

# connect

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

## A message from the CEO



Welcome to my first edition of *Connect* as CEO of the Mulberry Schools Trust.

As I reflect on my first term in this role, I have

been inspired by the warmth of our communities, the dedication of our colleagues and the ambition and kindness shown by our young people. This edition offers a wonderful snapshot of all that makes our Trust so special, highlighting the many ways our schools help and support children and young people to flourish.

As usual, there is much to celebrate. This term, we welcomed Mulberry Academy Bexhill into our Trust family, further strengthening our East Sussex Hub and creating new opportunities for students and colleagues to learn and grow together.

Throughout this issue, you will read about national awards, exceptional student achievements, inspiring partnerships and enriching experiences beyond the classroom. These stories remind us that education is about opening doors, nurturing talent and helping every child discover what is possible.

I hope you enjoy this term's *Connect* and join me in celebrating all that our Trust community has achieved. Thank you to our students, staff, families, trustees, governors and partners for your continued commitment and support, and I wish everyone a restful and well-deserved summer break.

Alice Ward  
CEO

## Welcome to Mulberry Academy Bexhill

Friday 1st May marked another exciting new chapter for the Mulberry Schools Trust as Bexhill Academy officially joined us, and became Mulberry Academy Bexhill.

The school is the sixth from East Sussex to join the Trust, strengthening our growing family of schools across the county and London and reaffirming our commitment to delivering exceptional education and opportunities for every young person in the communities we serve.

Since joining the Trust, colleagues have been building strong partnerships, sharing expertise and beginning the next stage of the school's journey. Students, staff and families have already benefited from opportunities to connect with the wider Trust community through student events and curriculum collaboration, leadership programmes and professional development.

We are delighted to welcome the entire Mulberry Academy Bexhill community to the Trust family and look forward to working together to ensure every student thrives, succeeds and fulfils their potential for many years to come.



Continued on page 2

# Building the Mulberry East Sussex Hub

The addition of Mulberry Academy Bexhill completes an important stage in the development of the Mulberry East Sussex Hub, bringing together three secondary schools and three primary schools across Hastings, St Leonards and Bexhill.

Although each school has its own unique character and serves its local community, they are united by a shared commitment to educational excellence, inclusion and opportunity. By working together, schools are able to share ideas, learn from one another and build on the strengths that already exist across the region.

Throughout the term, colleagues have begun developing strong professional relationships, laying the foundations for long-term collaboration that will benefit students, staff and families alike.



## Expanding opportunities for students

Joining the Mulberry Schools Trust also opens the door to an even wider range of opportunities for students.

Young people across the East Sussex Hub are beginning to participate in Trust-wide leadership programmes, STEM initiatives, creative arts projects, sporting events and enrichment activities alongside students from schools across London and East Sussex. These experiences enable students to develop new skills, broaden their horizons, build confidence and create lasting friendships beyond their own school community.

Alongside these opportunities, the Trust's and schools' extensive partnerships with universities, employers, charities and cultural organisations continue to provide inspiring experiences that help students explore future pathways and realise their ambitions.



## High-octane work experience

Our Year 12 Mulberry STEM Academy students spent an immersive week of work experience at the Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS Formula One Team factory.

Students began with a full induction from the HR and health and safety teams, before being welcomed as part of the wider Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS Formula One Team community. They were fitted with their official uniforms and took part in a team-building challenge, designing and building their own LEGO cars. Students enjoyed seeing the team's impressive collection of trophies, medals and Formula One cars up close during guided tours of the facilities.

Students gained first-hand insight into the world of Formula One, rotating around various specialist departments including Aerodynamics, Machine Shop, Test & Development, IT, and Materials & Composites.



## Shining on Greenpower race day

Students from across the Trust also enjoyed a successful race day at the Greenpower event at Ford Dunton in Basildon.

Following six Saturday sessions with Mr Bakhtiar, Year 5 children from Mulberry Canon Barnett Primary had the chance to drive the vehicles they'd built in a Goblin Car competition. Supported by 35 parents, carers and children from the school community, the team competed in both sprint and obstacle races and were delighted to receive the Best Team Award.

The event also marked the first appearance of a Year 9 F24 team from Mulberry Academy Shoreditch. Despite mechanical issues, the students showed remarkable determination and resilience to earn the prestigious Spirit of Greenpower Award. Another Mulberry Academy Shoreditch team also enjoyed success, winning one of their heats.

Congratulations to all the students, staff and families involved in a fantastic day of engineering, teamwork and achievement.



## On track for success

Our students enjoyed much success at the STEM on Track final in June.

Teams from Mulberry Academy Hastings finished 18th, 36th and 70th out of 90 teams (see [page 10](#) for more details), impressing sponsors as much as the STEM Academy community:

**"I am so impressed with what you have achieved with the resources you've had at your disposal. 2027 - with significantly more track time and experience - will be very interesting."**

**Paul, JT Embroidery**

Several student families made the three-hour trek to the track to witness and share the impact this has had on the whole school's community.

We'd particularly like to thank Joe Saubolle who leads this work, and volunteers Antony Tyson, Holly Levett, Heather Atkinson, Aline Jarvis and Charlotte Dengate - true stars with their support for our students.

## International women drivers inspire our girls

Girls from Mulberry Academy Shoreditch and Mulberry Academy Woodside enjoyed an inspiring International Women in Engineering Day event at Oxford Brookes University, where they met leading female racing drivers Marta García and Vanina Ickx.

They also spent time with representatives from our partners the Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS Formula One Team, while exploring engineering careers learning about electric racing technology, and many left feeling motivated to pursue future opportunities in STEM and motorsport.



