

# MAYFLOWER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## In this Issue

- Non Uniform Tributes
- Mayflower Farewells
- Mock Trials
- British Library Trip
- Jamie Oliver's Ministry of Food
- Success on the Green
- Mayflower Dancing Stars
- Hampton Court Palace Trip
- Mock Elections
- D-Day
- Geography News
- This Term in RS
- Natural History Museum Visit
- Tower of London Visit
- Eco-club to Kefalonia
- KS3 and 4 Achievement
- DofE
- Year 11 Leavers Day and Prom
- David Bowie Legends Night
- Art and Design
- Author Visit
- Sports Leaders
- Dan Freedman
- Sports Report
- Sports Week



We have reached the end of an incredibly busy year and my first full year as Headteacher. Over the course of the year, the students have been amazing, and we have had the pleasure of seeing many of them in extracurricular activities, including sports and the arts. The Elf musical at Christmas was a highlight, as was the recent David Bowie Legend Night.

I am blown away by the variety of talent our students have. I am looking forward to seeing what our students achieve in the next academic year.

As with the end of every year, staff move on, and there is a section in this edition dedicated to the staff who have devoted many years of service to Mayflower and will be either moving on or enjoying a well-earned retirement.

This year has been a challenging year, with two major events rocking the heart of the school. I would like to thank the whole community for their compassion, kindness and support.

Damian Lee  
Headteacher



## Non Uniform Tributes

Non uniform day on Friday 19th July saw our community raising money for 2 fantastic charities that support the school regularly as well as being there for our school in our darkest moments. We raised £1150 for the Michael Barnard Community Trust and the Billericay Pastors who work with us week in and out and provide invaluable support to us.

What was really wonderful to see was our Year 10s leading the way in turning our community pink in memory of Maci a cherished member of our community who passed away recently. It has been fantastic to see our community come together and support each other by wearing pink ribbons and clothes on non uniform day.

## Mrs Ball



# Farewell

After 20 years at Mayflower High School, I have taken the difficult decision to move to pastures new in September. Mr Lee has kindly allowed me to pen a few last words to you as a way to say thank you and goodbye to all members of our wonderful school community. I have been truly humbled by the number of people who have expressed their best wishes for my next move and the warmth with which those sentiments have been articulated.

Over the last two decades, I have been truly blessed to be able to teach some extraordinary students, meet a host of extremely supportive parents, carers and governors and be sustained by countless outstanding colleagues.

My upbringing as the son of two teachers, my philosophical belief in altruism and my Christian faith have all instilled in me a desire to serve this extraordinary community. I hope that I have delivered on that commitment and been of service. To use a suitably nautical metaphor for a school named after the ship carrying the Pilgrims, the voyage has not always been the smoothest, but, with a little help from my (school) friends, I have found my way safely to shore. I leave knowing that the school is in safe hands.

I am leaving to become Director of Modern Languages at The King John School in Benfleet. The job is closer to home, both physically to my home town of Southend and metaphorically as I return to the subject with which I started my teaching career over 30 years ago. My journey time to and from work will be halved and I will be teaching my main passion, modern languages.

A number of students, parents, carers and even some of my colleagues expressed their surprise about my news, not realising that, at heart, I am a linguist. One notable exception was Mrs Duffy (Miss Smith as was), whom I taught in Years 7 and 8 in Hockley a few years ago!

I have had the amazing opportunity to teach across a dozen different subjects during my time here, ranging from French and Spanish to Economics and Business, passing through Religious Studies, History, Geography, English, and latterly Politics and Classical Civilisation.

Spending 20 years in one school and one community leaves an indelible mark on my heart. I will follow your progress with interest, albeit from afar. I hope that, in my own small way, I have left an indelible mark on Mayflower High School.

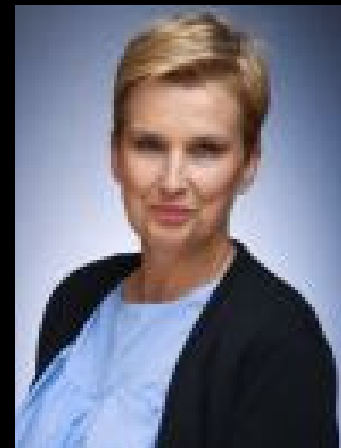
Thank you. I wish all members of this wonderful school community and all those associated with it a peaceful, joyous and enjoyable summer break. You go with my love and very best wishes for the future!

