



MOSSBOURNE
FEDERATION

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the mossbournian

The Newsletter of Mossbourne Community Academy

Winter 2024



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the 2024-2025 Christmas edition of The Mossbournian. The start of the academic year has passed by all too swiftly and, at the time of writing, Year 11 students are deep in preparation for their GCSE Mock Examinations and Year 13 students have embarked on UCAS and Apprenticeship applications. The newest and youngest members of our community, Year 7, have enjoyed a splendid start to their time at

as that of a Head of Year who reports 100% attendance in their year group on any given day. Our target is a minimum attendance rate of 97% so we must seek to improve on this excellence further still.

Current Year 11 students proved their potential and commitment by achieving a record-breaking set of Religious Studies GCSE results in the summer. Their performance in Year 10, pitted against Year 11 students across the country, places them in the top 20 schools in terms of progress. The current Year 11 cohort achieved a value-added score of 1.71 grades higher than expected in RS GCSE with 19% of all grades being grade 9, 88% of all grades were grade 5+ and 94% of all RS GCSE grades being 4+. This bodes extremely well for their performance in the forthcoming GCSE examinations in summer 2025 as they look to potentially break GCSE outcome records.

enter the English Baccalaureate against our entry rate of 90%. The tremendous achievement of this cohort was further highlighted earlier this month, when 'My London' published its list of 'London's best secondary schools'. We are delighted that Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy and Mossbourne Community Academy are ranked as the third and fourth best schools in London for Progress 8 and are both in the top 10, nationally. The students deserve huge congratulations in recognition of their effort and diligence which has been rewarded with truly outstanding examination results.

Year 13 students achieved incredible A Level results. An impressive 75% of all grades achieved were a grade B, or better, and 48% of all grades were A*-A. A total of 15 pupils were successful in securing places at Oxbridge; this was a success rate of 28% from application to securing a

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Giacomo Halliday (12 Berkoff), Obinna Okoro (12 Pinter), Alexis Agyenim-Boateng (12 Cavell) and Bianca Salviato-Foresti (12 Pinter) celebrating their GCSE results in August.

Mossbourne Community Academy and have settled into the ebb and flow of academy life extremely well – Mr Edwards, Head of Year 7, is incredibly impressed. Already, they are proud Mossbournians and role models for future generations. Miss Dow Habbick, Head of Year 12 and Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Pastoral, has been equally impressed with the maturity and general 'loveliness' of Year 12 students who have adapted to Sixth Form life with aplomb.

I was extremely proud to receive confirmation from the Department for Education that the academy attendance rate last half term was 96.7% which is 4% above the national average. Excellent attendance is the first and most important step in securing outstanding progress and I want to thank parents and carers for your support in making sure that learning is only lost when unavoidable. There is no smile so great

Last year's Year 11 students achieved fantastic GCSE results with an exceptional Progress 8 score of 1.47. Disadvantaged pupils achieved an even greater Progress 8 score of 1.51. As you may know, nationally disadvantaged pupils do not achieve in line with non-disadvantaged peers, so our students defied national trends. This means that disadvantaged pupils at Mossbourne Community Academy make one and a half grades of progress more, in all GCSEs, than all other students, nationally. An astounding 85% of last year's Year 11 students achieved five or more GCSEs at grades 4+, including English and maths and 72% of the cohort achieved the English Baccalaureate at grade 4 or above, which means they achieved at least a grade 4 in English, maths, the sciences, a language and either history or geography. This is more astounding when you consider that only 39% of Year 11 students, nationally,

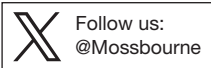
“Excellent attendance is the first and most important step in securing outstanding progress and I want to thank parents and carers for your support in making sure that learning is only lost when unavoidable. There is no smile so great as that of a Head of Year who reports 100% attendance in their year group on any given day.”

place. I am especially proud that for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic students and First in the Family students the success rate was 28% and for Disadvantaged students the success rate was 33%. Eighteen pupils have embarked on degrees in medicine or veterinary science and nine students secured places to study architecture. An astounding 68% of students from last year's Year 13 are now studying at a Russell Group university.

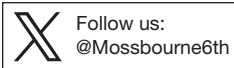
The change to the academy day has been embedded and students and staff are benefitting from the time made available to experience co-curricular opportunities and learning. Ms Olivia Lester, HoLA Humanities and Senior Leader, is the member of the SLT tasked with launching and honing a broad and exciting co-curricular programme. Though many opportunities are already in place, including a significant range of sports and music clubs, from January

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2025 a vast range of opportunities will be available for our children to explore interests and passions outside of the traditional curriculum. Potential clubs include – but are not limited to – chess, journalism, charities, German and an adventure club. I very much look forward to learning more about the proposed ‘Dungeons and Dragons’ club.

As always, I extend a very special thank you to the Friends of Mossbourne Community Academy (FoMCA), without whose unstinting support it would not be possible to hold the Pre-Loved Uniform Stall at parents’ evenings. FoMCA sort, tidy and sell the uniform - a worthy cause both during the cost-of-living crisis and in light of the importance of recycling. Please do consider supporting FoMCA. They would welcome any help possible. You may contact FoMCA directly at friendsgroup@mca.mossbourne.org. mossbourne.org.

I do hope you enjoy this edition of ‘The Mossbournian’ and I will take this opportunity to wish all students and families a peaceful Christmas and an enjoyable holiday. Thank you for your on-going support and for working alongside staff so our students, your children, fulfil their true potential and make progress towards their future aspirations.

