

Word on the Street

STUDENT NEWS AND VIEWS

Inspired by WE Day at Wembley

Student Council have been busy this term with planning for up-coming events and were greatly inspired by the fantastic event that took place at Wembley-WE DAY.

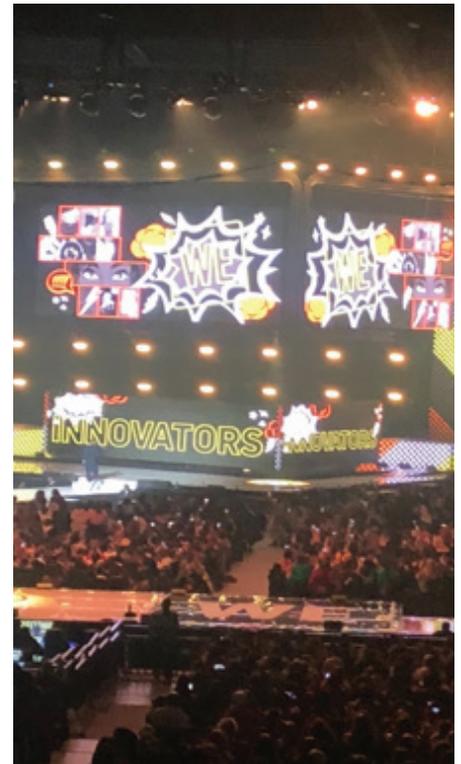
On 4th March 2020, thousands of students from across England came together at The SSE Arena in Wembley to share and celebrate three important messages: to be kind, to never give up and to feel empowered with the hope of empowering others.

Our Student Council were so impressed and excited to see so many famous public speakers, such as Idris Elba, who spoke of his own personal struggles growing up and the challenges he faced with wanting to become an actor. Idris grew up in Hackney and spoke with real passion about never giving up on what is important to us. This in turn inspired us as he spoke with a real understanding of our community and the day to day life of growing up in inner city London. In addition to the famous public speakers, there were other public speakers who were chosen to speak



of great hardships they've faced in their day to day life, some being prejudice, judgment and a feeling of being rejected by society's expectations of who should and shouldn't be given certain opportunities.

On the train ride home when we had the chance to discuss who inspired us the most, it was unanimous, Alexandra Adams. Alexandra's story was moving and yet aspirational, as she spoke of



her life ambition to become a doctor. She then proceeded to tell us that she was constantly rejected from society due to her disability which is her inability to hear and only having 5% vision in one of her eyes. She continued to tell her audience that she still feels 'she can help others', and this really stood out to us, as she never let her disability get in the way of her dreams and is currently training to be a doctor at medical school.

Following on from this event we started to discuss ways in which we can embed some of the core values of the WEDAY ideas further into our House System, and general academy day to day life. We will keep you posted on our ideas and initiatives for up-coming events. Can you think of any innovative ways to promote: acts of kindness, resilience in ourselves and empowerment in others? **Please contact the Student Council if you can think of any good ideas.**



Department Learning walks

Student Council have been working hard on a new programme, which has been designed to help students who may be struggling with their learning in different subjects.

During one of our Student Council meetings we all filled out a questionnaire about subjects that we may find challenging and discussed as a group why this is. From the results of this questionnaire, Caitlin (Our chairwoman of Student Council) assigned us to different departments, and set us a weekly challenge to meet with our subject teacher to discuss with them ideas around students learning in the classroom and strategies to improve student engagement/confidence in their chosen subject. Our council members were planning on completing a learning walk within our 'chosen' subject, to interview students and to give feedback to our subject teacher on what we had learnt.

The hope is when school returns we will conduct our learning walk and feed back our findings to our teachers and help students to feel more confident in areas of learning where they may have previously struggled.

NHS Creative Writing Task/message of empowerment



Due to recent events, Student Council now communicate via google classrooms. Currently, we have been assigned a creative writing task to share our views and to celebrate the fantastic work the NHS are currently doing to help our country through a very difficult time. The message below was posted by Bushra Kahemi in Year 8. Thank you, Bushra, for your very kind and truthfull words.

