

# connect

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

## A message from the CEO



Welcome to the first issue of Connect for 2022/2023.

I am delighted to see Mulberry Wood Wharf

Primary take centre stage as our feature story. It has been wonderful to see our primary school children partaking in so many fun and engaging activities. Immersive storytelling, trips to the farm, parental engagement workshops and fundraising for Children in Need are some of the brilliant examples of how the children are being prepared for an exceptional learning journey at our very first primary school.

We have enjoyed reliving the remarkable achievements of some of our Mulberry STEM Academy students at the Greenpower International Finals at the iconic Goodwood race track in October. We shared and celebrated this news with students across all of our schools. See page 2.

Our partnership work continues to make a positive impact across schools and organisations beyond the Trust. On page 3, you can read all about our East London Teaching School Hub and the powerful learning that is taking place across East London schools and our work with Reconnect London. The Mulberry Schools Foundation's website is now live and we are accepting online donations.

I hope that the collection of stories throughout this issue will provide you with the assurance that our mission to provide an outstanding education for all our learners is unwavering.

Season's greetings and wishing you all a wonderful New Year.

Dr Vanessa Ogden  
CEO

## It's lovely to Connect with you Mulberry Wood Wharf!

We are delighted to welcome Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary to our 13th issue of Connect. Our new primary school is the fifth school to join the Mulberry Schools Trust and following their successful opening in September 2022, they have hit the ground running!

Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary is thriving in its temporary site at Jack Dash House in Canary Wharf. As our inquisitive young learners take their first steps into formal schooling, they have participated in a staggering amount of activity that is laying the foundations for high quality learning and development experiences.

Our brilliant staff have devised some impressive and carefully planned play and adult-led activities that will help the students to learn, think and develop their imagination. On the back page of this newsletter you will find a selection of stories that demonstrate how the students are exploring, discovering and enjoying the world around them.

At the start of the spring term, the school will be moving into their brand-new building in the Wood Wharf neighbourhood. We can't wait to share the school's stunning facilities with our entire Mulberry family and the wider community. We look forward to providing further updates in our next issue.



## Greenpower winners experience podiums, sprays and confetti at special celebration event

On Wednesday 9th November, Mulberry Stepney Green hosted the first ever Greenpower Celebration Event on behalf of our Mulberry STEM Academy.

The event was held to celebrate and acknowledge the outstanding achievements of our exceptional Mulberry Schools Trust teams in their first Greenpower International Finals. Our STEM scholars surprised everyone at the leading global competition. Mulberry School for Girls, Mulberry Academy Shoreditch and Mulberry Stepney Green all had teams represented in the F24 (11-16) and the F24+ (16-24) classes which took place on Sunday 9th October 2022 at the iconic Goodwood race track.

The teams' unbelievable work on the Greenpower project led to Mulberry Stepney Green finishing first in the F24+ class, with the runner up spot being achieved by Mulberry Academy Shoreditch.

There was one particular surprise that will be etched on the memory of everyone in attendance. A special recorded video message was shared featuring our friends from Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd.

The evening was a great success and embodied a great ceremonious atmosphere that culminated in our winning teams taking pride of place on their specially created podiums.

**"I heard the amazing news that you finished first and second. I am so proud of all the work you are doing, for everything you stand for and the commitment you have given to this project. I wish you all the best. There is nothing that you can't do!"**

Sir Lewis Hamilton

**"On behalf of everyone here at Brackley, I would like to say congratulations for your fantastic achievement at the Greenpower International Finals last month. To have won your class and also secure the runners up spot in only the second year of our STEM Academy programme is a truly outstanding effort and you should all feel very very proud."**

Toto Wolff, CEO, Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd

**"I hope that this experience with all the learning, the sense of achievement — the fun that has come from it — will help you all achieve your STEM related career ambitions. Keep up the inspiring work."**

Paul Mills, Chief People Officer, Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd



## Onboarding Cohort 3

As the year-long Mulberry STEM Academy programme draws to a close for Cohort 2, we are now in the process of recruiting students to Cohort 3.

It's incredible to think how far we have come from our November launch in 2020. This year we have 240 applications for just 100 places – though this number may increase if students really impress the panel as they journey through the process.

