

MAYFLOWER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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The start of this academic year has seen the school grow from strength to strength with lots to celebrate and be proud of. This edition of the newsletter highlights much of the great work that has taken place.

After a significant time at Mayflower it only seems right that Mrs Gray writes the welcome piece.

In July 2004 I started at Mayflower as a fresh faced newly qualified teacher. Little did I know then that this would become my work home for the next 20 years. I have had some amazing opportunities and a range of roles that I have loved every moment of. I can genuinely say that I don't think I will ever love anywhere as much as Mayflower. Cut me in half and I have it stamped through me! But, I have an amazing opportunity at Thurstable in Tiptree and so it is my time to move on. I have taught some phenomenal children over the years and even taught some of their children; yes that makes me feel old! I am probably best known here for my voice (I know it's loud- be grateful you don't have to live with it!) the way I always follow rules and obviously my love for the best subject: Maths! I thank everyone for their kind words over the last few weeks, months and years, it means a lot. I wish all the students the best of luck for the future!

Vicki Gray
Assistant Headteacher



Exams Office Update

The Exams Office has had a busy and eventful term. It all kicked off in August with the release of A-level and GCSE results. Congratulations to everyone on their hard-earned achievements – your dedication over the summer has certainly paid off!

Certificate Collection:

Certificates are now available for collection at Main Reception, Monday to Friday, between 8:30am and 3:30pm during term time. If you are unable to collect them in person, please provide a letter of permission for the person collecting on your behalf. They will also need to bring photo ID for verification.

November PPEs:

The first round of November Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) was a success for Year 11 and Year 13 students, who demonstrated excellent behaviour throughout. Please remember to bring all necessary equipment to each exam. Being well-prepared is crucial for success. If you're unsure about what to bring, please consult your subject teacher.

Resits for English Language and Maths:

November also provided an opportunity for students to resit their English Language and Maths exams. Results for these will be available for collection from the Exams Office on 9th January from 8am.

Controlled Assessments & Upcoming Exams:

In the past month, we've also facilitated Controlled Assessments for Criminology, and we're already planning ahead for the New Year. This includes managing the French and Spanish speaking assessments, taking place in January, as well as preparing for the second round of PPEs for Year 11 and Year 13, taking place in February. Timetables for these will be available towards the end of January.

Looking Ahead to Summer 2025:

The exam boards have now released the Summer 2025 exam dates. You can easily find the published timetables by searching for your exam board and "Summer 2025" along with the qualification (GCSE or A Level). This will help students prepare well in advance for their exams.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Exams Office



Ice Hockey

Year 8 student; Dylan has been selected to represent the U14 England Ice Hockey team as they face Scotland in the upcoming Christmas Classic event at Sheffield in late December. His performance during the trials, where he scored all the goals for his team as well as the skills and dedication he has shown at club level, has all contributed to him making the national squad. Everyone at Mayflower and in Year 8 wishes Dylan good luck as he represents the country over the Christmas break. Good Luck Dylan!

Mr Sullivan

Dance

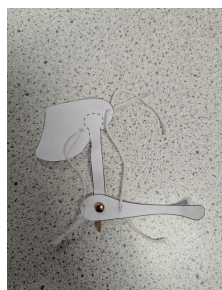
Mr Hurd and Mr Gardiner were delighted to hear from Katie in 10L1, who shared some great news from her dance school. Katie and her dance school have qualified to represent England in the Dance World Cup in Spain July 2025. Everyone at the school are so proud of Katie and pleased to hear of the extracurricular activities our students take part in!



Year 8 Science – Biomechanics models

Since the start of term, Year 8 have been studying how the body works, including the digestive system, respiratory system and musculoskeletal system in Biology, as well as how different coloured lights interact and how sound waves are produced in Physics. This culminated in students making some fantastic models of how muscles, bones and joints interact to enable our bodies to move. Next we will be looking at how to maintain a healthy body by looking at balanced diets and the effects of smoking on the respiratory system. We will also be studying how acids and metals react releasing heat and gases. Keep up the great work Year 8!

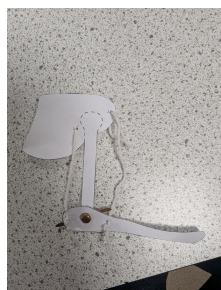
Mr. Cerson



Michael C &
Will Ba



Tilly L



Hannah M &
Beth P



Jude M &
Jack G



Georgina H &
Jess G



Advay S,
Zach P &
Lewis A



Mayflower High are delighted to be part of the Jack Petchey Award Scheme which over the course of the year we will see 9 of our Mayflower Students receiving this prestigious award. The Achievement Award is about recognising students who go above and beyond both within the school and local community. Each student receives £300 to spend within the school which the award winners choose.

The first three award winners are:



Jessica Year 10

Congratulations to Jessica who while completing her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award decided to pick up any litter that she found on route. She appeared back in camp after walking all day and carrying her rucksack with a large bin bag of all the rubbish she had collected. A fantastic achievement well done.



Erin Year 12

Erin worked incredibly hard towards her GCSEs and supported some of her friends through the revision period. Her kindness and support was really appreciated at this stressful time.



Russell Year 9

Russell has single handedly set up the successful DT club that happens for both KS3 and 4 students in technology. This has proved a really popular club and is all credit to Russell.

If you would like to nominate a student please email me at educate@mayflowerhigh.essex.sch.uk and signpost it for the attention of Mrs Cooke.

