MAYFLOWER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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In theory, shorter half-terms seem appealing; however, we always inevitably cram in the same amount of activities and events as the longer half-terms. You can see from this edition of the newsletter that this is clearly the case this half-term.

Just before the half-term break, film crews from ITV and BBC Look East visited us to film news articles on one of our Year 10 students, Phoebe, who has starred in a film and attended the Sundance Film Festival for its premiere. We are all so proud of Phoebe and her achievements, and I look forward to watching the film with my daughters when it screens on Disney+ in September.

We analysed student attendance this term, and despite a bout of sickness midway through the term, we are up by 2.5% from the previous year. Thank you for all of your efforts with this. The correlation between attendance and high achievement is significant.

Thanks to all students, parents, and staff for their ongoing support for the school. Have a great half-term!



Mr D Lee Headteacher

Out of My Mind

We are thrilled to share the exciting news that one of our own students, Phoebe-Rae Taylor, a Year 10 student at Mayflower High School, recently took centre stage at a world premiere in America for a Disney film. The premiere, hosted by Disney+, was for the Disney Original Movie "Out of My Mind," held at Park City's Library Centre Theatre as part of the Sundance Film Festival in Utah.

In this captivating film, Phoebe-Rae portrays the lead role of Melody Brooks, a character navigating sixth grade as a non-verbal wheelchair user with cerebral palsy, a condition Phoebe-Rae herself lives with. The character, aided by assistive technology voiced by Jennifer Aniston and supported by devoted friends, emphasises that what she has to say is more important than how she says it.

Phoebe-Rae auditioned for this remarkable role when she was just ten years old, with production plans initially delayed due to the pandemic. Reflecting on her experience, Phoebe-Rae shared, "I have just been to the world premiere of my film. It was really weird to watch myself. It was amazing." Despite being new to acting, Phoebe-Rae embraced the opportunity wholeheartedly, stating, "Everyone is shocked when they hear this, but I have never acted before in my life. The director got in touch as I was signed up with a modelling agency. It has been the best experience I have ever had. It is definitely what I would want to do if I got the opportunity again."

Everyone at Mayflower is immensely proud of Phoebe-Rae's achievements and the wonderful experience that she has had.

Look out for Out of My Mind on Disney+ soon!









Year 7 and 8 Dyslexia Christmas play - 'Flaymower's got Talent'

On Tuesday, December 19th, a fabulous drama performance took place featuring Zac Kirby, Thomas Trevallion, Amour Gardner-Sweeney, Blake Webb, Olivia Neal, Ellie Turburville, Henry Havard, and Dylan Smith in Room 11 of the Dyslexia Centre. As tradition dictates for over 25 years, the Dyslexia Centre's younger students performed a play during Christmas time for the older Dyslexia students and various staff members. This year, due to its popularity, the students gave not one, but two outstanding performances of 'Flaymower's Got Talent'. Despite their nerves, the performing students managed to engage the crowd and evoke laughter from their audience. Additionally, these students were awarded an English Speaking and Listening Grade based on their drama performance. It was impressive to witness such confident and strong performances from students, especially considering that reading aloud and learning lines can be very challenging tasks. Furthermore, it was wonderful to see each student perform with such enthusiasm and self-belief in front of older students and staff, including Mr. Lee, Mrs. Woolley, Mrs. Pearce, Mr. Somerset-Butler, and Mr. Dempsie. Well done to all who took part!

Mrs C Thorogood









Unveiling the wonders of Biology: Breathing systems of Insects

As part of the A-level Biology course, students are required to carry out certain investigations where their skills are assessed to complement their classroom learning. It was also an excellent opportunity for the Exam Board Assessor, who was visiting that day, to view the fantastic work that our students are doing.

In December, the students carried out a locust dissection which gave them the opportunity to have a hands-on experience to see the breathing systems they were learning about in class. Engaging in practical activities like locust dissection plays a pivotal role in nurturing a passion for science among our students. As they carefully explored the inner workings of these remarkable insects, a spark ignited – a curiosity that transcends the classroom and paves the way for future scientists, biologists, and researchers.

Students were meticulous in their dissections and delicate in their explorations of the breathing systems, producing some excellent microscope slides to examine the structures at higher magnifications. As you can see from the photographs, the detail is exceptional, allowing them all to have a deeper comprehension of the physiology of the locust.

