

Academy Woodside

# NEWSLETTER

December 2025

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## A Season to Celebrate!



### THIS ISSUE

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TfL Workshop: Helping Students Stay Safe and Speak Up

Woodside Students Share Voices on Sky News

**Mulberry**  
Academy Woodside

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# Ms Wallace's Announcements

LATEST UPDATES FROM THE HEADTEACHER

## DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS,

Wishing all our families the very best for the holiday season and for 2026. The final week at Mulberry Woodside has felt calm and positive, with lots of focused learning alongside fun enrichment activities.

Thank you to all our students, staff and families who were involved in the Winter Fair and Winter Concert. The new Performing Arts team, alongside our enthusiastic students, continues to go from strength to strength.

On Thursday, we enjoyed our Christmas dinner, which would not be complete without a cracker. Originally a French tradition and now firmly part of UK celebrations, crackers brought plenty of fun with hats, jokes and the occasional fake moustache.

In the afternoon, our Jólabókaflóð celebration, another tradition borrowed from elsewhere, saw every Year 7 student receive a book and a hot chocolate. The gift of reading is one of the most important things education can offer. Building a strong culture of literacy and a love of reading is central to life at Woodside, which is why we are proud to share that we have been recognised as a Department for Education Literacy Associate School. This means local schools will visit us to learn from our literacy practice. Well done to Ms Wigglesworth and everyone involved.

On Friday, all forms enjoyed a small celebration, and the results of the house quiz competition were announced.

For students in Years 10 and 11, learning continues over the break. Please do take time to rest, but also work through the revision tasks set. For students in Key Stage 3, there may be less homework, but an optional reading task has been set, with a prize for all completed booklets returned.

Finally, a huge thank you from all of us to our students and families. It has been a privilege to serve you throughout 2025, and we look forward to building on this work and doing even better in 2026.

**Ms. Wallace**

UPCOMING  
KEY DATES



**Monday 22 December -  
Friday 2 January 2026**  
Winter Break

**Mon 12 - Fri 16 January**  
Year 11 Mock Orals

**Thursday 15 January**  
Year 11 Parents Evening

**Mon 26 - Fri 30 January**  
Year 7 - 9 assessment  
week

**Thursday 5 February**  
Year 10 Parents Evening

**Thursday 5 March**  
Year 8 Parents Evening

**Tuesday 10 March**  
Year 9 Options Evening

**TERM START:  
WEEK 1**



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If you have any specific questions regarding the transfer of school to the Mulberry Schools Trust, please email

clerk@mulberryschoolstrust.org

# Winter at Woodside

## Festive Evening at the Winter Fair

The Winter Fair brought the Hub to life as it transformed into a festive space filled with activity and colour. Students took the lead throughout the evening, running a range of game stalls where visitors won tickets and exchanged them for prizes, from large teddy bears to Lego sets. A busy tombola stall added to the excitement.

The candy floss and waffle stand quickly became the main attraction, drawing queues for most of the evening. A student led craft stall selling handmade baubles and bracelets added a creative touch and gave visitors the chance to support student made work.



## A Night of Talent at the Winter Concert

The Winter Concert brought the school community together for an evening that felt like a Royal Variety show at Mulberry Academy Woodside. Students from Year 7 to Year 10 took to the stage, showcasing a wide range of talent.

The programme featured drama, dance and plenty of singing, with the MAW choir playing a central role. Two solo performances added moments of focus and confidence, highlighting the range of ability across the year groups.

The evening celebrated creativity and effort, with each performance reflecting the time students put into their work. It was a warm, shared experience that brought families, staff and students together to enjoy the talent across the school.



# Jólabókaflóð: A Gift of Stories and Kindness

Jólabókaflóð is an Icelandic tradition that translates as Christmas Book Flood. It centres on the idea of giving books as gifts and sharing quiet time to read, reflect and connect.

This year our teachers carefully wrapped books by hand and wrote personal messages for each student in Year 7, turning every gift into something thoughtful and meaningful. These were then delivered to their classrooms, creating a moment that felt calm, warm and purposeful.

