

connect

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

A message from the CEO



As the academic year draws to a close, it delights me to see such exciting and exceptional learning taking place throughout

Mulberry schools.

I am grateful to Mulberry Academy Shoreditch for taking the lead on establishing our Inspirational Societies programme on behalf of the Trust. The benefits this will bring to our students are immense.

We continue to see the Mulberry STEM Academy thrive. The high quality curriculum offer in STEM subjects is unlocking the potential of so many young minds beyond Mulberry. It's fabulous to see the provision being rolled out to our local primary schools. We were so proud to share this work with our friends from Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd. when they visited in May.

Plans to open Mulberry Academy London Dock are progressing at pace. We look forward to sharing more news about schools who will be joining our Trust in the next issue.

The expertise within the Mulberry Schools Trust is something we should all be proud of. It's wonderful to see my colleagues within Mulberry School for Girls taking a lead on teacher development within Hackney and Tower Hamlets.

I hope you find this special collection of news stories about our schools informative, inspiring and engaging, as we do.

I wish you a healthy, happy and enjoyable summer break.

Dr Vanessa Ogden
CEO

Mulberry Academy Shoreditch launch exciting Inspirational Societies programme

On Monday 28th June, Mulberry Academy Shoreditch launched its Inspirational Societies programme on behalf of the Mulberry Schools Trust.



The inaugural roll out included the following Societies and subject areas: **History, Science, Economics, English, the Arts, Social Sciences and International Politics.** Each Society will offer students in Year 8 and Year 9 access to an exciting suite of outstanding and aspirational programmes. They will bring instant benefits to students' personal development, employment prospects as well as boosting their social lives.

The launch, hosted by Executive Principal, Mrs Ruth Holden, was a wonderful occasion for students from Mulberry Academy Shoreditch and Mulberry School for Girls. They were all presented with a personal Societies badge, which they wore proudly on their blazers.

Built on high quality opportunities, students will experience and engage with Russell Group universities, whilst being fully immersed in a

range of subjects and enrichment activities that will enhance their learning. Students from the schools in the Mulberry family will gain an interest in different aspects of the curriculum and develop a taste of university life. The aim is for all of the Societies to have an international trip over the next 18 months. The students will also participate in high profile visits, as well as embark on exciting trips across the country.

Dr Vanessa Ogden, CEO of the Mulberry Schools Trust was the guest speaker on the day and other invited guests included representatives from Queen Mary University of London, Kings College London, SOAS and Mulberry Academy Shoreditch's Chair of Governors, David Gracie.

"I am thrilled to launch our exciting Inspirational Societies programme on behalf of the Trust. Everyone involved is excited by the positive impact it will have on students' lives across the Mulberry family, particularly my team at Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, who have worked so hard to ensure we deliver an outstanding and engaging offer for all."

Mrs Ruth Holden,
Executive Principal

We look forward to the new academic year and the full roll out of the Inspirational Societies programmes across the Mulberry Schools Trust.

Primary schools enjoy benefits of Mulberry STEM Academy Roadshow

Hundreds of 8-9 year old children in Tower Hamlets primary schools are experiencing the Mulberry STEM Academy Roadshow. The planned events are aimed at developing children's interest and enthusiasm for Science, Technology and Engineering.

During the day children are taught robotics including programming a robot to talk, move, dance and light up. The activities also include the CREST Superstar Awards, which involves making an elastic powered moving reel, designing a raft and building an aerodynamic kite.

Children are rewarded with a Mulberry STEM Academy water bottle, badge and a driver postcard from Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd.



Mulberry welcomes Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix to Tower Hamlets

On Monday 24th May, the Mulberry Schools Trust warmly welcomed Paul Mills, Julie Herman and Ellie Watts to its schools – the first formal visit from Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd. to Mulberry since the formation of our partnership.

The guests visited Mulberry Academy Shoreditch and Mulberry School for Girls, followed by a whistle-stop tour of the local area surrounding our schools. Mulberry STEM Academy Scholars from both schools had the opportunity to talk to Paul and his team. Presentations and demonstrations were showcased, including Pepper the robot, who had been programmed by the students with special welcoming messages.



