



MOSSBOURNE FEDERATION

CEO: Peter Hughes



Principal:
Rebecca Warren



Principal:
Matthew Toothe



Principal:
Amy Wood



Principal:
Laura Green

the mossbournian

The Newsletter of Mossbourne Community Academy

Summer 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,



Welcome to the 2023 summer edition of the Mossbournian.

I wish to thank all parents, carers and staff for your tireless support and guidance of our children and young adults this academic year. It has been a hugely successful year in which we have seen academy life return to normal and attendance reaching the high pre-pandemic rates. The symbiotic relationship between family and teachers – home and the academy – provides emotional and intellectual support for our young people and your support is both hugely appreciated and invaluable. This is a time to reflect on the inspirational achievements of Mossbournians over the past academic year – they are a credit to the academy, their families and themselves. Though I could fill these pages with stories of their success and experiences, I will highlight but a few in the name of brevity.

“The symbiotic relationship between family and teachers – home and the academy – provides emotional and intellectual support for our young people and your support is both hugely appreciated and invaluable.”

As the summer break looms, Year 11 and 13 students will be keenly awaiting their results. Year 11 students, whose contributions to Mossbourne epitomise family and community, will be recognised at the Year 11 Celebration Ball on Tuesday 11th July. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to a spectacular evening, on which to celebrate the end of their exams in style.

Exciting and impressive futures beckon for our outgoing Year 13 students: I am in awe of this talented year group who have received 25 offers from Oxbridge, six offers to study medicine and one offer to study veterinary science. What is most incredible is that the success rate of Year 13 applicants to Cambridge is 53% (against a national average of 16.6%) and a success rate of 30% to Oxford (compared to 13%, nationally). A record breaking 88% of this year's Year 13 have received an offer to a Russell Group university. A very special mention must go to Lucy

Sims of 13 Morley who has received an offer to study dance at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance – one of the most selective schools in the whole of the UK and Europe which has an acceptance rate of just 9.9%. Lucy is only the fourth Mossbournian to receive an offer from Trinity Laban Conservatoire and I wish Lucy, and all of her peers in Year 13 and Year 11, the very best of luck.

The Year 12 Grocers' Academy Awards team, who entered and won £5000 in a Dragons' Den style competition in November, went on to present at Mansion House in front of the Lord Mayor of London and over 200 delegates. For the very first time, the Mossbourne Sixth Form won the Livery Academy

from UCL, 'British Party Politics Since 1945' by Dr Mitya Pearson from Kings College London, 'Writing about Sports and Working with Marcus Rashford' by journalist and broadcaster, Carl Anka, and 'Discrimination, the Law and Human Rights' by Nichola Braganza, KC.

Sporting achievements have gone from strength to strength under the leadership of Ms Yennaris. I am very proud to report that Mossbourne won the Hackney Netball League in every year group, with many finals seeing our A and B teams competing against each other. In the Under 12 League, we played against our sister school, Mossbourne Victoria Park, in the final with Mossbourne Community Academy winning.

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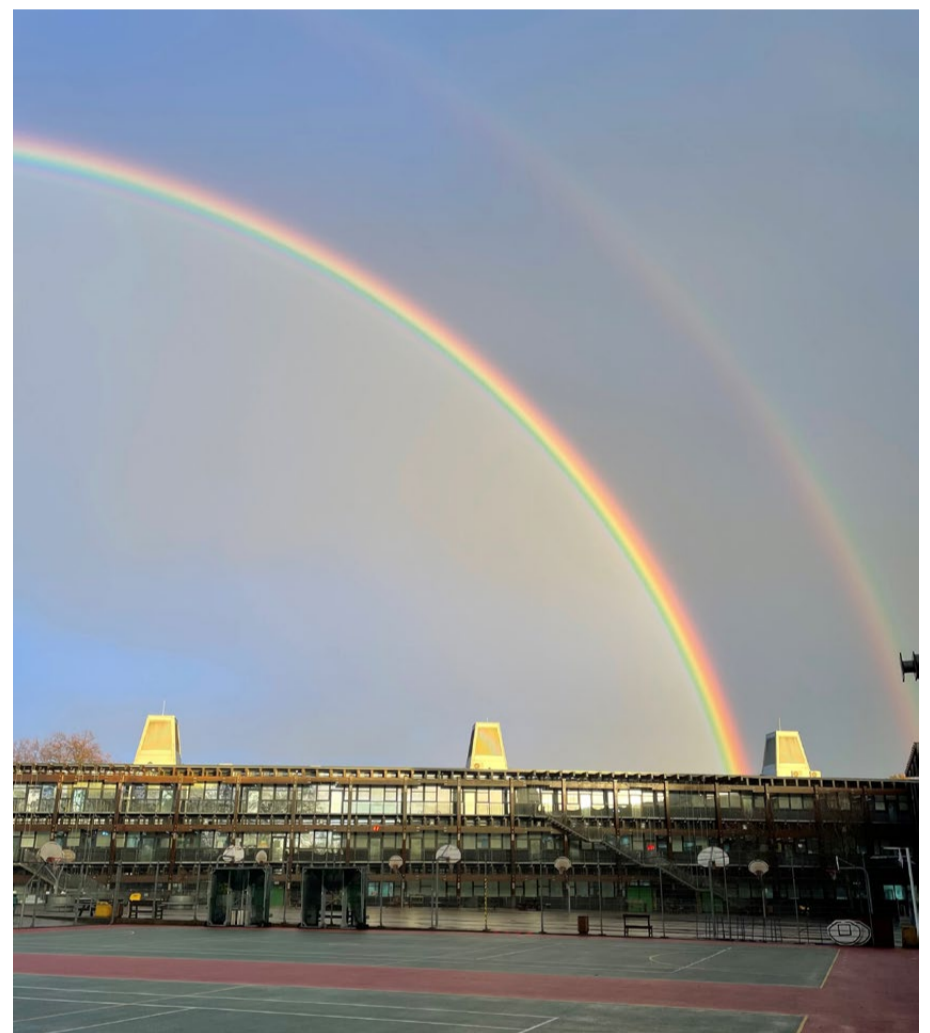
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Mossbourne Community Academy
100 Downs Park Road, Hackney
London E5 8JY

Telephone: 020 8525 5200
Fax: 020 8525 5222
E-mail: enquiries@mca.mossbourne.org
www.mca.mossbourne.org



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6b Hemnall Street, Epping, Essex CM16 4LW



Evening view of our academy, March 2023. Photograph by Mr Robinson.

Award against stiff competition from schools across London. Huge congratulations to the team on this remarkable achievement.

One of the most highly anticipated events in our Higher Education and Careers calendar, our Year 12 Lecture Day, took place on Wednesday 26th April. Students had the opportunity to hear from 15 academics and experts to enrich their academic understanding and support them in making informed and competitive applications to top universities and post-18 destinations. Lectures included 'The Subtle Art of the Octave: Piano Tuning for Maniacs' by Dr Fergus Riche from the University of Cambridge, 'Lies, Damned Lies and Phosphorous Chemistry' by Professor Andrea Sella

In this edition you will also read about the fantastic achievements of our boys' and girls' teams across many other sporting disciplines: cricket, football, running, athletics and rugby – truly a year of remarkable success when hard work and team spirit has led to accolades at local, county and national levels – huge congratulations to you all – you make us so proud! A special mention must go to Patryk Miskiewicz of 8 Malala who is ranked 2nd in the country in his age group for swimming and Jaiven Monteiro De Barros of 8 Bevan who has been selected to represent Saracens Rugby Team.

Pupils within the Expressive Arts Department have enjoyed a memorable year culminating at the Federation

Concert in June. It was a marvellous event which displayed the incredible talents of pupils across the Mossbourne Federation to delighted parents, staff and governors.

It is always difficult to say goodbye to staff who have dedicated themselves to the development of all our students at Mossbourne. I would like to thank all members of staff who have contributed hugely to the life of our academy, with a special thanks going to those who will be leaving us for personal and professional reasons in the summer. Extra special mentions must go to Mr Matthew Watson, HoLA Expressive Arts and Miss Sarah McKenzie, 2i/c English, both of whom started their Mossbourne careers 14 years ago. Mr Watson has worked tirelessly to raise the profile of music and the arts and he will be remembered for impacting so many pupils' lives in terms of academic achievement and their enjoyment of music – especially the samba drums. Miss McKenzie has dedicated herself entirely to our children over the last few years. I think her commitment is best demonstrated by her decision to get to work from Herne Hill on a national train strike day by jogging the eight-mile journey, so determined was she not to miss a lesson. Both Mr Watson and Miss McKenzie have served the academy so well, and for so many years, most importantly as truly inspirational teachers; they will be very much missed, and we wish them the very best for the future.

As always, it is the greatest honour to come to the end of another academic year as Principal of our academy. As I wish you all a very happy and enjoyable few weeks, it is my hope that by continuing to work in partnership with you, in our very special Mossbourne community, we can continue together to ensure the best possible wellbeing and outcomes for all the young people in our care.

Rebecca Warren
Principal



MOSSBOURNE ALUMNI

A Mossbournian Author

We are overcome with pride to learn about the publication of **Tskenya-Sarah Frazer's** *A Quick Ting On: Black British Businesses* – a copy of which Tskenya posted to Miss Warren with a wonderful handwritten note. Tskenya-Sarah Frazer is officially the very first Mossbournian author and we couldn't be prouder.



Well remembered by many, Tskenya-Sarah always brimmed with enthusiasm and positivity; from her first day at Mossbourne in September 2005 staff knew she would be a force for positivity in the world. In *A Quick Ting On: Black British Businesses*, she reflects on her own, sometimes challenging, journey to becoming an award-winning business owner. This book, one of a series dedicated to Black Britishness, presents significant moments of the Black entrepreneurial journey in the UK and abroad, including first-hand interviews with Black British entrepreneurs. All the books in the series are available to borrow from the school library.

Tskenya-Sarah Frazer, who recently joined us for an event with our younger students (she always finds time in her busy schedule to come in to help at Mossbourne!) is a total inspiration – we are very proud to call her a Mossbourne Alumni!



