Mulberry Schools Trust

Issue #15 | July 2023
The newsletter of the Mulberry Schools Trust

connect

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

A message from the CEO

I am delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of our newsletter. This issue is packed with exciting news from across our Trust, including the feature article on Mulberry Academy Woodside and Mulberry Canon Barnett joining our family of schools. I am also thrilled to share news of the continued success of our Mulberry STEM Academy programme, the exceptional activities and opportunities opening up to students on the Mulberry Production Arts Academy programme, and our continued contribution to the school system with the work taking place at Mulberry College of Teaching, the East London Teaching School Hub and Reconnect London.

I am incredibly proud of all the exciting work taking place in all of our schools. The stories in this issue provide a glimpse into the many achievements of our students, staff and partners.

On behalf of the Mulberry Schools Trust, I would like to thank everyone involved for their continued support. Your hard work and dedication is making a real difference to the lives of our students.

Wishing you all a happy and enjoyable summer break.

Dr Vanessa Ogden
CEO

Mulberry Schools Trust welcomes two new schools

This term, the Trust welcomed Mulberry Academy Woodside and Mulberry Canon Barnett Primary into the Mulberry family.

Mulberry Academy Woodside is located in the London Borough of Haringey and the school joined the Trust on Monday 1st May. It is our first school outside of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The school already has a strong reputation in the local area and, as a Mulberry school, it will be able to extend our Trust's ethos and values further afield. We look forward to working with Headteacher Angela Wallace and her excellent team.

Mulberry Canon Barnett Primary joined the Trust on Thursday 1st June. It is steeped in history, having been built in 1901 following many years of campaigning by Canon Samuel Barnett and his wife, Henrietta, concerning the importance of education and freedom of access for all. Over the past year, we have been working closely with Sarah Jane Bellerby who is Executive Headteacher of both Mulberry Canon Barnett and Mulberry Wood Wharf primaries.

Mulberry Academy Woodside and Mulberry Canon Barnett Primary are valuable additions to the Mulberry Schools Trust family and we look forward to working with their staff, students, parents/carers and wider community to provide outstanding education for all students.

MULBERRY STEM ACADEMY
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MERCEDES-BENZ GRAND PRIX

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Mulberry Schools Trust students excel at Greenpower race

Students from across the Mulberry Schools Trust competed in the second race of the Greenpower 2023 season at Lotus Hethel, Norfolk.

It was an exhilarating day full of excitement and the teams performed well, with Mulberry Stepney Green coming 13th out of 28 in the F24 category. The teams had even greater success in the F24+ Kit Car category. Mulberry Stepney Green came

in 2nd place, with Mulberry Academy Shoreditch taking 4th and 7th place. All F24+ teams have now qualified for the International Final at Goodwood in October.

Greenpower is an important part of the Mulberry STEM Academy curriculum and students develop a wide range of skills, including engineering (mechanical, electrical, aerodynamics and design), teamwork, leadership, project management, finance and post-race reviews and analysis. We are proud of all of our students who competed in the race.

GeekyKids Python Courses for Year 10 and 12 Students

GeekyKids recently conducted Python courses for Year 10 students over five Saturdays. The courses focused on problem solving and programming, and two groups of students were offered tailored lessons: Beginner and GCSE. They learnt about variables, string manipulation, selection, iteration, lists, subprograms and iterating lists. The feedback from the students was very positive and prompted us to offer a similar course for Year 12 A Level students focused on machine learning, data analysis and graphics manipulation.

Students go karting in Essex

On Friday 16th June, 140 students from all the schools in the Trust went go karting at the Brentwood Karting track in Essex.

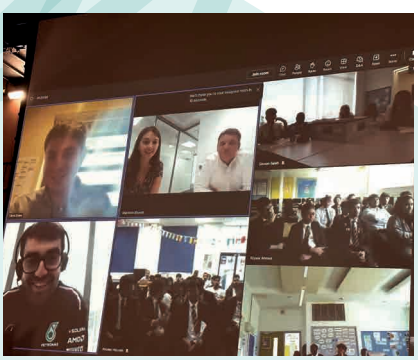
Mulberry Academy Woodside also joined us for the event. The students were all very excited and our Year 7 students had the opportunity to go on the climbing wall.

The students had pizza for lunch and raced in the go karts for half an hour each. They had a great time and many of them have been emailing to ask “when we can go again?”!

Students attend engineering careers conference

On Wednesday 14th June, our Year 10 and 12 Mulberry STEM Academy scholars attended an incredible conference on careers in engineering.

The conference featured three inspiring speakers: an IT data analyst, a performance and simulation engineer and a transmission design engineer. The students asked brilliant questions of the speakers, showing their interest in the different engineering fields.



Roadshow offers exciting KS2 STEM activities

Our Key Stage 2 Mulberry STEM Academy Roadshow continues and is open to any primary school in the area.

It offers CREST awards, F1 in Schools and Robotics. We were delighted to host Hermitage Primary School children who programmed our robots to sing and dance! The children thoroughly enjoyed the workshop.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Scratch build car insights

Mulberry STEM Academy staff visited St Paul’s Boys’ School to learn more about designing and building a scratch build car. The visit was hosted by Katie Douglass, a London Greenpower Ambassador and Director of Engineering and ICT at the school.

MULBERRY PRODUCTION ARTS ACADEMY

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Students find their Rightful Place in Production Arts

On Wednesday 26th April, over 80 Year 9, 10 and 12 students from across the Trust attended the third Mulberry Arts Conference 'Rightful Place' which focused on Production Arts.

