

connect

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

A message from the CEO



We are thrilled to present the expanded spring edition of Connect, featuring the incredible work taking place at Mulberry

Wood Wharf Primary and the fantastic opportunities that have arisen for our schools.

We are delighted to have received invitations to two remarkable occasions involving The Royal Family, a great testament to the hard work and dedication of students and staff.

We are also proud to share details of the formal launch of the Mulberry Production Arts Academy, part of our Mulberry Changemakers programme (see page 4). The past few months have been filled with notable events, such as the Mulberry Schools Trust Annual Education Lecture at the RSA and the launch of the Reconnect London report. Our students have been coming together and learning through various activities, such as our Societies and the Trust's GCSE Maths Revision Conference, helping to foster a sense of community and collaboration among our students.

We hope you enjoy reading about our schools and the opportunities they provide to our students.

Wishing everyone a peaceful and restful break, and to those that are celebrating, Ramadan Mubarak!

Dr Vanessa Ogden
CEO

Mulberry students meet His Majesty The King and The Queen Consort following historic visit to Tower Hamlets

On Wednesday 8th February 2023, His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort visited Tower Hamlets.

Students from Mulberry School for Girls were honoured to have met Their

Majesties at Altab Ali park along with local activists involved in the anti-racism movement of the 1960s and 1970s. The King and The Queen Consort spoke to our students who worked on projects related to anti-racism as part of the 'Brick Lane 1978: The Turning Point' exhibition that toured at Mulberry School for Girls (see page 6).

The King and The Queen Consort then walked through Brick Lane where they met many local people including students from Mulberry Academy Shoreditch. Their Majesties ended their visit at Brick Lane Mosque where they heard about the unique history of the building evolving from a church to a synagogue to the present mosque.



The visit was hosted by British Bangladeshi Power and Inspiration Foundation which aims to celebrate the pioneers, leaders and role models of the British Bangladeshi community. We would like to thank Cllr Abdal Ullah and Ayesha Qureshi MBE for inviting us and for hosting this most historic event in Tower Hamlets.

Highlights of our brilliant 2022-2023 Graduation Ceremony

An impressive 107 scholars graduated from our Mulberry STEM Academy having achieved a remarkable year of study!

On Friday 3rd March, our brilliant Cohort 2 celebrated their achievement at a formal graduation ceremony hosted by Mulberry UTC. The event took place in the school's plush 250-seat theatre alongside invited guests including our alumni, parents/carers, Trustees and our friends from Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd.

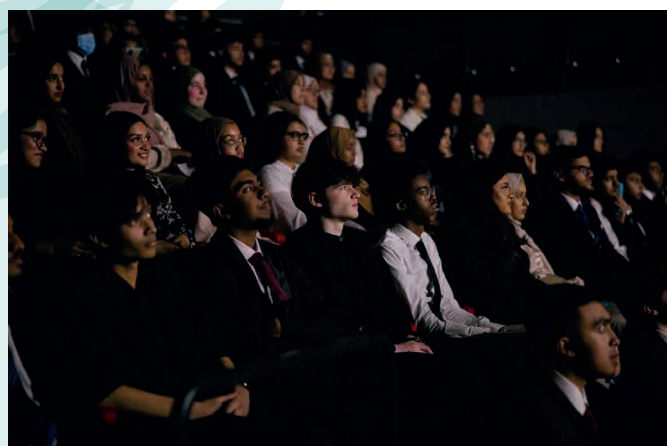
During the year-long programme, students have gained a range of qualifications and experiences, including Python programming, EPQs, careers conferences, work experience, CREST Silver Awards and Greenpower car projects.

As the guests arrived and 'Seasons of Love' from the musical *Rent* echoed throughout the theatre, we felt a tingle and knew this was going to be a remarkable event. Equally stunning was the show car that was impeccably placed on the stage for all to admire.



The Year 12 student comperes Harry, Genesis, Lora, Amun and Ozzie from MUTC were simply incredible as they introduced the speakers and presented each of their segments with style and charisma.

All students graduated with a certificate, pin badge and a goodie bag. Ten students won the excellence awards, five individual PRIDE winners took home branded Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd merchandise including a rucksack, power bank and a lovely chocolate steering wheel. The Best Team award based on the PRIDE values went to 'Team Storm' from Mulberry Stepney Green who won the International Greenpower Final F24+ class last October.



PRIDE winners:

Passion	Shakila Jannath
Respect	Paul Johnson
Innovation	Ishraq Ahmed Chowdhury
Determination	Hibaaq Hussein
Excellence	Rakibul Bhuiyan

Best Team award winners

Team Storm: Hibaaq Hussein, Mohammed Ishraq Ahmed Chowdhury, Sa'qul Islam Hai, Shadman Islam, Hameem Mahdi Islam, Anas Mahmud, Shah Mohammad, Mohsin Ahmad Kamali, Muhammad Nabeelul Islam, Mohammed Yameen, Mohammed Yusuf.

A Level students enjoy number theory seminar

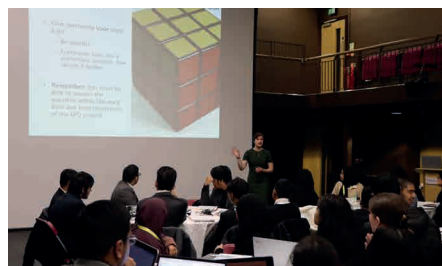
A Level Mathematicians had the opportunity to attend an academic seminar as part of the Mulberry STEM Academy.