'The NHS have done so much for us and are still doing so much.

They have managed to save many people's lives and to make people

healthy again.

Even though we are going through very rough times right now they still manage to fight and continue to be strong.

While everyone else is resting, they need to wake up everyday feeling nervous, yet they go to the hospital and save people from young to old. They want the best for their patients and everyone.

They have helped in so many ways and I am very thankful and I'm sure everyone is too.'

Bushra Kahemi-Year 8

Letter to my younger self



We had an exceptional time at Earth on Tuesday, where we were given the opportunity to listen to 5 very inspirational women go down memory lane by writing a letter to their younger self. They spoke about the hardships that they endured and how they overcame them. They also reflected on how they could have reached where they are now differently. Throughout the evening, the clear message was for us to believe in ourselves and be who we want to be because we cannot change who we are but change how we perceive ourselves.

Saeedah Moshin, Year 12



Citizens UK Youth Summit

Citizens UK is a company that organises communities to act together for power, social justice and the common good. They are most famously known for winning the 'Living wage' within London.

The Living Wage campaign has won nearly £1 billion of additional wages, lifting over 180,000 people out of working poverty. The Living Wage is an hourly rate, calculated according to cost of living in the UK. The London Living Wage is currently £10.75 per hour.

We worked with Phil Warburton and Afsana Salik (members of Citizen UK) to present our two key issues to the Mayor of Tower Hamlets, John Biggs, and the Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Jaami Barry. Following



listening campaigns in school, our identified issues were mental health and knife crime. However, before presenting our issues, we had multiple training sessions where we were taught the 5 steps of action and discussed them in detail. On the 26th February, we presented our issues to both mayors at the Youth Summit



hosted by us at Mulberry Academy Shoreditch. During this event, we also heard about other issues, which had come out of the listening campaigns in other schools. Working with Citizens UK was great, as it helped me gain confidence and improve my debating and negotiation skills.

Zaqwan Hasan Choudhury, Year 9

University Challenge



The Mulberry Academy University Challenge event went down a storm with staff and students.

Despite some difficulties with the equipment we worked hard to make sure that the questions were answered in good, competitive spirits.

The Globe team was House Vice Captain Sarah Cardoso Perreira (Year 7), Sulayman Meezan (Year 8), Josiah Burdsall (Year 9), House Captain Ahmed Abdullah Muhtahdi (Year 10) and Mohammed Ali Mohammed (Year 12).

Round 1 was the Maths and Science round and Globe jumped out into an early lead scoring 120 points with clever use of their star category earning us double points. Because of this it was important that we got no questions wrong, and so we answered lots of questions correctly! Some of these questions were:

- What is the name of the atmospheric layer that absorbs the majority of the UV radiation from the sun that reaches Earth?
- Where in the human body would you

find your patella?

• Of what is Seismology the study?
After Round 1 the scores were: Globe 120, Thames 80, Barbican 70, Tate and Trafalgar 20, Tower 0.

Round 2 was on History and Sports and we were not quite as good in this category with Barbican winning this round.

Round 3 was Arts and Entertainment and this time we were second behind Tate with Barbican close behind.

Round 4 was literature and we expected fierce competition from Thames but we were able to again come out on top by giving the right answer to questions like:

- What is the name of the recreated theatre from Shakespeare's time in London? (Of course we got this one!!)
- What was the name of Harry Potter's pet owl?

As you can tell, having a Harry Potter fan in our team was a huge help in this round!

Round 5 was languages and this was

where Globe started to dominate and build a commanding lead. We managed to score more than double the points of any other house in this round by providing correct answers to questions such as:

- What is the official language in Brazil? (It helped to have a Brazilian in the team for this!)

Heading into the final round (General Knowledge) we had a 90 point lead over Barbican and were over 200 points ahead of most houses. We didn't slow down and won this round, tying with Thames for first place.