The event was researched, planned and run by the Year 12 Mulberry Production Arts Academy students who all did a fantastic job preparing for, and then running the student-led conference on the day. Student delegates gained insights into careers and opportunities in the industry and discussed the challenges of equity, diversity and inclusion with industry professionals from a range of disciplines during a panel discussion and Q&A.

The conference programme also included a keynote speech by lighting designer Prema Mehta, student speeches and five practical workshops of which two were led by Year 12 students.

Launch of MPAA Mentoring Programme

On Wednesday 24th May, the Mulberry Production Arts Academy officially launched its mentoring programme with a speed mentoring event at Mulberry School for Girls.

Students were joined by industry professionals from the National Theatre and The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, representing a broad range of Production Arts disciplines.

During the event, students networked with their mentors and gained a deeper understanding of careers and pathways into the Production Arts industry. They learned from the real-life experiences, perspectives and insights of professionals, which helped them to better understand what it takes to succeed in this field.

Students visit immersive light and sound exhibition

On Friday 26th May, academy students went to see the Thin Air Lighting Design Exhibition at The Beams in the Royal Docks.

The exhibition utilised digital technology and large-scale installations to explore the power of light, sound and space. Witnessing the practical application of light, atmospherics, sound and experimental new media to create an immersive and experiential show was an incredible learning experience for the students.

This experience was especially valuable as they begin preparations for their own exhibition space in the inaugural Mulberry Festival of Arts.

Disney's Newsies Costume Designer leads workshop

The academy cohort attended a two and a half day design workshop at Mulberry UTC during the Easter break, led by designer Natalie Pryce, Costume Designer for *Disney's Newsies* – the award-winning musical. They explored three of the Grimms' Fairy Tales in groups, working through the design process to create scenic model boxes and costume designs which at the end of the workshop they presented to a panel of professional designers.

Project Steering Group set up to support continued development

To support the continual development of the Mulberry Production Arts Academy and ensure it is responsive to the needs of the industry, we are delighted to work with a Project Steering Group comprising of industry practitioners from the academy's partners and other leading organisations. The group has met three times with discussions focused so far on governance, strategic development, growth and fundraising.

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Mulberry College of Teaching – Transforming Lives Together

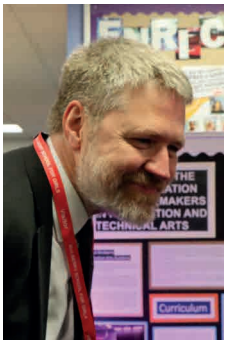
Trust colleagues came together in June to review and refine our brand-new Initial Teacher Training curriculum.

It was fantastic to work with teachers who share a passion for teacher training and their subject-specialisms in equal measure. We're working together to create a really exciting programme for September 2024 that will support trainees to be great teachers whom transform our students' lives. We begin recruiting our first cohort of English trainees in October 2023. If you would like to be involved in our ITT provision, or know people looking to train to teach, do get in touch **info@mulberrycollegeofteaching.org**.

Mulberry students impress DfE visitors

Two high-profile Department for Education visitors were welcomed to our schools in May.

Baroness Barran, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for the School System and Student Finance, visited Mulberry Stepney Green. She met with our CEO, Dr Vanessa Ogden and Headteacher Paramjit Bhutta, spoke to student leaders and heard from students about their experiences on the innovative Mulberry STEM Academy programme.



Mulberry School for Girls hosted John Edwards, Director General to Regions Group and his colleagues. They met with students, saw presentations on our Model UN and Mulberry STEM Academy programmes, and even met the school's robot, Pepper!

Both Baroness Barran and John Edwards were impressed by the students' enthusiasm, engagement and academic progress.

East London Teaching School Hub: Celebrating the role of the induction tutor!

On Friday 30th June, ELTSH hosted its annual Induction Tutor Forum.

We were joined by Mark Quinn and Elaine Long, Programme Leaders from UCL. They shared UCL research into the effective implementation of the ECF programme at school level and how to support the workload and wellbeing of ECTS and mentors. This was followed by a series of table discussions where top tips were shared and supportive networks were forged. New induction tutors left confident in their important role. Thank you to Trust colleagues who chaired table discussions and led parts of the day.

Reconnect London releases new report

Reconnect London's new report, '*London Schools: Beyond the Pandemic*', explores how schools have adapted their approaches to teaching, learning and the curriculum following the Covid-19 pandemic. The report includes a case study about Mulberry Stepney Green. Reconnect London recently secured funding for '*Leading into the Future*', a collaboration with the Centre for Educational Leadership at UCL IOE. The team have also been working with the Mayor of London's office to ensure London schools are well-prepared for delivery of universal primary free school meals in September 2023. For more information visit **www.reconnectlondon.org**.

Mulberry Networks bring staff together

The Mulberry Schools Trust believes strongly in partnership, collaboration, sharing impactful practice and the development of professional and social capital amongst staff at all levels; we are delighted to have established our Mulberry Networks this year. Our first meetings, amongst pastoral and subject leaders from across the Trust, were rich in evidence-informed discussions, half an hour hits, fifteen minute forums, and colleagues engaging in professional dialogue, developing practice together. Our schools have very close working relationships and our Mulberry Networks will help ensure we further develop a group of inspirational schools that instil ambition in all our learners.