Guest speaker Dr Ayesha Hussain is a mathematical climate modeller at the University of Exeter and the Met Office, having finished her PhD last year at the University of Bristol. The lecture focused on number theory and mathematical modelling.

Year 12 students embark on EPQ journey

Our Year 13 students have now completed their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

The EPQ is a demanding course worth half an A Level and involves students developing and implementing an independent research project on a topic of their choice which extends knowledge through depth. Titles this year include quantum physics.



This term, we were delighted that Dr Victoria Yusaitis, University of Southampton launched the EPQ to our current Year 12 students at the Mulberry and Bigland Green Centre, our purpose-built community facility.

Greenpower season resumes

The competition is on! Last year was a heated race and this year is no exception.

In 2022, Mulberry Stepney Green Sixth Form students pulled ahead and won the Greenpower International Final F24+ Class with Mulberry Academy Shoreditch in second place. Now, our four schools are preparing for the 2023 season with their teams of Year 10 and Year 12 students. They have been investing in the right equipment, honing their strategy and perfecting their car build. We wish the teams the best of luck and can't wait to see who will take home the winners shield next year! Let the race begin!

Under the leadership of Mr Farmer, our Greenpower Engineer, a team of students are set to enhance their mechanical and electrical engineering expertise by building and racing a scratch build car this year for the first time.



Year 10 students learn Python programming run by Geeky Kids

In January 2023, 60 Year 10 students from across the Mulberry



Schools Trust took part in a five-week programming course run by Geeky Kids on Saturday mornings as part of our innovative Mulberry STEM Academy programme. Students challenged themselves through learning new skills, including an intermediate popular library called Pygame. Other students learned the basics of Python, including selection and iteration.

At the end of the course, students all created a trivia quiz in Python. We were very impressed with their use of functions, lists, dictionaries and other advanced techniques! A particular well done to Tonima, Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, Jannah, Mulberry School for Girls and Riyadh, Mulberry Stepney Green, whose thoughtful programs were awarded the best on the course.



University of Bristol visit

On Wednesday 29th March, Year 12 students were filled with enthusiasm and inspiration after visiting the University of Bristol.

They had the chance to tour both the Computer Science



University of
BRISTOL

and Engineering departments and meet with faculty and current undergraduates. Termly visits like this aim to give our students a first-hand experience of university life, and specifically motivate them to pursue an Engineering degree.

Official launch event celebrates start of academy

In January, we held a formal launch event to welcome the 2023 cohort to the Mulberry Production Arts Academy and celebrate the official start of the programme.

The event took place at the National Theatre and was hosted by our talented Year 10 students Rinnad Hindi and Tahmida Tasmia from Mulberry School for Girls. We were joined by industry experts, Trustees, Headteachers and staff representatives from across our schools.

Students met and heard from many arts industry professionals, including Alice King-Farlow, Director of Learning and National Partnerships at the National Theatre, and Mark Dakin, Director of TATE Neasden and Haverhill. A panel discussion explored the importance of skilled backstage practitioners and careers in the UK's creative industries.

The panel was chaired by Josette Bushell-Mingo OBE, Principal of The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama with panellists Vic Pyne, Head of Lighting and AV at Glynedebourne, Sadeysa Greenaway-Bailey, a freelance performance designer, Carmel Macaree, Arts Production Manager and Producer at the National Theatre and Kate John, Head of Workshop at the National Theatre. We were also extremely proud of Tahmida, who was part of the Edinburgh 2022 project production team.

The students also participated in an interactive workshop exploring careers in theatre production led by Dr Kathrine Sandys, Head of Theatre Practice and Ros Sobotnicki, Lecturer in Lighting at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. They also enjoyed a backstage tour of the National Theatre.

It was a wonderful event that gave an insight into the impressive programme of activities ahead.



Successful students awarded place on sought after MPAA

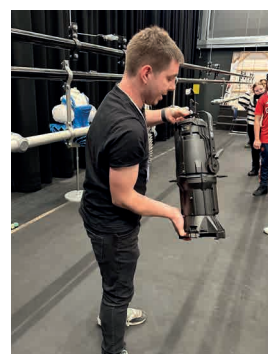
Back in November 2022, the Mulberry Production Arts Academy (MPAA) in partnership with the National Theatre and The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama held a pre-launch event for students across the Mulberry Schools Trust introducing students to the academy. The Mulberry Arts team received over 80 applications from students wishing to join and places were awarded to 39 successful applicants. An additional five students were given the opportunity to be part of a new *Design for Stage* branch of the academy which is being run by Afsana Begum, Acting Project Manager.

First term curriculum highlights

The MPAA curriculum is being developed and delivered by Chris Stone, Operations Manager (Venues & Events) and Ele Loizides, Venue Technician for the academy. In the first term the students have participated in nine workshop sessions.

Year 9 and Year 10 students have learnt about lighting design and operation as well as sound design. Year 12 students have been developing their skills in production and project management and have been applying what they have learnt in real time as they prepare for the Trust-wide Rightful Place Conference in April.

All students in the academy will also participate in upcoming careers, mentoring and work experience programmes led by Jack Forey, Project Administrator and Trust-wide Project Lead for MPAA.



