

Word on the Street

STUDENT NEWS AND VIEWS



Prefects

The current Year 10 cohort have been applying for and successfully achieving their positions as this year's Prefects.

The eighteen Year 10 Prefects, who were selected from over FORTY brilliant applications, have just commenced with carrying out their weekly break duties this term. The bar has been set very high by this year's cohort, with all Prefects regularly volunteering to help out at events such as Parents' Evenings and MAS's 2024 Winter Fair. They are now sporting their glistening gold

and perfect purple badges upon their blazers which lets other students know that they are a member of our student community that they can rely on for guidance, particularly those younger or newer students who are still getting used to their timetables and the layout of the school. Next term, the Lead Prefects will be selected from the existing Prefect cohort to carry out uniform checks during form times so watch out for that...

'I have been enjoying my role as Prefect this year because I feel that the leadership training has enabled me to feel more confident in carrying out my break duties and challenging students to keep our learning environments clean and tidy. I feel like I have power and I have really been enjoying my early lunches!'

An anonymous prefect Y10



The Prefects are: Left to right, Top row: Zakifa Ali, Nasra Salah, Iqra Ali, Ahmed Omar, Aadam Ali, Sara Adnan, Tamara Howlader
Left to Right, Bottom row: Rochelle Wallace, Iba Islam, Saira Rahman, Mahdiya Yasmin, Hamisha Akthar, Fatou Niane, Cailey Sicberras, Ella Moye, Leanna Joseph.

'I am **Ella Moye** and I am a Prefect this year at MAS. I originally wanted to be a prefect because in my school community I would like to see positive changes where everyone can feel included and valued. I would like to say that I was successful being selected as I have high ambitions and aspirations and I have had many opportunities previously that have built me as a person and I would like to build on them. I will hopefully use my role to support everyone in the school to feel included and reach their potential. So far as a prefect I have had an insightful prefect training, and I have helped to support staff members on break duty and I look forward to doing more.'

'My name is **Ahmed Omar** and I am a prefect from 2025-26 and the first reason why I wanted to be a prefect

was that it would look very good on my cv and also I thought it would build on my leadership skills. I think I was successful because in the application, I wrote about my past house positions such as House Captain and Sports Captain. I believe that I can have a huge effect on the school as I will make sure that everyone is equally respected and that equity is applied within the school. So far, I have done my duties as a prefect and I made sure no sort of bullying takes place and also I made sure people show respect to the school by cleaning after themselves.'

'I am **Maisha**. I chose to become a Prefect because I want to be a positive role model and help create a respectful and welcoming environment for everyone in the school. So far, I have taken on responsibilities such as break duties,

where I help maintain order and support younger students and to make sure other students don't get into any altercations.'

'My name is **Mahdiya Yasmin**. I wanted to be a Prefect to help improve our school community. I think I was chosen because I listen well and try to solve problems fairly. I plan to make the school better by starting new student programs, and so far, I have done my weekly break duties, making sure there are no problems between other students.'

'I'm **Sara Adnan**. I originally want to be a prefect as you can learn leadership skills and have better communication skills. This role can change the school as you interacting with students' younger years. So far, I have been doing my break time duty and had a

continued on page 2

Prefects continued from page 1

session about how to be a prefect.'

'I have taken part in prefect training which has helped me learn key skills that will present myself as a good prefect to younger and older students so I can be someone who they can talk to. I have also been dedicating my breaktimes in the LRC talking to younger pupils about how their experience in school is so far which has made me realise what I can do better for this school.'

Hamisha Akthar

'My name is **Tamara** and I am a 25/26 Prefect. Originally, I wanted to be a Prefect to benefit my peers but also help me to stand out amongst others. However, I think the reason why I was successful in my application is because I am ready to step out of my comfort zone and try new things. As a Prefect, I would like to build a bridge between the people around me and Senior Leadership. So far, I have taken part in training, which has prepared me to become more responsible and nurture a more positive mindset.'