Mulberry
Academy London Dock

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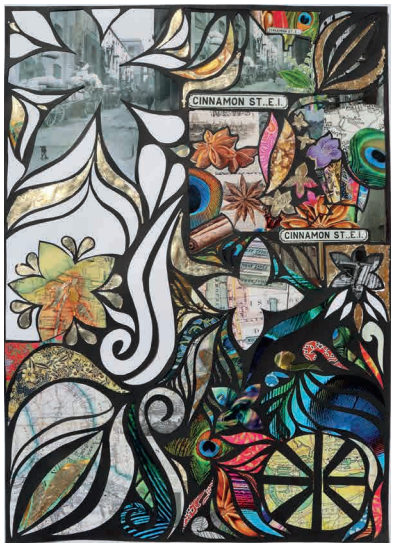
Student artwork and poetry on display

The latest hoarding panels surrounding the new Mulberry Academy London Dock school building along The Highway, E1 in Wapping, features some amazing pieces of student artwork.

The panels contain artwork and poetry from schools in the Mulberry Schools Trust and are a great way to see the excitement that is building ahead of the school's opening in September 2024. The work reflects the diversity of the local community and the school's commitment to providing a high-quality education for all students.

The hoarding panels will be on display until the school opens in September 2024. We encourage you to come and see them for yourself!

For more information, please visit our website at **www.mulberrylondondock.org**.



October Open Evening events

Mulberry Academy London Dock is a brand-new school opening in September 2024 with Year 7 students. We are holding two Open Evenings in October to give prospective families a chance to hear more about our school and meet some of our staff.

We will be providing the latest updates about the school, as well as information about our curriculum, our ethos and the admissions arrangements.

We are committed to serving the local community and we want to see as many local families as possible apply to our school. If you live in the Tower Hamlets area, we would love to see you at our upcoming events. Further information will be on our website, so please check it regularly for updates **www.mulberrylondondock.org**.

Beverley Knight visits Mulberry School for Girls

On Wednesday 3rd May, we had the pleasure of welcoming the legendary singer, songwriter and actress Beverley Knight to our school.

Beverley visited 240 Year 9 students and spoke to them about her role in '*Sylvia*' as Emmeline Pankhurst for which she recently won the Olivier Award for Best Supporting Actress.

This was a particularly special day as our whole Year 9 cohort have seen her perform as Emmeline at the Old Vic and the play forms a crucial part of their integrated Arts Project at the end of Key Stage 3. Also in the audience were Music students from Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, Mulberry School for Girls Music GCSE students and our wonderful Year 8 Music ambassadors.

Students Latisha, Liliana and Sumaiya also enjoyed tea with Beverley. They were joined by our CEO, Dr Vanessa Ogden and Headteacher, Alice Ward. Beverley also visited our historical Mulberry tree! It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to have an intimate and face to face conversation with such a brilliant star. It will certainly be a memorable moment for the students involved.

Students network with inspiring women at Asian Awards

On Thursday 8th June, students from Mulberry School for Girls attended the Asian Women of Achievement Awards at the Hilton Bankside. The awards were founded by Pinky Lilani CBE DL and celebrate the contributions of diverse women. Students networked with women including Her Royal Highness Princess Badiya of Jordan, Her Excellency Josefa Gonzalez, Ambassador of Mexico to the UK and Her Excellency Vicki Treadell, British High Commissioner to Australia.

MP Rushanara Ali returns to inspire students

We were delighted to welcome back former student MP Rushanara Ali who spoke to our students about her path into politics and why she loves representing her community in UK Parliament.

"Mulberry gave me the passport to opportunities. It was the most inspiring place for me – an oasis of fun and intellectual rigour. I made amazing friends at this school and I received such support from my teachers. This is the reason why I am where I am today."

We are so proud of you Rushanara and thank you for visiting us again.

Year 9 Takeover: Students gain valuable insights

The Year 9 Takeover on Friday 23rd June was a huge success, with students from across the year enjoying a range of activities and learning about different careers and organisations.

The school welcomed a series of guests from an illustrator to the Metropolitan police. Students experienced a range of activities for the whole day including watching a theatre performance from Side eYe Productions sold out show *Dugsi Dayz*. The day was a great success as many students felt they were able to try new things and learn about different careers and organisations, activities included:

- *Dugsi Dayz* Performance and Workshop
- Insight into Japan with The Japan Society
- Forensics Workshop
- Detective Skills and Careers in Police Activity
- Illustration with Ruby ETC
- Arts and Activism with Chisenhale Gallery
- Steel Band Workshop

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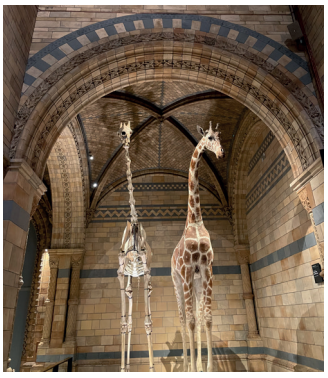
Headteacher: Ms Alice Ward

Year 8s visit Natural History Museum to learn about Plate Tectonics

On Monday 12th June, a number of Year 8 Geographers visited the Natural History Museum.

They undertook some pre-learning on Plate Tectonics, the first Year 9 curriculum area, as well as having a chance to look around the other exhibits. We also went for a walk around South Kensington, and had a look at the many embassies in the area before lunch in Hyde Park. As well as walking around the South Kensington area we also talked about geographical fieldwork and different methods of collecting data.