Cohort 3 can look forward to a packed programme including coding with Geeky Kids, the Greenpower project, robotics, CREST Silver Award, undertaking an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and work experience at Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd.

## Year 11 sail through model catamaran challenge

Our Year 11 Mulberry STEM Academy students worked in small groups of 3-4 students to complete their Silver CREST Award project.

The focus of the project was to design, build and test a model catamaran boat to determine what size, shape and structure sail would be the most effective.

Students first learnt the basics of report writing including how to cite and reference their research, as well as how to structure a report. The final stage was the write up in which students collected and analysed their data to complete their final report.



## ELTSH: the power of professional learning partnerships



Connecting  
Hackney and  
Tower Hamlets  
Schools

The East London Teaching School Hub, based at Mulberry School for Girls, is one of the 87 Teaching School Hubs designated by the Department for Education.



We have been up and running since September 2021 and currently have over 1680 participants from over 310 schools engaged in our programmes (including Appropriate Body Services) as well as a team of 36 local facilitators working with us from different East London schools. 107 of these participants and 11 of our facilitator team are Mulberry Schools Trust staff. On average, we are offering 15 professional development sessions each week!

If you would like to study an NPQ with us, you can [apply now](#) for February's cohort. If you're interested in becoming an ECF or NPQ facilitator, please do contact us at [info@eastlondontsh.org](mailto:info@eastlondontsh.org) as we are always keen to grow the team.

## Reconnect London welcomes new DfE London Regional Director



**RECONNECT  
LONDON**

In November, we were delighted to welcome Claire Burton, the Department for Education's new London Regional Director, to visit us at Mulberry School for Girls.



Claire shares our belief in the importance of collaboration between schools and the need to create a more joined-up system. We are looking forward to working with her team going forwards with a focus on ensuring that London schools are able to meet the needs of disadvantaged children and young people.

We are also looking forward to publishing our next report, 'London Leaders – Beyond the Classroom' which will be launched in January 2023. The report presents a series of case studies exploring how London schools achieve success within their particular local contexts. It argues that context-responsive leadership is an essential part of the success story of the London school system. The report features several case studies from the Mulberry Schools Trust as well as other partner schools.

## Mulberry Production Arts Academy

The Mulberry Production Arts Academy successfully launched in October with a series of assemblies to promote the pioneering offer to students who have an interest in the creative industries.

Key partners include the National Theatre and the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. The Mulberry Production Arts Academy was established to discover, train and empower the next generation of creative changemakers in the field of production and technical arts. It aims to address the current skills shortage in the UK's production and technical arts workforce as well as a wider chronic crisis in representation within the cultural and creative industries.

Over a series of Saturdays, evenings and school holidays, students will receive extensive training and experience in practical production through developing skills in lighting, sound, rigging, project management and producing. Students will have the opportunity for networking with professionals in these fields as part of the mentoring and work placement programmes.

Early in the autumn term we also welcomed renowned theatre designers ULTZ and Sadeysa Greenaway-Bailey who have taken up residency at Mulberry UTC.

We look forward to sharing more news with you as the programme develops over the coming months.

## Online donations to the Mulberry Schools Foundation now welcome

**Mulberry**  
Schools Foundation



The Mulberry Schools Foundation is the charitable arm of the Mulberry Schools Trust. The Foundation supports, develops and champions young people through our wide range of commissioned and funded activity in support of communities facing disadvantage.

We are delighted to be able to accept online donations to the Mulberry Schools Foundation via our new website, [www.mulberryschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.mulberryschoolsfoundation.org). As a charity we are dependent on the generosity of supporters of the Foundation's work. Every donation, however small or big, has a transformational impact on what we can do.



## Two-day Model UN conference examines global challenges

On 29th–30th November, Mulberry School for Girls was thrilled to host 256 delegates from 18 schools at the latest Mulberry Schools Trust fully student-led conference.

The Mulberry Schools Trust is proud to be the UK lead for the UNAUSA's worldwide network and its Global Classrooms London Model United Nations runs the largest programme of its kind for state-funded schools in the UK. Our school was delighted to welcome 63 student leaders from across the Mulberry Schools Trust who acted as Chairs, Directors, Rapporteurs, Press and Administrative Teams.