Unicorn Theatre technical rehearsal opportunity

On Friday 10th March, 11 Mulberry Production Arts Academy and Design for Stage students were given the very special opportunity to attend the technical rehearsal of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* at the Unicorn Theatre. The students saw the very first run of the show on stage as the production team added the technical elements to the production following three weeks of rehearsals.



Schona Jolly KC guest speaker at renowned Annual Education Lecture

On Tuesday 14th March, we were delighted that Schona Jolly KC, delivered our Mulberry Schools Trust Annual Education Lecture for 2023. Staff, students, Trustees and friends of Mulberry attended the renowned event at The Royal Society of Arts.

Schona is a leading barrister at Cloisters Chambers. She is well-known for her work on international human rights, equality and employment law with a crossover into AI and sports law. Schona spoke about her life at the Bar and why human rights and the rule of law matter.

Some of her most recognised work in recent years includes her representation of Caster Semanya before the European Court of Human Rights, influential cases in respect of the gig economy and complex whistleblowing and discrimination claims.

Schona is a Visiting Professor at Goldsmiths, University of London and was Chair of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales from 2019–2021.



Brick Lane 1978: The Turning Point exhibition

During the month of January, the Mulberry Schools Trust was delighted to host the 'Brick Lane 1978: The Turning Point' exhibition. The exhibition features photographs celebrating east London's Bengali activists of 1978 alongside oral history recordings by original activists.

The exhibition was put together with the help of original activists and volunteers including Sabina Khan, our Parent Liaison Officer. The project is a record of this watershed moment as told by local people in collaboration with the Swadhinata Trust and the Four Corners Gallery.

This exhibition reveals the dramatic events which were sparked by the racist murder of Altab Ali, a Bengali garment worker, and pays tribute to the activists and the community that mobilised around the rallying cry of justice that followed. East End photographer Paul Trevor documented how members of the local community endured racial abuse as a constant factor of everyday life and the moment at which they mobilised against racist violence and institutional police racism.

Students, staff, parents/carers and Governors came to the exhibition which was hosted at the Mulberry and Bigland Green Centre. Year 9 students at Mulberry School for Girls will be using the exhibition as stimulus for their Year 9 project on arts and activism.

We would like to thank the Swadhinata Trust and the Four Corners Gallery for bringing the exhibition to Mulberry.



Congratulations to our latest NPQ specialists

Congratulations go to our second cohort of East London Teaching School Hub specialist NPQ participants who have recently completed their summative assessment. We look forward to learning the outcome of their assessments in a few months' time.

Meanwhile, we recently welcomed our fourth cohort of specialist National Professional Qualification participants to our induction launch event. Seventy-five colleagues joined the session led by Nadia Dellagana-Campbell, our NPQ Strategic Lead.

We hope you enjoy our soon to be published spring newsletter which will be dedicated to celebrating the impact of the NPQs on school leadership and practice.

Click [here](#) to find out more about the NPQs we offer.



21st Annual Youth Conference for Sixth Form students

On Friday 24th February, our 21st Annual Youth Conference took place which brought together 200 Sixth Form students from across London. The conference was planned and delivered by Year 12 students from Mulberry School for Girls on the theme of 'Creative Changemakers for Challenging Times'.

We are very grateful that a number of highly influential leaders in their fields joined us such as Yasmin Dewan Khatun, BBC Journalist, Reni Eddo-Lodge, Journalist and Author, Inua Ellams, Poet and Playwright, David Neita, Lawyer, Eleanor Shearer, History Author and Jonas Andrews Phillip, A TEDx speaker.

We were also joined by Jane Farrell, Chair of our Board of Trustees and co-founder of EW Group and former students Suraiya Chowdhury and Nuzhat Nuruzzaman who are healthcare campaigners and studying Medicine.

Students spring into GCSE Maths conferences

During the spring term we have run six GCSE Maths Revision Conferences for over 200 students from our four secondary schools, targeting grades 4, 5, 7 and 9.

The conferences are an excellent opportunity for staff and students to work collaboratively on revision strategies. Each afternoon consisted of brilliant teaching sessions, starters, plenaries and a raffle draw.

Students also received a bespoke Trust Maths GCSE revision pack.

Thanks to all members of staff who delivered the sessions.



Reconnect London highlights challenges and opportunities following publication of report

Reconnect London's latest report, *London Leaders: Beyond the Classroom*, was published in January 2023.

The report explores the importance of context-responsive leadership, examining how schools work in partnership with other organisations to transform outcomes for disadvantaged students. This report details the successful responses of school leaders to the context-specific opportunities and challenges they face through nine case studies, two of which are from the Mulberry Schools Trust.



A face-to-face meeting of the Reconnect London network group also took place. Attendees included Headteachers of the case study schools included in the report and invited guests from partner organisations, as well as Claire Burton and Sarah Fielding from the Department for Education.

The next Reconnect London Conference, which will focus on how schools are adapting their provision to meet the changing needs of children and young people following the Covid-19 pandemic, will take place on Friday 23rd June 2023.

Inspirational Societies update

Mulberry Academy Shoreditch has shown exemplary leadership of the Trust's Inspirational Societies programme.

It continues to inspire students from across our schools and present them with opportunities to extend their learning beyond the classroom, igniting their passion for university life. Here are some brief highlights of some of the events that have taken place during the spring term.