The locust dissection was not just a practical requirement; it was a journey into the heart of biology that our students will carry with them throughout their academic and professional lives. We are proud to provide our students with opportunities that go beyond textbooks and examinations, fostering a love for learning and a deep appreciation for the wonders of the natural world.

As we continue our commitment to excellence in education, we look forward to more hands-on experiences that inspire, educate, and shape the minds of our future leaders.











Key Stage 3 and 4 Achievement

We were unable to include pictures from our Celebration Assemblies in our Christmas newsletter as our assemblies were held on the last two days of term. Our Celebration Assemblies are held at the end of each term and have become an important part of our reward system, allowing us to reflect on our students' achievements and efforts within our school and our wider community. During these assemblies, students were awarded their badges for their merits, and for the first time, students nominated their peers for the Student Choice Award. One of our core values is being a learner, and each subject area recognised this value by nominating students who have shown excellent effort and resilience within their subject areas. Students received their certificates from different members of the leadership team, and their names were entered into a draw for Amazon vouchers using our popular name generator.



In our weekly assemblies, Year Managers emphasise the importance of attendance and punctuality as crucial factors for student achievement. We awarded certificates to all students who achieved 100% attendance in the Autumn term, and Amazon vouchers were again issued. The tutor group with the highest attendance in Year 10 and 11 celebrated by enjoying pizza at lunchtime, while years 7, 8, and 9 celebrated with popcorn and a film screening.

A key element of our assemblies is recognising the amazing musical talent we have within our school. We were very fortunate to have performances by Leo Marson, Oscar Larter, Freddie Rayner, Harley Birch, Fletcher Smith, Jasmine Patel, Charlotte Bilby, Sophie Brown, Tilly Porter, Alfie Mills, Harrison Fitzgerald, and Advay Sharma, who performed in two assemblies.



We look forward to our next assembly at Easter, but in the meantime, students continue to receive their merit certificates in assemblies and collect their fast passes for demonstrating our core values outside of lessons.

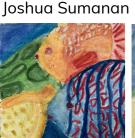






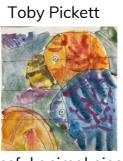
KS3 Art

Year 7 students are working in the style of Marcia Baldwin and are putting their knowledge of colour theory into practice with brilliant effect. They are creating a range of secondary and tertiary colours using just the primary colours.













Well done, Year 8, on producing some extremely successful animal pieces. The students put a lot of thought into how their animal faces would appear from various viewpoints, as working in 3D can be quite challenging. They then carefully applied glazes to make their animal faces stand out. After the bisque and glaze firings in the kiln, as you can see from the examples provided, they did a great job!

















And finally, Year 9 has been working brilliantly on their Portrait Project. Students have learned how to divide faces into different sections using guidelines for their self-portraits before applying this knowledge to their homework task, where they were asked to draw someone famous. The examples attached are a mixture of classwork and homework. It's great to see such a talented pool of students with the potential to become high-achieving GCSE Art students in the future. Mr. Clarke





Louise Perrin





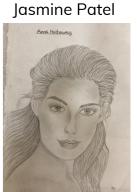


Chloe Barnes









Event Management Mastery

We are thrilled to share the remarkable achievements of our BTEC Level 3 Business students, who have demonstrated exceptional talent and dedication in planning, managing, and evaluating a series of successful school events. As part of their coursework requirements, students worked in groups to organise their own events, each tailored to the interests and enjoyment of our school community.

Year 7 Escape Room: The Year 7 'I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here' themed Escape Room proved to be a thrilling adventure for our younger students. With intricate puzzles, clever clues, and a race against the clock, participants were fully immersed in a challenging and exhilarating experience. Our BTEC students showcased their creativity and problem-solving skills in designing and executing this immersive activity, fostering teamwork and critical thinking among participants.





Year 7 Seven-a-Side Football Tournament: The Year 7 seven-a-side football tournament brought together budding athletes from across our school to showcase their skills on the field. From organising team registrations to scheduling matches and coordinating referees, our BTEC students demonstrated exceptional leadership and organisational prowess in ensuring the smooth execution of this highly anticipated sporting event. Through teamwork and effective communication, they successfully created an inclusive and competitive environment for all participants to enjoy.

Year 8 Cinema Event: The Year 8 Cinema event provided an opportunity for students to unwind and enjoy a fun-filled movie night with their peers. Our BTEC students transformed our Sixth Form Lounge into a cosy cinema, complete with popcorn, refreshments, and a blockbuster film. From managing ticket sales to overseeing technical aspects, they exhibited impeccable attention to detail and event coordination skills, ensuring that attendees had an unforgettable cinematic experience.