Rebecca Warren
Principal



IN MEMORIAM

In the run-up to Christmas our thoughts continue to be with **Pharrell Garcia’s** family and loved ones. Pharrell has left an indelible mark on the academy and will be remembered for his friendly nature, contagious smile and the joy he created for those around him. ■



Key Events & Academic Calendar	
Spring & Summer Term 2025	
Spring term starts	Monday 6 th January 2025
Year 8 Parents’ Evening	Thursday 16 th January 2025
Year 11 Parents’ Evening	Thursday 23 rd January 2025
Year 11 Consultation Day	Thursday 13 th February 2025
INSET day	Friday 14 th February 2025
HALF TERM	Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February 2025
PSHE Day	Thursday 13 th March 2025
Year 13 Parents’ Evening	Thursday 27 th March 2025
Last Day of Term	Friday 11 th April 2025
Easter Holidays	Monday 14 th April – Friday 25 th April 2025
Summer Term starts	Monday 28 th April 2025
Year 9 Parents’ Evening	Thursday 1 st May 2025
Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May 2024
Year 7 Parents’ Evening	Thursday 8 th May 2025
HALF TERM	Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th May 2025
PSHE Day	Friday 27 th June 2025
Sports Day	Wednesday 2 nd July 2025
Last Day of Term	Friday 4 th July 2025



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Day

On Monday 11th November, Mossbourne Community Academy commemorated Remembrance Day with a whole-school observance. Students played a significant role in the ceremony which included the laying of the wreath, the lowering and raising of the flag, and the poignant sounds of the Last Post and Reveille. This event was a powerful reminder of the importance of remembering and honouring those who have served and those who are currently serving. It allowed our students to reflect on the sacrifices made and to understand the value of remembrance in our community.


I’m grateful for the wonderful opportunity to lay the wreath during our remembrance service. Doing so was a sign of respect for the men and women who have lost their lives during wars. In their speech our Head of Years told us about the significance of the poppy and how it was the only thing to grow on the battlefields of World War I. On Remembrance Day all wore our poppies to symbolise life and peace and hope of a world without war. (Maya Patel, 9 Mandela)

This year, Mossbourne Community Academy participated in the poppy appeal to raise funds for the Royal British Legion by selling poppies in the lead-up to our remembrance service. Our school collected £404.35 which will be sent to the Royal British Legion on behalf of the Mossbourne Federation. ■



Fowziat Bello (11 Brontë), Emmanuel Alatise (10 Mandela) and Maya Patel (9 Mandela) all played significant roles in the ceremony.





FRIENDS OF MCA

A Message from FoMCA

Friends of Mossbourne (FoMCA), the voluntary group of parents and carers who manage pre-loved uniform at the school, would like to thank everyone who has donated items this year.

Donating pre-loved school uniform (clean and in bags!) at the recycling bin just outside reception means that we can continue to sell affordable MCA uniform to families and reduce textile waste. All proceeds are made available to teachers for school enrichment activities.

Pre-loved uniform sales are held throughout the year. The dates coincide with parents’ evenings and run from 4.30-7pm in the Textiles Room, where the uniform cupboard is located. Everyone is welcome to attend – even if it’s not your child’s parents evening!

Upcoming pre-loved uniform sales in 2025:

- Thurs 16th January (Year 8 Parents’ Evening)
- Thurs 27th March (Year 13 Parents’ Evening)
- Thurs 1st May (Year 9 Parents’ Evening)
- Thurs 8th May (Year 7 Parents’ Evening)

To connect with FoMCA, you can follow us on Instagram [@friendsofmca](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofmca) or email friendsgroup@mca.mossbourne.org – especially if you are interested in helping out!

Lastly, we’d encourage you to sign up to Easy Fundraising and select ‘Mossbourne Community Academy’. Whenever you make a purchase online, a small amount is donated by the retailer to your chosen account. Find us at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mossbourneaca/>

Thank you!
Friends of MCA ■





ARCHITECTURE PROGRAMME

MAP University News

The Mossbourne Architecture Programme is delighted to announce that ten of our students gained a place to study architecture at university this year. Particular mention must go to Ania Ajaz, who has gained a full scholarship to study at the Architectural Association, a historic, highly selective private university in London once attended by Richard Rogers (architect of MCA). In addition, Hannah McDowell gained a place to study at Cambridge on the new Design Architecture course. Furthermore, Ellis Smout gained a place at the world's highest ranked university for architecture, the Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL. On the right is a full list of students and their university destinations. Congratulations to all!

MAP Class of 2024:

Ania Ajaz – Architecture at Architectural Association (full scholarship)
Hannah McDowell – Design (Architecture) at Cambridge
Ellis Smout – Architecture at The Bartlett, UCL
Violet Humphreys – Architecture at University of Sheffield
Lea Coghlan – Architecture at Cardiff University
Joshua Rosiji – Architecture at University of Westminster
Maya Asihene – Architecture at Oxford Brookes
Melina Malungu – Architecture at Kingston University
Tien Hoang – Architecture at University of Plymouth
Charles Kofi – Architecture at Bristol University ■



COMBINED CADET FORCE

International Military Drone Competition

In September the CCF were invited to Armoury House in the City of London to attend the first international military drone competition held in the UK. Armoury House is the home of the Honorable Artillery Company and the students were given a tour of the area as well as a talk on how military drones are designed and operated. Several countries took part in the competition with Great Britain gaining second place behind Australia. The cadets enjoyed watching the competition and getting the chance to see a drone up close. Liana Tariku (9 Mandela) and Maya Patel (9 Mandela) said: "As we are not qualified to use real military drones we were allowed to use mini drones instead. We tried on goggles with a camera inside that meant we could see where the drone was going and direct it. We are very grateful to the Honorable Artillery Company for inviting us to this exciting event!" ■



The CCF watching the teams prepare for lift-off.



SUCCESS FOR OUR BLACK BOYS GROUP

Black Superheroes

Mr James-Edwards is pleased to share this update on the Success for our Black Boys group, now in its fourth year:

Every year we build a legacy, and it has been an honour to see so many of the boys grow in maturity and ambition over the years. Recently, one of our Alumni returned to lead a Year 7 session on the importance of Black superheroes and to help our boys create their own heroes. Rumani Thompson (now at college) talked to the boys about his experience in school and in the group. He also spoke about his hugely inspiring football journey with Leyton Orient. Rumani is keen to return to MCA as an assistant to our group... watch this space! The Year 7 boys are now hard at work on their Black Superhero creations and will unveil their masterpieces in the next newsletter! ■



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Acting Advice

As part of our Black History Month celebrations, a group of lucky students were treated to a talk by West End actor Shakeel Haakim, who recently graduated from RADA and made his professional debut at the Garrick Theatre. The audience listened intently as he spoke about his way into acting, challenges he has faced (and how he overcame them) and advice for students who might be making plans for a creative career. This is what **Brandon Pashaw** (11 Butler) thought of the event:

I am a drama student myself and Shakeel Haakim helped me understand the different options I have with regards to a career in acting. I was inspired to hear of the challenges he had to face, it made me realise that it's possible for me to overcome obstacles and achieve anything I set my heart on. ■



Actor Shakeel Haakim inspired our budding thespians.



