

Executive Principal: Mrs Ruth Holden, MA, NPQH

Thursday 17th December 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Firstly, I would like to send you my good wishes to you and your families and I hope you are all in good health.

**Please find attached our School and Student Voice Newsletter, I hope that you enjoy it!
Please also look at our website regularly to see our news and updates.**

I would like to wish you all a very peaceful and safe Christmas and all the very best for 2021 – let's hope that 2021 is a more positive year, with the vaccine being rolled out and normal life returning.

News about the school

**As per the Department for Education's instruction, the school will close to students today, Thursday 17th December.
We will be having an Inset Day for staff only tomorrow, Friday 18th December.**

If during the Christmas holiday period up until 23rd December, your child becomes ill and receives a positive test result for Covid19, please email parents@mulberrysacademyshoreditch.org with the details.

The details must include your child's name, tutor group and the positive test result that was sent to you by Public Health England in your email. You may also take a screen shot of this.

Mass testing

As you will know Tower Hamlets is one of the London boroughs where mass testing is being rolled out. The school has been asked by Public Health for England to distribute a one off single test kit to every Year 11, 12 and 13 student and to every member of staff. Today we have received those test kits and have distributed them to those groups.

The expectation is that if your child gets symptoms during the Christmas period that they can use the test, but ideally they would take this test between the 31st December and the 2nd January, so that your child is well and safe when they return to school. This is to prevent the spread of the virus is to help prevent the spread of the virus in the school in the New Year.

Free School Meal Vouchers

For eligible Free School Meal families, the Department of Education have issued vouchers for the Christmas period. These have been distributed to students today.

Part of the

Mulberry
Schools Trust



Christmas holidays dates

Please remember that the school closes for the Christmas holidays on Thursday 17th December for students, and Friday 18th December for staff. The school reopens on Monday 4th January for staff only, students return to school on Tuesday 5th January at the normal time.

Year 11 Parents' Evening

We will be having a Year 11 Parents' evening on 12th January from 3 – 5pm. So that students can get home and staff can prepare, we will closing the school at 2.30pm. The Parents' evening will be done via Microsoft Teams. It is a very important meeting to discuss Mock results.

Covid 19

If your child has Covid Symptoms and you have sent for a test, please do not send your child into school until they have received a negative test result.

Please go on to our website and click on the special section called Covid 19 for all up to date advice and guidance from the Department for Education and from Public Health for England and from the school.

Notices and reminders for all students and parents

The school is launching a new '**Don't be late for school**' initiative in the New Year. Students should enter the school building before or at 8:35 in the morning and if a student is later than this time, and therefore late to school, they will be internally supervised by senior staff on that day.

Thank you for working with the school in this difficult and challenging time.

Again, wishing you a lovely peaceful and safe Christmas break.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Ruth Holden
Executive Principal

Executive Principal's News

Well done Year 11!

A huge well done to all Year 11 students for completing their mock exams this week. The mocks were interrupted by a 7 day quarantine period, but Year 11 have come back and given it their all for the remaining exams. I am very proud of them and well done to Ms Taylor and Ms Milton for their work with the students.



The Final Christmas Lunches...!

This week on Wednesday we had a special Christmas festive lunch for Year 11, 13 and form groups 7C and 7D because these students missed out last week due to isolating. It was lovely to be able to do this for the students to show them that we really are committed to student's happiness as we reach the end of term.

Christmas Decorations

Well done to the Art department and Year 7 students for making beautiful Christmas decorations which were supposed to go into Christmas cards to all of our friends of the school.

Unfortunately because of Covid we have been unable to post these out, but we will make a display in the school, so these are not wasted.



Notices

Please remember that your child should return to school at the normal time from Tuesday 5th January 2021.

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Students should enter the school building before or at 8:35am in the morning and if a student is later than this time, and therefore late to school, they will be internally supervised by senior staff on that day.

Thank you,
Mrs Ruth Holden
Executive Principal

Sixth Form Update

We have been so happy to see year 13 students back this week. The main focus for them has been to look at their mocks exams results and respond to the feedback they have received.

Our second mock exam week this term has been so useful in seeing the excellent progress made by our students, we are very proud of the work they are doing and grateful to the Sixth Form teachers for their support. This has also been a big week for University applications and we are sending lots of them off to Universities all over the country.

Good luck to everyone involved.

Year 12 have also been making the most of their final week and are already planning for enrichment activities next term. This includes the big debate final at the end of next month. The initial stages of this competition took place last week with teams from the different Houses participating and discussing

issues such as the Coronavirus vaccine. Organised and led by our year 12 students, it was the highlight of our term!