Music ambassadors visit Holland Park Opera

On Wednesday 21st June, 45 music ambassadors and vocalists from Year 7, 8 and 9 visited Holland Park Opera to see a shortened performance of *Hansel and Gretel* by Engelbert Humperdinck.

It was an open-air performance set in the beautiful Holland Park. Students were blown away by the power of the singers, the amazing set design and the orchestra. They even got a chance to meet the cast and ask them questions at the end.

Families enjoy magical *Frozen* performance at West End

On Friday 16th June, a group of 11 families from Mulberry School for Girls, accompanied by three staff members, embarked on a family learning trip to the Theatre Royal Drury Lane in London to watch the spectacular performance of *Frozen* at the West End.

The play captivated everyone with its mesmerising stage setup and enchanting costumes, transporting the audience to a magical world of imagination. Both the students and their families were thoroughly enthralled by the production and the trip was a great opportunity for the families to bond and experience a special event together.

Year 12 Students learn about diplomacy at IMOHQ

Year 12 students had an amazing opportunity to see diplomacy in action at the United Nations IMOHQ.

The event celebrated Women in Maritime Day and was arranged and hosted by our great friend, Her Excellency Josepha Gonzalez Blanco: Ambassador of Mexico to the UK. Learning about careers IMOHQ itself was a truly amazing experience. Students took the opportunity to pose great questions to Tamara Vassilissin, Principal External Relations Assistant, Mariana Noceti, Principal Programme Assistant, Women in Maritime Programme and Her Excellency. They also met Ambassadors of the UK, Sweden and Venezuela afterwards.

Cultural Week a hit with staff and students

Mulberry UTC's exhilarating Cultural Week captivated both staff and students, offering a unique cultural journey. With daily themes dedicated to celebrating the diverse tapestry of our world, Africa Day, Southern Asian Day, Caribbean Day and more were filled with captivating facts, engaging games and immersive experiences.

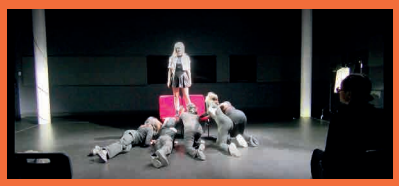
The community came alive with the melodic tunes of music from around the globe, playing a vital role in this cultural extravaganza. Special assemblies highlighted and honoured the beauty of our collective diversity.

The grand finale of Cultural Week brought the entire school community together for a cultural dress day, showcasing the rich heritage of various countries. A scrumptious cultural bake sale delighted taste buds, a vibrant flag themed face painting stall, and a mesmerising fashion show left everyone in awe.

Mulberry UTC's Cultural Week was a resounding success, uniting the community in celebration and leaving a lasting impression. It was an unforgettable experience that highlighted the power of diversity and the joy of embracing different cultures.

Performing Arts students shine in recent exams

During the last term, we have had a number of high-quality exam performances for the Performing Arts and Drama qualifications.



Students have been using the facilities at the UTC to stage a range of plays and devised pieces that draw from different theatrical styles and practitioners. Highlights include a staging of *Metamorphosis* using physical theatre and Berkovian acting techniques, as well as a devised piece of work that drew inspiration from Carol Churchill's *Far Away*, in which students explored the idea of consumerism through Brechtian practice. We were also delighted that the CTEC Performing Arts students all achieved distinctions from OCR in their work on devising an interpretation of Berkoff's '*Greek*' which focused on the idea of rebellion and the futility of fighting against the roles we play within the class system.

Former student Syeda returns for science work experience

This term one of our former students returned to Mulberry UTC to undertake work experience in Science. Here's what she had to say...

"My name is Syeda and I am a Mulberry UTC alumni. I am currently studying Biomedical Science at Queen Mary University of London. I am thoroughly enjoying my work experience as a Lab Technician Assistant, working with the Senior Science Technician. I have supported with the preparation, set up and carrying out demonstrations in science practicals. I have also enjoyed the involvement in student lessons. This work experience will help me when applying for future roles in scientific research."

T Level Health students complete first year

As the first year of our T Level Health course comes to an end, we are proud to say our students have successfully completed their Employer Set Project and Core A and Core B examination.

Students have participated and contributed towards building and forming the Hospital Ward and Care suite ready for the Occupational Specialism in year two. They had a great experience unboxing and putting together specialist equipment to get a feel of how machinery works behind the scenes of a ward and responding whilst following instruction.

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Principal: Mr Daniel Seed

Students Impress Baker Dearing Trust and Youth Futures Foundation

On Wednesday 7th June, it was a privilege to host a visit for the Baker Dearing Trust and Youth Futures Foundation. Simon Connell, CEO at BDT, Barry Fletcher, CEO and Matthew Poole Director of Grants at Youth Futures Foundation joined the visit and our students spoke passionately about their UTC experience in the creative industries and in T Level Health.

Our visitors met students from the Creative Industries specialism – Harry, Genesis, MJ and T Level Health students Tanya, Suhana and Isha. Students impressed the visitors with their passion and conviction and left all of us in awe. These remarkable young people represented our institution with brilliance and were a true credit to our community.

Welcome from new Principal Daniel Seed

It's a pleasure to write this introduction to an edition of *Connect*. I took up the role of Principal at Mulberry UTC on Monday 19th June and since then I have been spending my time getting to know the wonderful students and staff. It's been a busy term, as you will see from the articles in this issue. We have lots of exciting new projects planned for September, so it's a very exciting time for us.

Year 10 Taster Day

On Saturday 24th June, it was wonderful to meet our new Year 10 cohort on a Taster Day.