## Looking forward to the Fringe

In August 2026, Mulberry Schools Trust returns to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe with two original productions.

*One House on Brick Lane* brings East London's past vividly to life by filling a single building with voices from across time. Set in 1985, against the backdrop of a Bangladeshi family facing eviction during a time of rising racial tensions and protests, the play weaves together stories of migration, resistance and community.

*O Brave New World, that has such people in't!* follows Maya, a young girl left alone in an unfamiliar house. Retreating into a garage filled with forgotten objects, she conjures stories with her cat for company, until



relentless rain floods her town. As imagination gives way to reality, Maya is pushed to reconnect with others and find her place within a wider community.



## Spilling blood and guts for special effects

On Wednesday 21st May, Mulberry Creative Technicians students took part in a 'blood and guts' special effects workshop, led by renowned industry specialists, Rc-Annie.

Students explored how to create realistic injuries and incidents for live performance, using fake blood, blood bags and blood capsules. Rc-Annie specialises in stage combat, mock violence and special effects for stage and screen, and regularly works with Shakespeare's Globe, the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre.

## Trips for our technicians

Mulberry Creative Technicians students explored live performance technology and careers with two events this term.

ABBA Voyage showed how lighting, sound, automation, motion capture and visual effects combine in a digital concert production, and students were surprised by guest appearances from original ABBA members Björn Ulvaeus and Anni-Frid Lyngstad after the show.

A visit to the ABTT Theatre Show introduced them to emerging technologies, while they networked with industry professionals and engaged in workshops and seminars, including a Royal Ballet and Opera workshop on styling Afro hair for theatre.



## Drama clubs on tour

On Wednesday 10th June, Year 7 and 8 Drama Club students from Mulberry School for Girls travelled to East Sussex to perform for Year 5 and 6 students.

They presented *The Snow Queen* and a devised adventure piece, both exploring friendship and kindness. The audiences responded enthusiastically and the visit strengthened links between Trust schools through sharing creative experiences and collaboration.

## An Italian conclusion

The final Global Girl Leading residential visit of the academic year was to Amandola in Italy, bringing together students from across the Trust for a week of leadership, cultural exchange and personal development.

Through interactive workshops, creative activities and outdoor learning, students explored what it means to lead with empathy, resilience and purpose. They considered the work of women leaders and young activists, created personal leadership zines, developed campaign ideas and presented solutions to issues affecting their own communities.

Alongside the leadership programme, students immersed themselves in Italian culture by preparing traditional meals, exploring the medieval towns of Amandola and Sarnano, and hiking the spectacular *Via delle Cascate Perdute* (Lost Waterfalls Trail) in the Sibillini Mountains. Sharing responsibility for cooking, meal planning and community living helped students develop teamwork skills, independence and confidence.

This fitting conclusion to the year equipped students with the skills, confidence and inspiration to become the next generation of Global Girl Leaders.



## Global Girl Leaders amplify their voices

During the summer term, girls from across the Trust took part in Amnesty International UK's Use Your Voice programme through a series of Global Girl Leading seminars.

Working alongside Amnesty's Youth Team, students explored gender equality, human rights and campaigning before developing plans for student-led educational workshops designed to tackle sexism and create safer, more inclusive school communities.

The programme culminated at Amnesty International UK's Amplify Summit in Brighton, where 15 Global Girl Leaders from across the Trust joined young activists from around the country for a day of youth-led workshops, discussions and leadership activities. The experience enabled students to further develop their campaigning, advocacy and leadership skills while strengthening their plans to create positive change within their schools and local communities.



## Global partnerships in action

This term, Global Girl Leaders welcomed a delegation from Nigeria, including students from Alimosho Grammar School and Government Secondary School Jiwa.



Building on collaborations through last year's GGL Summit and the *For Our Mothers* poetry project, students came together to celebrate global sisterhood, girls' education and youth leadership. Hosted by GGL Ambassadors, the delegation visited Mulberry Academy London Dock, where they enjoyed a Mathemagician performance, before visiting Mulberry School for Girls. There, students from Alimosho Grammar School presented their award-winning period poverty campaign to Year 8 students.

The delegation also enjoyed meeting members of staff with Nigerian heritage, making meaningful cultural connections and celebrating the strong links between our school communities.

## Gathering funds to gather together

Following the success of last year's campaign, schools across the Trust launched a new appeal to raise funds to support students from Lenana Girls High School, Kenya, to attend the Global Girl Leading Summit this October.

Throughout the summer term, students and staff led a range of fundraising activities to help cover accommodation costs, ensuring another group of young women could participate in this international leadership experience. A huge thank you to everyone for their generosity, creativity and commitment.



6

## Celebrating five years of perfect attendance

On Monday 6th July, nine students from across the Mulberry Schools Trust were recognised for an exceptional achievement – maintaining 100% attendance throughout their entire secondary school education.

To celebrate their dedication and commitment, the students were invited on a special trip to central London with a family member, for a ride on the London Eye and a boat cruise along the River Thames. The students represented our schools across London and East Sussex and had demonstrated the kind of habits, resilience and determination that help young people thrive.

Congratulations to all nine students on a truly remarkable achievement and a well-deserved celebratory day out.



## Silverstone VIPs for a day

On Friday 3rd July, two outstanding students from Mulberry Schools Trust enjoyed a once-in-a-lifetime VIP visit to the British Grand Prix at Silverstone, thanks to our partnership with Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd.



The visit included an exclusive tour of the garage and circuit, as well as the opportunity to meet James Allison, Technical Director and Toto Wolff, Team Principal. It was an inspiring experience, giving two exceptional Mulberry STEM Academy students a unique insight into the world of Formula One and the exciting STEM careers that make it possible.