Let's talk Robotics

Our Year 10 Mulberry STEM Academy Scholars have completed a six-week robotics course, which involved students designing and making interactive animation. Each Saturday, students carried out programming to control speech and movement with Pepper and NAO, using Qi-Chat programming and Choreograph software.

The course was a huge success, and student engagement with the project was really high.



NEWS IN BRIEF

MGP Work Experience

Our brilliant STEM Scholars from Mulberry Academy Shoreditch and Mulberry School for Girls completed a week long residential work experience placement in July at the headquarters of Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd. During the week they were immersed in working life, in full team uniform!

Keep an eye on our official [Mulberry Twitter account](#) for more details.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Q&A with Sir Lewis

Students from Mulberry School for Girls and Mulberry Academy Shoreditch welcomed the opportunity to ask Sir Lewis Hamilton a question!

[Watch the video here](#)



Greenpower drives through Mulberry schools

STEM Scholars from Mulberry School for Girls and Mulberry Academy Shoreditch spent three days on the brilliant [Greenpower project](#).

A team of students in each school worked with passion, determination and grit in building the car from scratch – including wheels, parts, lights, brakes, steering, battery and wiring – as part of this engineering challenge. The students were incredible. They got stuck straight in, working together, cheering each other on and developing their engineering skills. The Greenpower project involves racing the car in September at national competitions. Whilst on work experience at MGP, the students will complete CAD workshops to design the bodywork.

Huge thanks to Ms Montgomerie, Ms Scott, Ms Gillott, Ms Agar and Mr Stone who taught the project and supervised the teams at each school.



Mulberry Academy London Dock

The Mulberry Schools Trust will be opening Mulberry Academy London Dock in September 2023 with Year 7 students. The brand new school will be an outstanding, six forms of entry, 11-19 co-educational comprehensive school on the London Dock residential complex, replicating the outstanding provision in Mulberry Academy Shoreditch and Mulberry School for Girls.

Our aim is to ensure outstanding achievement for all, enabling our young people to lead successful and fulfilling lives, making a positive contribution to their own community and beyond.

We look forward to keeping you regularly updated on the school's progress.



East London Teaching School Hub: Connecting Hackney and Tower Hamlets schools through outstanding teacher development



East London Teaching School Hub (led by Mulberry School for Girls on behalf of the Mulberry Schools Trust) is working hard to support all 176 schools in Hackney and Tower Hamlets prepare for upcoming statutory changes to teacher development for Early Career Teachers.

Drawing on the passion and expertise found within the Mulberry Schools Trust and our local partnerships, we have recruited a team of experienced facilitators and CPD leads to deliver the Early Career Framework Full Induction Programme, in partnership with UCL Institute of Education, to approximately 260 Early Career Teachers and their mentors from September.

East London Teaching School Hub is also preparing to offer all the new and reformed National Professional Qualifications from November 2021 in partnership with the Teacher Development Trust and UCL

Institute of Education. We hope to train over 200 school leaders next year in the best evidence-informed leadership practice.

Using a place-based approach, East London Teaching School Hub is bringing together experts from across East London who understand, first-hand, what the teachers and pupils throughout our community really need, ensuring our young people receive the best education possible and the great teachers we train stay and grow into great school leaders.

To find out more information, please visit our microsite www.eastlondontsh.org



*Connecting
Hackney and
Tower Hamlets
Schools*

CEO joins Teaching Schools Council

We are delighted to announce that our CEO, Dr Vanessa Ogden has been elected to be a member of the Teaching Schools Council. The TSC is a national body representing all Teaching Schools in England. The Council is made up of 20 members with either a national or regional remit, who direct and shape the

work of Teaching Schools through discussion with government ministers and senior officials. Teaching Schools are at the heart of the country's self-improving school system. The central premise of a self-improving system is that deep and sustained reform of our education system will not come from outside the profession.

Dr Ogden is very excited about the position and looks forward to working with national education leaders and the Department for Education to help shape a range of policy areas including the direction of travel for the self-improving school system.

