

connect

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

A message from the CEO



This term has been filled with inspiring events and achievements across the Mulberry Schools Trust. A highlight was welcoming Her Majesty The Queen to Mulberry Academy London Dock, where

she met students, staff and community members to mark the school's official opening.

We also celebrated the achievements of Mulberry STEM Academy's fourth cohort at their graduation ceremony, attended by Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd representatives. Meanwhile, our Mulberry Production Arts Academy Class of 2025 launched their journey at the National Theatre, with a rewarding day of mentoring and networking.

Global Girl Leading participants continued to shine, with students meeting Queen Camilla again at Buckingham Palace during International Women's Day celebrations.

Across our eight schools, students have excelled in a diverse range of projects. From creative media skills workshops at Mulberry UTC to the success of Mulberry Canon Barnett Primary's CREST Award participants, our students are developing essential skills for their futures.

Our Trust-wide initiatives also continue to thrive, with strong collaboration and innovation at the heart of all we do. Thank you to our students, staff and families for your invaluable contributions.

I wish you a restful and enjoyable spring break.

Dr Vanessa Ogden CBE
CEO

A royal visit to Mulberry Academy London Dock



On Tuesday 4th February, the Mulberry Schools Trust welcomed Her Majesty The Queen to Mulberry Academy London Dock for a historic visit celebrating the achievements of students, the innovative design of the new school building, and the Trust's commitment to empowering young people.

Her Majesty met students, staff and community members from across the Mulberry family before touring the school's state-of-the-art facilities. Students proudly shared science and engineering projects from the Mulberry STEM Academy, alongside artistic creations inspired by local architecture.

The visit also featured a moving performance by students from the Mulberry Production Arts Academy, and highlighted leadership initiatives including our Global Girl Leading programme.

The visit concluded with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony, marking the official opening of the school, followed by a heartfelt performance from the Mulberry Schools Trust Choir.



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Celebrating our students with Her Majesty The Queen

During Her Majesty's visit to Mulberry Academy London Dock, The Queen celebrated the exceptional achievements of Mulberry Schools Trust students.

Student showcases of innovative work from the Mulberry STEM Academy – in partnership with Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd – featured Green Power cars, Goblin cars and robotics. Students from the school proudly presented their artistic creations reflecting the rich architectural history of the local area.

Her Majesty also learned about the Global Girl Leading programme, empowering girls to become leaders, and viewed students' contributions to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

In the Mulberry Production Arts Academy – delivered in partnership with the National Theatre and The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama – students performed a powerful piece from *Hamilton* and presented the River Poem exhibition, specially commissioned for the school.

The visit highlighted the Trust's commitment to enriching students' learning through our trailblazing partnerships.



A sustainable, state-of-the-art school

Mulberry Academy London Dock's innovative building design was a key highlight during Her Majesty The Queen's visit. The school is one of the first Passivhaus schools in the UK, designed with sustainability at its heart.

Her Majesty heard how our key delivery partners, including Tower Hamlets Council, Kier, Architype and St George PLC, worked collaboratively to create a building that reflects the area's rich history while ensuring excellent air quality, noise reduction and safety.

The result is a dynamic and inspiring learning environment that not only enhances students' educational experience but also benefits the wider community.

Celebrating community connections

The royal visit also highlighted our strong community ties, with local primary schools lining the entrance with flags to create a vibrant and joyful welcome.

Her Majesty later joined a discussion with governors and local mothers, including those who had taken part in The Queen's previous visit to Tower Hamlets in 2013.

This memorable occasion showcased the Trust's enriching partnerships and how collaborations can create such valuable opportunities for students to thrive.

Marking the official opening

Her Majesty The Queen officially opened Mulberry Academy London Dock and, following a tour of the school's facilities, joined the Mulberry Schools Trust Choir for a moving performance before unveiling a commemorative sculpture.

Innovative university-style engineering project at Mulberry Academy Shoreditch

Last term, Year 12 Mulberry STEM Academy students undertook a university-style engineering project launched by Mulberry Academy Shoreditch (MAS). Using mBlock mBot Rangers, teams of between three and five students designed, built and tested robots that could autonomously follow a line and avoid obstacles. They were free to construct their robots in any configuration.

Throughout the term, students researched, coded and tested their robots while attending presentations on tackling engineering challenges and designing academic posters. They worked independently outside of lessons, solving problems and collaborating without direct teacher guidance. This helped them develop the key engineering skills, resilience and teamwork that will be essential for their future studies and careers.

The project culminated in a competition day at MAS, where students tested their robots on three increasingly difficult tracks and presented their project posters. It was inspiring to see their growth in confidence, problem-solving and technical ability throughout the process.

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

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



Demystifying recruitment into F1

Mulberry STEM Academy alumni, former Mulberry students now studying engineering at universities across the country, took part in a valuable workshop led by David Jeffrey, Aerodynamics Resource Manager at Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS F1 Team.

David offered key insights into the recruitment process for technical roles in F1, sharing practical advice on how to create an outstanding application. The session provided delegates with strategies for enhancing their career prospects in the competitive engineering industry.



Year 12 students visit the F1 exhibition

Year 12 students from the Mulberry STEM Academy visited the Formula 1 Exhibition at the London Excel Centre. The inspiring insight into motorsport engineering, innovation and sustainability aligned with their hands-on experience of designing and racing electric cars. The visit enhanced their understanding of real-world STEM applications and highlighted efforts to make the industry more sustainable. They also learned about women's leadership development programmes.

Celebrating our 2025 graduates

On Thursday 13th February, we celebrated cohort four of the Mulberry STEM Academy at their graduation ceremony. Our special guests from Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd – James Allison, Technical Director, and Anca Raines, Chief People Officer – were accompanied by their impressive show car.

Parents, trustees, governors and staff celebrated the students' dedication and achievements throughout the programme. You can watch the video highlights from this memorable moment [here](#) .