At an MUN Conference, delegates take on the role of ambassadors in simulations of UN committees, developing co-operation, leadership, public speaking skills and confident global citizenship. During this



conference, students examined global challenges and the threats to peace that affect the international community and sought out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime. Here at Mulberry School for Girls and across the Mulberry Schools Trust, we know that young people have a real desire to make a positive difference in the world.

During the conference we also welcomed key speakers Jovana Bosnjak from Amnesty International, Rahima Begum from Restless Beings and our very own Year 13 student Madisah Jalil as Secretary-General.

## Our superb super-curriculum!

The Mulberry School for Girls super-curriculum aims to enrich learning and to inspire curiosity about academic areas previously unknown and unventured.

Our deep and unique friendship with Gresham College means our Key Stage 5 students have access to in-person lectures with some of the world's most brilliant minds. During this half-term, students have elected to engage in Law, Mathematics, Medicine, Natural Sciences, Politics and History lectures with eminent academics. Being 'super-curricular' can be transformative. Irtifa, a Year 12 student, sums up this perspective change perfectly: "After the event with Professor of Rhetoric Joanna Bourke, I now look at the world through an entirely different lens."

Year 12 Mathematicians and Economists loved their lecture in Game Theory — a branch of Applied Mathematics that provides tools for analysing situations in which parties make decisions that are interdependent.

Meeting and questioning Professor Sarah Hart, the first female Professor of Geometry at Gresham College, was a particular highlight.



## Families bowled over following trip to Lord's Cricket Ground

The school's Parent and Community Team arranged a family trip to Lord's Cricket Ground to watch a women's England vs India match. A total of 25 children and their parents attended the trip with most experiencing live cricket for the very first time.

It was a unique experience for our families and it was lovely to see them interact with each other and teach one another the rules of the game. The arena was lively and our families engaged with face painting, Henna painting and interactive games before the match. There was a buzz in the crowd and the vibe was electric.

**"My daughter and I had a fantastic time at the women's cricket over the weekend. It was our first time at Lord's and first watching a proper cricket match – we really enjoyed the experience. Who knew it would be so exciting and nail biting?"**

## New mulberry tree joins the family

We are delighted to share that we have a new mulberry tree at Mulberry School for Girls.

Mulberry trees were brought to Tower Hamlets by the French Huguenots from the 1570s and our current tree is thought to be up to 400 years old.

Many of the Huguenots were merchants and silk weavers and they brought this trade with them. Silkworms feed on the leaves of mulberry trees and the trees also reminded them of their ancestral home. For us today, mulberry trees symbolise the richness and prosperity brought by migrants and we are thrilled to have a second mulberry tree in our grounds.

## BHM celebrations packed with a rich programme of creative activities

During Black History Month, our students celebrated the richness and variety of Black heritage through a packed programme of creative activities.

Year 7 and 8 students explored African visual cultures and the Somali poetic tradition in special sessions with creatives from Numbi Arts. Students engaged in a poetry, print or creative writing workshop and produced absolutely beautiful work. Our historic mulberry tree was clearly an inspiration! Year 7 and 8 hugely enjoyed their workshops with the Mary Seacole Trust, exploring how Mary overcame racism and injustice to become an entrepreneur and medic “whose achievements laid the groundwork for all of us to be leaders in the future”. The fascinating sessions were led by the inspirational Trevor Sterling, Chair of the Mary Seacole Trust, award-winning lawyer and a staunch advocate for racial and social equality.

Throughout October, we showcased a series of acclaimed films in honour of BHM. One highlight was the screening of *Black Panther* in the Mulberry & Bigland Green Centre on the big screen. Another was the screening of *A Wrinkle in Time*. Students loved Ava DuVernay’s film



re-imagining of the novel, which includes a multi-ethnic cast.