Mulberry celebrates Somali Heritage Week

Tower Hamlets is home to a vibrant Somali community. Somalia and Somaliland have a rich heritage of musical, literary, dramatic, performance, dance and visual arts.

During the 14th – 18th of June, more than 700 students celebrated the diversity of this rich culture. They attended 20 additional enrichment opportunities, including lectures by academics, food tasting, historical archiving, poetry, film, and creative activities led by Numbi Arts and the new Somali Museum UK.

Mulberry alumni Layla Ishmail chaired four lectures featuring Dr Peter Chonka (Kings College London); Professor Kaltun Fadal and Professor Kavita Datta (Queen Mary University of London); Professor Anya Ahmed (Manchester Metropolitan University),

Mary Harper, (BBC journalist and author) and a panel of 6 outstanding and successful Somali women. They all spoke on a range of fascinating and powerful themes.



Class of 2021 – Year 11

On Thursday 24th June, our Year 11 students and 'Class of 2021' celebrated their end of Key Stage 4 milestone with a beautiful graduation ceremony and reception. Upon arrival, students were gifted with a 'Class of 2021' sash, a bracelet with their initials designed by Ms Smyth and a copy of 'Belonging' by Former First Lady Mrs Michelle Obama. A photo presentation and heartfelt speeches from tutors brought back memories, laughter, tears and applause.

Our Head girl, Mysha Rahman, captivated our audience with her

amazing speech about the journey that students have taken thus far.

Dr Vanessa Ogden, left students with an empowering message and a reminder that 'once a Mulberry girl, always a Mulberry girl'.



Creativity Week



On Monday 5th – Friday 9th July, Years 7-10 took part in Creativity Week. The school lined up a really exciting and enjoyable programme of events.

Projects across the school ranged from the Science CREST award, coding, heritage and migration and performances across the arts.

Parents/carers trip

On Wednesday 16th June, a group of 20 parents/carers enjoyed a fabulous day trip to Hampton Court Palace. The weather was glorious as they explored the entire 60 acres of the magnificent estate. A fun time was had by all.



Taking Action: Anti-Racism

The work on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion continues to be at the heart of the culture of Mulberry School for Girls.

During the summer term we focused on the lived experience of Black British people. Student voice formed a central part of our discussions during a series of student and staff conferences aimed at creating a whole community dialogue.

We were privileged to host David Neita, the lawyer and human rights campaigner, who chaired our five conferences.

A range of student and staff groups will continue to work alongside each other to create robust action plans that advance equality for all.



Class of 2021: Year 13



Year 13 had an amazing week of activities after completing their assessments.

Activities included skills workshops on interviewing, writing CVs and managing finances along with a wonderful end of year trip to Greenwich Park and the most incredible graduation ceremony.

Good luck Year 13 and keep in touch!

Silver medals triumph at sporting events

Cricketing success

Mulberry School for Girls took part in the Year 9/10 Borough Girls Cricket Tournament on Friday 2nd July. It was an all-day event in Victoria Park.

At first, Mulberry felt a little overwhelmed at the sight of the dedicated grass pitches, but their nerves soon faded, as they won their first toss and fielded first against St Paul's Way. The team's batting went from strength to strength, as did their tactics, with excellent decision-making to secure superb runs.

Their focused teamwork and keen observation whilst spectating other team performances, led to improved technique and strategy, resulting in 2nd place overall – a well-deserved silver medal.



Football fever arrives at Mulberry

The Year 7/8 Borough Football Tournament took place on Wednesday 7th July. It was an all-day event held at Mile End Leisure Centre.

The tournament had a theme of the European Football Championships

and Mulberry School for Girls was representing France. In the group stages we won three games and lost one, which sent us into the nail biting knock out stages!

The team played amazingly with strong tackles, fantastic shots and brilliant passing! Each player had a crucial part to play in our success. We missed out to Bishop A in the final but thoroughly deserved a silver medal and Nour Sadawy 8E, won the award for 'Player of the Tournament' which was the icing on the cake to a thoroughly successful day.

Dalloway of a day!