Learn more about her and the book here:
<https://thebritishblacklist.co.uk/tskenya-sarah-frazer-talks-aqto-black-british-businesses/> ■

Results Days

A-Level Results Day	Thursday 17 th August 2023
GCSE Results Day	Thursday 24 th August 2023

Key Events & Academic Calendar Autumn Term 2023

INSET days	Wednesday 30 th – Thursday 31 st August 2023
Start of term for years 7 and 12	Friday 1 st September 2023
Start of term for whole Academy	Monday 4 th September 2023
Year 7 & 12 Parents' Information Evening	Thursday 15 th September 2023
INSET day	Friday 29 th September 202
Year 11 Parents' Information Evening	Thursday 5 th October 2023
Year 10 Parents' Evening	Thursday 19 th October 2023
Half term	Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October 2023
PSHCE Day	Friday 10 th November 2023
Year 12 Parents' Evening	Thursday 7 th December 2023
End of Term for Sixth Form	Wednesday 20 th December 2023
End of Term for Whole Academy	Thursday 21 st December 2023
Christmas Holidays	Friday 22nd December – Friday 5th January 2024
Spring Term starts	Monday 8 th January 2024



FRIENDS OF MCA

Thank You from FoMCA

Friends of Mossbourne Community Academy (FoMCA) would like to thank parents and carers for their support throughout the year, whether donating or purchasing pre-loved school uniform.

This year, the team of volunteers created a brand-new storage space next to the Textiles Room to organise and sort donations. We also held various uniform sales to help raise additional funds for the school – with contributions made towards the Teen Fiction Book Giveaway at the MCA library and class field trips. Through this work FoMCA are reducing waste, protecting the environment and helping to fight poverty.

Remember you can drop off clean, uniform donations at our recycling bin, just outside reception, at any time.

FoMCA are actively looking for new volunteers for the next academic year. Please contact:

Email: friendsgroup@mca.mossbourne.org or message via **Instagram:** @friendsofmca

Lastly, FoMCA welcome your support via **Easy fundraising** (every time you shop the retailer gives a small donation):

Easy fundraising: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mossbourneaca/> ■

Please drop any uniform donations to the FoMCA recycling bin, outside reception.





SUCCESS FOR OUR BLACK BOYS GROUP

The Success for Our Black Boys Anthology

This term Mr James has worked with the Success for Our Black Boys Group to produce an anthology of creative writing. The Mossbournian is delighted to be able to showcase the incredible talent evident in these exclusive extracts from the very first edition (May 2023):

Forward

By **Mr Pearson** (Intervention coordinator)

Mossbourne Community Academy has altruistic intention and effect, yet it can seem stern.

Mr James expertly reconciles the difference between how much the school helps its students with how it sometimes makes them feel.

I applaud his work and I'm honoured to assist.

This anthology gives voice to some of the young men who we aspire to uplift. ■

How to measure success

By **Mr James** (Intervention Lead)

The Success for Our Black Boys Group
A sometimes-ambitious collection we did recruit.

In formal suit
but their interwoven personalities shine through.

Finding themselves like a treasure hunt:
The journey, the 'dets', the tears

the laughs, the conflicts,
the frustration, the smiles, the fears.

We needed the support of you, them, and they.
When the clock struck four twenty, it was not the end of
their day.

Some are struggling with painted smiles.

The noise is silent.

Others are ready for the next challenge.

The humility is loud.
Of these 'men' *in training*
I am proud. ■

Extract from 'Mongola's Journey...'

By **Rufus Bangura** (8 Milton)

INTRODUCTION

My name is Jeremy Mongola. I am 16 years old and was born in 2008. I'm a proud black human being with all the accomplishments I will have achieved 22 years from now. I was born in Sierra Leone which is in West Africa. But enough about me, the inspirational story you are about to read is the journey of me becoming a professional basketball player. My advice for you is "If you lose don't give up, it means you're still developing".

CHAPTER 1

I always wanted to become a professional basketball player back in school, but I never had the opportunity to show what I could do. People would always make fun of me saying that I was the worst basketball player, but I couldn't let them stop me from my passion for basketball. My best friend Abraham was even better than me to be honest, he could do as many layups as possible for a whole day with no misses at all. He didn't show it, but he *obviously* tried to make me feel bad about myself – that I couldn't do what he could do – and all his selfish arrogance got to me, and I wanted to tell him to stop but...

Extract from 'Do you want change?'

By **Baasit Adebari** (8 Blackman)

All around the world people are dying
All around the world mothers are crying
All around the world people are lying
And pretending high flying

Knives – more dangerous than beehives
All they do is take innocent lives
As innocent as five are taught not to survive
As sad as it is this our lives

When did this world become so cruel?
When did our children pick up these tools?
When did our children become such fools?
When did our children stop following the rules?

Let's stop it now, it's gone too far... ■

Extract from 'Differences'

By **Nathaniel Ibitoye** (7 Mandela)

In a poor corrupted world, there was a boy named Raphael. Unlike other people Raphael had a unique skin colour, he was black. He had gotten bullied for his unique appearance and people in the street would walk past him with disgust and pity. Although he knew people were this mean to him it didn't even bother him since Raphael knew he would become a great person in the future. He has high hopes for the world that maybe one day racism could stop, and everyone could live in peace and harmony, but his dream quickly came to an end once he had found out they killed his parents just because his family was black. He was outraged – the only thing that entered his head was "why". He did not feel safe anywhere; not at school, walking home or even in his home. The thing that would keep him up at night was "what will happen to me next?". After a few weeks his grandma had passed away due to old age, this drove him to question life and what the point of living was if people die. But then he still had hope, he said to himself. "I can't give up; the world is counting on me to make it right" ■

Extract from 'Alarm bells ringing'

By **Robert Sarfo** (7 Bevan)

It all began with a bomb.

Everything was taken away from me. My dad, my mum, and my little sister, Olivia. I could hear parents and children crying in despair as their relatives took their last breath. I stood up and gazed at the dead corpses around me. I spotted a faint glimmer of light glowing in the distance. Strolling meticulously towards it, I avoided the burnt debris left over from the house I once lived in. I held what seemed to look like a picture. I brushed the dirt and blew off the dust. My eyes flooded with tears. It was our last picture taken together as a family. I held the picture very tight, as it was the last thing I had left. My belly rumbled. I was starving. I could feel my head collapsing. Before I knew it everything went pitch black.

I woke up in an apartment. I felt dizzy... ■

Extract from 'Game on'

By **Amara Kourouma** (9 Moore)

I am known as the G.O.A.T. I am a basketball player. I play for a team called Hackney Thunder. Anyways, let's get to the story. It begins in year 8 (2021).

Amara was getting ready for his first day of year 8. At this time he was very good at football and didn't know a thing about basketball, he only knew two teams and three players. When he arrived at school, he met up with all his friends and they sat down on a table. Amara was analysing everyone's shoes and clothes like it was a question on an exam. They were all so embedded in their conversation that they didn't know there was one minute until line-up. They rushed to line up and stood in their tutor groups.

BREAKTIME Amara's first day of year 8 was going well as he had no detentions; it was off to a great start. As soon as he stepped out of the humanities door, he was shocked to see the mixing of the other year groups around the playground, this surprised him because when he was in year 7, there was a global pandemic taking the world by storm. In school there was no mixing allowed in the playground, so each year was in a specific bubble... ■

Extracts from 'What is Hackney?'

By **Chavez Paul-Ryan** (8 Blackman)

I would like to talk about some of the issues in Hackney. You see, people would class Hackney as the so called 'ghetto' or the 'hood' and this is because of the reputation it has. Hackney is a place full of gang members, drug dealers, drug addicts socially known as 'nitties', young offenders, single mothers/fathers, and homeless people. That is bad enough but there's probably many more types of people I haven't mentioned. It all sets a bitter representation of Hackney.

Also, the governors of Hackney aren't much help, they have all these meetings on how to improve Hackney, but it just feels like it's getting worse, so I ask: what do they talk about in these meetings? All of that talking about how they would improve Hackney, but I do not see any change at all, scratch that, the only change I'm seeing is more on the streets because there are people homeless, more dying, and more people being imprisoned because they can't get a legal job. Things really need to be changed and they need to change fast! ■

Extract from 'The Turnover'

By **Ubayy Thomas** (8 Moore)

Imagine a time when equality was not a policy,
Could you even tell the difference?
Between a friend and an enemy,
We are black,
Let's retain that,
Racism – don't entertain that,
Internalised pain,
It has gotten way better through the years,
But some things never changed,
My name is Ubayy,
I stand up for my race ■



CLUBS

Turkish Boys' Club

We are thrilled to announce the successful launch of the Mossbourne Turkish Boys' Club, led by our inspiring EAL Lead, Ms Ayfer Yildirim. Over the past few weeks, this club has provided a unique space for the boys to come together, celebrate their achievements, and discuss what motivates them to succeed not only in school but also in their future endeavours.

Every week, the boys gather in a supportive and encouraging environment to share their successes, challenges, and aspirations. Ms Yildirim guides the discussions and ensures that each voice is heard. Through open and meaningful conversations, the boys have been able to develop a strong sense of camaraderie and belonging.

The Turkish Boys' Club has proved to be a valuable platform for our Turkish-heritage students to discuss their academic accomplishments. By sharing their achievements, whether big or small, they inspire and encourage one another to aim higher and strive for excellence.

Furthermore, the club has also become a space for our boys to explore their personal motivations and set goals for their future. Discussions on their dreams, aspirations, and what drives them to succeed have been thought-provoking and enlightening. Through these conversations, they have gained a deeper understanding of their

passions and the importance of perseverance and dedication in achieving their goals.

In addition to the boys' participation, the Turkish Boys' Club has also welcomed the involvement of parents. This unique aspect has allowed parents to share their viewpoints, ideas, and concerns regarding their sons' attitude toward school and their overall progress. The club has facilitated a stronger bond between the school and parents, fostering a collaborative effort to support the boys' growth and development.

The impact of the Turkish Boys' Club goes beyond the walls of our school. By empowering our boys and fostering a sense of unity, this club instils in them the belief that they can make a positive difference in their communities and society. It equips them with essential life skills and cultivates the values of empathy, resilience, and leadership.

