

# connect

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

## A message from the CEO



As we reach the end of another busy academic year, this issue of Connect shares some of the remarkable work that

continues across the Mulberry Schools Trust.

From the success of our first Trust-wide INSET day – where colleagues came together to share practice and reflect on our vision of transforming lives together – to the excellent Ofsted outcomes at Mulberry UTC and Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary, we continue to see the impact of collaboration, care and commitment across our family of schools.

You will also read about our students taking learning beyond the classroom – through creative arts, pioneering STEM placements, global opportunities and powerful productions that showcase their talents, ideas and ambition. Our Trust networks, strategic planning days and local partnerships highlight how we strengthen our work together and share what works best.

To all families, staff, trustees, governors, partners and supporters: thank you for everything you do to champion access, opportunity and excellence for every young person. I hope you enjoy reading about everyone's endeavours, feel proud of all we achieve together every day, and find time to rest and recharge over the summer break.

**Dr Vanessa Ogden CBE**  
CEO

## Mulberry Schools Trust hosts first-ever Trust-wide INSET day

On Monday 30th June 2025, the Mulberry Schools Trust held its inaugural Trust-wide INSET day. More than 700 colleagues from all Trust schools gathered at five of our school sites, to explore the day's important theme: 'Transforming Lives Together'. Our aim was to reflect on our shared vision and values in action, foster collaboration and celebrate effective practices.

Evelyn Forde MBE provided a compelling keynote speech on embedding equity and inclusion in schools, we enjoyed school-led showcases and tailored workshops with more than 60 colleagues from across the Trust facilitating sessions for their peers. Teachers participated in subject-specific sessions co-facilitated by subject-specialists in the Trust, and associate staff engaged in effective communication workshops.

Our CEO, Dr Vanessa Ogden CBE, emphasised the Trust's commitment to access, opportunity and excellence in education, opening a day designed to encourage professional growth, cross-school networking and provide practical takeaways to enhance our daily practice.



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## Keynote inspires 'hope holders'

In her inspiring keynote, Evelyn Forde MBE urged Mulberry Schools Trust colleagues to be intentional about inclusion, belonging and, most importantly, ensuring the children we serve know they matter.

Recognised for her outstanding contributions to education and author of *Herstory: A Leadership Manifesto*, Evelyn shared her story of being a largely invisible, often absent, child when at school, and how a few key people later in life saw and believed in her, encouraging her to pursue the qualifications she'd missed – ultimately leading her to headship.

Her message was powerful: inclusion isn't a final goal but a daily habit. Evelyn celebrated Trust colleagues for embodying this mindset, acknowledging the impact of their work. "What you do matters", she shared, calling staff 'hope holders' – those who carry belief in others because "it's not about being nice; it's about being just".

Her words were a reminder that the small intentional acts of recognition that our Trust staff make every day can change lives.



## Sharing inclusive practice

Secondary subject teachers explored ways in which our inclusive vision comes to life in their subject, and each subject network was facilitated by teachers from across the Trust.

Colleagues shared effective subject-specific inclusive teaching and learning strategies, reflecting on what more they could do to ensure their practice is truly inclusive. Primary teachers explored the transformative impact of talk across the curriculum and what effective oracy looks and sounds like in classrooms. As one teacher reflected: **"The atmosphere was collegiate where best practice was shared, and the shared vision and values of the Trust clearly guided and influenced the whole day"**.



## Empowering associate support staff

The workshops offered practical, role-specific development for associate support staff: from managing student behaviour and handling difficult conversations, to building confidence in public speaking and exploring why language matters for racial literacy. Most staff attended a host school rather than their own, which many found refreshing and helped build connections across our family of schools.

Sessions were grounded in real-life scenarios and designed to equip staff with strategies they could use immediately. The atmosphere throughout was purposeful, collaborative and energising and feedback was overwhelmingly positive – staff described their experience as empowering and affirming, with a strong sense of being recognised and invested in.




## Inspiring work experience

Twenty-four Year 12 students completed a memorable week's work experience with Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd at the team's factory in Brackley.

Students spent each day in a different department, ranging from aerodynamics and the machine shop to test and development. The race debrief, with front row seats and the chance to ask direct questions to the technical directors, was a particular highlight. This programme is truly transformational for all participants, especially those aspiring to study Engineering at university.

It is also a wonderful opportunity to develop relationships and build character. The work experience is residential, and includes the opportunity to go out for dinner and spend social time together.

Feedback from our Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix colleagues was overwhelmingly positive. With thanks to student Aman for sharing his reflections on LinkedIn – you can read his post [here](#) .



## Greenpower race season heats up

We are delighted by how well our school teams are performing in this season's Greenpower races.

Both Mulberry Stepney Green and Mulberry School for Girls have achieved impressive first and second place finishes, and we are now looking forward to the international final in October.

Our primary school team from Mulberry Canon Barnett took to the track at Ford Dunton on Saturday 21st June. They were awarded the 'Greenest Bodywork' Goblin Award for building their car from recycled plastic.



## Engineering lab close to completion

We are really pleased with the progress towards opening our Mulberry STEM Academy engineering lab, located at Mulberry UTC. The lab will be equipped with brand new machinery, including lathes, mills, grinders and welding stations.

It will enable us to deliver exciting engineering projects at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 – from propeller-powered cars and triangle truss bridges, to scribbling doodle bots and bioengineering activities, like building heart rate monitors and our first Greenpower scratch build car.

## Students take on university-style engineering challenge

All Year 10 and 12 students in the Mulberry STEM Academy recently took part in an exciting university-style engineering competition led by Mulberry Academy Shoreditch.

Working for three weeks in teams beyond the classroom, students designed, built, programmed and tested a robotic moving vehicle. The challenge concluded with a high-energy competition day, where teams navigated their robots through a series of tracks and obstacles. Students also created engineering-style posters to present their design thinking and problem-solving process – developing not just technical skills, but also creativity, teamwork and real-world STEM confidence.



## Behind the scenes at ABTT

Mulberry Production Arts Academy students attended the ABTT Theatre Show at Alexandra Palace, an annual event that brings together leading suppliers, technicians and creatives to showcase the latest developments in theatre and live event production.

