

Principal: Ms Melissa Gibson, MA, MPhil

Friday 24th April 2026

Dear Parent/Carers,

I would like to congratulate our GCSE Art and Drama students as they undertook their real examinations this week. Both groups of students demonstrated outstanding concentration, creativity and resilience as they produced final pieces that reflected months of preparation, experimentation and skill development. Students approached the examinations with maturity and determination, and we are extremely proud of them.

Alongside this, Year 10 students continued their work experience placements throughout the week and into next week. We have already had brilliant reports back already from work placements with students showing confidence, independence and professionalism while gaining first-hand insight into a range of career pathways and workplace environments.

Students also had the opportunity to attend the Mulberry School for Girls Youth Conference 2026. This inspiring event allowed students to engage with important social issues, develop leadership skills and hear from a range of speakers and young leaders.

Vaccines

Year 8 HPV Vaccine will be taking place on Monday 27th April.

Staff Inset Day

Monday 29th June 2026 is a staff inset day and the school will therefore be closed to pupils.

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



TrailFam volunteers

Well done to the TrailFam/MAS volunteers that helped out at the Ultra X Spring Trail supporting the runners who were trail running in the South Downs National Park last weekend.

Work Experience

The first group of Year 10 students have been on their work experience this week and have learned a lot, using their skills to do their best work in a range of different settings.



Primary School PE

We're always pleased to welcome local primary schools here at MAS, and this week students from Christchurch Primary enjoyed



learning to play tag rugby with Ms Bal! Thank you to Ms Pitts for organising these sessions.

Year 11 interviews

Over the coming week Year 11 students will be having interviews for Sixth Form places here at MAS. We're looking forward to hearing about their aspirations and the subjects they want to study in Sixth Form, and discussing all the options open to them.

Mrs Ruth Holden
Executive Principal
Ms Melissa Gibson,
Principal

Sixth Form News

Well done on another productive week across Sixth Form. It's been great to see the continued focus and effort from students as we move closer to the final stretch. The first written exam takes place on Wednesday 29th April, and from that point onwards, the exam season begins in full. This is a crucial period, and how students use their time now will make a real difference. It is essential that revision remains consistent, structured, and purposeful. Students should be aiming to revise little and often, rather than relying on last-minute cramming.

Students should continue to use the VESPA framework to guide their preparation:

Vision: Stay focused on your goals. Whether it's university offers, apprenticeships, or personal targets, keep these in mind to maintain motivation.

Effort: Make revision a daily habit. Small, regular sessions are far more effective than irregular long ones.

Systems: This is the most important focus now. Students should: Create and follow a clear revision timetable. Use active revision techniques (flashcards, blurring, practice questions). Regularly test themselves under timed conditions. Identify weaker areas and revisit them consistently

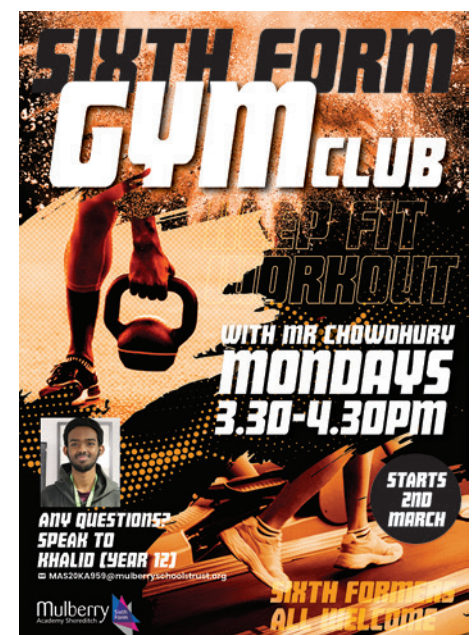
Practice: Complete past papers wherever possible. This builds exam technique and confidence.

Attitude: Stay positive and resilient. Exams can feel intense, but a calm and focused mindset will support performance.

Practical Revision Tips

- Prioritise subjects and topics that need the most improvement
- Use mark schemes to understand what examiners are looking for
- Work in focused blocks (e.g. 25-50 minutes) with short breaks
- Avoid passive revision such as simply reading notes
- Make use of teacher support and attend all remaining lessons fully prepared

This is an important and demanding period, but students are well-prepared and capable. Keep going, stay disciplined, and make every session count.



Cooking Spaghetti

Year 10s Made Spaghetti Bolognese and Garlic bread in Hospitality. Well done to Chef Nicholas who has been improving weekly, awarded with Chef of the lesson and a personal apron.



A winning Envision team

Congratulations to the winners of the Envision London finals 2026! These Year 12 students have worked with Envision over 18 weeks to design, develop, and deliver their social action project, School of Tomorrow – providing after-school tutoring sessions to Years 9, 10 and 11. There were six other schools in the final and the judges decided their project was the best and most sustainable of all the entries. They represented our school really well and made a positive impact on the learning of our younger students – we're super proud of their achievement!



