



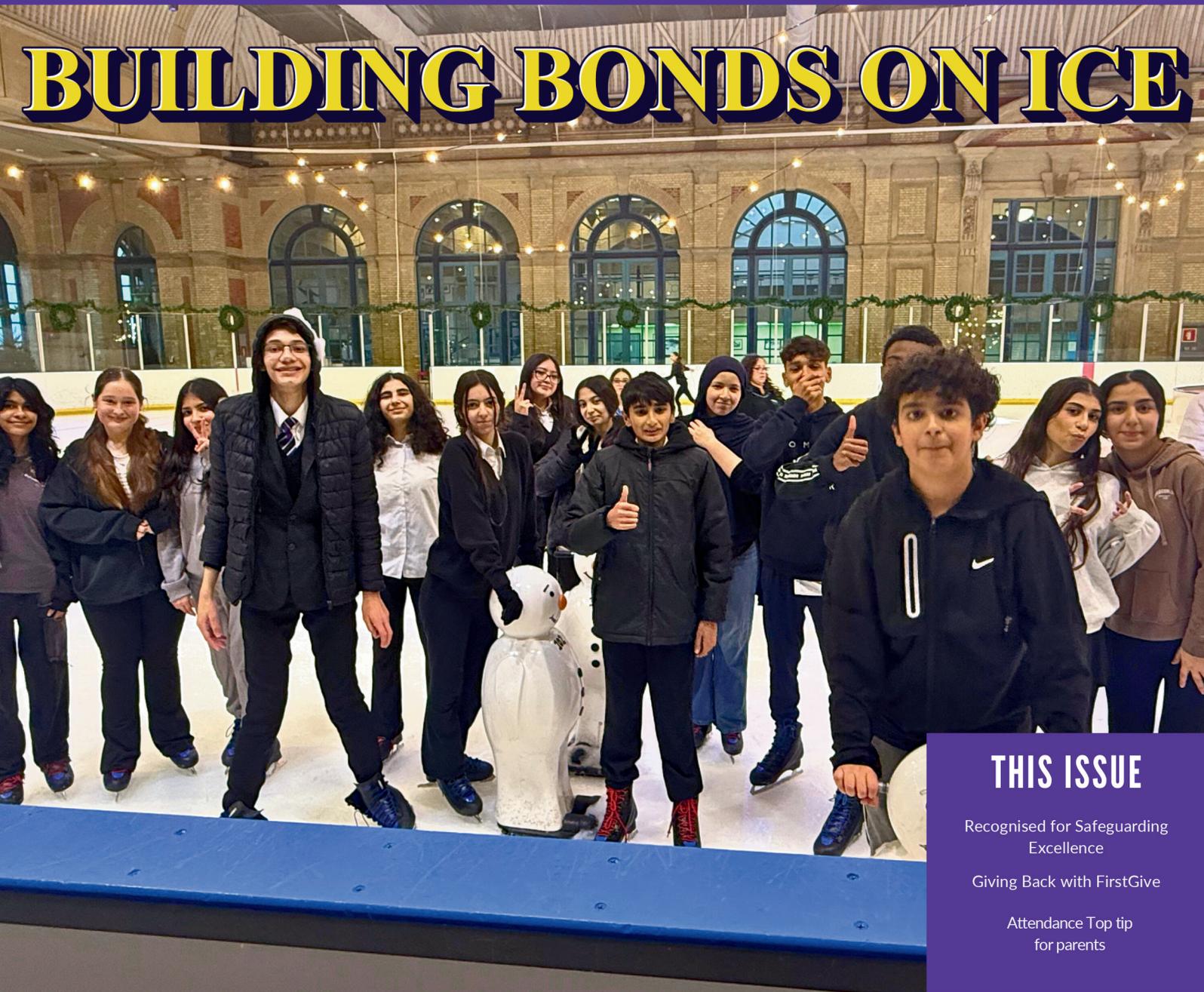
NEWSLETTER

January 2026

9.1.2026 | Issue 15

@mulberryaws  

BUILDING BONDS ON ICE



THIS ISSUE

Recognised for Safeguarding Excellence

Giving Back with FirstGive

Attendance Top tip for parents

Mulberry
Academy Woodside

MULBERRY ACADEMY WOODSIDE
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Ms Wallace's Announcements

LATEST UPDATES FROM THE HEADTEACHER

DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS,

Happy New Year and all the best for 2026. To many of our families who celebrated Orthodox Christmas this week, we hope you had a pleasant time with family.

I want to thank our students for the generosity and time they took in the run up to the holiday for charity fundraising for the community, including the food bank and the Basket Brigade that took place on 23 December at Woodside, providing food packages to hundreds of families across the area.

As always, it's been a pleasure to welcome back all our students this term. Our focus has been on reminding students of expectations around the school and the importance of the journal for organisation. Please could you support this initiative by checking your child's journal routinely. In my assemblies, I tasked students around the importance of their voice and how they can use it to develop critical thinking in the classroom, and the channels for improvement in our school.