K Frankum
Director of Sixth Form

*Wishing all our students,
staff, friends and families
a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year.*

This week in Art, Year 7 students have been exploring and responding to the work and career of English illustrator, cartoonist, graphic novelist and author Raymond Briggs



And Year 9 explored tone through observational drawing



Year 8 present **Peter Pan** the Pantomime

Watch the Year 8 Pantomime online at: www.mulberryacademymyshoreditch.org/videogallery



Christmas lunch Part 2



House Fundraising



On Friday 11th December, the House teams organised fundraising events. For the House Colours and Christmas Jumper Day, students and staff donated £1 to wear either colours that represented their House or a festive jumper. This raised £235.81. There was also a bake sale at lunch time which raised £156.16. So Friday was fun and we will be donating £391.97 to First Love Foundation who run Tower Hamlets Foodbank.

FOODBANK COLLECTION

A huge thank you to all our students and their families and our staff for your donations for the Tower Hamlets Foodbank. A fantastic effort was made by all and we have collected a total of 2732 items.

These donations will directly help the people in our community who are in need this winter.

Special thanks to the winning forms: 7D/E, 8F, 9E, 10F, 12B.

7E enjoyed a pizza party yesterday and we will arrange for the rest of these to happen for these other forms after the holidays.

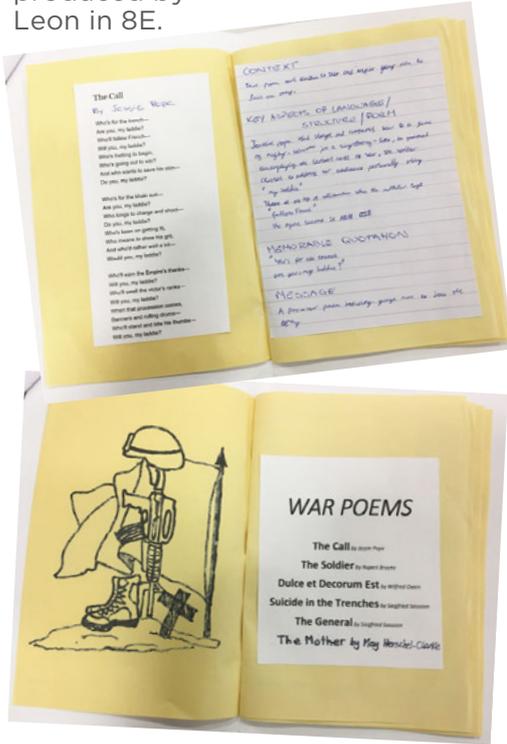
Below is a breakdown of how many items each House collected:

Thames	531
Trafalgar	474
Tate	460
Barbican	389
Tower	335
Globe	308

2732 items
and £391.97
that you raised will
help those in need
in your community

Year 8 Poets

Year 8s have completed a poetry homework project in English. They were introduced to a range of poems from WW1 and this is a piece of work produced by Leon in 8E.



Flu Spray/Injection Catch Up Clinics



If your child (Reception to Year 7) has missed the Flu spray at school please contact the team to arrange an appointment. ***If you refused the vaccination due to faith/vaccine content reason, we are now able to offer the Flu Injection which does not contain gelatine***

To book an appointment please send a text message to **07908908415** with your child's full name, DOB, Class, School and vaccine preference (spray or injection) We will reply back with details of the appointment. Due to high demand we are taking bookings via text message only and will not be taking calls. Appointments will be given according to when we receive your message and whilst there is stock availability.

Protect your child. The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia.

Protect you, your family and friends. Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable family and friends.

Towerhamlets@vaccinationuk.co.uk



CLASSES ARE BACK WITH LIMITED AVAILABILITY!

Classes for 4-18 year olds in Greenwich, Docklands, Hackney & Camden are back in January 2021!

Your child will:

- Boost their confidence and self-esteem
- Develop transferable life skills
- Work towards opportunities to achieve roles in TV, Film and Theatre
- Shake off 2020 and make 2021 the year they work on their dreams!

Join the multi-award-winning school for this very special year as we return to classes in acting, singing and dance, led by industry professionals.

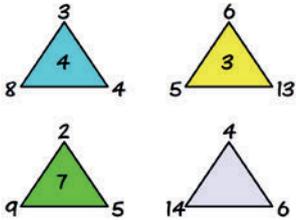
Places are extremely limited due to social distancing.