Spanning the venue's West and Great Halls, the show featured more than 150 exhibitors representing every aspect of backstage technology, including lighting, sound, rigging, AV, staging and scenic design.

Students explored the vibrant show floor, engaging directly with exhibitors, experimenting with hands-on displays, and discovering emerging innovations in production technology. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to gain insight into the tools and techniques shaping modern stagecraft.

A highlight of the day was a seminar delivered by TAIT, a global leader in the automation of live events, introducing students to cutting-edge automation systems used in theatres and large-scale productions around the world.

The experience deepened students' understanding of backstage innovation, connected them with industry professionals, and offered a real-world perspective on the skills and creativity driving the technical future of theatre.



## Immersive tech takes centre stage

Our students recently enjoyed seeing the ground-breaking *ABBA Voyage* show as part of their learning.

This innovative production seamlessly blends cutting-edge technology with live performance, using digital avatars, motion capture, and advanced lighting, sound and automation to create an unforgettable immersive experience.

The show offered students a rare opportunity to witness how multiple technical disciplines work in harmony to deliver a complex, high-impact production. It revealed the exciting career pathways available in lighting, sound, automation, digital effects and live event management, broadening their understanding of large-scale show production.

## Exploring the art of theatre-making

Mulberry Production Arts Academy students visited the BA (Hons) Theatre Practice Exhibition at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama - showcasing final year students graduating in Design, Production and Crafts. The exhibition featured a wide range of projects, including stage builds, technical props, lighting designs,



sound installations, costume work and scenic art. The visit gave our students a clear picture of the kinds of collaborative practical projects they might take on in higher education - from designing and building for live productions to developing creative solutions for performance spaces.

## Sound, space and sensory design

This terms was busy with visits, including *Feel the Sound* at the Barbican - an immersive exhibition exploring the physical and emotional power of sound through audio technology, interactive installations and multisensory experiences.

The exhibition revealed the creative and technical processes behind immersive sound design, encouraging students to think critically about creating their own immersive work for the Mulberry Festival of Arts 2025.





## International study tour of Amondola, Italy

Amondola in Italy was the destination for the final Global Girl Leading trip for this academic year. Students embraced the opportunity to lead their own Global Girl Leading project on a topic that really mattered to them, such as the gender pay gap and activism. They also enjoyed outdoor activities like hiking, and one student even learnt to swim! The group reflected how these activities gave them time to relax and take care of their wellbeing.

On return, students reflected on the importance of having PE in Year 12, and how it reduced stress, promoted physical health and encouraged a balanced lifestyle during such a demanding academic year.

**"This trip wasn't just about the project – it was about discovering our own leadership skills, growing in confidence and learning more about myself. We all came home feeling proud, empowered and ready to take on new challenges."**

Italy study tour participant



## News in brief

In June, two Global Girl Leaders and Mulberry STEM Academy scholars had the exciting opportunity to interview Susie Wolff MBE, former professional racing driver and current Managing Director of the F1 Academy.

## Reflecting on a year of global girl leadership

The 2024 Global Girl Leading Summit was a major highlight of the year's programme.

The summit showcased inspiring creative projects including *Letters to our Daughters*, *Speakers' Corner* and *Her Story, Our Inspiration* film. Other high points earlier this year included our showcase for Her Majesty Queen Camilla at the opening of Mulberry Academy London Dock and Women's History Month events. In the words of one of our Global Girl Leaders, **"being a part of this empowering group of girls has shown me the power of my voice and taught me to believe in my potential"**.



## Looking ahead ...

We're excited to be welcoming new and returning schools to our 2025 Global Girl Leading Summit on Friday 10th October, at Mulberry School for Girls. We are currently recruiting the next group of Global Girl Leaders who will help develop and facilitate the conference and are encouraging incoming Year 10 and Year 12 students to apply.

Future projects include establishing Junior Global Girl Leading in primary schools, and continuing our engagement with schools in India, Australia, Malaysia, Mexico, New York, Kenya and New Zealand. We're looking forward to another transformative year.

## A celebration of reading and mentoring

On Wednesday 9th July, we were delighted to host our annual 'Celebration of Reading' event, attended by nearly 150 students in our Reading Mentors Programme.

Now in its fourth year, the Reading Mentors Programme matches Key Stage 3 students with Year 12 volunteers, who support the younger students' reading during morning registration time, and help to develop confidence and fluency in their reading skills. At this year's event, our Headteacher, Ms Ward, spoke

enthusiastically about how reading is good for your mental health, and can transport your mind from wherever you are sitting to places of magic and wonder.

The Year 12 Leadership Team described their pride in their year group for having the most Year 12 volunteers ever (77!) helping more than 70 Key Stage 3 students with one-to-one support in their reading every week. Tahmida Tasmiah shot, directed and edited a short film celebrating all of Mulberry's values embodied in the programme: creativity, confidence, leadership and love of learning.



**"I was so proud to make a film showing how our Year 12 volunteers help younger students grow in confidence and discover the joy of books. Stories can take us anywhere."**

Tahmida Tasmiah



## Celebrating Pride

We were proud to celebrate Pride Week across the school, and kicked things off with a brilliant creative campaign at lunchtime, where students designed their own badges and stickers to celebrate equality, identity and inclusion. The energy and creativity on display was truly inspiring.

Celebrations continued with a series of assemblies exploring LGBTQ+ representation across different fields – from sport and media to politics and the arts. We also hosted a special edition of Film Club, showcasing stories that champion diversity and acceptance.

## Let Afghan Girls Learn!

This term, we have launched our first virtual cross-cultural exchange programme with our Sixth Form students and young women from Victory Afghanistan.

With origins in the Let Afghan Girls Learn! campaign, launched in the Houses of Parliament in March, where our students read letters they had composed to young girls in Afghanistan, it is a response to the banning of girls' education past the age of 12. This spearheaded our own cultural-exchange programme, with our Year 12 students spending four weeks getting to know their global peers online.





## Society students make a splash in Girona

On Monday 23rd June, seven Year 9 students from Mulberry School for Girls embarked on a journey to the beautiful Spanish city of Girona.

