

Principal: Ms Melissa Gibson, MA, MPhil

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Families,

We have had a busy and exciting week with a range of trips taking place across different year groups. Sports Society students enjoyed an engaging visit to the F1 Arcade, where they explored creativity, digital design and interactive technology. In addition, Sixth Form students visited Goldsmiths University, gaining valuable insight into Higher Education.

Year 11 students attended Sixth Form Options Assemblies throughout the week to give them the opportunity to explore the range of subjects available to study next year. The assemblies provided important information about course content, entry requirements, pathways into further education and careers, and what to expect from Sixth Form study. This was an important step in supporting students to plan their next stage of education with confidence and clarity.

On Tuesday, the school hosted an external Sixth Form Open Evening, welcoming prospective students and their families into the school. The evening provided an excellent opportunity for students to ask questions, tour the facilities, and experience the supportive learning environment on offer. We are currently taking applications into our Sixth Form for next year. MAS Sixth Form is increasingly becoming the first choice for students and families across the borough and beyond.

### **Year 13 Academic Parents' Evening**

We look forward to meeting Year 13 Parents/Carers at 3.45pm on Tuesday 3rd February 2026.

### **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



## Executive Principal and Principal's News

THE  
**MAS**  
WAY



### Sixth Form Open Evening

Tuesday's Sixth Form Open Evening was really well attended and it was great to meet students from lots of different schools. Thank you to the Sixth Form team of organising the event.

### MAS x Bexhill visit the Royal Opera House

On Wednesday students from MAS and Bexhill Academy enjoyed an amazing performance of La Traviata at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden.



### Bench ball competition

Well done to Tate House, winners of the House bench ball competition on Thursday. Thank you to the House team and the Sixth Form students who helped to make it such an exciting event.



### MPAA new cohort

On Friday, the new cohort of Mulberry Production Arts Academy students started their journey at the National Theatre.

Congratulations to Year 9 and Year 12 students on their successful application, interview and enrollment.

**Mrs Ruth Holden,**  
Executive Principal

**Ms Melissa Gibson,**  
Principal

## Sixth Form News

Well done to all students who took part in a wide range of enrichment and careers activities on Tuesday. We were delighted to welcome BNP Paribas onsite, delivering information about their apprenticeship programmes, alongside our long-standing partner BIBA, who led an excellent speed-networking and work-experience session focused on careers in insurance. In addition, the Royal Literary Fund worked with Year 13 Social Science students to strengthen their essay-writing skills, while our Year 13 vocational students continued to benefit from the weekly Diana Programme. A huge well done to everyone involved for their engagement and professionalism! Congratulations to our student leaders for delivering an outstanding Open Evening. The event was extremely popular, with over 150 attendees, and the site was buzzing with prospective students and families throughout the evening. Our student leaders represented the Sixth Form brilliantly!

Well done also to the student leaders



who supported the House Benchball competition on Thursday. Their organisation, enthusiasm and support helped ensure the event ran smoothly and was enjoyed by all who took part. Enrichment activities were back this week, with a wide and varied programme running both on and off site. It has been great to see so many students getting involved and making the most of the opportunities available.

Finally, well done to our Year 13 students who have now completed

their mock examinations. This marks an important milestone as they move into the final phase of preparation for the summer exams.

## THE SCHOOL OF TOMORROW

The school of tomorrow starts today

# FREE

## AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING

FOR YEARS 9, 10 & 11

### WHAT IS IT?

A student-led academic support programme helping students strengthen understanding, build confidence, and improve GCSE results — completely free.

### HOW TO APPLY

- Forms given out during form time
- Choose your subject(s) and how often you can attend

### WHY APPLY?

- Improve grades
- Build confidence
- Personalised support
- Stronger exam technique
- No cost, no pressure, no judgement

Run by Sixth Form students

### Weekly Timetable

Monday	Science	3:30-4:30
Tuesday	English	3:30-4:30
Thursday	Maths	3:30-4:30

**ENQUIRIES** • MAS20MM9571@mulberryschoolstrust.org  
MAS20SO585@mulberryschoolstrust.org



# TRAILFAM in Cornwall

Last weekend, members of the TrailFam race team embarked on a brilliant trip to Cornwall for the Arc of Attrition by UTMB ultramarathon. The team supported 50 mile and 100 mile runners running the race in very difficult conditions and represented the school fantastically. They also did their own fair share of trail running throughout the weekend. On Sunday, our very own Mr Ahmed competed in the 24km race, securing a top 40 place in a very competitive field!