## A term spent listening, learning and celebrating success

During a busy first term as the new CEO of the Mulberry Schools Trust, Alice Ward visited our schools across London and East Sussex, meeting students, staff, parents and carers, governors, trustees and partners to see first-hand the exceptional work taking place every day.

From celebrating our students' achievements and leadership to witnessing inspiring teaching, creativity and community partnerships, these visits clearly demonstrated everyone's commitment to providing outstanding opportunities for every young person across our family of schools. These early experiences of our community also showed Alice how important it is for us all to listen, learn and work together, recognising the dedication of colleagues whose passion and expertise continue to help Mulberry children thrive wherever they study.



## Leading primary education together

On Thursday 11th June, colleagues from across Mulberry Schools Trust primary schools came together for the first-ever Mulberry Primary Leadership Conference.

It was a fantastic opportunity to reflect, learn and share practice with thought-provoking contributions from Dr Andrew Curran, who explored the neuroscience behind learning and the conditions that help children thrive.

Colleagues also heard from our CEO, Alice Ward, and our Executive Director of Primary Education, Mary Collins, who shared their vision for the future of primary education across the Trust and how we can continue to maximise opportunities for every child.

The conference marked an important milestone for primary education across the Trust, strengthening collaboration and creating new opportunities to share expertise and best practice.

# Our secondary schools



**We run nine secondary schools  
in London and East Sussex:**

**Mulberry Academy Bexhill**

**Mulberry Academy Hastings**

**Mulberry Academy London Dock**

**Mulberry Academy Shoreditch**

**Mulberry Academy St Leonards**

**Mulberry Academy Woodside**

**Mulberry School for Girls**

**Mulberry Stepney Green Maths, Computing  
and Science College**

**Mulberry UTC**

Each school has its own stories to tell – the following section celebrates some of the most memorable from our secondary schools this term.

## Student leaders gather for first Trust-wide conference

On 3rd June, students from Mulberry Academy Bexhill joined peers from across the Trust at the De La Warr Pavilion for the first Mulberry Schools Trust Student Leadership Conference in East Sussex.

The day focused on one question: what does leadership actually look like? Students took part in workshops, heard from speakers and compared notes with young people from other Mulberry schools. For many, it was their first time in a room full of students from outside their own school community. The conversation was genuine and the questions were good ones.

That kind of exchange is harder to achieve than it sounds – and finding that someone from a different school is wrestling with the same questions you are is something that stays with you.

Our students came prepared, contributed throughout and left with even more to think about. For a first Trust-wide conference, the standard was high. We will be back next year.



## Checkmate as teams defend county title

Mulberry Academy Bexhill entered the Butler Cup County Chess Finals with two teams this term. It was the first time we had fielded two sides and we were the only state school in the competition.

The A team topped Division 2 on 10 points, with team captain Andy N turning down the offer of a draw in the deciding match, then winning it anyway. The B team, competing in Division 4 for the first time, came home runners-up. It was a strong debut on both fronts. Chess Club runs after school every Monday and Wednesday.




## More than 200 join the weekly Mulberry park run

The Mulberry Park Run launched this term: 20 minutes every Friday morning at 8 am and open to all.

By its second week, 207 students had joined in and the numbers have kept growing. As an incentive that few seem to need, students who complete five park runs will earn a special Mulberry Academy Bexhill Park Run T-shirt.

## Marine Biology Club gets to grips with the squid

Marine Biology Club got hands-on with squid in some memorable sessions this term.

Students dissected real specimens and worked through the anatomy in detail: the beak, mantle, arms and tentacles and the organs that take the oxygen they need from the water.

They also studied squid behaviour and how these animals survive and adapt in the wild.



## Teams on track for national finals

Our STEM on Track teams have busy and successful term. We recently hosted a launch evening for sponsors, families and our local MP, celebrating the hard work of our students and building excitement for the big race day.

After a three-hour journey to the Whilton Mill Karting Circuit with their families, students proudly donned their new race suits, the karts were unloaded and the mechanics got to work.

Everyone was delighted with the performances, with teams finishing 6th, 11th and 18th in our group. These results reflect the teamwork and determination of our students, and the invaluable support of our sponsors.



There was plenty to enjoy beyond the racing, including a careers tent showcasing STEM opportunities, the chance to see a real Formula 1 car, a bouncy castle obstacle course, and lots of food stalls.

As one student perfectly summed up: **"80% of success is showing up, 20% is pure adrenaline, let's race!"**

## Thanking and celebrating our staff

National Thank a Teacher Day on 17th June offered an ideal opportunity to celebrate our staff.

We shared messages of thanks from our community and presented certificates and trophies to celebrate recent achievements.



Winning recognition beyond the school community, seven staff members received Bronze Awards at the Pearson National Teaching Awards, while Mr Saubolle won the Silver Award for Outstanding New Teacher of the Year, one of only five in the country.

We also enjoyed success at the Tes School Awards, where Mr Money and Mrs Rome were nominated for Subject Lead of the Year, alongside six other categories, and our school came away with a trophy for Pupil Mental Health Initiative of the Year 2026. Fantastic news all round.

## Silver screen success at international festival

Following workshops with local arts education charity the Bright Foundation, a group of Year 9 students collaborated with professional film industry experts to create a short film, *In Search of a Star: a Cinderella-meets-Britain's Got Talent* story starring Year 9 students Peyton and Kevin.

The high standard of the project won well-deserved recognition at the Children's International Film Festival – both actors were nominated for Performance of the Year and the film was shortlisted for Bright Film of the Year at an awards ceremony at the White Rock Theatre. We are incredibly proud of our students' creativity,

dedication and the outstanding film they produced.