The **Politics Society** welcomed Tower Hamlets Councillor Peter Golds to Mulberry Academy Shoreditch for a seminar.



The **History Society** experienced a fully immersive and educational trip to the Vaudeville Theatre in London's West End to watch *SIX - The Musical*.



The **Economics Society** visited the London School of Economics and Political Science and participated in a workshop about student life.



The **Science Society** visited the Royal Greenwich Observatory and used their Maths and Physics skills to find a link between planets orbits and distance from the sun.



The **Social Science Society** visited the Clink Museum a former prison in Southwark that operated from 12th century until 1780.



The **English Society** watched *How Not to Drown* at the Stratford East Theatre. It was a very moving play about an 11-year-old refugee boy who was forced to leave Albania and flee to England illegally.



Sylvia musical hit with students

On Wednesday 1st March, our Year 9 students went to the Old Vic Theatre to see the hip-hop inspired musical *Sylvia*.

The musical was highly exuberant, featured phenomenal singing and was packed full of information about the life of Sylvia Pankhurst – why she became an activist and her relationship with the suffragettes.

The students brought a really positive energy to the audience

and represented Mulberry professionally at their first trip to the theatre. One student who was asked to name her favourite moment said: **"I loved all of it, from start to finish!"**



Students enjoy the rich culture of Venice

On Tuesday 7th to Thursday 9th February, a group of A Level English students enjoyed a three-day residential trip to the beautiful city of Venice.

During their visit, the students had the opportunity to explore the city's rich history and unique culture. One of the highlights of the trip was visiting the Doge's Palace, where the students were able to learn about the city's political history and the role the palace played in the past. They also had the chance to explore the city's famous canals, bridges and buildings, which brought their current A Level reading to life.

The trip was a fantastic opportunity for the students to experience a new culture and immerse themselves in the city's unique atmosphere, which they will bring back to their English A level coursework and exams.

Celebrating UN Mother Language Day



On Tuesday 21st February, we celebrated UN International Mother Languages Day at Mulberry School for Girls. We created poetry, hosted a culture fair to fundraise for UNICEF and wore beautiful clothing from our diverse cultures. Our students and staff recorded lessons in over 17 languages which was extremely impressive.

They also celebrated with a 'Mother Tongue, Other Tongue' competition – a celebration of poetry written in the languages we speak, or in a language we are learning.

Students win at the Old Bailey

On Wednesday 8th March, a team of Sixth Form students competed in the Sheriffs' Challenge 2023 debating competition at the Old Bailey, discussing the topic 'Post-Covid, the City will change beyond all recognition'. The students had an incredible evening and were awarded the title of overall winners!

The Sheriffs' Challenge is an annual competition in which six Sixth Form students must research, write, and then present an argument on a topic that is given to them. The students had to progress successfully through the heats in order to secure their place in the final in Court One. They worked incredibly hard, practising in front of different groups of students at the school and in Year 10 assembly.



The team researched and reflected on the ways that Covid-19 has changed the City, including how flexible working has supported women to maintain their careers whilst also having children. To win was a phenomenal achievement and has already opened up offers for prestigious work experience opportunities. Well done team Mulberry School for Girls!

Celebrating International Women's Day

Mulberry has enjoyed celebrating IWD 2023!

Two students were invited to Buckingham Palace to a reception hosted by The Queen Consort celebrating the achievements of women. Sixth Form students were invited to a



'Women of the Future' event with TSB Bank and were able to learn about pathways into banking. Sara in Year 12 took up the role of 'Ambassador for the day', shadowing Mexican Ambassador Josefa Gonzalez Blanco (see separate article).



Finally, our Careers and Enrichment departments partnered to host a Year 8 Takeover. All students took part in a workshop with Young Enterprise thinking about their future and they also participated in sessions ranging from 'circus skills' with the National Centre for Circus Arts to a 'vet session' with Animal Aspirations and a session focused on Korean language and culture.

Introducing 'The Big Read'

On Monday 6th February, we officially launched The Big Read project at Mulberry School for Girls.

Its aim is to improve attitudes to reading and get more students reading. We were joined by Amanda Demwell, Engagement and Participation Manager from the Royal Society of Literature, who spoke about the RSL's 'History is in the Making' competition.



Our 48 Reading Ambassadors from Key Stage 3 were awarded badges and bookmarks from Alice Ward, Headteacher. Last year's and this year's Reading Mentors were also in attendance. The event thanked our Sixth Formers and inspired and engaged our Year 12 cohort, and presented examples of Sixth Formers supporting younger students to read.

Students enjoy 13th WOW London Festival

From Friday 10th March to Sunday 12th March, our students had the opportunity to attend the 13th WOW London Festival at the Royal Festival Hall. This event gave them the chance to meet other like-minded and inspiring women. Our students heard from a range of speakers such as Julia Gillard, the First Female Australian Prime Minister, Beverly Knight, the acclaimed singer, Naomi Alderman the author of the Power, and more. They witnessed the power of local and global activism first-hand by taking part in important conversations about #SaveBrickLane and gender-based violence across the world. Additionally, our students took part in an illustration workshop with Rubyet and a dance workshop with Curve Catwalk.



Shadowing the Mexican Ambassador

On International Women's Day, Year 12 student Sara was thrilled to be invited to be Ambassador for a Day by Her Excellency Josefa González-Blanco, Ambassador of Mexico to the United Kingdom.