We were thrilled to welcome back our great friend David Neita, barrister, poet and playwright, for a special performance of ‘Uplift’ for all Year 9 students. David’s absorbing play illuminates the significant contributions of the Windrush Generation to Britain and the scandal around their wrongful treatment. Students especially loved the special discussion event afterwards with David and student leaders Emma, Olivia, Khadija, Sumayyah and Rinnad. Each shared their reflections in a wide-ranging and powerful discussion which explored racism and resistance, colourism and the impact of racist beauty norms.

## Former student represents at prestigious EW Group event

We are so proud of Nuzhat Nuruzzaman, a former student, Model UN Chair, Director, Secretary-General and current Medical student at UCL.

Nuzhat was invited to be a panellist at the 65th Anniversary event hosted by the prestigious EW Group. She spoke articulately about the challenges young people face and the need to have a voice on issues of equity and inclusion. Her final contribution was incredibly poignant and hugely resonated with the audience: *“I’d like to see workplaces set an expectation for everyone to be kind. So I don’t have to think about the way that I am speaking or am dressed. So I can be me.”*



## Students alive with excitement at Day of the Dead celebrations

On Tuesday 1st November, students from Mulberry School for Girls visited the Mexican Embassy to meet Her Excellency Josefá Gonzalez Blanco, the Ambassador of Mexico to the United Kingdom, to learn about Mexico’s most iconic celebration, el Día de los Muertos – the Day of the Dead.

Our students participated in arts and crafts activities, face painting and had the chance to try some traditional Mexican food during the visit. The students also had the chance to see the Mexican Embassy’s Día de los Muertos

altar and visit Mexican artist Paula Rodriguez’ solo art exhibition ‘Spaces Within’. As part of our ongoing work with Her Excellency, students created their own Día de los Muertos altar in Mulberry School for Girls.

A video of the altar’s creation, which is narrated by a Year 11 Mulberry School for Girls student has been entered into a competition run by the Mexican Embassy and Southampton University.





## Lucky students selected to attend KPMG business event

Ten female Business students were lucky enough to get selected to attend a careers event at KPMG. The students had the chance to be present in a Q&A with senior women leaders, technology trade stands, interactive student recruitment session, interview techniques, and more. The Q&A was intriguing as students were able to listen to passionate stories of how working in Technology can shape lives. They had lots of fun and were able to take part in an exciting virtual reality experience which allowed them to see the practical side of technology.

**"I was very interested to see the impact women have in the Technology field as I've always had the perception that it is very male dominated, I feel inspired to go into this field."**

Business student



## Old Operating Theatre visit

This term, T-Level students and Year 13 Health and Social Care students visited the Old Operating Theatre and Herb Garret in St Thomas Street, SE1 — the oldest surviving surgical operating theatre in Europe.

It was a great opportunity for the students to find out about the historical ways in which medicine and surgeons worked with patients. The gruesome experiences and objects along with the remains of human anatomy preserved in the museum gave a great insight into how things were in the 1800s. All the students (and staff) were engaged throughout and enjoyed the full experience.

**"This trip was very purposeful and educational as I found a lot of things fascinating such as the role play workshop that demonstrated the experiences from the 1800s."**



**This really made me think and compare the health services we have today. This gave me a better understanding of how healthcare progressed within time."**

Safiyah Suliman



## Open Evening

On Thursday 20th October, we welcomed 150 prospective students to our first Open Evening for this academic year. The evening was a huge success and it gave us the opportunity to showcase our amazing facilities and our brilliant Health and Creative Industries specialisms. There was plenty for students to get involved in across all departments which included clinical skills, maths games and flame tests.

Former students were in attendance sharing their experiences as well as our partners Barts Health NHS Trust.

Our next Open Evening will be taking place on Thursday 19th January 2023 at 4.30pm-6.30pm and we look forward to welcoming all who attend.



## MUTC students attend EDI event

Two Mulberry STEM Academy scholars from Mulberry UTC were selected to attend the EDI celebratory event with the EW Group, a leading diversity and inclusion consultancy.

Students Paul and Nasreen had the opportunity to network with leaders of many organisations and consultants, including Paul Mills, Chief People Officer at Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd. They first met Mr Mills whilst at their work experience in July 2022.

The students were inspired by the stories shared at the event by the founders Femi Otitoku and Jane Farrell and the way it led to creating the EW group.