The students were selected for this fantastic opportunity, in recognition of their positive contribution to their Societies and their dedication to learning. Joined by peers from Mulberry Academy Shoreditch and Mulberry Academy Woodside, our students took part in a range of water sports activities including kayaking, snorkelling, windsurfing and paddleboarding.

They fully embraced the experience – trying new things, overcoming fears and building new friendships with other students across the Mulberry Schools Trust. One of the highlights of the trip was visiting the Aquadiver water park, where they spent the day going on rides and even braved the largest waterslide in Girona!

We are incredibly proud of our students for completing their Societies programme and stepping outside their comfort zones – especially those who conquered their fears of the sea to take part in new and memorable adventures.



## Borough athletics success

A huge congratulations to our student athletes who competed in the recent borough-wide event.

They showed outstanding talent, determination and sportsmanship, and brought home some fantastic results.



## Visit to Imperial College

Year 12 students visited Imperial College for an inspiring glimpse into the future of science and innovation.

Guided by two current students, they explored the South Kensington campus, from the iconic Queen's Tower to cutting-edge labs and the Ethos Sports Centre. The tour highlighted Imperial's global impact in STEM and business, and its vibrant student life. Students also heard from the Imperial recruitment team and discussed what Imperial looks for in the personal statements from prospective students.



## On expedition

Congratulations to our latest Duke of Edinburgh cohort who successfully completed their first expedition of the summer, in Epping Forest.

Students have to plan and then navigate their own route through the forest, carrying their equipment and belongings to demonstrate that they can be resourceful and completely self-sufficient.



## ‘Outstanding’ personal development

In May, we were proud to share Ofsted's report following our inspection at the end of the spring term. Mulberry UTC achieved an *Outstanding* outcome for Personal Development and *Good* across all other areas.

The report highlights the impact of our distinctive curriculum, the commitment of our staff, and the ambition of our students. These outcomes reflect the rich and purposeful learning experiences we provide, both in and beyond the classroom.

We are especially pleased that Ofsted recognised the strength of our careers and employability offer, and our work to support students in developing the skills and mindset needed for future success.

**“The school is successful in preparing pupils with the skills and knowledge they need to enter the world of work.”**

**“The school has high expectations of pupils and builds a culture of professionalism.”**

**“A rich programme of enrichment that runs alongside the academic and vocational curriculum broadens pupils’ horizons.”**

**Ofsted, March 2025**

You can read the full report here: <https://bit.ly/3117ISE>

Watch our video highlights here: <https://bit.ly/43NukFI>



## Celebrating Culture Week in style and spirit

Culture Week 2025 was a vibrant celebration of diversity, creativity and community. Students led a full week of engaging activities – from henna art and flag face painting to tutor time sessions exploring global traditions.



The Easter and Eid Bake Off was a sweet success, with Safiya (Year 12) winning a hamper of baking goodies. Lunchtimes came alive with cultural music and dishes from around the world, while assemblies highlighted the importance of respecting and understanding different cultures.

On Friday 2nd May, the week wrapped up with a spectacular non-uniform day and cultural fashion show. Students proudly showcased traditional clothing from countries including India, Jamaica and Somalia, creating a colourful, joyful atmosphere. Even staff joined in, strutting the catwalk to cheers from the crowd.

From bake sales to catwalks, the week brought students and staff together in celebration of what makes our school community so rich and unique. We hope everyone had as much fun as we did!

## Futures Day inspires Year 12s



On 19th May, Year 12 students took part in Futures Day – a dynamic programme of career-focused workshops, guest speakers and application support. Sessions covered university preparation, apprenticeships and CV writing, helping students explore their Post-18 options.

Professionals from Goldsmiths, University of London and the University of Greenwich delivered talks on student finance and why students should consider university. Into University also led a session on alternative pathways. Students participated in mock interview workshops ahead of interviews scheduled for 11th June.

During the workshops, students practised interview techniques through role play and real-life scenarios, helping to build confidence and communication skills.

Futures Day aimed to equip students with the tools and knowledge to plan their futures – and feedback suggests it succeeded, with many feeling more informed, prepared and motivated about their next steps after Sixth Form.



## Fresh Air at Hornchurch Theatre

In May, Mulberry UTC Performing Arts students participated in the production and performance of *Fresh Air*, the new play by Vicky Donoghue. This play was produced in collaboration with the National Theatre through the National Theatre Connections programme.

Students were able to perform *Fresh Air* twice at Mulberry UTC, culminating in an impressive final performance at Hornchurch Theatre. They also received lots of positive audience feedback. We are so proud of our students who have learned so much from their experience.



## ‘Way down under the ground’ in the West End

Our Year 10 and Year 12 Performing Arts students recently went ‘way down under the ground’ to the West End’s *Hadestown*. Students really enjoyed this critically acclaimed new musical featuring figures from Greek mythology such as King Hades, Persephone, Orpheus and Eurydice.

They left inspired and energised to take what they learned from the trip, using these new skills for their own performances, and even created a TikTok video based on the staging of one of the featured songs.



## Recipe for Belonging exhibition

Our Health and Social Care students have been proud to work alongside Tower Hamlets residents in the Creative Mix programme, exploring what it means to belong. Meeting monthly, the students reflect, share stories and create artwork inspired by personal histories and community connections.

They have experimented with printing, poetry and storytelling in preparation for an upcoming exhibition which will be open to the public. *Recipe For Belonging* celebrates six months of this intergenerational collaboration, made possible by Magic Me and generous community support.



## Lord Baker visits Mulberry UTC

Mulberry UTC was delighted to host Lord Kenneth Baker on 12th May.

Lord Baker began the UTC movement and so it was an honour to host him for a tour of the building, watching lessons and speaking with students. He took a special interest in students on T Level programmes and the work experience they had completed this year, particularly at the Royal London Hospital and the National Theatre. He also took time to understand what each student thought was the difference between a university technical college and a mainstream school.



## Thrilling day at Thorpe Park

On Tuesday 17th June, a group of Year 11 students enjoyed an all-expenses-paid trip to Thorpe Park as a reward for their dedication during exam season. With exams behind them, students relaxed and bonded on the coach before enjoying rides like *Stealth*, *The Swarm* and *Nemesis Inferno*. Spirits were high all day as they looked ahead to prom, and the end of their Key Stage 4 journey at Mulberry UTC.

