



NEWSLETTER

January 2026

30.1.2026 | Issue 18

@mulberryaws  

WINNING WORDS AND STRONG VALUES AT DEBATE MATE



THIS ISSUE

Year 9 Explore Photography in
GCSE Options Taster

Student Selected for
National Youth Advisory
Panel

Turn the Page: 2026 and
Reading

Mulberry
Academy Woodside

MULBERRY ACADEMY WOODSIDE
White Hart Lane, Wood Green
London, N22 5QJ

 020 8889 6761
 020 8365 8164

Ms Wallace's Announcements

LATEST UPDATES FROM THE HEADTEACHER

DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS,

It has been a busy week at Mulberry Academy Woodside. Year 11 students have been taking part in mini mocks, while students in Year 8 continue with their Science Museum visits. Across the school, it has also been assessment week. These assessments help teachers identify next steps for each child. Topic lists are sent home in advance and are available on our website, as well as being shared routinely with students.

Thank you to the parents and carers who were able to join us for the SEND coffee morning. It was a relaxed opportunity to learn more about the support we offer and to speak with members of the team. We understand that not all families are able to attend these events, so please do email us if you would like to arrange a separate meeting. We also have several upcoming parent events focused on inclusion and supporting your child with literacy and numeracy.

We are incredibly proud to share that Nafisah Chowdhury has been elected to the National Youth Panel following a highly competitive process. This is an exceptional opportunity that brings young people together from across the country to speak about issues that matter to them. Closer to home,

Year 10 students took part in the next round of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge to identify those progressing to the regional stage. On Monday, our Street Art Debate team also competed in a debating competition at a local secondary school. Debate Night Club is open to all Key Stage 3 students, and we strongly encourage anyone interested, whether confident or new to debating, to take part as a fun way to build these skills.

There are many other ways for students to get involved in school life. Next half term, we will be celebrating a range of cultural events including Ramadan, Holi, Chinese New Year, Easter, St Patrick's Day, Jamaica Day and Bulgarian Liberation Day, with food and activities planned. We would love students to play an active role. Students can speak to their form representatives or email me directly.

We ended the week with lots of fun for National Puzzle Day. Please enjoy the puzzles included in this week's edition.

Next week is the Year 10 parents' evening, and we hope to see many of you there.

Ms. Wallace

UPCOMING
KEY DATES



Monday 2 February

Year 9 Film Festival

Thursday 5 February

Year 10 Parents Evening

HALF TERM BREAK

16 - 20th February

Tuesday 10 March

Year 9 Options Evening

Wednesday 25 March

Year 8 Parents Evening

Thursday 07 May

Year 7 Parents Evening

**NEXT WEEK:
WEEK 1**



@mulberryaws

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

clerk@mulberryschoolstrust.org



Winning Words and Strong Values at Debate Mate

We had two teams compete in the first round of the Debate Mate competition at Camden School for Girls. The students exhibited the school values of pride, respect and kindness while competing against their respective opponents.

The year 8 team were exceptional in their style and content which led them to two comprehensive victories in their two debates.

Our novice year 7 team had some tough competition and, despite their two losses, showed incredible resilience and courage while taking part in their first ever debate!

Most importantly, the students were commended for their politeness and kindness by multiple teachers from the opposing schools as they were humble and complimentary towards their opponents.

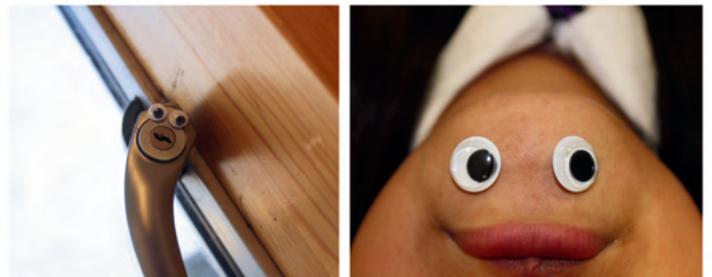
Our Debate Mate stars

Madiah Murshida
Seth Walmsley
Ellie Trattou
Ruzgar Saglam
Aatikah Ali
Salma Hussein
Afra Abida
Desire Ekpo
Miiya Nawbuth

Student Selected for National Youth Advisory Panel

We are proud to share that Nafisah Chowdhury has been selected to join the National Youth Advisory Panel. This is a highly competitive process that brings together young people from across the country to share views on issues that matter to them.

