

Executive Principal: Mrs Ruth Holden, MA, NPQH

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

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 Sixth Form 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 2022.**

### Free School Meal Vouchers

For eligible Free School Meal families, the Department of Education have issued vouchers for the Christmas period. These are being distributed to students and posted to families as appropriate.

### Mass Testing on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January

As you will know we will be carrying out Mass Testing for all students and staff on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. Thank you to all parents that submitted consent forms.

### Term Dates

Here are our Term Dates for the Christmas Break:

The Autumn Term ends today - **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021**.

The school is **closed** to students on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022**.

All Students will **return** to school on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022** at their normal time.

### Lateral Flow Tests

Tests should be taken on Mondays and Thursdays **over the Christmas break** and all results – **negative, positive or void** are to be registered on the Government website - <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

**Please see attached link of how to use the Lateral Flow Devices given out if you are unsure:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ShFlzJtaT8>

If your child tests positive over the Christmas break, please register this on the Government website and then let the school know as soon as possible.

Part of the

**Mulberry**  
Schools Trust



If your child becomes ill and receives a positive test result for Covid19 over the Christmas break, please email [parents@mulberryacademyshoreditch.org](mailto:parents@mulberryacademyshoreditch.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.

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.

### **When to Isolate?**

Self-isolate straight away and get a PCR test as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of Covid 19, even if they are mild:

- You have a high temperature
- A new continuous cough
- A loss or change to sense of smell and taste

You should also self-isolate straight away if:

- You have tested positive for Covid 19 – this means you have the virus
- Someone who you live with has tested positive for Covid 19 and you are not double vaccinated.

***\*From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.***

### **When you do not need to self-isolate**

If someone you live with has symptoms of Covid 19 or has tested positive for Covid 19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- You're fully vaccinated – this means that 14 days have passed since your final dose of a Covid 19 vaccine given by the NHS
- Your child is under 18 years and 6 months old
- You're taking part of have taken part in a Covid 19 vaccine trial
- You're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

***Please see the flow chart below for further information***

Please check the NHS website for all regulations in relation to Covid 19 isolation -

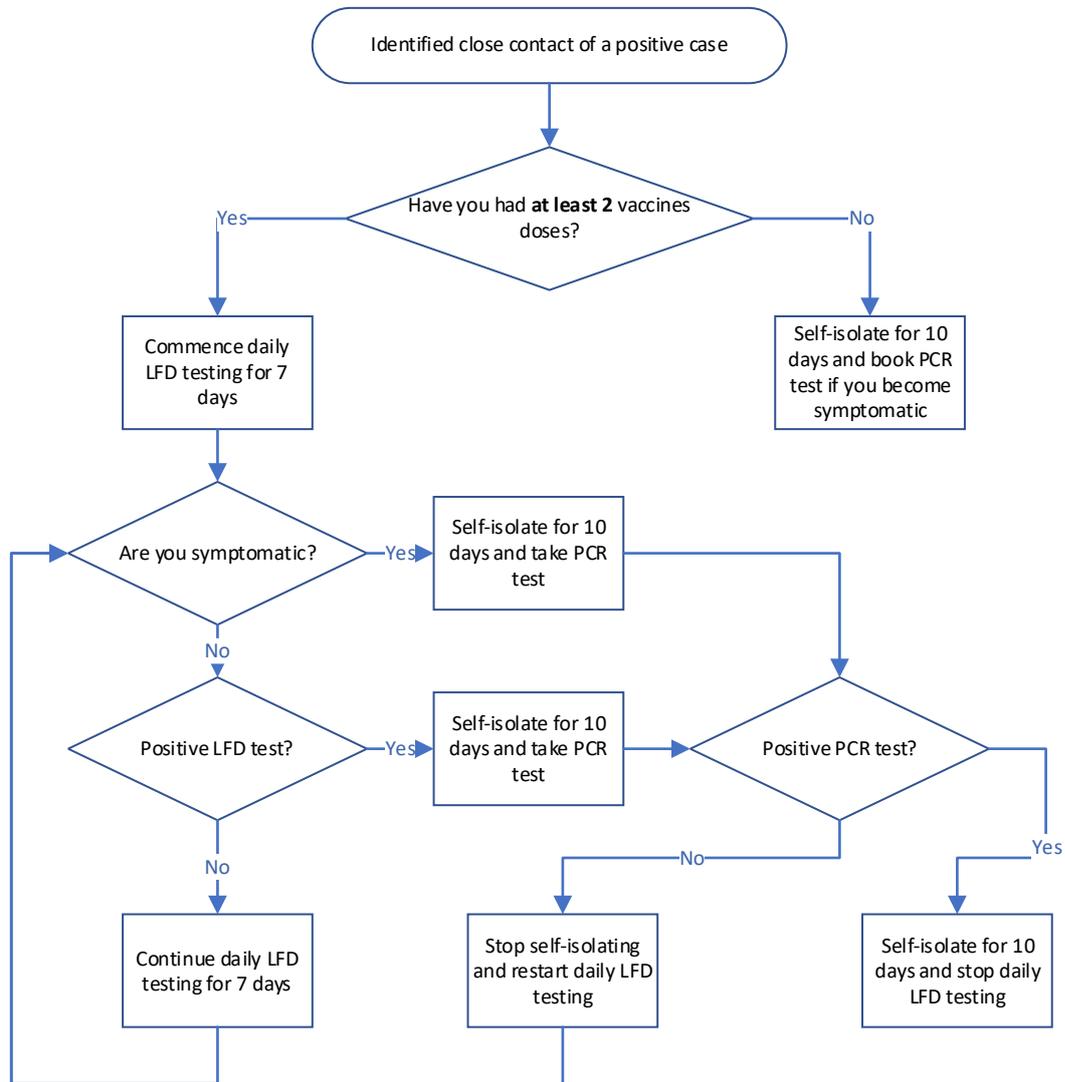
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