As we reflect on the inaugural meetings of the Turkish Boys' Club, we feel immense pride and excitement for the future. We are confident that the Turkish Boys' Club will continue to grow and flourish, nurturing the potential of our students and shaping them into confident, successful individuals. Together, we can create a nurturing environment where our boys thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, and become the leaders of tomorrow. ■

News from the Combined Cadet Force

During the February half-term break, Mossbourne's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) held a two-day training camp at MCA. Cadets from both MCA and MVPA trained in the subjects of Drill and Turnout, Military Knowledge, and Skill at Arms, while the advanced level cadets attended the Junior Non-Commissioned Officer training course.

This was followed by a Navigation Exercise where, after learning how to use four and six-figure grid references and to calculate distances on both a map and the ground, cadets were challenged to navigate a 3.3km route around Victoria Park. The 33 cadets all successfully followed the set route, testing their ability to locate their position on a map, measure the distance walked, and navigate using the concepts of "handrails", "catching features" and "collecting features".

In April, five senior cadets took part in the annual London District Regional First Aid Competition. In addition to the CCF,

other organisations represented at the competition included the Army Cadet Force, the Volunteer Police Cadets, the London Fire Brigade Cadets, the St John Ambulance Cadets, and the Sea Cadet Corps.

The competition consisted of a series of scenario-based tests involving different medical emergencies with multiple casualties. Competitors were required to apply their first aid skills to treat the casualties and obtain help, handling the situation as realistically as possible. The Mossbourne cadets were awarded Regional First Aid Badges and gained valuable experience for next year's competition.

At the end of training on Coronation Day, Saturday 6th May, Mossbourne cadets formed up on the viewing roof at MCA to watch the Royal Salute flypast by the Royal Air Force and offered their own 'three cheers' to His Majesty The King. ■



Cadets pose for a group photo after passing their Navigation Exercise

Introducing the Year 9 NHS Cadets

By **Zara Zelal Demirci** (9 Butler) and **Esther Oyewo** (9 Bevan)

The NHS Cadets is a program which teaches participants about different life experiences and how to help with or adapt to them. The cadets meet once a week on Monday afternoons. The group is especially for students who would like to work in the NHS in some capacity so in the group there are aspiring doctors, midwives, paramedics, psychiatrists and physiotherapists. We learn about a variety of conditions, disorders and other health issues (physical and mental) that can affect our wellbeing.

We've also learnt about other important medical things such as CPR, the recovery position and illnesses such as dementia, depression and anxiety. Our teacher Ms Keegan helps us learn in fun and exciting ways with presentations, discussions and research-based activities.

Our favorite part has been the group work and learning about real situations which could happen. We love NHS cadets because it motivates us to consider our careers within the NHS, perhaps as a paramedic... ■

Mossbourne Basketball Club watch the London Lions

One Sunday in May, Mossbourne Basketball Club members travelled to the O2 arena to watch an epic basketball playoff finals clash. Fifteen thousand fans were in attendance to see the London Lions beat their arch-rival Leicester Riders by eight points, securing their first British Basketball League play-off title. Pupils were selected as a reward for their dedication to attending club sessions before school on Mondays. They were accompanied by Mr Pearson who wishes to say well done to all who attended: **Robert Sarfo** (7 Bevan), **Tyler Williams** (7 Blackman), **David Mendonca Nzambi** (7 Mandela), **Amelia Dwyer-Vega** (8 Brontë), **Lamar Allen** (8 Milton), **Malachi Owusu-Agyemang** (8 Mandela), **Kadeem Lee-Morille** (8 Brontë) ■



Well done to all Basketball Club members for your dedication throughout the year!



Mr Pearson and Kadeem Lee-Morille (8 Brontë) had a good view of the playoff action.

Planting in the Playground

Recently, our school was lucky enough to be chosen for the "Planting in the Playground Project", organised and funded by The London Children's Flower Society in affiliation with the Jack Petchey Foundation.

In May the site team assembled two large planters in the sixth form garden ready for the project to commence. A group of green-fingered Year 7 students were chosen to help Ms Berggren plant lots of gorgeous flowers, just in time to make the garden look extra special for the Year 13 garden party. Since then, the students have been visiting the garden weekly to water the plants and to sow seeds of annual flowers which will make the planters look even more beautiful later in the season. The students' next task is to research which plants will flower during autumn and winter, to make sure the planters provide a beautiful focal point all year around. ■



Inayat Chowdhury (7 Bevan) choosing the best flowers



Adam Abramovitch (7 Butler) preparing the planters



The final result



DIVERSITY WEEK

Celebrating our Cultures and Diversity

The first week back after the Easter holidays saw our very first Culture and Diversity Week, organised by Ms D'Souza and Mr Baker.

A huge array of exciting events and workshops were on offer to students across all year groups, ranging from Yiddish choir and Latin American dancing to diverse voices in comedy and a poetry competition. The celebrations culminated on our second annual Culture Day which saw Sixth Form students ditching their usual school clothes for outfits celebrating their culture. The hugely popular Fashion Show, which saw students from the Sixth Form (and selected younger students) showing their cultural attire on the catwalk, is sure to be a regular fixture on the school calendar! ■

As part of Diversity Week, students from all year groups were invited to write and perform poems related to identity and culture. Not only was there a range of poignant and empowering poems but real courage was shown by students who stood up and read out their poems to an audience of peers and teachers. An emotional and enriching experience for all who attended. Below are just a few short extracts of the many marvellous poems submitted:

*Some say diversity is unity
Of many cultures coming together
How it forms a community
But for some it may be whether*

*Whether you're really welcome
Or if you're just isolated
For some it may be that you are more than one race
And you can't quite find a place*

By **Ishana Fox** (9 Malala)

*It grows on my head
That crown of thorns
Its branches push against the familiar black fabric
To be silenced by eco styling gel
Shunned from the hair speak
My opinion mundane
A pebble plunged into an ocean of Cantu
Will I ever be enough?*

By **Laila Yakubu** (12 Wollstonecraft)

*My identity gives me power
Yours should too
My appearance gives my confidence a boost
Yours should too
Knowing that you are the only version of you
And no one can be just like you
Should make you proud
People are always out there looking for ways
To tear you apart
But you were brought into this world for a reason
So remember to always take charge*

By **Grace Adesanya** (9 Bevan)

*My life is different
From one to another
I'm bright like the sun
Changing all directions
One direction
Will change my life
And make me the best I can be*

By **Alan Sochon** (8 Butler) ■





YEAR 7 REVIEW

Year 7 in Review (for Year 7s by Year 7s)

Throughout the year students in Year 7 have been working with Mr Keyes to produce their very own Year 7 Review. The Mossbournian is pleased to include this brand new initiative in this edition:

The comments below were collected at various points throughout the year.



Evan Sjoberg
(7 Brontë)

I'm going to summarise this school in a word: 'great'.

When you first come in it's a bit scary but once you settle down and make new friends, everybody's happy! I would recommend going to clubs like Philosophy Club because you get to meet some really nice people. The teachers are always there if anything is troubling you or you have any questions to ask. My advice is to just express yourself and always be enthusiastic every day, that's all!

Aims for 2023...

- To get one merit a day so I can receive my platinum award. **Moussa**
- To get better at science and achieve high KO test scores. **Yusupha**
- To have a positive mindset and volunteer lots of answers. **Kezia**
- To not to get detentions, get more merits and help my mum more. **Lina**
- Engage more in discussions. **Abdullah**
- Join a football team, make my parents proud and answer lots of questions in class. **Dre**
- Do better in maths and science and to help my dad more. **Ceyda**
- To get 100 merits. **Jacob**
- To make my parents proud of me and my education. **Priya**
- To achieve 100% attendance and get better at maths. **Ebenezer**
- To do homework before the due date and put my hand up more. **Mariam**
- To get high scores in my tests and join Table Tennis Club. **Yusuf**
- Avoid getting any detentions and I want to score a goal this season. **Enes**
- Put my hand up to try and answer questions, even if I'm unsure my answer is correct. **Zi Qi**
- I want to receive a maths award. **Maya**
- To improve in all subjects. **Aaisha**
- To improve my skills for gymnastics. I love it and want to get better. **Melisa**
- I want to get better at chess. **Ali**
- To do homework long before the due date. **Ihsaan**
- To get a HoLA award. **Moya**
- To try and know lots of things about space and history. **Salim**

Something I have learnt...

- I am more outgoing than I was before. **Neslihan**
- Something I've learnt about myself is always to believe in myself. **Amina**
- To treat everyone the same, no matter what. **Aleena**
- I have learnt that it's okay to make a mistake - everyone does once in a while. **Gena**
- To be happy around school. **Aaisha**
- Education is a tool that can be used to do anything! **Ashveer**
- I can make lots of new friends. **Dillon**
- PSHCE day taught us a lot about our safety. **Ihsaan**
- I will always try my best and never give up. **Guline**
- The school isn't actually scary and is a safe place to be. **Ebenezer**
- I've learnt that the amount of effort you put in is the amount you get out. **Evie**
- How history always repeats itself. **Asad**
- I have learnt that I can be more independent. **Jacob**
- I have learnt that I am creative and inquisitive. **Eisah**
- I can be really social when I put my mind to it. **Cilka**
- It isn't hard to make friends, just be yourself. **Mamadou**
- My confidence has increased greatly. **Nevaeh**
- I'm a lot more capable than I thought. **Iris**
- How to speak Spanish for when I go to Spain in the summer. **Ta Shay**
- That there are lots of people that I can trust. **Isla**
- Focus on yourself and you will be the one with the good grades. **Chiamara**
- To have respect and be kind to each other, no matter what. **Shansel**
- With a deep breath and some organisation you can get anything done. **Cecilia**
- I have learned to do some difficult maths such as algebra. **Kristian**

Favourite lesson...

- PE - I've joined lots of clubs such as football, rowing and netball. **Bonnie**
- Singing is great fun and we can express ourselves. **Asad**
- Hot seating in English. It's helpful, understandable & fun. **Priya**
- I like drama because it is a great way to present yourself. **Sophie**
- Before Mossbourne I didn't know what netball was, but now I really enjoy it. **Eliana**
- I was playing basketball and saw lots of great skills being demonstrated. **Ramy**
- I enjoy Prep because you can do your homework. **Salim**
- I've enjoyed maths because I want to be a theoretical physicist. **Seth**
- I enjoyed watching England vs Iran with my friends during the World Cup. **Ludovic**
- PSHCE day - we learned a lot about safety and online safety. **Linus**
- In many subjects (especially RS and maths) teachers create humorous lessons and maintain forms of discipline. **Adam**
- Drama allows me to express my feelings - I am less shy than I thought. **Ilayda**
- I really like the library & history and geography. I like the teachers a lot. I hated geography at primary school! **Rosa**
- History with Mr Rodker - he does his hardest to ensure that our educational progress is met. **Robert**
- French - I've never learnt it before. I've learnt things I can use every day. **Mary**
- When we made chicken stir-fry with Ms Pyzlak. **Yusuf**
- History, my teacher is the best and I've learnt a lot from him. **Oscar**
- Music because we use lots of instruments such as pianos, xylophones and microphones. When it all comes together we sound like a professional band. **Sophie**
- In English you can be creative and there are many words to choose from. **Cael**
- I like cutting MDF in D&T. **Romain**

My favourite teacher...