Christmas Lunches: A Festive End to the Term

As we wrap up this term at Mayflower High School, we're thrilled to share the joyful experience of our Christmas lunches, which were a delightful way for all year groups to celebrate the festive season.

This year, we introduced a new format, allowing students to enjoy their lunches in their tutor groups. This change provided a wonderful opportunity for students to spend quality time with their peers and form tutors, celebrating the holiday season together.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated catering team, who outdid themselves in preparing delicious and festive meals for everyone. Their hard work and creativity brought a festive spirit to our dining halls, making the lunches truly memorable.

During the lunches, students engaged in various activities with their form tutors. There was plenty of fun, music, and even some dancing, creating a lively and festive atmosphere. Our sixth form students also played a vital role assisting with the event, and we are grateful for their enthusiasm and support.

As we look ahead, we are already excited about next year's Christmas lunches. We plan to make them even bigger and better, continuing the tradition of celebration and community spirit at Mayflower High School.

Once again, thank you to everyone involved in making this event a success.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Library update

I am really excited to join Mayflower High School and support students with their reading and literacy skills. I have received such a warm welcome from everyone and can't wait for 2025, which I hope to be a strong year for reading at Mayflower.

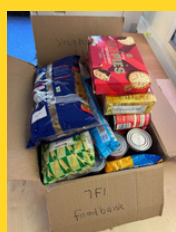
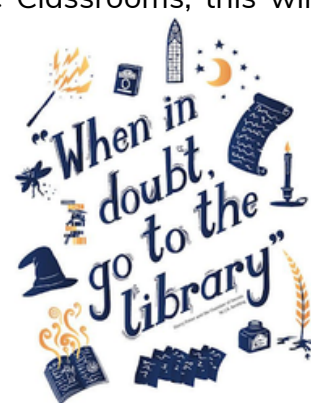
The Library has been very well looked after by Student Librarians over the past few months, and they should be very proud of the hard work they have put in to keep it open for their peers. They have done an amazing job.

Moving forward you may see a few changes in the Library; it may start to look a little different, you will see some new books on the shelves and it is now also open at breaktime, but I also want to welcome your ideas and thoughts too. Please pop in and let me know if you have any ideas for the Library in the future, and thank you to the 660 students who have completed the Reading Survey on Google Classrooms, this will really help me understand your relationship with reading.

The Library is a wonderful quiet and calm location for students to visit if they are looking for a place for peaceful reading, homework or study time, or if they just want a quiet place to go to.

So far I have met some truly wonderful students who show such a great interest in reading and literacy, and I aim to continue to support this love for reading in all Mayflower students - there is a book for everyone, you just have to find it.

Mrs Sayer - Librarian



Food Bank Donations

7F1 have donated lots of items for the Billerica Foodbank. We have collected Christmas items such as biscuits, chocolates and mince pies to help those who need food over the holidays.

Well done 7F1!

Miss Warren

Sixth Form Literature trip to see 'The Tempest'

On November 26th some of our Sixth Form English Literature students had the opportunity to attend a live performance of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* at the Palace Theatre in Southend. This experience proved to be a magical and enthralling interpretation of one of Shakespeare's most complex plays, leaving students captivated from beginning to end.

The production truly lived up to its "thunderous" reputation, with stunning visual and auditory effects that brought the tempest itself to life. The combination of UV lighting and sound design set a dramatic and immersive tone that resonated throughout the performance. The portrayal of Prospero was masterful, balancing authority and vulnerability, while Ariel's ethereal presence enchanted the audience with fluid movements and haunting vocals. Adding levity to the drama were the humorous antics of Trinculo and Stefano; their witty exchanges and physical comedy had the audience laughing out loud.



Our Sixth Form students left the theatre with a deeper appreciation for *The Tempest* and the power of live theatre. This visit not only enriched their understanding of the play in preparation for their Literature A Level examination, but also demonstrated how Shakespeare's work continues to resonate and entertain centuries after it was written.

Mrs Ellis

Religious Studies Update

It has been an exciting term in Religious Studies as we roll out our new curriculum for Years 7, 8, and 9. Focusing on enquiry and deep questioning, our students have grappled with how we answer ultimate questions, evaluated the responsibility of religious figures in challenging injustice and inequality in society, and discussed whether it is possible to answer the question of God's existence.

Year 7 students made a brilliant start to life at Mayflower High School by considering the reality of miracles, among other key areas of religion. Year 8 students researched their favourite religious figures and how they challenged injustice. Year 9 students spent time debating the merits of the ontological argument versus the teleological argument. Year 10, our first option cohort, has finished their studies on Christianity and is now debating how Christianity and Buddhism respond to issues of social justice in the world, particularly surrounding topics such as prejudice and discrimination. Year 11 students have completed their GCSE content, and with their PPEs finished, we now have a good overview of where to target revision in the new year.

Finally, Year 12 has tackled different ethical theories of behaviour and discussed the existence of God, as well as the problem of evil and suffering and Year 13 have completed their philosophy and ethics units and are ready to take on key topics such as Christianity and science and the challenge of secularisation.

It has been a calendar year full of change in Religious Studies, but it has been an exciting journey, and we are raring to go in the new year!

Mr Wallen

Dyslexia Centre Peer Mentoring

Every other Wednesday, Year 10 Dyslexia Centre students run a peer mentoring programme for Year 7 Dyslexia students during form time. This week Amber met with William, Esmee met with Healey and Tommy met with Henry. The Year 7 students have the fabulous opportunity to discuss any worries they may have and ask questions of the more experienced Year 10 students. This week the students discussed their plans for their upcoming Dyslexia play which is due to take place next week and also how they have found their first full term at Mayflower!