TREE OF LIFE

Tree of Life

Earlier this term, a group of students participated in a series of Tree of Life workshops. These workshops are delivered by Hackney CVS which is working to improve the wellbeing of young people from African and Caribbean heritage in Hackney. It is delivered by practitioners from African, Caribbean and Mixed Heritage backgrounds and Mossbourne is proud to have taken part in these annual workshops for several years. The students thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity. Here is the reflection of **Theo Fadina** (8 Bevan):



I was pleased to participate in Tree of Life this year. We used a tree to build an image of our life to show who we really are and what we want to become in the future. On the last day we did a presentation to parents and carers where we explained what we had been doing and what our trees represented. This experience has really helped me to understand that I should never be ashamed of my background and my roots. From the roots (where we are from), to the leaves (what we aim to be), this workshop boosted me and offered me encouragement in life. I want to say thank you to Ms Dawson for offering me this opportunity and to Abigail, Cindy and KJ, the inspirational workshop leaders. ■



MOSSBOURNE
ROWING
ACADEMY



MOSSBOURNE ROWING ACADEMY



Docklands Head

In November, Mossbourne Rowing Academy competed in the annual Docklands Head Race. Taking place on ‘home turf’, seven of our crews competed in their first race of the season along the 2750m course. Every member of each crew produced an excellent performance with the Year 11 Girls’ crews placed first and second and the Year 11 Boys’ crews second and third. The Year 10 crews also produced some of their best rowing to date. Unfortunately, the other competing crews dropped out of the race, so they were not able to compare themselves to surrounding clubs and schools this time.

Ariel Clover (10 Moore):
I think the Docklands Head was a great race and as a team we were very proud with how hard we worked. That sense of pride and achievement stays with you for longer than just the race day!

Finnbar McMahon (10 Moore):
I found the Docklands Head very interesting as it was an opportunity to row a longer distance than usual which was a bit daunting to begin with but also exhilarating! I’m looking forward to future races and competing against other schools. ■



GB Rowing Olympians Event

In October, our Year 11 rowing students were invited to attend a wonderful event hosted by the Vintners Company in the impressive Vintners’ Hall in the heart of the City of London. The evening was focused on hearing the stories of three British rowers who all competed in the 2024 Paris Olympics: Jacob Dawson, Lola Anderson and Becky Wilde. They spoke about their history in the sport, the challenges they faced and their experience of racing at the very top level. It was a truly inspiring evening where the students had the opportunity to ask the athletes questions and pose for photos with some very impressive medal hauls!

Logan McCann (11 Milton):
It was an amazing opportunity to meet some of the rowers from the Olympic GB team - hearing them speak about their experiences to get into the team was very inspiring as it showed anyone can do anything if they put their mind to it. We also got to meet Elliot Awin who rowed solo across the Atlantic after having been diagnosed with a heart condition. His story was incredible and it made us all want to experience it as well.

Rosie Hoyle (11 Butler):
The rowers’ first experience of the sport was mostly at the same age ours and it felt incredibly inspiring to see how high-level competitive rowing can develop from school age. I loved meeting Lola Anderson especially, as I got the chance to speak to her about her journey. ■

If the medal fits... Our rowers with Olympic medallists Becky Wilde, Jacob Dawson and Lola Anderson.



Belle Murray (11 Butler) and Rosie Hoyle (11 Butler) with Olympic medallists Becky Wilde and Lola Anderson.



WINTER CONCERT

Winter Concert

In December, on one of the coldest nights of the year, parents and carers gathered with staff in the auditorium for the annual Winter Concert. They were treated to exceptional performances by our hugely talented musicians and singers. Music from Vivaldi and Mozart to The Rolling Stones and Stevie Wonder (with some Christmas carols thrown in), made for a unforgettable evening. Well done to all performers and to Ms Noble and her team for putting it all together! ■





SIXTH FORM

The Transition to Sixth Form

The transition from Year 11 to Year 12 can be a challenging one, whether you are staying at MCA or moving here from another school. We asked three Year 12 students to tell us what the transition has been like for them and what they appreciate most about sixth form life:

An Internal's Perspective (MCA)

Around this time last year, there was a lot of talk around which sixth form to go to and what subjects to study. I had been at Mossbourne since Year 7, and had some thoughts of changing my learning environment, but ultimately, I decided to stay here to study my A-Levels. I felt as though remaining in the same school would provide me with extra security while beginning a new academic chapter. Since starting Year 12 I have learned to appreciate so many more things about Mossbourne!

Firstly, your learning becomes much more independent, allowing you to make your education your own, while still receiving support from great teachers. This change has taught me important things like time management and taking responsibility for my own work. The workload does intensify, but if you choose subjects that you are passionate about, you will find joy in learning new things and widening your knowledge. There are some great spaces available, either for study or to hang out with your friends, for example the mezzanines and the garden.

I have also met plenty of bright, friendly people since the start of the year, who have made my experience even better. Having said all this, there are undoubtedly difficulties to confront when starting A-Levels. Personally, it has been adjusting my previous balance between work and social life, as both change a lot when starting Sixth Form. The extra freedom you have does require you to be more disciplined when it comes to studying during your time outside of school. What I have appreciated most since starting Sixth Form has been having the time to focus on subjects that I truly love, and being encouraged to go beyond the curriculum to further explore these topics and understand my interests.