- All my teachers, they are all kind, compassionate & fun. **Aaisha**
- Mr Fowler - He has really helped me to expand my knowledge in Maths & helps me to work out what level of maths I'm working towards. **Rosie**
- Ms Keegan because I used to really dislike Science, but now I love it! **Iris**
- Ms Lyons - whenever I get something wrong or I don't understand she explains it in a way I can understand perfectly. **Yunus**
- Ms Court - because she makes drama enjoyable & we perform a lot. **Eisah**
- Mr Haines - Because he is always looking out for me. **Khushi**
- Ms Passmore - her teaching techniques are good and really improve pupil grades. **Ibrahim**
- Mr Palmer - He helps me to understand the classwork & also my homework. **Gladys**
- Mr Lymn - I liked doing practical lessons with him. **Yannick**
- Ms Cameron - He's a great teacher. **Charlie**
- Ms Court, Ms Connell & Ms Solomon & all the teachers. **Matilda**
- Mr Bajraktari - He's always kind & calm. **Evrin**
- Mr Keyes - never fails to put a smile on my face. **Eren**
- Ms Harrison - my teacher has really improved my Spanish skills. **Nicholas**
- Ms Revans - when we don't understand something, she explains it in ways that we do. **Wunnam**
- Mr Taylor-Rowe because I like how he teaches. **Sarah**
- Mr Warren, Ms Bryan & Ms Passmore - they are great teachers. They are also very approachable out of class if I need help with anything. **Rosa**
- Ms McKenzie - her kind & fun personality & she always encourages me to reach my full potential. **Zilan**
- They are all my favourites! **Sabier**
- Mr Dodd - he is helpful, kind & friendly. He is my favourite teacher. **Peter**
- Mr Wilkinson - He is calm & generous. **Xavier**



SIXTH FORM

Swimming for Charity

During spring term **Fulgis Luyeye** (12 Berkoff) took part in a swimathon to raise money for cancer research. Here she recounts her experience:

On the 14th of May I was fortunate enough to be able to swim a swimathon which was raising money for Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie. To date we've raised over £850,000. I originally got involved with the swimathon through BADU Sports. I started training about two months prior to the event and I was swimming every Tuesday with BADU for about an hour and a half. On the day of the event, I arrived at Britannia Leisure Centre for 9.45am. My team of four swimmers had to swim 1.5k of which I swam 17 lengths. Afterwards I was a bit achy but really proud of what I and my teammates had achieved.

Well done Fulgis for raising both money and awareness!



Upon doing further research about cancer to prepare me for the swimathon, I have found out that the risk of getting cancer is 50%. By doing events such as a swimathon, triathlon or marathon you can really help not just cancer research but also research into other life-threatening diseases. Remember that anyone can help make a change in someone else's life; you don't need to do something as drastic as running a marathon or taking part in a swimathon, it can be as little as donating or even trying to raise awareness. ■

Anthony Meyer Essay Competition

The annual Anthony Meyer Essay Competition event took place in December. In April 2019, the children of Anthony Meyer, who was a Member of Parliament from 1970 to 1992, presented books from his library to the Mossbourne Community Academy Library. Throughout his political career Anthony Meyer worked for international cooperation. He also believed that it was really important that young people are encouraged to play an active part in politics. The Meyer family sponsor this competition as they wish to continue their connection with the students at our school. The title this year was, 'Considering East London now and its development over the last 100 years how do you think the design of community facilities-parks, libraries, museums, schools, leisure and sports centres can enrich people's lives? Please refer to your personal experience.' We were very impressed by the beautifully expressed accounts submitted, reflecting the students' personal awareness of the community. We heard special mention of the importance of libraries, sport and museums and their importance to a wide age range. We thank everyone for their submissions, it made for tough judging! Congratulations to the winners:

First Place: **Liesel May** (12 Cavell)
Second Place: **Rosabella Copas** (12 Caine)
Special Mention: **Melina Malungu** (12 Kingsley) ■

Livery Academy Award Winners 2023

Established in 2013, the Livery Academy Awards is an annual event designed to foster entrepreneurial and presentation skills among sixth-form students as well as build links between Livery Company members and the academies with whom their company is associated. Mossbourne had already won the first leg of the competition, at the Grocer's Hall, hosted by the Worshipful Company of Grocers to which we are associated. This year, the theme was "Financing the Future" and our team presented their app Clozo; "Saving Our Planet In Style".

We are so proud to announce that the team went on to win the cross-livery competition, bringing the Livery Company Awards Cup to Mossbourne for the very first time! Many congratulations and a huge well done to our budding entrepreneurs: **Mia Arthur** (12 Morley), **Angel Constantinou** (12 Morley), **Simone Reeves-Dyer** (12 Wollstonecraft), **Casper Daghish** (12 Cavell), **Joshua Inegbenose** (12 Wollstonecraft) and **William Ntaka** (12 Cavell). ■



Medicine Bursary

The Medicine Bursary Programme wrapped up another successful year with a visit to the Imperial NHS Trust Simulation suite. This facility helps teach medical students and junior doctors how to carry out tricky medical procedures in a safe way. They use high-tech manikins that behave as a patient would (feeling pain, talking, sweating etc).

The thirty medicine bursary students ran through a scenario where a patient had a heart attack. The students responded with CPR and stabilised the patient, with one student acting as team leader. The patient was then taken for a procedure that involved placing a stent into the heart valve – each student had an opportunity to undertake this. As it was such a big group, they were split into two. While one group worked through the heart attack scenario the other group worked with two junior doctors – May Slivnik and Mayur Murali – who gave up their time to teach the students intubation and airways skills.

The visit to the simulation centre was always a highlight of the year and we were delighted to be able to return after a three-year gap. It marked the end of a rewarding year where we have had visits from experts in the world of medicine to speak to our students. These include Sean Lintern – Health

Editor of the Sunday Times, Louise Ashley, – CEO of Homerton Healthcare NHS Trust, Dr Helgi Johannsson – Vice-President of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, and Dr Patrick French – one of the country's foremost HIV experts. We are very grateful to all who have given up their time for our students this year. ■

Learning the ropes in the simulation suite.



Sixth Form Societies

The Sixth Form has had a fantastic provision of extra-curricular societies and clubs this year. Below two of our Year 12 students introduce their favourites:

History Society

By **Ronya Bayir** (12 Pinter)

History Society takes place every Tuesday after school. It is a place where students can advance their knowledge of world history presented by either a student or teacher. Anyone can attend History Society and listen to the fascinating presentations. If you're interested in studying history at A-level and university, I would recommend you attend as I really think it has given me an advantage with my studies, specifically I have learnt more context and insight into certain topics. This year we have had students present on the history of Japan, the history of the Kurdish people and the history of Somalia and their civil war.

If this sounds like something you're interested in, come to room 402 at 4.20pm on Tuesdays to learn more about the ever-intriguing history of our world!

By **Mia Arthur** (12 Morley)

Model United Nations

I enjoy Model United Nations because it covers so many aspects that I am interested in. You can debate, or you can simply vote on behalf of your country. You explore different humanitarian issues, learn more about foreign policy in a very hands-on way, and come up with solutions to some of the world's most challenging problems. I study A-level drama, so I really enjoy the role-playing aspects that come with pretending to be an ambassador, or a delegate. Sometimes the discussions get particularly heated, and we have to rely on the chairman to bring order to the General Assembly (a.k.a. our extended study room)!

Politics Society

Politics Society is fun, engaging, and really important for people who want to keep up to date with current affairs, in and out of Britain. I've been attending Politics Society since September, and I have always really enjoyed it. The sessions we have are informative and useful, as well as being entertaining – we've had quite a tumultuous political year in Britain, so there was never a shortage of political issues to discuss...

Mr Cranston, who coordinates The Sixth Form clubs and societies, highlights that many students find Politics Society a great place to freely express their ideas on a variety of topics and this had made it a stand-out success from the very beginning.

The Sixth Form team is always happy to support students with new super- and extra-curricular groups. This year saw the founding of a new Debate Society. If you are currently in Year 12 or a Year 11 looking forward to attending Mossbourne Sixth Form then please speak to a member of the Sixth Form Team in the new academic year to join one of our groups. ■



Follow us on Twitter @Mossbourne6th for the latest news and updates! ■



SIXTH FORM

Farewell to Year 13

The Sixth Form team bid farewell to the Year 13 students on the last day of half-term as they set off on their study leave. There was an entertaining and emotional celebration assembly run by **Omar Semmami** (13 Pinter) and **Reyan Abdulselem** (13 Berkoff), with speeches by the Head Students. Awards, both serious and playful, were handed out: **Taylor West** (13 Pinter) won the Sir Michael Wilshaw Dux Award for his dedicated leadership and community spirit throughout his seven years at Mossbourne; **Amaris Miller** (13 Pinter) won the Bourne University Bursary, a means-tested bursary sponsored

by the Bourne family which awards her £15,000 throughout her three years at university. The celebration assembly was followed by the Garden Party, where students enjoyed food, ice cream, cakes, and a photo-booth. A huge thanks to the Sixth Form Team and Ms Kohter for organising this event – it was hugely successful and a fitting way to send off the Year 13s. We wish them all the luck and success in their futures! ■



Taylor West (13 Pinter) was the winner of the Sir Michael Wilshaw Dux Award

Omar Semmami (13 Pinter) and Reyan Abdulselem (13 Berkoff) leading the celebration assembly



LIBRARY

World Book Day

The library celebrated World Book Day by hosting our annual Scholastic Book Fair. The library was buzzing with excitement as students browsed the huge variety of books (and stationery!) on offer. A special thank you to **Cara Voysey** (13 Pinter) and **Mia Arthur** (12 Morley) for assisting Ms Berggren and making sure the fair was a great success.