## TrailFam: An epic weekend of running

On Friday 17th May, students and staff went to Ultra-Trail Snowdonia to support participants – filling water bottles, providing nutrition and cheering on the runners.

Organised by TrailFam, 120 young people ran ERYRI MINI race and TrailFam runners came first in both the one- and two-lap races. Well done to them all.

On Sunday 19th May, TrailFam had three runners in the 25K race, including Mr Cox and Year 13 student Titi Hassan. This involved summiting two mountains, including Snowdon.

In London, Mulberry Academy Shoreditch staff – Ms Armstrong, Ms Ephgrave, Mr Balnave, Mrs Miller, Ms Keyser, Ms Delaney, Ms Kisacik, Ms Newton, Mr Hawkins, Mr Ahmed, Mr Lynch, Ms Page, Ms Anthony – and Year 13 student Asiah Bushura, ran the Hackney Half Marathon to fundraise for TrailFam.

Cheered on by colleagues and the supportive Hackney crowd, they raised a fantastic £3,875 to fund more opportunities for students, like the Ultra-Trail Snowdonia weekend. Thank you to everyone involved.



## Coding congratulations

Huge congratulations to our students who participated in the national Coding Competition in April 2025. As these students were in the top 10% of the country in the Bebras Computational Thinking competition, they went on to participate in the Coding Competition.

This competition required many specialist skills, including recursion and iterating lists. We were so impressed by our young coders, with several awarded gold certificates for their achievements:

- Ryu Nitta Tucker (Year 8) – top 2% of country
- Mohammed Iqram Hanif (Year 8) – top 5%
- Benjamin O'Berry (Year 8) – top 10%
- Mohammed Akram Hussain (Year 9) – top 6%.



## Oxford University Ghetto Film School: Women in Film

On Monday 12th May, Year 12 students visited Oxford University to take part in a full day of lectures and film screenings. This event, organised by Ghetto Film School and the university, celebrated the role of women across the film and cinema industry.

After a showcase of films by emerging women directors, the students heard fascinating talks from industry-leading women including directors, casting agents and screenwriters, alongside actors Gugu Mbatha-Raw and Simone Ashley. They also enjoyed a tour of Jesus College and visited the Sheldonian Theatre.





## Welcoming young learners

We have continued strengthening our links with local primary schools, and this term it's been lovely to welcome children from Mulberry Cannon Barnett Primary, St John's Primary School, St Luke's Primary School and Christ Church Primary School – they have all enjoyed a range of activities including art, design technology and basketball.



## House pride on the court

On Thursday 1st May, we hosted a house basketball tournament. Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 participated and Year 13 students ran the matches.

Students went head-to-head to determine who would be crowned the best basketball team in Mulberry Academy Shoreditch 2025. Barbican won the tournament, with team members achieving five House points each. Players from runners-up Tate were awarded three House points each.



## Beacon status awarded for race and equality

On Thursday 19th June, our student leaders met with visitors from Fig Tree International and the SSAT (the Schools, Students and Teachers



Network) to receive a prestigious Race and Conscious Equality (RACE) Charter Mark award. This recognises the school for its work promoting cultural celebration and racial justice in school and how it opens its doors to other schools to share good practice.

With thanks to Hannah (Year 12), Fatou (Year 9), Israel (Year 9) and Jayla Bree (Year 7) – there was no one better to receive the award than these inspirational student leaders who make such an impact on how we celebrate cultural diversity in school. Our visitors said they were 'articulate', 'born leaders' and 'truly inspiring'.



## Culture, sunshine and language in Barcelona

In mid-June, students studying Spanish spent a week in Barcelona where they were captivated by the city's blend of history, art and lively energy. Time spent on the beach enjoying the sun, sand and refreshing sea added to memories that will last a lifetime – of a city that captured their hearts with its sports, culture and vibrant atmosphere.



## Creating atmosphere through set design

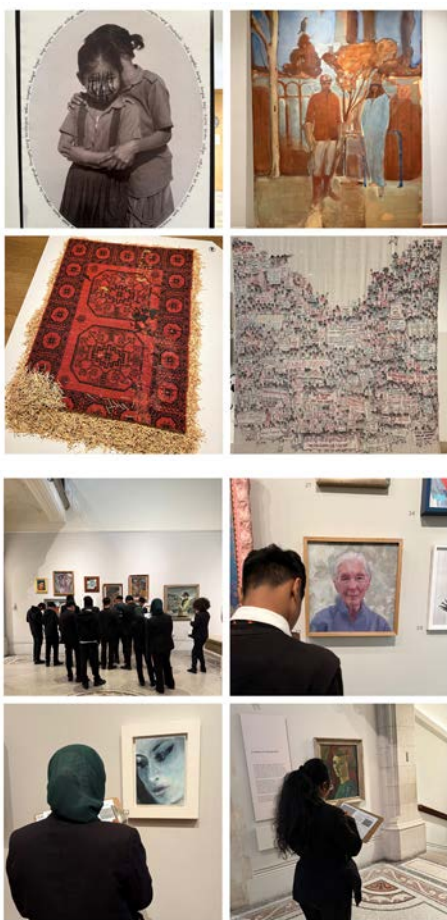
Students recently took part in a dynamic workshop at London College of Fashion, UAL, exploring the creative world of film and TV set design. Acting as set painters, they responded to one of two briefs, aiming to evoke a specific atmosphere through their artwork.

Mind mapping and sketching generated ideas and explored scale and composition. Students then brought their concepts

to life with large-scale backdrops, using broad brushes and ombré techniques to create convincing immersive environments.

Once backdrops were dry and hung, students rotated through production roles – including actor, director, photographer and lighting technician – to stage and capture dramatic film stills. This gave them valuable insight into the collaborative nature of filmmaking and set design.

Working alongside industry professionals, students developed their creativity, communication and teamwork skills. The workshop offered a rare hands-on experience that enabled their imaginative thinking and provided a deeper understanding of the production process.



