

connect

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

A message from the CEO



This term has been marked by a powerful sense of connection across the Mulberry Schools Trust. Our Global Girl Leading Summit brought

together more than 300 students from London, across the UK and around the world. Their leadership, creativity and conviction were inspiring, and I am grateful to all the staff who supported the week of cultural learning, panel discussions and performances that made the summit such a vibrant success.

We have also seen remarkable achievements in STEM and the arts. We celebrated a five-year milestone in our partnership with Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd at Silverstone, and our innovative driver race cards showcase the impact of this changemaking work on young people. Students across our academies have excelled in engineering, performance, media, production arts and creative projects – representing the Trust with skill, ambition and pride.

It has been equally encouraging to see the strength of community within our schools, from Sixth Form Open Evenings to local celebrations, competitions and enrichment activities. Across all our settings, staff continue to give tirelessly to ensure our students are supported, nurtured and challenged.

With many thanks to everyone for all their dedication and support this term. Together, we will continue to deliver outstanding achievement for all.

Dr Vanessa Ogden CBE
CEO

Global Girl Leading Summit unites students worldwide



On Friday 10th October, more than 300 students attended our Global Girl Leading Summit at Mulberry School for Girls, with other schools across the country and abroad watching live online.

This year, students from four international schools attended in person: Lenana Girls High School (Kenya), Penola Catholic College (Australia), Colegio Carol Baur (Mexico) and Foscarini High School (Italy). Sixty-six Global Girl Leaders – students from across the Mulberry Schools Trust – helped lead the event and make it such a success.

The conference programme featured a keynote speech from Tina Tchen, Executive Vice President of Programs for the Obama Foundation; two panel discussions; a range of hands-on workshops; and a showcase of various creative projects. These included *Voices Across Time*, a film created in collaboration with Magic Me; a performance of five poems from *For Our Mothers*, this year's published poetry anthology, led by Applied Stories; a selection of Speakers' Corner videos; and a powerful rendition of Alicia Keys' *Girl on Fire*.



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A week of cultural learning and global connection

Throughout the week leading up to our Global Girl Leading Summit, our international guests took part in a rich programme of cultural and educational experiences.

A warm and vibrant welcoming ceremony at Mulberry School for Girls opened the event, with each school sharing presentations celebrating their cultures, school experience and visions for the future.

At Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, students were immersed in a 'Day in the Life of a Student' – attending lessons, joining co-curricular activities and engaging in lively discussions with their UK peers.

The learning extended beyond the classroom, with a trip to the majestic Hampton Court Palace, a scenic riverboat journey along the Thames to Greenwich and an unforgettable evening at *The Lion King* in the West End.



With thanks to our inspiring national panel ...


- Baroness Nicky Morgan, Member of the House of Lords and former Conservative MP and Minister
- Dr. Joanna Abeyie MBE, MD of People, Data and Culture Consultancy Blue Moon & Partners
- Fatima El-Meeyuf, Acting Headteacher of Mulberry School for Girls
- Natalie Campbell MBE, Co-CEO of Belu Water and Chancellor of University of Westminster
- Dr Fatima Rajina, Senior Legacy in Action Research Fellow at the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre at De Montfort University

... and our distinguished international panel

- Tina Tchen, Executive Vice President of Programs for the Obama Foundation
- Ms Ritika Anand, Principal, St Mark's Sr Sec Public School, Meera Bagh, New Delhi
- Dr Edna Adan Ismail, Founder and Director of Edna Adan Maternity Hospital and University in Somaliland

Celebrating five years at Silverstone

It was a privilege to be welcomed to the Silverstone Heritage Centre in September by Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd, to mark five years of our Mulberry STEM Academy partnership.

Trustees, Headteachers and academy leads were joined by three alumni, and the day began with an address from our CEO, Dr Vanessa Ogden CBE, reflecting on the programme's transformative impact on young people across our Trust. Guests enjoyed a special celebration film and an enriching tour of the Heritage Centre, learning about the evolution of Formula 1 and the innovations shaping high-performance engineering today. You can watch our celebratory film [here](#) .

The event concluded with an engaging session led by Toto Wolff, Principal and CEO of the Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula 1 Team, offering inspiring insights into leadership, engineering and ambition.

Mulberry teams compete at the Greenpower International Finals

The Greenpower season concluded in October, with teams from Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, Mulberry Stepney Green and Mulberry School for Girls competing in the F24+ category of the International Finals.



Mulberry Stepney Green achieved an impressive fourth-place finish, reaching speeds of 29 mph on the track. Performances continue to reflect the growing engineering expertise across our schools. We now look ahead to the opportunities offered by the new engineering laboratory at Mulberry UTC, where students will soon have the facilities and support to design and build their own cars from scratch.

Summertime Dutch Grand Prix inspires students for the autumn

Just before the start of the autumn term, students from the Mulberry Production Arts Academy and Mulberry STEM Academy took part in an exciting joint residential visit to the Netherlands.

A highlight of the trip was attending the Dutch Grand Prix, where students had the exceptional opportunity to be hosted by the Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula 1 Team. Exploring the paddock and team motorhome brought insight into one of the most technologically advanced environments in sport. This experience highlighted how Formula 1 teams combine innovation, precision and teamwork to stay at the cutting edge of the sport.



Driver race cards celebrate five years of student achievement

A highlight of the anniversary event was the unveiling of our Mulberry STEM Academy driver race cards – a visual record of each cohort since the programme began.

Each year's card features a photo alongside key achievements and milestone moments, capturing the evolving opportunities and accomplishments of students across the academy. Together, they tell a powerful story of progression across four cohorts, reflecting the impact of hands-on STEM learning and the opportunities created

through our partnership with Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd. The collection offers an inspiring snapshot of the young people driving the programme forward.

[Download a copy here](#) 

Exploring the powerful connections between the arts and STEM

As you'll read elsewhere in this issue of Connect, the late summer saw Mulberry STEM Academy students joining Mulberry Production Arts Academy students on the annual MPAA trip to the Netherlands. This year's visit focused on exploring the interrelationship between the arts and STEM.