On Wednesday 16th June, the date of Mrs Dalloway's infamous party in Virginia Woolf's acclaimed novel, 'Mrs Dalloway', Year 12 students had the unique opportunity of celebrating the influence of Woolf as a writer with scholar Kabe Wilson. The students were invited to a Lecture and Literary Workshop organised through a partnership with the school and the Royal Society of Literature.

Students were able to reflect on the texts they had read/studied in order to make wider connections to other writers, poets, artists and musicians.



"I loved the event as it was both highly engaging and informative. The discussions helped show how inspiring art and literature really is and inevitably how it's timeless."

Maesha Ali, Year 12



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Principal: Dr Katharine Vincent

Graduation: Sixth Formers come together to say goodbye

Sixth Form graduation is always a special event, but this year it was even more special as we brought together the whole of our graduating cohort for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

It was full of glitz, glamour and happy tears, with inspirational speeches by Heads of House, House Captains and the Principal. It was a great privilege to recognise how much our students have matured and grown over the years, as we celebrated them developing into young adults.

Throughout their time at the school, our students have demonstrated resilience and came together as a community during these unprecedented times. Well done to our Sixth Form students – we could not be any more proud of you all!



Brilliant Year 12 scholars aim for the top

The Brilliant Club is a university-style programme for students aiming to go on to top universities. This term, students have been taking part in discussions, researching and completing assignments on the topic 'Perspectives on Migration, Integration and Mental Health'. The sessions have been extremely engaging and feedback from the PhD tutor has been very positive. Students have also been receiving university-style grades and have been achieving strong 2:1s. This programme has given the students a massive boost in preparation for university and they are all doing exceedingly well.



Market research masterclass with Ipsos Mori

Mulberry UTC Year 12 Business students enjoyed a master class on project management by a global leader in market research. Staff from the headquarters of Ipsos Mori in east London gave up their valuable time to deliver an impressive workshop for our students. In a deep-dive into Project Management in the world of market research, Imran Malik (Graduate Project Executive, Brand & Comms) and Hayley Lepp (Senior Project Manager, Public Affairs) linked the students' academic research in their

Cambridge Technical Diploma in Business to real world projects including the GP Patient Survey – the largest patient experience survey globally.

The Business students used their own knowledge of project management and discussed issues such as challenges project managers face during the pandemic and finding out what the key questions are to ask a client during a new project.

There was also time at the end to ask Imran and Hayley about their own career journeys plus their experiences of university and graduate recruitment.



Roller-coasting through to the summer

To celebrate the amazing hard work, resilience and commitment that Mulberry UTC Year 11 students have shown over the last two years, a trip was organised to Thorpe Park for the year group. Students spent the day at the recently reopened theme park as part of their graduation celebrations and had a great time together.

The rides were exhilarating, the weather was good and the students were exceptional.



Year 12 Performing Arts



Year 12 Performing Arts students have been studying classical theatre through the lens of Medea and Othello. After practically exploring performance style through both plays, students created improvisations in response to the stimulus question: How do we become who we are? Their anchor character was a 17 year old girl and their narrative development explored fractured time and space. The binary oppositions of reality vs fantasy set the stage for this young woman to discover her father in this space of virtual reality. Kacey Thurbon, Year 13 MUTC Production student who is soon to progress to a degree course at RADA, composed and delivered the lighting for students' final performance.

University of Sunderland partnership

We were delighted to welcome staff from the University of Sunderland in London to visit Mulberry UTC in July. Staff and students took part in the launch of the partnership, which will involve students from Mulberry Schools Trust visiting the university campus and taking part in guest lectures. Visiting university staff commented on how impressed they were with the students they met and the facilities and opportunities on offer at the school.

We were proud to be able to showcase our school in this way and we are very much looking forward to working in partnership with the university during the next academic year.

Science sampling in Hyde Park

Year 12 Science students were excited to participate in a science fieldwork trip exploring organism sampling at The Lookout, Hyde Park.

The students worked towards achieving core practical requirements of the A Level Biology and Cambridge Technical Applied Science courses in relation to sampling methods, statistical analysis and reporting. It was a great day out to explore another side of Hyde Park where we could interact with organisms found in ponds and fields.