Production arts and the royal visit

To celebrate the official opening of Mulberry Academy London Dock by Her Majesty Queen Camilla, Mulberry Arts curated an interactive fair showcasing the journey of a production from 'page to stage' and the many production arts disciplines that exist. We were delighted to have students from all three Mulberry Production Arts Academy cohorts take part.

The fair featured exhibits on lighting design, sound operation, scale drawing and lighting visualisation. We were also joined by the Genesis Theatre Design Programme, who displayed their design work and TAIT, who showcased their epiQ automation control console. The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama led a sustainable model box workshop, and Unusual Rigging demonstrated a counterweight fly system. We also exhibited research for the upcoming One House on Brick Lane project, set pieces celebrating six years at Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and the Mulberry River Poem installation. The Queen also enjoyed Mulberry Academy Woodside's wonderful performance of *My Shot* from *Hamilton*.

The year so far ...

The MPAA Class of 2025 has had an exciting start to the year, attending their first skills workshops at Mulberry UTC, exploring production lighting, and learning to create mock injuries for stage and screen in a special effects session with Rc-Annie. They also discovered the technical magic of ABBA Voyage with a behind-the-scenes tour during East Careers Week. They are actively planning and working towards their first major event, the Mulberry Arts Rightful Place Conference in May. It's been a rich and busy start to their academy journey.

Graduates honoured at special ceremony

We celebrated our 2024 cohort's graduation in January at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, with esteemed speakers Josette Bushell-Mingo OBE, Principal of RCSSD, and Mark Dakin, Principal of TAIT UK.

Special thanks to our CEO, Dr Vanessa Ogden; James Allison, Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd; Ingrid Werner, TAIT UK; and Kathy Sandys and the Outreach Team from RCSSD.



Connecting with industry experts

We welcomed the MPAA Class of 2025 with a typically high-quality launch event at the National Theatre in January. Students heard from MPAA alumni and industry leaders, including TAIT UK's Mark Dakin, Nusrath Hassan from the National Theatre, and Liz Sillett, Association of British Theatre Technicians.

They participated in a careers speed mentoring workshop with eight National Theatre mentors, toured backstage at the National Theatre, and had a networking lunch. A huge thanks to our staff, supporters and partners for joining us to celebrate the start of their journey with us.



Study tour of New York City

As part of our Global Girl Leading programme, students have the opportunity to build an understanding of their role as global citizens with international study tours.

The first was to New York in March 2025, with six students attending the prestigious United Nations International School Conference 'Beyond the Algorithm: Navigating the Future of Artificial Intelligence' at UN headquarters. Discussions and debate explored how AI advances were having an impact on global challenges. Speakers included activist and founder of Girls Who Code, Reshma Saujani; Solan Barocas, Principal Researcher at Microsoft Research; and the UN's Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, Melissa Fleming. Students explored AI's influence across education, cybersecurity, gender, employment, conflict, the arts, health, misinformation, environmental sustainability and sports.

As well as participating in the two-day conference, they met with the Chief of Staff at NYC Public Schools in Tweed Courthouse, and immersed themselves in New York culture with visits to landmarks including Top of the Rock, Ellis Island and Times Square. They also visited the 9/11 memorial and paid tribute to all the victims.



Celebrating 15 years of WOW

Mulberry has been participating in the Women of the World (WOW) Festival since 2010 and this year we joined its fifteenth anniversary event. Global Girl Leading students marked International Women's Day with an event at the Royal Albert Hall, headlined by legendary activist Angela Davies who was interviewed by Sumayyah Mohamed from Mulberry School for Girls. Students also sang in a special choir commissioned by composer Errollyn Wallen. Her Majesty Queen Camilla invited students to a special reception at Buckingham Palace where they networked with numerous influential and high-profile women.



International Women's History Month: championing equality across our Trust

Schools in the Mulberry Schools Trust celebrated International Women's Month in March. As a Trust we campaign for a world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination. A world that is diverse, equitable and inclusive.

Global Girl Leading students attended The Female Lead's 'Inspiring Careers of the Future' event at Amazon's headquarters and heard from women leaders in a range of industries. Students also attended the Women of the Future Summit, featuring The Hon Julia Gillard AC, former Prime Minister of Australia and author Elif Shafak amongst other stimulating speakers.

Study tour of Mexico City

Last year, the Trust developed a partnership with Colegio Carol Baur School in Mexico and students from the school joined our Global Girl Leading Conference in 2024. They invited our students to their international Model United Nations conference BIMUN and eight students visited Mexico City in March. BIMUN simulates the work of the United Nations and our students debated the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in committees. They also learnt about the culture of Mexico and shared priorities for girls' education, voice and leadership.



A Level students explore love in literature

In our sixth Mulberry X Gresham College Lecture, we were joined by English A Level students from across Hackney and Tower Hamlets and 11 other schools online, for an engaging talk by Professor John Mullan, the Lord Northcliffe Chair of Modern English Literature at UCL. Professor Mullan's stimulating exploration of Love in Literature explored the intricacies of passion, conflict and redemption, examining classics *Wuthering Heights* and *Othello*, among other seminal works.

His impressive analysis not only illuminated enduring themes of love and loss but also encouraged students to consider how these timeless narratives resonate in today's world. As discussion unfolded, students were invited to question, reflect and challenge traditional interpretations, stimulating some vibrant intellectual exchange. Professor Mullan's ability to make complex literary themes accessible clearly engaged the audience, as questions flowed long after the event ended!

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



Inaugural ski trip

Students at Mulberry School for Girls were understandably excited about the school's first ever ski trip to Italy. After five days of lessons and hard work – along with some playing in the snow and basking in the mountain sunshine – they were all skiing independently down some pretty steep slopes. Well done, everyone!



Empowering future leaders with human rights and law programme

During the February half-term break, thirteen Year 12 students took part in the Girls Hub Human Rights Festival – Law Programme, an inspiring week-long initiative providing them with invaluable work experience at four top law firms and a special event at the Supreme Court.