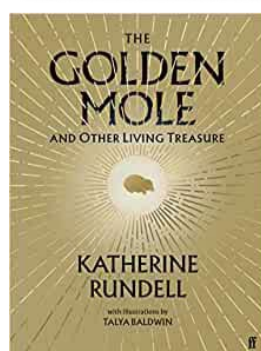
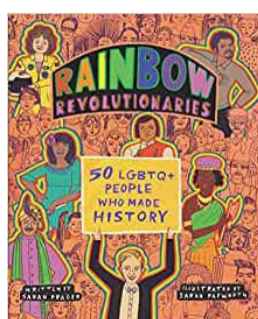
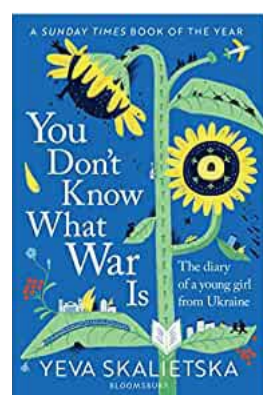
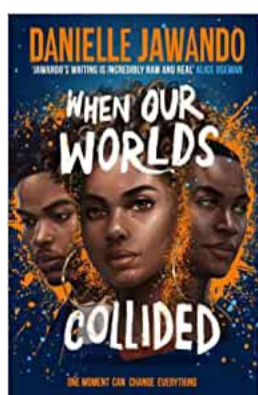
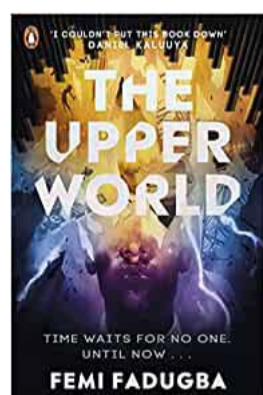
This year's World Book Day competition "Who's Reading?" also proved popular and led to interesting discussions about books and reading. Congratulations to all who managed to guess all 10 teachers AND ask them about their favourite books! ■



Recommended Reads

Many students from all year groups have contributed to Book of the Week this year by recommending their favourite books. Ms Berggren would like to say a huge thank you to all contributors!

Below are a few highlights from this year's recommended reads. Perhaps one of them will be your favourite summer read? ■



Free books for students in Year 9 and 10

This year students in both Year 9 and 10 were given the opportunity to choose a free book from a selection of titles shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal and the YA Book Awards, two of the most prestigious children's book prizes in the UK. With 17 great titles on the list the choice was never going to be easy! The sci-fi novel *The Upper World* and horror story *House of Hollow* proved to be the

most popular and students could be spotted engrossed in their books around the school. A swap box in the library ensured students who wished to change their book could do so and many have now read several of the books on the list. The library would like to thank The Friends of MCA (FoMCA) who kindly contributed towards the cost of this initiative, making it possible to offer it to both year groups. ■



Visit from author Sufiya Ahmed

The author Sufiya Ahmed popped into school during English Enrichment Week to speak with a group of Year 8 students. Sufiya is the author of several historical novels, most recently *Rosie Raja - Churchill's Spy*, an exciting page-turner about a young girl's adventures during World War II. She spoke about her previous career as a speech writer in the Houses of Parliament and how she incorporates her passion for education and children's rights into her writing. All students who attended were given a signed copy of *Rosie Raja* to take home. ■



Summer Reading

Summer is the perfect time to enjoy some reading! Hackney libraries will be open over the summer holidays (check opening times on the Hackney libraries' website) and it is easy to get a library card and start borrowing. If you like e-books and audiobooks, you can borrow them from home. You need to be registered with the library online and have a computer, tablet, or mobile phone to read on. You can register on the Hackney libraries website by clicking 'join the e-library'. ■





LIFE SCIENCE

Picnic on Hampstead Heath

Selen Yilmaz (11 Butler), **Seda Yilmaz** (11 Blackman) and **Ozman Sendijja** (11 Butler) organised a fabulous outing to Hampstead Heath in May to celebrate the arrival of warmer weather.

They planned all the jobs students need to do before they can leave school for the day. Working together as a team made this much easier!

Ms Reynolds says: The students (and the staff!) all had a great time even though the weather was somewhat colder than expected... We were all tired by the time we got back to school – which is probably something to do with the fact that we walked about 8k! ■



Picnic on the heath



Swinging into spring



HUMANITIES ENRICHMENT WEEK

Our World

This year our Humanities Enrichment Week theme was 'The World Around Us'. There were several lectures on offer, the most popular of which was two experts from the British Academy whose lecture was called "Where can a humanities degree take you?" Many students got involved in our internally run Model UN and Team Quiz competitions and excellent homework was produced on the topic in geography.

Continuing the Enrichment Week theme, a group of lucky Year 7 students went on a Humanities Walking Tour of historic and religious sites around Liverpool Street in June. From Cable Street to mosques and temples in the area, the students were fascinated to explore the historical significance of the city in which they live. ■



PSHCE

Burning Questions

This year our students have had an array of current issues to deliberate through Burning Question, which encourages students to learn arguments for and against a topical query and gives them the chance to debate with their peers and reflect on their own views.

This year we had topics on:

- Should the World Cup be held in Qatar?
- What are strikes and can they work?
- Should Britain get rid of its nuclear deterrent?

Students were extremely engaged by each of the topics that were covered, learning key information about the world around them whilst practising how to form persuasive arguments and oracy skills. Below is some student feedback from our most recent Burning Question:

We recently attended the Burning Question about whether the UK should renew their nuclear weapons or if we should get rid of them. To quote one of our classmates, it was "a bomb of information"! It clearly demonstrated the differing views on peace and conflict within the nation.

Furthermore, it was very beneficial to us as it helped us form arguments for and against the use of weapons of mass destruction for our upcoming RS GCSE.

Overall, it was a fantastic experience, and we can't wait to learn from more Burning Questions to come.

By **Bertie Humphreys** (10 Mandela), **Krutagn Mistry** (10 Butler), **Lea Cela** (10 Butler), **Charlie Brunson** (10 Mandela) and **Charlie Forster** (10 Blackman) ■

Debating nuclear weapons





HISTORY

Holocaust Memorial Day

On Wednesday 25th January, a group of Year 9 students went to the Rio Cinema to watch "Where is Anne Frank?", an animated film by Ari Folman. The film was being shown to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, which is observed annually on 27th January. The film showed us the horrific ways families were torn apart, starved and killed simply for being Jewish. Around six million Jewish people were killed by the Nazis. Anne and her family were kept in the biggest concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. The film also touched upon how Anne did not want to be worshipped, she just wanted to be an author who could inspire people with hope. It also showed how people are still being persecuted and killed for their beliefs even today.

We found the film very interesting and especially liked how the "Sturmabteilung", also known as SA troops, were portrayed as it felt very real and made us both uncomfortable and frightened.

We also loved the talk after the film where Mike Levy and Jes Benstock answered our questions about the movie and the holocaust. We like how friendly and welcoming the Rio cinema staff were and enjoyed the experience there and back.

By **Fowziat Bello** (9 Brontë) and **Belinda Tambe Ribeiro** (9 Milton)

When I was watching "Where is Anne Frank?" I was reminded of my grandmother who told me stories of her family, some of whom perished in Poland during World War II. The film was telling the story in the world of today, for us to better understand how this genocide took place. Ordinary people were impacted, and ordinary people became murderers. Such horrors could once again be inflicted on people in the world. I think that the lesson from this film, and from

Holocaust Memorial Day, is that we need to confront states that violate human rights and accept refugees who escape persecution to seek shelter amongst us. This is the reason that our family has given shelter to a Ukrainian refugee this year.

By **Hannah Weizman** (9 Butler)

Still from Where is Anne Frank? By Ari Folman



History Society

History Society has had another successful year at Mossbourne. This society takes place weekly after school and students are invited to present on various historical topics. One of the society's members and regular presenter **Kit Crane** (9 Butler) describes his experience here::

When Mr. Cranston first invited me to History Society, I was unsure about attending it as I wasn't sure what to expect. I thought maybe it would just be more of curriculum-based history or something I wasn't interested in. However, it was none of that at all. Instead, I found out that each week someone made a presentation on an interesting historical topic that was almost certainly something most people wouldn't have the faintest idea about. This allowed me to learn about a variety of different nations, cultures and conflicts which helped me become more informed about the world each week. From the real-life Robin Hood to Vlad the Impaler via the Antarctic expeditions, you never knew what to expect. These passionately presented topics even inspired me to make presentations of my own on Korea, The Western Sahara and Chinese neo-colonialism which are all things I had very limited knowledge on before I researched them. Overall, History Society is a great opportunity for anyone in any year group to expand your knowledge of the world and develop your passion. ■



GEOGRAPHY

Museum visits

In April, I was part of the two Year 9 geography classes that went on a trip to learn more about tectonic hazards. Our day started at the Natural History Museum where we began to learn about volcanoes. In lesson we had been learning about why and where volcanoes form, but in the museum we saw pictures of volcanoes around the room, models of technology used to measure and predict volcanic eruptions and even suits used to withstand the scorching hot temperatures. It provided a valuable insight into what would actually happen if there was an eruption.

For our GCSE course we have been studying the earthquake that devastated Haiti in 2010. Although there was less information on earthquakes, one thing resonated with most of us: the earthquake room. For a moment, perhaps

no more than 10 seconds, the ground beneath us vibrated. I was talking to my friends at the time and was taken aback when the simulation began. It's sobering to think that the scale of what was in this room was nothing compared to the magnitude seven earthquake that killed over 316,000 people and left 1.5 million homeless in Haiti.

To finish the trip, we made our way to the Science Museum and watched "A Beautiful Planet". Although we hadn't learnt about outer space in geography, the film presented the beauty of earth from the atmosphere and was a great way to end a fascinating day.

By **Sam Leonard** (9 Milton)

Year 9 geographers ready to explore the museum



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Classroom Court Case

Students in Year 8 have been studying moral issues and the ethics of the death penalty. This culminated in a classroom court case with the focus on applying their knowledge to the real-life case of Stanley "Tookie" Williams and evaluate whether it was right or wrong for him to be sentenced to the death penalty. The class was separated into prosecution and defence, with three students representing the jury. Each side had to give an opening and closing statement with the jury reaching a judgement at the end of proceedings.