At the Dutch Nationale Opera and Ballet's Decoratelier, they discovered how set construction and costume making depend on engineering principles, materials technology and precise planning.

Later, at a live orchestral dress rehearsal of *Tosca*, students observed how the orchestra, set, automation, lighting and sound were carefully coordinated to bring the performance to life. These relationships were explored further in a visit to Theater De Maagd, which uses state-of-the-art technology to drive its performances. These insights revealed how the theatre and live events industry relies on a workforce with a range of capabilities, with many roles requiring the creative application of traditional STEM skills.

Students also attended the Dutch Grand Prix as guests of the Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula 1 Team.

Technical support at Global Girl Leading 2025

Our students played a vital part in delivering the technical operation of the Global Girl Leading 2025 conference.

Working like a professional crew, they managed filming, sound and lighting throughout the event, ensuring every panel, performance and speech was captured to a high standard. As stage crew, they supported live transitions by setting, striking and repositioning furniture and equipment to keep the programme running smoothly.

Their attention to detail, teamwork and professionalism created a memorable conference and highlighted the exceptional skills they have developed through their Mulberry Production Arts Academy training.



West End trips

This term our students travelled to London's West End to see *The Lion King* at The Lyceum and *My Neighbour Totoro* at the Gillian Lynne Theatre, exploring how staging, automation, lighting, sound, costume and puppetry combine to shape storytelling. Both highlighted the creativity, precision and teamwork behind large-scale theatre productions, giving students valuable insight into the complex technical skills that bring productions to the stage and performances to life.



Mulberry Festival of Arts showcases talent and teamwork

The 2025 Mulberry Festival of Arts was a resounding success, showcasing the exceptional musical talent and artistic creativity of students across the Mulberry Schools Trust.

Our students applied the production skills they had learnt throughout the year, supporting the get-in, setting up exhibitions, patching sound and programming lighting. They operated lighting and sound, called the show, managed transitions and supported performers with professionalism and teamwork.

We extend our sincere thanks to all Trust schools, West St Leonards Primary Academy and our audience and supporters for making the festival such a truly memorable celebration of the arts.



Global Girl Leading study tours set for new year

Our Global Girl Leading international study tours will begin in January 2026.

This year's programme includes a visit to New Delhi in India, for International Friendship Week, hosted by the St Mark's Group of Schools. Students will also travel to America to visit The Obama Presidential Center in Chicago and attend the annual UNIS-UN Conference in New York.

Further tours will take place in Venice and Mexico City, for Model UN conferences and cultural experiences with schools who joined our Global Girl Leading Summit. The programme will conclude with a residential trip to Amandola in Italy, focused on women's leadership.



Networking and learning

Throughout the year, students involved in Global Girl Leading have access to a range of exciting networking and learning experiences, specifically focused on women's leadership and gender equality. Students have recently had the opportunity to attend prestigious events like the Women of the Future Awards and the Amnesty UK Youth Festival.

NEWS FROM OUR TRUST

Global partnership at the Athenaeum Club

On the evening of Tuesday 7th October, the prestigious Athenaeum Club hosted a special reception in honour of Global Girl Leading.

Friends of Mulberry, international delegates, staff and students came together to celebrate the global partnerships that have flourished through the changemaking programme.

Heartfelt speeches and reflective conversations highlighted the powerful sisterhood and shared mission of achieving gender equality cultivated through this programme.

Strengthening ties with Dominica

On Tuesday 21st October, as part of our expanding Global Girl Leading network, the Mulberry Schools Trust visited three schools in Dominica – the first Caribbean island to join our global sisterhood. Convent High School, Wesley High School and Goodwill Secondary School all participated in the 2025 summit, with Goodwill contributing to both Speakers' Corner and the *Girl on Fire* finale.

The visit, led by the Trust's Director of Marketing and Communications, Julie Cordice, strengthened our ties with Dominica and marked the beginning of a growing partnership with the girls and schools on the island. Their creativity, confidence and leadership shone through, and we look forward to deepening connections in the years ahead.

You can watch a short video capturing the visit [here](#)



A vibrant Sixth Form showcase

Our Sixth Form Open Evening was a vibrantly successful event showcasing the strength and ambition of our community.

Classrooms were welcoming and purposeful, giving Year 11 students and their families a clear understanding of the curriculum, enrichment opportunities and progression routes. Teachers offered motivating guidance about subject pathways, expectations and future destinations.

Student ambassadors were outstanding, speaking confidently about their experiences and giving families

an authentic insight into Sixth Form life. Parents, carers and students also appreciated the support of Tower Hamlets Young WorkPath advisors and our university partners, who enriched discussions about careers and progression – it was great to see so many internal and external students, as well as parents and carers. External visitors were particularly impressed by the breadth of the Trust's enrichment offer.

The evening's overwhelmingly positive feedback reflects the collective effort, energy and dedication of staff and the strength and depth of what Mulberry School for Girls has to offer.

Mulberry

School for Girls

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Sixth Formers’ Sisterhood journey begins

As part of Sixth Form Enrichment Wednesdays, several students were selected for a six-week changemaker programme delivered by the girl-led social impact enterprise Sisterhood.

Students will have the opportunity to develop their leadership and public speaking skills, as well as research an issue that impacts on them or their community such as inequality, body image, street safety or period poverty – working with their peers and members of Sisterhood to find solutions to address these issues.



Exploring justice, conflict and global leadership

Aspiring law students attended a talk by Sir Geoffrey Nice KC, a distinguished barrister renowned for his work in international criminal law and human rights.

Best known for leading the prosecution of Slobodan Milošević at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Sir Geoffrey drew on his decades-long career to explore a pressing question: How can we change the way we – and our leaders – think, so that we never go to war?

Against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, he examined the effectiveness of international law in preventing war and holding perpetrators accountable.

