

Principal: Ms Melissa Gibson, MA, MPhil

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Friday 5th December 2025

Dear Families,

It has been a wonderful week at the school. We began with Year 7 decorating the Christmas tree, bringing a fantastic festive spirit to our school. This was complemented beautifully by the Christmas display created by Ms Killimante, which has been admired by students and staff.

Well done also to Year 11, who have now completed their mock exams. They demonstrated great focus, maturity and resilience throughout the week.

Christmas Events at MAS

As we move into the festive season, we are delighted to share the upcoming events taking place at the school;

- Wednesday 10th December Winter Arts Showcase 3.45pm - 5.00pm
- Thursday 11th December Winter Fayre (school closure at 3pm) 4.00pm - 5.30pm
- Thursday 11th December Christmas Jumper Day*
- Wednesday 17th December Christmas lunch
- Friday 19th December Last Day of Term (Half Day)

**For Christmas Jumper Day, students may wish to wear a jumper that is of festive spirit and represents the winter Christmas theme. Alternatively, students can wear full school uniform if they prefer.*

Please attend the evening events and invite your friends and family to come along and celebrate with us.

Year 7 Dismissal after Christmas

Year 7 will be dismissed from school at 3.30pm from the start of next term.

Parking outside of the school

We kindly remind parents and carers not to park on the zig-zag lines at the front of the school. These areas must be kept clear to ensure the safety of our students as they cross the road. Thank you for helping us to keep our school community safe. Please turn your car engines off during pick up and drop off to consider our neighbours and air quality of the school.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Melissa Gibson
Principal

Part of the

Mulberry
Schools Trust



Year 7 on the Ski slope

A group of Year 7 students had their first ski session on Wednesday at Brentwood Park Ski & Snowboard Centre on Wednesday. They enjoyed learning new skills and all showed lots of courage and resilience, navigating the basics of skiing down the slope. They're looking forward to next week's session.



Year 10 Geography Fieldwork at Epping Forest

This week, our Year 10 geographers ventured into Epping Forest to carry out their GCSE fieldwork on 'How river characteristics change downstream along Loughton Brook.' Students followed the course of the brook through a range of woodland environments, stopping at several sites to collect primary data.

Working in small groups, they measured changes in channel width, depth, and river velocity. For many students, it was their first chance to apply key geographical skills outside the classroom, and they quickly discovered that rivers in real life are a little muddier, splashier and far less predictable than the diagrams in their textbooks!

Alongside the data collection, students also developed important teamwork



and problem-solving skills as they navigated slippery banks, negotiated who would go into the water first, and discussed how to ensure their measurements were both reliable and accurate. The day offered a valuable opportunity to see how physical processes shape a river from source to mouth, helping to bring to life the concepts they will later analyse in their GCSE exams.

We were incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, resilience and positive



attitude throughout the trip. A big well done to all our budding geographers for representing the school brilliantly.

Mulberry Academy Shore-ditch **Sastriera, Italy**

SKI TRIP 2026

11TH-17TH JANUARY 2026

A FEW PLACES REMAINING
Payment plans available

OPEN TO STUDENTS IN YEARS 7-10 AND YEAR 12
ARE YOU INTERESTED?
PLEASE SPEAK TO MS McHILL

THE COST INCLUDES

- Return ferry crossing
- Return executive coach travel
- 5 nights full board accommodation
- 4 days ski pass
- 4 days ski lessons (5 hours per day)
- Equipment hire including skis, ski boots and a helmet
- Activ4 representative
- Full evening activities including quiz, games and pizza night
- Full comprehensive insurance

COST £850
Pay in installments

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

The trip is organised by **activ4 school tours**

TRAILFAM Race Team Race Report

Our wonderful Race Team athletes rounded out their 2025 race season with a strong display at Maverick Race Dark Oxfordshire. 10 MAS athletes braved the dark, wind and rain to achieve some fantastic results! When all was said and done, TrailFam and Mulberry Academy Shoreditch students placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the 13km race and 5th in the 7km race. We also had all of our female athletes place in the top 20 Juniors, with 3 inside the top 10. Well done to everyone!



Young Mayor elections

Elections got underway this week for the Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets. Students voted online for their preferred candidate. Good luck to our three MAS students Bianca, Melissa and Israel who are all hoping to become the next Mayor!!



Inspiration and Opportunity

Last week, our Year 8 pupils took part in two inspiring experiences designed to broaden their horizons and spark their ambitions: a behind-the-scenes visit to the London Stock Exchange (LSE) and the launch of the IntoUniversity Buddy Programme at UCL East.



Both experiences offered Year 8 valuable insights into the world beyond school—from global finance to university life. We are proud of how engaged, curious, and enthusiastic our pupils were throughout both activities. We look forward to seeing how these opportunities help shape their aspirations and achievements in the months ahead.



Mulberry Academy Shoreditch

WORD OF THE WEEK

NUMERICAL PREFIXES

Meaning	Greek prefix	Latin prefix	Examples
1	Mono	Uni	Monotone, Unicorn
2	Di	Bi, Duo	Binoculars, Dioxide
3	Tri	Tri	Triangle, Tripod
4	Tetra	Quad (quart)	Quadrilateral, Tetrahedron
5	Pent	Quint	Pentagon, Quintet
6	Hex	Sext	Hexagon, Sextet
8	Octo	Octo	Octopus
10	Deca	Deci	Decade, Decimal
100		Cent	Century
1000	Kilo	Mille	Kilometre, Millennium
Half	Hemi	Semi	Hemisphere, Semicolon
Many	Poly	Multi	Polygon, Multiply



King's Trust Enterprise Challenge

Another brilliant group of Year 7 students took part in the King's Trust Enterprise Challenge this Tuesday. They impressed staff and mentors as they tackled an enterprise computer simulation game, making strategic decisions to run a virtual business.