Nafisah's selection reflects her confidence, insight and commitment to representing young voices. The panel gives students a real platform to influence discussion and contribute to national conversations. We are delighted to see Nafisah take this next step and look forward to the impact she will make.



Year 9 Explore Photography in GCSE Options Taster

Year 9 students took part in the first GCSE Options taster session this week, led by Ms Ragusa, with a focus on photography. The well attended session gave students a practical insight into the subject through hands-on camera work and team tasks.

Students completed the Eye-Spy challenge, turning everyday objects into characters through three photographs that showed emotion, played with scale and told a short visual story. This session marks the start of a series of GCSE Options tasters designed to help students make informed choices about their next steps.

Upcoming GCSE Options Taster Sessions

- 27 January – Photography, Ms Ragusa, C109
- 3 February – Business, Ms Ampudia, A112
- 10 February – Film, Ms Aksu, A112
- 24 February – Health & Social Care, Ms Sruba, A007
- 3 March – Citizenship, Ms McDonald, A107



Turn the Page: 2026 and Reading

2026 marks the National Year of Reading, with a focus on building strong reading habits and encouraging students to read for pleasure. To support this, newspapers will be available in the Hub for students to read before school, during lunch and after school.

Alongside this, a recommended reading list for Key Stage 3 students is available, offering a wide range of age-appropriate fiction and non-fiction to suit different interests and reading levels. The list supports independent reading and helps students find books they enjoy.

You can view the Key Stage 3 reading list here:

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/books-by-age-and-year-group/ks3-booklists-ages-11-14/>



Inside Westminster Cathedral

Year 10 RS students visited Westminster Cathedral on 29 January to explore how Catholic worship works in practice. The visit included a guided tour of the cathedral, giving students insight into its layout, symbols and daily use as a place of worship.

Students learned how services are structured, how the space supports prayer and community, and the role the cathedral plays within the Catholic Church. Many found the experience useful in bringing classroom learning to life and deepening their understanding of Catholic beliefs and practices.

The visit supported GCSE Religious Studies by helping students connect religious concepts to real settings and lived experience.

World Book Day: Meet Author Kenechi Udogu



On Thursday, March 5, we will be celebrating World Book Day! Throughout the week, a variety of amazing events, offerings, and competitions will run in the library and around the school. We hope to celebrate and impart the joy and power of reading.

On World Book Day, we are excited to welcome Kenechi Udogu as she comes to speak to our students about her book, 'Augmented.' She will share her process, thoughts on life as a writer, and give invaluable insights to our students about creativity. Our author events are an amazing opportunity for our students to become immersed in a passion for books.

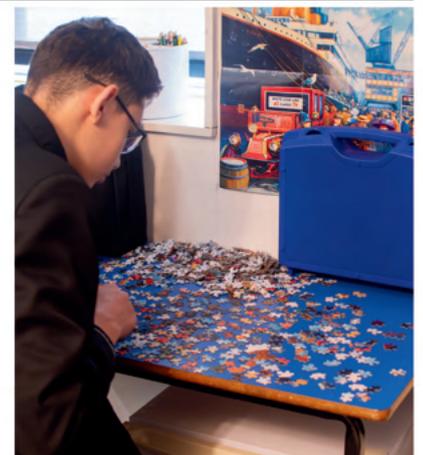
To reserve a spot for your student and purchase a signed copy of Kenechi Udogu's book, please follow the QR code below!