At the heart of the festival is a powerful mission: advancing gender equity and eradicating gender-based violence through the leadership of girls themselves. The initiative is built on the belief that every girl has the right to a life free from oppression, discrimination, and violence – and that girls' rights are fundamental human rights.

Huge congratulations to Khadija and Ariana, whose outstanding presentations on improving girls' lives impressed a panel of festival judges. Their pitches showcased innovative solutions for gender equity and empowering young women. As a reward for their efforts they enjoyed an exclusive lunch with a King's Counsel and an opportunity to shadow a judge for a day – an invaluable step on their journey toward their future legal careers.



Year 7 to Wales

Our Year 7 students thoroughly enjoyed joining Year 7s from Mulberry Academy London Dock on their Outward Bound trip to Wales, where their adventures included kayaking, hillwalking and climbing.



Year 8 to the theatre

All students in Year 8 attended *Pig Heart Boy* at the Unicorn theatre, and were unanimous in agreeing how much they enjoyed this uplifting and profound show from award-winning writer Malorie Blackman.

Children's Mental Health Week

We celebrated Children's Mental Health Week with assemblies and our annual mental health fair, with students, staff and external organisations invited to share their strategies and top tips for looking after our mental well-being.



First Give grand finale

Year 9 students all took part in an exciting grand finale for the charity First Give, where they presented their work to a panel of five judges along with the whole year group. Each team delivered a compelling and well-researched presentation, reflecting the dedication and passion they had put into their chosen cause.

The First Give staff said it was one of the best presentations they had seen and the tutor team was hugely proud of the effort, creativity and commitment from all the students.

inVISIBLE Women

Two hundred and seventy students in Year 8 have successfully completed the Rights and Responsibilities Module in citizenship, including a series of lessons on Women's Rights, Gender Equality and Gender Representation.

The concluding piece is an art project inspired by the inVISIBLE Women campaign and we are so proud of what they have created.

Gender empowerment through politics

We are thrilled to be taking part in the Gender Empowerment through Politics in Classrooms programme, with the University of Roehampton.

This three-year European project focusses on girls, and how confidence in their own opinions can be fostered to empower them for future civic engagement. We are looking forward to seeing what they learn, and thinking about how we make sure that all our students develop the confidence they need to have a voice and participate in politics.

Year 12 inspired by health and medical sciences event

Year 12 students enjoyed an insightful careers event at the School of Health & Medical Sciences at City St George's, University of London.

It was an invaluable opportunity to explore a diverse range of undergraduate courses and career pathways within the healthcare sector. Discussions with academics and current university students offered rich insights into studying and working in various medical and health-related fields.

Following some dynamic networking, students tailored their experience by opting into specialist talks in their chosen field. Options included nursing, midwifery, medicine, clinical pharmacology, diagnostic radiography, occupational therapy, paramedic science, physiotherapy, radiotherapy, and speech and language therapy. These sessions deepened student's understanding of potential career routes and the skills required for each profession. The event was a great opportunity for aspiring healthcare professionals to connect, learn and gain inspiration for their future studies and careers.





Marseille work experience and cultural immersion

In the fortnight before the February half-term, selected students from Health, Media and Science embarked on an unforgettable work experience and cultural immersion trip to Marseille, France.

Working alongside professionals, they gained hands-on experience in a care home, a pharmacy and in media production. Media students showcased their creativity and ability to follow a brief by producing a promotional video for a café called *The Laboratoire*, which even featured on its Instagram page. Beyond professional development, students tackled language barriers, adapted to new environments and embraced cultural differences. Students also did some sightseeing, visited museums and participated in some bespoke workshops, enriching the trip for both students and staff.

The experience helped students develop personally as well as professionally and academically, and we look forward to seeing how they use the skills they learned in each of their specialisms.



Partnership for creative media skills

We're excited to announce a new partnership with the Creative Media Skills Institute, based at the iconic Pinewood Studios. This collaboration offers students unparalleled training opportunities in the film and television industry.

The Creative Media Skills Institute is renowned for its targeted training programmes that connect aspiring professionals with the UK's leading screen industry experts. Through this partnership, Mulberry UTC students will gain access to practical training, real-world insights and mentorship from industry leaders. This collaboration aligns with Mulberry UTC's mission to bridge the gap between education and the screen industries, empowering students to pursue their passions and achieve outstanding success. This partnership is set to transform the learning experience at Mulberry UTC, offering students a unique blend of practical training and industry mentorship.

Year 10 work experience week

In February, our Year 10 students had their first taste of working life as they embarked on work experience week. Students secured placements in a wide range of organisations linked to their future career pathways and current studies.

These included Barts NHS, a firm of solicitors, an insurance firm, primary schools, GP surgeries, a dance studio, an equestrian centre, an estate agent, a dentist, a digital marketing agency and a postproduction company. Feedback from employers was positive, highlighting excellence in the students' attitudes, communication, problem-solving skills, teamwork and independence – all transferable skills that will help our students flourish in the future.





Barts Health and career carousel trip

The Barts Health team invited Level 2 and Level 3 Year 12 Health and Social Care students to their Education Academy where we had a great introduction to the various careers within the NHS.

Students learned from speakers across different fields within the trust including occupational therapy, medical, nursing, sonography and radiology, midwifery and pharmacy.

Students received some NHS 'freebies' and engaged in a great session helping them think carefully about what they desire from a future in healthcare.

With many thanks to our partners Barts Health NHS Trust for arranging and delivering this insightful event for us.



Performing Arts short film

Performing Arts and Media students joined forces to work on a five-minute short film, combining their talents in acting, directing and production. This collaborative project helped students develop technical expertise in performance and filmmaking, from operating cameras to developing scripts.

Beyond technical skills, they also gained essential industry experience in teamwork, communication and problem-solving. Working together to bring their creative vision to life, students experienced the challenges and rewards of professional film production, preparing them for future careers in the entertainment and media industries.