This was a rare, timely and invaluable opportunity to learn from one of the leading figures in global justice, whose work continues to influence how the international community responds to war crimes and the violation of human rights.

Mulberry X Gresham College session with Dr Lade Smith

On Wednesday 19th November, 137 students from seven schools attended the fourth



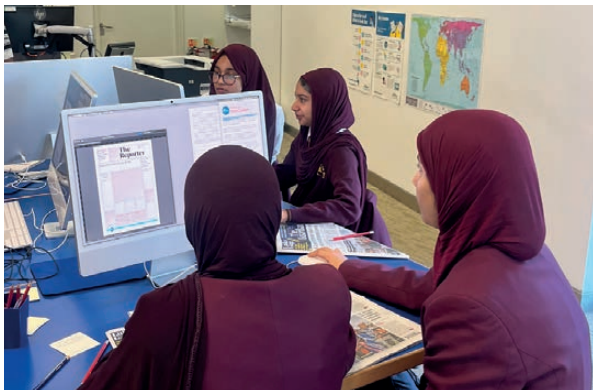
Mulberry X Gresham College talk at the theatre in the Mulberry & Bigland Green Centre, and even more joined online. The session featured Dr Shubulade (Lade) Smith CBE, President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Lade is a leading Consultant Psychiatrist at South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and a Senior Lecturer at King's College London. Her pioneering work includes establishing a joint medication review and physical health clinic for people with severe mental illness.

Students explored a real case study, discussing diagnosis, risk factors and the role of forensic psychiatrists, continuing conversations at the networking event. The lecture offered an excellent super-curricular opportunity for Key Stage 5 students to deepen their understanding of mental health, forensic psychiatry and the intersection of law and psychiatry.



Stepping into the newsroom at *The Guardian*



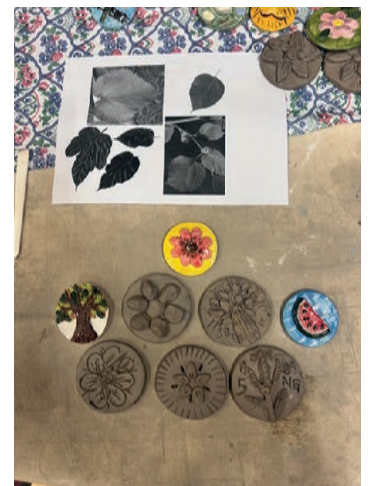
Students from the English Society recently participated in an immersive two-hour newspaper editing workshop at *The Guardian's* Education Centre in King's Cross.

During the session, they took on the roles of reporters and editors, selecting and editing stories, writing headlines and designing their own front pages under tight deadlines. This hands-on experience provided valuable insights into the editorial process and enhanced their understanding of news production.

Alumni return for 60th anniversary tea party

Mulberry School for Girls hosted its first ever alumni tea party on Friday 28th November to celebrate its 60th anniversary. Alumni enjoyed tea, cakes, a mosaic workshop, music from the choir and speeches by our CEO, Dr Vanessa Ogden CBE and Acting Headteacher Fatima El-Meeyuf.

It was wonderful to see so many former students come together to mark this special milestone and share treasured memories of their time at our school.





Media students go global in 24-hour livestream

In October, our T Level Media students made history by taking part in the world's first 24-hour live gameshow broadcast with Global Media & Entertainment Talent Manifesto, connecting students across the globe.

Beginning in Sydney, Australia, the broadcast travelled from country to country, with each group producing up to an hour of live content. Our students collaborated with Rise Academy to build and operate a fully functional TV studio, creating and running their own segment of the international broadcast. They took on roles both in front of the camera and behind the scenes, demonstrating creativity, technical skill and teamwork.

This unique experience provided valuable insight into the fast-paced world of live media production and highlighted the importance of global collaboration. We are incredibly proud of our students for their professionalism, innovation and dedication in helping to make this groundbreaking international project such a success.



Barts Health interactive skills day



Recently, our Health students had the opportunity to take part in the Barts Health NHS Trust interactive skills day, an inspiring and hands-on introduction to the world of healthcare.



Students practised basic life support, took part in manual handling training, explored a virtual reality parent simulation and discovered exciting career paths in midwifery, nursing and radiography. Each session gave them a genuine taste of working in healthcare and helped them develop valuable practical skills.

This was a rich and rewarding experience that built confidence and enthusiasm for future careers in the medical field. A huge thank you to Barts Health NHS Trust for hosting such an engaging and inspiring event.

Black History Month

In October, students at Mulberry UTC launched Black History Month 2025 with a vibrant and inspiring lunchtime assembly. Planned and led entirely by students, the event celebrated Black history, culture and achievements through powerful performances of music and spoken word.

The atmosphere was filled with creativity, pride and unity as students and staff came together to honour the richness and diversity of Black heritage. We are incredibly proud of everyone who contributed their talent, passion and energy to make this celebration such a memorable success.



Media students take on key technical and creative roles

Our T Level Media students are joining forces with Performing Arts for exciting productions of *Medea* and *The Servant of Two Masters*. Taking on a range of key technical and creative roles, they are gaining hands-on experience in areas such as lighting, sound, filming and stage production.

This collaboration enables students to develop practical skills, collaborate and experience the demands of a professional performance environment. Their creativity and dedication are helping bring productions to life, making it a memorable experience for both participants and audiences alike.



Care Certificate training for real-world healthcare

Health students have been enthusiastically developing their practical skills as they prepare for future placements.

As part of their Care Certificate training, they took part in a range of engaging, hands-on activities, including learning how to wear and dispose of PPE correctly, practising infection control, carrying out urine analysis and perfecting bed-changing techniques. Alongside these sessions, students explored effective communication skills and discovered more about the vital role of a healthcare assistant. This exciting and rewarding experience is helping prepare them for the challenges of real-world healthcare environments.



Sunderland University interactive taster day

Our Health and Business students recently enjoyed a taster day at the University of Sunderland in London.