I know the Year 7 Dyslexia students benefit enormously from the advice, guidance and wisdom from the older students. Thank you to Esmee, Amber and Tommy for giving up their time and being a friendly face for the new Year 7 Dyslexia students.

Mrs Thorogood

Key Stage 3 and 4 Achievements

In the last few weeks of term we are preparing for our celebration assemblies which take place on the final two days of term. In our assemblies we recognise and celebrate our students' attendance, the number of merits they have achieved and also their efforts within lessons. This term our teachers have awarded an amazing 75,292 merits compared to 70,191 last year, it is amazing how the number of merits seems to increase every year.

Reward breakfasts for the tutor group with the highest attendance also took place this week; congratulations to: 7L2, 8L2, 9B1, 9L1, 10R1 and 11M2 who had the highest attendance.

We will be able to share photographs of our celebration events in the next edition of our newsletter. At the time of writing this report these were our highest achieving students with their conduct points (behaviour points - positive points). Merits were calculated on 11th December.

Maya	7B1
James	7B1
Darcie	7F1
Daniel	7R1
Nicole	7F2
Lucy	7M2
Thomas	7R1
Rubie	7F2
Anna	7F1
Sam	7F2
Nancy	7L1
Leah	7M1
Jasper	7L1
Robin	7L1
Owen	7B1
Will	7L1
Dexter	7M1
Noah	7F1
Elizabeth	7R1
Samuel	7B1
Grace	7B1
Evie	7R1
Lottie	7L1
Alfie	7M2
Charlie	7L1
Isla	7B2
Taylor	7L2

Mateo	8M1
Daria	8M2
Chioma	8M1
Armaan	8M2
Millie	8M2
Eva	8M2
Jessica	8L2
Ronnie	8B2
Emily	8M2
Khalid	8M1
Evie	8L2
Lilly	8L2
Nicole	8B1
Marcel	8F1
Sophie	8R1
Advay	8R1
Isabella	8B2
Lewis	8M2
Abigail	8L1
Chloe	8L1
Edith	8B1
Scarlett	8M1
Emily	8M2
Eleanor	8M1
Frederick	8M2
Franklord	8M1
Jack	8L2

Alex	9B2
Finley	9B2
Amber	9R1
Freya	9B1
Leah	9R1
Hattie	9B2
Luke	9B1
Leo	9F2
Russell	9F2
Alfie	9F2
Shyanne	9F1
Willow	9R1
Jowan	9B2
Alexandru	9R1
Olivia	9R1
Logan	9R1
Destiny	9R1
Harley	9M2
Denisa	9F1
Emily	9R1
Rosie	9B2
Sophie	9F1
Alex	9M2
Cassandra	9F1
Christophe	9M1
Esme	9B1

Athina	10F2
Edward	10M1
Matilda	10R1
Isabella	10B1
Achyut	10F1
Isabella	10R1
Heidi	10R1
Bonnie	10R1
Gracie	10R1
Ollie	10M2
Benjamin	10F1
Alfie	10B1
Evie	10L2
Sophie	10F1
Freya	10F1
Sophia	10R1
Ruby	10F1
Gracie	10R1
Toluwanin	10R1
Anna	10B1
Abby	10R1
Megan	10B1
Jessica	10B1
Erin	10F1
Pareshay	10R1
Theo	10R1
Eleanor	10M2
Bethan	10R1
Xander	10F2
Teddy	10B1

Charlotte	11L1
Shay	11F1
Violet	11L1
Eloise	11L2
Harry	11B2
Colbi-Rae	11B2
Ella	11M1
Daisy	11L2
Harry	11B2
Sophie	11F1
Isabelle	11B1
Louis	11L2
Amy	11F2

Samuel	11L1
Mathew	11L2
Gene	11L1
Oliver	11L2
Rose	11M2
Phoebe	11L1
Lana	11M2
Amelia	11R1
Ned	11F2
Katie	11F1
Ruby	11L1
Kane	11F1

Albert	11L1
Luke	11L1
Jack	11F1
Jessica	11B1
Elizabeth	11F1
Ava	11L1
Phoenix	11B2
Isaac	11M2



	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	KS3	KS4
Bronze						50	50
Silver						100	90
Gold						150	130
Platinum						200	175
Diamond	Diamond reward lunch					250	225

Drama Department

Year 7 have been studying Pantomime this half term and have enjoyed playing a range of stock characters and practising slapstick! Year 8 have been exploring Shakespeare and have worked through a range of rehearsal techniques used by the RSC to explore text, character, theme and plot. Year 9 have been exploring the style of Verbatim theatre and have looked at extracts of different plays that use real words for the basis of the narrative.

Classes are enjoying the range of drama games we play, these are excellent for team building, boosting confidence, improving communication skills and often develop focus and self discipline and are great for our well being.