Shining a light on film skills

Media students had an exciting opportunity to participate in a Creative Media Skills Institute lighting workshop led by a professional director of photography with experience of major film and TV projects. Students learned how to use a variety of lighting equipment to enhance interior and exterior scenes. Gaining hands-on experience, they explored different techniques used in the industry, helping to develop their technical skills and creative storytelling abilities.



"It's an amazing experience and is really giving us a taste of university life."

Aliza Ali, student participant

Goldsmiths University Certificate

Ten of our Year 12 students have been participating in the Goldsmiths University Certificate, a project launched in partnership with Goldsmiths, University of London, Mulberry UTC's industry partner.

The programme is led by Professor James Djan, a Mulberry Schools Trust trustee and Professor of Computing at Goldsmiths.

So far, students have taken part in engaging workshops at Goldsmiths on artificial intelligence and virtual reality, as well as additional sessions delivered by Professor Djan at Mulberry UTC.



An unforgettable experience in Gran Canaria

During half-term, Mulberry Academy Shoreditch students from the TrailFam race team took on a memorable challenge at the world-famous Transgrancanaria event in Gran Canaria.

Competing in the TGC Youth race, our athletes delivered outstanding performances, with four students securing top-10 finishes in a highly competitive international field. Beyond the race, they pushed their limits during a mountain training day and even took on a strong Canarian team in a thrilling basketball match.

From the moment they arrived on the island, 7 Palmas extended a warm welcome. Going head-to-head against one of Canary Island's top youth basketball teams, testing their skills at an elite international level, was both inspiring and eye-opening for our young athletes. Beyond the court and trails, this trip was about more than just competition – it was a chance for cultural exchange, personal growth and forging new friendships through sport.

A huge thank you to our staff hosts, to Mr Stokes, Miss Pitts, Mr Ahmed and Coach Nestor, for their invaluable support in making this unforgettable experience possible.



Celebrating International Mother Language Day

For International Mother Language Day, a group of student leaders created a video showcasing our love for our native languages. We highlighted the importance of connecting with our roots and taking pride in the diverse cultures we come from. We emphasised that these languages should be embraced and celebrated rather than forgotten. Students from several countries participated, speaking in their mother tongues and sharing their deep appreciation for their languages. This joyful and meaningful experience brought us closer through our shared love of language and culture. You can watch the video [here](#).

Students conquer the slopes in Sestriere

The annual ski trip to Sestriere in the Italian Alps in January, saw 42 students from Years 7 to 13 discovering and developing their skiing skills. All made considerable progress in the four days we had skiing – the top group even managed black runs this year.

Students had four hours of lessons with skilled instructors daily, and evening activities included basketball and football in the sports hall, quiz night, shopping in the village and ice skating.

Thank you to the staff that attended: Ms McRill, Ms Fabian, Mr Vickers, Mr Cox and Mr Donnelly. We're already planning next year's trip!



Mulberry Academy Shoreditch welcomes Bexhill Academy

On Monday 20th January, Mulberry Academy Shoreditch welcomed students and staff from Bexhill Academy for the first visit in an 18-month exchange programme for Years 9 and 10.

The group embarked on a six-mile walking tour from London Bridge along the South Bank, visiting Shakespeare's Globe and Tate Modern, before crossing the Millennium Bridge to St Paul's Cathedral. They continued through the City, past the Tower of London and over Tower Bridge.

Led by Mr Collis, each group of four students was given a camera to capture their unique perspective of the journey. Even on a chilly January afternoon it was a fantastic day, highlighting the diversity and rich history of our capital.

We look forward to visiting Bexhill for the next leg of our exchange.



STEM fun for Year 4 and 5 students

On Monday 27th January, Year 4 and 5 students from St John's CE Primary School joined us for a STEM project. They designed structures made of marshmallows and spaghetti strong enough to hold a can of beans. The students had a great time and we thoroughly enjoyed having them with us.



House University Challenge

Brains, buzzers, and brilliance were on full display as our Sixth Form team clinched victory in a thrilling University Challenge competition against the KS3/4 team. Facing fierce opponents, they didn't miss a beat, proving they had the formula for success.

The contest featured quick-fire questions ranging from literature to languages. Congratulations to our champions for their well-earned win – a textbook example of strategy and skill. Thank you to all the students that joined us.

Empowering Futures: Year 12 students at We Can Be

On Wednesday 26th February, Ms Taylor and Mrs Morgan Black had the privilege of taking 16 Year 12 students to the We Can Be event, an initiative by the Lord Mayor's Appeal designed to inspire young women to explore careers in the City of London.

It was a rich opportunity for our students to engage with successful women, broadening their understanding of financial careers and gaining invaluable insight for their own futures. All our students left feeling confident and ambitious.





Art Pavilion exhibition celebrating young artists

Teachers from across 15 schools in Tower Hamlets came together to celebrate the creativity and artistic achievements of their students in an exhibition at the Art Pavilion in Mile End. Funded by THAMES (Tower Hamlets Arts and Music Education Services), the showcase featured artwork from students across Key Stages 1 to 5, using a wide variety of media, including drawing, painting, textiles and photography.

The exhibition was open to the public from 6th to 14th March and was a great opportunity for young artists to see their work in a professional gallery setting, and a platform to share their creativity with the wider community of parents, teachers and art lovers.

Career pathways at Barclays event

On Wednesday 22nd January, 15 Year 12 students attended the Barclays Future Skills career workshop in Canary Wharf, organised in partnership with The Switch. The event emphasised networking and provided valuable career advice. Students participated in speed-networking sessions, engaging with professionals to explore career pathways.

They also gained insights into university options and apprenticeships, helping them make informed decisions about their future. The workshop was an excellent opportunity for students to develop essential skills and broaden their career aspirations.



Year 12 students explore Minehead for field work

In February, as part of their A Level Geography course, Year 12 students completed a four-day compulsory fieldwork study for their non-examined assessment, in Minehead, Somerset. They formulated research questions, planned investigations and collected and analysed data.