# Students complete work experience at Mulberry Wood Wharf

Mulberry UTC is delighted to have primary education within our Trust and have excitedly embarked on the first stage of building our work experience networking and collaboration with Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary.

Aleemah and Maryam in Year 13 are our founding members of establishing this amazing partnership work! They spent a day in October with staff and children at the primary school where they observed children exploring their

sense of hearing, playing listening games, identifying sounds and being introduced to a variety of instruments. Aleemah and Maryam loved watching the young students make their own musical shakers that week. Our students were brilliant



at joining in with the children's activities throughout the day and staff are looking forward to their return later in the year to build on this fantastic opportunity.

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

## New Views Playwriting Project

Students from Year 10 and Year 12 have been taking part in the New Views Playwriting Festival.



This is the 10th anniversary of the National Theatre project and the first year that Mulberry UTC is participating, so we are very excited to be part of this landmark event.

Students have been meeting once a week to practice their creative writing skills and to share their inspirations. We are looking forward to inviting our professional mentor and playwright, Dawn King, to one of our sessions in December before students create the first draft of a play that they believe represents their voice. The project is a competition and winners are given the opportunity of having their plays acted out as workshop readings at the National Theatre in July and the overall winner will have the play professionally directed, designed and performed at the National as part of the New Views Festival next July. Watch this space!

## T-Level launches successfully

We successfully launched our T-Level Health in Adult Nursing qualification in September 2022.

With solid delivery of the course including Health and Science units, alongside preparations for placement, T-Level students have developed readiness skills for their professional work life in the future.

The students will soon complete their Level 2 Care Certificate with Barts Health NHS Trust and will begin their placement in December 2022. Our T-Level students have all received Netbooks, branded tunics to wear during placements, a folder and stationery to support their learning within the UTC as well as at home.

**"I was a little unsure about starting a T-level course, but after starting the course and almost completing a term already, I find it extremely intriguing. Having the opportunity to be trained by Barts Health NHS Trust in preparation for my placement has allowed me to gain more knowledge and understanding about my choices of career pathways in Health for the future."** Samira Begum

## Sixth Formers experience incredible start

During September, Mulberry UTC was delighted to welcome 235 students to the Year 12 Induction Week to experience taster sessions across their chosen specialisms.

The students were introduced to some of our partners to experience placement life in the field. Sixty Health students visited the Royal London Hospital where they took part in various workshops facilitated by NHS Staff.

Media and Performing Arts students spent a day with the team from world renowned British Film Institute. Over the course of the day, they learnt about running arts organisations and the value of promoting film as an artform to young people. After some research, students were tasked with making and editing a promotional video, featuring the BFI and the IMAX Cinema. Winning groups were awarded IMAX tickets as a prize and the day finished with the entire group watching a special 40th anniversary screening of 'E.T. the Extra Terrestrial' on the biggest screen in Britain.

The week culminated with a taster day at the University of Sunderland London.

Our Year 10 cohort also attended Stubbers Adventure Centre as part of their induction week activities and took part in plenty of team building activities such as laser combat, archery and high rope which they thoroughly enjoyed.



## Mulberry Societies trip to Athens

On Saturday 24th September, Mulberry Academy Shoreditch was delighted to lead a group of students from the Mulberry Societies on their first overseas trip. The students flew to Athens to explore the ancient city and learn about its fascinating history, culture, language, and of course sample some delicious Greek food!

The students first visited the Hellenic Parliament and the National Gardens where they saw the Evzones changing guard. They then made their way to the Olympic Stadium. On Sunday, they climbed the ancient Acropolis to the Parthenon



and its surrounding ruins and on Monday they visited the archaeological site of Delphi with its famous Greek temple and Oracle of Apollo. They learnt about the history and the myths and legends surrounding Delphi's ancient past.

The four-day trip was a fantastic and enjoyable experience for all!

## Mark Evison Foundation

During the summer, two groups of Year 12 students took part in a Mark Evison Foundation personal project.

