

Word on the Street

STUDENT NEWS AND VIEWS



Welcome to the latest Summer edition of our Student Newsletter! As the academic year continues, there's been plenty happening across the school community. Here's a look at some of the highlights from our Student Council, Prefects, and Debate Team over the year and in Summer Term:

Student Council

The Student Council has been actively working to represent student voices and improve everyday school life. Over the past few weeks, council members have gathered feedback from their peers on topics such as lunchtime options, study spaces, and upcoming school events. One of the key initiatives currently underway is the planning of further career-based experiences and

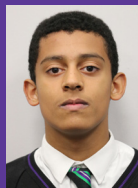


Prefects enjoying a Pizza Party with the Council and the Debate Mate squads



opportunities for KS3 in particular. As part of this, Sara Catriona came in to speak with every year group about her experiences in football. A bit of background on Sara is that she not only plays football for England's Beach Football Team but she is also a professional S&C coach working with a range of players including Premier

League, she trains players both in the UK and Dubai, she is a content creator at world sporting events including the WWC, Euros and World Sevens as well as having led on advertising designs for Pepsi. If you have ideas or suggestions, don't hesitate to reach out to your class representatives—your voice matters.



The Prefects are: Left to right, Top row: Zakifa Ali, Iqra Ali, Ahmed Omar, Aadam Ali, Sara Adnan, Tamara Howlader
Left to Right, Bottom row: Rochelle Wallace, Iba Islam, Saira Rahman, Mahdiya Yasmin, Hamisha Akthar, Fatou Niane, Cailey Sicberras, Ella Moya, Leanna Joseph.

'I am **Ella Moya** and I am a Prefect this year at MAS. I originally wanted to be a prefect because in my school community I would like to see positive changes where everyone can feel included and valued. I would like

to say that I was successful being selected as I have high ambitions and aspirations and I have had many opportunities previously that have built me as a person and I would like to build on them. I will hopefully use

my role to support everyone in the school to feel included and reach their potential. So far as a prefect I have had an insightful prefect training, and I have helped to support

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Prefects continued from page 1

staff members on break duty and I look forward to doing more.'

'My name is **Ahmed Omar** and I am a prefect from 2025-26 and the first reason why I wanted to be a prefect was that it would look very good on my cv and also I thought it would build on my leadership skills. I think I was successful because in the application, I wrote about my past house positions such as House Captain and Sports Captain. I believe that I can have a huge effect on the school as I will make sure that everyone is equally respected and that equity is applied within the school. So far, I have done my duties as a prefect and I made sure no sort of bullying takes place and also I made sure people show respect to the school by cleaning after themselves.'

'I am **Maisha!** I chose to become a Prefect because I want to be a positive role model and help create a respectful and welcoming environment for everyone in the school. So far, I have taken on responsibilities such as break duties, where I help maintain order and support younger students and to make sure other students don't get into any altercations.'

'My name is **Mahdiya Yasmin.** I wanted to be a Prefect to help improve our school community. I think I was chosen because I listen well and try to solve problems fairly. I plan to make the school better by starting new student programs, and so far, I have done my weekly break duties, making sure there are no problems between other students.'

'I'm **Sara Adnan!** I originally want to be a prefect as you can learn leadership skills and have better communication skills. This role can change the school as you are interacting with students' younger years. So far, I have been doing my break time duty and had a session about how to be a prefect.'

'I have taken part in prefect training which has helped me learn key skills that will present myself as a good prefect to younger and older students so I can be someone who they can talk to. I have also been dedicating my breaktimes in the LRC talking to younger pupils about how their experience in school is so far which has made me realise what I can do better for this school.' **Hamisha Akthar**

'My name is **Tamara** and I am a 25/26 Prefect. Originally, I wanted to be a Prefect to benefit my peers but also help me to stand out amongst

others. However, I think the reason why I was successful in my application is because I am ready to step out of my comfort zone and try new things. As a Prefect, I would like to build a bridge between the people around me and Senior Leadership. So far, I have taken part in training, which has prepared me to become more responsible and nurture a more positive mindset.'

'I am **Iba Islam.** I wanted to become a Prefect because I wanted to help others and I want to play a positive role in improving our school community. I believe I was successful in being selected as I feel I was able to show my responsibility and confidence in supporting my peers in this role. I aim to encourage pupils to speak out and contribute to creating a fair and safe environment. Already, I have been able to support younger years and help them around the school.'