Jonathan Rowlands  
Assistant Headteacher



## Further farewells

Mrs Trevelyan leaves us after working for 20 years at Mayflower. During that time, she has supported countless students as they navigated especially challenging times in their lives. In recent years, she and her team have set up, firstly, The Bridge and now The Hub, so that all students feel included as part of the Mayflower community. More recently, she has provided vital expertise and support for those in the school struggling with recent tragic events. We wish her all the best in her new role at Peaceful Pony.



Mrs Dulake is retiring after 19 years of teaching in and then leading the Business department at Mayflower. Under her expert leadership and management, Business is now firmly established as one of the most popular and successful options at both GCSE and A Level. Departmental results consistently report positive progress figures, with Mayflower students performing better than the national average. In addition, Mrs Dulake has, for many years, worked as Lead Subject Mentor for Mid Essex Initial Teacher Training. Consequently, she has been able to pass on her considerable knowledge and expertise to the next generation of Business teachers. We wish her all the best for a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

Mr Cottee leaves us after 13 years working in the Maths department. As a very popular member of staff, he has inspired many reluctant students of Mathematics to fully embrace the subject, enjoy the content, and achieve considerable success. Mr Cottee has also made a significant contribution to the hugely successful Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme that we run at the school. We thank him for all his work at Mayflower and wish him well in his new role at another school.



Mr Venables is the second member of the Mathematics department to leave after 10 years. In recent years, he has supported the leadership and management of this large curriculum area in his role as Second in Department. As a skilful practitioner up to and including A Level teaching, Mr Venables has helped the department achieve its most successful results in recent years. He has also contributed significantly to the mentoring and training offered to trainee teachers and colleagues in the early stages of their careers. Linked to this role, Mr Venables achieved a National Professional Qualification in Leading Teacher Development. We wish him every success for the future as he moves to his new role in another school.

## Further farewells

Mrs Holland has been an integral part of the English department here at Mayflower for the last ten years and is now retiring after a long and successful career in education. We would like to thank Mrs Holland for all her work guiding many students through GCSEs in both English Language and Literature, as well as her herculean efforts directing many of the whole school drama productions. She plans to throw herself into the exciting world of amateur dramatics as she begins what we hope will be a long, happy, and healthy retirement.



Mrs Randell leaves Mayflower after nine years working both in the French department and as part of the school's SEND provision. During that time, she has helped many students achieve successful grades at French GCSE and provided vital one-to-one support for a range of students with specific educational needs. Mrs Randell is leaving Mayflower to continue working in this field at another school. We thank her for her work and wish her all the best for the future.

Mrs Gard is retiring after a teaching career spanning nearly forty years, with the last eight years spent here at Mayflower. Her role at Mayflower as a Specialist Teacher of Dyslexia has seen her provide vital support for scores of students who, as a result of her expertise, have been able to achieve highly in public examinations and then move into quality employment and/or continue their education to degree level and beyond. Mrs Gard has also worked as a very popular form tutor for B1, sharing these duties with another colleague from the Progress Centre. We would like to extend our best wishes for a long and fulfilling retirement after such a successful and selfless career.



A final group of teachers have been with us here at Mayflower for a relatively shorter amount of time. Nevertheless, we would like to extend our thanks to Mrs Cox (Design & Technology), Mrs Biyekele (French), Miss Collins (Geography), and Miss Battiston (Pastoral Support) for the hard work and commitment they have shown during their time at Mayflower. We wish them all the best for their future endeavours.



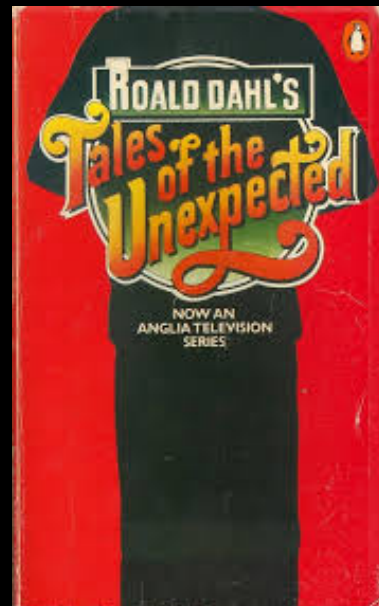
**Mayflower**  
High School

## Mock trial

This half term in English, some Year 8 students have been reading Roald Dahl's *Tales of the Unexpected*. One story, "Lamb to the Slaughter," involves a character who murders her husband and then encourages the detectives to eat the murder weapon (a leg of lamb).

8X2 have been learning about court procedure and the various roles involved in a trial. They have written their own prosecution and defence questions, crafted witness statements, and even created some fake evidence. The lessons have involved both improvisation and scripted drama, with a focus on the formal use of language. Students were highly engaged with the trial and collaborated brilliantly with great enthusiasm and energy.