Well done to all involved and thank you to Mr Ahmed and Miss Rangrej for their support



## Exploring careers with Year 12

**This week has been a busy week for Year 12s thinking about their future career paths. They have had opportunities to learn about a range of roles and employers.**

There was an assembly with the British Insurance Brokers' Association (BIBA) about careers in insurance in the main hall and an assembly in the library with, leading French bank, BNP Paribas to talk about careers in banking and finance.



Twelve BTEC business students have started an 8-week mentoring programme delivered by undergraduates at City St George's, University of London, Bayes Business School.

Their mentoring and coaching helps to provide students with resilience, adaptability, empathy and a deeper understanding of the close integration between business and society

The aim is to help students make good decisions in their own working lives to become successful and responsible business leaders.



## SOAS students on Politics

Thank you to SOAS Student Ambassadors who came into school on Friday to talk to the Politics Society. They discussed different world political systems and the concept and role of the main parties in UK politics – helping students to connect politics to daily life. The session was really interesting, helping Year 9 students to use critical thinking and develop their political literacy.



International Studies and Politics Society with SOAS University of London



# Global Girl Leading tour in India

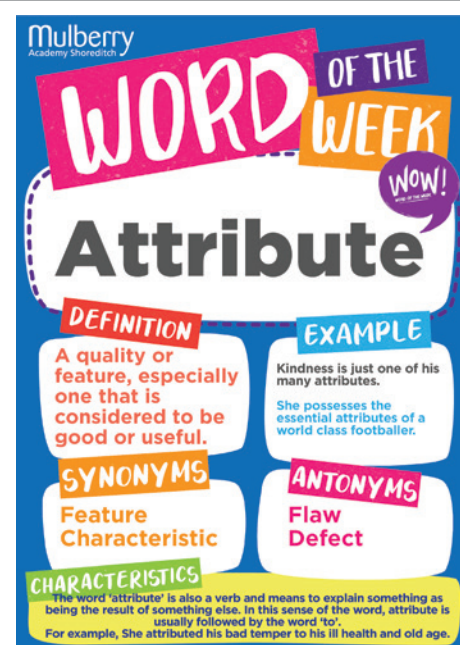
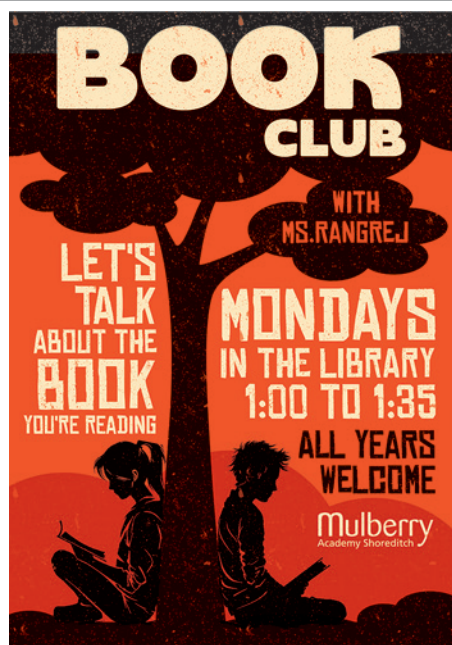
We are extremely proud of Year 12 students Jessica and Zofia, who have recently returned from the Global Girl Leading International Study Tour to India, taking part in Anjali International Friendship Week (AIFW) 2026. Alongside nearly 200 students from 20 countries, they were warmly welcomed by the St Mark's Group of Schools and immersed in a week of cultural exchange, leadership and global learning. Highlights included exploring the Sustainable Development Goals, visiting historically significant sites such as the homes of Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi, the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and the Lotus Temples.