## Stitching stories into the Hastings Tapestry

Anticipating the Bayeux Tapestry's imminent arrival in Britain, Year 10 students have been exploring local history and traditions with artist Paula Ogun Hector. Their research will help inspire a new Hastings Tapestry, to be displayed at Hastings Museum and Gallery. Students have visited local landmarks and created beautiful mini tapestries celebrating local stories and legends.



## Creating lamps of belonging

Year 8 students are collaborating with global architecture and design firm, Gensler, on an exciting lamp design project.

Students were given a brief to design and create a lamp inspired by the theme of 'Belonging', encouraging them to reflect on identity, community and personal connection.

Gensler designers have been joining Art, Design and Technology lessons to share their professional creative practice, offer feedback and help students develop and refine their ideas. To further spark their imagination, Year 8 also visited Gensler's offices, getting a feel of a professional design studio in action.

Students are now bringing their concepts to life in inventive ways; some are having their first experience using the laser cutter to cut out and engrave shapes in wood and acrylic, others are sculpting with clay, and some are constructing with cardboard, experimenting with three-dimensional structures and exploring how light moves through and around different materials and shapes.

This hands-on experience is building real-world design skills, resilience and creative confidence, showing students how to move from an idea to a finished functional object. The project will culminate in a celebratory exhibition, with final lamp designs displayed both at Gensler and within the school.



## National recognition for powerful storytelling

We are delighted that two students, Asya in Year 7 and Kamila in Year 8, have been named finalists in the National Literacy Trust's Soundtrack Your Story competition, with their work published in a national anthology.



Asya's piece, *When the Colours Came Back*, reflects the emotional journey of joining a new school, inspired by her own experience. Kamila's autobiographical poem, *Fireworks That Lied*, powerfully explores themes of conflict and resilience. Both students should be incredibly proud of their creativity and achievement on a national stage.

## Maths masterminds enjoy outstanding success

This term, students achieved excellent results in the Junior UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Challenge, demonstrating strong mathematical ability across the cohort.

Zac in Year 8 and Yacine in Year 7 were both awarded Gold certificates for their outstanding performance. In addition, 28 students received Silver awards and 30 students achieved Bronze, reflecting the depth of talent across the school.

Zac has gone on to qualify for the prestigious Junior Mathematical Olympiad, placing them among the top 1,200 young mathematicians nationally. Yacine has also progressed, earning a place in the follow-on Kangaroo round.

These achievements highlight both dedication and enthusiasm for mathematics, and we are incredibly proud of all students who took part.



## Honouring Attenborough's living legacy

We enjoyed celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday, where students marked Earth Day through a special 'empathy session' in our pastoral programme.



Each form group received sweetpea plants, grown by the gardening club. Students also entered the Attenborough's Legacy competition, producing creative work from podcasts and documentaries to sculptures and installations, including a 3D model, clay sculpture and crocheted plant.



A whole-school 'Pledge to Planet Earth' is now on display in Reception, while staff shared how Attenborough has inspired their own global explorations.

## Celebrating NFL Flag team success

Huge congratulations to the girls' NFL Flag team, who finished 8th in the sport's regional tournament on Thursday 21st May, competing against the top 15 schools in the U15 Girls' category.

One of the newest teams in the sport, the girls proved they could compete at the highest level, winning their opening game 14-0 and reaching the quarter-finals, with a top-four finish firmly in their sights for next year.

Scarlett and Siata were voted MVP (most valuable player) by opponents in every game. Scarlett also made an impressive interception and ran the length of the pitch to score. Nicoletta and Hadiyah led brilliantly as captains, keeping the team motivated throughout

the day, with several referees also praising Hadiyah's leadership.

Suraiya impressed in her first competitive tournament with some excellent defensive plays, while Zulaika made strong runs and created space for teammates. Marwa played the most minutes across both offence and defence, and Aaliya recovered well from early setbacks to make a valuable impact in attack.



## Societies stunned in Strawberry Hill

The English and Arts Society enjoyed an inspiring visit to Strawberry Hill House on Monday 8th June, where students explored the fascinating world of Gothic literature and learned more about the life and work of Horace Walpole.

The group had a fantastic time touring the stunning building, discovering its unique history and architectural features. Students also took part in a creative workshop, designing their own Gothic comic strips inspired by what they had learned. It was an engaging and enjoyable experience that brought literature, history and creativity together in a memorable way.



## School community comes together for Eid

On Thursday 11th June, our Year 12 student leaders organised an Eid celebration, enjoyed by more than 30 students and staff.

The event brought the school community together and featured a fun and engaging Kahoot quiz, colourful decorations and an impressive selection of food. Students took great pride in serving the food, helping to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere for everyone. The celebration was a great success, showcasing the leadership, teamwork and organisation of our Year 12 students. A huge well done to all involved for making the event so memorable.



## Adventuring in Wales

On Monday 1st June, a group of adventurous Year 7 students enjoyed an unforgettable week at Plas y Brenin Outdoor Centre in Wales.

Taking part in hiking, caving and climbing, they demonstrated outstanding courage, resilience and teamwork throughout the trip. By embracing new challenges and stepping outside their comfort zones, the students made lasting memories and achieved so much. We are incredibly proud of their positive attitude and determination.



## Building hopes, broadening horizons

On Friday 19th June, Mulberry Academy St Leonards hosted its largest ever Careers and Community Event, welcoming more than 1,200 young people from across Hastings and the surrounding area.