Mrs Holland



## A Level English British Library Trip Thursday 4 July 2024

On Thursday, 4 July 2024, A-Level English Language and Literature students from our school embarked on an educational trip to the British Library in London. The purpose of this trip was to enhance our understanding of British literary and historical heritage and inspire our academic pursuits through exposure to a world-renowned repository of knowledge.

Once there, we took part in a tour of the Treasures Gallery. Highlights included viewing Shakespeare's First Folio, original manuscripts of famous literary works, and music memorabilia such as handwritten lyrics by The Beatles. Students really enjoyed seeing these works up close. We also had a sneak peek of the King's Library, although it was unfortunately closed to visitors while we were there. Lastly, we managed to squeeze in a visit to the beautiful in-house bookshop and library gift shop.

We then embarked on a literary treasure trail around King's Cross and the surrounding areas. Working as a team, we managed to solve the majority of the clues and saw many landmarks along the way, such as Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, and St Paul's Cathedral. Since it was also election day, we thought it only right to visit Downing Street, which was bustling with tourists and photographers. It felt like a particularly special time to be in London and was very interesting for us all to experience. Overall, our trip to the British Library was a resounding success, fulfilling its objectives of enriching students' understanding of British literature and history, and inspiring their academic pursuits. The students were impeccably behaved and were a real credit to the school.

Mrs Hiscock and Mrs Kavanagh



## Jamie Oliver's Ministry of Food programme

A group of Year 7 and 8 students had the opportunity this half term to be part of Jamie Oliver's Ministry of Food programme. All the students worked really hard each session and learned a range of cooking skills. They all successfully made some delicious dishes, including pancakes, burgers, and sizzling fajitas. Everyone enjoyed eating the dishes they had made each session, and Mr Lee also enjoyed trying everything they had cooked!

The programme was delivered at our school by Camp 4 Champs, a delivery partner of Essex ActivAte.

## Success on the Green

A huge congratulations to our Year 7 student, Elsa, who won the Colne Valley Golf Junior Open Girls competition with a very impressive score of 39 points. Elsa's golfing talent also earned her second place in the event's mixed competition out of 48 players.

Well done, Elsa, for continuing to triumph in a sport you love.

Mrs Pierce and Mr Sullivan



## Mayflower Dancing Stars

I had the pleasure of attending the Bailar Billericay Annual Dance Show and was blown away by the talent displayed on the Towngate Theatre stage. It was fantastic to see so many Mayflower students, from Year 7 through to Sixth Form, perform. It was also great to see so many familiar faces among the Year 6 students who will be joining Mayflower in September. A huge congratulations to each and every one of you. Your dedication and passion for dancing were evident in every perfectly timed step and gleaming smile.

The dancing celebrations for Mayflower students continue for me, as I have been invited to attend the LL Dance Show and the amazing San-Marie Stage School annual show this year, called Movies Were Movies. I have had the privilege of attending this show for over ten years and have always been left in awe of the level of dancing, professionalism, and pure joy that the dancers bring to the stage. Go Mayflower students!

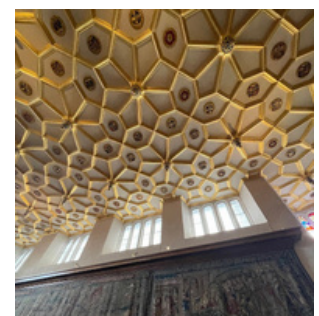
A very proud Mrs Pierce

## Hampton Court Palace

Last term, the Year 8 students had the opportunity to visit Hampton Court to enhance their understanding of the topics covered in their History lessons.

As part of this visit, students participated in a workshop led by Hampton Court, exploring the global influences that shaped the palace and the Tudor monarchs in particular. It provided a fascinating insight into Britain's role in the wider world, linking to the Tudor and Empire units we have covered in lessons. After the session, the students enjoyed lunch in the famous Tudor gardens. This area of the palace reflects the Georgian period, highlighting the role of William and Mary in expanding Hampton Court Palace. They also had the chance to explore the older Tudor areas of the palace, spending time in the Great Hall, the Tudor Kitchens, and the Royal Chapel. The students were fascinated by the vastness of the palace and the many functions it served.

Miss Gunnell  
Head of History and Politics



# Mock Election

Thursday 4 July saw people across the country heading to the polls to cast their vote in the General Election. The Year 12 Politics students were eager to run a mock election for all students, which took place on Wednesday 3 July. As part of our mock election, the Politics students worked hard organising material about the party policies for students to read and held assemblies. In addition to these assemblies, which provided an overview of the party policies, they also visited tutor groups to ensure that students had the opportunity to ask questions about the upcoming elections.