The Mark Evison Foundation's mission is to promote the personal development of young people through the undertaking of challenges. They invite young people to create and plan projects which are personally challenging. The projects develop confidence, strength, resilience and breadth, as applicants take independent ownership of something they are keen to do.

Nusaybah Gutierrez, Amanda Segen and Asiya Ibrahim embarked on a 'Walking from Epping to Essex' project and Brecken Davies and Mikas Stankevicius took part in a 'Five day camp in Edale' project.



## Hiking challenge to Essex countryside

This term, a group of students and staff took part in a hiking trip from Epping station to the Essex countryside which was quite the challenge!

They arrived at Epping station early in the morning and started their journey from there. As they hit the tracks they soon realised that places to take breaks or catch their breath were few and far between! Nonetheless, they didn't back down from the challenge and continued to the very end. Although they went astray at times, as a group they had great faith in their navigating skills and were able to reassure each other that they would complete the journey.

It was a great experience which rewarded the students with views of nature and fresh air away from London life. The hike taught the students how to be more calculated, work better as a team and organisational skills even when times were tough. The students were grateful for this outdoor opportunity and felt confident by the end of the trip. It highlighted that no matter their struggles along the journey, getting to their destination showed that they were capable from the start.

## Gold and Platinum awards for MAS!



### Gold level RACE Chartermark

Mulberry Academy Shoreditch has been recognised nationally for our commitment to improving race equality and prioritising an inclusive culture where staff, students, parents and partners of all ethnicities are equally valued, by being awarded the gold level RACE Chartermark. We are the first school in London to achieve the gold level and we are incredibly proud of this momentous accolade.

To achieve the charter mark we completed a comprehensive package of training for governors, senior leaders and middle leaders, and submitted an evaluation detailing our work towards equality so far as well as an action plan pledging our commitment to ongoing development in this area.

Thank you to Ms Earle and all the staff, students and governors for all their work that led to this wonderful achievement.

### Platinum safeguarding standards

Well done also to our Senior Deputy Headteacher Mr Collis and his team who have been awarded the Platinum standard for Safeguarding from Incyte International. We are very proud of the work we do here at the school in keeping our children and staff safe.

## Brave Year 7 students attempt challenging climbing course

Over the autumn term, three groups of Year 7 students spent their Thursday afternoons at Limehouse Activity Centre participating in a climbing course.

Each group had three sessions learning different skills such as belaying, rappelling, figure-eight knots and techniques for climbing. They were brave and excited to attempt the high and challenging climb – well done to those who got to the top! The coaches at the centre commented that their support, encouragement for each other and teamwork was very impressive.

Nusaybah Gutierrez, Amanda Segen and Asiya Ibrahim embarked on a 'Walking to the Essex countryside' project and Brecken Davies and Mikas Stankevicius took part in a 'Five day camp in Edale' project.



## Happy times at Hindleap

On Friday 7th October, a group of Year 7 and 8 students set off to spend a sunny, outdoor weekend at Hindleap Warren in East Sussex.

Their stay was packed with team building activities and challenges (some very wet and muddy ones!) that helped strengthen their confidence and resilience. They had a lot of fun, tried out new things and got to know each other better.

## Award winning author Manjeet Mann visits MAS

On Thursday 13th October, award-winning author, Manjeet Mann, visited Mulberry Academy Shoreditch to talk to girls in Years 8, 9 and 10.

She spoke to students about her journey into writing and acting, as well as reading them some poignant extracts from her books 'Run, Rebel' and 'The Crossing' which won The 2021 Costa Children's Book Award. The girls had the opportunity to ask

Ms Mann lots of questions about her career and where she finds inspiration for her books. They left the talk with a desire to read more books and write their own stories.

**"I feel really motivated, her story is similar to mine, she was very interesting and inspirational."**

**"She helped me get back into creative story writing, she was also very nice and inspiring."**

**"She was very nice to listen to, she read her books very well, I could imagine them in my head."**



## Year 8 enjoy Lake District House trip

During the first week of October, a group of Year 8 students enjoyed a week-long House trip to the Lake District. They hiked in the mountains and jumped into the lake – enjoying everything about the great outdoors!