Yours faithfully



Mrs Ruth Holden  
Executive Principal

# Self-isolation and testing requirements w.e.f. Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021



## News this week from the Executive Principal



### Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday we had our student and staff Christmas lunch. Thank you to Accent our catering firm who provided a really lovely lunch and to our Premises team and senior leadership team who made the whole experience so jolly with music and crackers and a very lovely atmosphere.

Although the school has had to cancel a few events this week to ensure that we are as safe as possible, it has been lovely to have this Christmas lunch and to have the end of term single year group reward assemblies.



Well done to Heads of Year and all staff involved.

**I would like to wish everyone in our community a very lovely and peaceful Christmas break.**

I hope you remain safe and please read my letter to get updates on any covid related actions needed re testing and reporting.

For students the school returns on Wednesday 4th January for all students at the normal time.

Thank you,  
**Mrs Ruth Holden,**  
Executive Principal



## Sixth Form Update

### Year 12 Maximising Success and Financial Literacy Drop Day

Year 12 students took part in a 'Maximising Success' Conference on Wednesday 1st December. The conference involved students learning how to improve their skills in the following workshops: Speed & Skim reading, Effective Note taking, Condensing Text, Time Management & Work/Life Balance. The Work/Life Balance proved to be a very popular workshop with Year 12. Many students were implementing these new skills during the workshop and we found huge improvements in their speed of reading and note taking ability. Well done Year 12 on your fantastic participation on the day.



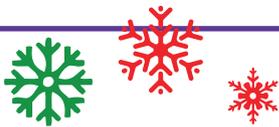
## JustGiving™

The last year has been extremely difficult for our students. As we come out of lockdown and our school begins to return to normal, there is an urgent need to give all our students the opportunity, not just to return to the classroom, but to have fun, to experience a trip somewhere, to feel the freedom of the seaside or a camping trip and to enrich their lives and undo the mental and emotional damage that lockdown will have caused. If you feel passionate about helping us to do this for our young people aged 11-18 - please donate to our JustGiving page - no matter how little or how much - you will make a difference to children's lives and we will acknowledge this. Please visit:

**Donate at JustGiving**

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mulberry-academy-shoreditch-fundraiser>

# Christmas Dinner



On Wednesday we all enjoyed a delicious Christmas Dinner courtesy of our wonderful kitchen staff here at MAS. There were crackers, festive decorations and music - a lovely ending to our term.



# Christmas Jumper Day

On Wednesday staff and students wore their Christmas Jumpers to raise money for charity. Here are a few photos of their festive knitwear!