By **Bianca Salviato-Foresti** (12 Pinter) ■

An Internal's Perspective (MVPA)

When I joined Mossbourne Sixth Form I moved from the familiar setting of Mossbourne Victoria Park to a whole new environment, with new teachers, new friends and – of course, no knowledge of the staple that is familiar to any “old” Mossbourne student: the one-way system. The choice of my new Sixth Form was by no means an easy one for me, but my experiences at Mossbourne so far have been truly brilliant.

The people I met on my taster day were some of the kindest and most friendly I've ever interacted with – a sentiment that has continued throughout my first three months, and it's all these other lovely students that make the Mossbourne experience such a singularly brilliant one.

My message to any prospective students is this: the jump from GCSEs to A-Levels is undeniably a difficult one, both academically and socially, but as a student of Mossbourne Sixth Form help will be there for you when you need it, and opportunities to push yourself are ample and varied. I hope this makes your choice easier, and good luck with your GCSEs!

By **Jemima Harud** (12 Kingsley) ■



Bianca, Jemima and Lucy celebrating reaching the end of their first term as sixth formers.

An External's Perspective

Relieved, hopeful, terrified. These were my emotions when I discovered I was accepted into Mossbourne as an external student. On the first day – in my newly-bought pinstripe blazer and new shoes digging into my feet – I opened the common room door to a cacophony of noise and hubbub and a bustling room filled to the brim with sixth formers. To begin with, I had no idea where to go or who I should sit next to. I constantly hoped no one would see me standing alone.

From day one, I was determined to take part in extracurricular activities. All sixth formers have Wednesday afternoons dedicated to Enrichment, so I picked sewing. I also signed up as a reading volunteer and I joined the choir which will be performing in the Christmas show.

I changed schools partly to meet new people. It was an amazing feeling the first time I was called over to sit with people at a common room table. I've made lots of friends, and we meet up in frees, go to lessons and have lunch together. I also joined MCA because it has rigorous academic standards, and I've realised how much the teachers care about their students. Coming to MCA means I have a much less prominent “ugh, it's Monday again” feeling.

By **Lucy Drury** (12 Berkoff) ■

Grocers' Academy Awards 2024

In November, six students from Year 12 took part at this very prestigious event at The Grocers' Hall, hosted by The Worshipful Company of Grocers. This year's theme was “community”. Our team developed UNA – a family safety app and a tracking key that gives parents peace of mind, and children more freedom. The team were put through very tough questioning from the panel as well as the audience but responded strongly and won the title! Their next challenge will be in January 2025 at a Mansion House event hosted by the Lord Mayor, where they will face the winners of the Drapers', Merchants', Taylors' and Haberdashers' Academy Awards.

Congratulations on your well-deserved victory **Adie Caston** (12 Caine), **Shania Chin** (12 Cavell), **Finlay Groarke** (12 Kingsley), **Nikolas Kench-Ferguson** (12 Morley), **Eniola Akinniyi** (12 Hazlitt), **Nathan Nikodimos** (12 Hazlitt)! ■



MEDICINE PROGRAMME

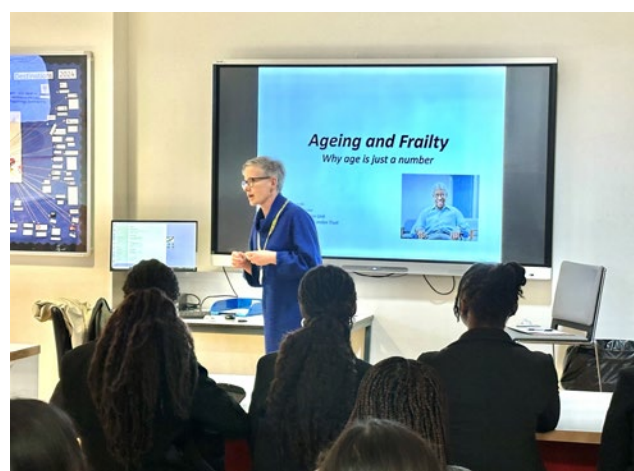
Celebrating Success and Inspiring Events

Last year the Medical Bursary Programme saw the most successful cohort to date. 18 of our students gained a place in medical school; that's 10% of the year group! Following this achievement, we have welcomed our new Year 12 cohort and started the process of applying for medicine, dentistry, and veterinary courses for our Year 13s. In addition, we have recruited 24 students in Year 9 to the NHS Cadets.

The speaker programme for Year 12 has started in earnest with a firm favourite – geriatrician Dr Sophie Edwards – making a welcome return earlier this term. Dr Edwards spoke about the importance of geriatrics.

During half term, five Year 12 students undertook Work Experience in Moorfields Eye Hospital, Imperial College and Barts Health Trust with more lined up later this academic year. We always need help with dentistry and veterinary placements so if anyone has any contacts, please get in touch!

Later this year we are planning events for our Medical Society (Years 7-11) and some outreach to primary schools as well as continuing the programme for Year 12 and assisting Year 13 with interview practice. With the success of the last cohort, we have a lot to live up to! ■



Dr Sophie Edwards speaking on the topic of geriatric care.



ART

Art News

This term has been an exciting journey of creativity and discovery for students across all year groups in our Art Department! Here’s a look at some of the activities and achievements that have taken place:

Sixth Form

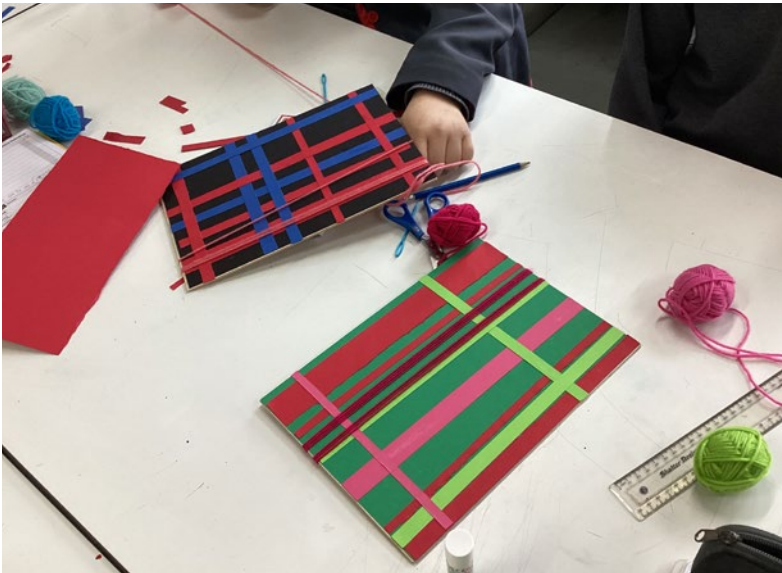
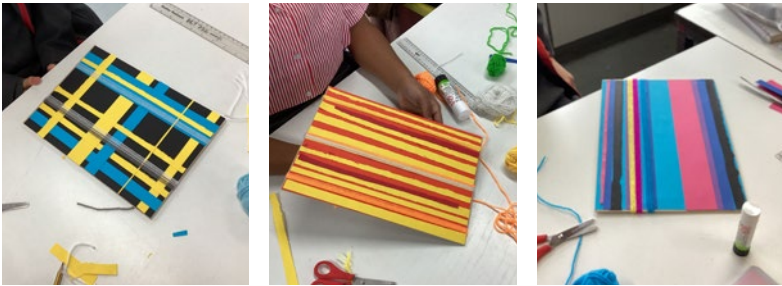
Our sixth form art students have embraced the opportunity to delve into life drawing this term, developing essential observational skills and experimenting with techniques to capture the human form. These sessions have been instrumental in helping students understand anatomy, proportion, and expressive line work, enhancing their portfolios and preparing them for future artistic endeavours. ■

Coursework

We are incredibly proud of the commitment and energy that our Year 10 and Year 12 students have shown as they embark on their art coursework. They have made an impressive start, exploring new themes, developing technical skills, and producing creative, thoughtful work. Meanwhile, our Year 11 and Year 13 students continue to work hard, putting the finishing touches on their final coursework projects this term. Their dedication and creativity shine through in their projects, and we look forward to celebrating their accomplishments as they prepare for their upcoming assessments. ■

Black History Month

In celebration of Black History Month, we were thrilled to welcome a visiting textile artist who led an inspiring weaving workshop for our Year 10 art students. The workshop centered on the theme of Madras cloth—a vibrant, plaid-patterned fabric with historical roots in the Caribbean and a significant symbol of cultural identity. Students learned the art of hand weaving, explored the cultural significance of the Madras design, and created their own unique pieces. This experience was both educational and empowering, as students connected hands-on art-making with heritage and history. This was made possible thanks to a generous donation from the Mossbourne Charitable Trust, for which we are incredibly grateful. ■



Some of the wonderful Madras designs created by our Year 10 students.

Animation Club

Our weekly Animation Club for KS3 students has been a hit! Open to budding animators in Years 7 and 8, the club offers a space to explore the world of animation, from storyboarding and character design to stop-motion and techniques using plasticene. With each week bringing new challenges, students have been creating short animated sequences, learning the basics of motion and timing, and collaborating on imaginative stories. We’re excited to see the amazing progress these young artists are making! ■

Budding animators learning the ropes in Animation Club.



FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Celebrating our GCSE students

As our current Year 11 are busy preparing for their assignments and exams, the Food Technology Department would like to showcase the work of last year’s cohort. Year 11 students work on the Non-Examination Assignment from Jan until March, culminating in a three-hour exam at the end of March. In this exam the students must complete three highly technical dishes. Everything must be made from scratch, including the pasta, pastries and sauces. The themes focus around cultural, healthy or special diet foods and the exam definitely has a distinct competitive feel! Well done to last year’s cohort on amazing culinary achievements and best of luck to our current Year 11 when it is your turn to shine! ■



A few examples of the MANY beautiful and tasty culinary delights from our Year 11 Food Technology students.



ENGLISH

Visit to Cambridge

As an A-Level English literature student at Mossbourne Sixth Form, many exciting opportunities are available to you. For example, in September the Year 13 students took a trip to Clare College, Cambridge. While there, we went on a tour of the college, did coursework research in the faculty library and experienced a practical criticism seminar. The tour took us through the beautiful college gardens and gave us the opportunity to gain a better sense of what life is like as a Cambridge student. This idea of a potential future life was further developed in the faculty library - we were given full access to the library's resources to conduct research for our coursework. Several critical interpretations of our coursework text, *The Color Purple*, were instantly provided. Across the three floors of the library, literary works spanning many centuries are all accessible to students. The practical criticism seminar was an opportunity to receive university style teaching through discussions about the intersectionality of poetry and art which was both intellectually stimulating and challenging. University is an important choice, so it should be carefully considered - Mossbourne Sixth Form is an excellent place to explore those choices.

By **Mollie Hoyle** (13 Berkoff)



The Year 13 English cohort exploring Cambridge



Students measuring up to William Shakespeare.



Making good use of the university library.

Gothic Writing Competition

To coincide with the Gothic novels currently explored in class, The English Department recently ran a Gothic-themed creative writing competition for Year 8. Well done to the authors of all 15 entries which were all published in a Year 8 anthology!

An extract of the winning entry, "The perfect life I thought I had" by **Souhayla Belabou** (8 Mandela), is below:

The Perfect Life I thought I had

THE PROLOGUE: 1916

Dear Diary,

I have not eaten a thing in days. Mother and father are tired of my character, tired of my will to learn, tired of me! They wish of me to act as a lady, but a lady I am not. Sending me away to Hunt Elizabeth's boarding school would put a grin on their faces. I am just a pawn in their game of chess but, as I always say, the pawn is always two steps ahead of the queen.

Love, Mary

PRESENT DAY

"Very good choice of house, though it hasn't been popular since 1916" said the estate agent.

"Why not?" I asked.

"Because the owners in 1916... Well, they were a normal kind of family but one frightful night one of their daughters, Mary, went upstairs to her room and nobody saw her since that moment. People around the area think the house is haunted but trust me, after a few renovations here and there, the house will be your little island of paradise!"