We will be sending home a parent survey next week, and this will be available at our forthcoming Year 11 and Year 10 parents' evenings. This will further help us get a fuller community voice.

This week we welcomed some snow, but it has been very cold. We have opened additional classrooms and some new exciting clubs, including the felt club, have started, as well as our regulars such as the sports hall, library, games room and Oak Room, open every day, or the classrooms in the bottom B block if you'd prefer to just have a chat. We are really encouraging Year 11 to use this final sprint to be focusing on revision, so from next week, before school, after school or at lunch, students will win a token for being caught revising to earn whole year group awards.

This half term has lots of great House events, National Puzzle Day later this month, with National Popcorn Day being celebrated with a film screening. Finally, later this month is the Year 9 Film Festival.

Advance notice of some key parent events, including 'Brew Monday' on the 19th from 8:45 to 10:00. Families are welcome in for a sociable warm drink with wellbeing at the forefront. We also have a SEND workshop and a session on cyber safety. Do see dates below.

We are very much looking forward to 2026 together. All the very best.

Ms. Wallace

UPCOMING
KEY DATES



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

**NEXT WEEK:
WEEK 2**



@mulberryaws

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

clerk@mulberryschoolstrust.org



Building Bonds on Ice

Year 9 students recently took part in an ice skating tutor bonding experience, designed to strengthen relationships, build confidence, and encourage teamwork.

The activity gave students the chance to try something new, support one another, and enjoy time together outside the classroom. Students of all abilities participated, with a focus on encouragement and fun.

The experience helped build social skills and a sense of belonging, with staff supervision in place throughout. It was a positive and memorable day for everyone involved.



Incyte | PLATINUM
2025
EXCELLENCE IN SAFEGUARDING
AWARD

Recognised for Safeguarding Excellence

We are proud to share that Mulberry Academy Woodside has been awarded the Platinum Incyte International Excellence in Safeguarding Award, recognising our continued commitment to keeping students safe and supported.

This award reflects the strength of our safeguarding culture and the consistent work of staff across the school to ensure pupil wellbeing remains a priority every day. The Platinum level is the highest recognition offered by Incyte and highlights strong practice, clear systems and a shared responsibility for safeguarding across the whole community.

Safeguarding at Woodside goes beyond policy. It is about relationships, vigilance and creating an environment where students feel safe, listened to and supported. This recognition affirms the work already taking place and reinforces our commitment to maintaining the highest standards.

We are grateful to our staff, students and families for their ongoing trust and partnership. Together, we continue to build a school community where safety, care and wellbeing sit at the heart of everything we do.



Giving Back with FirstGive

We're excited to share that Year 9 students are starting the First Give Programme this term, with a strong focus on raising money for a chosen charity.

The First Give Programme encourages students to develop leadership, teamwork, and creativity while making a positive impact beyond the classroom. Throughout the term, students will plan and run fundraising activities, learning valuable skills such as problem-solving, communication, and social responsibility.

This is a fantastic opportunity for Year 9 to give back to the community, understand the importance of charitable work, and see how their efforts can make a real difference. We're proud of their enthusiasm and look forward to seeing the impact they create this term.

NEXT WEEK IS

NATIONAL POPCORN DAY

SPECIAL FILM SCREENING REWARD



UPCOMING NATIONAL DAYS SPRING TERM

JAN 17

POPCORN DAY

JAN 19

BREW MONDAY

JAN 29

NATIONAL PUZZLE DAY

FEB 14

VALENTINE'S DAY

FEB 17

INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR WOMEN AND
GIRLS IN SCIENCE

MAR 5

WORLD BOOK
DAY

MAR 8

INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY

MAR 14

PI DAY

MAR 21

WORLD
POETRY DAY

CULTURAL EVENTS



SPRING TERM



2026

**FEB
17**

Date may vary

**CHINESE NEW
YEAR**

**FEB MAR
17 - 18**

Dates may vary

RAMADAN

**MAR
03**

**BULGARIAN
LIBERATION DAY**

**MAR
04**

HOLI

**MAR
17**

**ST.
PATRICKS DAY**

**MAR
24**

NEWROZ

**APR
05**

EASTER

**APR
05**

ORTHODOX EASTER



Safeguarding

A new term offers a chance to reset routines and boundaries at home. Take time to review household rules and reinforce clear expectations around behaviour, bedtime, and study habits. Consistency helps children settle back into school life and reduces anxiety after the break.

It also helps to check in on any new technology use or habits picked up over the holidays. Discuss screen time, online safety, and how devices fit into daily routines now term has started. Open conversations support balance and help children understand why boundaries matter.

ATTENDANCE TOP TIP FOR PARENTS

TIME TO SHINE

Ask school about attendance targets and how your child is doing. When pupils know their goals and parents stay informed, it's easier to celebrate success and spot any concerns early. Working together keeps children motivated and on track.

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING?