They also participated the Global Youth Summit where they engaged in activist art. Jessica and Zofia returned with new perspectives, meaningful international friendships, and a renewed sense of purpose as global young leaders.



## HOUSE BENCH BALL

Over forty students participated in House Bench ball competition with fantastic teamwork and energy throughout. The final saw Globe House face off against Tate House in a closely fought match. After an exciting game, Tate House emerged as the overall winners—well done to all who competed!





# Art from observation

Ms Ephgrave's Thursday Year 11 class used oil pastels to draw still life compositions. Learning to draw from observation will support their GCSE exam project as they develop their ideas and work around the theme 'Found'.



# MAS University Challenge

Faizah Ahmed, Year 10

Hello, I am faizah (year 10) and I went to the MAS university challenge 2026 where we competed against intelligent sixth formers in a series of trivia questions. It was both exhilarating and daunting as both teams were very competitive. At first, I didn't want to go however I dragged my best friend Sara along. We got to meet new people from both younger and older year groups and at the end, we concluded that we enjoyed it; not just because we won but because of the great time spent. In addition, the teachers were very friendly and enthusiastic.

It was very close and the sixth formers were worthy opponents but the lower school won by just 10 points! Overall, the MAS university challenge was so fun, it could be considered one of the best house events this academic year. In the future, it would be cool to see even more people attending house events.

**Reimagining 2026**  
An exhibition of visual arts created by students and teachers from THAT Network schools in Tower Hamlets

**Private View**  
Thursday 5th February 2026, 4-7pm  
The Art Pavilion  
Mile End Park, Clinton Road, London, E3 4QY

<https://thatnetworklondon.wordpress.com>  
[thatnetworklondon@gmail.com](mailto:thatnetworklondon@gmail.com)

**the Art Pavilion**

The exhibition is open to the public on the following days:  
Tue 3 Feb - Wed 11 Feb, 11am-6pm  
Thu 12 Feb, 11am-4pm

**Participating Schools**  
St Paul's Way School, Central Foundation Girls' School, Mulberry Stepney Green, Langdon Park School, George Green's School, Mulberry School for Girls, Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, Morpeth School, Bow School, London East Alternative Provision, Stepney All Saints School, Swanlea School, Bishop Challoner Catholic School, Oaklands School, Mulberry Academy London Dock

## MATHS PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

Did you manage to solve the maths problem this week?

Using only pieces like the one shown in the diagram, Zara wants to make a complete square without gaps or overlaps. What is the smallest number of pieces she can use?



ANSWER: 20

Since the total area of a square created with  $N$  of the pieces shown will be  $5N$ , we need  $5N$  to be a square number. Therefore  $N$  is of the form  $5m^2$  for some integer  $m$  and, of the options given, only 5 and 20 are of that form.

Consider first whether it is possible to create a square with 5 pieces. Such a square would be a  $5 \times 5$  square and, as shown in the diagrams below, it is then only possible to cover the central cell in one of two ways (rotations and reflections of the arrangements shown being essentially the same).



Whichever of these two arrangements is used to cover the central cell, it is easy to see that the remaining cells cannot be covered with four more of the pieces and hence it is impossible to build a square with 5 of the pieces shown.

However, since two of the pieces can be placed next to each other to form a  $5 \times 2$  rectangle as shown,



and 10 of these rectangles can easily be combined to create a  $10 \times 10$  square, a square can be built using 20 pieces.

**SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD TO STAY SAFE ONLINE**

**The law applies online too**

Many young people are unaware that UK law applies to online behaviour, including what is sent, shared or forwarded in group chats.

- Remind your child that sharing or forwarding abusive, threatening or inappropriate content can have legal consequences.
- Young people can be held responsible not just for sending messages, but also for forwarding, liking or sharing them.
- The safest choice is always to stop content spreading by not engaging with it at all.

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

**Asthma Pumps** If your child has asthma, please make sure they bring their Asthma pumps to school daily. School also need a spare Asthma pump as well.

**Medication for Care Plans** Please can you make sure that your child's medication is brought into school if you have received a text requiring this.