Congratulations to all of our students who took part in the Bebras Coding Competition! They were selected for the competition after placing in the top 10% nationally in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. A particular shout out to these students for placing in the top of the country for their age groups, again in a much more challenging competition!

Ryu Nitta Tucker (Y9) placed in the 93rd percentile, Jaineel Patel (Y7) placed in the 91st percentile, Amana Khan (Y7) placed in the 78th percentile and Ben O'Berry (Y9) placed in the 77th percentile.

Windrush workshop

On the 17th of April, Year 7 and Year 8 expert readers attended the 'Windrush Workshop' at the British Library, run by Ms. Debbie. They explored literature, diaries and other archives related to the Windrush Generation. Students were really engaged and interested, and learned a lot about the racism suffered and the struggles of that time. They also had fun exploring the library (and the gift shop too).



Year 10 Work Experience

This week, Year 10 students have enjoyed their work experience placements. By spending time in a range of professional environments, students have gained insight into different careers, workplace expectations, and the practical application of skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. They have also developed a sense of responsibility and time management, all of which contribute to their overall personal and academic development. Here's some feedback from two of the placement providers:



Zinc Media said the students they had "were absolutely brilliant. Everyone here was so impressed with them; they were polite, engaged, and carried themselves incredibly well throughout the week. They asked thoughtful questions and really got stuck in with everything, which made it a pleasure to have them with us.

They were a fantastic reflection of the school, and you should all be really proud of them."

Laudale Primary School said Adem was one of the best work experience students they have ever had.



'Opposing Injustice: Amplifying All Voices' Youth Conference

On Tuesday 21st April, nine of our Year 12 students attended the Opposing Injustice: Amplifying All Voices Youth Conference, hosted by Mulberry School for Girls.

Throughout the day, students heard from a range of inspirational speakers and took part in thought-provoking workshops designed to encourage open dialogue, empathy and activism.

The conference provided a valuable platform for young people to reflect on global issues, explore shared values and consider how they can contribute to a more peaceful and just world.

The event highlighted the power of youth voices in shaping a better future and we are incredibly proud of our students for representing our school with maturity, empathy and insight.



Mulberry Academy Shore ditch

HOUSE EVENTS

SUMMER TERM

MAY

Wednesday 6th
Lunch Time Film

Thursday 7th
Badminton

Thursday 14th
House Awards Night

Help your House get the most points to win the coveted House Cup!

Speak to the House Team or a student House Leader for more information. **COME and join in... TIME to HAVE FUN!**

Mulberry Academy Shore ditch

WORD OF THE WEEK

Wow!

Controversy

Noun

DEFINITION
An argument about something that involves many people and continues for a period of time.

EXAMPLE
The Prime Minister resigned last week after months of controversy.
The referee made a controversial decision to disallow what looked like a perfectly good goal.

SYNONYMS
Disagreement. Dispute. Argument.

ANTONYMS
Agreement. Concurrence. Harmony.

CHARACTERISTICS
From the Latin words 'contro or contra' which mean against and 'versus' which means to turn. The adjective is 'controversial'.

Did you know? You can buy a calculator here in school

GCSE calculator £6

A Level calculator £20

Mulberry Academy Shore ditch Please pay on ParentPay or see Finance to buy one.

Financial literacy



Year 9 set two maths went to the London Stadium for the Intuit for Education Financial Literacy Forum, designed to help students build essential money management and entrepreneurship skills for the future. They took part in workshops and live panel discussions about financial literacy and were also give a tour of the stadium.

Houses of Parliament trip

On Tuesday a group of Year 9 students went on a trip to the Houses of Parliament as part of a 5-week project they have done with St Hilda's East. Students gave fantastic speeches, met MPs and had a tour. A primary school student who went along with them commented that the Year 9s made him feel really welcome. Overall the project has helped students develop new skills and build their confidence.



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. It is important that school have up to date medication.

Year 8 HPV Vaccine 2024-2025

Will take place in school on the following dates:
1st Date: Monday 27th April 2026 9am
2nd Date: Monday 11th May 2026 9am

MATHS PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

Did you manage to solve the maths problem this week?

Three boxes under my stairs contain apples or pears or both. Each box contains the same number of pieces of fruit. The first box contains all twelve of the apples and one-ninth of the pears.

How many pieces of fruit are there in each box?

ANSWER: 16 pieces of fruit

Let p be the total number of pears. Then $12 + \frac{p}{9} = \frac{1}{2}(p - \frac{p}{9}) = \frac{4p}{9}$. So $12 = \frac{3p}{9} = \frac{p}{3}$. Therefore $p = 3 \times 12 = 36$. So the number of pieces of fruit in each box is $\frac{12 + \frac{36}{9}}{3} = 16$.



Messages or posts can be shared beyond their intended audience, leading to misunderstandings or conflict. For example, a comment meant as "banter" in a group chat can be taken seriously or shown to others.

Group chat behaviour can quickly become visible to others, including staff.

What parents can do: Talk regularly about respectful communication online and how tone can be misinterpreted.

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