## Pedal power and road confidence

During the summer term, more than 60 Year 7 students at Mulberry Stepney Green have successfully completed their Bikeability Level 2 award, funded by Transport for London.

The programme was designed to build the confidence and road safety skills of students who could already ride a bike. Training began in the school playground before progressing to the roads, parks and cycle paths of Tower Hamlets. Across five sessions, students tackled increasingly challenging routes and junctions before being assessed by instructors. As well as improving cycling technique, students gained confidence and learned to work effectively as a team.

We'll be launching the programme for another 60 students later this year. Those who completed Level 2 will now move on to mountain biking in PE, and we'll be encouraging them to continue cycling recreationally across London.



## History students celebrate with thrills

Year 10 and 12 History students were rewarded for their dedication and effort throughout the academic year with the treat of a trip to Thorpe Park – a well-deserved chance to relax, have fun and celebrate their achievements. Students spent the day enjoying rides, bonding with classmates and creating lasting memories. This truly memorable day out was a fitting recognition of their hard work and commitment, and everyone returned with smiles, laughter and stories to share.





## Building futures at Barclays HQ

Twenty Year 8 students took part in a three-day workshop at Barclays head office in Canary Wharf.

Interactive sessions led by Barclays professionals from departments including law, compliance and investment banking focused on key career skills like organisation, preparation and making strong first impressions. These real-world insights gave students a better understanding of various career paths. These inspiring and educational days helped students build confidence and skills that will benefit them in their future education and careers.



## Exploring pathways at PayE UK

On Wednesday 14th May, 20 gifted and talented Year 10 students were selected to visit PayE UK to gain an insight of the company and learn about different career pathways.

The trip included a speed networking session for students to practise connecting with professionals, and a mindfulness session focused on improving mindset, managing stress and overcoming potential obstacles. This helped students develop both their professional and personal skills, providing valuable tools for their future.



## Step by step to success

Congratulations to our Bronze Year 12 Duke of Edinburgh's Award group who walked a phenomenal 23 miles as a part of their Bronze Training expedition.

The group completed a section of the Thames Path through Buckinghamshire, combined with a loop through the Chiltern Way. In addition to the physical challenge, students learned to camp, cook and navigate. This was excellent preparation for their assessed expedition to the North Devon coast. It also provided additional experience the students can use to supplement their UCAS applications early next year.



## Discovering university life at Cambridge

Year 12 students recently explored the historic campus of Cambridge University, to gain some valuable insights into university life.

Students enjoyed the opportunity to attend informative sessions about admissions, discover different college environments and interact with current students. The trip provided a rare opportunity to understand what life is truly like at one of the world's top universities.





## A right royal day out at The Big Lunch

Some of our lucky children were recently invited to a very special event hosted by Canary Wharf Group – The Big Lunch. Held at the beautiful Eden Dock, the children began their day with some exciting nature-based activities, learning about local wildlife and the environment in a fun, hands-on way.

The highlight of the day was meeting Her Majesty Queen Camilla. The children represented the school with pride – curtsying, shaking hands and chatting politely with The Queen, who was warm, gracious and genuinely interested in what they had to say.

Mulberry Wood Wharf students were also proud to see the colourful bunting they had made displayed all around the event – a lovely touch that made the day feel even more special.



**“The Queen warmed my hands – she was really kind”**, said Madina, one of our students.

It was a day full of joy, learning and once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

## New life all around us

It's been an exciting few weeks at school as we've been observing the wonder of life cycles first-hand. We welcomed a batch of eggs into our classroom and were thrilled to watch them hatch into fluffy chicks. The children learnt how to care for them, fed them daily, and even enjoyed lots of cuddles.



The following week, tiny caterpillars arrived. We watched closely as they grew, formed chrysalises, and finally emerged as beautiful butterflies, which we released into the wild.

Nature didn't stop there – a moorhen built a nest on the dock, just outside our school. We've been lucky enough to observe her lay eggs and care for them, bringing our learning to life in the most magical way.

It's been an unforgettable experience for everyone.

## Reception's trip to the theatre

Reception had a wonderful adventure to the Half Moon Theatre to see *The Farmer and the Clown*.

The children were captivated by the heart-warming, funny and moving story told through expressive movement and music. They sat beautifully throughout the performance and were completely absorbed in the tale of friendship and kindness.

After the show, the children talked excitedly about their favourite parts and how the characters made them feel. It was a fantastic cultural experience and a magical introduction to live theatre for our youngest learners.







## Year 1 visits Mudchute Farm

Year 1 had an exciting trip to Mudchute Farm to support their science learning about animals, classification and habitats. The children loved seeing a range of farm animals up close and learning how to group them into categories like mammals, birds and reptiles.

They explored different habitats around the farm and talked about what animals need to survive. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring classroom learning to life. The visit helped deepen their understanding and sparked lots of curiosity about the natural world around them.



## Year 2 explores nature on our doorstep

Year 2 were invited to Eden Dock and the Crossrail Roof Garden for a day of hands-on learning about life sciences and nature.

The children explored plants, habitats and mini-beasts, linking their discoveries to their science and geography learning in school.

They were fascinated by the variety of wildlife thriving in these urban green spaces and asked thoughtful questions throughout the visit.

We feel incredibly lucky to have such rich natural environments right on our doorstep – perfect for bringing the curriculum to life.

## Reception shines in *The Gingerbread Man*

Reception children wowed us all with their stunning performance of *The Gingerbread Man*. Every child had a part to play, and it was wonderful to see everyone included, singing with confidence, acting with expression and even remembering lines.

The children used lots of new vocabulary and clearly enjoyed bringing the story to life on stage. It was a fantastic opportunity to build confidence and language skills in a fun, creative way.

A lot of parents came along too, which meant so much to the children.