We look forward to having her come as a part of our World Book Day week events! Look out for more announcements and events coming soon.

National Puzzle Day

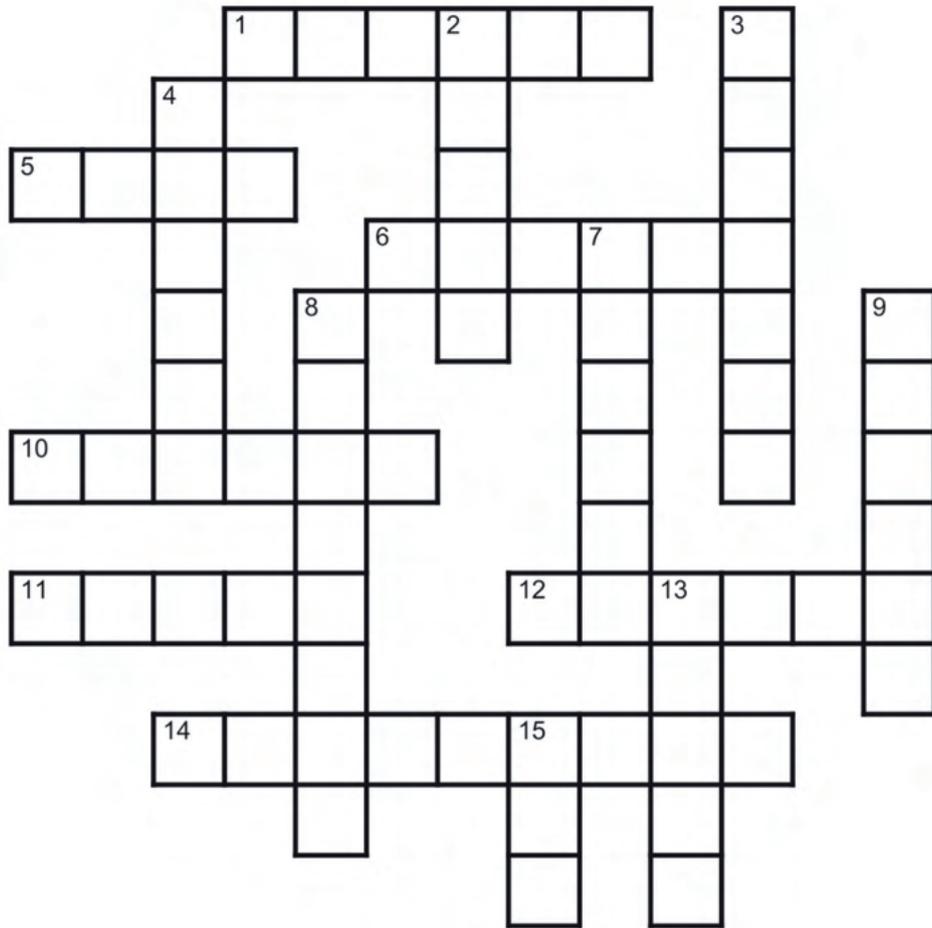
Puzzle Day took place on Friday 30th, with students enjoying a range of problem-solving activities across the school. The giant puzzle in Ms Holden's room was completed, and lunchtime sessions in the library, Literacy Room and board games club were well attended.

To mark Puzzle Day, we have included a crossword on the next page, inspired by the upcoming Chinese New Year.



Chinese New Year

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Number of animals in the Chinese calendar.
5. If you find this in your dumpling, you will have a year of good luck.
6. Animal for the year 2023 in the Chinese calendar.
10. Chinese New Year is known as the _____ Festival.
11. What must you clean to be ready for Chinese New Year?
12. Plant that brings happiness, wealth and longevity.
14. Fruit said to represent luck and prosperity.