On the day of the mock election, students were invited to the library at lunchtime to cast their vote. They experienced what a polling station would look like and learned how to cast their ballot correctly. The Politics students made sure it was as close to a real polling station as possible, even ensuring that the students were voting for the actual candidates in the Basildon and Billericay constituency.

In total, 414 students came to cast their vote.

The results were as follows:

- 1.Reform Party
- 2.Labour Party
- 3.Joint: Green Party and Liberal Democrat Party
- 4.Conservative Party

This was a change from our 2019 mock election, where the Conservative Party won.

In the Basildon and Billericay constituency, the result was as follows:

- 1.Conservative Party
- 2.Labour Party
- 3.Reform Party
- 4.Liberal Democrat Party
- 5.Green Party



The Politics students are hopeful that the younger students will recognise the importance of voting when they turn 18 and ensure that they cast their ballots when the time comes. In the Basildon and Billericay constituency in particular, there were just 20 votes between the Conservative and Labour parties. This shows the students that every vote counts, especially in our area!

Miss Gunnell, Head of History and Politics

## First News - Free Summer Access

First News is the leading source of news and news-based learning for children. It is age-appropriate (aimed at 7 to 14-year-olds but accessible for all ages), impartial, and helps keep kids reading while developing their critical literacy skills.

We love using First News in the classroom and are thrilled to offer all Mayflower High School students a free First News digital subscription over the summer holidays. It's packed with fun and educational content that will keep minds active and entertained all summer long.

First News Digital is available via an app and includes:

- Daily news stories that children can read, listen to, and react to. These include reports on the Euros, the Summer Olympics, and the upcoming general election.
- The latest issue of the newspaper and many past issues.
- Weekly polls to vote on.
- The latest episodes of Sky Kids FYI weekly news show.
- Fun puzzles and games, great for improving vocabulary.
- Tips and talking points for parents and carers to help discuss tricky topics with your children.

Click here for our school's unique access link:

<https://subscribe.firstnews.co.uk/summer-reading-2024/?fn=CNL4JVA0>





## History D-Day

6 June 2024 marked 80 years since the D-Day Landings, an important event in WWII. This event saw the joint landings on the beaches of Normandy, marking a return to mainland Europe by Allied soldiers. As part of their History lessons, Year 9 students have learned about this event in detail.

We were honoured to be invited to a commemoration event at the Living Memorial Site in Rettendon. This event was organised by 104-year-old D-Day veteran Don Sheppard and his family. Don's grandchildren have previously attended Mayflower High School, so we have been fortunate enough to have had Don visit our school to share his experiences from the D-Day landings. On the anniversary of the D-Day landings, we were privileged to be part of the memorial service, showing our gratitude to the thousands of troops who risked their lives defending Europe against the threat of Nazism. The service included various members of the military, both past and present. It was an honour for our students to be part of this event, and many were deeply moved by the experience.

Xander, a Year 9 student, had this to say about the day:

"On the day of the commemorations, we attended a D-Day service where we paid our respects to everyone who fought for our country. At the start of the service, there was a march with soldiers and veterans. As part of the service, we sang the national anthem and observed a two-minute silence. There was also a big gunfire at the start and end of the two-minute silence. My favourite part was laying the wreath on behalf of the school. I also appreciated seeing all the veterans there."

Mayflower High School would like to once again thank Don Sheppard and his family for inviting us to be a part of this special commemoration event. We would also like to extend our thanks to the many Allied soldiers who fought so hard for the freedoms we enjoy today. We are eternally grateful for their heroic actions.

Miss Gunnell

Head of History and Politics



## Geography News

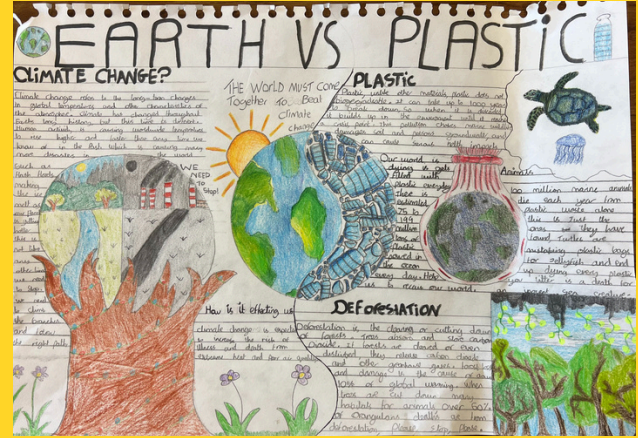
Earlier this term, Year 7 students studied energy sources and worked in groups to present their pitch for an energy source to Alan Sugar, with the goal of becoming the new exclusive energy lead within his business. The students thoroughly enjoyed researching their energy source and presenting their pitch.