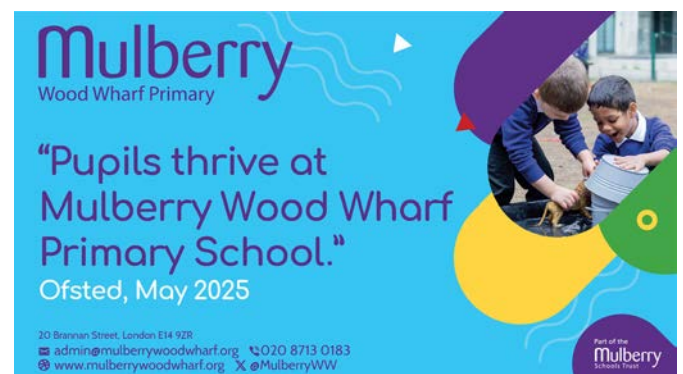
## Ofsted success for Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary

In May, Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary was inspected by Ofsted, and we are delighted with the outcome: three areas judged *Outstanding* and two *Good*.

Inspectors commented:

**“Pupils thrive at Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary School”**  
**“The school fosters inclusivity exceptionally well”**

We are incredibly proud of our staff, students and community for this fantastic achievement.



## Foreign Secretary David Lammy inspires young leaders

On Thursday 6th June, Foreign Secretary and MP for Tottenham David Lammy visited Mulberry Academy Woodside. He met students involved in leadership and enrichment programmes, including the Mulberry STEM Academy, which offers mentorship and industry-led STEM learning; the Mulberry Societies, which focus on academic enrichment and higher education; and Global Girl Leading, which supports young women in leadership.

Mr Lammy also spoke with House Captains, Sports Captains and Values Ambassadors about the school's community ethos.

A highlight of his visit was a Q&A with Year 10 Citizenship students, where he responded to insightful questions on his personal journey in public service, future aspirations, and his role as Foreign Secretary and MP for Tottenham.

The visit was a meaningful opportunity for students to share their views and learn about political leadership. It reflected the school's ongoing commitment to student voice and engagement in public life.



## Standout performances at talent show

After several weeks of auditions, 16 students performed in this year's Woodside's Got Talent, on Wednesday 11th June. The line-up featured a mix of singing, dance, poetry and freestyle rap, with students from Years 7 to 10 taking to the stage.

Emily (Year 8) won first place with her powerful rendition of *I Have Nothing* by Whitney Houston. Ellie's dance routine and Mirac's Rubik's cube solved in under a minute earned them joint runners-up. Augustine (Year 8) received a special commendation for his original freestyle and will be awarded studio time.

Emily will go on to represent Mulberry Academy Woodside at LIT's Got Talent on 1st July. The event also featured a staff performance of *Count on Me* by Bruno Mars, rounding off the night. The atmosphere was lively and supportive throughout, highlighting the wide range of talent that thrives at Mulberry Academy Woodside.

## Eco-entrepreneurs lead the way

On Wednesday 21st May, students from Years 8 and 9 presented their sustainable business ideas at the *Solutions 4 the Planet* regional final, held at the University of East London.

Competing against teams from across London, Nafisah, Olivia and Sanaila (9I) won first place with a project tackling homelessness using eco-friendly solutions.

Their plan earned them a place in the national final at the Palace of Westminster and a CREST Bronze Award from the British Science Association. Three other Woodside teams received special commendations for their confident and well-researched presentations.





## Students extract their own DNA at the Royal Institution

On Wednesday 14th May, Year 7 students took part in a workshop at the Royal Institution's L'Oréal Young Scientist Centre.

Our students extracted DNA, in a working lab, from their cheek cells using standard lab techniques and sealed the sample in a necklace vial to take home.

The workshop took place next to Michael Faraday's historic laboratory. As well as learning about DNA structure and genetics, students developed practical science skills and saw how science links classroom learning to real-world labs.



## Students share big ideas for green space

On Friday 13th June, Mulberry Academy Woodside welcomed Haringey councillor Lucia Das Neves to explore early ideas for redeveloping the school field. Ms Das Neves met with Mr Boniface and Year 7 students, who explained their ideas for creating a shared space for the school and community.



Suggestions included garden huts, picnic areas, a sports facility and a calm wellbeing zone. Ellie Trattou and Sakeiva Nixon (7E) said they were "excited to be part of the project" and looked forward to seeing the space used again.

## Building bridges through engineering workshop

On Thursday 22nd May, students joined an international workshop hosted by Engineering Tomorrow, learning how engineers design bridges to connect people and places.

They explored how different materials and shapes affect strength and cost, then applied their knowledge in a bridge-building task.

A speaker from the industry discussed career routes into engineering and shared insights about their own journey. The workshop combined practical skills with real-world science and encouraged students to think about the ways engineering shapes daily life.



## STEM students explore motorsport careers

On Monday 19th May, 25 Year 10 students with an interest in STEM and motorsport engineering visited Tottenham Hotspur Stadium for an F1 Drive careers trip.

Organised with the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation, the day offered a real insight into motorsport careers beyond driving, covering data, logistics, media and more.

Students tried karting, used F1 simulators and spoke with industry professionals. A highlight was meeting Mark Slade, a top British engineer who has worked with F1 legends including Häkkinen, Räikkönen and Schumacher.

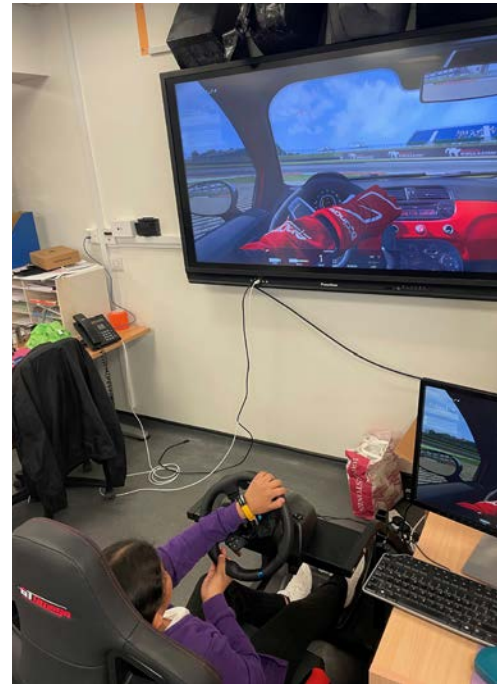


## STEM scholars gear up for race day

Our young Mulberry STEM Academy scholars have been busy bringing innovation to life this term, especially during their hands-on Saturday sessions at Mulberry School for Girls.