More than 200 primary students joined 1,000 secondary students to explore future opportunities and engage with more than 50 exhibitors from across East Sussex. We were joined by local businesses, further education providers, charities, public services and national companies such as Asda and PureGym. Students gained valuable insight into careers, apprenticeships, higher education, volunteering and workplace skills. Exhibitors praised students for their enthusiasm, exemplary behaviour and thoughtful questions, with one provider saying they were “blown away by the aspirational questions” being asked.

The event also welcomed Hastings and Rye MP Helena Dollimore, who met students and exhibitors and praised the ambition and engagement on display.

The Careers and Community Event reflects Mulberry Academy St Leonards' commitment to raising aspirations, broadening horizons and building strong partnerships that help young people prepare for successful futures.



## With thanks for everything during exams

This exam season has been a tremendous success for our Year 11 students, who achieved the highest exam attendance we've ever seen.

Their commitment and determination have been outstanding, supported by staff who worked tirelessly throughout the examination period to ensure every student could perform at their best.

Students really appreciated the support, with one Year 11 student even designing and printing 120 personalised



mugs for staff as a heartfelt thank you for the guidance and encouragement she received during her time at the school.

A special thank you goes to our Cove Team, Exams Team and Year 11 Team for their unwavering support throughout the exam season.

## Medical Society in very good health

Our Medical Society, which launched in the spring has continued to go from strength to strength throughout the summer term.



The society has quickly established itself as a respected and purposeful programme, attracting highly motivated students with aspirations for careers in medicine and healthcare.

Members have benefited from a wide range of opportunities, including educational trips,

professional visits, guest speakers and hands-on experiences that have provided valuable insight into the medical profession.

The society is building a strong community of like-minded students who are passionate about succeeding in medicine, supporting one another while developing the skills, knowledge and confidence needed for their future careers.

## Getting a taste for change

During this term, we were delighted to welcome Year 5 students from our feeder primary schools to our Transition Masterclasses. These exciting sessions give students an early taste of secondary school life, helping them feel confident and inspired about the next stage of their education. Children could choose from a variety of subjects, including DT, PE, Food, Art and Drama, exploring new interests and all the enriching opportunities available at our school.



## Getting the taste for democracy

During the local elections, students at Mulberry Academy Woodside took part in a whole-school election, giving them the opportunity to experience the democratic process first-hand.

In the lead-up to the vote, students created and filmed short videos explaining the main political parties and their manifestos. These were shared during assemblies to help inform voters before polling day.

On the day itself, members of the Student Council took on key roles, including checking registers, guiding students, tallying votes and helping to run polling stations across the school. The experience gave students a realistic insight into how elections work and the importance of making informed decisions.

The event was particularly relevant given ongoing discussions around extending voting rights to 16-year-olds. It also encouraged students to think about democracy, representation and civic participation.

After all votes were counted, the Green Party received the most support from students, winning the election with 389 votes.



## iViva Barcelona!

A group of students from Business Studies and Spanish enjoyed an unforgettable four-day visit to Barcelona, packed with culture, history and new experiences.

Highlights included visits to Sagrada Família, FC Barcelona's Camp Nou stadium, La Barceloneta beach, the Gothic Quarter, Boqueria Market and Montjuïc. Students also took part in a tapas tour and experienced a traditional Flamenco performance.

Throughout, students embraced every opportunity to learn about Spanish culture while creating lasting memories with friends. Staff praised the group for their excellent behaviour, positive attitude and maturity, making them outstanding ambassadors for the school.



## First Give finalists build charitable support

Year 9 students took part in this year's First Give Final, a programme that helps young people support charities while developing leadership, teamwork and public speaking skills.

Over recent weeks, each form selected a charity, carried out social action and prepared a presentation explaining why their cause deserved support.

After an afternoon of presentations, 9Q was declared the winner, securing a £1,000 donation for FareShare and The Felix Project.

The programme gave students a valuable opportunity to build confidence, raise awareness of important issues and see how their actions can make a positive difference in the community.



## Graduating brilliantly

A group of our students recently graduated from the Brilliant Club programme at Imperial College London.

The programme gives students a taste of university-style learning through tutorials with expert tutors and an extended final assignment.

The graduation marked the culmination of months of research, independent study and academic challenge, while also giving students the opportunity to experience life at a leading university.



## All the fun of the Culture Fair

While Mulberry School for Girls proudly and regularly celebrates the richness and diversity of our community, Culture Week offers a particularly special opportunity for students and staff to come together to appreciate cultures from around the world.

This year's theme combined global cultures with the excitement of the World Cup, with each form class representing a different country.

Throughout the week students took part in a range of activities, with Culture Fair as the highlight. Each form hosted a stall showcasing their assigned country through food, quizzes, languages, history, celebrations and famous figures. The event not only promoted cultural understanding and community spirit but also raised funds to support Lenana School in Nairobi, Kenya.

Culture Week was a wonderful celebration of culture, unity and global citizenship, demonstrating the positive impact we can make when we come together as a community.



## Being dramatic in East Sussex

On Wednesday 10th June, Year 7 and Year 8 Drama Club students from Mulberry School for Girls performed for Year 5 and Year 6 students from the three primary schools in East Sussex that have recently joined the Trust.



Students from Mulberry Baird Primary also attended shows at Mulberry West St Leonards Primary and Mulberry Silverdale Primary.

Year 7 students presented a retelling of *The Snow Queen* they'd been rehearsing since

September, while Year 8 students performed a devised piece about an outward bound trip. The primary students responded enthusiastically to both explorations of friendship and kindness, and the visit helped strengthen creative links between schools across the Trust.