Students explored both human and physical geography. They examined Minehead's coastline, investigating physical processes and human impact through soft and hard engineering, collecting data on beach profiles, groynes and bipolar analysis.

They also studied Minehead as a 'place', gathering primary data through questionnaires and surveys to understand local perceptions and social and economic changes over time.

This experience allowed students to apply theory to the real world, working independently and collaboratively with other schools while developing social, organisational, leadership and communication skills.

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





Hockey success at Tower Hamlets tournament

Huge congratulations to our school hockey teams for their outstanding performance at the Tower Hamlets Hockey Tournament. Our boys' team finished as runners-up, while Mulberry Stepney Green girls' team were crowned overall winners. This is an exceptional achievement and a well-deserved reward for their dedication and hard work in preparing for the competition.

Our hockey club runs every Thursday after school, providing students with an opportunity to develop their skills.

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

Faiza inspires at Speak Out Challenge

On Thursday 27th February, Faiza Khatun represented Mulberry Stepney Green at the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge regional final. Faiza's inspirational speech *Perseverance* encouraged us to be resilient, endure, strive for success and never give up. She demonstrated determination, passion and enthusiasm and we are so proud of how exceptionally well Faiza represented us throughout the competition.



Clyde & Co mentoring

As part of Mulberry Stepney Green's partnership with The Switch, 20 Year 12 students are participating in the Clyde & Co mentoring programme. On monthly visits to the Aldgate East law firm they engage with mentors, explore career pathways and develop key professional skills. Sessions cover networking, CV writing and work experience, offering tailored guidance to support their future aspirations.

This initiative provides invaluable exposure to the legal sector, equipping students with knowledge, connections and insights that will enhance their career prospects and professional growth.



Exploring creative careers at London Met

Year 10 and 12 Art students attended a creative careers day at London Metropolitan University, organised by THAT (Tower Hamlets Art Teacher) network London. They gained insight into creative careers from meeting industry professionals in illustration, architecture, textiles and interior design.

Hands-on workshops included light structures, collages and architectural drawings. The inspiring experience broadened students' understanding of the creative sector, encouraging them to explore career opportunities and stimulating interest in similar events in future.





Read your way

This year's World Book Day was a huge success, with our students embracing the magic of reading in the most creative ways.

Students came dressed as favourite book characters, bringing stories to life and sharing their love of reading with enthusiasm. The fun-filled day included a book swap, where students swapped books they'd brought from home to discover new tales to dive into.

In a special twist, we even swapped teachers during story time! It was a wonderful way to mix things up and enjoy different reading styles and voices. Families also joined the fun, sending in delightful photos of children reading in wacky and imaginative places, all linked to our 'Read Your Way' theme. It was heart-warming to see how books can spark creativity, and we look forward to continuing to nurture this love of reading in the months ahead.

Exciting trips and experiences

Classes have continued to enjoy some fantastic trips and experiences that have brought learning to life this term. The Reception classes visited the Soanes Centre, where they explored the wonders of the natural world and pondlife, sparking their curiosity about nature.

Year 1 had a memorable visit to the local Idea Store as part of Storytelling Week, where they participated in a workshop with a local author. They also went on a floating barge that is a church, giving them a unique experience on the water while learning about the history and significance of this special place. Year 2 ventured to the Docklands Museum to support their local history topic on the docklands, learning about the rich heritage of the area.

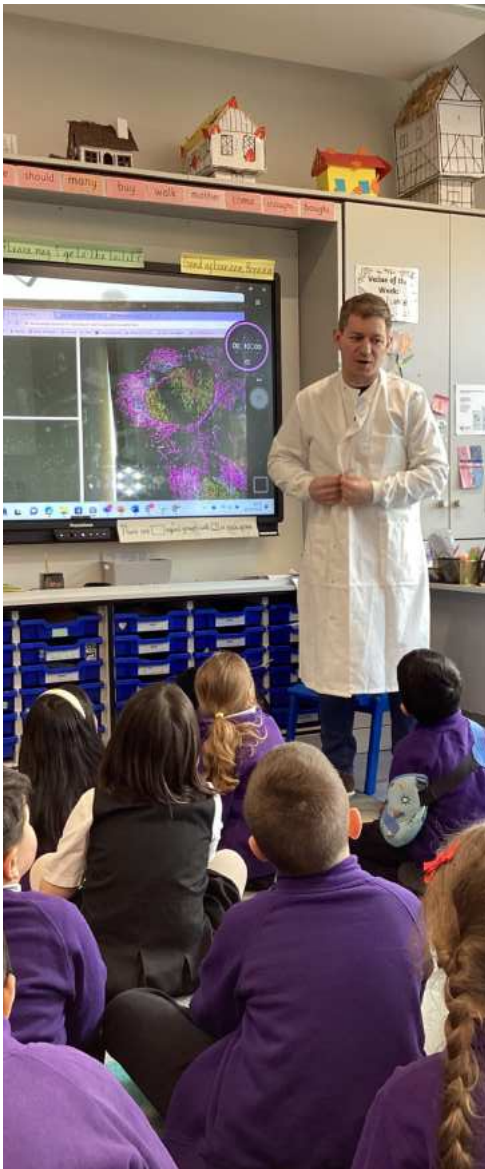
Children also took part in the Wild City project. Focusing on sustainability and the environment, this helps them understand how to protect and care for the world around them.



Continuing the learning journey beyond school

Key Stage 1 students have been busy with exciting home projects this term. They grew seeds, learning about patience and responsibility while nurturing them to see how big they could grow.

They also created Reading Rivers, a wonderful project that encouraged them to share their love of reading in creative ways. These projects perfectly embody our core value of creativity, with children showcasing how reading can take many forms – through books, imagination or nature. All of these home-created projects reflect the children's passion and enthusiasm beyond the classroom.



Launching Mulberry STEM Academy

We are excited to launch the Mulberry STEM Academy at our school, led by Dr Mundy, where children engage in various challenges to earn a CREST award. For British Science Week, everyone participated in a hands-on STEM activity to spark curiosity and learning.