## House Dodgeball Tournament

On Thursday 13th October after school, there was a fantastic atmosphere in the Sports Hall as students from across the school took part in an exciting House Dodgeball Tournament cheered on by a noisy audience who came along to support their House teams.

It was a great, inter-sport affair and our fabulous Houses can't wait for the next competition to take place!

## Great turnout for Sixth Form Open Evening

On Wednesday 16th November, Mulberry Stepney Green Sixth Form held their annual Open Evening. Despite the difficult weather we had a great turnout from students.

Staff organised interactive and engaging activities which really helped to welcome students and gave them an insight into both Sixth Form life and the learning provision. This year we also had the opportunity to showcase the success of our STEM, EPQ and Oxbridge/Early Applicant programmes.

The event was a huge success with outstanding feedback from those that attended. The increase in the total number of external applicants attending the event further underlines the popularity of the Sixth Form in our local community. It was also a pleasure to welcome a large number of female students, many of whom commented on the growing reputation of the Sixth Form as a "high achieving academic environment".



## We are the champions!

If you haven't already heard, where have you been? Mulberry Stepney Green are champions!

Our Year 13 Mulberry STEM Academy team won the Greenpower International Finals F24+ class in October at the world-famous Goodwood Motor Circuit (see page 2). The hard work and determination of the whole team finally paid off in the end. We have to give special praise to Nabeel, who drove the car, aptly named STORM, to victory and to the rest of the team for their amazing accomplishment.

STEM subjects are popular across Mulberry Stepney Green and we have many Year 10 and 12 students



eager to join the next Mulberry STEM Academy cohort. Many completed their applications early in preparation for the highly sought-after programme.

Greenpower and STEM exhibits are proudly displayed around the school to celebrate and remind students about these remarkable achievements.

## 'Switch' career workshops

This half term Year 7-9 students took part in career workshops that were delivered by The Switch who demystify the world of work through engaging encounters with employers.

The workshops are designed to support students in developing the wide range of skills they need to succeed in work beyond the classroom and build confidence, awareness and employability skills so they can get set for adult life.

The project helped to support students by raising their aspirations and allowed students to gain work-related skills whilst also developing their understanding of the world of work.

The Year 7 'Money Matters' workshop was focused on talking to students about a very important part of life - money. They covered credit cards and mortgages, to budgeting and saving. Employers and employees worked with our students to help put money management into context and gave them invaluable insight into the world of work.

The Year 8 workshop 'Skills for Success' helped students to understand the importance of soft skills and how the skills they are developing now are vital for all careers. Employers and employees shared their experiences with students on how they use their soft skills in the workplace and explained how the students themselves will apply their skills in their future.

'Options and Careers' was the Year 9 workshop which aided students in making informed decisions about their future. The workshop explored different pathways after school and informed students on how they can make smart choices for the future.

Interacting with the students and having the visitors talk about their own career path and experiences helped provide them with their own career aspirations. Students met a range of employees and employers from companies located very close to their school including HSBC, NatWest, KPMG and JP Morgan.



## Students take a business trip

This term, 25 Year 12 students visited the Boston Consulting Group's offices in Canary Wharf.

They received a tour of the offices and learnt about all the different job roles that large companies offer and what it would be like to work there. The students also had the opportunity to network with staff in different positions such as HR, procurement, consulting, IT, sustainability and travel.

Back at school, the students reflected on what they had learnt which will help them to start thinking about their futures and what they would like to do as a career in the future. The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and are excited to enter into the world of work and have more opportunities to obtain high quality work experience.

## Year 13 mocks produce unique outcomes

Year 13 Art students sat their first mock exams in November and have produced some wonderfully unique outcomes true to both their personal project and their identity as artists.

The students focused on a variety of their own themes ranging from identity, scenes of daily life and architecture.

We are excited to see what they produce for their annual exhibition and final exam.

We must give a special mention to Wasif Ahmed, Yahiya Shaheen, Mohammed Ali, Mu'adh Hossain, Sufian Abu, Tayiba Hossain, Hibah Nuzula, Charles Rafanan, Abu Siddique and Talha Chowdhury for producing some excellent pieces.