Students took part in a Science practical activity followed by an hour of electric go karting at Revolution Karting in Mile End. A great time was had by all and we are really looking forward to seeing the students at their induction day.

Student's play makes New Views longlist

We are delighted and proud to announce that Mulberry UTC student Harry Constantine's play '*Granddad's Broom*' has been longlisted for the National Theatre's New Views writing competition.

This is an incredible achievement, as only around 40 of the 500 scripts that were entered made the longlist of final works. Congratulations to Harry and all of the students who submitted such high-quality work.

Celebrating our cultural diversity

On Friday 26th May 2023, Mulberry Academy Shoreditch School Council celebrated World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development by encouraging students and staff to pin their international connections on a world map.

The pin was used to indicate a number of elements: where our families are from, the languages we speak, the kinds of cuisines we eat and many more.

The activity was a big hit, with students from all year groups joining in as well as staff. The world map is now a fixture in the Street area of the school for everyone to see (and add to) – we now have a colourful reminder of just how diverse and inclusive our school is and we can't wait to see more additions as the term goes on. The activity was accompanied by a rolling slideshow created by School Council members with facts about lots of different countries, including how to greet one another using the languages spoken in those countries.

Dragons' Den comes to Mulberry Academy Shoreditch

On Wednesday 26th April 2023 we were so lucky to have Deborah Meadon visit us from the BBC programme *Dragons' Den*.

Year 10 and 12 students met with her and listened to her talk about her life and her pathway to success. She then went on to answer students' questions and say more about her passions and what she does outside of the business role she has. Deborah is passionate about animal welfare and about the environment and sustainability. Deborah was an inspiration to us all and we loved having her at the school.

World Ocean Day at The Wave

On Thursday 8th June, a group of Year 7 Wellbeing Club students and our TrailFam team went on a fantastic trip to celebrate World Ocean Day at The Wave in Bristol, an inland surfing destination.

They absolutely loved their surfing lesson and enjoyed the whole wave experience! The day was aimed at learning about how to protect our oceans and so, as well as surfing, our students helped to paint a mural and learned all about marine conservation. It was a beautiful day and an unforgettable trip. Their day was captured by the BBC's *One Show*. You can see them enjoying their day on **BBC iPlayer** at 6 mins 30 secs into the show. Overall, this was an absolutely brilliant day out, enjoyed by everyone including our staff.

Principal's reward trip

On Thursday 18th May 2023, Mrs Holden had the pleasure of taking some Year 7, 8 and 9 students from Mulberry Academy Shoreditch out for a reward trip with members of staff.

It was lovely to walk in the City of London and visit one of London's tourist attractions – The London Dungeons, as well as enjoy a nice ice cream and treats. As a school, we believe in positive discipline and rewarding and noticing students who are hard working and respectful to their fellow human beings.

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Executive Principal: Mrs Ruth Holden

GCSE trip to Deutsche Bank

On Wednesday 22nd May 2023, Year 10 GCSE Business students took a trip to Deutsche Bank in Liverpool Street.

The *Dragons' Den* day required students to design an innovative new product and pitch it to a board of senior directors at Deutsche Bank. The students put their business knowledge into practice as they discussed how to market the product as well as outline the costs and estimated profit margins. The group presentations were incredible, all students confidently presented their ideas to the board. A huge well-done to all involved, what a fantastic opportunity.

Year 7 students learn kayaking skills

On Thursday 4th May and as part of their enrichment programme, two groups of Year 7 students went to the Laburnum Boat Club to learn some kayaking skills and have fun on the canal.

The students were taught how to paddle, steer and balance in their kayaks by experienced instructors. They also learned about safety procedures and how to rescue themselves if they capsized.

Princes Trust Enterprise Challenge

On Monday 22nd May 2023 our Year 7s took part in the Prince's Trust Enterprise Challenge final where they pitched their business idea, which they had developed during workshops over the last two terms, to a panel of professionals.

It went really well! The Year 7s smashed it! They came third in the London Regional Final which is a great achievement for first time pitchers! What fantastic team work, decision making, problem solving, communication, creative thinking and resilience! We are very proud of them all.

Students buzzing after UCAS discovery trip and UCL Visit

In June, we took a group of students on a UCAS discovery trip to prepare for writing their personal statements. A group of Year 12 students also visited UCL, one of the world's leading academic institutions. The students were buzzing on their return and impressed by the campus, the facilities and the university's diverse student body.

MFL department take 35 students on magical trip to Paris

In April 2023, the MFL department took 35 students to Paris. Everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed the experience. The students had dinner in a nice Parisian restaurant and then relaxed in their rooms.

The next day they headed to Park Asterix where they spent the day enjoying the many thrilling rides. They had so much fun despite the chilly weather. After dinner, students climbed to the top of Montmartre to visit the Sacre Coeur Basilica.

They took a boat trip on the River Seine to see all the main monuments. Later, they all strolled across the Place de la Concorde and through the Jardin des Tuilleries to the Louvre museum. They stopped at The Halles shopping for a bit of shopping and a quiz to practise their French. They carried on their walk via the Pompidou modern art museum and the Paris town hall. After dinner, they walked along the Champs Élysées and saw the Arc de Triomphe.