We were also thrilled to welcome parents who work in the sciences, who came to speak to the children about their careers. This was a great opportunity to connect with our wider school community and inspire the next generation of scientists.

Photography Club exhibition

Our Photography Club recently held an exhibition for families to admire the students' creative work. The children have learned valuable skills, including composition and lighting as well as capturing moments from different perspectives.

They have also explored the arts of editing and storytelling through images. The exhibition was a proud moment for all involved, as students had the chance to showcase their progress and passion for photography.



Staying active with 'Healthy Me' focus

This term, we've focused on our 'Healthy Me' Jigsaw topic, promoting physical and mental well-being. Students have enjoyed sports sessions in our hall, staying active and engaged.

We've also implemented the Daily Mile in the playground, encouraging everyone to get moving every day. These activities align with our core value of 'being active', helping everyone build healthy habits and a love for physical activity.

Empowering students with leadership roles

We are always keen to highlight the leadership opportunities available to our students. We recently launched the Rights Ambassadors (School Council), the Kindness Crew and the Eco Champions. These groups play vital roles in influencing decision-making and driving positive actions within the school. From promoting kindness and sustainability to ensuring student voices are heard, our young leaders are making a real difference. You can find out more about our student leadership roles [here](#) [🔗](#).



Back-to-back triumphs at Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge

Mulberry Academy Woodside proudly hosted this year's Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge regional final, building on last year's success when Aleiya Francis claimed victory.

Continuing the legacy, Year 10's Mawada Shire emerged as this year's champion, securing our second consecutive win.

Mawada's speech, 'Redefining Family', delivered a powerful message on how family is built on love and belonging, not just biology. Her words resonated with the judges and audience, earning her the top spot among 17 finalists.

Reflecting on her journey, Mawada shared how the experience transformed her confidence:

"At first, I was nervous and even considered dropping out. But by the final, I felt ready. Winning was incredible - but more than that, I'm proud of who I've become."

The event also featured students performing a song from *Hamilton*, and a stunning piano recital by a Year 9 student.

Congratulations to Mawada, Havin and Grace for representing us with pride.



Celebrating National Careers Week

Mulberry Academy Woodside celebrated National Careers Week in early March, with a series of career-focused events. Students attended assemblies led by financial services companies, took part in a Unifrog careers workshop, and even experienced mock trials at London Metropolitan University.

The highlight was the Year 9 Careers Fair, where students engaged with 14 professionals from a wide range of sectors and industries including finance, law, real estate, healthcare and policing.

Meeting representatives from Goldman Sachs, solicitors, midwives and more, students gained valuable insights into future career opportunities.

It was a great opportunity to explore different pathways and ask questions about the world of work. Year 9s made the most of this inspiring experience, showing enthusiasm and curiosity throughout.

Year 10 art students inspire young creatives

On Thursday 13th February, seven Year 10 GCSE Art students visited Oakthorpe Primary School to support their Art Week, and led a painting session for Year 4 students. Mulberry Academy Woodside students Olivia Johnson, Kimora Bogarts and Aleksandra Queiroz introduced the young artists to David Hockney, Joiners and the colour wheel, before guiding them through creative painting techniques.

Our students showed great leadership, patience and enthusiasm, helping the children build confidence in their artwork. It was a welcome opportunity to give back to the community and inspire the next generation of artists.

A huge well done to everyone for their brilliant work.



Year 7 students create podcasts about school transition

This term, Year 7 students at Mulberry Academy Woodside produced six insightful podcasts exploring the transition from primary to secondary school. This exciting project was delivered in collaboration with Collage Arts through their Creative Conversations initiative.

Students took the lead in planning each episode, developing thoughtful questions and recording their podcasts in a professional studio. Throughout the project, they gained valuable skills in communication, teamwork and creative thinking, as well as technical expertise in podcast production.

You can listen to their wonderful work [here](#) .



Spreading kindness on St Valentine's Day

This St Valentine's Day, students 'Spread Kindness with a Single Rose', turning a simple gesture into a powerful show of appreciation. Held in our Snack Shack area during break and lunch, the response was overwhelming, with students eager to purchase roses for friends, family and even themselves.

Demand was so high that students were asking to buy roses before the school day even started. The event was a great way to promote one of our school's core values, kindness, within the community. Proceeds from the sale will contribute to this year's rewards trip.

Getting creative at the National Portrait Gallery

At the start of this term, our Year 11 Photography students visited the National Portrait Gallery in central London for a photo workshop. Inspired by the 'Legends' exhibition by photographer Zoe Law, students worked in teams to recreate portraits using lighting and props.

They also explored the Taylor Wessing Photo Portrait Prize 2024, featuring works by talented young photographers, gifted amateurs and professionals, highlighting the best in contemporary photography.



Students explore inequality for urban fieldwork

GCSE students completed their Urban Fieldwork for Paper 2, investigating inequality in Haringey. They gathered data through surveys, field sketches and secondary sources, while also engaging with the public through questionnaires.

Their hands-on research developed key exam skills and provided insight into local social dynamics. Their impressive dedication and ability to interact with the community made this a valuable learning experience beyond the classroom.

A royal adventure: the opening of Mulberry Academy London Dock

Students had the thrilling opportunity to participate in the unforgettable opening of Mulberry Academy London Dock by Her Majesty The Queen. The day was filled with cheers, flag-waving, and a joyful atmosphere as we celebrated Queen Camilla's visit. The excitement was palpable, creating memories to last a lifetime.

A highlight was Mahira's thrilling F1 mini race against Queen Camilla herself – a rare experience few can claim to have shared with royalty!

It was a wonderful day at the new school, and Mulberry Canon Barnett was thrilled to join Her Majesty for the opening. Our children's heartfelt reactions to meeting Queen Camilla captured the true essence of this remarkable event.