More recently, Year 7 students have moved on to studying weather and climate. Some have ventured outside to measure the microclimate of the school to select the most suitable location for a new bench. Students who participated in the fieldwork were awarded a certificate for taking part in the Geographical Association's National Festival of Fieldwork.

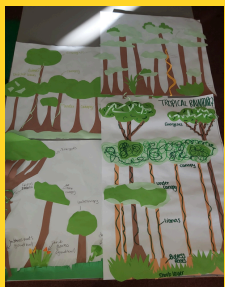




KS3 students were given the opportunity to take part in the RGS's Young Geographer of the Year Competition. Students were asked to create their own 'Choose Geography' poster, promoting the value of choosing geography at school, in further study, and in the workplace, by linking geographical skills to real people and jobs that make a difference. Harry P in 7L2 produced an outstanding entry, as shown.



Year 9 students were asked to design and create a geographical-themed 3D model of a key feature of their local area using reused or waste cardboard as the main material, supported with other recycled materials. They were encouraged to submit their work along with a description to the Geographical Association's Geographical Model Making Competition. Here are some of 9R1's excellent entries.



Year 10 students have completed their second piece of fieldwork at Walton on the Naze. Here, they collected data to investigate the coastal management techniques employed at the Naze. Back at school, they are addressing the enquiry question: "How is longshore drift managed at Walton-on-the-Naze?" The weather was on our side, and as you can see, the students enjoyed conducting fieldwork in the sunshine!



Due to the election taking place on 4 July, students worked from home. The Geography department provided KS3 students with a choice of tasks to complete, and, as ever, they rose to the occasion, producing some excellent work. Some students designed their own worlds, either in model form or on paper. Others used their birth date as coordinates on a world map, conducted research about the location, and planned a holiday to that destination.

Year 12 students enjoyed two lovely days returning to Southwold following their initial visit in November to complete the data collection for their NEA. They are now busy writing up their investigation, which forms 20% of the A Level.

The Geography department is always actively encouraging students across year groups to read around the subject. From September, we will be incorporating a few key texts into our programmes of study 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 parents and carers could ask students about what they have been studying and help them 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. Here are a few recent examples: maps illustrating the recent election result, Hurricane Beryl, and the heatwaves in the western USA.

## This term in Religious Studies

The summer term has seen a lot of change in Religious Studies this year. Earlier, we waved goodbye to Mrs Davis and Miss McKay. Both teachers have made significant contributions to the Mayflower community and in developing the Religious Studies curriculum. Under their leadership, we consistently saw some fantastic results, and they will be sorely missed. We have welcomed the fantastic Miss Budd into our department, who will join Miss McGroder and myself. We have exciting plans for a new curriculum that will engage and challenge students in new ways, ensuring that Religious Studies remains relevant to them.

This term, our Year 10 students have been completing their penultimate exam unit and their PPEs. Our Year 9 students have benefited from the exciting new changes to the GCSE curriculum and have sampled some of the new units we are introducing next year, such as Life Issues, Philosophical Arguments for the Existence of God, and case studies on religious practitioners who opposed inequality and injustice. Our Year 8 students have delved into issues surrounding Medical Ethics, including Animal Rights and Cloning. Our Year 7 students have explored alternative faiths, learning about the Amish, Bahá'í, and Shinto, among others. This has included projects on how these and the major world religions worship. We have received some excellent pieces of work, some of which are shown below.

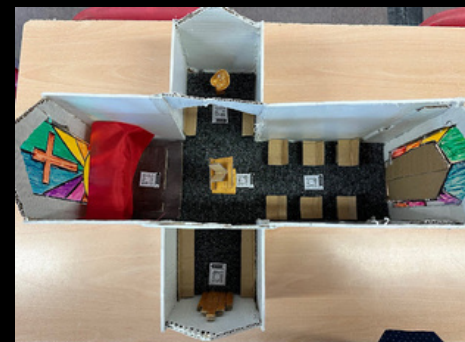
Year 12 students have made great progress in exploring new philosophical and ethical concepts and have approached their theological studies with great enthusiasm, including creating a wonderfully detailed timeline of the history of Christianity and feminism.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Year 11 and Year 13 on completing their GCSE and A Level studies, respectively. They have worked exceptionally hard over the years, and I look forward to seeing their results in August.

All in all, it has been a successful year in Religious Studies, and we look forward to the next year.