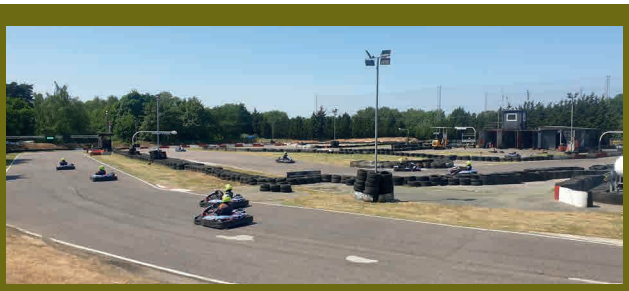
On their last day, they had the chance to visit the Stade de France and really enjoyed it. The highlight of that visit was to go very near the pitch and in the changing rooms where they were allowed to take some great pictures!

Students learn about Italian language and culture on Rome trip

On Saturday 20th May to Tuesday 23rd May, six Mulberry Stepney Green students went on a trip to Rome alongside 20 students from Mulberry Academy Shoreditch and Mulberry School for Girls.

It was an excellent opportunity to explore a beautiful historic city and learn new skills in communication, interacting with new people and building confidence in a foreign environment.

They visited the Colosseum, The Vatican City, The Trevi Fountain and many more cultural sites.



Go Karting at the Brentwood Karting Circuit

On Friday 16th June, our Year 10 and Year 12 STEM Scholars were invited to an action-packed day of go karting at the Brentwood Karting circuit in Essex.

This fun-filled day was organised by the Trust, as a special treat so students could practice their racing skills ahead of their next race. The students raced around the 40-minute lovely circuit followed by some delicious pizza for lunch. They also received certificates and medals for participation.

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Headteacher: Mr Paramjit Bhutta

Students learn to program Robots

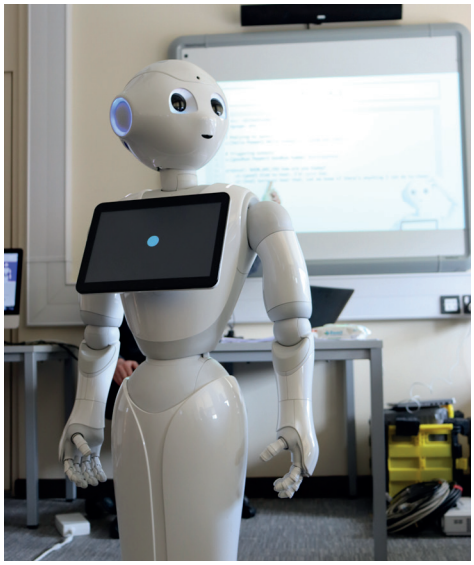
Students in Year 10 at Mulberry Stepney Green recently participated in a workshop on STEM robotics with NAO our futuristic robot! NAO is a small humanoid robot designed to interact with people. It can walk, dance, speak and recognise faces and objects.

During the workshop, students learned how to write efficient code that would control NAO. They were able to visually see how the code was executed by the robot, and they had the opportunity to debug their code and re-run the programs.

By the end of the workshop, students had gained the following skills:

- Problem solving
- Debugging techniques
- Testing (syntax and logical)
- Understanding of modules and procedures
- Object-oriented programming (OOP)

All students demonstrated excellent understanding of programming using robotics, and they thoroughly enjoyed working with NAO. The workshop was a valuable learning experience for the students, and it gave them a taste of what it is like to work in the field of robotics. The students are excited to continue learning about robotics, and they are looking forward to using their new skills in future projects.



National Grid mentoring workshop

The National Grid is a leader in the energy industry, offering services that helps make life possible for millions of people around the world. But how do you become part of such an epic organisation? That's where the National Grid Mentoring Workshop comes in!

Twenty-five students from our current Year 12 cohort participated in this pioneering workshop where our school was exclusively chosen amongst all the schools across London. They were introduced to and gained experience in the rigorous selection processes followed by major companies when recruiting new talent for highly competitive apprentice programmes.

These impactful sessions developed students' interview and aptitude test skills such as the STAR method when answering interview questions. All participants were awarded a certificate for successfully attending the workshop. Some were also selected to participate in a career coaching workshop with an Apprenticeship Manager at National Grid.

Year 13 graduates celebrate success at memorable event

Our Year 13 graduation event was a resounding success! It was a joyous occasion, filled with pride and celebration.

Congratulations to all the award winners for their outstanding achievements. Their hard work and dedication have set them apart, and we are immensely proud of them and wish them the best of luck on results day! Thank you to everyone for making this event memorable. Together, we create inspiring experiences for our students.

Out and about in the local community

Tiger Class has continued to enjoy their visits out in the local community. This term they really enjoyed the trip to Mile End Park. It was an opportunity for the children to run, jump, climb and be outdoors, the parents/carers enjoyed it too!

One child said "I was a bit scared about going on the zip line but when I got help and someone showed me how to do it I was happy and I could do it as well" and another child said "climbing is the best thing I did, I went right to the top of the spider web and I could see the whole world from the top".

More recently the children visited Mudchute farm, this was a follow up trip from their visit back in autumn so they could see how the farm, animals and environment had changed over time. The children particularly enjoyed petting and getting close to the animals. One child said, "a goat licked my hand, it felt very tickly and wet, I am glad it didn't eat my fingers".

New beginnings

This term we have welcomed new families to Mulberry Wood Wharf in readiness for the two new reception classes opening in September 2023.

All admission interviews have been a great success in getting to know about the children's interests and their unique personalities. The new students attended a stay and play session where they were able to meet their new teachers, play with new friends and enjoy some delicious snacks together. The team at Mulberry Wood Wharf are now looking forward to moving into the new building and turning the classrooms into exciting learning spaces.