Sara's first engagement was an #IWD23 event at the United Nations International Maritime Organisation where she attended a fantastic lecture given by journalist and author Mary Ann Sieghart, met the Secretary-General of the IMO and networked with female leaders and diplomats from all over the world! She spent the afternoon in high-level meetings at the Mexican Embassy - experiencing real-life discussions and diplomacy.

Sara impressed with her questions, knowledge and enthusiasm for international relations.





Impressive Year 12s host STEM Graduation Ceremony

On Friday 3rd March, Mulberry UTC was exceptionally proud to host the Mulberry STEM Academy Graduation Ceremony to celebrate the achievements of Cohort 2. Our Year 12 students Harry, Genesis, Lora, Amun and Ozzie were truly incredible hosts. Their presentation style was impeccable, exuded confidence and the experience strengthened their public speaking skills.



T Level Health placements update

We are excited to provide an update on the placements for the T Level Health in Adult Nursing which started successfully last December at the Royal London Hospital.

Students are placed across seven departments, including surgery aftercare, the fracture clinic and renal department. In preparation for their clinical work students are trained by specialist medical staff in Basic Life Support and Manual Handling and are currently being signed off for their final assessments for Level 2 Care Certificate – a requirement of all NHS employees who have clinical roles.

Students are required to complete a placement journal at the end of each placement session to share their experiences, skills and knowledge as well as share feelings and emotions of life at work. Here is one snippet from a journal entry:

“Today I did more tasks independently, I checked patients’ height, weight and calculated their BMI on the system. I also learnt how to check the blood pressure and pulse rate of a patient. The highlight of the day was when I witnessed a patient who had surgery four days ago and had a chemical burn. I saw how her burn was healing and how to appropriately

clean an open wound that is slowly healing. At first I felt a bit uneasy but then I got comfortable and understood the situation better. I overcame the challenge by asking the nurse questions about the burn and then I felt at ease knowing what was happening.”



Students experiences whilst on placement have already been really challenging and enriching and they have been welcomed by staff into the NHS hospital community. They are proud of their NHS staff lanyards and ID cards and also of their bespoke purple Mulberry UTC overalls.

All students are devoted to their duty of care for patients and visitors at the hospital.

Open Evening: Highlights of our events

This term we hosted two Open Evenings in January and March for prospective Year 10 and Year 12 students.



Both events were hugely successful and we have welcomed over 200+ students to our building.

The events have involved a range of fantastic subject specific activities for students to get involved in, as well as tours and talks for both year groups. We have also had the pleasure of having some of our partners in attendance such as the National Theatre, Barts Health NHS Trust and the British Film Institute as well as other external organisations we work with such as the Metropolitan Police and Staffordshire University London.



ABBA Voyage

On Tuesday 7th March, Year 12 Performing Arts and Media students were fortunate enough to take a look behind one of the most successful curtains in London's performance scene today.

ABBA Voyage is a tribute act covering the vast span of the titular band ABBA featuring revolutionary visual effects representations of the band members. Students were able to interview some of the developers from Industrial Light & Management to understand the processes behind the creation of the show. In addition, students were able to gain an insight into potential career outputs in graphic design, special effect coordination and animation alongside various other careers in visual effects. Students sought to find their place professionally, curious to know how they could fit into the multitude of avenues to success in an ever-changing world. Overall, an enjoyable and educational experience leaving students feeling inspired.



BFI IMAX visit

Students from Creative Industries attended a lecture on 'spectacle' at the BFI IMAX this term. They were asked to think about the different ways we can watch films and how that changes the viewing experience.

They looked at the evolution of 3D and considered whether, in today's streaming heavy world, whether there was a place for cinema. Many of MUTC's students were praised for their contributions to this discussion, with one of our Year 12 students being awarded 'Star Question' for starting a discussion about the role of superstar directors in selling films and attracting audiences.

The students were then given the opportunity to view the newest *Avatar: The Way of Water* movie in 3D on the largest screen in Britain. The discussions about the film and the role of cinema carried on long into subsequent Film Studies and Media lessons and students have been able to use the ideas and theories from the trip in their work on the films they are studying.



Trip to the BBC

On Thursday 9th March, our Year 10 students visited the UD Music Foundation to attend a talk from BBC Radio presenters to discuss career opportunities in the radio industry.

Presenters Jess Iszatt, Katie Cooks, Shreni Yajnik and Angelle Joseph from across the BBC network talked about their roles in production, presenting and events management. Our students engaged in a lively Q&A session asking about the differences between working in media and more usual office jobs. Many were pleased to find out that radio allows them to work at a range of different times in the day.



Presenters from the BBC's Asian Network also worked with students to explain routes into the media industry and what kind of work would be available through apprenticeships and university routes. They discussed a huge range of opportunities from working in channels that specialise in Grime or classical music to covering the Glastonbury Festival. The day finished with students being asked to plan their own festival and consider the running order of acts.

Blueprint for All

Blueprint for All is a charity organisation that works with young people, communities and schools to create an inclusive society. Their strapline "*talent is everywhere, opportunity is not*" has been imparted to our Sixth Formers this term to help them flourish and grow.

The students have benefitted from taking part in workshops and assemblies to empower them to achieve their career goals. This has involved learning about transferrable skills, soft skills, hard skills and how to engage these skills.