'I am **Iba Islam**. I wanted to become a Prefect because I wanted to help others and I want to play a positive role in improving our school community. I believe I was successful in being selected as I feel I was able to show my responsibility and confidence in supporting my peers in this role. I aim to encourage pupils to speak out and contribute to creating a fair and safe environment. Already, I have been able to support younger years and help them around the school.'

'My name is **Cailey Sicberras** and I am one of the many 25/26 Prefects. I originally wanted to be a prefect because it was a new opportunity to develop leadership & teamwork skills, but now I realise it's so much more. You are the student voice and representative for the young people of all ages in the school. As a Prefect, I would like to change the atmosphere of the school, I would like to create a safe hub for students of all ages and would be there for them in times of need.'

So far, I have taken part in training, which boosted my ability to work with the young people in the school. I've also been completing my break time duties in the year 8 playground.'

'My name is **Nasra Salah** and I am a Prefect. I wanted the role because I want to help people to change and to spread positivity. I took part in the training which was interesting and it was fun to be with my fellow Prefects.'

Student Council

The Student Council is a dedicated group of pupils who meet fortnightly to discuss ideas and work on projects that help improve school life for everyone.

If you're interested in getting involved or sharing your suggestions, the Council gathers every Monday of Week B at lunchtime in the library. It's a welcoming space where students collaborate, plan events, and make real changes within the school community.

This year, students applied for leadership roles such as Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and several supporting positions through a fully democratic process. Each candidate prepared and delivered a short speech outlining their ideas and strengths, giving their peers a clear sense of what they hoped to bring to the Council. After hearing from all the candidates, students cast their votes, ensuring that every role was chosen fairly and that our Council truly represents the voices of the school community.

Well done to the elected executive team:

- **Chair, Zahid Shohid Ullah** leads meetings
- **Deputy Chair, Tawsif Ahmed** helps Chair to lead meetings
- **Secretary, Zayd Islam** takes the

minutes (notes) during the meeting to make sure others who are absent know what is happening

- **Deputy Sec, Muaz Oore** helps the Sec
- **Time keeper, Saad Mozamel** keeps meetings running on time
- **Attendance officers, Keon Freeman and Amelia Ullah** come out of lessons to hand students slips around school to remind them of the meetings –
- **MAS Student officers x 6, Amelia Ullah, Miguel Da Silva Tripode, Zayd Islam, Danyal Khan, Yaqub Rahman and Sabira Islam** record names of students displaying the MAS values who are to be awarded house points –

A huge congratulations for your elections to these posts! The MAS student officers were a new addition to the Exec team last year and their role will be to record names of students who are meeting are displaying the six core attributes of the MAS student- respectful, reflective, curious, ambitious, communicative and resilient.

Students are reminded to speak to their Council representatives about issues they are having or suggestions they have for fun and new events to implement at MAS. You can identify them by their shiny red or purple Student Council badges. Please also feel free to come along to the meetings which happen every Monday Week B during lunch in the library.

Student News and Views

New Scientist Live Event 2025

A group of Y8 students recently enjoyed an exciting and inspiring rewards trip to New Scientist Live 2025, hosted at the ExCeL London centre in Poplar. They got to attend due to being top for house points in Science.

The event brought together some of the most innovative minds in science and technology, giving students the chance to explore a huge range of stages, exhibits, and hands-on activity zones at their own pace. Throughout the day, they visited interactive workshops, spoke with scientists, and took part in activities that deepened their understanding of everything from the inner workings of the human body to the latest discoveries in space and the ever-expanding universe.

The school was generously given tickets thanks to last year's

partnership with Queen Mary University London, who conducted research with our students and parents on the Free School Meals programme in Tower Hamlets. This research project is called the Food Improvement Goals in Schools II project, nicknamed FIGS II. As a result, the trip not only rewarded students for their hard work and engagement but also highlighted the meaningful impact their participation had on a Tower Hamlets' Council project.





Debate Mate

Students across the school have been enthusiastically taking part in Debate Mate, a charity-led programme designed to open the world of debating to young people from all backgrounds. Through weekly sessions, they've been developing key skills such as confidence, critical thinking, teamwork, and persuasive speaking. Debate Mate gives students the chance to engage with real issues, challenge ideas constructively, and build communication skills that will benefit them far beyond the classroom.