## Fitting and fashionable finale for Year 11

A select group of Year 11 students from Mulberry School for Girls were rewarded for their hard work and dedication with the opportunity to choose a prom dress from fashion house Khanum's in preparation for graduation day.

Khanum's is a British-Bangladeshi luxury womenswear brand founded by designer Rokeya Khanum.

The experience was truly special, with students selecting outfits that made them feel confident, empowered and ready to celebrate their achievements.



We look forward to seeing them shine in their chosen looks as they mark the end of an important chapter and take their next steps with pride and excitement.

We are incredibly grateful to Khanum's and Rokeya for their generosity and support in helping make this milestone even more memorable for everyone.

## Days of endeavour for Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Year 10 students from Mulberry School for Girls successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition at Gilwell Park in Chingford.

Over three days, students demonstrated resilience, teamwork and independence as they pitched their tents, prepared their own meals and embraced the challenges of outdoor living. The expedition was a great success, and we are delighted that all students successfully passed this section of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

## Greenpowered success

On Sunday 7th June, students from Mulberry Stepney Green Maths, Computing and Science College celebrated an excellent performance at the second Greenpower race meeting of the season.

Competing against schools from across the region, the Greenpower teams showed determination, resilience and teamwork throughout a demanding day of racing. Despite several mechanical and technical challenges, students remained focused, worked together to solve problems and represented the school with pride. Their efforts produced impressive results.

The Year 10 F24 team achieved an outstanding 8th place finish, becoming the first Year 10 team



in the school's history to secure a top 10 placing in a Greenpower race. The Year 12 F24+ team also performed superbly, finishing 2nd and qualifying for the Greenpower International Finals at Goodwood Motor Circuit in October. The Year 10 team will now compete in a final qualifying race in East Anglia in September, as they continue their push for a place at the International Finals.

We are incredibly proud of all the students and staff involved. Their commitment, perseverance and enthusiasm for STEM have once again highlighted the talent, ambition and dedication in our school community.

## Flipping out in Canary Wharf

A group of 14 Year 7 students recently enjoyed a Jack Petchey Rewards Trip to Flip Out Canary Wharf, selected by winner Fatima Binte Hassan (7H) in recognition of their excellent behaviour, effort and positive attitude throughout the term.

Students explored the indoor playground and enjoyed activities including roller skating, Laser Quest, soft play and Drift Trikes. The trip celebrated Fatima's achievement while helping students build friendships, mutual respect and teamwork skills through sharing a joyful afternoon together.



## Robo-preparation for STEM success

Year 10 students enjoyed a hands-on robotics session, learning to program a robot and complete a range of challenges in preparation for their STEM competition.



Working in small groups, teams tackled a specific task, applying computational thinking skills to analyse problems, break them into manageable steps and develop programmed solutions. Students also created presentations to showcase their work, explaining their approach and reflecting on how they overcame the challenges they faced. A huge thank you to Mr Zaqwan Choudhury for all his time and support.

## Placemakers' patient professionalism reaps rewards

On 1st June, our Year 10 Placemakers excelled as Sports Leaders at Halley Primary School's Sports Day.

Working with Reception and Key Stage 1 students, they demonstrated enthusiasm, patience and leadership.

They went on to support activities at Mile End Stadium with professionalism and energy, receiving hard-earned and well-deserved excellent feedback from staff, parents and the headteacher.



## Alastair Campbell brings insight and inspiration to Mulberry UTC

We were delighted to host Alastair Campbell for an insightful and inspiring visit for a Trust-wide audience – a rare opportunity for students to engage with one of the UK's most recognised political commentators and communicators.

Mr Campbell shared his invaluable knowledge and experience on political engagement, encouraging our young people to take an active interest in public affairs and the issues that shape society. He also offered his perspective on current global events, prompting thoughtful discussion and reflection among attendees.

A particular highlight was the interactive Q&A session, during which students asked a wide range of questions and benefited from Mr Campbell's candid and informed responses. Many were also excited to hear about his experiences as co-host of the popular podcast, *The Rest is Politics*, gaining an insight into the world of political journalism and public debate.

The richly rewarding visit left students with new perspectives, greater confidence to engage with important issues, and a deeper understanding of leadership and communication.



## Connecting with *The Animals*

As part of our enriching partnership, Mulberry UTC proudly participated in National Theatre Connections with *The Animals*, written by Sean Buckley.

This powerful and emotional piece provided students with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the world of professional theatre, while developing the skills and confidence needed to bring the story to life.

Through rehearsals, workshops and performances, the programme allowed our young performers to challenge themselves and grow their passion for the arts. Their dedication and enthusiasm have been evident throughout the process, making this a rewarding and memorable experience for everyone involved.



## Health trip to helipad

Mulberry UTC's T Level Health students celebrated the successful completion of their industry placements with a visit to London's Air Ambulance helipad. The experience provided a fascinating opportunity to learn more about emergency healthcare services, with students even witnessing a helicopter launch in response to a real emergency call. It was a memorable and inspiring way to see healthcare in action.



## Getting creative with Pinewood Studios

Mulberry UTC Creative Industries students had the rich and rewarding opportunity to participate in a residential experience with the Creative Media Skills Institute at Pinewood Studios, where they developed valuable skills and connections with the film and television industry.

Day two was a particular highlight, focusing on the art of makeup and giving students the opportunity to learn professional techniques used across film and media productions.

From understanding how character looks are designed to exploring the practical skills behind special effects, students enjoyed learning first-hand from industry-leading professionals. This residential experience provided a truly exciting and inspirational behind-the-scenes look at careers within the creative sector.