'My name is **Cailey Sicberras** and I am one of the many 25/26 Prefects. I originally wanted to be a prefect because it was a new opportunity to develop leadership & teamwork skills, but now I realise it's so much more. You are the student voice & representative for the young people of all ages in the school. I think that I was successful in my application because of the qualifications and experience needed. However, that's just a guess! I'd hope it was because of my personality and skills that I have! As a Prefect, I would like to change the atmosphere of the school. I would like to create a safe hub for students of all ages and would be there for them in times of need.

So far, I have taken part in training, which boosted my ability to work with the young people in the school. I've also been completing my break time duties in the year 8 playground.'



Debate Mate Core

Our Debate Mate Core team are currently ranking 30th nationally out of over 100 schools and they will be competing again tomorrow.

A huge congratulations to our Debate Team, who have now competed in two rounds of the Urban Debate League (UDL) last term!

In both rounds, our debaters demonstrated impressive critical thinking, teamwork, and confidence. They tackled challenging motions, built strong arguments, and responded thoughtfully under pressure. Competing against other schools has given the

Debate Mate Accelerate

The Debate Mate Accelerate team recently had an exciting opportunity to present their ideas directly to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), alongside a visiting representative from Debate Mate. As part of their project, students worked collaboratively to identify areas of school life they felt could be improved. They focused on two key proposals: reducing lesson times to one hour to support concentration and productivity, and introducing a wider variety of food options in the canteen to better reflect student preferences.

The team delivered their pitches with confidence and professionalism, clearly explaining their reasoning and responding thoughtfully to questions. To support their presentation, they also designed eye-catching posters that helped communicate their ideas effectively. Their work demonstrated not only strong communication and teamwork skills, but also a genuine commitment to making positive changes within the school community.

Well done to the following students:



team valuable experience and helped them refine their skills.

We are proud of their progress and look forward to seeing how they perform in upcoming rounds. Keep up the great work!

Debate Mate Cup 2026

Recently, another group of students took part in a Debate Mate competition at Northeastern University London. Throughout the day, students competed in three separate debates, arguing a range of interesting topics and again, like the UDL, this helped them to develop their public speaking, teamwork, and critical thinking skills. We are proud to report that one of our teams won a debate, demonstrating excellent preparation, confidence, and

persuasive argumentation.

At the end of the competition, students watched the show debate featuring the two winning teams. The motion asked whether the otters at London Zoo should be released back into the wild, leading to a lively and thought-provoking discussion. It was a fantastic opportunity to see high-level debating in action and to learn from some of the strongest speakers at the event. Everyone had an enjoyable and rewarding day, gaining valuable experience and representing the school brilliantly.



The Accelerate team rehearsing their pitch on a sunny afternoon on the roof!

Louie Luxford 7B, Maryam Ahmed 7B, Hamid Muhammed 7B, Muhammad Hoque (Keeyan) 8C, Md Mikael Rahman 8C, Abdurahman Hassan 8E, Pedro De Sousa Reis 8A, Mariam Kechairi 9G, Ehsan Ashikul Islam (Ishak) 9C, Rio Williams 9B, Alim Hossain 9A, Muna Abdi 10B, Tiham Ahmed 10A, Ihsan Hussain 10C

Here is a summary of their pitches:

School Lunch Variety

The Debate Mate Accelerate team highlighted several concerns about the current school lunch experience, explaining that many students feel hungry by lunchtime but are often disappointed by the limited and unappealing options, even though they are very grateful for the catering

team and the high-standards of quality food provided. Survey results carried out by Louie in Y7 in his class showed that some students skip meals altogether because they dislike the food, describing how occasionally vegetables are overcooked and there are not enough of the foods they enjoy. They also pointed out issues with repetitive desserts and the lack of drink options, as well as concerns about cleanliness in the dining area, which can discourage students from sitting and eating comfortably.

To address this, the team proposed introducing a wider variety of meals, improving dessert choices, and offering drinks such as water or juice. They argued that better food would lead to improved wellbeing, higher energy levels, and more positive attitudes towards learning. While they acknowledged concerns about cost and sugar intake, they suggested practical solutions, such as smaller dessert portions with slight improvements. Ultimately, they emphasised that healthier, happier students would benefit the whole school community.

One Hour Lessons

The team also proposed reducing lesson lengths from the current one hour and fifty minutes to one hour sessions. They explained that long lessons make it difficult for students to stay focused, as attention spans

typically last between 45 minutes and one hour. As a result, students can become tired and disengaged, which affects their ability to retain information and perform well in assessments. They also noted that long lessons can be challenging for teachers, particularly when managing classes for extended periods of time.