The estate agent left, leaving the door ajar, and the wind invited itself into our newly acquired possession. Living in Eureka would be the hardest part of my life... ■



LIBRARY

Buzzing About Books

The library has been buzzing with excitement the whole term. Why? It's all because of Bookbuzz - an amazing Booktrust scheme which enables the library to offer a free book to every student in Year 7 and 8. This year's most popular book was the friendship drama *Quiet Storm*, with mystery story *Murder at Snowfall* and sci-fi thriller *Running out of Time* coming close in second and third place. ■



Holiday Reading

The Christmas holiday is the perfect time to enjoy some reading!

Hackney libraries will be open during most of the holiday period (check opening times on the Hackney Libraries' website). It's free to join the library and you can apply online or in person at any of the local libraries in the borough. 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'. ■



Jack Petchey Award Winner

Last year, **Anerihan Osman** (8 Blackman) was awarded a Jack Petchey Achievement Award for being a friendly and helpful presence in the library throughout the year and always working hard on her homework during break and lunch. Just before the summer holidays she received her certificate. Well done, Anerihan! ■



Library Volunteers

This year the library is lucky enough to have eight Year 10 students volunteering as part of their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award. They spend Wednesday form time in the library supporting Year 8 students with their reading. In addition, they spend one lunchtime per week helping Ms Berggren with shelving or other essential library jobs and they have already made themselves indispensable! ■



HUMANITIES

Big Questions in Religion and Politics

As part of the Matters of Life and Death curriculum, Year 10 R.S. students, led by Mr. Tuohy, tackled the controversial Assisted Dying Bill proposed by Labour MP Kim Leadbeater in November, MPs voted to allow this proposed law on assisted dying to progress to the next stage in Parliament – sparking powerful ethical, religious, and political discussions. In a dynamic mock House of Commons, students took on roles as opening and closing speakers, debated case studies, and engaged with viewpoints like that of Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey, who warns of pressures that assisted dying laws might place on the elderly. The activity was a powerful hands-on experience, blending public speaking with deep critical thinking, as students confronted real-world moral questions and experienced the pulse of parliamentary debate! ■

Good Luck Year 10!

As our Year 10 have completed their mock exams and started preparing for the real thing next year, our current Year 11 wanted to offer some support and advice:

My advice for your RS GCSE is not to stress. At the start of the year, I was on a Grade 2 but with the right revision, I was able to jump six grades and receive a Grade 8. This shows that all you need to do is be consistent and not give up. I think Brain Dumps & flashcards with quotes (quotes are very important!) should be your first step into revising effectively.

Lydia Akande (11 Blackman)

- Revise quotes & where the quotes are from.
- Balance out your revision.
- Time yourself when answering questions so that you can finish the exam in the allocated time.
- Don't wait until the last minute to revise.
- The exam will come with stress, so take care of yourself to ensure it doesn't get too overwhelming.

Lara Rencurrell Paschina
(11 Mandela)

The best tip I could give you is to find the strategies of revision which help you the most and stick to them; do not try to cause yourself unnecessary confusion by attempting new techniques. Making a revision timetable would also be extremely beneficial as it could help you balance out revision and breaks so everything is in moderation, and it doesn't become too full-on.

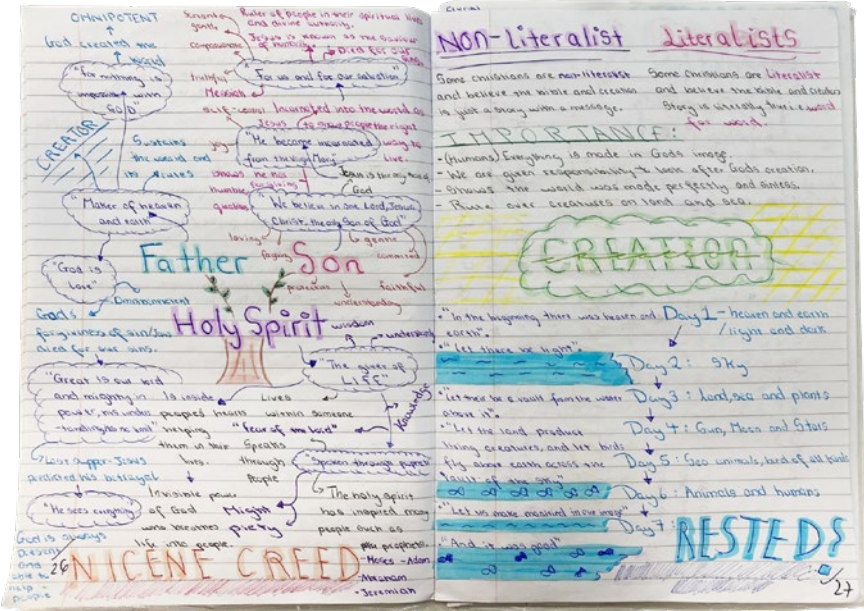
Belle Murray (11 Butler)

Revising for GCSEs can be an extremely stressful and overwhelming time for all but your teachers are more than happy to help, so just ask them! The help and support I received from the RS department last year was excellent: intervention, Saturday school, practice questions – you name it! I'm very grateful now but really didn't show it at the time... Don't make that mistake – show them how much you appreciate the support!

Angel Nketiah (11 Moore)

Post-16 Inclusion Morning

Earlier this term, a group of Year 10 and Year 11 students, together with their parents and carers, attended our Post-16 Inclusion Morning. Colleges and school sixth forms, including Stormont House, The Grove School, New City College and Capel Manor came to speak to us about the courses they offer and how they support students with SEN. The event highlighted the wide range of exciting courses available in the local area, such as Capel Manor's unique agricultural programme! All the useful information will be a great help to our students when they consider their plans after Year 11. A huge thank you to everybody who helped to organise the event and all students, parents and carers who attended. ■



Geography Fieldwork

Last month, all Year 11 geographers went on a school trip to Walton-on-the-Naze to visualise what we had been learning in the classroom this year. We observed the coastal engineering strategies that have been put in place to prevent erosion and even led an investigation, as part of our fieldwork course, into whether these were effective or not. Specifically, we were observing the groynes and breakwaters to see if they were protecting against longshore drift. We had the opportunity to practise several fieldwork techniques and use a variety of equipment to create both a beach and groyne profile. These tests allowed us to compare the protected and unprotected sections of the coasts to see how effective the management strategies were and as a result answer our overall hypothesis.