Food glorious food

Weekly cooking continues to be a focus at Mulberry Wood Wharf and the children have enjoyed making carrot cake, samosas, fruit kebabs and most recently pizza.

They made the dough from flour, salt, water, yeast and oil and then left it to rise, which was a great Science lesson. The children then patiently chopped and sliced peppers using knives very safely, this supported their fine motor skills. They added sauce and cheese and added the peppers. This became a wonderful maths activity when the children had to share and divide the three pizzas they had made amongst the class, it generated conversations about more, less and even. The children are very adventurous at trying new foods now, which is definitely down to Metin the chef's delicious cooking!

The chicken and the egg

Just like Mulberry Canon Barnett, Mulberry Wood Wharf have been learning all about life cycles and have really enjoyed welcoming caterpillars and chick eggs into the setting.

The caterpillars gradually changed over time and the children observed them turn into cocoons, before we knew it, we had beautiful, colourful butterflies. This immersive experience really supported the students to use their oracy skills to talk about what they observed, it also generated lots of questions and new vocabulary.

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A visit from the law

Tiger Class had a visit from Constable Sam and PCSO Sal recently and thoroughly enjoyed finding out about their daily job and how the police help people in the community.

The students perfected their questioning skills by asking the police officers lots of interesting questions like "what is difficult about your job?", "what is inside a police car?" and "what equipment do you carry with you?" The children even got to touch and hold the special equipment.

Parents/Carers as partners

Parents/Carers at Mulberry Wood Wharf have continued to be wonderfully engaged with the school and have attended many events this term including someone special day, the King's coronation and Give me 10.

Give me 10 is a morning reading session where parents/carers can come into the classroom at the start of the day for 10 minutes and read with their child. The children love this special time with their parents/carers, and it really promotes a love for reading which is what we strive to instil in the students from a young age.

Ahoy! And off we sail...

Tiger Class was really interested in learning about boats and so taking the lead of the children's interests, Lindsay the class teacher supported the children to make their own boats which they then experimented with by setting them to sail in the paddling pool.

This was an example of child-led learning that developed many oracy, scientific and mathematical skills.

Celebration time!

Tiger Class celebrated Eid al-Adha by coming to school in their party clothes and sharing their experiences of giving gifts and sharing food with family and friends.

This supports the Early learning goal of people and communities where children can talk about their own cultural and religious traditions whilst enjoying others.

MP Catherine West meets with students at Mulberry Academy Woodside

On Friday 5th May, Catherine West, MP for Hornsey and Wood Green, visited Mulberry Academy Woodside. The Shadow Foreign Minister had lunch with a group of Year 11s and Ms Wallace, Headteacher, before moving on to a Q&A session in the library with a group of Year 7s, 8s and 9s including some of our brilliant student councillors.

Students were thrilled to have the opportunity to meet their local MP, asking questions covering everything from Ms West's journey to becoming an MP; how to win a debate; and how to prepare for the King's Coronation. Ms West rounded off her visit with a tour around the school, greeting and chatting with students as she left.

"I had a brilliant time visiting Mulberry Academy Woodside. I was struck by the amazing students and how engaged they were across so many different subjects – their questions were fantastic. I'm excited to see how the school keeps progressing – and what the students go onto next!"

Year 9s visit Oasis Farm in Waterloo

During the summer term, a group of students have been travelling to Waterloo to visit Oasis Farm once a week. Students have been taking part in lots of fun activities such as cooking, planting, composting, cleaning the animals enclosures and looking after animals including pigs, goats, guinea pigs, chickens and rabbits by feeding them and holding them.

The students have been learning how to care for the animals and meet their needs, and also learnt a lot about growing their own vegetables.

Each week, the session ended by sharing a meal that some of the group made. The group have since tried bruschetta, pesto pasta and Spanish omelette using ingredients collected from the farm's greenhouse and the fresh eggs from the chickens.

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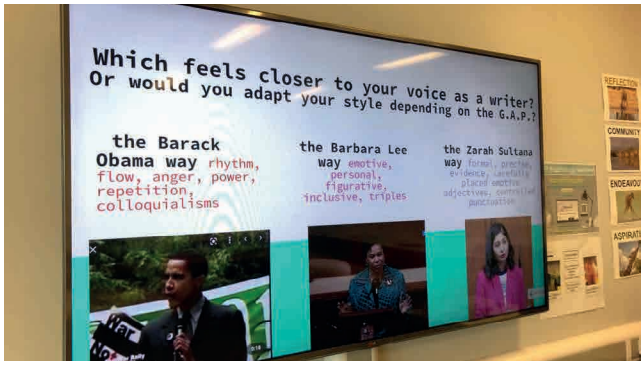
Headteacher: Ms A Wallace

London Academy of Excellence Partnership

Throughout the summer term, Mulberry Academy Woodside has been partnering with London Academy of Excellence Tottenham (LAET) to run a comprehensive extracurricular programme which features workshops and clubs to allow our young people to make the most out of their educational experience.

"LAET has really helped me this year. In particular, the Sunday revision was extremely helpful. We read speeches and spoke with students from other schools to compare how we could deliver a message, this was enjoyable as we were able to make new friends as well as learn new things. More important were the mental health sessions after our two hours of revision, these were extremely fun and enjoyable as we were able to put our minds at ease from the stress of exams."