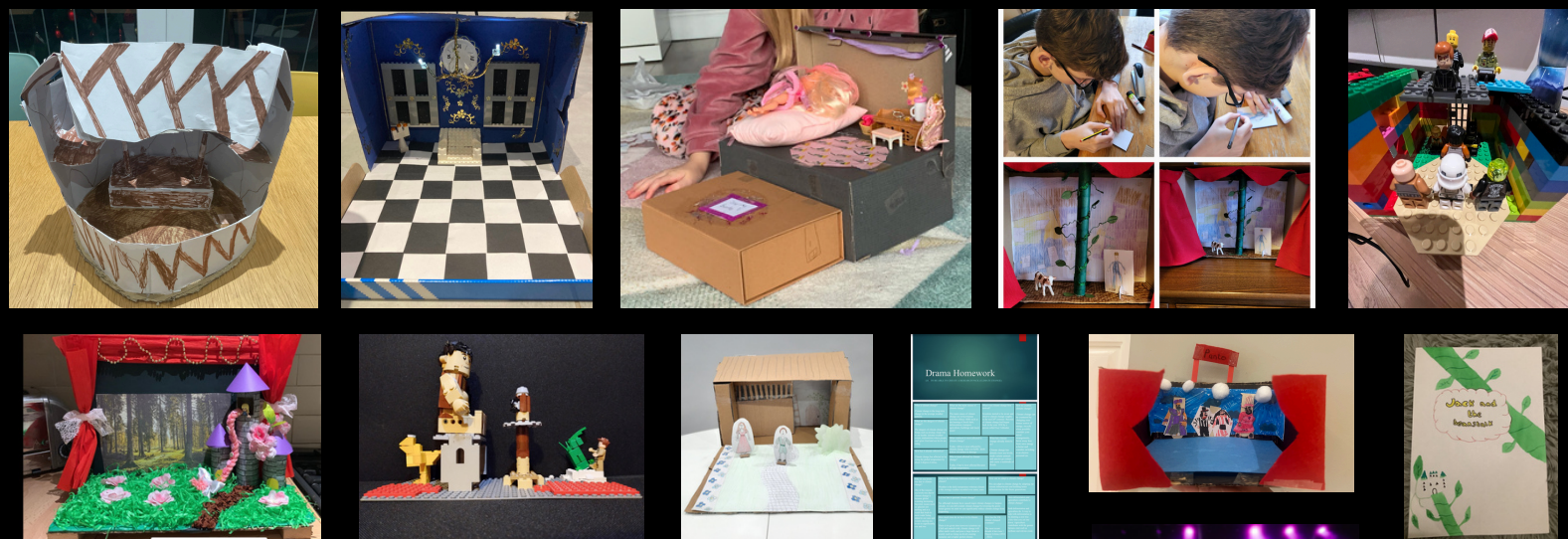
Key Stage 3 students have been working hard on their half termly drama homework and we have been very impressed, particularly with the range of Lego building and design work! We are keen to extend student's learning beyond the classroom and have designed homework tasks that allow for either practical or paper based work.

Year 10 Drama GCSE have explored a variety of plays and are developing their analysis skills when writing about acting and directing.

We are very excited to be announcing the next school production! 'Guys and Dolls' auditions will take place in January and rehearsals will be underway by February ready for performances in the summer term. Students can sign up for auditions in the drama studio: Year 7 and 8 are on Monday 13th January 3.30-4.45pm and Year 9,10 and 12 are on Tuesday 14th January. Students should be prepared to participate in a drama, dance and singing workshop.



Mrs Evans



Wednesdays
3.15-4.15pm
Room 50

Impro Club!

Year 7, 8 & 9

Come and spend your Wednesday lunchtimes playing drama games!

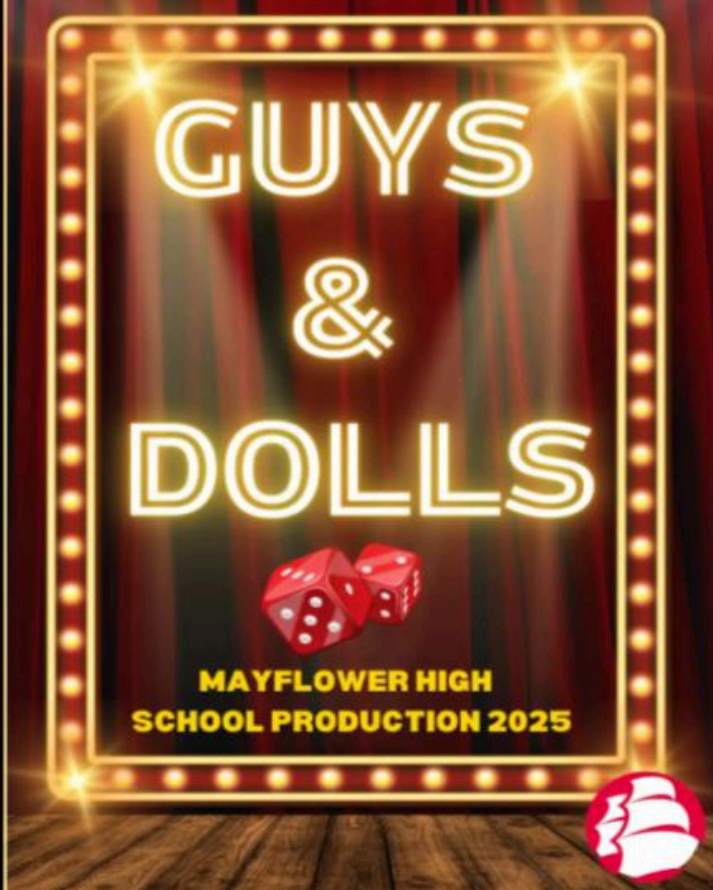
DRAMA GAMES
Wednesday lunchtimes

Year 7 Only
Room 56 1.45-2.10pm

STREET DANCE CLUB
Wednesdays
3.15-4.15pm
Drama Studio

Bring all the moves, sass and energy!

Year 7, 8 & 9



Auditions

Year 7 & 8
Monday 13th January

Year 9, 10 & 12
Tuesday 14th January

3.30-4.45pm Drama Studio

The audition will be 3 workshops - dancing, singing and acting. You do not need to prepare anything but you may wish to research the show.

