delicious creations and teamwork truly reflected our school value of community, and we'd like to thank everyone who baked, donated and participated to make the day such a success.



## Fun-filled football trips

During half-term, some of our Year 9 students enjoyed forging some fabulous memories with Football Beyond Borders. The education and social inclusion charity uses football to support young people who are passionate about the sport but disengaged at school, helping them finish their studies with the skills and grades to make a successful transition into adulthood.

On Wednesday 30th October, one group enjoyed an interactive football and food experience with a meal at Toca Social's Nando's and, on Friday 1st November, others visited Chelsea FC's training ground to watch the players in action. Everyone left with memories to treasure, and their behaviour was exemplary.

One student having their Crocs signed by the team manager was a hilarious highlight from Chelsea FC, and the delightful consolation for another who missed the trip was receiving a signed football and autographs.

With heartfelt thanks to Football Beyond Borders for such memorable experiences, which have left a lasting positive impact on all our students.

## Celebrating Black History Month with Woodside

On Monday 21st October, Mulberry Academy Woodside brought the school community together with a vibrant celebration of Black History Month. The evening showcased powerful singing, energetic dance routines and a moving drama piece exploring significant stories and themes.

Students, parents and carers from the Woodside family packed the venue, creating a warm and enthusiastic atmosphere. The performances highlighted the diversity and unity within our school, celebrating the richness of Black culture and history.

The audience's cheers and applause were a true testament to the talent and dedication of our students and staff and made clear how joyful and successful the celebration had been.



## Piñata-making for World Languages Day

For this year's World Languages Day, our Year 7 students enjoyed some lively piñata-making inspired by Mexican traditions.

This hands-on experience helped students explore a new culture in a fun and creative way, by learning some basic Spanish phrases and discovering the custom's deeper meaning while decorating their piñatas. Breaking the piñatas, symbolising celebration and joy, was the highlight of a fantastic day combining cultural learning and language skills.





## Exploring engineering at the Science Museum

This term, some of our Year 9 students enjoyed an exciting workshop at the Science Museum, hosted by Heathrow Airport's engineering team. The hands-on activity included changing runway light batteries, giving students a chance to experience the technical skills needed to keep planes flying safely. This workshop, part of Heathrow's engineering programme, offered a fascinating insight into the critical role engineers play in aviation. It was an engaging opportunity for our students to learn about engineering careers in a real-world context.

## Magical science with Dr Szydlo

Renowned British chemist Dr Andrew Szydlo captivated our Year 7 and 8 students with his dynamic demonstration 'As if by magic' for an unforgettable science day. From fiery explosions to fascinating chemical reactions, his experiments brought the science curriculum to life in a fun and engaging way.

Many students left inspired, with newfound enthusiasm for STEM subjects. Dr Szydlo's ability to spark curiosity and encourage critical thinking left a lasting impression, motivating them to explore science beyond the classroom.



## Year 9 visit *New Scientist Live*

On Monday 14th October, Year 9 students travelled to Excel London for Schools' Day at *New Scientist Live*.

The event featured interactive exhibits on artificial intelligence, robotics and virtual reality, showcasing STEM's role in fields like medicine and space exploration.

Highlights included sitting in a Red Arrows jet cockpit at the Royal Air Force stand and the whole experience inspired many students to explore future careers in STEM.

## Marking Remembrance Day with author Tom Palmer

On Monday 11th November 2024, Year 7 and 8 students attended a virtual Remembrance Day event in the library with author Tom Palmer, known for books like *Armistice Runner*.

Students learned about the importance of Remembrance Day and its historical context through Palmer's engaging session, and they wrote heartfelt poems to commemorate the day.

This powerful and reflective experience helped our students gain a deeper appreciation of this annual occasion.





## Celebrating a term of achievement and creativity

### A warm start to every day

Mulberry Canon Barnett Primary has been brimming with positivity as children greet staff every morning with warm smiles and a cheerful "Good morning!" It's a joy to witness their impeccable manners and 'Fantastic Walking' around the school creating such a vibrant and respectful environment.



### Showcasing creativity and effort

The children's stunning art mural has become a celebrated centrepiece in the school corridors, and we eagerly anticipate extending it next term. Ms Anita's 'Book of Pride' has been filling with exceptional examples of learning, showcasing the children's hard work and achievements.



### Exciting learning experiences and activities

Our weekly schedule is packed with enriching opportunities. From trips and workshops to activities like baking, den-making, scooter lessons and *Bikeability*, the list is endless. Clubs such as Culinary Chefs, Book Club and Storytime have been a hit, fostering creativity and a love for learning. New outdoor play equipment, including badminton nets, building blocks and gardening tools, has added excitement to playtimes, and den-building has become a particular favourite.