6th Form Seven-a-Side Football Tournament: The 6th Form seven-a-side football tournament brought together students from our senior years for a competitive and well-executed tournament. Through their dedication and teamwork, they fostered a sense of camaraderie and friendly competition among participants, reinforcing the importance of physical activity and teamwork in our school community.

Geography curriculum update February 2024

Each month Geography teachers nominate a 'Geographer of the Month' from each class. For January the following students were nominated:-

Mrs Keyworth		Mrs Reville		Mr Kilvert		Miss Collins	
13D Gy1	Chloe Downer	12B Gy1	Eloise Dodd	11C Gy2	Connor Boyce	7M1	Scarlett Dendle
12B Gy1	Eloise Dodd	11A Gy2	Olivia Cooke	10D Gy2	Dylan Learmouth	7L2	Briar Reuter
11D Gy1	Beatrice Bleakley	11D Gy2	Amber Cummings	9F2	Athina Mitchell	7B2	Zarina Kalanzi
10C/GY2	Archie Henson	10C/GY1	Jasmine Briggs	9M1	Phoebe O'Leary	8B1	Flora Noble
9R1	Gracie Cimini	9B1	Isabella Currie	7B1	Will Barrett	8L1	Harry Daley
7F1	Lily Pert	9B2	Niamh Jama	7M2	Eva Branch	8L2	Lacey Gordon
7R1	Sophie Bickerstaff	9M2	Elsie Shepherd	Mrs Cooke		8B2	Jason Mbalaso
Mrs Streek		8F1	Freya Spencer	13D Gy1	Imogen Braby	9F1	Tosin Morohunfola
8F2	Isla Vinton Smith	8M2	Olivia Garnett	11C Gy1	Maddie Clark	10D Gy1	Lily Manly
8R1	Emily Horncastle	7L1	Amelia Hales	11A GY1	Abi Turner		
		Mr McSweeney		9L1	Annahat Pannu		
		8M1	Thomas Mason	9L2	Scarlett Nugent		
				7F2	Frankie Deer		

This half term, Geography students have been delving into a range of different geographical topics and locations. It would be fantastic if parents and carers could engage them in conversations about what they've been studying, helping to nurture their geographical knowledge, understanding, and skills. Connecting the subject to the real world by staying updated with news on local, national, and international scales is an excellent way to initiate discussions, such as recent flooding in the local area.

This term, Year 7 students have been exploring the 'What happens where the sea meets the land?' unit. They have delved into coastal processes and landforms, with many successfully solving the mystery of 'Old Harry.'

Year 8 students, on the other hand, have been immersed in the unit 'Is the Geography of Russia a curse or a benefit?' They have examined aspects like climate, biomes, population, resources, and the impacts of climate change. Additionally, for 8B1 homework, they're embarking on a journey with the task titled "Hello from Russia!"





9F1 Structure of the earth models





Year 9 students have continued their exploration of the unit 'Will we ever know enough about earthquakes and volcanoes to live safely?' They have delved into the structure of the Earth and continental drift, while also examining significant events such as the Nepal earthquake and the Boxing Day tsunami. As part of their homework, students were given a choice of tasks related to the topic. Here are some examples of what they produced.

Year 10 students have been continuing their study of the Distinctive Landscapes unit and are eagerly anticipating their fieldwork trip to Walton on the Naze in the summer term.

Meanwhile, Year 11 students are nearing the conclusion of their Geography GCSE content and are currently engaged in a unit on Resource Reliance, focusing on water, food, and energy resources. They are exploring ways to promote sustainability in the management of these vital resources.

In Year 12, students have recently participated in their second fieldwork visit to Stratford, where they investigated the success of its rebranding efforts. They have now transitioned to the geographical debates topic of Hazards.

Lastly, Year 13 students are wrapping up their study of the unit on Climate Change and have begun their final unit titled 'Power and Borders'.

Year 7 Antarctic Flags Project 2023

Congratulations to Tilly Lashmar, whose entry for the Antarctic Day Flags Project 2023 was chosen to represent the school. Here is her flag being displayed in Antarctica, along with our school certificate.





Championing Financial Literacy: Students Shine with A Grades in LIBF Exams!