Below, **Maxwell McKenzie Breary** (8 Brontë) reflects on the experience:

I really enjoyed my role in the classroom court case. It was long awaited, and it did not fail to impress. Our teacher, Mr Tuohy, got into a judge's outfit and immediately assumed the character. This also got us into character too – I was tasked with giving an opening speech for the prosecution, and believe I delivered it well. We'd previously had to research the case as well as apply our knowledge from learning about the death penalty. Although the jury ruled against us, the judge congratulated the prosecution for the quality of their argument.

Maxwell McKenzie Breary (8 Brontë) opens for the prosecution





Classics Enrichment Week

In January, students from across the academy took part in events to learn more about Latin and Classics.

Year 11 English students took part in 'English and Classics: Aiming for Top Grades' where they studied the classical allusions in Macbeth and considered how to use this knowledge to improve their analysis of the text.

A number of students from different year groups attended an Ancient Greek taster lesson to find out more about studying classical languages.

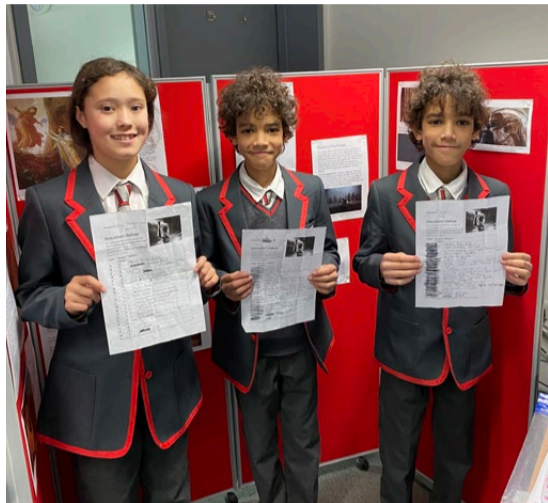
A pop-up museum in the library allowed students to learn about katabases – journeys to the underworld in classical literature, a theme that emerges in the texts students study at all levels – from The Odyssey in Year 7 up to The Aeneid in Year 13.

Throughout the week students also took part in the Percy Jackson Challenge, trying to name creatures from Greek and Roman mythology for every letter of the alphabet. Congratulations to our winners: **Jerry Cook** (7 Malala), **Rosa Stranger-Jones** (7 Bevan) and **Josh Cook** (7 Bevan)!

Finally, as well as various other in-class activities, Year 9 Latin students took part in a Roman-style dinner party, trying a number of dishes and ingredients that would have been available to Roman diners and learning about the social importance of these events in the Roman world.

To all students who participated, gratias tibi ago! ■

The winners of the Percy Jackson Challenge



Roman-style dining



Oxford & Cambridge Classics Online Open Day

Before Easter, Year 12 Classics and Latin students were invited to join prospective candidates from across the country in a series of lectures and interviews with Oxford and Cambridge University panels. Students explored the varied degree options available in Classical Study and had the opportunity to ask questions about course content and university life. They also expanded their knowledge of their courses by attending taster lectures on 'Alternative Futures in Greek Literature'. ■

Sixth Form Classics Theatre Trip

In March, the Sixth Form Classics students enjoyed a trip to the National Theatre to view a new retelling of Phaedra, combining the works of Euripides, Seneca, and Racine. Students then discussed the similarities and differences between the classical and contemporary staging in their next lessons. ■



Letters of Refuge

During the spring term, some Year 12 students travelled to King's College London to take part in a workshop and seminar. 'Letters of Refuge' introduced pupils to fragments of ancient letters, preserving the voices of people who lived under the Roman Empire. These were exhibited alongside contemporary letters written at Art Refuge's 'The Community Table' in Folkestone, Kent, and Galais, northern France by people who are displaced and seeking safety on either side of the English Channel. Pupils were able to write their own letters and discuss their thoughts with PhD students at the university. ■

KS3 trip to the British Museum and London Mithraeum

In June, Latin pupils in Year 8 and Year 9 visited the British Museum and the London Mithraeum. Pupils explored the Rome, Roman Britain, and Parthenon galleries in the British Museum, practising their source evaluation skills, enjoying talks on classical art and growing their appreciation for the field of classics. In the Mithraeum, students explored the archaeology of Roman London, and enjoyed an immersive experience which recreated a ceremony in the temple of Mithras. ■



Outside the British Museum



Spanish Tapas Bar Trip

In the spring term, a group of lucky Year 11 students had the exciting opportunity to visit an authentic Spanish tapas restaurant in the heart of London. The students who were chosen had all showed great improvement in their language studies since starting Year 11. They bravely used their Spanish skills to order a marvellous selection of tapas: pimientos del padron, tortilla de patatas, and for dessert churros con chocolate!

At MCA we believe that learning a language is not only about grammar, and vocabulary, but also about immersing ourselves in the

culture of the country whose language we're learning. And what better way to do this than through gastronomy! Visiting a restaurant is also a great opportunity to tie in the classroom work with a real-life experience to expose students to the Spanish language via social interaction. They all had to interact with restaurant staff, reading the menu in Spanish, ordering food, asking questions... just like we have practised in lessons! The pupils thoroughly enjoyed this fun opportunity to put their knowledge to practical use and to enhance their understanding of Spanish culture, and they certainly enjoyed the food too! ■

Year 11 students enjoying the tapas experience





Articulated About Art

In November the Year 12 art class attended a preparation day at the National Army Museum for Articulation, a national public speaking competition. Following a tour by the Head of Education and detailed discussions about the complex contexts and history behind all the paintings, each group was assigned one painting to prepare a speech about. We also had the amazing opportunity to speak to the museum art curators about the historical background of the artworks.

We returned to school and prepared our own presentations to compete against each other for the opportunity to represent MCA at the Articulation quarterfinals at the Courtauld Gallery. Teachers and guests from art, drama, English, and geography made up a tough judging panel, but I impressed them enough to be chosen as the winner.



Dyani at the regional finals of the Articulation competition (photo credit: Hydar Dewachi)

At the quarterfinals I competed against students from Harrow and various other schools with my speech about the artist Shannon Cartier Lucy, who I initially discovered during a summer workshop with the organisation Auto Italia. This competition was even tougher – we weren't allowed to move around as the microphone was fixed and I had been hoping to woo the judges with my ability to move confidently and elegantly across the stage! The judge picked two winners, of which I was one! Overwhelmed with pride, I made my way to the stage and accepted my certificate.

From here I went to the London regional finals at the V&A museum. I had practised tirelessly and polished my performance with the help of Ms. O'Flaherty whose insight as a drama teacher really boosted my confidence. Unfortunately, I didn't win this time, but this was a thoroughly eye-opening experience and I'm so glad Mrs Lennox applied for Mossbourne students to be given a chance to compete, and I am honoured to be the first Mossbournian to have done so.

I learnt so much about confident public speaking which I will use when preparing for future presentations. One teacher said, "It's not always about what you say, sometimes it's about how you say things", and I am still thinking about it now as I write this article!

Thank you to everyone who has helped me, including the teachers that judged and supported me and members of my art class that came to my first competitive round, I am very grateful for this experience.

By **Dyani Kosuge Kabir** (12 Wollstonecraft)

Judge Olivia Laing said, "This beautifully composed account really drew me deep into the uncanny world of Shannon Cartier Lucy. A very elegant use of images and such subtle readings of these fascinating and disquieting paintings."

A visit to Culford Ceramics Studio

In May 12 lucky students in Year 7 and 8 visited Culford Ceramics Studio in Dalston. Below, **Maya Patel** (7 Mandela) remembers an exciting day:

Our trip to Culford Ceramics Studio on Tuesday 16th May was fabulous. When we entered, we saw lots of clay work that was colourful and creative. First, we met Liz Jackson, a ceramic artist based at the studio who was our guide and teacher throughout our visit. She showed us a huge kiln, it was so big that the studio was built around it! Then she introduced us to other artists who explained their work; one was glazing and the other was creating moulds for new work based on the sea and climate change. We also met Ella who showed us all the processes that she had gone through to create work inspired by the landscape around her home. Then Liz showed us how to wedge the clay to get the air out and how to use guide sticks to create even slabs. We used moulds that she had made to create clay fruit, vegetables biscuits and even fried eggs that we could take back to school to fire and glaze. I was really surprised by the detail in the moulds and all the different kinds of work that the artists made. I can't wait for the next amazing trip!



Budding artists at work

Art, Design & Technology Enrichment Week

As part of the Enrichment Week, the Mossbourne Architecture Programme took over the workshop and opened it up to students to redesign a corner of Hackney Downs. Students were divided into teams, and each given a section of the park to reimagine. Students had great fun turning coloured card into new landscapes, creating bridges to cross over roads and colourful walkways to pedestrianise Downs Park Road. At the end of the session all the teams came together to present their ideas for improving Hackney Downs with final proposals including ideas for new walkways and play areas and safer streets.

Mr Dodd with students and their architectural models.

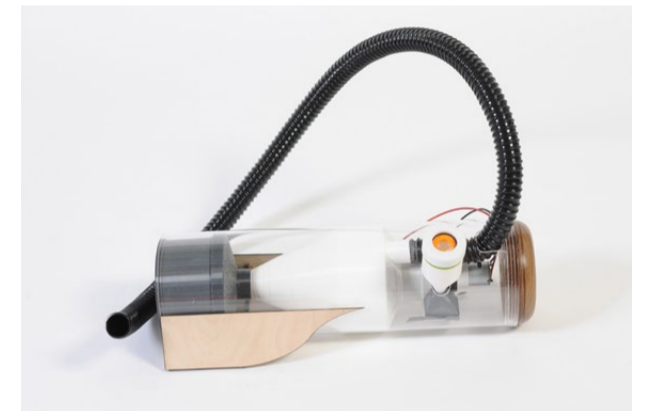


A-Level Product Design

The Year 13 A-level product designers recently finished their products for their NEA project work. Among the very high-quality products special mention must go to: **Grace Foley's** (13 Hazlitt) chair with storage, **William Milloy's** (13 Hazlitt) dust extractor for the jewellery trade, **George Eaton's** (13 Kingsley) decorative speaker made from recycled aluminium drinks cans, **Lara Uzun's** (13 Cavell) bedroom clothes storage hanger and **Ayo Olawaiye's** (13 Pinter) laminated wood shelving system. All fulfil their brief of being innovative, well designed, and very well manufactured.