Through interactive sessions in their chosen subjects, they gained valuable information about university-level study, explored potential career pathways and learned about the skills needed to succeed in higher education. The experience gave students a taste of university life, helping them feel informed, motivated and excited about their futures, while encouraging them to think confidently about the next steps in their education and careers.



Media students experience Darkfield

Year 10 and 12 Media students were rewarded for their hard work this half term with a trip to Darkfield London. They attended *FLIGHT*, an immersive show set in a plane cabin that explored parallel realities through stunning sound and lighting effects.

The experience provided students a rare opportunity to see innovative media and production techniques in action, inspiring their creativity and giving them fresh ideas for their own projects.



An Athens adventure

On Monday 1st October, students from Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, Mulberry Academy Woodside and Mulberry School for Girls set off on an enriching trip to Athens in Greece.

Our first day involved exploring the National Botanical Gardens and finding the Greek parliament, and our second brought history and some incredible views. Climbing to the top of the Acropolis followed a guided tour of the Parthenon, and brought views of Athens from its highest point, visible from anywhere across the city.

We wandered through Plaka, a charming area full of narrow streets, shops and local food, where students enjoyed trying new snacks and exploring the souvenir



shops. Our historical walk continued through the Monastiraki neighbourhood at the heart of old Athens, before the next day's highlight of an excursion to Delphi, where students learned about the Temple of Apollo and the famous Oracle.

Living Things experience

On Wednesday 15th October, the top 60 House Point scorers across the school were treated to what can only be called a wild experience!

A team from Living Things brought the animal kingdom to life here at school, with students from Globe, Tate, Thames, Tower, Barbican and Trafalgar getting up close and personal with a sugar glider, tree frog, python, tarantula, chinchilla, meerkat and many more fascinating creatures. Handlers shared amazing facts about each animal's habitat and special adaptations - perfectly tying into what we've been exploring in Science and Geography. A huge congratulations to our top 60 superstars, who've shown what it truly means to live our values and follow the Mulberry Academy Shoreditch way. Keeping it up will bring even more exciting rewards in future.



Black History Month cooking competition

To bring October to a close, we organised a Black History MasterChef Competition.

There were seven teams made up of two Year 10 students and one member of staff all making the same dish of rice and peas with oven jerk chicken and a salad. Miss Morris, Fatou and Asma won with 177 points and runners up were Miss James, Ayman and Omar with 154. In a close third came Mr Dean, Alisa and with 153, and a great time was had by all.

Hindleap Warren residential

On Friday 17th October, our Year 7 students went on their annual residential trip to Hindleap Warren Outdoor Centre in East Sussex.

As well as exploring the outdoors, students made new friends while enjoying fun, challenging outdoor activities such as climbing, muddy hikes and team building. It was an unforgettable experience.



Education awards for Sixth Formers

We are incredibly proud of our students who attended the Tower Hamlets Education Awards on Saturday 27th September.

Their hard work, dedication and achievements were recognised and celebrated alongside other outstanding young people across the borough. It was a wonderful occasion that highlighted their ambition, talent and commitment, and we are delighted to see them representing Mulberry Academy Shoreditch so brilliantly.



Running trails in the Italian Alps

During the October half term, some of our young runners joined TrailFam for a rich and rewarding training camp in the Italian Alps.

Based at the Coggiola Endurance Centre, and coached by international ultra runner Robbie Britton, the group spent a week immersed in mountain trails, teamwork and self-discovery. Each day mixed running sessions with recovery, workshops and time to explore the breathtaking alpine landscape. Everyone returned with new confidence, deeper friendships and a shared sense of pride in representing their school and TrailFam on an international stage.



Joining Bexhill to enjoy Glyndebourne

On Wednesday 15th October, ten Year 9 students travelled to East Sussex to join students from Bexhill Academy for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Glyndebourne Opera House.

This comedic opera is based on the Shakespeare play of the same name, arranged to music by the British composer Benjamin Britten.



3D Design students seek Sculpture in the City

Year 9 and Year 12 3D Design students took part in two Sculpture in the City trips in September and October, exploring how contemporary art interacts with the urban landscape.

Their guided tour through London's Square Mile encouraged students to study form, materials and the impact of location on public artwork. A memorable moment was gaining exclusive access to the 28th floor of One Leadenhall, where they sketched panoramic skyline views from a site not yet open to the public.

A key highlight was meeting artist Andrew Sabin at his sculpture *Looping Loop*, giving students direct insight into his creative process. The visit continued at the historic Guildhall Art Gallery, where students took part in a hands-on workshop, transforming their sketches into collaborative 3D sculptures. They also discussed diverse creative careers in art, design, architecture and the built environment.

One student-made sculpture was selected for display at the Guildhall Art Gallery during the Sculpture in the City Family Day. The experience fostered creativity, teamwork and critical thinking – an inspiring opportunity for all involved.



Inside *The Guardian* newsroom

Six gifted and talented Year 9 students from the English and Arts Society took part in a unique workshop at *The Guardian*.

The visit offered a rare opportunity to step inside a major media organisation and witness at first hand how a national newspaper is created. Students explored breaking stories, learnt how journalists refine information, and discovered how editorial teams decide what makes the news. They were then challenged to design their own newspaper pages, using professional layouts and formatting to mirror *The Guardian's* style.

The day offered valuable insight into the fast-paced nature of journalism and encouraged students to think critically about how the media shapes public understanding. Inspiring and hands-on, the experience gave them a real taste of life in a newsroom, sparking curiosity and ambition.



Amundi welcomes Year 12 students

French firm Amundi recently welcomed a group of Year 12 students to its London office, offering them first-hand insight into the asset management industry.

The visit introduced students to a range of career paths within financial services and allowed them to meet professionals across multiple departments. During the day, they learned about Amundi's global investment strategies, the growing importance of environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles and responsible investing, and the role of technology and research in navigating global markets.

As Europe's largest asset manager, Amundi oversees approximately €2.3 trillion in assets worldwide.