Duke of Edinburgh Presentation Evening

Mayflower was delighted to host a DofE Award presentation evening on the 13th November. The event saw over 100 students being presented with their Bronze and Silver awards in a ceremony hosted by the school DofE Manager Mr Griffiths, the DofE Regional Manager Matthew Wheeler, the DofE Leaders and Head Teacher Mr Lee.

To gain their award the students needed to complete a range of activities including volunteering in the local community, taking part in a wide range of physical activities and learning new skills. They also took part in the expedition section, where they developed new skills such as overnight camping, navigation, teamwork and outdoor cooking.

During the awards evening the students were presented with their certificates and badges by Mr Lee who spoke about the long-lasting and positive impact of the DofE Award. He also thanked all the staff that have given up their time to support the expeditions, and also the parents and carers for supporting their young person to achieve their award.

Congratulations to all those that have completed their award and are an inspiration to new students considering taking part in the DofE system.



DofE Induction Day

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a life-changing experience. It is a fun time with friends and an opportunity to discover new interests and talents. It is also a way to develop essential skills for life and work and is a recognised mark of achievement which is respected by employers.

Mayflower enjoys a long history of running successful DofE awards and this year has been no exception.

On a damp Saturday in November over 100 Year 9 students attended a DofE induction in the library. They spent time learning about the award, how to login into the eDofE app and register all their sections. This year's cohort of bronze participants are taking part in an extensive range of activities, which include rugby, first aid, cooking, martial arts and volunteering at the Billericay park run.

The eDofE system is a convenient way for participants to manage their progress online via a browser or app. They can upload evidence of their activities, check progress and when finished their sections can upload the assessor's reports.

We look forward to working with this year's cohort to guide them through the award and to celebrate in their success on completion.

Geography Curriculum update

This term Year 7 have completed the 'Geographical Skills' unit, finishing with the opportunity to apply this to a decision making exercise choosing where to build a new housing estate in Billericay. They have now moved on to investigate the difference between weather and climate, and will be carrying out their first fieldwork enquiry soon.

Year 8 completed a unit looking at 'Why rivers are important?' Where they studied flooding in the UK and Bangladesh. They carried out their first fieldwork in the school grounds, investigating infiltration on the school site. Year 8 are now investigating the challenges and opportunities of changing population.

Year 9 have enjoyed their unit 'Are cities becoming too densely populated?' They focused on London and Masdar and completed a task to design a sustainable city. Year 9 have now moved on to a hazards unit 'Will we ever know enough about earthquakes and volcanoes to live safely?'

Starting their GCSE this term, Year 10 have now completed the 'Urban futures' unit where they studied Birmingham and Lagos as their case studies. They have also completed their first fieldwork enquiry deciding if the regeneration of Chelmsford city centre has been successful.

In addition to sitting the first of the PPEs, Year 11 have studied 'Global Hazards' focusing on weather and tectonic hazards. They are now learning about development with a focus on Ethiopia.

Year 12 have completed the first of four fieldwork days required for their A level Geography. The day trip to Southwold introduced them to fieldwork skills for both the physical and human elements of the course and they are considering what they would like to investigate for their NEA.



The NEA has been the main focus for Year 13 with them writing up their findings from their fieldwork from the summer term. They are now looking at climate change for their Geographical debates paper and Global migration for the Human paper.

The Geography department is always actively encouraging students across year groups to read around the subject. We have incorporated some key texts into our schemes of work this year and would encourage students to read Geography related texts in their own time. Here is a link to some appropriate suggestions:-
<https://www.internetgeography.net/wider-reading-in-geography/>

It would be great if parent(s) and carer(s) could ask students about what they have been studying and help them to develop their geographical knowledge, understanding and skills. Linking the subject to the real world by keeping up to date with news at a local, national and international scale is a fantastic way to start discussions. A few recent examples are the impact of Storm Bert on the UK and COP 29.

Our Students Shine at Essex Chemistry Mastermind 2024

We are delighted to share the success of four of our talented students, Ruby (Year 11), Athina (Year 10), Alfie (Year 9), and Erin (Year 9), who represented our school at the Essex Chemistry Mastermind competition. Organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry and hosted at the University of East London, this event brought together some of the most promising young scientists in the county. Our students rose to the occasion, showcasing their skills and teamwork in a competitive environment.



Featuring three rounds, the competition was a true test of scientific ability and teamwork. The day began with the Knowledge Round, where the students worked in pairs to tackle a challenging written test, combining their expertise to solve chemistry problems. Next came the Team Challenge, which tested their collaboration and problem-solving skills through a series of tasks. Finally, the Practical Round saw the students working as a team in the university's cutting-edge labs, conducting a hands-on experiment that required precision and teamwork.



Alongside the competition, the students had the chance to experience university life. They toured the campus, exploring the incredible facilities, and interacted with Chemistry undergraduates and staff. It was a fantastic opportunity to gain inspiration for their future studies and careers in science.

Ruby, Athina, Alfie and Erin demonstrated a fantastic commitment to their learning and an impressive ability to work together under pressure. Their success highlights the potential of our students and sets an inspiring example. Congratulations to the team on this wonderful achievement.

Mr Ganda

Progress Centre News - Inter-schools Sporting Activities

Just before the half term break a group of KS3 students attended one of the busy Essex Inter-school activities organised by Mrs McSweeney.