Design by
William Milloy
(13 Hazlitt)

Design by
Lara Uzun
(13 Cavell)



Year 8 Designs

In Year 8 Design & Technology, students have been creating USB cases from plywood. The focus has been on creating fun and ergonomic (comfortable) shaped cases that can then be used by students to save work onto from the computer.



Design by
Iga Burdzylak
(8 Milton)



Design by
Vicky He
(8 Mandela)



Design by
Abdurrahman Patel
(8 Milton)



Ballet at the Barbican

In March, all Year 10 music pupils attended the Barbican to watch the acclaimed ballet company Ballet Black. The first thrilling and imaginative performance included poetry by Adrienne Rich asking the question 'In times like these, where do we belong?' The second performance displayed the life story of the famous singer Nina Simone, told through ballet and dance theatre. Ballet Black is transforming the dance landscape by giving a platform to artists of Black and Asian descent as well as to new choreographic voices. Pupil feedback was hugely positive, and many have expressed an interest in seeing more ballet in the future! ■

The ballet company Ballet Black



Play in a Day

This term, a group of Year 7 students rehearsed and performed the play 'Ernie's Incredible Illucinations' by Alan Ayckbourn all in one day. This one-act play tells the tale of Ernie, a boy with a vivid imagination whose thoughts have the disconcerting habit of turning into reality...

The students spent the whole day in the auditorium with Miss Court and Mr Swales to prepare for their performance. They excelled in their focus, creativity and imagination during the rehearsal day and wowed the audience with a phenomenal performance.

Eisah Howarth (7 Moore) said: 'Play in a day was a thrill! I really enjoyed performing because the cast was so good. I would 100% do it again.'

Miss Passmore, who came to support her students, said: 'The performance was fun-filled, full of laughs and the smiles on the students' faces lit up the auditorium. Bravo Year 7!' ■



The cast of Play in a Day

Year 11 BTEC

Over the last few weeks, the Year 11 Performing Arts students have successfully completed their BTEC course. This culminated in them devising and performing a piece of their own work based around the idea of 'truths and lies'. The brilliant hard work and dedication shown by each of the students meant that their final performances at Mossbourne Community Academy can be something they are truly proud of. Well done to all the performers: **Omotola Animashaun** (11 Blackman), **Esperance Matondo** (11 Blackman), **Aatami Lever** (11 Butler), **Tina Estylanidis** (11 Brontë), **Daniel Ojo** (11 Butler), **Lyonel Bocari** (11 Mandela), **Jayna Nguyen** (11 Milton) and **Alex Nemeth** (11 Butler). ■

Hamlet in 50 Minutes

On a bright and crisp February morning, 98 Year 7 students walked down to Chats Palace to watch the theatre company NIE perform Shakespeare in a Suitcase...

With an ensemble of two actors, one musician and a few items in a suitcase, NIE have set themselves the challenge of telling the story of Hamlet in just 50 minutes! It was a fantastically entertaining and educational performance and the students loved that the performers and director stayed for a Q&A at the end of the show. The reviews from teachers and students alike were glowing:

A hugely enjoyable and accessible version of Hamlet

The production of Hamlet was amazing. All the students were really engaged and on the edge of their seats. I would thoroughly recommend.

I really liked it because it was funny, sad and we got to join in. The music was great, I loved the songs! ■

Year 7 with the cast (and the suitcase).



Beatboxing Workshop

In March, a group of Year 7 students took part in a beatboxing workshop with UK beatboxing champion, Grace Savage. Grace wowed students with her impressive beatboxing talents and taught them how to make drum kit sounds using their voice. The group then composed their own beatbox duets to perform on stage and ended the evening with a beatbox battle! The Music Department would like to say well done to all students for their amazing performances! ■

Paul Alli (7 Blackman) and Davina Zere (7 Moore) on stage for a beatbox battle



Federation Concert

The annual Federation Concert which took place at Hackney Church on 21st June was the perfect way to end the year for all our talented musicians and singers. Students from across the federation schools showcased their talent and dedication in an inspiring and poignant show which had the audience spellbound.

Congratulations to **Olivia Padmore** (13 Berkoff) who was voted Young Mosaician of the Year, an annual prize awarded by the Music Department for excellence in music. ■



A fantastic concert at Hackney Church

Year 11 performing their own work



Olivia Padmore, winner of Young Mosaician of the Year



ENGLISH

Celebrating Success at the Jack Petchey Awards

We are delighted to announce that **James Tuitt Adjei** (10 Butler) won first place in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Competition regional finals in April with his speech entitled 'Life on the Spectrum'.

Against extremely talented finalists from various schools in Hackney, James' passionate, honest and emotional speech impressed the judges who awarded him first place. This is a fantastic achievement, and we are all very proud of him.

We are also very proud of **Eray Bektas** (10 Butler) who spoke articulately and earnestly about failure and success. Eray's speech was so impressive that the director of Barnardo's, Ghino Parker, invited him to speak at the Barnardo's conference later in the year.

Both students showed real courage and impressive determination and were a credit to themselves, their families and all of us at Mossbourne Community Academy.

Photos and a video of James' winning speech can be found here: <https://jpspeakoutchallenge.com/past-events-grid/> ■



James Tuitt Adjei and Eray Bektas (10 Butler) at the Jack Petchey Speak Out Competition

Reading Chinua Achebe

Students in Year 9 have been reading Chinua Achebe's classic novel *Things Fall Apart*, first published in 1958. Mr James' class has been looking specifically at how Achebe represents women within the novel, leading to some very insightful comments in the essays produced. Mr James was hugely impressed with the students' progress and the Mossbournian is pleased to share some extracts reflecting their ideas around how this seminal novel is written:

I think Achebe presents women throughout the novel as submissive and subservient towards their male partners. The quote 'do what you are told women' reveals the toxic masculinity, as he speaks to his wives like they are cheap replaceable objects. The imperative verb 'do' indicates that Okonkwo is commanding her to do as she is told. This is reinforced by the quote 'he ruled with a heavy hand', meaning he is in full control of his household.

I believe Achebe presents women through the microcosm of Okonkwo's behaviour towards his wives. When he 'bit his lip in anger' after one of his wives did not follow his instruction, it exemplifies male dominance over women.

By **Eda Yuksel** (9 Mandela)

Achebe presents the role of women to make the men seem greater. The quote 'He has nine wives', conveys how a man can reflect his success by accumulating many wives.... Women should have the right to their freedom but in this time that idea was seen as a utopia that could not be achieved.

By **Belinda Tambe Ribeiro** (9 Milton) ■

By **Jahrome Ballington** (9 Mandela)



SCIENCE

Science Trip to the Natural History Museum

The Science Department organised a trip to the Natural History Museum for some lucky Year 7s who, accompanied by Mr Clifford-Brown, Ms Keegan and Ms Devlia, enjoyed all that this amazing museum has to offer. Here's what **Keziah Fagan-Williams** (7 Blackman) had to say about the day:

When we went to the Natural History Museum in London on a science trip we looked at all the animals from all around the world. I learnt about what some animals used to look like millions of years ago. I also learnt about animal families and kingdoms and different extinct species like dinosaurs. My favourite part was when we saw the T-Rex simulation because it looked so realistic! ■



Enjoying a day out at the NHM



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Encryption and Games at Bletchley Park

In March the Year 9 computer scientists got the chance to visit The National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park. It's home to the world's largest collection of working historic computers and the students observed the evolution of computing unfold before their eyes. Lots of fun was had playing computer games from the 1980s and learning about the codebreaking machines

that changed the course of the World War II. Students got stuck in with hands-on activities that saw them trying to crack some enigma encryption of their own, solve maths problems using manual calculators (which made them appreciate the scientific ones we have today) and some even had a go at some software development in the Raspberry Pi Lab. ■

Code-breaking computer scientists at work





PE

Hackney Athletics Championships

This year we hosted the Hackney Borough Athletics Championships for years 7-10 at Mile End Athletics stadium. The competition encompassed a wide range of track and field events, including sprints, long-distance races, jumps, throws and relays. Over 100 students from Mossbourne competed in all of these events demonstrating the versatility and dedication of our students in athletics. Mossbourne emerged as the most successful school after winning numerous events (both track and field) across all year groups. Students demonstrated remarkable speed, power and technique in sprinting, throwing and jumping events. Additionally, the long-distance runners displayed great endurance and determination in their events. A truly memorable event for Mossbourne's athletics team! ■

Girls' Netball

All netball teams have had a great year. The Year 7 team, who only began their netball journey in September, showed great promise in the early stages and are going from strength to strength. The A team were the eventual winners of the Hackney League and went onto represent Hackney at the London Schools Games finishing 12th out of 32 teams.

Our Year 9 netball team claimed an extraordinary victory this season by being crowned the overall winner of the Year 9-11 league, beating the Year 10/11 team in a tense final. With this remarkable accomplishment, the Year 9 team has etched their names in the annals of our school's sporting legacy. Congratulations to all the players and their dedicated coaches for an unforgettable season filled with resounding success! It has also been a successful season for the Year 10/11 team. For the first time in several years, we have been able to field both an A and a B team. There were notable wins against other Hackney schools in the Hackney League, leading the team to top their group. Despite some losses, the team worked hard to the end and their skills and tactical knowledge took huge strides forward as a result.