By introducing one hour lessons, the team believes students would be more focused, productive, and able to study a wider range of subjects each day. They argued that this change would improve wellbeing, increase engagement, and even boost attendance. Although they recognised potential challenges, such as timetable adjustments and concerns from parents, they pointed out that many schools already use shorter lessons successfully. They concluded that this simple change could have a significant positive impact on both students and teachers.

All students' voices were listened to by Ms James and by Athena, a Project Manager from Debate Mate, who recorded their ideas. The team will be marked and scored against all other schools across the country taking part in the Accelerate team. Our team was complimented on its brilliant organisation.

Student News and Views

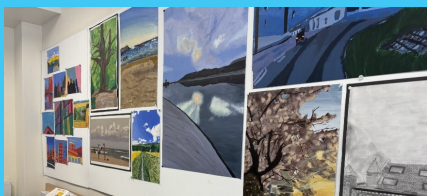
At lunchtime, Year 8 students enjoyed a film event in the library, where they watched *Despicable Me 4*. The event was well attended, with 61 students taking part. It provided a fun and relaxing opportunity for students to spend their lunchtime together, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the film and the friendly atmosphere.



GCSE Hospitality students recently organised and hosted an Afternoon Tea event, giving them the opportunity to develop their practical hospitality skills. Students worked hard to prepare and cook a range of sweet and savoury treats, while also gaining valuable experience in serving food and waiting on customers. The event was a great success and allowed students to build their confidence, teamwork, and professionalism in a real-life hospitality setting.



The GCSE Year 11 Finalists' Art Exhibition showcased an impressive collection of artwork created by our talented students. Parents, staff, and students were invited to attend and celebrate the creativity and achievements of the Year 11 artists. A particular highlight of the exhibition was a special Year 7 display, where students selected their favourite Year 11 artwork as inspiration and created their own pieces in response. The exhibition was a wonderful celebration of artistic talent across the school and provided a glimpse of the budding artists for the MAS future.



“This year I have really enjoyed the PE lessons, all the fun trips I have been on, and the Winter Fayre especially. I also want to mention a thanks to my teachers who are always patient with me!” **Asmeet Y8**

“This year and the previous year, I have enjoyed MAS because it has given me lots of opportunities. For example, I went on the Essex trip and the PGL trip. What I am most looking forward to for Summer Term is more trips!” **Ismaeel Y8**

“This year, I have really enjoyed my new classes and I also really enjoyed the new sports in PE. We have done badminton and volleyball which I liked. I am looking forward to a trip to the National Theatre, which is coming up in a few days. I am really excited for this as it's a reward for all the hard work I and others have done across the year in our English lessons.” **Khadija J Y8**



“I went on the House Rewards Trip to Chessington. Before I went, I felt very nervous as I knew no one going but I made many new friends through this trip. Another great opportunity that I had this year was going to the London Stock Exchange and, in the future, I am looking forward to all the other opportunities I could get to visit cool palaces and meet lots of new people there!” **Rayyan Y8**

“This year, I have enjoyed the PGL trip as it was a new opportunity to do lots of activities and socialise with other, new people.” **Saad Y8**

“This year, I have enjoyed learning about gothic literature

YEAR 8 CORNER

and also the practical lessons in Science. What I am most looking forward to about the rest of this year is the house rewards trip and the end of year trip for Y8. This is because it feels rewarding getting selected to go on a trip and demonstrates how hard you have worked throughout the term.” **Aseeya Y8**

“This year, I have enjoyed my trip to the V&A museum—it was really fun! An opportunity I have had this year is to go on a free trip to PGL! I'm really looking forward to picking my GCSE options.” **Isra Y8**

“This year, I have enjoyed basketball in the mornings from 7:30-8:30am. As a new student here, I have made some friends!” **Hasan Y8**

“This year, I have enjoyed achieving good grades in every subject. As a new student here, I have been making friends every day. One opportunity I have had this year is to go to the London Stock Exchange. What I am most looking forward to about the rest of this year is going on trips. I like MAS because we always work on our teamwork, listening and problem-solving skills using the MAS way.” **Abdurahman Y8**

“I have especially enjoyed going to Wales this year because it was really exciting doing canoeing, rock-climbing, gorge-walking (which means climbing up waterfalls) and we also did hiking in the mountains.” **Nicholas Y8**

“This year, I have enjoyed voting for our Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets!” **Hafsa Y8**

“Last year, I enjoyed going on the ski trip in Italy as it was a new sport for me and something very different to other sports I have tried. It made me learn and gain a new skill!” **Mihran Y8**

“I have helped to make an art magazine in Art Club, which was published to the entire school. I am really looking forward to helping to contribute to more editions in the future. I also got to meet many others in the Club which I loved.” **Syeda Y8**