It was very interesting to apply what we've been learning to real-life situations. Being able to see the structures in action and understand their effectiveness firsthand made the concepts feel much more relevant. The chance to work outside the classroom and learn in such a practical way was fantastic, making the day a memorable part of the course.

By **Charlie Greensides** (11 Malala)

A busy day on the beach for our Year 11 geographers.

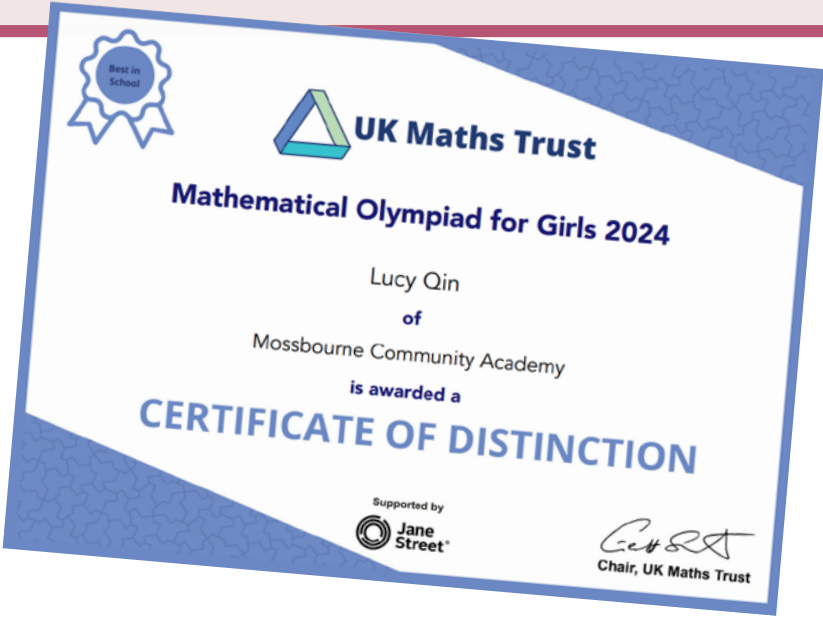
MATHS

UKMT Maths Challenge

In October, students from Year 12 and 13 took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, a national competition designed to test mathematical knowledge and problem-solving skills. In total 92 certificates, including eight gold certificates, were awarded to MCA students. These students also qualified for the prestigious next round of the competition: **Billy Maquire** (13 Pinter), **Tom Thorne** (12 Berkoff), **Lucy Qin** (12 Cavell), **Massimo Chottai** (12 Caine), **Farhan Mirza** (13 Caine), **Millie Sanmartin** (13 Berkoff), **Archie Beresford** (13 Wollstonecraft), and **Theo Betts** (13 Kingsley). They all did themselves proud, with special mention to Tom Thorne and Billy Maguire for achieving a Certificate of Merit. ■

Maths Olympiad

In September, four of our sixth form students had the opportunity to take part in the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls, a tough competition requiring the students to present complete written proof of each of their answers. Congratulations to **Millie Sanmartin** (13 Berkoff) and **Elsie Palumbo** (12 Wollstonecraft) for their Certificates of Merit, and to **Lucy Qin** (12 Cavell) for her Certificate of Distinction. ■



MFL

Enrichment Week

The first week back after half term saw the eagerly awaited return of The Languages Department Enrichment Week. As usual it was filled with engaging activities designed to broaden students' linguistic and cultural horizons. Teachers across the department led a variety of exciting sessions, each designed to immerse students in different aspects of language and culture.

From hands-on workshops in German and Portuguese to decoding French idioms, students had a chance to deepen their understanding of the languages they study in fresh, interactive ways. Several Year 7 students remarked that, after attending the session on idioms, they could see similarities between French and English! Another popular workshop explored the Spanish festival The Day of the Dead through art. The participating students showed great enthusiasm and helped to make it a memorable week for all. The Languages Department is looking forward to building on this success and hopes to inspire even more students to explore the rich world of languages and cultures! ■



Celebrating Turkish Exam Success

Earlier this term we celebrated the outstanding achievements of our Year 13 students from the previous academic year with a Turkish dinner. **Elif Akhan** and **Hawin Genc** achieved an A grade, while **Esma Emine Alma** earned an A* in their A-level Turkish exam. Congratulations and a huge well done from Ms Yildirim! ■





DRAMA

Treading the Boards in Drama Club

Every Tuesday Mr Swales has the pleasure of spending 45 minutes leading a drama club for students in Years 7 and 8. He says: “The students work with wonderful energy, enthusiasm and playfulness while exploring educational plays on the Romans and Vikings, as well as the classic fairy-tale of Hansel and Gretel. It is fantastic to see such brilliant engagement from so many students. The club gives them some much desired extra time learning about the subject as well as having opportunity to use props and costume within their performances.” **Annabelle Toothe** (8 Malala) adds: “I immensely enjoy myself and love the opportunity to gather with

other people who like drama and put on exciting performances with them.” Mr Swales is helped every week in running this club by **Chiamaka Ugwumba** (11 Milton) whose infectious passion for the subject inspires the younger students and sets a great example for them all. Chiamaka says, “Being able to help and hopefully inspire potential future Drama GCSE students makes me feel really positive, and experience of running clubs will be excellent for any college applications.” The Drama Department hope to showcase the plays the students are working on to friends and family during Performing Arts Enrichment Week in March 2025. ■

There WILL be drama!