The Y12 A Level Computer Science class had the opportunity to take place in a workshop run by Joe McFadden at Carbon 13. The students simulated real-life development methodologies to come up with ideas of making the school more environmentally friendly, using technology. Well done to Group 2, who was voted by the class as having the best idea to combat climate change!

# A Christmas Carol

A review by Sulayman Meezaan, 10B

Recently my class and I went to see 'A Christmas Carol' at the Old Vic theatre. It was a musically adapted rendition of the play, using an ensemble, hand bells and a live band. The play was a rollercoaster of emotions, having very emotionally intense scenes, but also very comical scenes. It told a great story of charity and fairness and has had a great influence on the way I treat people, seeing the way Scrooge conducted himself after his visit from the three ghosts. My favourite scene was the scene when Scrooge treats his only employee, Bob Cratchet, to a great Christmas feast after he has changed his ways due to the visit from the three ghosts. It was a very funny scene and even used volunteers from the audience. The play was ended with a very charming hand bell adapted version of 'Silent Night', the perfect ending for what was a brilliant play.

Mulberry Academy Shoreditch

**LANGUAGES AND CULTURE CLUB**

**Culture Vultures**

Thursday Lunchtime 1pm-1:30pm Week B

Years 7-9

Please see Ms Anthony for more info

Mulberry Academy Shoreditch

**MUSIC CLUB**

WHAT WE DO: LEARN TO PLAY THE PIANO/GUITAR. PRACTISE SONGS FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT LESSONS.

WHEN: EVERY FRIDAY 3:30-4:30  
WHERE: ROOM 323  
WHO: MR FEASEY

Kickstart your weekend by learning an instrument and making new friends!

**ENSEMBLES CLUB**

WHEN: EVERY WEDNESDAY 3:30-4:30  
WHERE: ROOM 323  
WHO: PLEASE SEE MR FEASEY TO SIGN UP!

WHAT WE DO: LEARN SONGS AS PART OF AN ENSEMBLE. TAKE PART IN PERFORMANCES EACH TERM. We are looking for passionate musicians and team players who are looking for a real challenge!

Mulberry Academy Shoreditch

**MODEL UNITED NATIONS CLUB**

Open to students in Years 9 and 10

**EVERY WEDNESDAY 3.30PM-4.30PM IN ROOM 406**

COME ALONG!

MUN helps you develop skills in research, public speaking, and teamwork.

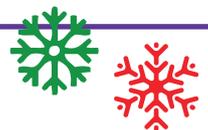
# Get your skates on!



To celebrate the exemplary attendance and punctuality of fifty year 13 students, we took them to the scenic Canary Wharf Ice Rink. Students enjoyed whizzing round against the impressive back drop of the city sky scrapers and there was a festive feel all round.



# BMX at the VeloPark



On Thursday 16th December a group of Year 7 students went cycling at the Lee Valley VeloPark in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Their first session was on the BMX track and they did really well plucking up the courage to cycle around the circuit. They really enjoyed their exhilarating morning!



## GEOGRAPHY CHALLENGE



Geography Challenge Winner (Autumn Term 2): Ruben Borg-Jones 8D

Ruben wrote a great report on the new COP26 climatic agreement where he discussed the strategies agreed upon by world leaders to reduce the emission of methane. He also compared the COP26 to the Paris Agreement where similarities and differences were highlighted.

Well done Ruben, a £10 Amazon voucher will be sent to your email.

There will another Geography challenge posted to Teams next term with another chance to win - check it out!

# MAS STATIONERY SHOP

**BUY YOUR STATIONERY AT BREAK IN THE STREET EVERY TUESDAY**

RED, BLUE OR BLACK PENS	10P
RULER	20P
SMALL RULER	10P
PENCILS (HB OR 2B)	60P
PENCIL CASE	£1
BUNDLE PACK	10P
PENCIL SHARPENER	10P
RUBBER	£1.30
SET OF REVISION CARDS	£1.50
LEVER ARCH FOLDER	

**Mulberry Academy Shoreditch**

## TERM DATES 2021-2022

### Term 1 finishes:

Friday 17th December 2021  
Christmas break: Monday 20th December 2021-Wednesday 5th January 2022

### Term two starts:

Tuesday 4th January (inset day)  
Wednesday 5th January (all students)  
**Half-term: Monday 14th February - Friday 18th February 2022**

**Term 2 resumes for all students on Monday 21st February**

### Term 2 finishes:

Friday 1st April 2022  
Easter break: Monday 4th April - Tuesday 19th April 2022

**Term three starts:** Tuesday 19th April 2022 (Inset Day), Wednesday 20th April 2022 (for all students)

**Half-term:** Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June 2022

**Term 3 resumes for all students on Monday 6th June**

**Term three finishes:** Friday 22nd July

# TRAILFAM Race Team

The TrailFam race team finished the term off strongly on Monday, all running trail personal bests for the 5k distance.