Our budding engineers in Years 4 and 5 have been designing, building and fine-tuning their electric cars, turning creative ideas into working machines. The workshop has been full of teamwork, curiosity and problem-solving as the children tackled every detail – from building sturdy frames to perfecting the steering – making sure their cars are race-ready.

It's been fantastic to see their confidence grow as they master real tools, develop technical skills and work together like true engineers of the future.



## Cracking the English code in the playground

Year 5 transformed the playground into a thrilling English Escape Room, putting their reasoning and problem-solving skills to the test with a series of grammar-based challenges.

Armed with clue cards, they raced to uncover puzzles hidden around the space – tackling spelling, punctuation, grammar, homophones, apostrophes, determiners, prefixes, conjunctions, prepositional phrases, adverbs, word families and direct speech. Each correct solution revealed part of a ten-digit code needed to 'escape' the room.

This imaginative activity brought classroom learning to life in an exciting, interactive way. The students showed impressive teamwork, determination and focus as they cracked each clue – building confidence in their English skills with every step.

A brilliant example of learning through play, and a fantastic way to inspire curiosity and creativity in literacy.



## New books and big plans

Our school library is being transformed into an inspiring reading hub thanks to our partnership with the National Literacy Trust's 'Libraries for Primaries' project.

This term, we were excited to receive more than 500 brand-new books to help foster a lifelong love of reading across the school. We were so grateful to the volunteers from Bloomberg, who gave their time and enthusiasm to help refresh and reorganise our book spaces.

Next up – our very own Audio Space with Yoto Players, offering students podcasts, music and audiobooks.

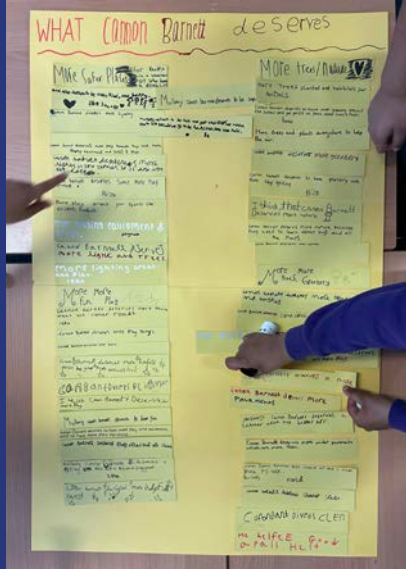




## Superzone messages on display

New artwork now brightens our Gunthorpe Street school entrance, designed by Year 5 students as part of the School Superzones project.

The display showcases the children's powerful ideas, drawings and messages from the Canon Barnett Deserves manifesto – amplifying their voices on how to make the local environment healthier, safer and better for everyone.



## Ocean Maths adventures

Our recent Ocean Maths sessions have been a fantastic way for parents to get involved in their children's learning. This term, Year 1 and 2 families joined us for a lively hands-on workshop packed with practical ideas to make maths fun at home.

The focus was on key skills such as telling the time and recognising money, with activities designed to build confidence and enjoyment in everyday maths.

It was brilliant to see parents and children working side by side, sharing strategies and solving problems together in such a positive atmosphere.



## Something's quacking in the classroom!

Our students have been captivated by the arrival of ducklings in school, enjoying hands-on learning about these fascinating creatures.

The children closely observed their waterproof feathers, webbed feet and impressive swimming skills – discovering how perfectly adapted they are for life in water.

This wonderful experience brought science to life, sparking curiosity and excitement about the natural world, and perfectly supporting exploration and understanding within the EYFS curriculum.



## Cooking up confidence in the classroom

Year 3 families enjoyed a fantastic Family Cooking Session with Kirsty from the Country Trust as part of our Food Discovery programme.

Children and parents prepared a healthy plant-based meal together, practising valuable cooking and nutrition skills learned throughout the year. The session was filled with delicious aromas, teamwork and laughter – a perfect recipe for hands-on learning and family fun.

## Exploring the world of work in a flash

In partnership with Causeway Education and Dutch NGO, JINC, every child in Year 7 took part in a 'flash' internship, where we visited ten different organisations and businesses across London. This exciting careers opportunity involved students spending the morning in the workplace, where they learnt about the companies, toured the building or site, and had an opportunity to help out in some way.



This experience enabled students to see what kinds of professions exist, what qualifications are needed, and what kind of work might suit them in the future. Many students shared that they hadn't realised that so many different roles existed in one organisation. From building model bridges and learning how to operate construction machinery, to using UV lights to explore microorganisms on their hands – each group had the chance to experience the varied roles and opportunities in each workplace.

During the morning, we visited A&O Shearman, The Hill Group, Legal & General, BAM Construction, London School of Economics, the Royal Veterinary College, the Royal College of Nursing, Investec, Wates Construction and London Interdisciplinary School.

A short film was produced that featured our students. You can watch it [here](#).

## STEM Club shines at national finals

Our STEM Club students have just been recognised as finalists in The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Competition, nominated for the Teamwork Award.

The students, who meet weekly in their Wonder 7 after school club, have created a school roof garden to improve the urban environment and promote sustainability. They researched roof gardens, designed detailed plans, and built 2D, virtual and 3D models using recycled materials. Through evaluations and testing they identified necessary materials, researched funding grants and developed practical solutions to challenges.

After submitting their ideas, they presented to a panel of scientists from across the UK, sharing their process and approach to the project, managing really challenging questions with insight and confidence. The project team then took their concept to Birmingham, where they presented at the Big Bang Expo at Birmingham NEC. We're excited about developing this project in our rooftop garden.







## Art students create for climate action

A group of passionate Art students have been taking part in the Thames Festival Trust's River of Hope project, which uses environmental learning and creative arts practice to help young people express their concerns about the climate crisis.

Students visited Cody Dock in Canning Town, where they worked with a poet and explored the richness of the environment. After this, the students took part in a workshop in school, working with a professional artist. They worked with recycled texts, overlaying colour inspired by the words and imagery, all linked to the environment. They revisited their poetry in an exciting workshop in school with spoken word performer and poet, Dauda Ladejobi.