Year 7 footballing champions

Congratulations to our Year 7 football team on winning the Mulberry Football Tournament at Mile End Astro!

In a tense final against Mulberry Academy London Dock, they secured a brilliant 2-1 victory. The match featured unforgettable moments, including a spectacular 25-yard half-volley from Umar. Mikeal was outstanding in goal, making several crucial saves to protect the lead. Every player showed incredible teamwork, resilience and determination throughout the competition. You've represented the school with pride and spirit. Well done, Year 7 champions - you thoroughly deserve the title.



Celebrating our Jack Petchey winners



This term, our school celebrated our Jack Petchey Achievement Award winners at the Tower Hamlets Achievement Awards ceremony at Cineworld, The O2.

The event honoured students who have excelled and made exceptional contributions to school life. Congratulations to our winners: Rahel Ahmed, Ayuub Ibrahim, Khadra Saleh, Sophia Nyla Rahman, Irfan Ibne Kamal, Hammad Jisan Rahman, Sami Hossain, Dayan Mozumder, Ne'mah Haque, Arafat Ahme, and Mohammed Mutasim Rafin Chowdhury.

We also recognise Leader Award winners Ms Abed, Mr Uddin-Choudhury, Ms Swift, and Mr Ahmed, with thanks to Ms Gill and Mr Bisran for their support.

Year 8 Abdul Wajid recognised for Maths excellence

We are proud to recognise Abdul Wajid, who was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for outstanding performance in GCSE Mathematics.

He completed the exam at the end of Year 8, achieving a Grade 9 with over 96% - a historic milestone for Mulberry Stepney Green. Abdul also earned 'Best in School' in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge and will progress to the Senior Challenge. Now beginning A Level Maths, we wish him continued success in his endeavours.



A successful Open Evening

A heartfelt thank you to all our staff for making the Year 6 Opening Evening such a success.

Parents and carers expressed their appreciation throughout the night, and the excitement was clear from the smiles of both current and future students.

Their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication created an inspiring atmosphere that truly showcased the spirit of our school. We couldn't have asked for a better evening - thank you for helping make it so welcoming and memorable.



Little stars light up the Festival

The Mulberry Festival of Arts brought a brilliant week of creativity and celebration across the Mulberry Schools Trust.

A true highlight was the outstanding contribution from Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary's Year 3 students, who performed two beautifully crafted dance pieces, showcasing everything they had learned in their contemporary and modern dance lessons.

Their confidence, energy and expression lit up the stage and had the audience fully engaged. The children were also incredibly proud to see Frederick perform a solo guitar rendition of *Blackbird* by The Beatles, a moment that had the audience smiling from ear to ear. Being based at Mulberry UTC added to the magic of the week.




The children felt like celebrities as older students cheered them on throughout the day. Even lunchtime became an adventure, with the students absolutely loving the experience of eating in the canteen. It was a memorable, confidence-boosting week that the children will be talking about for a long time.

Special storytelling for Black History Month

During October, the children enthusiastically marked Black History Month by exploring a wide range of books written by authors from diverse backgrounds and learning about many different cultures.

They enjoyed discussing the stories they encountered, sharing their thoughts, and making meaningful connections with characters and experiences from around the world. These moments helped deepen their understanding of identity, history and community.

We were also delighted to welcome Wendy Shearer from Story Boat Tales. Wendy brought storytelling to life through her engaging performances, using rhythm, expression and imagination to captivate every class she visited. Her time with us was a memorable highlight of the month. Wendy has also left a special message behind one of our Advent calendar doors, available on our [website](#) .



Kindness at the heart of Anti-Bullying Week

We marked Anti-Bullying Week with the national theme **Power for Good**.

Children kicked the week off by wearing odd socks to celebrate individuality and remind each other that differences should be embraced. Across the school, we also began our PSHE Celebrating Difference unit, exploring how kindness and respect help everyone feel safe and valued. Students enjoyed making friendship bracelets and caterpillar kindness links to share positive messages. We also introduced our brand-new Kindness Box, where children can post notes of encouragement to one another.

Year 2's journey into the Great Fire of London

Year 2 students enjoyed an exciting visit to St Paul's Cathedral to support their history learning about the Great Fire of London. The children explored the magnificent building, marvelling at its grand dome, sweeping staircases and beautiful artwork that brought their topic to life.

They learned how the original cathedral was destroyed in the fire and discovered how Sir Christopher Wren rebuilt the landmark we see today. As Ashvik said afterwards, **"It felt like stepping into history, I couldn't believe how huge and amazing it was!"**



Little explorers in Canary Wharf

Reception children enjoyed their very first local trip as they set out to explore the community around them.

Tapping into their senses, they took in the sights and sounds of Canary Wharf before visiting our neighbours and friends at the John Lewis café. The children were excited to order their own drinks and snacks, paying with real money and showing wonderful manners throughout.

Staff at the café were impressed by how polite and grown-up they were. It was a lovely opportunity for Reception to build confidence, independence and friendship beyond the classroom.

Seasons, maps and Millwall Park

Year 1 enjoyed a wonderful trip to Millwall Park to support their Geography and Science learning. As part of their work on map skills, the children practised following simple routes and spotting key landmarks.

During their autumnal walk, they explored seasonal changes – observing colourful leaves, bare branches and the crisp air. It was a great opportunity to connect classroom learning with the real world, and the children loved experiencing the sights, sounds and textures of autumn all around them.

A day of creative masterpieces

The children enjoyed a wonderful creative arts day inspired by Henri Rousseau and Claude Monet.

Using the autumn season as their muse, they explored nature through colour, texture and pattern. Some students crafted detailed clay work, while others experimented with printing techniques. Outdoors, the children collected leaves and natural materials to create vibrant seasonal artwork. It was a joyful day full of imagination, expression and artistic discovery.



Enrichment Week at Woodside

During Enrichment week, a group of students chose to spend their break taking part in a full programme of enrichment activities that combined exciting trips with creative learning in school.