# Rise and Read

Well done to the students who have participated in Rise and Read this term for making fantastic progress with their reading. Together they have read more than 50 books! Thank you to the sixth formers who have supported the younger students to achieve this impressive feat.



# Foodbank collection

A special thank you to everyone who has donated food and toiletries this over the last two weeks. We have collected over 1364 items, with Tower House collecting the most (488)! Your kind donations will go to our local foodbank run by charity First Love Foundation and will help families who are struggling this winter.



## LOST PROPERTY

If your child loses something, please can they check the admin office? Lost Property will be put out in the Street every Friday

## DISCOVER DANCE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD!

Our friendly instructors will nurture your child's creativity through movement. Based in Bow for over 35 years, Chisenhale Dance Space teaches children of all abilities the joy of moving, through contemporary, street dance & improvisation! Progress with us in a playful and encouraging environment, increase confidence, and make new friends.

We offer a limited number of free and subsidised places for local children and families based in Bow postcodes E3 5 and E3 2, thanks to Action for Bow. For more information, please contact: [jessica@chisenhaledancespace.co.uk](mailto:jessica@chisenhaledancespace.co.uk)

DANCE AND TECHNIQUE (50 minutes):  
 Street Dance Ages 8-12 12:10pm  
 Creative Contemporary Ages 8-12 1:00pm  
 12-week term from £84 / Concession £42

[www.chisenhale.dance](https://www.chisenhale.dance)

We are located south of Victoria Park. Nearest tube is Mile End - Central, Hammersmith & City and District lines. Buses - D6, 8, 277, 339, 425

## MATHS PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

Did you manage to solve the maths problem this week?

In the set of equations below, how many  $\Delta$ s are equal to  $\Diamond$ ?

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta + \Delta &= \square \\ \square + \Delta &= \bigcirc \\ \Diamond &= \bigcirc + \square + \Delta \end{aligned}$$

Merry Christmas

**How to get started**

How many triangles is one square worth?  
 Once you know this, how many triangles is one circle worth?

**Solution**

$\square = 2 \Delta$ , from the first equation.  
 Then,  $\bigcirc = \square + \Delta = 2 \Delta + \Delta = 3 \Delta$ .  
 Then,  $\Diamond = \bigcirc + \square + \Delta = 3 \Delta + 2 \Delta + \Delta = 6 \Delta$ .  
 Therefore,  $\Diamond$  is worth  $6 \Delta$ .

# Word on the Street

STUDENT NEWS AND VIEWS



## Training Session for our new Prefects

In October 2021, we opened up applications for Year 10 Prefects.

In October 2021, we opened up applications for Year 10 Prefects. We received some brilliant submissions and recruited nineteen Prefects, among whom five were made Lead Prefects. Their names and details can be found on our 'Student Leaders' display!

Since then, our Year 10 Prefects have attended a launch and leadership training session hosted by The Life Skills Company, while also carrying out their weekly duties to the highest standard. Below, our Prefects share their thoughts about the role so far.

**Mahek Yasmin (Lead Prefect):** During Prefect training, we explored how to appropriately respond to misbehaviour; essentially, by maintaining a calm

composure before establishing the relevant consequences and choices. We also explored our personal strengths and weaknesses, before finally applying all that we had learned in realistic role-play. In our final presentations, five prefects delivered their own speeches about what they are most passionate about and, though a little scary, we all found that in the end we had accumulated useful public speaking skills!

**Mariya Ahmed:** during our training, we understood how to reach well-informed decisions in varying scenarios and how a Prefect should be a role model within the school environment to help maintain a peaceful atmosphere. So far in the role, I have really enjoyed carrying out my Prefect lunch duties as



I am able to converse with new people, and support peers and teachers in the library.