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



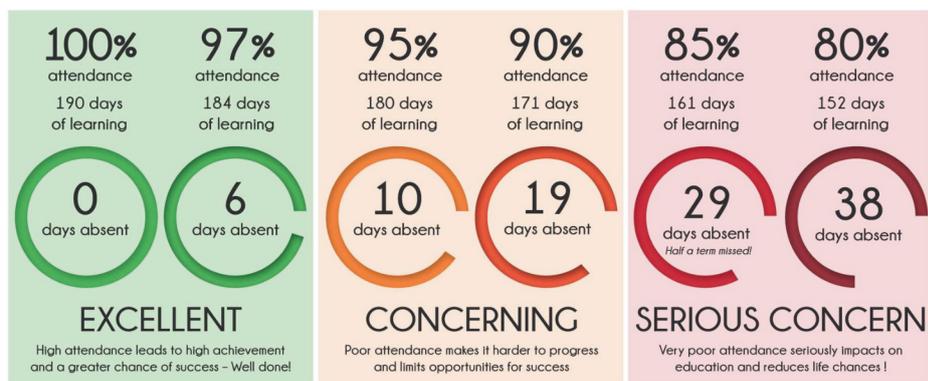
If you have any questions or concerns regarding SEN provision, please feel free to get in touch directly at jrees@mulberryschoolstrust.org

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.

UPCOMING

HOUSE COMPETITIONS



JAN

5TH

TUTOR TIME

**HOUSE TUTOR
QUIZ**

JAN

15TH

LUNCH

**BASKETBALL
SHOOTOUT**

JAN

22ND

LUNCH

**TIMES TABLE
QUIZ**

FEB

2ND

LUNCH

**TIME LOOP
CHALLENGE**

FEB

9TH

TUTOR TIME

**TEAM BUILDING
CHALLENGE**

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STUDENT JOURNALS

EXPECTATIONS

For all students - checked daily by staff



YOUR JOURNAL MUST

Have your timetable displayed

Say "No HW" if no homework is set

Be brought to school every day

Have a trusted adult written in

Be free from graffiti or inappropriate markings

Have homework written in for every subject



IN LESSONS

Displayed in all lessons, including RR / Respite

Journal on your desk at the start of every lesson



TUTOR TIME

Journal checked daily

Homework checked

Journal signed weekly by a parent/carer



IF THERE IS A PROBLEM

Issue logged on Class Charts

Parents/carers informed

Repeated issues → Lunchtime detention

Not resolved → SLT detention

LOST OR DAMAGED JOURNAL?

Purchase a replacement from Student Reception

PRAISE POINTS FOR ACHIEVING EXPECTATIONS!



Your journal is a non-negotiable part of school equipment.



NEXT WEEK'S VALUES IN ACTION

BEING ON TIME AND ORGANISED

THIS TERM OUR VALUES SESSION WILL FOCUS ON BEING ON TIME AND ORGANISED. YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD AT HOME BY:

STICK TO A MORNING ROUTINE

A PREDICTABLE ROUTINE HELPS CHILDREN START THE DAY FEELING CALM AND IN CONTROL. WAKING UP, GETTING DRESSED AND LEAVING THE HOUSE AT THE SAME TIME EACH DAY REDUCES UNCERTAINTY AND LAST MINUTE STRESS. OVER TIME, ROUTINES BECOME HABITS, WHICH MAKES MORNINGS SMOOTHER AND MORE POSITIVE.

PREPARE THE NIGHT BEFORE

DOING SMALL JOBS IN THE EVENING SAVES VALUABLE TIME IN THE MORNING. PACKING BAGS, LAYING OUT CLOTHES AND PREPARING LUNCHES REMOVES PRESSURE AND HELPS AVOID FORGOTTEN ITEMS. INVOLVING CHILDREN IN THIS PROCESS ALSO BUILDS RESPONSIBILITY AND OWNERSHIP.

USE A VISUAL CHECKLIST

VISUAL CHECKLISTS SUPPORT CHILDREN TO MANAGE THEIR OWN TASKS, ESPECIALLY YOUNGER PUPILS OR THOSE WHO NEED STRUCTURE. A SIMPLE LIST SHOWING STEPS SUCH AS GETTING DRESSED, EATING BREAKFAST AND PACKING BAGS HELPS CHILDREN STAY FOCUSED AND BUILDS INDEPENDENCE OVER TIME.

USE ALARMS OR TIMERS

TIMERS HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND HOW LONG TASKS SHOULD TAKE AND ENCOURAGE BETTER TIME AWARENESS. GENTLE REMINDERS KEEP MORNINGS MOVING WITHOUT CONSTANT PROMPTS FROM ADULTS. THIS SUPPORTS CHILDREN TO MANAGE THEIR TIME MORE CONFIDENTLY.

PRAISE ORGANISED BEHAVIOUR

POSITIVE FEEDBACK REINFORCES GOOD HABITS. NOTICING WHEN CHILDREN PREPARE INDEPENDENTLY OR FOLLOW ROUTINES WELL HELPS THEM UNDERSTAND WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE. CONSISTENT PRAISE ENCOURAGES THEM TO REPEAT THESE BEHAVIOURS AND BUILDS CONFIDENCE.



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