These activities take place on a regular basis throughout the academic year and cover sporting events such as:

- 10 pin bowling
- Boccia
- Kurling
- Panathlon Extend Multi skills
- Inclusive Tennis Tournament
- Football skills

Students are invited from the Progress Centre to take part and compete against others from schools across Essex. The last activity was a 10 pin bowling event at Basildon Festival Leisure Park attended by 12 Mayflower students from Years 7 and 8 competing against over 150 other students from across the county.

All of our students bowled well, gaining many 'strikes' and scoring highly against their contemporaries from other schools.

Special thanks to Mrs McSweeney for organising and leading these trips and to Mr Harris for supporting them. New events are planned for shortly into the New Year.



Mrs Cooke

Stars In Our Schools



At Mayflower High School, we recently had the privilege of celebrating our incredible support staff as part of the national Stars in Our Schools initiative, organised by UNISON. This annual event is a wonderful opportunity to shine a spotlight on the vital roles played by our teaching assistants, catering and administrative staff, cleaners, lunchtime supervisors and site team, who all work tirelessly to keep our school running smoothly.

This year, we invited students, parents, and teachers to nominate members of our support staff who have made a real difference. The response was overwhelming, with an amazing 193 nominations submitted. During a special celebration lunch, we shared these heartfelt messages on postcards to show our appreciation.

At Mayflower, we are fortunate to have a team of support staff who consistently go above and beyond in their commitment to their roles. They don't do it for recognition; they do it because they care deeply about creating a welcoming and safe environment for our students. Their dedication makes a huge impact on the emotional safety and wellbeing of our young people, ensuring that every student knows they have someone they can turn to for support. Life in a busy school is often fast-paced, and it's easy to move from one task to the next without stopping to reflect on the contributions of others. That's why events like this are so important. They give us all a moment to pause and say, "Thank you." We simply could not function without the hard work and dedication of our support staff. Together, we truly are a team.

Mrs Ford

Christmas Fair



**Thank you for all your support at
the Christmas Fair, £2751 was
raised!**

Design and Technology

This half term our students have been creative and making their projects which are due for completion in the next half term.

A select few Year 8 students attended a trip to the Ford factory in Dunton. Students could see how the Ford factory works and how to work as a team in order to reach an end goal. They could see the workings of the factory, gain knowledge and even see cars being tested. The trip was enjoyed by all who attended and they could not wait to discuss the trip further on their return.



Year 9 Students have been refining and building on the skills they have learnt in previous years, in order to create a functioning grabber. Students so far have shaped two lengths of pine, made the handle, trigger and jaw. They have now been demonstrating independent practice by working through the parts and assessing them to check for quality and accuracy. After the holidays students will be starting to make the last part and assemble the grabber. An excellent start to the project has been made with some clear talent for GCSE options too.



Year 10 students have now completed their Christmas reindeer in time for the festive season. Students have learnt about cutting materials using templates for accuracy. Using hand tools and machinery safely to achieve the product, they have even been given creative opportunities to create accessories for the reindeer as well as applying a finish to it. Students have now been able to take their work home to proudly display for Christmas. We think they have made an excellent start to their GCSE.



For Year 11 students the GCSE NEA is in full swing. Students have just completed the cardboard modelling stage and products are finally starting to take shape. We have a great range of products being made and creative solutions to design problems being discussed. It is a very exciting time in the DT department.



Watch this space for further news.



In the DT and Textiles clubs students were busy making decorations to sell at the Christmas fair. Among the creations were hand sewn Santa bellies and Christmas pudding decorations, as well as laser cut decorations and pompom snowmen. Just look at all the hard work that they put into the stall this year.



We were happy to be once again raising money for Save the Children via Christmas Jumper/non uniform day on Friday 13th December. This event raised £1,330. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this great cause.

Politics A-Level Quiz League

This term the Year 12 Politics students have taken part in a weekly politics quiz league. These quizzes have focused on national and global politics. The students have been competing with over 400 other schools and Sixth Forms and are currently 2nd place! Congratulations to our Politics students!

Miss Hughes

POS	Year Number	Team Name
1	404	The Spin Savants
2	376	Mayflower Year 12
3	243	AGS 2
4	242	AGS 1
5	482	Chairman Meow
6	16	Rock, Paper, Quizzors
7	197	We didn't Keir enough about o A-Levels to prepare for this qu
8	385	Burgate 13s
9	163	AHS Y13
10	511	Heathside13
11	358	Cronton Politics

12	198	The Tony Blair Witch Project
13	435	KEGS
14	346	SGS L6
15	210	Harris 2024
16	562	Gospol
17	438	I'm just a Bill...
18	17	The Polling Stones
19	341	Up the wood
20	582	Legislation Legends
21	455	Bloxham Upper Sixth
22	211	Greens
23	402	The Guided Ones
24	217	Pimlicans 12
25	425	Grover's Gang
26	510	Heathside12



Out of My Mind

We were thrilled to celebrate the release of a new Disney+ movie 'Out of My Mind' which stars our very own Year 11 student Phoebe. Years 7, 8 and 9 watched the movie in school with KS4 and 5 invited for an afterschool showing. Phoebe kindly came in at the end of each viewing to answer some questions from the students. We cannot wait to see where this adventure takes Phoebe next. What an amazing opportunity to show that with the right mindset anything is possible.

Foodbank

This December, our school community came together with immense generosity to support a cause that touches the lives of many in our local area – the Billericay Foodbank.