This year's Debate Mate program is in full swing with 15 students from KS3 and KS4 taking part in the Debate Mate Accelerate program every week. This involves working with a mentor who works with the Debate Mate charity to develop their communication and public-speaking skills through the medium of debate.

Our Debate Mate Accelerate team this year is made up of the following students: Louie Luxford 7B Maryam Ahmed 7B Hamid Muhammed 7B Muhammad Hoque (Keeyan) 8C Md Mikael Rahman 8C Abdurahman Hassan 8E Pedro De Sousa Reis 8A Mariam Kechairi 9G Ehsan Ashikul Islam (Ishak) 9C Rio Williams 9B Alim Hossain 9A Tiham Ahmed 10A Ihsan Hussain 10C. Well done to them for their current and ongoing engagement on the program. We cannot wait to see how their confidence blossoms across the course!

Marwa Anwar (Year 9) said of Debate Mate last year that: 'Debate Mate is a club which helps to develop our confidence skills through debating. Recently, a group of students took part in the Urban Debate League. Round 1 took place in person at a school in South London. We were given 2 debate topics and put into either Proposition or Opposition. Unfortunately for us, we lost the first debate but we managed to take the victory in the second debate by making out points score strong. Later, we found out that we were through to the second round, which was being held online. Once again, we won the first debate. In our second debate, we competed against students that weren't very professional which meant that we had to be even more professional. We lost this round which we were disappointed by. In spite of this, our experience has made us more resilient and we eagerly await our next competition!'

Our Debate Mate Club, every Monday after school, has transformed shy, reserved students into confident and eloquent speakers, many of whom will be attending the upcoming debate competitions in the new year. They have already had their first debate on the topic of whether, like Australia, the UK should consider a ban of social media for under 16 year-olds.

Debate Mate Club takes place every Monday in 302 3:30-4:30. Please speak to Ms Roebuck in the English Dept if you would be interested in taking part for the last few weeks of the program. Snacks always provided!

Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets

Bianca, Israel and Melissa from MAS have been campaigning long and hard for their spot as Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets. We feel very privileged to have secured 3 spots for our students, particularly as the competition is always so high. All our students have voted democratically on their preferred candidate during form time in the last week.



Prefects Training

On the 17th November, our new Prefects were completing their half-a-day-long training as part of their induction to their new roles. The training was delivered by The Life Skills Company and including learning about non-verbal communication and empathic resonance; verbal communication and directing other students as well as building upon the students' presentation skills. One Prefect said that they 'learned a lot of information on personality types which will help me be a better Prefect.' A very enthusiastic thank you to Ella for delivering the sessions.



Hindleap Warren Residential

Likewise, this year's edition of the Y7 Hindleap trip went down a treat as usual with mud and fun in equal measure! Ms Pitts, Mr Ahmed and Ms Roebuck took 30 lucky Y7s on a weekend-long residential with the students taking part in lots of outdoor activities (in spite of the rain).

A highlight was the nature walk which involved students, instructors and teachers alike plunging their way through streams and thick mud for over a mile of woodland. We were all told about the Drop Bear- a specific species of bear native to Kent, who, looking like the Koala Bear, enjoy

dropping on animals and humans beneath. A cute but treacherous looking animal indeed! In order to dissuade Drop Bears from landing on us, we had to imitate being stags with both sound effects and antler props to deter any nasty run-ins with these lesser-spotted creatures from Kent.

Students all enjoyed the catering at the outdoor centre, which included hot chocolate in the evenings and a wide selection of salads and hot meals each dinner time. Much needed fuel for our outdoor excursions and activities; for lots of the students, it was the first time that they had had a go at rock climbing, playing hide and seek in a woodland, ziplining round an elevated obstacle course, and a Jacob's ladder climbing activity.



“ I am part of the Science Society, which means that I take part in many science-related trips. For example, I am going to the Paradox Museum with other Society students and I am really looking forward to it”
Mohammed Aminul Islam Y8.