TO RESERVE YOUR TASTER DAY PLACE:
020 7682 1403
hello@annafiorentini.com
www.annafiorentini.com

MATHS PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

Did you manage to solve the maths problem this week?

Which number should go in the empty triangle?



Answer

The missing number is 5 (add the bottom two numbers and divide by the top number). Students may be encouraged to come up with puzzles of their own.

Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline is available to answer questions about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline by calling:

Phone:
0800 046 8687

Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS WORTH UP TO £500

IN YEAR 11? JOIN YOUR SIXTH FORM
TALK TO YOUR TEACHERS ABOUT YOUR SUBJECTS, YOUR AMBITIONS, YOUR CHOICES

Word on the Street

STUDENT NEWS AND VIEWS

Artwork by
Khadija Sharif-Year 7

Leading the way

This term has provided great comfort, knowing that we have an amazing team of young minds ready for the challenge of appointed leadership roles.

Within this structure are our dream force of Council representatives who bring everything together and will be working hard to guarantee our community and education is the best it can be for our students by working as a team to inspire and evoke change. This year our cohort of Year 7 Council members is the largest size we have seen at a staggering 17 members, and they are bursting with ideas and energy to support our student body. Pupils are determined to support their

peers in finding their feet and developing their confidence across all of their subjects and their day-to-day experiences within the Academy. Currently, Student Council are applying for Head Chair and Vice Chair roles within the Student Council structure. Here is an inspiring quote and work from our students, stating why this role is important to them.



'In Primary I was in the School Council in Year 2 and I was really young so I didn't really know what to do. But now I can use my knowledge to help the school community and grounds.

I may be shy at first but I will get braver and braver.'
Isra Begum-Year 7



Perfect Prefects

Congratulations to our newly appointed prefects in Year 10! Our prefects were filmed so that they could introduce themselves to the rest of the school while remaining in their bubble. The video was shared with students in Years 8-10 during form time. This is what they had to say about their new role:

"We're really looking forward to taking on whole school responsibilities by supporting the senior team with the running of the school and representing you all. Covid 19 and the consequent bubble system may be preventing us from playing a whole school role at this stage, but we look forward to working with you and getting to know you later in the year." Ehsanul Haque



"We're excited to become prefects as we want to develop our leadership skills and challenge ourselves. This sort of challenge comes from taking yourself out of your comfort zone and we're definitely up for that."
Daniella Mugeni



"Good leadership comes from experience and this opportunity will allow us to develop our leadership skills." Yaaseen Abdul



"We're looking forward to working closely with our Head of Year and taking on duties in our bubbles. We'll meet with Mr Hatton and Mrs Holden and reward positive behaviour. This year has been far from normal, but it won't stop us from getting involved as much as possible in the day to day running of the school." Naheeya Nazmin.



Black History Month

This October we came together to celebrate on Black History Month with a big focus on equality. We learnt about the different black inventors that exist such as Garrett Morgan, Patricia Bath, George Carruthers and Sarah Boone. We delved into the different developments towards the light bulb, iron board, laser surgical devices and more. This particular session led to an increase in curiosity with other inventions out there.

We also explored into understanding the role of the Black Panthers. This included their 'Ten-Point Program' such as education that teaches on true history; desire to want freedom and power on the destiny for black people and a desire for justice and peace. We looked into key Black Panther figures

such as Malcolm X, Stokely Carmichael and Angela Davis.

We also learnt about the Notting Hill Carnival as well as the significance of this celebration. We were able to look at a timeline of photos that showed just how Notting Hill Carnival had evolved from 1966 to 2019. We also studied the Wind Rush Scandal, had a Diversity BLM dance performance and also had a written letter competition on equality.

In addition to all of this we had amazing virtual assemblies that included both staff and students and involved having an understanding of the different backgrounds people are from. We were even treated by MAS students to a special dance and spoken word performance.



Autumn Drop Down Day

The Year 12 Drop Down Day was great fun from start to finish. We were given the option of three activities to choose from including football, basketball, ten pin bowling, badminton, t-shirt design and mindfulness.

The atmosphere of the day was incredibly positive and it was lovely to work closely with staff and to see some of them in a different context. After break, the whole year group came together for an inter-house dodgeball tournament.

One of the highlights of the day was to meet Charlene Smith. Charlene is a prominent Sports journalist and TV host and she kindly worked with us girls during our football session. Charlene shared her expertise and



passion for the game and all of the girls who participated in the session really enjoyed it!

Overall, the day was a brilliant experience and we really look forward to doing it all again!

Camilla Ben Mhamed, Yr 12



A Competitive Spirit

The 2020-21 academic year has seen a change on how interhouse competitions are run.