At the end the final scores were:

Globe 440, Barbican 290, Thames 270, Tate 220, Trafalgar 140, Tower 130

It was an amazing team performance with all students chipping in and showing off their knowledge. We'd like to congratulate our competitors on their efforts but in the words of William Shakespeare "with the losers let it sympathize, For nothing can seem foul to those that win"

Tower dominate in inter-House football



We recently participated in the Inter-house football competition. The competition lasted the whole day and was split between 4 different tournaments:

- Boys year 7 & 8
- Boys year 9 & 10
- Boys year 12
- Girls (all years)

In what was an exciting fast-paced competition, involving over 160 students, eventually the finals had been set.

That evening, watched by a packed sports hall, the house finalists battled it out in a tense competition. In the first final, Thames came out victorious in the year 7 & 8 final. However, after that, Tower surged with powerful displays in both the year 9 & 10 AND the year 12 boys finals. Two victories back to back for Tower, cementing their place as the top sporting house



in the school. Trafalgar managed to seal a comfortable win in the final of the girls' tournament.

Overall, the day belonged to Tower. Like the dodgeball tournament and table tennis competition, the football tournament was awash with ravens! The question has to be asked... Who can stop Tower?

Match report by Tai Cuffy, Year 9



Winter Youth Olympic Games

The first international House trip saw 24 students fly to Lausanne, Switzerland.

The trip was open to those with leadership positions within the house system and fortunately for me, I was lucky enough to quickly secure a place alongside my best mates! This trip took place in early January, starting the New Year in the right way and as my first journey abroad without my mum, I loved having my own independence and most importantly creating new, unforgettable memories with my favourite teachers and friends.

While we ate pizza and played bowling on the first night, the main reason why we came to Lausanne was to watch the 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games. Highlights included watching the Men's Ice Hockey and the Women's Ice Figure Skating, which was really impressive as they were of a similar age to us and had achieved so much. We were able to try out ice-skating ourselves. I personally found that difficult, which gave us all an appreciation of how talented the young athletes were. We also took a gondola

up to Glacier 3000 in the beautiful Les Diablerets. There, we went tobogganing, played in real, white luscious snow and had snowball fights. For me, the biggest highlight was going up to the Glacier 3000 (literally 3000ft in air), where I experienced the most breath-taking views as well as walking across this long, slightly terrifying bridge! I also loved the chance to bond with the younger students each night as we had a big dinner together. Even though I do miss the Swiss snacks, I have made memories of a lifetime, ones that I will treasure forever.



Overall, this trip was very inspiring. Seeing how kids our age were taking part in Olympic games, doing the sports they love and showing off their skills to the rest of the world, it made me realise that anything is possible once you put your mind to it and with a bit of hard work!

Anisah Ahmed, Y12, Thames Fundraising Vice Captain



Houses celebrate International Women's Day

International Women's Day is celebrated on the 8th of March every year around the world. It is a focal point in the movement for women's rights. The Houses at Mulberry Academy Shoreditch got the chance and opportunity to celebrate International Women's Day.

Day 1 was focused on answering questions like 'why do we need an international women's day?'

Day 2 was focused on Greta Thunberg, a Swedish environmental activist who has gained international recognition for promoting the view that humanity is facing an existential crisis arising from climate change. It was great learning about someone who is the same age as many students in Mulberry.

Day 3 we focused on writing a letter about a woman who inspires us as individuals. This was a great creative task to dive into.

Day 4 we looked at a variety of women from Rosa Parks, Viola Davis to J. K Rowling. This was great as it



Rushanara Ali MP visiting us on International Women's Day.

showcased women from all over the world of all race and age.

Day 5 the Heads of houses got to deliver their fun-filled assembly based on International Women's Day.

Overall, the week was a huge success. Let us all remember that it should not just take one day to celebrate women. This should be done every day.

**“There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish.”
Michelle Obama**