### A term of togetherness

The fact our Poetry Performance morning was attended by so many families was a testament to the support we enjoy from our whole school community. We are immensely proud of our children and staff and we're all looking forward to another term filled with joy, creativity and success.





## Mulberry STEM Academy superstars visit Mulberry School for Girls

Year 6 students from Mulberry Canon Barnett Primary proudly participated in an inspiring visit hosted by Mulberry School for Girls, welcoming a delegation of Australian politicians interested in technical education and industry links.



Our students demonstrated their innovation and teamwork by showcasing the electric-powered Goblin car they had designed and built as part of the Mulberry STEM Academy. The children impressed the delegation with their engineering skills and creativity, in a thrilling live demonstration of the impact of our enriching STEM programme.

This experience is part of the Mulberry Schools Trust's commitment to fostering technical expertise and creative development from an early age. The event also celebrated the relaunch of the Mulberry STEM Academy and the introduction of the Mulberry Production Arts Academy which provide further opportunities for students across the Trust.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 students for representing Mulberry Canon Barnett so brilliantly and showcasing the exciting opportunities our school offers.

## Exploring the Great Fire of London

Year 2 students learned about the Great Fire of London on an exciting visit to the Bakers' Livery Hall. Through Samuel Pepys' diary, the children gained a vivid understanding of the events of 2 September 1666.

They immersed themselves in the history, dressing up as Samuel Pepys or Mrs Pepys and even writing with quills like Pepys himself.



They also re-enacted putting out a fire on a visit to St Dunstan in the East. It was a memorable day bringing history to life and inspiring curiosity and creativity in our young learners.



## Year 2 shines at the Mulberry Festival of Arts

Our brilliant Year 2 students were shining stars at the Mulberry Festival of Arts, performing for more than 150 people in the packed audience. Involving all the Mulberry Schools Trust schools, this heart-warming event celebrated creativity, collaboration and community spirit.

Our students sang their hearts out to Bruno Mars' *Count on Me*, sharing a powerful message about kindness and support that lies at the heart of our school's ethos. Their performance was met with resounding applause, and the children proudly explained why being there for one another matters so much.

The most touching moment came at the end when they called out to the audience: "If you see someone without a smile ... give them one of yours!"

We are so proud of their enthusiasm and the joy they brought to this unforgettable celebration of the arts.

## Teddy Bear Hospital inspires young learners

We were thrilled to welcome the wonderful team of student doctors and nurses from Barts Hospital, who brought an array of medical equipment to transform our school into a vibrant Teddy Bear Hospital.

This interactive session offered Year 1 and 2 children a fun and engaging way to learn about the vital work of doctors and dentists. They enjoyed diagnosing and treating their teddy bears, helping them better understand healthcare in a creative hands-on way.

We were also delighted to host Year 12 students from Mulberry UTC for the afternoon. They were fantastic role models, working brilliantly with our young learners and inspiring them with their enthusiasm.

A huge 'thank you' to everyone involved for making this such an exciting educational experience for our children.



## Year 7 Discovery Week: A journey through time, place and community

Our founding cohort of children started their time at Mulberry Academy London Dock on an adventure around London. As they reflected on their time starting at secondary school, they explored the Meridian Line and Royal Observatory in Greenwich, and climbed aboard the Cutty Sark to discover its tea-trading history.

They learnt about the story of the River Thames running alongside the school, exploring 400 years of Docklands history at the London Museum, while navigating the flora and fauna at the Crossrail Place Roof Garden and pursuing the Canary Wharf Art Trail. A day trip to our neighbouring Tower of London introduced students to the tower as a palace and a prison, and the variety of events through its history since Normans built the fortress in 1078.

At Gorsefield Rural Studies and Outdoor Activity Centre in Stansted Mountfitchet in Essex, children built shelters and campfires, and trekked through the fields, climbing trees along the way. The learning didn't stop there: every child also took part in a mini First Aid course, learning CPR, how to deal with choking, head injuries, burns, breaks and asthma, and they attended a Maths Conference to reflect on the size of our new school building.



## Securing our first win!

This term, we celebrated the success of our Year 7 football team, who took part in the Tower Hamlets Boys' Football Tournament and won the Year 7 Shield, having played other secondary schools across the borough.

Our talented players enjoy perfecting their skills together every lunchtime at our daily Football Club.

## Black History Month: 'Reclaiming Narratives'

As part of our celebration of this year's Black History Month theme, 'Reclaiming Narratives', children visited the Canal & River Trust's barge in Paddington to explore the ingenuity and contributions of Black British figures to STEM.