Their week began with visits to the Science Museum, where they explored interactive exhibits, followed by the Tate Gallery, which offered a chance to engage with a wide range of artwork. They also visited the British Museum to examine objects from different cultures and the Imperial War Museum to gain a deeper understanding of major historical events.

The Bushcraft Challenge back at school was a highlight. Students worked together on shelter building, map reading and basic first aid. They also tried wood whittling and learned how to use tools safely. Lighting a fire responsibly was met with great excitement.

The week encouraged problem solving, resilience and teamwork. Students remained curious and engaged throughout, making the experience both memorable and rewarding.



Celebrating Black History Month

Black History Month brought a lively mix of colour, culture and creativity to the school. The kitchen served popular Afro-Caribbean dishes, and the main hall displayed student artwork that explored history, identity and stories from across the Black diaspora.

The evening performance was a standout moment. Students took to the stage with singing, poetry, drama and dance, showing confidence and pride in their work. Their performances reflected both talent and strong collaboration.

Year 9 students also organised Sneakers Day to raise funds for the Godwin Lawson Foundation. A themed treasure hunt added to the celebrations and encouraged teamwork as students followed clues across the site.

The month highlighted the importance of learning about Black history beyond October and recognising the contributions that shape our community.



Year 9 students visit *The Guardian*

Year 9 students visited the headquarters of *The Guardian* for a workshop called Behind the Headlines. The session gave them a detailed look at how journalists research, write and edit stories for a national audience. They explored key ideas such as accuracy, bias and ethics, and discussed how news influences society.

Students asked questions, spoke with journalists and even tried creating their own headlines. The visit offered a clear insight into careers linked to media, English and current affairs. It was an inspiring experience that helped students understand how professional newsrooms work.



Year 10 learn to recognise healthy relationships

Year 10 students took part in a workshop delivered by Tender UK, a charity that uses drama to teach young people about healthy relationships. Students explored emotions through role play and activities that highlighted red flags linked to unhealthy behaviour.

One student explained that learning about relationships at their age helped them feel more confident talking about difficult topics. Badar reflected that growing older means recognising the need to share feelings rather than keeping everything inside.



Year 7 discover real artefacts on Thames history trip



Year 7 historians took part in a mudlarking trip along the River Thames as part of their enquiry, London Through Time. They discovered pottery, oyster shells, glass fragments and animal bones that linked to different periods in the city's past.

Students used their finds to explore how people lived and worked in London across history. The experience encouraged curiosity and supported their classroom learning by giving them direct contact with real artefacts from the riverbank.

Practical experience of AI in action

A group of Year 10 students took part in an AI workshop led by IBM.

They developed problem solving skills by using IBM design methods to explore how AI can support real-world challenges. Through practical tasks, students learned about generative AI and design thinking. The workshop encouraged creativity and helped students understand how technology shapes modern industries.



Drama students join Haringey Shed workshop

Year 9 and 10 Drama students took part in a creative workshop with Haringey Shed.

They collaborated on short performances that showed strong teamwork and imagination. The final piece included scenes set on a snowy mountain, a fast-food shop and a haunted house. The group showed confidence and enthusiasm throughout, and the workshop leaders praised their focus and creativity.

Year 6's unforgettable adventures in Snowdonia

Year 6 embarked on an unforgettable residential adventure to Plas y Brenin in the heart of Snowdonia. From conquering the Devil's Kitchen hike to exploring the golden beaches of Anglesey, every moment was filled with discovery, teamwork and joy.

Our children courageously embraced each challenge – hiking through mountain trails, spotting dolphins across the bay and tackling gorge walking with laughter and determination. Whatever the weather, they supported one another brilliantly, showing kindness, resilience and enthusiasm throughout.

Activity leaders praised the group's cooperation, positivity and respect, highlighting how well they listened and worked together in every activity.

The children returned with lasting memories, newfound confidence and a wonderful sense of pride – a true celebration of friendship, growth and the great Welsh outdoors. It was a week that captured the very best of adventure learning at Mulberry Canon Barnett!



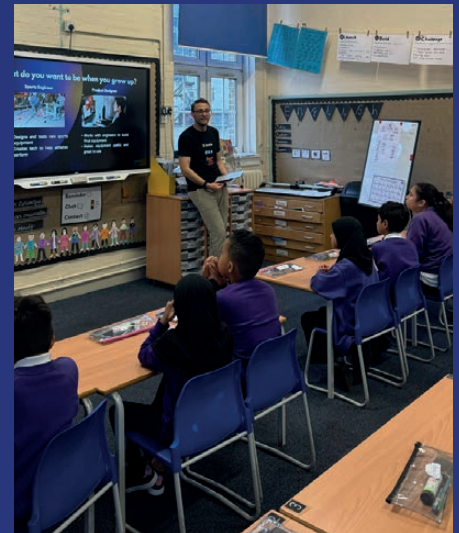
Tech She Can inspires innovators

We were thrilled to welcome back the Develop team for another brilliant Tech She Can Day.

This year's theme – Technology in Sport – sparked curiosity about how innovation is changing the games we love, from VAR to Formula One. Students in Years 3, 4 and 5 explored how technology drives fairness and performance before designing their own imaginative inventions.

One standout creation was a smartphone with a built-in umbrella button – a clever mix of creativity and problem-solving.

The workshops were lively, inspiring and full of hands-on learning. A huge thank you to Joey and the team for bringing technology to life for our students and showing them how great ideas can shape the future. We can't wait to continue this partnership.



Shining bright at the Mulberry Festival of Arts

After weeks of rehearsals at school and home, Mulberry Canon Barnett students shone brilliantly at the Mulberry Festival of Arts. Their energy, confidence and joy were evident throughout, and they took to the stage with real pride as they performed alongside other schools in the Trust.