The experience did not stop there. Student Council also prepared hot chocolate, which was delivered straight to classrooms and added to the sense of occasion. It was a simple but powerful gesture that brought learning, kindness and community together.

Jólabókaflóð offered a chance to slow down at the end of term and celebrate reading, care and connection. It was a shared moment that reflected the values at the heart of school life and gave Year 7 students something they could take with them beyond the classroom.



## Shopping with purpose

Our Main School Council used funds raised from the Winter Fair to shop for those in need, turning a great evening of community into a meaningful act of support.

Council members chose items carefully, aiming for essentials that would genuinely help others over the winter months. The students planned the list, shopped together, and prepared the donations with care. The whole process gave them a clear sense of how community events can lead directly to positive action beyond the school walls.

Bringing funds from a festive fair into real support for others also echoes wider traditions of thoughtful giving.

## Christmas Lunch at Woodside



# TfL Workshop: Helping Students Stay Safe and Speak Up

Year 9 students took part in a workshop led by Transport for London that focused on safe and confident travel. The session helped students understand how to recognise situations that may need reporting, from feeling unsafe to witnessing concerning behaviour or noticing unattended items.

TfL staff explained the difference between emergencies and non emergencies and guided students through the correct ways to raise concerns. This included speaking to a trusted adult, using station help points and understanding the message behind See it. Say it. Sorted.

The workshop reinforced that reporting concerns helps keep everyone safe and that students should feel confident using their voice. We thank TfL for delivering a clear and reassuring session and encourage families to continue these conversations at home.



## Phone Case Making Workshop

We had the pleasure of welcoming Aliyah in Year 9 who led an engaging phone case-making session with our students. She guided them through a step-by-step process of designing and creating their very own custom phone cases.

Students enjoyed exploring their creativity and learning new design skills, and many were excited by the opportunity to produce something unique. The phone case-making sessions will be available for students to sign up to during lunchtime in the new year.



## Year 9 Visit to Mulberry Academy Shoreditch

This week Year 9 students recently visited Mulberry Academy Shoreditch to watch a production of A Christmas Carol. The performance gave students valuable insight into a text they will study as part of their GCSE English course.

Watching the story brought to life helped students begin to explore key themes, characters, and messages, providing a strong foundation for future GCSE learning. The visit offered an engaging introduction to the type of literature and analysis they will encounter as they move into their exam studies.

# HEADTEACHER'S AWARD WINNERS



Congratulations to all students who received a Headteacher's Award this term. These awards recognise students who consistently demonstrate our school values of Pride, Respect and Kindness, as well as those who have shown strong academic commitment, a positive shift in attitude, or real determination in the Year 11 mock examinations.

Each award reflects effort, growth and the choices students make every day in lessons and around the school. Whether through academic focus, improved mindset or setting a positive example for others, these students represent the standards we value.

## Woodside Students Share Voices on Sky News

*Students took part in a workshop on healthy relationships during a visit from Sky News. The session gave pupils space to talk openly about respect, consent, and everyday behaviour.*

*Students shared views, discussed real situations, and explored how to challenge negative attitudes. Several pupils took part in interviews, speaking with confidence and maturity about issues that matter to them.*

*You can watch the Sky News piece featuring our students by visiting the link below:*

<https://news.sky.com/share/13484959>





# Safeguarding

*New devices can be exciting, but it is important to set them up with safety in mind. Start by enabling parental controls to manage screen time and restrict inappropriate content.*

*Agree clear rules for how and when devices can be used. Setting boundaries helps children develop healthy habits and understand expectations.*

*Check privacy settings together and make sure accounts remain private. Gifted devices should come with agreed boundaries so online use stays safe and positive from the start.*

# ATTENDANCE TOP TIP FOR PARENTS

## TIME TO SHINE

Teach your child how to set their own alarm and wake up independently. This simple skill builds responsibility and helps them feel grown up. It also reduces morning stress and gives parents peace of mind that routines are running smoothly.

# ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING?



A worry is a concern. People you can talk to:



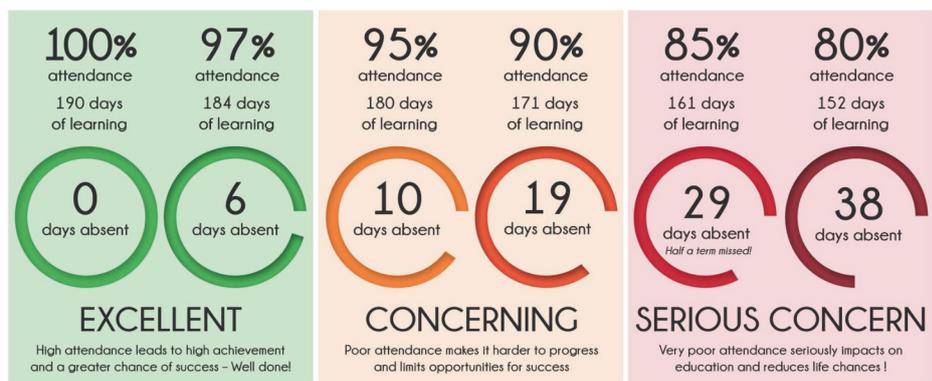
If you have any questions or concerns regarding SEN provision, please feel free to get in touch directly at [jrees@mulberryschoolstrust.org](mailto:jrees@mulberryschoolstrust.org)

## ATTENDANCE LADDER



## ATTEND AND ACHIEVE

SCHOOL SUCCESS STARTS WITH SHOWING UP. EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS.



The Attend and Achieve approach to education at Woodside is rooted in the fact that school attendance is a significant determining factor in attainment outcomes and GCSE grades. Students with no absence are 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs A\*-C or equivalent.

Excellent attendance means being in school at least 97% of the time or at least 184 days.



# NEXT WEEK'S VALUES IN ACTION

## RESET: SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD OVER THE BREAK

AFTER HALF TERM, OUR VALUES SESSIONS WILL FOCUS ON RESET AND REVISITING THE BIG 6. FAMILIES PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HELPING CHILDREN FEEL SETTLED, CONFIDENT AND READY TO RETURN TO SCHOOL. A FEW SMALL STEPS OVER THE BREAK CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE.

### RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINES EARLY

IN THE FINAL PART OF THE HOLIDAY, BEGIN TO ADJUST BEDTIMES, WAKE UP TIMES AND MEAL ROUTINES SO THEY ARE CLOSER TO THE SCHOOL DAY. GRADUAL CHANGES HELP CHILDREN FEEL MORE SECURE AND REDUCE ANXIETY WHEN TERM BEGINS.

### CREATE A DEDICATED STUDY SPACE

SETTING UP A QUIET, WELL LIT AREA FOR HOMEWORK AND READING HELPS CHILDREN FOCUS AND DEVELOP POSITIVE LEARNING HABITS. A CONSISTENT SPACE SENDS A CLEAR MESSAGE THAT LEARNING MATTERS AT HOME AS WELL AS AT SCHOOL.

### TALK ABOUT EXPECTATIONS AND FEELINGS

TAKE TIME TO TALK ABOUT THE NEW TERM AND WHAT IT MAY BRING, WHETHER THAT MEANS NEW SUBJECTS, TEACHERS OR CHALLENGES. ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO SHARE WORRIES OR EXCITEMENT AND REASSURE THEM THAT MIXED FEELINGS ARE NORMAL.

### REVIEW AND ORGANISE SCHOOL MATERIALS

USE THE BREAK TO CHECK UNIFORMS, BAGS, BOOKS AND STATIONERY. INVOLVING YOUR CHILD IN ORGANISING THEIR EQUIPMENT HELPS BUILD RESPONSIBILITY AND CONFIDENCE AHEAD OF THE NEW TERM.

### SET POSITIVE GOALS TOGETHER

WORK WITH YOUR CHILD TO SET SIMPLE, REALISTIC GOALS FOR THE TERM, SUCH AS IMPROVING IN A SUBJECT OR TRYING SOMETHING NEW, FOCUSING ON EFFORT AND PROGRESS HELPS BUILD MOTIVATION AND RESILIENCE.



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