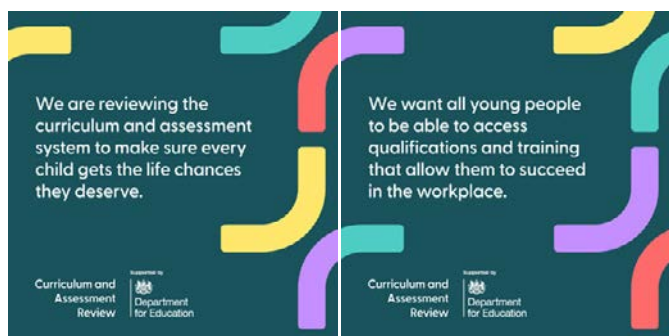
They worked with designer, artist and engineer Omotunwase Osinaike, in an art workshop exploring the work of esteemed chemist Professor Robert Mokaya, whose work has focused on sustainable porous materials.

Children also joined writer Aniefiok Ekpoudom at the Southbank Centre, on a journey through the social and cultural history of British rap in London, learning about the political, social and cultural movements which have shaped this kind of music.

## No one left on the bench

In October, we attended our first sporting event as a school, the PowerHouseGames, at Whitechapel Stadium, a multi-team event playing inclusive and adapted sports. From beginning to end, children expressed their excitement about the incredible opportunity they experienced, observing firsthand what to expect in five inclusive sports: walking football, goalball, boccia, sitting volleyball and curling. They were fascinated by instructors as they learnt the rules of these unfamiliar sports, many of which they had never played, before playing alongside other schools and university students.





## Insights from the Curriculum and Assessment Review

We recently undertook a Trust-wide consultation, ahead of submitting our response to the Curriculum and Assessment Review panel's call for evidence.

Thank you to all Mulberry staff who contributed their views as part of this process. Key themes that emerged include the importance of providing all young people with a rigorous academic curriculum, while also valuing a diverse range of skills, including the creative arts as well as vocational and applied learning.

There was also a strong focus on the need to rethink the structure of 16-19 education. The review team will publish initial findings in spring 2025. This will be followed by further consultation about the curriculum within the Trust, as we continue to focus on ensuring our schools meet the needs of all learners in an evolving educational landscape.

## Tailored support drives success for Mulberry Scholars

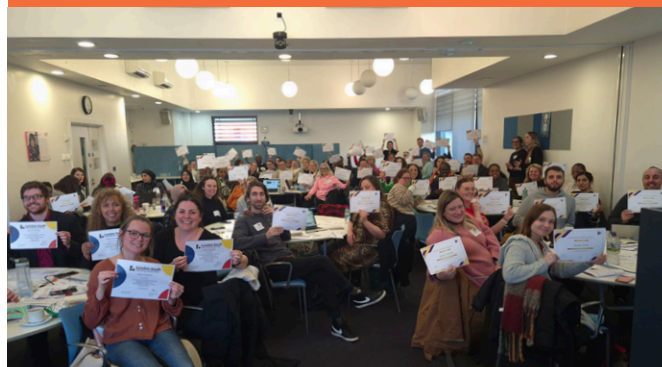
As the Mulberry Scholars Academy enters its final stages, our elite university accelerator programme focused on preparing students for their university applications and interviews.

Students prepared for admission tests, perfecting their UCAS applications ahead of the early entry deadline on 15 October, and honed their skills through intensive interview preparation. Their hard work is yielding results, with some students already receiving offers from prestigious universities.

We eagerly anticipate further successes as we celebrate the outcomes of their dedication and the tailored support provided by the programme over the year.

## National Professional Qualifications with local impact!

Our sixth cohort of more than 50 specialist National Professional Qualification (NPQ) participants from the East London Teaching Schools Hub gathered for their consolidation conference on 21st November 2024. We were delighted to welcome learners from two other hubs, providing the opportunity for colleagues across the region to learn with and from each other. It was humbling and inspiring to hear everyone sharing how the learning from their projects was having a tangible impact on their work in schools. You can read more about the projects in next term's ELTSH New Year newsletter.



## Reconnect London roundtable

On Friday 6th December, Reconnect London hosted school leaders from across London at a roundtable for the 'Leading Into The Future' knowledge exchange programme.

Bringing together school leaders, researchers, policy makers and partners, the focus was on fostering collaboration to ensure that London's schools, and the children and young people they serve, continue to flourish and thrive.

Focussing on the opportunities and challenges emerging from the external environment, including new government policy initiatives, participants explored actions schools can take, both individually and collectively. They also reflected on how to adapt to policy changes, seizing opportunities and managing tensions, while staying committed to improving outcomes for young Londoners.

The event enabled everyone to share knowledge and strengthen partnerships, helping to shape long-term positive change in education.






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