

Principal: Ms Melissa Gibson, MA, MPhil

Friday 12th December 2025

Dear Families,

It has been an incredibly busy and exciting week at the school, filled with a wide range of trips, events and enrichment opportunities for our students. From rewards trips and museum visits to outings to the National Theatre, university visits, football matches, and the annual Model UN conference at Mulberry School for Girls, there has been so much for our young people to experience and enjoy.

On Wednesday, we were proud to host the Winter Arts Showcase, bringing together wonderful performances and exhibitions from our Music, Art and Drama students. We were truly blown away by the talent on display, and it was lovely to see so many parents.

Thursday was festive jumper day and the day ended with our annual Winter Fayre, which was our best yet. The school was full of Christmas spirit, and it was fantastic to see so many families and students enjoying the activities and spending time together. A huge thank you to our amazing House Team for all the hard work that went into organising such a wonderful event.

As we come to the end of another exciting week, I would like to thank all staff for their continued dedication and enthusiasm. Their efforts in providing such rich experiences through trips, events and everyday learning make our school a fantastic place for our students.

Last Day of Term

The last day of term is Friday 19th December. It will be a half day and all students will be dismissed by 12pm.

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



WINTER FAYRE



On Thursday we enjoyed the annual House team's Winter Fayre. It was a really festive and lovely event and we were so happy to see so many families here to enjoy the activities, the food and drinks, the raffle and entertainment. All the money raised will go to local charities. A big thank you to the House team, all the students and staff, to all who donated prizes and everyone who helped to make the event so fantastic.



WINTER WONDERLAND



Mulberry Academy Sharncliffe

WORD OF THE WEEK

Wow!

Evaluate

verb

DEFINITION
to judge how good, useful or successful something is and have an opinion on it.

EXAMPLE
1. You should be able to evaluate your own work.
2. We need to evaluate the success of this event.
3. It was difficult to evaluate which source was the most reliable and factually correct given that the sources were Facebook and Twitter!

SYNONYMS
Assess
Appraise
Judge

ANTONYMS
Ignore
Neglect
disregard

CHARACTERISTICS
French verb 'évaluer' = to evaluate or assess.
Notice the root within the word is from 'value'.

Year 12 enrichment highlights

Year 12 students took part in two exciting opportunities this term. A group visited the Royal London Dental Hospital for an Insight Day, where they explored modern dental careers, met professionals, and toured the hospital's impressive clinical facilities.



Students also joined a workshop run by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) on AI-generated scams, working in teams to create ideas that help young people stay safe online.

We're proud to announce that two groups from the workshop have won a place in the National Careers Challenge Final in Leeds. Congratulations to all involved, and good luck to our finalists!



Model United Nations conference

On Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th December, 28 of our Year 12 students proudly represented us at the Model United Nations conference at Mulberry School for Girls, the topic focus was on 'AI, Justice, and the Path to Global Sustainability'. Throughout the two day event, they demonstrated exceptional commitment, confidence, and professionalism while debating global issues alongside students from other schools. We would like to congratulate all participants for their outstanding involvement and for showcasing the integrity, curiosity, and leadership that define our Sixth Form. Well done to every delegate who took part!



We have been so impressed by our Y12 A Level Computer Science students this year! They are onto learning LMC Assembly Code, using the Gillott Learning platform. Students have learned to solve complex problems using just 10 commands. Well done Y12!

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD TO Stay safe online



Weekly info

Misinformation and Fake News

"False information spreads faster than the truth."
Fact: Research shows fake news spreads faster than factual stories because it's often more dramatic or emotional. A viral post about a "new school rule" or "celebrity scandal" might be completely false but still shared thousands of times before anyone checks it.
What parents can do: Encourage children to ask: Who posted this? Can I find it on a trusted site like the BBC or Sky News? Model this behaviour by fact-checking together. Explain that even friends can accidentally share misinformation.

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?

Harriet has a square piece of paper. She folds it in half to form a rectangle and then in half again to form a second rectangle (which is not a square). The perimeter of the second rectangle is 30 cm. What is the area of the original square?

ANSWER: 144 cm²

Let the side-length of Harriet's square be $4x$ cm. Then, the rectangle obtained when the square is folded in half measures $4x$ cm by $2x$ cm. When that rectangle is folded in half, it gives a rectangle which is not a square so this rectangle measures $4x$ cm by x cm. The perimeter of the smaller rectangle is $2(4x + x)$ cm = $10x$ cm. Therefore, since the perimeter of the smaller rectangle is given as 30 cm, we have $x = 3$. Hence the side-length of Harriet's square is 12 cm and its area is 144 cm².