**Fahmida Rashid (Lead Prefect):** As a student leader, I have been able to step outside my comfort zone through the social aspect of my duties. This has included talking to new people, setting boundaries for younger students, and public speaking. Such experiences have certainly contributed to my increasing confidence!

## Debate Mate

Having attended Debate Mate for a few sessions, I've found that it is a great way to improve communication and understanding among peers. One activity during which this was most evident was when five pupils were allocated the role of a famous figure and the rest of the group decided who they would 'save' in a hot air balloon. I remember deciding with my group that we should save Nelson Mandela because Albert Einstein would be able to calculate a way to escape anyway! Our Debate Mate sessions are formatted so that we can both accumulate our skills and



apply them too. During the debating segment, we discuss interesting issues like women's rights which is really fun especially when you're going up against your peers!

**Lonis-Adam Fergus, Year 8**





# MAS Foodbank Collection

**Did you know that food bank use in London has increased by over 100% in the last year? Did you know that 17 out of every 30 children in the UK are living in poverty?**

On Monday 6th December 2021, we at Mulberry Academy Shoreditch are commencing our annual food bank drive. Poverty in Tower Hamlets has become more and more apparent and the pandemic has only made things more challenging. However, through this food bank, we can collectively give back to the community and those that are less fortunate. It is a great opportunity for everyone to get involved and support those who are in need. During winter, many people in our communities lack basic necessities such as toiletries, hygiene products and food. As part of our food bank collections, students are encouraged to bring in as many non-perishable items

as they can which will then be donated to organisations within Tower Hamlets. Additionally, the top six house forms to donate the most items will receive a generous prize – although we can all agree that charity is its own reward! At MAS we believe that children in

Tower Hamlets should get the best possible start in life, alongside the same opportunities as other young people. Undoubtedly, the food bank drive is a great place to start!

**Ahsan Ziban Islam and Jumaanah Kaha, Year 12**



# Running the Brecon Beacons



**I really enjoyed going to Wales as part of TrailFam, as I was able to run one of the highest mountains in Wales while also overcoming one of my biggest fears.**

The best thing about going is that I made new friends and we took part in lots of fun activities with Mr. Stokes and Ms. Bartlett over the weekend. On the first day, not everyone was feeling energetic but we still managed to reach the summit of Waun Fach (3000ft) which was our first mountain of the weekend. The next day we reached the summit of two more mountains, both of which were over



2900ft! The first mountain was a bit scary because it was raining and I was scared of slipping on a rock. My experience of running on the second mountain on the last day was amazing; even though it was a smaller and less-daunting mountain, it was incredibly windy and it did take us some time to reach the top because

of its steepness. When we reached the summit Mr. Stokes joked that there was a castle even though there were only rocks! Mr Stokes definitely kept us laughing throughout the weekend. This was such a fun trip, and I am so grateful to Mr. Stokes and Ms. Bartlett for the amazing opportunity.

**Lisbeth Gaucho Araujo, Year 7**

# House of Fun at HouseCon '21



HouseCon 2021 was incredibly fun for those who attended: there were activities such as bake sales, sports games and a raffle for each House.

HouseCon 2021 was incredibly fun for those who attended: there were activities such as bake sales, sports games and a raffle for each House. We also heard from Heads of House and student leaders from all year groups, while Mr McCabe decided to challenge students and parents in table tennis but won every game unscathed! After her success at the House Fun Day, Patty (a brilliant face painter) returned to add some sparkle through her creative designs (as seen on the faces of many pupils, parents and teachers!). There was also lots of delicious free food including wedges, biryani and macaroni and cheese, while our House merchandise stall sold stylish keychains, bags and clothing to many enthusiastic customers.

Ultimately, it was an opportunity to learn about the House system in the most enjoyable of ways while meeting the teams behind the magic!  
Mahdi Islam, Year 8



# Spread kindness for Anti-Bullying week



Anti-Bullying Week takes place every November and is organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance to reinforce the message that kindness can truly change someone's life.