Mr M Wallen

Head of Religious Studies



## Natural History Museum Visit

On Thursday, 18 July, our Year 12 Biology students had the opportunity to visit the Natural History Museum, where they explored the fascinating Spirit Collection, including specimens collected by Charles Darwin. This trip provided a unique insight into the critical role such collections play in taxonomic studies and the exploration of biodiversity.

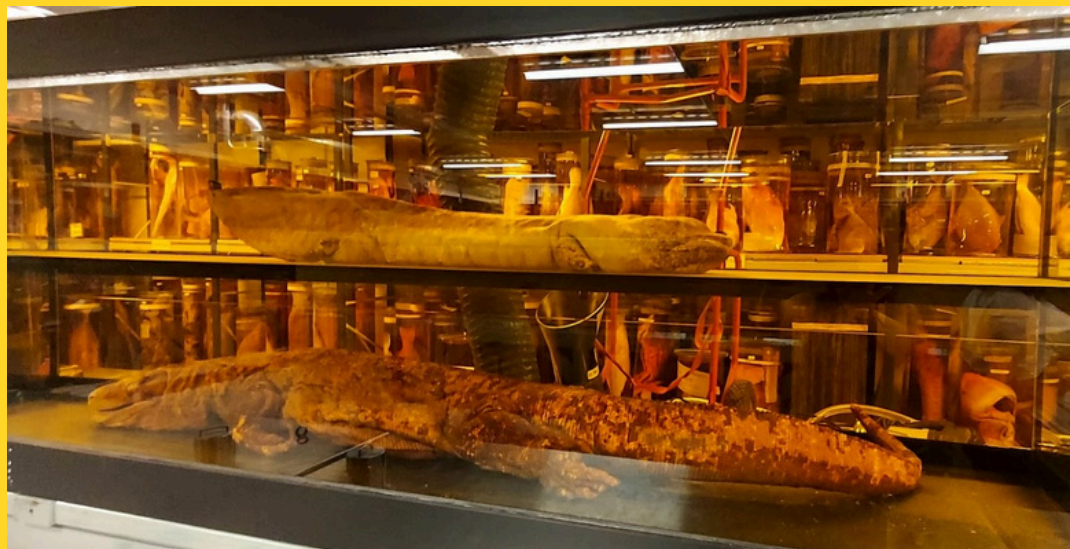
The Spirit Collection houses 83 million preserved biological specimens in jars of alcohol, offering a window into the past and the diversity of life on Earth. The students were particularly thrilled to see specimens from Darwin's voyage on the HMS Beagle, connecting them directly to the foundational work of evolutionary biology.

Through this visit, students learned how these preserved specimens are invaluable for taxonomic studies. Scientists use them to classify species, understand their relationships, and trace the evolutionary history of organisms. This experience emphasised the importance of these collections in studying the physical characteristics of species, monitoring changes over time, and discovering new species.

The meticulous preservation techniques demonstrated during the tour highlighted how these specimens remain vital for scientific research today and are now being digitised. Our students gained an appreciation for the careful work required to maintain these collections, ensuring they continue to provide insights into the natural world.

This educational trip was not only informative but also inspiring. It underscored the significance of preserving our natural heritage and showcased the enduring relevance of Darwin's contributions to science. The experience deepened the students' understanding of biodiversity and the complexities of taxonomic studies.

Miss Le Grys



## Tower of London Visit

In June, the Year 7 students had the opportunity to visit the Tower of London to expand upon their learning in History lessons. This year, students have been studying life in England from the Middle Ages to the Tudor period. As part of this, they explored the creation of the White Tower by William the Conqueror and its development over time. During the trip, they delved deeper into this history, recapping the events of the Battle of Hastings that enabled him to gain control of England.

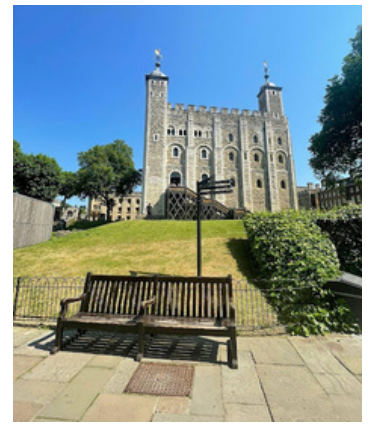
In a workshop led by staff from the Tower of London, students learned about the various roles the Tower has played throughout history. This included its involvement in the Peasants' Revolt, links to slavery through previous employees, and the story of a Suffragette who was imprisoned there. Megan from 7R1 commented, "I enjoyed learning about the Suffragettes because I learned how they campaigned and how, in the end, they earned the right to vote." Vahini, also from 7R1, remarked, "Credit to our tour guides, who patiently explained and answered our questions about the Tower. It was a great trip!" These sessions provided students with an excellent overview of how the Tower of London has evolved and its significance within London.