We are thrilled to share the outstanding achievements of several of our students who have excelled in their LIBF Financial Studies examinations, attaining remarkable A grades. These students - Owen Andrews, Luke Cole, Jessica Clarke, Ronnie Dobson, Harry Dunlop in Year 12, and Kieran Doyle and Nicholas Elliott-Hansen in Year 13 - have demonstrated exceptional dedication, perseverance, and aptitude in mastering the intricacies of financial literacy, and we couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments.

The LIBF Financial Studies programme equips students with vital knowledge and skills essential for navigating the complexities of the financial world. From understanding personal finance management to exploring global economic systems, the curriculum offers a comprehensive understanding of key financial concepts.

The success of our students in achieving A grades underscores their exceptional grasp of these complex concepts and their commitment to academic excellence. Moreover, their proficiency in financial literacy reflects not only their academic prowess but also their preparedness for real-world financial challenges.

We are immensely proud of our students' achievements and commend them for their diligence, passion, and determination. We look forward to witnessing the continued growth and success of our students as they embark on their journey towards a bright and prosperous future.

Mr Brooks Head of Vocational Subjects

BCT Sustainability Pupil Voice Project

On Monday, January 29th, Buttsbury Junior School hosted and led an amazing event in collaboration with the Billericay Community Trust. The focus of the event was on sustainability within our schools and how we can contribute to our community and environment.

Daria Suhan and Emily Muzica proudly represented Mayflower, sharing numerous brilliant ideas with this inspirational group comprised of pupils from local primary and secondary schools. Together, they discussed and shared good practices taking place within our schools and identified ways in which we can implement positive changes. We eagerly anticipate meeting again next term to see how their plans have come to fruition.

Mrs Pierce Year 7 Manager





Music

On Monday, February 5th, the Music Department had the pleasure of hosting musician and educator Charlotte Hatherley. She visited our department to observe the activities within our curriculum, with a particular interest in how we incorporate music technology in our teaching practices. As part of her visit, Charlotte delivered a lecture to our GCSE and A-Level Music students, sharing insights into her compositional process. Additionally, she fielded questions about her performance background, the music industry, and offered advice on how students could best prepare themselves for their own careers as musicians.

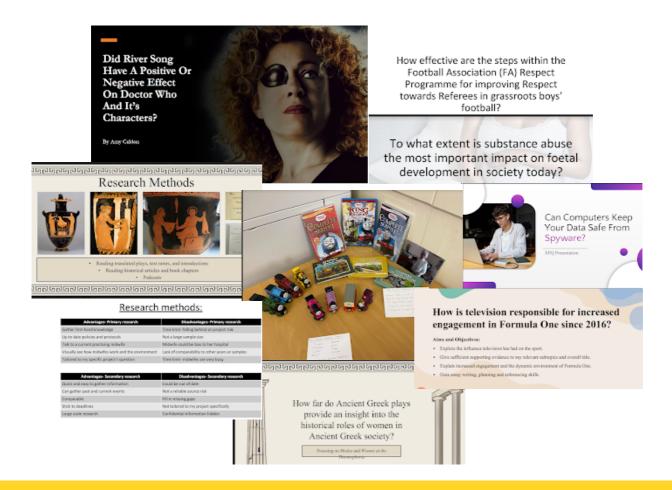


Mr. Tuck

EPQ and HPQ

It has been a privilege to witness the Year 13 EPQ presentations over the last couple of weeks. Students designed and delivered live presentations to a non-specialist audience, providing an opportunity for them to share their research conclusions and reflect on the expertise they have developed throughout their project journey. Witnessing Year 13 students overcome any fears about presenting and sharing a wide variety of specialisms demonstrates what a fantastic opportunity the EPQ provides.

Meanwhile, Year 10 and 11 students who have chosen to complete the HPQ in their own time are beginning to reach their final conclusions. Students have written a 2,000-word essay or created an artefact, drawing together carefully considered conclusions based on the research they have undertaken, as well as detailing their learning journey in the production log. We look forward to seeing some of those presentations next half term.



Duke of Edinburgh Presentation Evening January 2024

Young people from Mayflower High School celebrated their DofE success during a presentation evening held on January 25th. Fifty students were presented with their Bronze awards during a ceremony hosted by Mr. R Griffiths, with the awards being presented by Mr. D Lee, Headteacher.

