

# Word on the Street

STUDENT NEWS AND VIEWS



## Making a difference one step at a time...

**a community that is kind and has well-being in our minds!**

Student Council have been focusing on well-being this half term and the implementation of leadership. In addition to the new lunchtime club, which Khadija Sharif will explain in this article, certain members of the Student Council presented their ideas to Ms Miller regarding thoughts about how to implement well-being in the curriculum, in everyday learning and as part of drop down days. The meeting was a great success and led by Ayan Yussuf and John Zacharie Nemeno. Thank you to all our students for their hard work and collaboration this half term- I am very excited about the Council's idea to begin a well-being club that will be student-led on Monday lunchtimes for Year 7 students. Keep making us proud and thank you again.

Miss Higdon



Year 7 Student Council

### Leadership

'To be a leader, is to have a strong will, is to have patience, is to have an unrelenting thirst for helping others but not yourself.

To be a leader, you must be that person that should have undying loyalty to others and should put priority to those other than yourself.

That person who has been bullied should not be.

That person who has been looked down upon should not be.

These people are your priority.

These people will be your most ardent supporters if they are the first one you address.

To be a leader, you should think of the people's needs before your own.

To be a leader, you must be able to work under pressure.

At that point, when your struggles are high and you sort out the people's needs, then will they truly address you as a leader.

At that point, when you are under the greatest of burdens and the winter of opposition surrounds you, but you pull through, they will truly address you as a leader.'

By John Zacharie Nemeno - Year 9

### Update by our Head Chair, Khadija Sharif

#### Lunchtime Club And Flyer

We were starting to think about how to host the lunchtime club as a Student Council and use a flyer to get everyone interested. The flyer would let everyone know what it is going to be like and if they would want to come and join (not forgetting anyone who has problems, wants to make new friends and needs this time as an opportunity during lunch to be helped out). Do Not Forget, Everyone, that we should help to make everyone feel the same, and if you do see someone lonely at break or lunch, tell them to come and hang out with you and put a smile on their face! We will have a different room or place hopefully where we can talk to people who may have problems or issues as I have mentioned before. We, Student Council, will pick or make a selection of games to be played and maybe chosen by other pupils who you think they may enjoy **DURING LUNCHTIME.** We can have a

routine or cycle of games and we will start to build up ideas to be able to put this all together!

*Please look out for our lunchtime club flyer that will be distributed next week!*

#### It's Good To Talk And Lesson Observations

The next thing we talked about was Lesson Observations! The point of this is to see how students in classes feel about their learning in lessons, and we will be there to speak to students about their learning and to share our feedback with middle leaders. 'The 'ITS GOOD TO TALK' programme will enable students dedicated time in lesson to work on their discussion/presenting skills to offer students extra time to discuss concepts, challenging vocabulary or key ideas that are important to learning. This programme will be launched with Year 7 in the summer time.'

Thanks, Khadija Sharif



# Life in Lockdown

My experience during the national lockdown as a student of Mulberry Academy Shoreditch was far better than the first national lockdown even though this lockdown had its difficulties, as one would imagine. Being restricted to our homes with no physical or social interactions is tough for most people. There is nothing like socialising with friends when you want to and experiencing full sixth form life with those friends and teachers. While the global pandemic has stopped this all from happening, I consider myself lucky enough to have a family that has continued to support me during these hard times. It was lovely having the time and space needed over the past months to study independently and complete assignments and essays.

I am currently in my first year of sixth-form studying BTEC Business & IT with many essays coming which haven't been too bad for me during the national lockdown. I like to think of myself as hard working. I have also been able to quickly adapt to the remote learning platform (Microsoft Teams) and this is all thanks to my school. They have heavily supported me with the need of technology to attend all my classes and pass my essays and I am very grateful for this. With all this said, I have kept and continue to keep a positive mindset, always looking towards the challenges of lockdown and tackling them so they don't impact on my performance in school.  
By Sultan Yussuf

# Women's History Month



Since we have been back from lockdown, our tutor time sessions have been focussed on Women's History month.