Families were thrilled to see the children's musical, dramatic, dance and poetry performances come to life. One parent said the poetry "was very moving and made me cry". Our students' enthusiasm, teamwork and courage made their contribution truly special, creating lasting memories for everyone who attended.

Supported by the Mulberry Performing Arts Academy, the festival offered our children a wonderful chance to showcase their creativity on a larger stage – and they rose to the occasion beautifully.

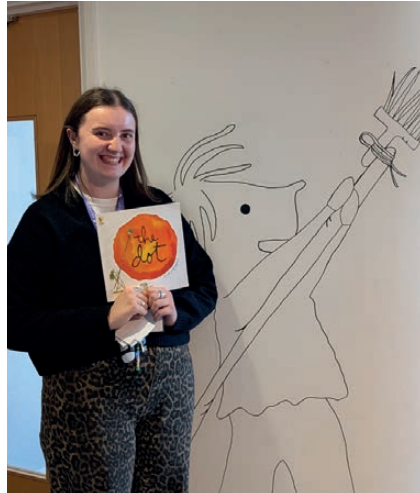


Joyful new artwork brightens school entrance

Our school entrance has been transformed by Ms Georgia with a stunning new artwork inspired by *The Dot* by Peter H Reynolds.

Every student contributed to this uplifting project, celebrating confidence, courage and collaboration – key values in our school community. The vibrant display, created with artist Georgia, has quickly become a much-loved feature of our school, sparking smiles and conversation each day.

A heart-warming celebration of teamwork and perseverance, it perfectly captures our belief that every child's mark matters.



Coming together to use our power for good

Our school marked Anti-Bullying Week 2025, led nationally by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, with the theme Power for Good.

We began with a special assembly and explored how to use our power for good – speaking up, showing courage and including everyone. Children completed Anti-Bullying Agent Mission Packs, solved puzzles, and created unique pledges and badges. Through discussions and activities, we reinforced our 3Rs – Respectful, Responsible, Ready to Learn – celebrating kindness, teamwork and a supportive school community.

Celebrating the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr



Our English unit on biographies concluded with powerful and inspiring work on Martin Luther King Jr, in honour of Black History Month.

Students explored his life, leadership and legacy before producing thoughtful biographies and striking pastel portraits. Their writing showed maturity and empathy, capturing Dr King's message of hope and justice.

We were thrilled that several of these beautiful portraits featured in a display for Mulberry Arts – a wonderful recognition of their creativity and commitment to learning.

Coffee, conversation and community

Our November coffee morning was a wonderful success. It was lovely to see familiar faces and new ones joining us for tea, coffee, pastries and great conversation.

We welcomed Sahanara Ameen, our guest speaker and author, who shared valuable insights from her book about supporting daughters as they grow.

We are so grateful to everyone who joined us to make the morning so welcoming and enjoyable, and we look forward to future coffee mornings as our Parent Carer Staff Association continues to grow.



Future tech and friendly robots

Students in Years 7 and 8 had the exciting opportunity to visit the UCL East Campus, where they explored the cutting-edge world of robotics. During the visit, students toured the robotics lab and began their own mini robotics project. They used micro:bits to simulate ants collecting digital food and depositing it into a digital hive, combining coding with creative problem solving.



Students also programmed micro:bits to act as temperature sensors, learning how robotics can be applied to real-world challenges. Throughout the day, they met current UCL students who shared insights into university life, courses and careers in STEM. The experience was both inspiring and educational, sparking curiosity about science, technology and innovation.

One student said, **“I was amazed by the atmosphere at UCL – the building felt so modern and full of energy. I really enjoyed exploring the robotics lab and working with micro:bits. Learning how to code them as sensors made me realise how technology connects to everyday life. Speaking with university students gave me a new sense of motivation to keep improving my coding skills.”**

Another shared, **“I loved the UCL experience because we got to do so many fun activities. My favourite part was when we acted like ants collecting food using micro:bits – it made learning about robotics exciting and creative. I also liked seeing a real robot dog up close and finding out how it works. The whole trip made me want to study robotics even more.”**



Art meets language at the Wallace Collection

Students had an enriching visit to the Wallace Collection as part of their work in Spanish and Art, Design and Technology. Through close analysis of artworks in the collection, students honed their observational skills and experimented with a range of drawing techniques and materials.

They undertook several detailed studies exploring composition, tone and line, inspired by the masterpieces surrounding them. Students also explored the impressive artworks within the collection through an immersive Spanish language scavenger hunt. This enabled them to apply their Spanish skills in a real-world setting, while also enhancing their communication and teamwork skills.



Celebrating reading at the Tower Hamlets Book Award

A group of our students recently celebrated their love of reading and literature at the Tower Hamlets Book Award.

They had the opportunity to meet writer Tom Percival, explore exciting new books, and engage in lively discussions about their favourite stories. The event encouraged creativity, critical thinking and a deeper appreciation for storytelling. Students left inspired, motivated to read more and excited to share their thoughts with classmates, making the experience both educational and memorable.

Workplace adventures

Fifty students in Year 8 took part in their second Flash Internship, where we visited five different organisations and businesses across London. One group visited Grant Thornton, where they got a glimpse into the world of business and accounting.

The day began with a fun icebreaker activity to build teamwork and confidence before a fascinating tour of the offices, including the modern workstations, welcoming canteen, and scenic balcony views. Students were treated to delicious hot chocolate before taking part in a lively group challenge to suggest how 'Eco-Bean coffee company' could improve its profits.

Their creative ideas, from innovative advertising to new customer experiences, impressed the Grant Thornton team. During the morning, we also visited the Careers and Enterprise Company in Aldersgate Street, BDO in Baker Street, the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square and Systemiq in High Holborn.



Choir shines at Mulberry Festival of Arts

Our school choir delivered a truly memorable performance at the Mulberry Festival of Arts.

Singing beautifully together, the students showcased their talent, passion and dedication, captivating the audience with a rich, harmonious sound. Their confidence and passion shone through every note, demonstrating not only their musical skills but also the joy of performing as a group. The festival provided a wonderful platform for the choir to celebrate creativity, share their love of music, and make lasting memories as new students in the Trust.