Chrysalis class's trip to Spitalfields Farm

Chrysalis Class had a memorable minibus trip to Spitalfields Farm. The class had been exploring the theme of 'habitats' throughout the spring term, studying animals and their environments across various subjects, including Art, RE, PE and Music. The farm visit provided a great opportunity to observe animals in their natural habitats. The children saw sheep, goats, ducks, chickens, donkeys, ferrets and pigs, learning about their unique physical features and how they live differently from humans. It was an enriching experience that brought their studies to life.



A wonderful start to class singing performances

Throughout the spring term, each class rehearsed a song for Tuesday singing assemblies, carefully selecting pieces that related to their current topics. It was a joy to watch each class perform in front of the school. Singing plays a crucial role in children's development, helping to build self-confidence, boost self-esteem and engage emotions. It also encourages social inclusion, supports social skill development and brings children of all ages together to create something special. The performances were a wonderful opportunity for all students to shine and showcase their talents.



STEM stars in the making

We are proud to see our Year 4 and 5 students from Mulberry Canon Barnett Primary thriving as part of the Mulberry STEM Academy. Led by former Mulberry Academy Shoreditch students Ms Mona and Mr Zaqwan, students are working towards their CREST SuperStar Award.

Through eight engaging sessions, the children are developing their investigative and teamwork skills while solving real-world challenges like bridge blunders, band rollers and racing rockets. They're tracking their progress in CREST SuperStar passports and will receive a nationally recognised award upon completion.

The excitement continues into the summer term, with projects in robotics and Goblin car builds planned. We can't wait to see what they achieve next!



Year 2 explores the evolution of flight

Year 2 students have been learning about the history of flight. To enhance their understanding, they visited the Science Museum to explore an exhibition on the evolution of aircraft. It was fascinating to see the advancements in flight technology and safety.

The students took notes like detectives, uncovering the secrets of flight and discovering how far technology has come. It was an exciting and educational experience that brought their learning to life outside the classroom.



TechSheCan day for Year 4 and 5

Year 4 and 5 found inspiration during our careers event with staff from Develop Recruitment and TSB. The children heard remarkable stories from Samantha, Arunima and David, professionals in tech roles. After the talks, they participated in team challenges like Jenga, Marshmallow Spaghetti and Crazy 8, promoting teamwork, problem-solving and creativity.

Joey from Develop Recruitment, partnering with TechSheCan, supported STEM at Mulberry Canon Barnett Primary. We're excited about this ongoing collaboration to inspire future tech leaders and grateful for the opportunity to host such motivating professionals.



Year 6 celebrates the past

This spring term, Year 6 took part in an exciting project with English Heritage, focused on enhancing Petticoat Lane.

The aim was to celebrate individuals from the past who had a significant impact on the culture and life of our local community. The children eagerly embraced the project, showing great enthusiasm to learn about the rich history that shaped their surroundings.

Throughout the term, our pupils explored the stories of poets, writers and charitable figures whose contributions left a lasting impression on the area.

To bring learning to life, Year 6 created a stunning collage that captured their discoveries and insights from the project. The artwork will be proudly displayed in Petticoat Lane, providing a unique opportunity to connect the past with the present. It's a wonderful way for the children to showcase their creative talents while reflecting on the historical figures who have shaped their community.



The great outdoors

Year 7 travelled to Aberdovey to take part in their Outdoor Adventure Week in Snowdonia National Park. From beach-based water activities to expeditions in the mountains, each day was filled with excitement and discovery. As soon as we arrived on Monday, students braved a 'jog and dip', where the mountains meet the sea at the mouth of the River Dyfi.

They soon became accustomed to the cold waters, as we canoed along the sand dunes and slid along upside down canoes like penguins on ice! One memorable moment for many was climbing the mountain and reaching the summit, not to mention river scrambling along the way. In the evenings we played lots of games and developed orienteering skills, navigating the site with maps and clues. On our last night we enjoyed toasting marshmallows on campfires on the beach, learning about the stars and sharing memories from the week.

"The mountain was breathtaking and gigantic, but most of all peaceful and tranquil. The sea shone, ethereal and freezing." Hur

"My greatest adventure is a tie between abseiling where I beat my fear of heights and mountain climbing because of the amazing view we were rewarded with after climbing up the steep slopes." Linda

"Aberdovey was different from being in London because there was much more flora and fauna. I did much more physical activity and learnt useful life skills. I have discovered that I am much more resilient than I thought I was and I faced challenges I didn't think I would overcome." Zac

"It has been a joyous time filled with adventure and laughter. Although it was only a few days, this experience has allowed me to really open my eyes and gain a love for nature." Rayyan

Apsana Begum MP visits Mulberry Academy London Dock

We were delighted to welcome former Mulberry student and Member of Parliament for Poplar and Limehouse to the school. Apsana Begum shared her journey in politics, explaining the many 'firsts' she's achieved in her career to date, inspiring our founding students with her perseverance and ambition, and the importance of community.

She celebrated International Women's Day with the school, reflecting on the many achievements of women in the local area, and their individual stories of hope and resilience. Students were able to discover how Apsana Begum became interested in politics and how she had been inspired to act on behalf of others and ensure that people's voices are heard.



The power of our voices

Our group of keen debaters has just attended the second round of Debate Mate's Urban Debate League, participating in two debates at Stratford School Academy. The first debate saw our three teams debate the motion, 'this house would ban celebrity and influencer brands' and the second focused on the criminal justice system.

Students thrived as they worked together to prepare, demonstrated their public speaking skills and showed fantastic participation debating against schools from across London.





Uncovering design engineering

A group of students took part in an engineering workshop where they were able to explore the innovative technology integral to Dyson. They deconstructed different components, including a Dyson V12 Detect Slim Animal™ Vacuum, Tangle-free Turbine Heads, and Anti-tangle screw heads.

Students took these apart with screwdrivers, to build a better understanding of how the technology works. They explored the design process from the inside out, ready to design their own solutions to everyday problems.