We have looked at several inspiring women throughout this time including Wang Zhenyi, an amazing female scientist, and Eva Peron, the first lady of Argentina who campaigned for women's suffrage and improved the lives of many poor people. As well as looking at different inspirational women, we have also looked closely at issues currently affecting women throughout the world. One of the sessions that I especially remember was the 'Women and Safety' session. Not only did it have a big impact on me and other girls at the school, but I hope it was also valuable for boys in different year groups to take part in. With the recent Sarah Everard tragedy, the session was incredibly powerful and showed us that we



all (both men and women) have a responsibility to keep ourselves and each other safe. One of the main things that I took from Women in History month was that I can one day be one of those inspirational women studied by school students across the country!  
By Akhi Tahera, Year 9



# LOCKDOWN VIRTUAL HOUSE COMPETITION



# WINNERS

The winners were decided by the Y10 and Y12 House student leadership teams, who voted for their favourite anonymised entries

## Photography challenge

**WINNER:** Option 3 - Ziyad Ahmed (Barbican)  
**RUNNER UP:** Option 1 - Ellie Flaherty (Globe)

## Festive bakes

**WINNER:** Option 2 - Muhammed Uddin (Barbican)  
**RUNNER UP:** Option 4 - Millie Oldham (Thames)  
Creative writing  
**WINNER:** Option 3 - Liza Dagleish (Barbican)  
**RUNNER UP:** Option 5 - Erika Kosongo (Barbican)



## Grand design

**WINNER:** option 3 - Demi Lou Craig Ward (Thames), above.  
**RUNNER UP:** Option 5 - Maymuna Rahman (Thames)

We have also added Josiah, Ellie Flaherty and Yasin Ali for winning equality speech/spooky bakes respectively!

The winners received 10 house points and 5 house points for the runners up. Winners received a £10 Amazon voucher, with a £5 voucher for the runners up.

# LGBTQ+ History Month at MAS



Last February we celebrated LGBTQ+ History Month at MAS.

Over the house weeks in February, our Heads of House and tutors shared some quite revealing form time resources with us about the current situation in the LGBTQ+ community in some countries around the world, which included the testimonies of different LGBTQ+ people. We learned what each of the letters on the LGBTQ+ acronym mean and why it is important to create inclusive and diverse spaces for everyone in school. We also learned about the main events that took place in the LGBTQ+ community's conquest of rights and equality, as well as about the History of London Pride and the achievements of important LGBTQ+ figures. In the House assemblies, our Heads of House discussed why LGBTQ+ History Month is important to them and they organised a panel interview with LGBTQ+ people from London, who shared their stories and experiences



across different races, generations and sexual orientations.

The session I enjoyed the most was the LGBTQ+ timeline, because I always enjoy learning about the history of social movements. Marsha P Johnson is a figure that I would highlight, as a black LGBTQ+



icon paving the way for equal rights and fair treatment. Angela Davis is another LGBTQ+ figure whose work as an activist and author I admire.

If I had to highlight one thing that we have learnt from this month it would be the idea that, despite our differences, we should all be treated equally and with respect, and that everyone's experiences should be celebrated, and not hated or discriminated against.

By Sumeya Abdi, Year 12 (Tate House)



Angela Davis



“  
How many years has it taken people to realize that we are all brothers and sisters and human beings in the human race?  
- Marsha P. Johnson -  
1945-1992

## A letter to my future self



There's nothing I love more, than the feeling of escape when writing. The feeling of openness. It's like an open field where you can run in any direction with complete freedom- to write whatever you want; however you want. Entirely left to your own imagination. Your own emotions. During lockdown I found writing poems and short stories to be quite an intense, eye-opening and therapeutic experience. If you have heard the saying, "the eyes are the windows to the soul", I believe writing works in the same way. In a dark room when you can't see the eyes, you can hear spoken words instead, as a guide to the soul. But instead of speaking those words you write them down and when you do this, they seem to manifest into something

deeper. Written words often come from deep thought, as we think before we write and are not under any time pressure compared to verbal forms of expression, like a conversation where a long pause can leave you feeling uneasy. As a result, what we write tends to make much more sense and is clearer to understand. So, if you write about yourself, you might discover something new or it may help to resolve an internal conflict you might have that you previously could not understand.