Their creative pieces are now being brought together as part of an international installation involving not only children from across the UK - Leeds, Tees Valley, Norfolk, Norwich, Dorset, Plymouth - but also from France (Rouen) and Ethiopia (Addis Ababa and Arba Minch). We're looking forward to seeing the final outcome of their work when it's displayed on the River Thames next to the Millennium Bridge in the autumn.



## Charged and ready to race

Year 7 had a wonderful day zooming around an inflatable race track in electric battery-powered go karts, measuring their speed and evaluating their success in navigating the course alongside their peers.

Before the race day, they developed their understanding of anthropometrics and ergonomics on products and vehicles, and made predictions about their journeys in their Science lessons. They then reflected on aerodynamics in their lessons afterwards. Students enjoyed the opportunity to work together in teams to understand the importance of STEM in their everyday life and consider what this might look like in the future.

## Global music and shared song

We had a special assembly with the Global Music Academy with visiting music artist Sohini Alam.

Sohini is a British Bangladeshi vocalist whose musical repertoire includes folk, modern and traditional Bengali songs. She also composes and has branched out into multi-lingual music in bands, dance, film and theatre. Sohini is lead vocalist for the critically acclaimed bands Khiyo and Lokkhi Terra. Sohini explored the history of music in Bangladesh and taught students a song that they all sang together.



## All the fun of the fair

We hosted a vibrant and action-packed Year 6 Friendship Fair this term, where all the children joining us in September came together to meet for the first time. There were lots of opportunities to learn about each other, find out what we all have in common, celebrate our differences and what makes us all unique.

Our brilliant Year 7 Ambassadors hosted most of the fair, welcoming children and their families, as well as facilitating activities that explored our values of Diligence, Open-mindedness, Citizenship and Kindness.

## Celebrating Ofsted inspection success across our Trust

We were delighted to see the publication of two strong Ofsted reports for Mulberry UTC and Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary. These outcomes reflect the hard work and ambition of each school community, supported by the collaborative efforts of the wider Trust.

The inspections are a testament to the Trust's commitment to growing successful schools and we are incredibly proud of both schools.

We would like to thank all staff for their contribution to these outcomes – demonstrating the power of collective effort in delivering excellence.



## Mulberry College of Teaching celebrates first English graduates

The first year of Mulberry College of Teaching (MCoT) draws to a close this term. We're delighted that five of our first cohort will be joining the Mulberry Schools Trust as early career teachers (ECTs) and many more have secured their first teaching posts in East London schools.

An enormous thank you to subject mentors and colleagues across our partnership of schools who have shared their expertise and welcomed our beginning teachers (BTs) into their school communities. As one reflected, "MCoT has given me the support and confidence to develop as a transformative teacher and has given me the chance to make a life-long dream a reality".

If you know anyone with similar aspirations, do encourage them to get in contact with us now as there are a few places left for our 2025-26 cohort.

Email: [info@mulberrycollegeofteaching.org](mailto:info@mulberrycollegeofteaching.org)

For more information:

[www.mulberrycollegeofteaching.org](http://www.mulberrycollegeofteaching.org)

## Mulberry Arts: One House on Brick Lane

On Thursday 10th and Friday 11th July, Mulberry Arts proudly presented One House on Brick Lane, a powerful new play by the award-winning Mulberry Theatre Company at the Mulberry & Bigland Green Centre Theatre.

Developed through workshops and interviews, the play captured the voices and histories of East London, celebrating its vibrant communities. Students from Mulberry School for Girls, Mulberry Academy Shoreditch and Mulberry Stepney Green gave moving, authentic performances.

Backstage, students from the Mulberry Production Arts Academy led on lighting, sound, video and stage management with professionalism and skill.

The production reflects the Mulberry Schools Trust's commitment to creative education, offering students meaningful opportunities to share their stories and collaborate across schools.







## East London Teaching School Hub: Driving change through people, place and partnerships

The summer term has been jam-packed with end-of-year celebrations. In June, more than 460 Year 2 early career teachers (ECTs) celebrated the culmination of their two-year professional learning entitlement with us.

Other notable achievements included:

- 265 ECTs completing their two-year induction with our Appropriate Body services;
- 100 teachers and leaders completing their National Professional Qualifications summative assessments this term (NPQs);
- 60 more colleagues attending their final NPQ specialist consolidation conference with us.

We also hosted our first-ever celebration forum for more than 35 expert facilitators who play a vital role in our programmes. The event was a powerful moment of reflection and recognition – celebrating the year's successes and reaffirming our commitment to people, place-based professional learning and partnerships as the cornerstones of our work. One attendee described the morning as “enjoyable, informative and energising”, while another praised the impact of ELTSH's work as “truly impressive”.

## Strategic Away Day: shaping the future together

Our annual Strategic Away Day brought together Trustees, Headteachers and the Executive Services Team for a purposeful day of discussion, reflection and planning.

The day opened with an inspiring presentation from Year 7 students at Mulberry Academy London Dock, followed by a tour of lessons showcasing the school's excellent work.

Sessions focused on key areas of strategy across the Trust, including Post-16 education, primary education, communications and engagement, and estates planning.

The day played a vital role in shaping our collective priorities, aligning school and Trust-wide development, and ensuring we continue to deliver excellence and equity across all phases.

## DfE early years conference held at Shoreditch

On Wednesday 25th June, Mulberry Academy Shoreditch hosted the Department for Education's Reception Year Quality Conference.

It was a resounding success, bringing together school leaders and early years specialists from across London and beyond, including the Mulberry Schools Trust.

The event opened with an inspiring keynote address by School Standards Minister Catherine McKinnell MP, who highlighted the government's steadfast commitment to raising the quality of early years provision as part of the Opportunity Mission.



## Write on Track: Supporting every young writer

The Trust has secured funding for *Write on Track*, a new project aimed at strengthening the consistency of the writing curriculum across schools. The initiative will bring together primary and secondary teachers to build a shared understanding of effective writing pedagogy.


Its goal is to develop a more cohesive approach to writing that supports all pupils to become confident, capable writers who are able to express their ideas, opinions and arguments with clarity. By aligning practice across schools, the project will help ensure a smoother transition from primary to secondary and enable pupils to thrive across the wider curriculum.





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