DOWN

2. Type of calendar that the Chinese New Year is based on.
3. Number of days in the Chinese New Year celebration.
4. Season in which Chinese New Year takes place.
7. He is credited with naming the years of the Chinese after animals.
8. These are decorated, hung in temples, and carried during a parade.
9. Animal for the year 2024 in the Chinese calendar.
13. What children receive in red envelopes if they have been good.
15. Color that is believed to drive away bad luck.

See the last page for answers.

Celebrating our VALUE AMBASSADORS

We are incredibly proud to congratulate the following students on achieving their roles as Value Ambassadors for Pride, Respect and Kindness. Since returning to school, these students have consistently demonstrated the Mulberry Academy values in everything they do—inside and outside the classroom.

Their positive attitudes, thoughtful actions and commitment to doing the right thing make them outstanding role models within their year groups. As Value Ambassadors, they will also play an important role in supporting and encouraging others to demonstrate the same values every day.

Well done to all of our ambassadors—we are so proud of you, and we know you will continue to make a positive difference across our school community!

Y10

Kindness: Rehmat
Pride: Reysan
Respect: Aleksandra

Y9

Pride: William
Respect: Josephine
Kindness: Edhze

Y8

Pride: Joao
Respect: Arsen
Kindness: Ruzgar

Y7

Pride: Mahir
Kindness: Lauren
Respect: Alvin

YEAR 9 TOP PRAISE THIS WEEK

Sophia 9Q

Ellie 9I

Beren 9U

Ana 9A

Miray 9L



MOANA JR.

A MULBERRY ACADEMY WOODSIDE PRODUCTION

AUDITIONS:

WEDNESDAY

4TH FEB

MAIN HALL

(3:15 - 4:15)

12 LEAD

ROLES

AVAILABLE

BACKSTAGE

HANDS WANTED



(CALL BACKS FOR LEAD ROLES: THURSDAY 5TH FEB 3:15-4:15)

POWER HOUSE DAY

A RANDOM DAY. ANY WEEK. NO WARNING.

**LISTEN OUT FOR THE
TANNOY
ANNOUNCEMENT!**

**DOUBLE PRAISE
AND HOUSE POINTS**

UPCOMING NATIONAL DAYS SPRING TERM

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
12**

ORTHODOX EASTER



Safeguarding

CRITICAL THINKING: TRUTH ONLINE

Not everything online is real, accurate or trustworthy. Children spend a lot of time online, so learning how to question what they see matters.

Encourage your child to pause before believing or sharing content. Talk about where information comes from and who created it. Ask simple questions such as: Who wrote this? Why was it made? Can I find the same information on another trusted site?

Help them understand the difference between facts, opinions and adverts. Show them how images, headlines and videos can mislead or exaggerate. Where possible, explore news stories or online posts together and model how to check reliable sources. These habits help children become thoughtful, informed and safe digital citizens.

ATTENDANCE TOP TIP FOR PARENTS

Punctuality Pride

Being on time is just as important as attending every day. Praise your child when they arrive punctually — it sets them up for success and shows them you value their effort. Children who start lessons calmly are more confident and ready to learn.

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



KEY RETURN TO SCHOOL DATES

**Half term Break : Monday 16th – Friday 20th
February 2026**

**Spring Term 2 Starts: Monday 23rd February 2026
(All students to return to school)**

**Easter Break: Monday 30th March 2026 – Friday
10th April 2026**

**Summer Term 1 Starts: Monday 13th April 2026
(All students return to school)**

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**



Mulberry
Academy Woodside

CAREERS FAIR

4th March, 2026

9:10 am - 12:50 pm

We Need Your Help

We are running a Careers Fair for Year 9 students that aims to provide our students with various insights into the employment industry.

We would be honoured if you or your company could participate in this year's event scheduled for Wednesday 4th March 2026, from 9:10pm to 12:50 pm.

Our attendees for this event are keen to explore and engage with representatives from distinguished companies or professions like yours.