Most pleasing is the way in which all players have been dedicated to training; regularly attending, always with the correct attitude and putting newly learnt tactics and skills onto the court. We hope that those who are leaving us this year continue to play in sixth form or college and look forward to next season. ■

The Year 9 Netball team making history by winning the Hackney League final



New Volleyball Club

From its humble beginnings, the new MCA volleyball club has already showcased immense potential and determination. The club participants committed themselves to rigorous training sessions, honing their skills whilst learning a new sport. Adopting this approach were club attendees **Zara Demirci** (9 Butler), **Lara Rencurrell Paschina** (9 Mandela), **Miriam Oyetunji** (10 Blackman), **Eren Topal** (9 Moore), **Olivier Werszko** (9 Malala), **Jimmy Hoang** (9 Milton) and **Deliza Kiyimba** (10 Milton). Due to the commitment of these players the club can now look forward to playing competitive matches against other schools next year. ■

Hackney and Islington Running League

This year runners from Mossbourne Community Academy competed in the Hackney and Islington Running league which consists of a set of cross-country fixtures against local schools in the area. The PE Department would like to thank and congratulate all students who were involved on their commitment. There were some long, rainy, dark nights but the students showed great enthusiasm and determination when competing in their races. Races were held across the borough of Islington from St Aloysius' Fields to the Emirates Stadium, where students were lucky enough to receive gifts from Arsenal FC for completing their races. A special mention must go to **Catrin Marsden** (7 Mandela), **Tom Bradbury** (11 Mandela) and **Louis Reynolds** (10 Bevan) for some fantastic results across the league. ■

Year 7/8 Girls' Football

This season has been a remarkable journey for these talented young athletes. Despite being their first season together, the team has displayed excellent commitment and dedication throughout, leading them to the prestigious final of the Inner London Cup.

The girls have shown incredible enthusiasm and determination, both in training sessions and during matches. Their hard work and perseverance have paid off, propelling them to this exciting stage of the competition. With each passing game, they have grown in confidence, honed their skills, and developed a deep understanding of teamwork. In the final of the Inner London Cup, the team eagerly awaits their opponents, who will be either Prendergast or Kingsdale. Regardless of the outcome, reaching the final is a remarkable achievement, and the girls should be immensely proud of their progress. They have showcased their abilities and demonstrated the true spirit of sportsmanship throughout the season. It has been a thoroughly enjoyable season and we look forward to our new challenges next year. ■

Year 8 Boys' Football Team

We started off our season extremely well, beating our rivals Mossbourne Victoria Park. As a team it was a great performance from all our players; from Kamil in goal to Ubaay in attack. But a special mention must go to our defence that day. Dylan, Sam, Myles, and Jeremy were all exceptional. Some would call them a brick wall; the strength of our defence has been a standout reason for our success this season. Our final game against City Academy was just as perfect as our first game of the season, everyone put in full effort and commitment to deliver a thumping 6-0 win over our local rivals. After the final goal from Lorian the final whistle blew and we all ran off to celebrate together. Lifting the trophy on the side of the pitch was a fantastic experience and one we are aiming to deliver again next season.

By **Doruk Akhan** (8 Milton) ■

The Year 8 Boys' team lifting the trophy



Year 9 Swimming lessons

Mossbourne recently made the excellent decision to allow some Year 9 students to attend swimming lessons during PE. When I was chosen to attend swimming, I was originally annoyed because I hated swimming. But I received some encouragement from my PE teacher which calmed me down. My overall experience with swimming lessons was amazing as I made new friends and developed my confidence in the water. The swimming instructor was very kind and supportive to the group; she taught us the core skills of all of the swimming strokes along with some personal survival skills. The only thing I would change is the weather (because outdoor swimming in the winter is cold!) but this didn't dampen our spirits. I would recommend taking up the offer of swimming lessons to future year groups as it's vital to learn to swim but, in addition, it also helped me make new friends. And finally, a massive thank you to Ms Yennaris for organising the swimming lessons and for helping us when we were struggling to swim!

By **Grace Adesanya** (9 Bevan) ■

Girls' Cricket

The Year 7/8 Girls' team represented Mossbourne at the Middlesex tournament and finished in 2nd place. The Year 9/10 team also participated a few weeks later and won the competition, going through to the next round to compete for Nationals where they narrowly lost to Highgate. Throughout the tournament, Mossbourne demonstrated excellent teamwork, displaying a strong bond and collaborative spirit on and off the field. The girls supported each other, communicated effectively, and showcased their cricketing skills with great enthusiasm. Their commitment to working together undoubtedly contributed to their success in the competition. Congratulations to all the players for their hard work and dedication! ■

The Year 7 Girls' Cricket team



Year 7 Boys' Football Team

The Year 7 team, under the exceptional leadership of Ms Yennaris, showcased their immense talent and dedication throughout their first season together. Despite being a newly formed team, they defied expectations and secured an impressive 3rd place in the highly competitive Hackney League. Their consistent display of skill, teamwork, and determination was evident in every match they played. As they reflect on their achievements, the team members should feel a sense of pride and excitement for what lies ahead. With the invaluable experience gained this season, they eagerly anticipate the next one, ready to build upon their success and strive for even greater accomplishments. The future holds great promise for the Year 7 boys' football team! ■





**MOSSBOURNE
ROWING
ACADEMY**



MOSSBOURNE ROWING ACADEMY

Junior Inter-Regional Trials and Regatta

Mossbourne rowers attended the Southeast UK trials in February, competing for selection to represent the region at the Inter-Regional Regatta in April.

Seven of our crews (38 rowers) were selected for the Southeast team and raced at the Inter-Regional Regatta at the National Water Sport Centre in Nottingham in April.

With top-six finishes, Mossbourne crews qualified for three A finals at the regatta. The standout result of the day was a bronze medal for our Year 11 Boys' 4+.



Race The Thames

Our annual 'Race the Thames' fundraiser was held on 28th February in the MCA sports hall.

This year, 152 MCA and MVPA students and parents took part in the 72km virtual race on rowing machines, competing against hundreds of teams from across the globe.

Mossbourne rowers were victorious in the Junior Boys' and Junior Girls' categories, and our Year 10 parents were the third-fastest mixed adult team. The event raised just over £8,000 to support the rowing programme.



Students and parents racing virtually in the sports hall

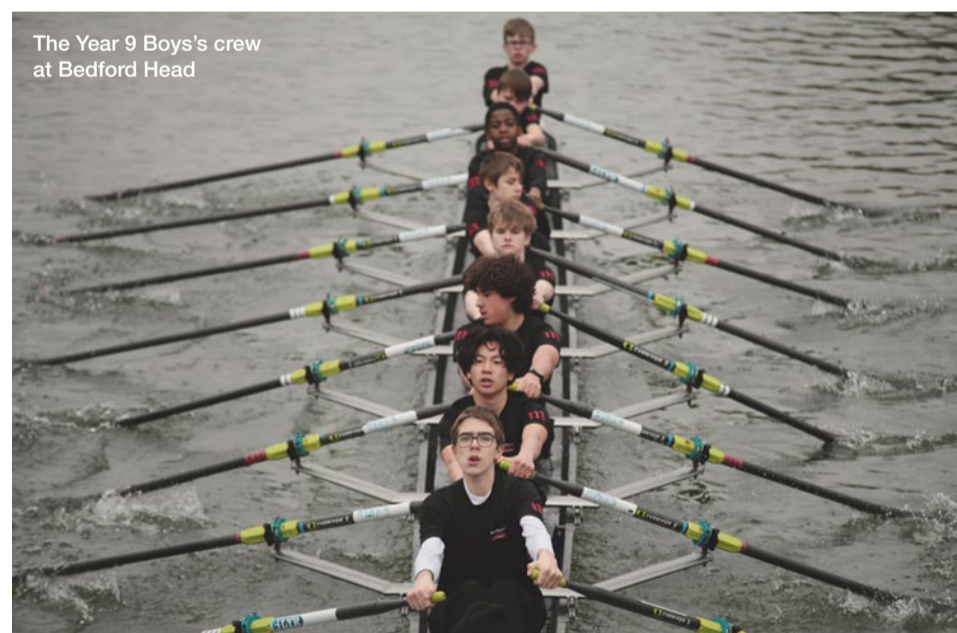
Bedford Head

Mossbourne Rowing Academy competed at the Bedford Head in February.

The notoriously twisty Bedford course requires rowers to navigate five bridges along the Great River Ouse. The bends and bridges are a challenge for boats with a cox, but even more so for coxless boats where the rower in the stroke seat steers using a

rudder cable attached to their foot. Thanks to excellent steering by our coxes and steers people, all our equipment was still in good working order at the end of the day's racing!

We also came away with five event wins, including our Year 9 Boys' crew who were competing for the first time since joining the racing squad in September.



The Year 9 Boys's crew at Bedford Head

Schools' Head of the River Race

The Schools' Head of the River Race is one of the biggest annual sporting events in the UK. Over 3500 rowers compete for their schools over the 6.8km championship course on the Thames between Mortlake and Putney.

This year Mossbourne entered 49 rowers racing in six crews.

Our J16 Boys' Crew were the first down the course. After winning the J15 event last year, they were keen to hold on to their title. The crew was coxed by J15 rower Caspar, who steered a fantastic course, overtaking several crews. They finished in 3rd place overall – an exceptional result, especially as they had a last-minute substitute on board.

Next down the course were our J18 Girls' 8+. Their focus this season has been on sculling (each rower using a pair of oars), so racing in a sweep 8+ (each rower using a single oar) was a new experience. The crew, which was stroked by Inaya and coxed by Alioune, raced aggressively down the course, finishing in 17th position.

Our two J15 Boys' crews were competing on the Tideway (the tidal part of the Thames) for the first time. Our 'A' crew set off at a ferocious pace, quickly catching some of the crews in front of them. Unfortunately, they got caught in traffic which cost them valuable time. They finished in 7th place, a great result at this event. The 'B' crew also did very well, finishing in 13th place.

Our Year 12 Girls' Quad raced in the J18 event, against mostly Year 13 girls, and were our only coxless boat racing. Violet steered an amazing racing line down the notoriously hard to navigate Tideway course. They finished 28th in a very competitive division.

Last to row the course was our J15 Girls' 8+. Like the senior girls, their focus this year has been on sculling, so the sweep 8+ was a challenge. Zuilaka steered a great line along the course and the stern pair of Lena and Natalie provided a great rhythm for the rest of the crew to follow. They finished 7th overall in their category.

Schools' Head of River – an impressive sight on the Thames



Poplar Regatta

The Poplar Regatta was held at the Royal Albert Docks – our home training venue – in May. It was an exciting day of six-lane, side-by-side racing over 2000m on mirror flat water and under bright blue skies.

Races started every six minutes, with over 400 crews (approximately 1000 athletes) taking to the water, including some of the biggest school rowing clubs in the country.

We had over 75 rowers competing and were victorious in the J14 Boys' 4x+ event!



Proud MCA winners at the Poplar Regatta