SCIENCE

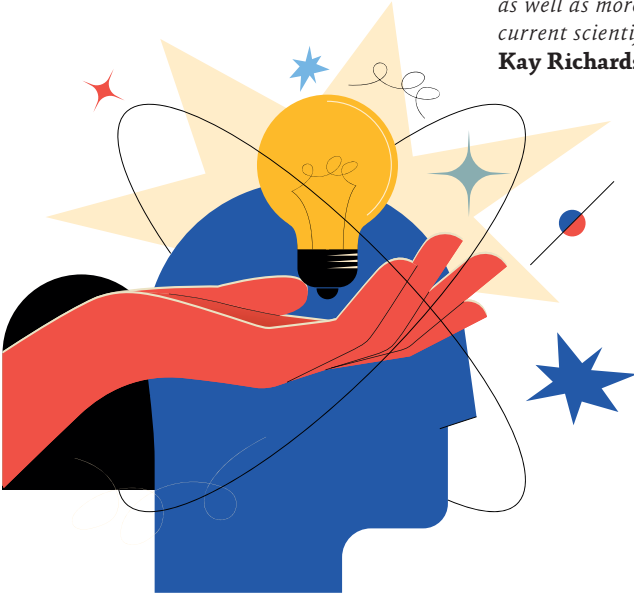
Science Club

The Year 7 Science Club has been as popular as ever this term. Students have been busy exploring and experimenting, with everything from microscopic creatures to fire being on the timetable this term!

My favourite session this year has been where we made towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows.”
Shanika Harris (7 Milton)

My favourite session was when we used the microscopes, because we got to see creatures from the garden that we can’t see with the naked eye. I also liked the flame test, because the flames were different colours.
Irem Sert (7 Malala)

I enjoy the diversity in the experiments and that each week there is something new to do. I’ve learnt so much about biology and physics as well as more in-depth knowledge about current scientific news.
Kay Richardson (7 Mandela) ■



MUSIC

Music News



The Year 6 Open Evening in September 2024 was a delight for anyone who visited the Music Department. Our fantastic Year 11 band CNTRL played with energy and enthusiasm - a true reflection of all that the department has to offer prospective students.



Extra-curricular ensembles are off to a flying start this year, with Ria Moran continuing her leadership of the choir.



We welcome Mr Pranay Chand to our department. He has already proved to be a fantastic addition to a dynamic team which is now full of expertise in even more areas of music!

Turn to page 4 to read about this year’s exceptional Winter Concert! ■

National Youth Choir

Congratulations to **Pearl Benjamin** (12 Kingsley) on her outstanding achievement of being accepted into the prestigious National Youth Choir. The National Youth Choir is a highly respected organisation helping young singers develop their talent through high-quality training.

Since joining Mossbourne Community Academy in September, Pearl has been studying music at A-level, demonstrating her passion and commitment to her musical development. ■





Football

Our Year 7 football team has kicked off the season with impressive performances and unwavering commitment. They recently clinched victory at the Saturday football tournament, showcasing their skills and teamwork. The team's dedication extends beyond matches; every player has been consistently attending 7 a.m. Tuesday training sessions, come rain or shine. We're incredibly proud of their efforts and look forward to more successes this season!

In other football news, the Year 8 Boys' team won the inaugural Saturday League Tournament match while the Year 9 Boys' team are off to an equally positive start and are aiming to win the league. The Year 8 Girls' team have also made a fantastic start to the season, competing in multiple cup competitions alongside Year 9. They

have also competed in the Utilita Girls Cup and were placed third overall, narrowly missing out on the final by penalties. The Year 10 Boys' team have faced some tough opponents but have managed to come through and achieve positive results. Equally, the Year 11 Boys' team have worked exceptionally hard this term, at the time of writing reaching the third round of the Arnold Clark U16 Cup.

All players' determination, skill, and commitment to representing Mossbourne Community Academy have been evident in every match they've played. With strong leadership, talented squads, and a great sense of unity, the future looks bright for all our footballers. ■



Sports Awards

In November we hosted our second Sports Awards. It was a fantastic evening and a wonderful celebration of the tireless efforts of all the students who participated in extra-curricular sport over the last year. Over 60 awards were given out to students in all year groups for various impressive accomplishments. At the end we crowned our Team of the Year: The Year 8 Mixed Basketball team. Congratulations to them and all other winners – we hope you enjoy the trophies and well done on your fantastic achievements! ■

MCA Team of the Year



Netball

The Year 7 Netball team has had an incredible start to the season, with over 75 pupils turning up for the first session! We are fortunate to have enough talent to field four teams, which is a fantastic achievement. The players have been working hard on their skills, from passing and shooting to defensive strategies, and their enthusiasm and teamwork have been truly inspiring. With such a strong turnout and commitment, we're excited to see how the teams progress throughout the season. Keep up the amazing effort, Year 7!

The Year 8 team are also doing incredibly well. They have gone from strength to strength, with some incredible victories over local rivals City Academy and MVPA. The Year 9 team has also shown impressive

form from the very first match, delivering a thrilling performance in the Essex Cup round 1, securing a confident win against Roding Valley School.

The Year 10/11 team have started exceptionally, dominating both Essex Cup and Hackney League matches. It has been nice to see some Year 10 pupils, who haven't played netball for a while, return to training. We will continue to keep building on this strong start, emphasizing fitness, sharp ball skills, and continued communication on the court. We look forward to amazing matches ahead for all our teams!

The academy is looking to arrange some sixth form netball matches and would welcome contact from anyone who may have links to appropriate opposition. Please contact Miss Duller if you have any links to share! ■

Fielding four teams in netball is a new record for MCA!



Basketball

In September the students of the Year 8 Basketball Club with the highest attendance were rewarded with a trip to Buckingham Palace to take part in the Jr. NBA Vitality Westminster mile, a fun

run along Pall Mall and around the palace gardens. Meanwhile, the Year 9 basketball team had the pleasure of once again welcoming youth team coaches, Will and Naomi, from London Lions Basketball Club. They were also treated to a Q&A session with homegrown London Lions' professional player, Ade Adebayo. ■

The Basketball Club with the Larry O'Brien Championship Trophy