The House team launched two competitions for students to participate in the long October half term. The first competition was a Halloween-themed baking competition (Spooky Bakes) and the second one was the writing of a Racial Equality letter, following the work students had done over Black History Month.

Our winners were Josiah Burdsall (Globe Year 10, Racial Equality Letter - right), Yasin Ali (Tate Year 7, Spooky Bakes) and Ellie Flaherty (Globe Year 7, Spooky Bakes). Our star bakers say the following about their participation in the baking competition and their creative process:

Ellie Flaherty (Year 7): *"I decided to take part in Spooky Bakes because I like baking a lot and I am also quite creative, so I thought I would put that creativity into my baking and come up with something nice. I was going through different ideas on the internet and I found images of Jack from The Nightmare Before Christmas, and I thought that would look great on a cake."*



Yasin Ali (Year 7): *"I was searching for ideas online for my bake designs and I came across images of biscuits decorated as tombstones. I thought that looked very cool, so I included that idea in my baking. I also came up with the idea of decorating cupcakes by adding cookies with eyes on top of the frosting so that they would look like vampires. We ate all of them over a family visit during half-term!"*



Racism in the US

This may not be on a global aspect and the UK, but I feel like I could better write about my home nation and my experience of the struggles faced against fighting racism.

As lockdown led many to stay indoors, America seemed to do the opposite, almost afraid to admit anything that would weaken the US. While many neglected the virus, a new storm would rage in the merciless act of brutality from the Minneapolis Police against George Floyd. The US is far from unified right now, and because of the deep political cuts and ideals, my nation is split in half with two parties hating each other too much to do anything. It is largely down to politics as to why nothing much has been done to stop police brutality. In the end, protest will do nothing when the central power refuses to listen and half the country hates you. America could accomplish much if we decided to listen to each other. Every person will have slightly different views, but that is good when conservative and liberals can work together to change and find some kind of law or statement that, though not perfect, both sides could respect. It is incredibly sad that instead there is a relentless hatred from both sides, and nothing will be passed to at least try to solve the acts of brutality and abuse against black lives because of it.

I believe that fighting racism begins with acknowledgement. A massive reason that BLM protests were limited in the change they could force was the central power which neglected it as an issue. Trump in particular spoke against Jacob Blake when he was mercilessly shot seven times, and defended the man that shot protestors for racial change. It feels like Trump's cult of followers have no opinions, they just mindlessly believe that there is no problem and that there is no racial injustice, because it's almost like what Trump says is considered as law. The deep problem that lies in the US is that citizens are brought up to believe that America is near to, if not, perfect, so of course many people will flock to Trump because he tells them that there isn't a problem because America is still respected and great. Even in the history classes, at least in my experience, we briefly learned that there was slavery, and that it is, of course, fixed. This would barely brush the surface of racial injustice from the 30s to the 60s. Everything is considered fine, and supposedly racism is not a problem in today's America. When we as a nation cannot acknowledge our own fault, we cannot move forward. I find it so frustrating that so many Americans still believe that racial injustice isn't a problem, and when a black person is shot that they say 'well

not every police officer is bad' and refuse to look past it.

The news often plays a massive effect on American attitudes. If there is a black or Muslim shooter, they immediately point to it as terrorism. Yet when there is a white shooter, they say that the problem isn't the access to guns or the shooter, but that the shooter is mentally unstable. The news is now incredibly biased and tells us what the 'issues' are, and who to blame. The focus is never on how to change and move forward, but who we should point the finger at. This is even to the point where the news can claim that it was somehow George Floyd's fault that the police suffocated him, or that it is Jacob Blake's fault that he was shot.

In the end, there is only so much we can do to prevent institutional racism. We can improve police training to where the first action isn't to pull out a gun, but in the end, that small bit of racism exists in everyone, and we all have some stereotype towards a group of people. So even if the reaction isn't to pull out a gun, because that voice in the back of their heads tells them that they should be more afraid when it is a different race, there are always going to be more rash reactions among police. It seems bleak, but racism will always exist and news story propaganda will still exist. There are enough sources that say BLM is overreacting, or that racism doesn't exist, that many will believe them. With the election of Biden, there are some promising views on change. Overall, however, he can say he wants to work with other parties, but our two parties won't work together, they hate each other too much to make any difference besides statements that will fuel the fire that will cause America to burn for many years to come.