Ski trip to the Sappada, Italy

Between the 3rd-9th March, Mulberry Academy Shoreditch took 41 students from Year 7-13 on their first ever ski trip, to Sappada in the Dolomites in Northern Italy.

The students were divided into four groups and received five hours of ski lessons across four consecutive days. The progress made by all students and staff was phenomenal. From never having put ski boots or skis on at the start of the week, to going down red slopes and parallel turning by the end of the four days!

During the evenings they enjoyed swimming, using the sports hall and walking around the local village to shop for souvenirs. All students showed great organisational skills and developed independence over the week.

We are very much looking forward to our next trip to Sestriere, Italy next year!



International Women's Day

On Wednesday 8th March, the School Council celebrated International Women's Day with a series of activities and a fantastic presentation on inspirational women.

The lunchtime activity involved students winning fun prizes if they could guess just one of the inspirational women on our board. The fantastic prizes included mini lamps, shopping vouchers, notebooks, LCD writing tablets, puzzles, pens and stamps.

At the busy stall, funds were raised to support ActionAid, an organisation that works for the benefit of women and girls worldwide. We also ran a writing competition where students were encouraged to write a poem or short story on the theme of 'Woman'.

Philosophical Year 7s discuss IWD

A group of Year 7 girls were invited along to a celebration at St Hilda's Community Centre. They joined in a philosophy session to think and discuss whether or not there should be an International Women's Day and students articulated their thoughts and ideas eloquently. There was also a talk from a local women's group about identity and a lovely dance performance.



Mulberry STEM Academy pilot

Mulberry Academy Shoreditch is piloting the Mulberry STEM Academy which targets Year 7 students.

On Monday 20th February, the first group of Year 7 students began their PyGame Zero programming course. The course, run by Ms Gillott, teaches students the basics of Python and introduces them to programming. In the first session, students learned quickly how to create and colour different shapes, move shapes and actors, sound and animation in order to design and program their own video game.

On Monday 13th February, their parents/carers were invited to school to listen to students talking about the STEM project and their favourite aspects of PyGame Zero. The participating students were given certificates and Mulberry STEM Academy merchandise.

We look forward to seeing their finished video games in a few weeks' time.

MAS welcomes former HSBC Chairman

On Thursday 26th January, we were excited to welcome Sir Douglas Flint CBE, former Group Chairman of HSBC Holdings.

Sir Douglas talked to some of our Year 9 Economic Society students about his career journey, living and studying in Glasgow and coming to London to start his very esteemed career in banking.

He also talked about the impact of global issues on present and future generations. Students asked his advice

and posed some interesting questions about his views, role models and more.

They found the session really engaging and thought-provoking and Sir Douglas left them with this advice: **"follow your ambitions, don't be afraid to take business risks and learn from mistakes."**



Nobel Awards Ceremony 2023

On Thursday 19th January, parents/carers and staff were invited to our Nobel Awards Ceremony 2023 to celebrate students awarded for their hard work and commitment to their studies in the subjects Science, Maths and Computer Science.

It was a lovely evening with lots of well-deserved awards, some cool experiments and tasty food!



Prince's Trust Enterprise Challenge

On Tuesday 17th January, Year 7 students took on Stage 1 of the Prince's Trust Enterprise Challenge.

Working together in teams they played a business simulation game based on the concept of a pop-up shop.

They had to choose what to sell and for how much, where to set-up shop and how to attract customers to get sales and make a profit. The winning team made the most profit, put ethical and sustainable business values at the heart of their decision making and built the most hype by thinking about the needs of their customers.



House teams organise family Chase time



On Thursday 2nd February, our brilliant House team organised a MAS version of the popular TV game show *The Chase*. Students

were invited to play alongside their parents/carers in a bid to win House points and test their general knowledge.

It was a fun evening and really good to have parents/carers in school having fun with their children. Thank you to Ms Scales for volunteering to be the Chaser and a big well done to the students and families who managed to beat our very own Chaser!

Primary schools welcomed

During the spring term, it has been great to welcome Year 4 and 5 students from Christ Church Primary School who have been coming into our school for Art lessons with Ms Kilmanaite and Friday Dance classes with Miss Pitts.

They have been fantastic and full of confidence, energy and creativity – a real credit to their school and families.



Alternative sports primary school event

In March and following on from a successful evening at the House of Commons, students from our Girls Active Leaders project led an alternative sports primary school event to celebrate International Women's Day.

The school welcomed 50 primary school girls from the borough to use its facilities to engage in sports and activities, such as trampolining and skateboarding.

The leaders each led their groups through the different activities before going on to compete in a basketball competition to finish the day. The highlight of the day was just seeing so many girls active at the same time but also their support for one another to give things a go - it was truly inspirational.



Copper Box event results in top ranking rowing champions

Spring term has been extremely busy with a large number of students involved in fixtures and competitions.

Over 30 students represented Mulberry Stepney Green in the National Indoor Rowing Championships in the Copper Box in the Olympic Park, resulting in four students being ranked in the top 50 for their age group in the entire country. This is an exceptional achievement.

In addition, our boys competed in and won the Boys' Tower Hamlets Hockey Tournament and will now go on to represent Tower Hamlets in the London Youth Games.