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the local community, we launched a donation drive with the goal of collecting non-perishable food items and essential supplies for families facing hardship during the holiday season. The response to this initiative has been truly overwhelming. Students, staff, and families across all year groups have shown incredible enthusiasm in donating to the cause. The school hall has been filled with boxes and bags of food, and every donation, no matter how small, has made a huge difference. From canned goods, pasta, rice, and toiletries, to Christmas items and crisps, the variety of items donated reflects the thoughtful contributions from our entire school community.

The Billericay Food Bank has been overwhelmed with gratitude, and we've already received feedback about how much the donations will mean to the families who rely on this support. For many, the holiday season is a time of great struggle, and the food and toiletries we've donated will help provide some relief and comfort during a challenging time. The generosity shown by our school community is a testament to the kindness and compassion we all share, and it's heart-warming to see our students leading the way in making a real difference.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has donated, volunteered, or supported this initiative. Your kindness and generosity have made a real impact, and we are proud to be part of such a compassionate school community. Let's continue to spread the spirit of giving and make this holiday season a little brighter for those who need it most.

Thomas & Miss McGroder



Sports Report Autumn Term 2 24/25

The Under 15 football team progressed through to the third round of the County Cup after a (6-5) win on penalties against Sir Frederick Gibberd. The boys had plenty of chances and should have won it in normal time but thankfully, goalkeeper; Ollie dug them out of trouble in the penalty shootout, saving 2 out of the 6 penalties taken. They will face St Mark's West Essex Catholic School after the Christmas break.

Player of the match: Archie



Under 16 Boys Essex Cup Football

The Year 11's are through to the second round of the County Cup after beating Anglo European in a tightly contested match. A penalty won, converted by Will put Mayflower ahead with about 10 minutes to play before Dan confirmed the victory; breaking through the Anglo back line and beating the goalkeeper. The boys will play either William De Ferrers, Tendring Technology College or New Rickstones Academy in the next round as we wait to hear on some other results.

Player of the match: Dylan

Year 9 Boys Football

The Under 14 team are unfortunately out of the County Cup after a narrow defeat against Gable Hall. Despite dominating for most of the game, the boys could not quite capitalise on their chances and lost to a final score of 3-2.

In the league, the boys got off to a mixed start. A 6-0 defeat to a very strong Woodlands side was followed up with a brilliant 3-0 win against Beauchamps. The resilience, teamwork and attitude of the side deserves to be credited, as they came back from a tough defeat the week before. Goals from Dylan, Archie and Charlie rounded off a complete performance which sees the boys back on track in the league and also through to the next round of the District Cup.

Player of the match: Jamie



Year 8 Boys Football

The Year 8 boys have had a great Essex Cup run so far having beaten Beaulieu Park, KEGS and Passmores Academy to make it to the last-16. Liam has been causing defences all sorts of problems with his pace and strength whilst our defence has remained solid throughout. We at home in the next round to the winner of Saffron Waldon CHS vs Stanway, due to be played in the first couple of weeks in January. Good luck in the next round.

Senior Boys Football

Unfortunately, the hunt for the senior boys second league win of the season continued, after they were heavily defeated by Beauchamps. Some great strikes and a couple of defensive errors contributed to a humbling 5-0 defeat. More games still to come after Christmas where hopefully the lads will be able to finish the season strong.

Junior Girls Cross Country Cup

The Junior Girls Cross Country team had an excellent start to the year coming 2nd in the first round of the Cross Country Cup and in doing so, qualifying for the regional finals. Sophie had a fantastic run finishing 1st overall. The regional finals took place at Felsted school and the girls ran exceptionally well and we are so proud of their efforts. They finished 8th overall out of the whole of Essex and Suffolk. Making school history being the first ever girls team to get through to this level.



District Cross Country

The district cross country was the event of the season with all the schools in the district gathering at Gloucester park in Basildon. The students ran exceptionally well finishing 1st overall and winning the whole event! This is a huge achievement and we are very proud of all the students efforts and dedication to training. Individual success saw Sophie win the Year 8 girls race.



U13 Essex Cup Basketball

The U13 boys basketball team are unbeaten this season and have qualified out of the group stages of the Essex Cup basketball with one game still to play. They have played some tough opposition in the group and it took double overtime to secure a thrilling win against a strong King John line up. The competition really heats up now at the quarter final stages in the New Year. Good luck boys.



Year 7 Boys Basketball

The Year 7 boys had a tough draw in the Essex Cup playing two power houses of Essex Basketball In Fitzwimarc School and Eastwood Academy. The boys bounced back from a heavy defeat to Fitz' with a narrow overtime loss to Eastwood. Dylan was player of the match in both.

Year 7 Rugby

The Year 7 team came 2nd in the Basildon District Rugby competition.

Year 8 Rugby

The Year 8 team also came 2nd in the Basildon District Rugby competition.



U13 Girls Football Essex Cup

The Under 13 Girls Football team played their first match together against a strong Brentwood School side. They were successful in progressing to the next round after winning 6-1. In the first half we scored the first goal within about 10 minutes. However, Brentwood quickly equalised within a few minutes. Just before half time the girls managed to go 2-1 up. The second half was where the girls showed incredible determination and teamwork and won 6-1.

The highlights were Callie scoring her first hat-trick, Lily scoring, after saying in the bus she never scores, Erin scoring on her first debut representing the school and after the match Teddy Sheringham coming over to congratulate us on the girls' great performance .

Congratulations to the following girls for playing: Maisie , Lana, Blossom, Polina, Florence, Lily, Eva, Amelia, Connie, Callie, Georgie and Isabella.

We look forward to playing Great Baddow in the next round.