While institutional racism is inevitable, we can work to prevent racism in our circle. We can look at our own habits, even the small things we don't always realize when we stereotype another person. Racism exists in all of us, and as humans we will make mistakes that we may regret. It is up to us to change what we may do. While that change may not do much in the large scale, it can improve us as people as well as positively affect the people next to us. We may have the opportunity to make our voice heard, and we can take it. We see positive leaders in today's society, and while many large companies may not listen, plenty of people do take notice. I don't think large scale attitudes will change for a while, but change will occur. It will take a large struggle, and it will take time, but there is hope, and the fire may still be drenched.

Collecting for our community



Hello, my name is Isra and I am a Community Leader for Tower. Sajidul is a Community Leader for Thames.

Our roles are to represent the school community through working with different people in other houses. This week, MAS has launched its Foodbank Collection drive for the Tower Hamlets community. We are working together as a school to collect as many items as possible. Every year group is competing against other forms in their year, and the winning form will win a pizza party. Isra's form, 7D, are winning at the moment and I can't wait for the stacks of Dominoes!



Working together to help those who need it most is very important. In Isra's religion, doing charity (zakat) is a very good deed. After helping, we both feel good inside because we know that we

have done something to help someone who might need it.

Sajidul Hussain (Thames) and Isra Begum (Tower) – Year 7



Anti-Bullying at MAS

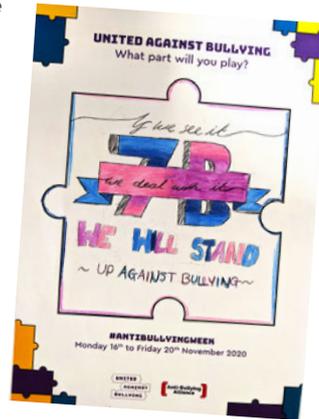
At Mulberry Academy Shoreditch we spent our form time looking at our views on bullying.

The theme this year was "United Against Bullying" and we spent time learning about theories and reflecting on how we could support the message. We looked at the bystander effect and how this can impact people's choices and willingness to get involved in situations. My favourite part of the week was learning about Chris Nikic. He was born with Down's Syndrome and told that he'd be lucky to live to be 21. Despite these concerns he worked hard and pushed himself all the way and managed to complete an ironman triathlon (2.4 mile swim, 112 mile cycle race and 26.2

mile marathon). Despite being told "No you can't" Chris was able to prove his doubters wrong!

We also came up with a class pledge to promote anti-bullying and to decide what we could do to help people and further the cause. We worked on this as a whole class and we were proud of our creation in the end.

Hana Abdi - Year 12



Year 8 Pantomime



Year 8 students worked very hard to put on this year's pantomime, Peter Pan. They only had two days to learn lines and design sets and they did a fantastic job. Their performance was filmed and streamed to Year 7 and 8 on Friday 11th December.

House Leadership Appointments



After watching the House assembly video about the different Leadership roles, we all applied to become a leader within Barbican.

Being selected was a huge luxury and we were lucky enough to get shortlisted for a role. We then had to complete a one-on-one interview with our Head of House (Ms James). This made us feel special as we were taken out of class and although it was nerve racking, we soon learned that the interview was nothing to be afraid of. We were asked questions such as, 'Why did you want this job?' or 'What do you think you can bring to Barbican?'

After this, our Head of house decided whether we were suitable enough to have the roles we applied for. For instance, you may apply for Sports Captain, but then get Sports Vice Captain, as it may have suited you better.

We are looking forward to working hard together, to make sure Barbican maintain its winning streak and are the victors of 2021 too!

Xian Agblo, Mariama Mboob, Mabel Barber - Year 7



I was attracted to the role of sports leader as I am very competitive and enjoy many different types of sports. Some other reasons I wanted to be a Sports Captain is because I like leading other people and encouraging my peers. For me to be able to apply to become a sports leader, I had to identify what traits and characteristics that I thought I could bring to the role, as well as suggesting some ideas for 2020/2021. I liked the fact that it didn't matter if you had past experiences or not, you just needed to show you were enthusiastic and passionate about the role.

Once my application was in for my role, the Head of my House (Ms Bartlett) read through it and

compared it to all the other people who applied for the same role I chose. I was amongst the few lucky people who got interviewed for the role. I was interviewed by Ms Bartlett and I was extremely happy when I was chosen for Sports Captain. Since starting my role I have been involved with designing new competition shirts for Thames and have attended several meetings about fundraising ideas. I am currently helping with the Foodbank collections for Year 7 as a representative for Thames.

I am hoping that once we get back to normal after COVID, we will be able to have lots of inter-house sports competitions!

Millie Oldham - Year 7