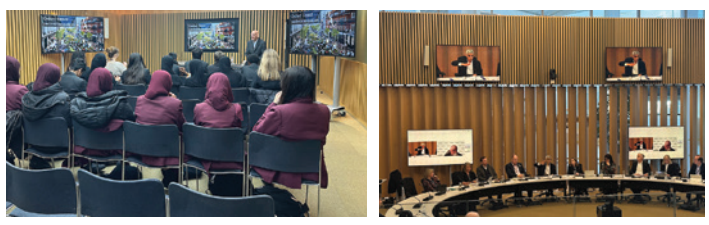
Students then worked in teams to create their own business ideas, developing plans and pitches that showed creativity and teamwork.

Well done to all the students for their enthusiasm and hard work!



Politics Society trip

On Wednesday, the Politics Society visited City Hall, the office of the London Mayor and the London Assembly. The students got to observe two meetings, one of which was chaired by Sir Sadiq Khan who gave our schools a shout out! Students were able to witness the workings of a transport committee as well as an inquiry into violence against women and girls on public transport. They were also able to ask representatives about the workings of the London Assembly itself and raise issues about what was important to them in London. It was a fantastic visit that was made better by the outstanding input of the Politics Society students. We are already looking forward to our next trip to SOAS University.



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD TO STAY SAFE ONLINE



Weekly info

Algorithms and what they show students

"The goal of most algorithms is attention, not accuracy."
Fact: Apps and websites are designed to keep users scrolling for as long as possible, often by promoting content that is shocking or emotional. This can expose students to conspiracy theories, extreme opinions, or inappropriate material because it gets more clicks.
What parents can do: Help your child understand that popularity doesn't mean reliability. Encourage "scroll breaks" and talk about how different apps make money from views and ads. Remind them to think, "Is this trying to inform me — or just get me to watch longer?". Go through your child's social media with them to check on what they are seeing. Ask their opinion on different posts.

If you have any concerns, please speak to your child's head of year or contact Lauren Gillott, E-Safety Lead (lgillott@mulberryschoolstrust.org)

MATHS PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

Did you manage to solve the maths problem this week?

Susan is attending a talk at her son's school. There are 8 rows of 10 chairs where 54 parents are sitting.
 Susan notices that every parent is either sitting on their own or next to just one other person.
 What is the largest possible number of adjacent empty chairs in a single row at that talk?

ANSWER:
4 chairs

For the number of adjacent empty chairs in a single row to be a maximum, all rows apart from that one must hold as many parents as possible.



In view of Susan's observation, the maximum number of parents sitting in any row is seven, as the upper diagram shows. Therefore, the maximum number of parents in seven of the eight rows is $7 \times 7 = 49$. The number in the remaining row is then $54 - 49 = 5$. In that case, and again in view of Susan's observation, the maximum number of adjacent empty chairs would be four as shown in the lower diagram.

UNAUTHORISED LEAVE

Unauthorised Leave (Term-Time Holidays)

- Term-time holidays cannot be authorised except in exceptional circumstances
- Travel abroad for family visits, holidays, or celebrations must be requested in advance
- If the request is not approved, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised
- Unauthorised leave may lead to:
 - Penalty fines
 - Attendance meetings
 - Further legal action if repeated

Please avoid booking holidays during school time.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES & CONSEQUENCES

Parents/carers must ensure regular school attendance.

Possible consequences of continued non-attendance:

- Penalty fines (£80-£160)
- Court action

(Support is always offered before legal steps are taken.)

WORKING TOGETHER

Mulberry Academy Shoreditch is committed to helping every child succeed.

We work with families to remove barriers to attendance.

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Mulberry
Academy Shoreditch

EVERY DAY MATTERS

School Attendance Guide for Families

- Strong attendance leads to strong achievement.
- Every day counts — every minute matters.



WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Regular school attendance helps your child:

- Keep up with learning
- Build confidence
- Prepare for long-term success

REPORTING & MONITORING ABSENCE

Reporting Absence

Report absence by 8:00am each day.

- ☎ 0207 920 7900 (Option 1)
- Call school on the first day and every day of absence
- Please leave a message on the answer phone

Monitoring

- Daily attendance checks
- Texts & calls and letters sent for unexplained absence
- Home visits if needed
- Patterns of absence reviewed
- If attendance drops further
- A meeting may be arranged to create an Attendance Support Plan.

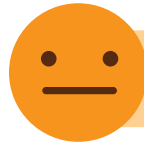
ATTENDANCE BANDS



Green 96–100%

Excellent attendance

- Strong progress
- Low absence
- Keep it up!



Amber 90–95%

Cause for concern

- Attendance dropping
- Monitoring begins
- Red — Below 90%
- Persistent Absence



Red Below 90%

Persistent Absence

- Significant concern
- Support plan likely
- Meetings may be arranged
- Attendance is checked daily

ILLNESS, APPOINTMENTS & PUNCTUALITY

Illness

- Children can attend with minor colds or mild symptoms
- Call the school if unsure

Appointments

- Book outside school hours where possible
- Medical evidence may be required
- Children should return promptly after appointments

Punctuality

- All students must start promptly at 8:35am
- Arriving after this time is recorded as late
- Late arrival disrupts learning for all
- Repeated lateness will be monitored and addressed

Detentions for Lateness

- Students who arrive late will receive a detention
- The detention may take place on the same day or after school.
- Persistent lateness may lead to further pastoral or attendance interventions



10 minutes late each day = 6 lost school days per year.