## Students reach summit on Outward Bound course

Well done to all the Year 9 and Year 10 Mulberry Stepney Green Sports Science students who returned from a one-week Outward Bound course in the Lake District.

The students completed a range of activities including gorge climbing, wall climbing, lake swimming and jumping. They also managed to reach the summit of one of the Lake District's highest mountains in some very extreme weather conditions.

All students were great ambassadors for the school and the Trust.



## You can count on Year 8 to solve problems!

On Tuesday 1st November, seven Year 8 students took part in the Jack Petchey Count on Us Maths Challenge taster session. The event was held at London Metropolitan University where the students got to try out a variety of Maths puzzles and games.

Whilst the students were used to competing against each other during Puzzle Club, the event gave them the opportunity to test out their skills against students from different schools. Although they might have found this slightly daunting initially, by the end they were fully committed, trying to outsmart the competition to see who could solve the puzzles first.

The students also thoroughly enjoyed putting their problem-solving skills to the test and are looking forward to showing their peers how to take on the challenges too, ready for the next Puzzle Club competition.



## Art, Design and Technology carousel

In the Art, Design and Technology faculty, students have the experience of learning about Graphics, Product Design, Food and Textiles on a carousel. Students in the Technology carousel have already moved onto their second subject and will complete projects by the end of the autumn term.

In Graphics, two Year 7 groups have completed designing and making their own chocolate bar wrapper. They started the project by analysing existing chocolate bar wrapper designs and selecting themes of space, occasions and animals to inspire their designs.

The techniques used to create the chocolate bar wrappers were paint and collage inspired by the artist Thaksala Haylock whose work is a response to iconic packaging designs. The students went on to develop their wrapper designs using digital manipulation tools on the computer. Overall, a fantastic outcome from Year 7!



## Tigers go on discovery in Stratford

Tiger Class had a wonderful time visiting the Discover Children's Story Centre at Stratford recently.

It was an opportunity to immerse themselves in storytelling and develop their imagination and oracy skills. Collaboratively they created a fantastic story about a Ladybug called Rosie who gets into some trouble when she meets a flying ice cream van who turned out to cause quite a few problems!



## Celebrating difference and diversity

It's important that our young students learn about the world around them and celebrate difference and diversity.

This term the children marked Anti-Bullying Week by learning about kindness and what makes a good friend, they also wore odd socks for the day to show that it's ok to be different. This term, the children made honey cake to learn about Rosh Hashanah, they made diva lamps and dressed up for Divali, they came to school in Halloween outfits and at the end of term we have the school nativity. The children are learning festive songs and lines to perform the 'Wriggly Nativity' to our families in December.



## We raised £337 for Children in Need

BBC Children in Need at Mulberry Wood Wharf was a huge success this year raising £337 for the charity.

The children wore yellow and spotty clothes to mark the day. We had a family Bake Off, families submitted a homemade cake or sweet treat which was judged by the Mulberry Wood Wharf team with the winner taking home a certificate and bake-off spoon. All the cakes were sold after school contributing to the money we raised.



## Fantastic Open Evening turnout

We have had a fantastic turnout of families attending our Open Evenings and we really hope they join our school in September 2023. If you have not yet visited the school, we are holding another event on Tuesday 10th January 2023 from 5pm-6pm. Please visit the website to register your attendance.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school very soon!

[www.mulberrywoodwharf.org](http://www.mulberrywoodwharf.org)

## Mudchute Farm visit

Tiger class took their first trip of many to Mudchute Farm this term. They had a tour of the farm and met many animals such as sheep, pigs, cows, goats and alpacas. The children really enjoyed petting and feeding the animals.



## Valuing parent voice

At Mulberry Wood Wharf, we really value parental engagement.

We have held several workshops this half term to support parents to understand learning in the early years, these include a phonics workshop and a primary basics workshop. Turnout for the parent voice was excellent and we have an upcoming costume making workshop for parents in preparation for the class nativity.

## New building update

Our new building in Wood Wharf is coming along brilliantly and we can't wait to move during the spring/summer terms. We are excited to have placed some wonderful banners on the exterior of the building to inform passers-by that Mulberry Wood Wharf will be based there.