# Our primary schools



**We run five primary schools  
in London and East Sussex:**

**Mulberry Baird Primary**

**Mulberry Canon Barnett Primary**

**Mulberry Silverdale Primary**

**Mulberry West St Leonards Primary**

**Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary**

Each school has its own stories to tell – the following section celebrates some of the most memorable from our primary schools this term.

## Celebrating our free fruit and veg scheme

We were delighted to welcome JB Gill from JLS and CBeebies' *Down on the Farm* and *The Sun* newspaper into Mulberry Baird Primary this month as part of *The Sun's* Thank a Teacher campaign. JB visited our school because we are proudly part of Tesco's Free Fruit & Veg for Schools programme, for which he also serves as an ambassador.

JB and the children had a fantastic time making and enjoying colourful fruit kebabs together. The room was full of excitement as the students carefully threaded grapes, strawberries, melon and pineapple onto their skewers.

Children loved getting involved in hands-on tasting activities, exploring new fruits and vegetables, and talking about healthy choices. Our children were so proud to show JB their creations before devouring them in record time!

This partnership with Tesco is something we value enormously, and we are incredibly proud of the hard work our staff put in every day to bring meaningful benefits to our children and their wellbeing.



## Celebrating children's books

Our Year 5 Moorhens were invited to the Children's Book Celebration Awards in Uckfield.

This joyful celebration of books and reading culminated in the announcement of the winner of the awards. The event served as a well-earned reward for all the children who have participated and we were all delighted to meet popular children's authors, Penny Boxall and Lindsay Galvin.

## Eco-Bees on retreat with rescued animals

Our Eco-Bees were thrilled to visit the Retreat Animal Rescue, home to more than 1,200 animals, often rescued from dangerous environments and human exploitation.



We connected with nature and participated in an engaging workshop, where children made seed bombs, found out phenomenal facts about animals and what we can do to protect and preserve our environment. We have equipped our Eco-Bees with resources to enhance engagement with nature at playtimes. We are creating a nature pledge, which we look forward to sharing in a future issue of *Connect*.

## Getting artistic with hag stones in Hastings

Our Year 2 Kingfishers have taken part in a special art project at Amici Studio in Hastings.

They began by learning about hag stones and went beachcombing to find two special stones to create

different patterns. Children enjoyed exploring an interactive sound sculpture, listening carefully to the different sounds created when hag stones were moved along piano wire. Children placed their stones onto a large sheet of photosensitive paper, to create an image that will slowly emerge when it's exposed to light.

The finished artwork was available to view at Amici Studios earlier in July.



## Weekly Stay and Play for all

This Summer term saw the successful launch of Mulberry Mini Explorers, our new Stay and Play provision for children aged 0-4 years and their families.

Held every Monday morning in our Community Room, the sessions provide a welcoming environment where families can play, learn and connect while becoming part of the wider Mulberry Canon Barnett Primary community. We were delighted to welcome both familiar and new faces from across the local area to our opening sessions. Through a range of engaging activities, including creative play, storytelling and opportunities for social interaction, children have enjoyed enriching early learning experiences while

parents and carers have built valuable connections amongst themselves.

The programme reflects our commitment to strengthening relationships with local families and creating meaningful opportunities for community engagement. It has been wonderful to see participants forming new friendships, sharing experiences and growing in confidence through regular attendance. Mulberry Mini Explorers is already proving to be a valuable addition to our community offer, and we look forward to welcoming many more families through our doors in the months ahead.



## Young voices, lasting impact

Student leadership has continued to flourish, with children demonstrating the power of meaningful participation in school improvement.

Feedback from our recent My Voice Matters survey revealed that students feel safe in school and shared ideas for making the toilets feel even more welcoming. In response, our School Council worked alongside Mr Mohamad, our Premises Manager, to develop plans for improvements, including selecting colour schemes, creating displays and choosing features such as fun-shaped mirrors and our 3Rs values posters. Meanwhile, our Play Makers collaborated on the design of a new Kindness Bench in the playground, suggesting sections to represent different emotions and a buddy system to ensure children always have someone to talk to.

Together, these projects showcase student voice in action, strengthening ownership, collaboration and pride across our school community. Our Eco Warriors and Play Makers look forward to bringing these plans to life in the coming weeks.



## Eco Warriors go wild for nature

Our Eco Warriors embarked on their very first environmental leadership visit this term, taking part in the inspiring Growing Wild for Nature programme in Ashford.

The experience immersed children in the natural world through storytelling, collaborative challenges and hands-on exploration, encouraging them to become true champions for nature.

The visit provided a powerful opportunity to deepen understanding of biodiversity, conservation and the positive impact that small actions can have on the environment. Children returned full of enthusiasm, having made their own Nature Pledges and strengthened their commitment to creating a greener future. As ambassadors for sustainability, they represented Mulberry Canon Barnett Primary with pride, curiosity and a strong passion for protecting our world.



## STEM adventures for Cohort 2

Our Mulberry STEM Academy Cohort 2 embraced an exciting engineering challenge this term through participating in the Greenpower programme.

Working alongside Mr Talha from Mulberry School for Girls and Ms Shuma, the children spent their Saturday mornings designing and building their own Goblin Car in preparation for the upcoming Greenpower race event later this term.

The project has provided an exceptional opportunity to develop teamwork, problem-solving and engineering skills through hands-on learning. We are incredibly proud of the commitment shown by our young engineers and look forward to cheering them on as they put their creation to the test next month.



## Hopkins Cup glory

The Year 5 and 6 girls' team competed against 15 others in this major annual schools football tournament in Hastings, displaying outstanding teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the event.

Their hard work earned them an excellent second-place finish, narrowly losing 1-0 to Mulberry West St Leonards Primary in the final. The girls never stopped battling for one another and represented the school with pride.