Anisah Ahmed, Year 11

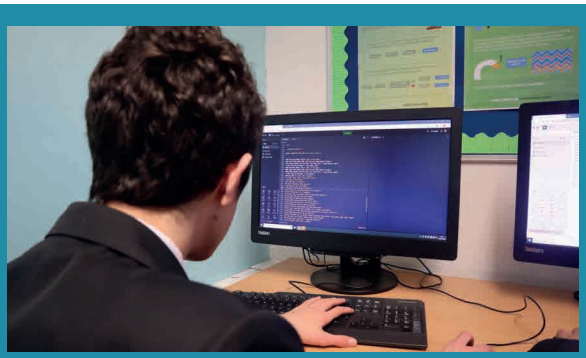


Woodside heads to European Space Centre

This year, the Science department at Mulberry Academy Woodside have worked closely with the Science depart at London Academy of Excellence Tottenham to provide students with additional tuition, extracurricular workshops, guest speakers and further opportunities in STEM.

One of these opportunities took place this July, as a group of students visited the European Space Centre in Belgium. The European Space Centre plays a vital role in advancing European space capabilities, driving scientific discoveries, technological progress and fostering international cooperation in space exploration and research.

Our students met with famous and accomplished scientists and they took part in many activities such as embarking on their own space mission, taking part in a simulation and observing lectures on the History of Science part VI, Cosmology and the Space Race.



Learning beyond the curriculum

The award-winning Electives programme has been a huge success once again, with wide range of courses on offer enabling students to have a deep learning experience, preparing them not just for their GCSEs but for future careers.

In E-sports, Gaming and Programming, students have been learning how to create AI (Artificial Intelligence) using programming language such as python to create their own chatbot i.e. similar to Siri and Alexa using if statements.

In World Cultures, students have been learning about different aspects of life in South America, learning about different festivals, landscaped and famous touristic places like Machu Picchu, Iguasu Falls and Amazonas.

Picturing highstreets with Historic England

Year 5 have been part of a photography project this year that is coming to an end this term. An ex-student of Mulberry Canon Barnett, Rehan Jamal, who is now a photographer, has been commissioned by Historic England to work on a project called 'Picturing High Streets'.

He took the students out to Petticoat Lane to take photographs of anything that captured their interest, these were then projected outside Toynbee Hall for the public to see. Some of the students' photos were then chosen to be added to the Historic England archives along with Rehan's photographs which were also projected outside the Photographers Gallery in the West End.

The children are going to the Photographer's Gallery soon. This has been an exciting project for the children who have had the opportunity to explore and develop their creative skills through photography, learning all about how an SLR camera works.

The Country Trust project

Year 3 students have been involved in a Country Trust project. The children have discovered first-hand the connections between the food they eat, their own health and the health of the planet.

Through food, farming and countryside experiences the project aims to empower children to be confident, curious and create change in their lives so that they and society can thrive. The class participated in a series of workshops involving planting, growing and preparing food, ending with an after-school sale where the children made delicious and healthy snacks from some of their homegrown ingredients which they sold to the families.

Chick chick chick chicken…

The Early Years thoroughly enjoyed looking after some furry friends this term as they learnt all about the life cycle of a chicken.

First the students observed the eggs hatch to release hatchlings and then they saw them turn very quickly into fluffy and active chicks. This immersive experience gave the children an opportunity to care for and handle the chicks, it supported them to develop their language and questioning skills. To continue the theme of lifecycles the class also observed in real life how a caterpillar turns into a butterfly. When the butterflies came out of their cocoons and after they had eaten some fresh oranges, the children released them into the school garden. One student said, "I have read the hungry caterpillar with my teacher before, our caterpillars didn't eat salami or lollipops" (a reference from the story).

The most improved writer award goes to…

Writing has been a key priority for Mulberry Canon Barnett this year and the students have worked hard to develop writing skills across the curriculum.

Every half term a teacher will choose one student from each class who is awarded 'the most improved writer award', their work is then displayed for everyone to see and enjoy.

Some of the Year 3 students recently took part in a young writers' project, they won a competition for their work to be published in the *Book of Beasties* released this summer.

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The London Fire Brigade come to visit

The Early Years had their annual visit from the London Fire Brigade.

The children got to meet and speak to the fire fighters, developing their questioning skills. They all had an opportunity to use the water hose in the playground, sit in the fire engine and try on some of their heavy uniform! One child said, "this is a dream come true, I want to be a firefighter and today I was!"

Sailing away!

The Year 6 students had a fantastic time taking part in a three-week sailing course at the Docklands sailing center.

They learnt how to work as a team to sail a boat and learnt all about how to keep safe on water. It demonstrated many of the school values such as independence and resilience.

One child said, "it was really hard to figure it out at first but then it all made sense, it was really hot and there wasn't a lot of wind, so we had to work hard!"

Winning streak at Mulberry Canon Barnett

This term, Mulberry Canon Barnett students have continued with their winning streak.

Year 4 took part in a cricket festival with other local schools and were declared the winners with one child achieving the 'Spirit of Cricket' award. Then our Year 3 and 4 girls football team went on to win another local tournament, the staff, children and parents/carers are extremely proud!

PSHE classes prepare students for transitions

This term all the classes have been covering a topic called 'Changing Me' in PSHE.

The teachers have been working hard to prepare the students for their upcoming transitions to new year groups and for the Year 6 students, secondary school! One child said, "I am a little nervous about secondary school because I think you get a lot of homework!"

Mulberry
Schools Trust

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