If you are interested in attending or if you have any questions about the event please do not hesitate to contact sozcan@mulberryschoolstrust.org



NEXT WEEK'S VALUES IN ACTION

READY TO THINK HARD

THIS PILLAR ENCOURAGES PUPILS TO APPROACH LEARNING WITH FOCUS, CURIOSITY AND DETERMINATION, EVEN WHEN WORK FEELS CHALLENGING. YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS AT HOME IN SIMPLE, PRACTICAL WAYS.

PRAISE EFFORT, NOT JUST RESULTS

FOCUS ON HOW HARD YOUR CHILD TRIES, HOW LONG THEY CONCENTRATE, AND HOW THEY KEEP GOING WHEN SOMETHING FEELS DIFFICULT. THIS HELPS CHILDREN UNDERSTAND THAT LEARNING IS ABOUT EFFORT AND PERSISTENCE, NOT BEING PERFECT FIRST TIME.

ENCOURAGE CURIOSITY AND QUESTIONS

LET YOUR CHILD KNOW THAT ASKING QUESTIONS AND MAKING MISTAKES IS PART OF LEARNING. ENCOURAGE THEM TO ASK 'WHY' AND 'HOW', AND REASSURE THEM THAT NOT KNOWING STRAIGHT AWAY IS A NORMAL PART OF THINKING HARD.

CREATE ROUTINES THAT SUPPORT FOCUS

REGULAR ROUTINES MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE. A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, CONSISTENT BEDTIMES, AND A CALM SPACE FOR HOMEWORK HELP CHILDREN ARRIVE AT SCHOOL READY TO CONCENTRATE AND ENGAGE FULLY IN LESSONS.

TALK ABOUT LEARNING, NOT JUST OUTCOMES

SHIFT CONVERSATIONS AWAY FROM RESULTS ALONE. ASKING QUESTIONS LIKE 'WHAT DID YOU FIND TRICKY?' OR 'WHAT NEW IDEA DID YOU LEARN TODAY?' HELPS CHILDREN REFLECT ON THEIR THINKING AND VALUE THE LEARNING PROCESS.

MODEL PERSEVERANCE AT HOME

CHILDREN LEARN A LOT FROM WATCHING ADULTS. SHARE MOMENTS WHEN YOU HAVE HAD TO WORK THROUGH A PROBLEM. PRACTISE A SKILL, OR KEEP GOING WHEN SOMETHING FELT HARD. TALKING THROUGH YOUR THINKING SHOWS CHILDREN HOW DETERMINATION WORKS IN REAL LIFE.



The Year 11 Space

Hello Year 11,

Well done on a strong term so far. You have completed mocks for English, Maths and RS, attended period 7s, and been in for 08.00 maths. Nearly all of you attended parents evening and are attending Saturday revision in high numbers. With fewer than 40 school days left the hard work has to be maintained right up until May! Lets keep pushing!

Mr. Whitehead

NOTICES

Mobile phones

Please be reminded any mobile phones used in school are confiscated for 24 hours. This includes as you leave the school site. You are year 11s and expected set the example for the lower years.

Saturday subject masterclasses

The final day of this half term is in two week's time, 13th February. There will be revision sessions in school throughout the half term holidays as well as tomorrow and Saturday 7th.

Mock Exams begin 23rd February

Saturday Masterclasses	Subjects
Sat 17 Jan	English, Science, Maths (x2), RS
Sat 24 Jan	RS (x2), Maths (x2), Science, Art
Sat 31 Jan	English, Business, Science, Maths (x2), RS
Sat 7 Feb	English (Key30 conf), Science, RS, Maths (x2), Art

Yearbook photos

Yearbook photos schedule for the Ash canteen is below – ensure you are in on time

30 Jan 2026	11E
2 Feb 2026	11Q
3 Feb 2026	11U
4 Feb 2026	11A
5 Feb 2026	11L
6 Feb 2026	N/A Assembly
9 Feb 2026	11Y
10 Feb 2026	11T
11 Feb 2026	11I

Chinese New Year

CROSSWORD

SOLUTION