The Year 11 students completed a range of activities to earn their awards, including volunteering in the local community, participating in various physical activities, and acquiring new skills. Additionally, the group undertook the expedition section, where they developed skills such as navigation, teamwork, and camperaft.

During the presentation evening, the students were presented with their certificates by Mr. D Lee, who spoke about the lasting impact of the DofE Award. He also expressed gratitude to all the staff who dedicated their time to support the expeditions, as well as to the parents for supporting their children in achieving their awards.

Congratulations to all those who have completed their award.









Spelling Bee Champions Final 2024

The Spelling Bee Final took place on January 24th and turned out to be a highly successful event, attended by the largest audience in its history at the school. Conducted in a supportive spirit, all the contestants were a credit to the school, their families, and themselves. The Spelling Bee final has always been one of the key events for the Literacy Programme at the school. A massive thank you to all the parents and siblings who came to support the competitors.

The final itself was hard-fought and saw one or two suddendeath rounds. The greatest applause should go to the competitors who, as already indicated, conducted themselves with integrity and made themselves, their parents/families, and the school proud. A huge thank you also goes to the judges who ran the show, namely Mrs. Holland, Mr. Reed, Mr. Kilvert, and of course the Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Rowlands, who ensured the efficient and timely running of the whole competition.

The finalists were, in no particular order:

- Amelie Saunders-Engwards 7B1
- Shreyan Raval 7B2
- Michael Clements 7B2
- Frankie Keeper 7B2
- Aidan Farrell 7F1
- Clayton Beecher 7F2
- Bibi Tarraf 7F2
- Jack Slater 7L2
- Chloe Moar 7L1
- Archie Wallace 7L2
- Megan Lee 7R1
- Sena Temizturk 7R1
- Erin Holmes 8B1
- Thomas Fairweather 8F2
- Oghenemarho Agbatutu 8L2
- Henry Webb 8R1

The winner was Oghenemarho Agbatutu, with Shreyan Raval in second place and Chloe Moar in third place. A massive congratulations also to Amelie Saunders-Engwards, who was in the top sixteen but missed the final as she was not in school on the day. Well done, everyone. Thank you, and see you next year.







Mr. Ncube.

Design and Technology

Projects are nearing completion across the technology department. Year 7 students have been constructing their automata toys, while Year 8 has been crafting pewter keyrings with Miss Miles and card clocks with Mr. Fowler. Year 9 students have been working on wooden grabbers, and Year 10 has been experimenting with timbers, undertaking a variety of exciting projects. Additionally, Year 11 students are engaged in a range of exciting projects as well.

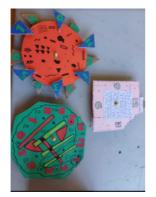
This term, Year 7 students have been building upon the skills they have already acquired, using hand tools, disc sanders, and pillar drills to assemble the stand of their toy and the mechanism to make their chosen character bob up and down. It is now time for the final assembly and attaching the card pieces. We will select some to showcase in the next newsletter.

In Year 8, students have been learning about working with metals to design and create their own pewter cast keyrings. They have been actively engaged in the process, starting with designing and transferring the design onto 2D design software. Following this, they poured molten pewter into the molds they created on 2D design. The filing and sanding stage required them to apply muscle and skill to achieve a shiny finish. Here are some examples of exceptional work from Zoe Manly, Skye Greenan, Emily Jackson, Hattie Sains, Denisa Podaru, and Will Temple.









Meanwhile, under the guidance of Mr. Fowler, students have been delving into the Memphis design movement. They have designed and crafted their own clocks using card. Take a look at the excellent work they have produced. Can you spot yours?



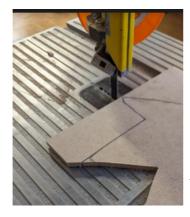




In Year 9, students have been tasked with creating a wooden grabber from scratch. Building upon skills acquired in previous years, they aimed to achieve a well-made and functional grabber. This involved sanding on the sander, hand sanding, and shaping the pieces. Additionally, students had to cut materials to length and problem-solve during the assembly process. So far, we have seen three completed grabbers from some of our amazing Year 9 students. Well done to Ollie Fowler, Juliet Wenborn, and Oliver Sargood for creating such amazing work.







Our Year 11 students have been diligently working on their NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) with a focus on climate change. The research, design, and pre-production phase have been successfully completed. Currently, students are in the process of creating their products, which are starting to take shape. Under supervision, students have been utilising a variety of machinery and hand-held tools to bring their designs to life. To all Year 11 students: keep going! The deadline is approaching, but with your dedication and effort, you can successfully complete this project. You've got this!