LGBT+ celebrated during Diversity Week

In June, Mulberry UTC celebrated School Diversity Week in conjunction with national charity 'Just Like Us'. This is an annual event where schools and colleges across the country celebrate LGBT+ equality in education.

During the week, a series of assemblies, tutor time activities and a student quiz took place. It was a great opportunity to celebrate and appreciate the diversity and richness of our school community, as we prepare our students to succeed as citizens of a diverse world.

TrailFAM is a running success

In April 2021, Mulberry Academy Shoreditch teacher Mr Stokes launched TrailFam, a trail running crew based at the school.

Along with the support of Miss Bartlett and Miss Scott, TrailFam takes groups of up to 30 students at a time to woodlands, hills and trails in the counties surrounding London. The Fam, as they are affectionately called, is currently made up of Year 7 and Year 12 students. However, TrailFam are expanding and will soon offer trail running sessions to other year groups.

Trail running is an amazing way to engage with nature; with clear physical and mental benefits for our students. Mr Stokes, a keen trail runner himself, has been blown away by the dedication and resilience of the students and the attention that TrailFam has received from the students has been wonderful to see.

With the creation of the www.trailfam.com website and the [@trailfam](https://www.instagram.com/trailfam) Instagram account, TrailFam has forged positive relationships with several charities and outdoor brands. One of these relationships has seen the crew enjoy a donation of over 100 pairs of trail running shoes!

TrailFam is more than just a school club. Born in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement and



the call for change and greater representation of people of colour, TrailFam aims to increase the inclusion, participation and representation of young people in trail running as well as promoting physical and mental wellbeing.

From the very start of the Autumn term, TrailFam will provide even more students with the opportunity to engage in trail running and will be forming a race team to take to high profile trail running events.

Follow [@trailfam](https://www.instagram.com/trailfam) on Instagram and drop in to TrailFam.com to learn more.



It's a summer affair for House Festival Week

On Monday 24th – Friday 28th May we held our House Festival Week. Each Year group enjoyed fun activities from dodgeball, giant jenga, football, face painting and t-shirt designing.

There was a photo booth and each day the ice cream van visited the school. The sun was shining and it really felt like summer. Each House Festival Day ended with delicious food and a raffle prize draw to win AirPods!



Celebrating Science

Science Week

Science Week took place on Monday 17th May – Friday 21st May and the programme of events was a great success. Year 7 had fun in their silly science workshops, Year 9 built some fantastic bridges in their STEM Challenges, Year 8 had an interesting talk about STEM and civil engineering, Year 10 learnt all about rocket science and Year 12 Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths students had different talks around a career relating to their subjects! We also had science competitions and our science teachers dressed in colours to make up the pH scale!



Stephen Hawking Day

On Tuesday 15th June, we celebrated the life, achievements and example of Professor Stephen Hawking. There was a variety of activities on offer and students from Years 7 to 9 were very lucky to listen to lectures from prominent British Physicists Professor David Berman of Queen Mary College, University of London and Dr Simon Foster of Imperial College, University of London. Year 8 students also listened to a brief lecture on "A Decade of the Sun" from Dr Suhanan.



A welcome visit from local politicians

On Tuesday 25th May, the school welcomed Cllr Asma Begum and Frances Winteron. Year 10 and 12 students talked to our visitors about their experiences of local youth services and support for young people and families in Tower Hamlets.

On Friday 9th July, Rushanara Ali, the MP for Bethnal Green and Bow visited the school to talk to our Politics Society about her career and the students' aspirations for the future. Both visits were a great opportunity for students' voices to be heard.



Sustainable investing captivates Year 12s

On Friday 11th June, we were very pleased to welcome Jason Mitchell, Co-Head of Responsible Investment at Man Group, who gave a really interesting and engaging presentation to two groups of Year 12 students.

The subject, Sustainable Investing, gave an insight into the diverse approaches to global sustainability from the perspective of financial investment. Students also learned about how responsible sustainable investment impacts on the economy, the environment and society in the context of the challenges of the world and shifting demands.



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