Innovative idea shortlisted for Boom Bloom

A team of students have been shortlisted for the annual V&A Innovate National Schools Challenge, a celebration of young people's imaginative and inspiring design ideas. There were more than 195 entries nationally, and ten have been shortlisted including Mulberry Academy London Dock. Students investigated the themes, undertook research and used prototyping to come up with an idea that could have a positive impact on people and the planet.

A team of five students will present their 'Boom Bloom' concept to a panel of judges at the V&A, where they will share their idea for a range of biodegradable daytime fireworks made from bioluminescent seeds.

The judges include Jude Pullen (creative technologist), Liam Charles (TV presenter and Junior Bake Off judge) and Angellica Bell (TV presenter and radio host on The One Show and Magic Radio).

The shortlisting panel shared their encouraging response to the proposal: "This is a very impressive and informative presentation highlighting a gap in the market for biodegradable fireworks ... the mission to combat unnecessary waste is very strong throughout and the idea to use plant-based dye and dried seaweed further hones in on a sustainable approach which could lead to a very considered product and marketing approach if further developed."



Trust science hub collaboration

Over the past year, Mulberry Academy Shoreditch has spearheaded an exciting initiative for all secondary schools in the Trust, focusing on innovative teaching strategies to improve outcomes, particularly at GCSE level.

Led by Ms Larkin and Ms Hunnisett, this work has brought together science teachers from across the Trust to observe teaching, share successful strategies and implement ideas back in their classrooms.

The collaborative approach has proven valuable in enhancing the teaching and learning experience.

There are future plans to bring students from across the schools together to review their work and discuss approaches to exams. This initiative aims to strengthen further our collaborative learning approach and ensure even more sustained success for all.



Collaborating with Twyford Church of England Academies Trust

On Tuesday 15th February, Mulberry Schools Trust hosted Dame Anne Hudson, CEO of Twyford Church of England Academies Trust, for a productive meeting. The session featured presentations on the Global Girl Leading programme, followed by discussions on best practices in teaching school hubs and initial teacher training (ITT) provision, areas both trusts are actively involved in. The exchange of ideas highlighted the importance of collaboration in enhancing educational practices and supporting the next generation of educators.

Success for scholars

The Mulberry Scholars Academy, designed to support high-achieving students in securing places at the country's most prestigious universities and competitive fields of study, is nearing completion. Over the past year, 34 students have enjoyed invaluable guidance in preparing for admission to university, including support for their application and preparing for interview. Their dedication has resulted in offers from some renowned institutions. We wish the inaugural cohort every success in their exams this summer and look forward to celebrating their achievements in the autumn.

The importance of partnership



At the beginning of the spring term, senior leaders and Headteachers from all partner schools attended our school partnership group meeting. Members discussed how creating a new teacher training programme together, designed to attract applicants from the local community, has been professionally rewarding for staff. This collegiate approach has also provided a support network for experienced teachers to share good practice across schools. The meeting highlighted our shared commitment to providing excellent training for teachers who are new to the profession, as well as unique professional development opportunities for experienced teachers.



Exciting developments in Alternative Provision

The Department for Education has approved the opening of Mulberry Learning Village, our Alternative Provision (AP) school in Canary Wharf, in partnership with Tower Hamlets Council.

Since receiving this exciting news, Ms Montgomerie, Mr Collis and Ms Holden from Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, have been visiting alternative provisions across London and the UK to explore best practices. Their visits have provided valuable insight on effective resources, building designs and therapeutic approaches to supporting students in alternative settings.

These practices will be incorporated into the design of our new school when it opens. Numerous professionals have also visited us to discuss the strategies they have found effective. This project is rapidly growing and evolving, and it's exciting to see it taking shape as we prepare for the school's opening.



Leading the way in special education



East London Teaching School Hub's first cohort of the brand-new UCL NPQ SENCo is well underway, with 60 participants from 48 schools (half of which are in Tower Hamlets and Hackney) engaging in the programme. Participants engage with the latest academic research to equip them with the expertise and confidence to lead effective and meaningful change within their schools. Our facilitator team (all expert SENCos recruited from local schools) work with our NPQ strategic lead to get to know participants and their school contexts, to tailor face-to-face sessions that meet their specific needs.

One of our SENCo facilitators, Kevin McDonnell, Headteacher at Stormont House School in Hackney, has already reflected how, "It has been an absolute pleasure working with both groups of the first ever NPQ SENCo cohort. I have been so impressed by the open and engaged quality of the small group dialogues, drawing on such a rich mixture of experience, roles and types of setting ... I'm already looking forward to the next sessions!"

You can follow us on our [LinkedIn page](#) to keep up to date with our programmes.

Education leaders gather at roundtable for RISE

On Friday 7th March, Reconnect London hosted a roundtable at Mulberry Academy London Dock. The event brought together school, Trust and system leaders from across London, as well as representatives from the Department for Education.

The focus was the government's recent introduction of RISE (Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence) teams. RISE teams coordinate the support that is provided for London schools, ensuring every school leader has access to the help they need to improve their schools.

The gathering provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the impact the new policy is likely to have on schools and trusts, and how to ensure RISE drives educational excellence across the region.

Learning from the experts with Mulberry College of Teaching

This term, Mulberry College of Teaching's beginning teachers have continued to learn from talented teachers at our partner schools. In just one example, they spent a week at Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, focusing on adapting teaching for bilingual learners. This intensive training and practice (ITaP) module covered evidence-informed practices, which they observed in action. Our learners left equipped with strategies they can use immediately. Lara Boyer, Assistant Principal, praised the beginning teachers' growing confidence and successful adaptation strategies. Special thanks to Karl Hatton who facilitated the rewarding week for all involved.

You can follow us on our [LinkedIn page](#) to keep up to date with our activity.

2023-24 Celebration Report now available

Our Celebration Report for 2023-24 is now available. Alongside a summary of the academic year, it highlights some of the key achievements and initiatives across the Trust and its schools. It provides a glimpse into the dedication, progress and success that have characterised another rich year for the Mulberry Schools Trust family. **You can read a copy here** [🔗](#).





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