In the afternoon, the boys faced a challenging group, quickly dubbed 'The Group of Death'. After opening with a 1-0 win over Church Wood and a narrow defeat to Catsfield, they responded brilliantly, remaining unbeaten in their remaining group games. Finishing second in the group, they defeated tournament favourites St Mary's Star of the Sea 2-0 in the quarter-final, before edging past Westfield 1-0 in the semi-final. The final against Mulberry Baird Primary was tense and closely contested, but a goal scored directly from a corner secured a 1-0 victory, crowning Mulberry Silverdale Primary Year 5/6 Hopkins Cup champions.



## County Cricket championships contenders

A team of six students proudly represented Hastings as Mulberry Silverdale Primary at a special cricket tournament held at the 1st Central County Cricket Ground in Hove, to celebrate the Women's T20 World Cup.

In glorious sunshine, the team won four of their five matches, including a thrilling one-run victory against a strong West Park team. The final was a closely contested rematch, with West Park narrowly coming out on top. A special mention goes to Bella for showing great determination after an injury, and to the whole team for their outstanding teamwork and sportsmanship.



## Supersized cereal domino rally

Our Cereal Knockdown challenge was a huge success, with students and families generously donating cereal packets, which were carefully arranged into an impressive domino display before being spectacularly toppled.

This joyful event highlighted the power of our school community working together for a good cause. Thanks to everyone's kindness and support, we collected an incredible 136.6 kg of cereal, which has been donated to the local food bank. This fantastic achievement will help support families in need, and we are extremely proud of the generosity shown by everyone involved.

## All the fun of the pharaoh!

Year 5 enjoyed an exciting Egyptian Day packed with hands-on learning and fun activities. Children explored the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt, discovering the lives of pharaohs, gods and mummies.

They created Egyptian-inspired artwork, learned about hieroglyphics and took part in engaging workshops. The day brought history to life and helped deepen their understanding of this remarkable civilisation.



## Inspiring the next generation of scholars

Earlier this year, several students expressed their aspirations to attend university and their curiosity about what that might entail. In keeping with our ethos, Mr O'Regan contacted Oxford University and arranged a full day of activities giving them a chance to experience life at one of the world's foremost academic institutions.

Thirty students – all recipients of the Principal's Prize recognising their exemplary contributions to our school – departed early in the morning for what would be their first visit to a university. For a global academic leader to devote the time and consideration required to host a primary school from Sussex is remarkable, and it gave our children a rare and distinctive opportunity. The chance to handle artefacts from ancient civilisations within the world's oldest museum proved, for many, to be a profoundly transformative experience.



## Celebrating our homeland's heritage

Our students have been given an extraordinary opportunity by the British Museum and Baroness Twycross to be part of a once-in-a-lifetime celebration of our nation's rich cultural history as the Bayeux Tapestry returns home after nearly a thousand years.

A moment like this reminds us how powerful our shared culture is and how lucky we are to help celebrate it with our community.

## Honouring a remarkable young volunteer

We are bursting with pride for Emily, yet another exceptional student from our school.

As the only child under 18 in the country who volunteers to look after local Commonwealth war graves – which she does with her father – she's been recognised as an honorary volunteer by the War Graves commission and awarded a special Commonwealth War Graves Commission badge in honour of her extraordinary contribution.



## When I grow up ...

We are passionate about nurturing ambition, curiosity and personal growth in every one of our students.

Our annual 'When I Grow Up' careers day is a powerful reflection of this commitment; opening doors, broadening horizons and helping our children imagine their future possibilities.





## A year of reading success

At Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary, this has truly been our Year of Reading, with a wide range of exciting initiatives designed to inspire a lifelong love of books.

This term, every class has visited the newly renovated Idea Store in Canary Wharf, giving students the opportunity to explore a vibrant, modern library space and discover new authors and genres. We have also proudly launched a weekly volunteer reading programme in partnership with Canary Wharf Group. Their employees visit the school to read with our Year 2 and 3 children, helping to build confidence, fluency and a deeper enjoyment of storytelling.

Year 3 students were fortunate to attend a Spine Festival workshop, where they explored poetry and showcased their imagination and skills by creating their own books. Our community book drive has also been hugely successful – we have received generous donations of new and pre-loved books, helping us prepare for the grand opening of our school library in the autumn term.

## Year 3's £5 challenge

Year 3 students at Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary have embraced their Make £5 Grow project with enthusiasm and creativity.

After carefully planning their business ideas, students presented their pitches to secure their initial £5 investment. They have since demonstrated impressive entrepreneurial skills by organising a range of initiatives, including a mini market, a pin and hair bobble stall, and a popular cookie stand.

Through teamwork, resilience and innovation, students have successfully raised funds, which will be shared between charitable donations and supporting their end-of-year trip, making the project both meaningful and rewarding.



## Learning comes to life

As part of our PSHE curriculum, the whole school has been exploring the Jigsaw 'Changing Me' unit, focusing on growth and change. In Reception, this learning has come to life as students observe the life cycle of a butterfly. We have seen the eggs and are eagerly watching as they develop into caterpillars, bringing learning vividly to life.



## Catching World Cup fever

We have been busy embracing team spirit through our World Cup celebrations, recognising and celebrating the diverse nationalities within our community.

Pupils enjoyed a football-themed dress-up day, proudly representing countries from around the world. We also launched a 'Design Your Own Shirt' competition, with the winning design set to be professionally printed. To bring families together, we hosted a lively parent kickabout, promoting wellbeing and active lifestyles. These events have not only encouraged physical activity but also strengthened our sense of community and appreciation for the global connections we share.



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