During the day, they also had time to explore the White Tower, examining the weapons and suits of armour stored there. This provided a fascinating insight into the development of weaponry over time. They also visited the area where the 'Princes in the Tower' were last seen alive, a topic recently covered in their lessons.

Overall, the Year 7 students were excellent ambassadors for Mayflower High School. They were engaged throughout the day, exploring the Tower and asking the tour guides various questions. It was a great experience for all who attended!

Miss Gunnell

Head of History and Politics



## Eco Club Trip to Kefalonia

This summer, 28 students will be travelling to the island of Kefalonia in Greece. While there, they will learn about turtle conservation and take active steps to support it. They will also explore the importance of sustainability, climate change, and new methods for preserving our environment. The trip will conclude with a visit to Athens, where they will see landmarks such as the Acropolis. We are all excited to accompany them and cannot wait to share the stories of our adventures with you in the new academic year.

Mr M Wallen, Trip Co-ordinator

## Key Stage 3 and 4 Achievement

We are extremely proud of our students' achievements, as reflected in the significant increase in achievement points compared to this time last year. An additional 47,714 achievement points have been awarded this year, highlighting our students' exceptional effort and accomplishments.

To celebrate this success, we have hosted reward breakfasts for the tutor groups with the highest attendance over the term. Additionally, fast passes will be issued to the tutor groups with the highest attendance throughout the year. On Monday, 160 students were invited to a special lunch in recognition of their achievement in receiving diamond awards for merits.

Our Celebration Assemblies will take place on the final day of the term, providing an opportunity to reflect on the year. Subjects have been nominated for our core value awards, which recognise being a good learner, and tutors have selected three members of their tutor group who exemplify our other core value of being respectful within our school community.

Amazon vouchers will be awarded and drawn for 100% attendance for the year and for this term, as well as for gold, platinum, and diamond merits. Students have also received their platinum badges, which they can wear into the next academic year to showcase their fantastic achievements for this year.

# Congratulations to our Diamond Merit Students

## Year 7

Ali Eva  
Ball Jasmine  
Barker Isla  
Beecher Clayton  
Bickerstaff Sophie  
Bilby James  
Bird Ethan  
Boyce Ethan  
Brimecombe Evie  
Brooks Florence  
Chari Successor  
Cimini Amelia  
Cowper Rosemary  
Daniels Hugo  
Dugandzic Ena  
Fitch Isla  
French Scarlett  
Gilroy Billy  
Green Jessica  
Green Jack  
Grimes Poppy  
Groves Korey  
Guthrie-Blunkell Alexander  
Hales Amelia  
Harris Georgina  
Healy Alfie  
Henson Evie  
Hogan Hannah  
Honey Leo  
Howlett Nicole  
Huggett Abigail  
Jarvis Rosa  
Lechea Mateo  
Lee Megan  
Lock James  
Locke-Sinclair Eva  
Longlade Edith  
Miller Oscar  
Moar Chloe  
Murphy Henry  
Murphy George  
Muzica Emily  
Nwobodo Chioma  
O'Driscoll May  
Oladapo Khalid  
Park Jess  
Patel Danny

Patel Kushal  
Peart Lily  
Plant Harry  
Qema Nataylia  
Radulescu David  
Rae Caitlyn  
Raval Shreyan  
Reuter Briar  
Riddle Maisie  
Seabrook Summer  
Sharma Advay  
Shepherd Lilly  
Shipway Isabella  
Slater Jack  
Small Abigail  
Sorrrell Evie  
Steel Henry  
Sutton Molly  
Terry Eleanor  
Wallace Archie  
Wiseman Florence

## Year 8

Andrews Evie  
Baggott Willow  
Claydon Fraya  
Copp Hannah  
Daly Hudson  
Dean Ava  
Ellis Logan  
Fairweather Thomas  
Foley Dylan  
Garnett Olivia  
George Oliver  
Harbrow Amber  
Hardy-Wallace Freya  
Holmes Erin  
Horncastle Emily  
Humphreys Elena  
Jennings Oscar  
Johnson-Marns Olivia  
Joshi Olivia  
Lister Darcey  
Love Matthew  
Manly Zoe  
Mariescu Alexandru  
Marson Leo  
McFeely Leah  
Newman Eliana  
Noble Flora