Debaters take their skills to Deloitte

Our passionate Debate Mate students had the opportunity to step into a professional environment and collaborate directly with Deloitte Partners, some of the UK's most senior business leaders.

Through engaging debates and problem-solving challenges, students gained rare insights into leadership, innovation and decision-making at the highest level.

It was a brilliant chance for the students to showcase their skills, build confidence and see first-hand that their voices and ideas are valued by those shaping global industries. Students worked in teams with Deloitte Partners to design and pitch creative solutions to technology-related challenges, and then presented their ideas in a pitch competition, with the top teams showcasing their proposals on the main stage.

A brilliant Bronze for our newly formed cricket team

Year 7 and 8 girls played brilliantly at the John Orwell Centre, where representatives from both year groups competed in the Tower Hamlets inter-school cricket competition.

They won their second match and demonstrated great teamwork and communication, recognising how to develop their strategy together as a team. We're incredibly proud that the team secured Bronze overall, not least as a newly formed group competing with seven established schools from the area.

Graduates reflect on their first term

After completing their initial teacher training with Mulberry College of Teaching, five graduates started their Early Career Teacher (ECT) roles in schools from across the Trust.

Just one term in, they're already making a positive impact - building confidence, refining practice and embracing support from mentors and colleagues.

Safa, now an English ECT at Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, shared: **“There’s a genuine sense of belonging here. It’s a vibrant, diverse community to teach in. Weekly mentor meetings give me space to think, and the English department is so warm and collaborative.”** She loves the variety: **“One lesson might be a Shakespeare debate, the next a modern poem or creative writing.”**



Alex, now an ECT at Mulberry UTC, also commented on the strength of community. **“Before joining Mulberry, I spoke to so many training providers but the moment I met Ruth and Tessa (Directors), something clicked. Their passion for education matched mine perfectly, and I knew this was where I belonged. It wasn’t just about training – it was about joining a community that genuinely cares.”** He reflected, **“What really drives me is having the most powerful ‘why’. Making a difference for every student who steps over the threshold into my classroom.”**



Unlocking talent through the TA to teacher journey

Recruiting and retaining fantastic colleagues to teaching can be challenging but, at the Mulberry Schools Trust, we spot and nurture talent from within. Mulberry College of Teaching provides a pathway for talented Teaching Assistants to train to teach while placed in our schools.

Last year, spotting potential, leaders at Mulberry Stepney Green encouraged Sultana, a TA at the time, to apply for training. She thrived on the programme, securing her first teaching post in one of our partner schools. Sultana remains closely connected with us as a participant on our East London Teaching School Hub’s ECT programme.



Teacher apprentices at Mulberry School for Girls

This year, the Government has introduced a teacher degree apprenticeship for secondary maths.

We are delighted that two former Mulberry School for Girls students, Aneeqa and Sara, are now working as Teacher Apprentices in the Maths department of the school. As their mentor, Lynne Woolridge, explains: **“The programme is structured so apprentices grow gradually into the role, which means less disruption to**



student learning compared to some other routes. And honestly, the value they add now – supporting lessons, tutoring, creating resources – is huge.”

This is an exciting new route into teaching and we look forward to supporting them to develop as great teachers.

Real stories of engagement and impact

In recent months, East London Teaching School Hub has been collaborating with local training providers and schools, helping potential teachers navigate routes into teaching and helping school leaders to know how to engage with initial teacher training. We collated case studies of effective practice, including a contribution from Mulberry College of Teaching and Mulberry Stepney Green. You can find the full publication [here](#).



8th Annual Education Lecture

On Wednesday 11 December, the Mulberry Schools Trust hosted its 8th Annual Education Lecture at the Royal Society of Arts, bringing together more than 170 students, Trustees, Governors and friends of Mulberry.

The evening featured a keynote address from Matthew Barzun, Chair and Publisher of Tortoise Media and former US Ambassador to the UK, who spoke about diplomacy, leadership and the influence of digital journalism.

An inspiring panel followed, featuring Zulum Elumogo, Sotez Chowdhury and Khadija Drir, student at Mulberry School for Girls and Deputy Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets. Their reflections on youth leadership resonated strongly with the audience.

The event was confidently compered by Mulberry Academy Woodside students Timothy and Mawada.



Write on Track cross-phase visit

A brilliant day of professional learning at Mulberry School for Girls brought together teachers and leaders from primary and secondary schools in Tower Hamlets and Newham.

The focus of the Write on Track project is to strengthen the consistency of our approach to teaching writing across Key Stages 2 and 3. Colleagues explored the challenges they shared, compared effective strategies and visited lessons to see strong practice in action. We were joined by representatives from the Laurel Trust charity, which is funding the project. Participants left with fresh insight, stronger connections and a shared commitment to developing a more coherent approach to the teaching of writing that benefits all learners.



Going Places 2025

We were once again proud to publish *Going Places* this year, showcasing the exceptional destinations secured by our Sixth Form students in 2025.

[Download the publication here](#)



Minister for Skills spotlights girls' technical education

On Thursday 20th November 2025, Mulberry UTC welcomed The Rt Hon Baroness Smith of Malvern, Minister of State (Minister for Skills) and Minister for Women and Equalities in the Department for Education, for a visit celebrating its role as a national model of high-quality technical education.

The visit highlighted Mulberry UTC's success in widening access for girls into health, digital media, the creative industries and STEM.

Hosted by Dr Vanessa Ogden CBE, CEO of the Mulberry Schools Trust, and Principal Daniel Seed, the Minister toured our professional-standard theatre, TV studio, hospital-grade Health Suite and the recently constructed engineering lab made possible through the partnership between the Trust and Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd. The Minister met students, staff, alumni and partners including Barts Health, the National Theatre and Creative Media Skills Institute. Uma Kumaran MP attended, followed by a roundtable on technical pathways for young women.





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