During assemblies on anti-bullying, House Leaders discussed the difficulties of lockdown, and how kindness kept many of us going. Students were also regaled with stories about some individuals who showed incredible kindness and

## 5 Key Kindness Questions

1. Am I kind to myself?
2. Am I kind to others?
3. Are people kind to me?
4. Do I understand when people are kind to me?
5. Do I help people who are being bullied?

**Marcus Rashford**  
We are not kind to be noticed. We are kind because it's the right thing to do. It feels good to help others.

**ONE KIND WORD**

Small acts of kindness can go a really long way. There is a lot of power in understanding and compassion. A listening ear and a kind word is sometimes all it takes...

Keep shining and keep smiling.

MIRA x ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

## What can you do to be kind?

- Listen
- Hold open the door
- Be encouraging
- Smile
- Put your phone away and give someone your full attention
- Help out, without being asked
- Invite someone new into your friendship group
- Pick up your litter
- Sit with someone eating alone
- Say please and thank you
- Send a kind note or card
- Give a genuine compliment

**ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE** #ANTI-BULLYINGWEEK

changed the lives of many during the lockdown. We delivered the assembly as a reminder that while bullying is not something that can be eradicated overnight, everyone should try to be kind as it is a small but powerful way to spread happiness. Our pledge as a

school is to be kind and start a ripple effect of kindness: the ripple effect refers to the spreading effects of an action, and kindness is definitely a wonderful thing to be spreading.

Maymuna Rahaman, Year 9



# Inter-House Spelling Bee

On Wednesday 17th of November 2021, students from all six houses competed in the Inter-house Spelling Bee.

It was a tense atmosphere, as students were required to spell words of increasing difficulty with each round; we were puzzled by complex words such as 'amoeba' and 'necessary' and even some of the judges were stumped by the word 'stingy'! Eventually the remaining students (who were all members of Globe house) were challenged with the highest degree of difficulty. Dylan Ellis in Year 7, who was runner-up, held the floor for more time



than twenty of the other competitors combined! In the end, the person who came first was Eleni Brooks in Year 9, the resident Communications Officer and wordsmith of Globe House.

Why not hold your own Spelling Bee with the following words? Only one is

spelled correctly. Good luck!  
'correspondance'  
'miscelaneous'  
'mediterranean'  
'mayonnaise'  
'necessary'

**Eleni Brooks, Year 8**

# Barbican Bake Sale Buzz

**The Barbican Bake Sale has been so successful! It has been such a fun experience serving food to our peers and teachers (even though it's difficult not to eat on the job!).**

**Shanjidah:** I joined the Bake Sale efforts in order to showcase my marketing skills, which I have already been able to work on because my dad owns a restaurant that I help out with! I am often persuading customers to opt for a more filling meal than the one they initially select!

**Thomas:** my dad is a pub Area Manager, so being part of this bake sale has given me so much of the experience and skills I need to help my dad, I definitely think I can help him come up with some creative ideas. I'll also understand what he means when he says words like 'grossing' or 'profit'

**Shanjidah:** One key reason I joined in with the Bake Sale is because of the cause that is being supported, I think it's really important to help those in

need.

**Thomas:** it's an added bonus that we get House Points for our involvement and can become more visible members of our House.

**Shanjidah:** I've also been able to build some important skills. When one student gave me £5 for two 30p items, it was almost chaos looking for change!

**Thomas:** that happened to me too - I received £2 for a 50p item, but eventually I got the right change. It can be really stressful, but it is also incredibly fun.

**Shanjidah:** I would definitely recommend that everyone gets involved next time because we've been able to develop so many skills, like knowing how to handle money and developing self-discipline.

**Thomas:** in preparation for next time, I'm going to teach myself how to bake so I can bring in a cake. I can already make a pork schnitzel!

**Thomas Garvey and Samiyah Shanjidah Miah, Year 7**



## Daring to Present a House Assembly

Towards the end of November 2021 I was given the opportunity to present a House assembly on one of our values: that of being 'daring'. I planned my presentation by writing down key information and reading it over multiple times, even though that didn't do much for my nerves the first time I presented! Fortunately, after presenting multiple assemblies, I began feeling confident. Presenting in assembly was definitely useful as I can demonstrate that I have had many important and interesting responsibilities during my time at secondary school. Having completed these assemblies, I feel proud that I have been able to take ownership of my leadership role at Barbican.

**Rima Chowdhury, Year 8**