We also competed in the Boys' Tower Hamlets Badminton competition and our Key Stage 4 team was also overall winners. They will also go on to represent Tower Hamlets in the London Youth Games Finals. These are all exceptional achievements and is a great reward for the dedicated training in the run up to these events.



Sixth Formers attend MST's Annual Youth Conference

On Friday 24th February, a team of Sixth Form Prefects attended the Mulberry Schools Trust Annual Youth Conference.

The award-winning conference brings Sixth Formers together from a range of backgrounds to explore issues of common

concern, including equality, social justice and cultural identity, showing that young people have the power to make a difference in their communities and on the world stage. It was a great opportunity for the team to participate in this prestigious event and to explore important issues that are impacting upon young people's lives.

Our students were given the opportunity to share their points of view on topics such as racism, mental health and also have the chance to engage with one another in the student-led discussion groups and workshops provided by inspirational speakers, activists and artists.



Tower Hamlets Chemistry training event

On Wednesday 1st March, a number of Tower Hamlets Chemistry teachers joined together for some STEM A Level Chemistry training at Mulberry Stepney Green. The training was designed to enable the teachers to reflect on their delivery of practical lessons, learn to assist students in dealing with practical work in exam questions, and share successful strategies among those who participated.



SEND & EAL students enjoy local City Farm

Stepney Green Grows project is an opportunity for a group of SEND & EAL students to make visits to the Stepney City Farm which is a unique resource for learning about food, farming and the natural world. They help to look after the Children's Garden and wider farm, as well as the chance to spend some time with and get to know the farm animals. The sessions are led by our Schools Programme Manager.



Mentoring programme with top 10 law firm

Clyde & Co is one of the top 10 largest law firms based in Aldgate within the City of London.

Due to the continued partnership with local charity The Switch, 20 Year 12 students from Mulberry

Stepney Green were selected to be a part of a mentoring programme with lawyers from the firm. The Switch is committed to helping children and young people discover their best future and provides a vital link between education and the world of work.

As a result of this programme, four students were also offered the chance to participate in the Bridge to the City work experience scheme for a week during the February half-term Clyde & Co's offices. The students really enjoyed participating in the scheme and following a successful placement, Shuaib Amin has also been offered another work experience opportunity within the Barrister Chambers during the Easter half-term.



Exhibition at the Arts Pavilion

Mulberry Stepney Green's Creative Arts department recently held their annual exhibition at the Arts Pavilion in Mile End along with 13 other schools within the borough.

The work in this year's exhibition was created by our current Year 12 and 13 students studying Fine Art, Graphic Communication and Product Design. They used interesting and varied techniques from a variety of starting points including expressionism, surrealism, identity, self-directed themes and a selection of stop frame animations.

We are proud of all their hard work – especially Yahiya Shaheen! Yahiya won the second prize for his Product Design work which was a creative and unique design of a perfume shelf inspired by Art Nouveau – well done!



Celebrating World Book Day

At Mulberry Stepney Green School, we believe that reading is the key to success.

This year we decided to start our celebration of World Book Day on Wednesday 1st March. Students were given the opportunity during tutor time to reflect on their reading, discuss their favourite books, characters and authors. Staff utilised this valuable time to promote reading for pleasure, encourage students to learn from each other and give recommendations to their peers.

In addition, staff were also encouraged to dress as a character from a book. It was wonderful to see students and staff celebrate this well-known and much-loved annual event.

Tiger Class enjoy gingery tales

This half term, Tiger Class are reading the traditional *Gingerbread Man* tale and they are rehearsing for their grand show at the end of the term where they will perform to parents/carers and Trustees.



They have also been busy following and writing recipes, as well as baking their very own gingerbread man. Chloe said: **"It tastes so delicious and gingery, I am keeping an eye on him so he doesn't run away."** The students are also designing and making gingerbread men puppets, developing their fine motor and sewing skills.

Unicorn Theatre visit to watch spider hoaxster

Tiger Class went on a trip to the Unicorn Theatre to watch a performance of Anansi and the Spider - a classic West African and Caribbean tale about a spider hoaxster. At



Mulberry Wood Wharf the children are exposed to a variety of literature from different authors and cultures. We also had fun getting there via the underground which the children thoroughly enjoyed!

World Book Day fun at MWW

In early March, the class took part in World Book Day and the students were invited to come into school either dressed as their favourite book character or in their pyjamas with a teddy and a bedtime story. We had a mixture of both!

The children had a fun filled day completing activities all about books, including making their own bookmarks. We set up a book swap for families in our foyer so that children could share their favourite reads with others. A highlight of the day was when parents/carers were welcomed into the setting to read with groups of children. This particular session was enjoyed by all!



Active specialist PE lessons

This term, Tiger class have started PE lessons and are being taught by a specialist coach who comes into school every Thursday.



Initially the focus will be on coordination, throwing and catching and spatial awareness skills. The children really enjoyed their first session and were very active throughout, demonstrating excellent listening and teamwork skills. Physical activity is an important daily routine for the children. It supports the area of learning that covers gross motor skills but more importantly the children learn to understand the importance of exercise for both body and mind.

Parental workshops are engaging

Parental engagement continues to be an important part of the growth of Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary. This term we have held several workshops for parents/carers, including one about the teaching of Maths in the Early Years.