Year 7 Boys Basketball

The Year 7 Boys Basketball team had an excellent start to the new year by defeating a very strong Great Baddow team in the Quarterfinals of the Essex Cup. The game was very close, with neither team able to establish a dominant lead. However, early in the 4th quarter, our boys managed to break away and secure the win, earning themselves a spot in the Semi Finals. The Semi Final match will be played after the half term break at a neutral venue. Congratulations to the boys for reaching this stage, marking an achievement that hasn't been accomplished by a boys' team at Mayflower in the last 15 years. Well done!





Year 7 Girls Basketball

The Year 7 girls' basketball team had two quarter-final matches in an attempt to reach the semi-finals of the Essex Cup. They showcased an excellent performance against Woodlands, securing a victory with a score of 52-45. Unfortunately, they fell short against Fitzwimarc School, losing with a score of 31-20. Nevertheless, they will now face Shenfield High School for a chance to reach this year's final, a school they only lost to by 2 points earlier in the season. Good luck to the team in their upcoming match!



Year 8 Boys Basketball

The Year 8 Basketball team achieved a remarkable victory against De La Salle in a highly competitive match. The final score was 40-35 in favour of Mayflower. Dylan Foley was named the Player of the Match for his outstanding performance. Congratulations to the team on their well-deserved win!

Year 9 Girls Basketball

Congratulations to our U14 girls' basketball team for achieving two outstanding league wins against both De La Salle and James Hornsby. The girls have demonstrated excellent progress throughout the year, which is a testament to their determination and consistent attendance at basketball club. Well done, girls! Your hard work and dedication are truly commendable. Keep up the fantastic performance!



U15 Indoor Cricket



Well done to the boys who represented the school in the Under 15 County Indoor Cricket Tournament, hosted here at Mayflower. After playing a friendly in the first match, it was a straight knockout against Greensward Academy to determine who would qualify for the finals day at the Essex County Cricket Ground. Captain Sam Stroud lost the toss, and Mayflower were asked to bat first. Unfortunately, the boys underachieved with the bat, posting just 29 runs. However, an incredible performance with the ball saw Greensward only just edge over the line in the last over. Congratulations to the boys who played: Sam Stroud, Lorcan Curley-Sanchez, Ollie Stroud, Harrison Dempsie, Jamie Weddell, Cameron Ball, and Harry Alsemgeest.

Year 9 Boys Football

The Year 9's journey in the County Cup has come to an end after an unfortunate defeat against Forest School. The boys managed to secure a victory against Emerson Park Academy on an incredibly cold afternoon, earning a spot in the last 16 of the competition. However, they faced a narrow 5-4 defeat against Forest School, which was a tough outcome to accept, especially considering the winning goal appeared to have gone out of play before it was scored by the Forest striker. Despite this disappointment, the boys battled well on a day where four regular team members were absent due to illness and injury. Now, the focus shifts to the league, where the boys still have plenty to play for. Congratulations to the lads on a great cup run, and best of luck for the remainder of the season!





Essex Schools Cross Country Championships

On a very cold Saturday morning, 7 Mayflower students participated in The Schools Cross Championships in Benfleet, representing the Basildon district schools. Rocco Savill. Lucas Curley Sanchez, and Callum Lill all aualified to run for Essex at the Southern Intercounties. Callum achieved an excellent 5th place and will represent Essex at the Schools Championships Pontefract in March. Congratulations to all students the for their outstanding performance!



Year 9

Rocco Savill (qualified to run for Essex schools at the Intercounties)
Betsy Thomas

Year 10
Eadie Hatchard
William Clements

Year 11Ryan Wheaton

Year 12 and 13

Lucas Curley-Sanchez (qualified to run for Essex schools at the Intercounties)
Callum Lill (qualified to run for Essex schools at the National Championships)



U16 Girls Basketball

An outstanding 52-50 victory against St Martin's in the semi-final has secured the U16 girls' spot in the Essex Basketball Final for the third consecutive year in their respective age group. A fantastic defensive performance by all eight players enabled them to maintain their lead for the win, despite St Martin's mounting a comeback from being 14 points down. These girls are truly exceptional ambassadors for Mayflower High School and girls' sports. Best of luck in the final, girls!