Given the opportunity to write a letter to my future self in lockdown, I found that I was able to resolve many internal conflicts of my own. I was able to appreciate writing more than I ever have, to distract myself from

any stresses during the day and to be grateful for the smaller moments like reading a book or a small conversation with a friend. Spending so much time in my own company over lockdown forced me to confront myself and reflect on my past achievements and failures. I have now fully accepted the idea of failing as an opportunity to learn. Life really is short, but lockdown and restrictions can't stop you from living. You can live a different life when you read a book, write a story or a poem. It's the perfect escape from reality, and in your own thoughts and feelings there are no restrictions. Only you and how far you're willing to open up to yourself.

Tianna Roberts Y12



# Thoughts on Returning to School

*"I can no other answer make but thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks"* William Shakespeare – Twelfth Night

## Sarah, Year 8 – Globe Vice Captain

The last few months have been hard! Living at home and not being able to come into school was a difficult time. During lockdown the teachers worked extremely hard to keep us motivated and to help us keep up with the work. I've really enjoyed working on History and Science thanks to my teachers Mr Ahmed, Ms Sitch and Ms Begum. They made my lessons extra fun and full of extra information so that I could enjoy my lessons while learning the things that I might have missed. All of the Heads of House and teachers worked incredibly hard to keep our spirits up. I would also like to thank Mr McCabe and Mrs Holden for maintaining our positive energy and keeping us on track with our studies while giving us opportunities to do things that we had not experienced before.

I am very happy to be back at school because now we are able to communicate face to face. This has made it easier to understand the work and has let me say hello to all of my friends.

The staff have been making an effort to take care of our mental health as well as our learning by introducing mindful moments into lessons. These

moments help us to calm down and unwind during lessons and in general. We are also looking after our physical health by using the hand sanitizer that the awesome site team have put around the school for us. We are still in our Year group bubbles to keep ourselves and our families as safe as possible. Even with some of these problems, I am still so glad to be back at school!

## Eleni, Year 8 - Communications Officer

Returning to normality at school has been difficult, but we're nearly there.



On behalf of Year 8 (and the rest of the school) we thank Mrs Holden, the House leaders and all of our teachers who have supported us throughout the pandemic. Special thanks to Mr McCabe, Ms Scales and Mr Rakshi for their support with all sorts of things!

But not only the teachers worked hard over lockdown! Though it was strange (and there were lots of technical difficulties) students still strove to learn new things despite all of the obstacles. So to all the teachers and students at Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, well done and thank you!!

## Celebrating differences



**What is celebrating differences?** Celebrating differences is about embracing other people's culture, ethnicity, sexuality and disabilities. In our school we strive to create a safe space for students to express their individuality by educating and aiding the school as a whole, including teachers. Over this half-term, we have been informing students during form time about recent events and the numerous ways to celebrate and champion the differences in today's society.

Karima Uddin, Year 12.

## Reflections on how I managed my responsibilities in lockdown by Leo Shabi

The following responsibilities were a challenge to begin with, but eventually I overcame them and managed to settle into the new routine at home:

- Avoiding distractions was a big responsibility of mine, as it was hard to not go on my phone or on different websites which may have been off topic from my lesson.
- Having to help at home with chores was another responsibility, as I had to juggle both school and home-life together!
- Stricter deadlines on homework and tasks were another huge responsibility that I eventually got through whilst keeping up a high standard of work.
- Having to keep up my grades and attitude to learning during these tougher times was also a very big challenge, but it turned out well in the end. Now, I am back at school and I don't have to worry about that as much as I did!

## 5 steps to successfully catching up in your learning



by Nebeyu Dawit

- Attend Easter school if you're in Year 10 and Year 12- this will allow you to catch up with the work you studied over online learning.
- Create a study timetable - a schedule is important to provide structure.
- Create a learning space - a designated study space free of any distractions is likely to sharpen the mind and improve concentration.
- Regularly practise tricky topics - the key is to practise them regularly to gradually build your understanding and learn from your mistakes.
- Take time to relax - this allows you to unwind and take your mind off study or work-related topics.