It was a practical session where parents/carers were shown many examples including how to problem solve and engage in Maths at home and we shared many books that support the teaching of Maths. Coming up soon we have a 'Special Person' event where the children will perform a poem to someone special in their life whilst giving them a school-made drink and snack. We also have a parent/carers costume making workshop in preparation for the end of term Gingerbread Man show where parents/carers have also been invited.



Pancake Day entertainment

In February, the class read and enjoyed *Mr Wolf's Pancake* where Mr Wolf works hard to teach himself how to make pancakes after his neighbours refuse to help.

The children enjoyed reading this story and were able to link their home experiences with cooking which led the class into making their own pancakes on Pancake Day! The children helped make the pancake batter using

eggs, flour and milk...just like Mr Wolf. Everyone waited patiently for the pancakes to be ready and shared their favourite toppings for pancakes. Nikita said he liked Nutella and Noa said she liked lemon and sugar!

After eating the pancakes the children really persevered with trying to flip the pancake before running back.



Helicopter sessions

Tiger Class continue to enjoy their weekly Helicopter Story sessions. In its simplest form, Helicopter Stories lets children dictate their stories which are written down verbatim, exactly as they are told by an EYFS or Key Stage 1 Practitioner.

The children then gather around a taped out stage and the stories are acted out. Alongside the simplicity of this approach

is an ethos that is child-centred, creating a culture of curiosity and wonder at the dexterity of children's imaginings during both the telling and the acting out of their stories.

This holistic approach uses the power of storytelling to develop key curriculum areas such as creativity, communication and language, personal, social and emotional skills in the Early Years, giving children's stories a voice in a safe space.



Phonics training for MWW practitioners

The Mulberry Wood Wharf practitioners attended an inset day to be trained on the school's phonics scheme *Read, Write Inc.* This was led by an expert in phonics who delivered a series of sessions on the teaching of early reading and writing.

Sarah Jane, the Executive headteacher, said:

"After many years of teaching phonics, I thought I knew it all, this training really got us back to the basics and the pedagogy of how children learn how to read, I am really excited to see it in action at Mulberry Wood Wharf."

Tiger Class develop independent thinking during arctic conditions

During the cold weather spell, Tiger Class enjoyed exploring ice and methods to keep warm in cold climates.

The question 'what if Little Red Riding Hood's Grandma lived in the Arctic?' was posed to the children and it opened up an array of learning opportunities where students were encouraged to develop their independent thinking skills based on a familiar take they already knew.

The children thought about the clothing Little Red Riding Hood would need to wear if she visited her Granny in the Arctic. The children played with the winter clothing, bundling up for the chilly weather. They carried out an ice melting experiment, Mikaeel said: **"The ice is freezing my hands!"** The children made predictions as to which material would melt the ice quickest. They used salt, sugar, cotton wool, water and the heat from their hands. Elijah said: **"I think the water will melt more faster than the sugar."**

After some time the children came back to see what material melted the ice. Srikrithi was very observant and said: **"The cotton wool isn't making the ice melt very much."** The children explored different ways of painting and mixing colours with the ice. Monica enjoyed using the ice paint to mix red and yellow to make orange. While she painted, she slid the paint block in circles and exclaimed: **"It is slipping!"** While painting ice blocks Anvit remarked: **"The paint is freezing on the ice! It is very cold!"**



Mulberry

Wood Wharf Primary

NEW BUILDING
opening
September 2023



A brand new, fully
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We offer excellent, first class teaching and
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Part of the

Mulberry
Schools Trust

Students invited to visit new school site

On Thursday 16th March, Year 11 and Sixth Form students from the Mulberry Schools Trust were invited to the new Mulberry Academy London Dock school site in Wapping. Hosted by the Kier Group, the Open Doors initiative provided a unique opportunity for students to go behind the site hoardings and learn about the range of careers available in construction.

The students met members of the site team, listened to presentations about the industry and were given a tour of the site. They also took part in a quiz and received a goody bag as a thank you. The Kier Group made the students feel incredibly welcome and the Mulberry Schools Trust is grateful for the invitation.

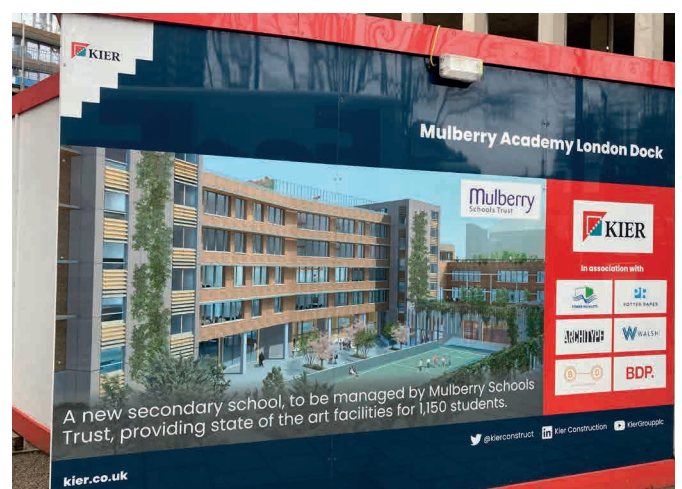


Mulberry Academy London Dock opening September 2024

We are excited to host Open events for Mulberry Academy London Dock later this year.

We look forward to welcoming current Year 5 students and their families who are interested in applying for a September 2024 start. Please visit our website for regular updates about the school.


SCAN ME






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