“ This term, I have been to UCL for a workshop about Shakespeare and the English Language. I enjoyed finding out about the older pronouns such as “thee,” “thou,” and “you”. The last one is ruder because it was more informal!”
Khadijah Ali Y8

“ I am a member of Trail Fam and this term we have been to Italy in Milan, which was very fun!”
Anonymous Trail Fam Member, Y8

“ I am part of the English Society and the trips are enjoyable. I have been to UCL, The Guardian HQ. This last trip was particularly fun because we got to write our own news article. I wrote mine about Gaza!”
Afra Ahsan, Y8.

The Crescendo of this Year's Global Girl Leading

Global Girl Leading is a leadership development program 'by girls, for girls', which was initially started by our sister school, Mulberry School for Girls, which pioneered this ongoing project. It was set up in 2016 following Michelle Obama's visit to the school.

In Autumn Term 1, the trust held its annual Global Girl Leading Conference, which took place at Girls' School. The day was hugely successful with speakers and students from around the world who came together to discuss and celebrate women's leadership at local, national and global levels. A group of girls from a school in Kenya were able to join in person for this and there was a group of students who had flown in all the way from Mexico to be there. In total, thirty schools had students who were participating! The small group of MAS girls were working tirelessly last year as part of the GGL's student steering group to decide what topics would be discussed and what speakers they wanted to see at the event. Well done to Aliyah Shekoni in Year 12 for being one of the main presenters!

Also in attendance was Tina Tchen, who is an American lawyer and a former official in the President Barack Obama Administration. Other speakers included Natalie Campbell MBE, Dr Joanna Abeyie, Baroness Nicky Morgan and Dr Fatima Rajina.



at the summit alongside an interpretive dance.

In the evening, several of the students in attendance at the day-long conference were invited (by written invitation!!!) by our MP to the Houses of Parliament for a drinks reception and networking event with many of the speakers from the conference as well as key figures across the trust including Dr Vanessa Ogden and Jane Farrell, who is the

Chair of the Trust Board. This felt like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for all involved. However, here's hoping that Mulberry Schools Trust's girls continue in the footsteps of their Mulberry alumni and become influential and national decision makers.

A huge thanks from all Mulberry girls for the successful planning and implementing of such an inspiring and meaningful event.



At the conference, many of the girls saw their own work published within this year's edition of the Letters to our Mothers book. This project had been running across last year; Mulberry commissioned Fin Kennedy and Applied Stories to create a series of videos and resources to help girls write 'letters' to their real or imagined mothers or to mothers around the world. This work then led into personalised workshops for participating schools in which students improved their letters. Over 240 letters were created as part of the project, with a large number being included in the published volume. A few students performed their letters live

Enrichment clubs at MAS

A reminder of the clubs students are able to partake in here at MAS. These are subject to change next year and there are bound to also be additional clubs and opportunities for our lucky school community! Watch this space!

Location	Name of Club	Day	Time
402/405	Animation club	Tuesdays	3.30-4.30pm
302	Debate Mate	Mondays	3.30-4.30pm
323	Ensembles Club	Thursday	3:30 - 4:30
Sports Hall	Football	Mondays	3.30-4.45pm
Sports Hall	Football	Tuesdays	3.30-4.45pm
Sports Hall	Football	Wednesdays	3.30-4.45pm
Sports Hall	Girls Football	Thursday	3.30-4.45pm
Gym	Gym Club	Friday	3.30-4.45pm
212	History Club	Tuesday	1.00-1.40pm
401/511	Introduction to Engineering	Mondays	3.30-5.00pm
401/511	Introduction to Engineering	Wednesdays	3.30-5.00pm
402	Mulberry Makers	Tues and Thurs	1:00-1.40pm
323	Music Club	Friday	3:30 - 4:30
MUGA	Netball	Mondays	3.30-4.45
416	UK CanSat	Wednesday	3:30-4:30pm
312	Where on Earth?	Tuesday	1:05 - 1:30
402	Workshop Wednesday	Wednesday	3.30-4.30pm
413	Science Club	Friday (Week A)	1.00-1.30pm
413	Science Club	Thursday (Week B)	1.00-1.30pm