U14 Girls Football Essex Cup

The Under 14 girls football team travelled to Epping to play St Johns on 22nd of November. This was an incredibly difficult draw which the girls successfully won 3-2.

Highlights of the match were seeing Amy's leadership skills, by controlling the game and supporting her teammates from defence, Eva and Zoe winning all the midfield battles, Maisie for her performance in goal and bravery after a collision with their striker, Oliva playing at both ends of the pitch, scoring one of our goals then ending the game as our goalkeeper making some critical saves.

Congratulations to the following girls for playing: Maisie, Florence, Polina, Amy, Amelia, Bella, Eva , Zoe, Lilly, Olivia, Esme and Isabella.

We look forward to playing New Rickstones in the next round.

U15 Girls Football District Tournament

On the 25th of November the Under 15 Girls football team came runners up in the district 9 aside football tournament at Beauchamps.

Tournament football is always hard when the matches are short and on smaller pitches. The girls showed great team spirit and had a great time. Congratulations to Isabella, Bella, Juliet, Olivia, Amy, Anya, Esme and Markella.



Netball Year 7 and year 8 Friendly

The Year 7 and 8 Netball teams had a brilliant evening playing against each other. There was some brilliant skill on show from all four teams.

Well done to players of the match:

Year 7A - Callie

Year 7B - Layla

Year 8B - Jasmine

Year 8C - Amelia



Year 8 Netball

The Year 8's have had a slightly quieter half term with only two district matches. This didn't stop them from putting all the hard work they do at training on display and coming away with two well deserve wins vs JHS and Beauchamps.

Senior netball

Another busy half term for the senior netball team with two Essex Cup games, two district games and the County round of the National Schools Competition.

They managed to come away with two brilliant wins in the Essex Cup, taking them through to the third round. One win and one loss in a fiercely competitive match vs Woodlands in the District. Then the County round of the National Schools competition. We knew this would be a very tough day as we met some of the best schools at netball in Essex but the girls put on a fantastic display on a cold and wet Sunday.



School Sports Partnership

Sports Leaders

At Mayflower High School, we believe that young people can benefit enormously by engaging in Sports Leadership opportunities. Sport Leaders are used to help organise and officiate primary sporting events throughout the year. This is an excellent opportunity for these students to develop a wide range of important life skills and qualities including confidence, communication, organisation, resilience and problem solving. We are excited to announce this year's Sports Leaders that have been selected from ninety two applications.

Year 8 Sports Leaders

Edith L, Nicole H, Lily P, Eva B, Jessica G, Jasmine B, Tilly I, Eva L, Isabella S, Sophie B, Jack S, Leo H, Ben P, Henry M, Harry P.

Danny P, Joey P, Ethan A.

Year 9 Sports Leaders

Eliana N, Bella E, Hannah C, Freya S, Zoe M, Olivia J, Sophie L, Maisie W, Denisa P, Jessica C, Anya S, Olivia G, Amy T, Esme P, Hollie S, Kieran A, Ethan L, Elliot L, George J, Hudson D, Taylor H, Chris C, Will T.

This term Mayflower has run a number of different Sporting Events for our local primary school through the School Sport Partnership programme.

Football

Year 6 Football Festival saw six of our local primary schools, Buttsbury, Brightside, Quilters, South Green, St Peter's and Sunnymede compete to make it through to the Partnership Final at William De Ferrers. Congratulations to Sunnymede for coming first and making it through to the Essex County Finals and to Buttsbury for coming second. Thank you to Rob Haward from the Ferdinand Football Group for coming to support this event.



Year 5 and 6 girls football saw the most schools competing in this event since the partnership began. Thank you to Stock, Brightside, Sunnymede, St Peters, Buttsbury, South Green and Quilters for attending.

It was amazing to run this football festival; seeing an all girl referee team and goals from Mayflower girls football teams. Olivia, Zoe, Bella, Lily, Eva, Amy, Anya, Esme, Lily, Fraya and Lainey.

Congratulations to the winners Buttsbury and the runners up Brightside.



Year 5 football had schools competing from Buttsbury, Brightside, South Green, St Peter's, Quilters and Sunnymede. Thank you to the following sports leaders that helped at this event: Lily, Eva, Kieran, Ethan, Elliot, Chris, Taylor, Will, Anya, Amy, Hudson.

To finish the term we had an eighty students committee in a football tournament for B and C teams in Year six. This was to give more opportunities for students to visit Mayflower. The following schools attended: Buttsbury, St Peter's, South Green, Sunnymede, Quilters and Brightside.

Thank you to the sports leaders that helped at this event: Ben, Henry, Harry, Danny, Ethan, Jack, Leo, Bella, Zoe, Olivia, Esme, Amy and Anya.



Trampolining

Buttsbury Juniors came to visit the Physical Education department and have a go at trampolining. This was a great opportunity for students to learn new skills, see our facilities and meet some of our Mayflower Sports Leaders.

School visits and in House support

It was a pleasure to deliver Player Leader training to all the Year 6 visitors from Downham and Buttsbury Juniors.

I was able to visit Stock Primary School twice this term to deliver training and a gymnastics lesson for Year 3. Then to meet Year 6 for a netball lesson. The school and students were a pleasure to work with and I look forward to seeing them again next term.

On the 7th November I was able to visit Buttsbury infants and work with ten of the SEN students to deliver training and a multi skill session. These students made me smile throughout the sessions with their enthusiasm to learn and play.



Dodgeball

Year 6 dodgeball tournament took place on Thursday 14th November, with Buttsbury winning in a playoff game against South Green.