Plenty Betsi  
Podaru Denisa  
Sains Hattie  
Simpson Hollie  
Spencer Freya  
Tharakan Aakash  
Topping Destiny  
Trainer Sophie  
Trevallion Thomas  
Wallace Freddie  
Warren Millie  
Webb Henry  
Wheaton Luke

## Year 9

Abraham Jessica  
Alsemgeest Harry  
Avery Joshua  
Bilby Charlotte  
Boachie Anna  
Cimini Gracie  
Cowen Anna  
Currie Isabella  
Dowson Riley  
Grigg Khiara  
Groves Poppy  
Jerreat Annie  
Karikari Myleen  
Khan Pareshay  
Locke-Sinclair Chloe  
Lovell Ellie  
Mears Daisy  
Mitchell Athina  
Naredla Achyut  
Omogbai Ethan  
Posthuma Megan  
Thomas Sophie  
Threadgold Rose  
Turner Esmee  
Walsh Tilly  
Wearn Sam  
Webb Heidi  
Williams Teddy

## Year 10

Baker Amy  
Daley Freya  
Davies Ella  
Dowson Charlotte  
Harmer Violet  
Healy Chloe  
Hill Sophie  
Lee Isabelle  
Mesnard Ben  
Mistry Anya  
Packman Eleanor  
Salvatore Elizabeth  
Sanoo Saniya  
Sterry Aidan  
Styles Dakota  
Sullivan Gene  
Tharakan Nakshathra  
Toll Ruby  
Turner Ava



All merits were calculated on the 12th July to allow for certificates to be printed and the celebration assemblies to be prepared. Have a great summer and thank you for your support .

Mrs Cooke and Mrs Ball

# DofE Summer 2024

It has been a busy half-term for DofE at Mayflower, with around 150 students out across four trips in less than six weeks!

## Year 10 Bronze Expedition (2nd group)

At the beginning of the half-term, the second group of Year 10 students embarked on a three-day training and qualifying weekend at Essex Outdoors Danbury. On Friday, they completed their training and a practice navigation hike, followed by their qualifying expedition on Saturday and Sunday. The weekend was a great success, with everyone passing their assessments.

We are delighted to report that out of the 131 Year 10 students who participated in the expedition section this year, all have successfully completed this element of the award.



## Year 11 Silver Practice Expedition

Later in the half-term, a group of Year 11 students undertook their practice expedition in the Surrey Hills. They completed three days of walking and two nights of camping. This experience was quite different from their Bronze expeditions; instead of extreme heat, they now faced challenging hills and more complex navigation. Evenings were spent revising for their GCSEs in a classroom set up at the campsite.

The students' behaviour, enthusiasm, and conduct exceeded all expectations, and the expedition company praised us highly for having such 'lovely students.'

## Year 9 Bronze Practice Expedition

The last weekend in June was dedicated to the Year 9 students, who also ventured to Essex Outdoors Danbury for their practice expedition. They arrived on a sunny Saturday morning, where they set up their tents and participated in training sessions covering first aid, navigation, safety, and the countryside code. In the afternoon, they practiced navigation and cooked their meals on Trangias.

By 6am on Sunday, they were up and packing away their equipment in preparation for a six-hour hike around Danbury. The Year 9 students will return to Danbury in September for their qualifier expedition, and we eagerly anticipate seeing them enjoy it as much as they did their practice trip.



## Year 11 Silver Qualifier Expedition

At the beginning of July, the Year 11 students embarked on their qualifier expedition in the Kent Downs, facing some challenging weather conditions. Strong winds and heavy rain tested their camping and hiking skills, but the students managed the difficulties remarkably well. They stayed at two different campsites, one of which featured eco-toilets—a novel experience for everyone! A particularly memorable moment was watching England play Switzerland and win on penalties, all while gathered around an iPad. This experience will undoubtedly be talked about for some time to come.

After three days of walking over seven hours each day, all the students successfully completed their expedition in high spirits. They should be immensely proud of their achievements following such a challenging journey. Once again, their conduct, resilience, and enthusiasm demonstrated that they are an exceptional group of young adults.

# Year 11 Leavers Day and Prom

On Friday, 28th June, we welcomed our Year 11 students back for Leavers Day, and it was wonderful to see so many happy, smiling faces. The pressures of the exam period were now a distant memory.

The day began with a Celebration Assembly, where we recognised and rewarded achievements in subjects, attendance, and student nominations. This formal part of the assembly provided an opportunity for reflection and remembrance. Mr. Fowler delivered a touching tribute to Freddie Coleman, who was honoured with his own shirt and seat for the event. We also took time to recall significant moments from the year, including the Nuclear Races, Duke of Edinburgh, and numerous sporting achievements. The highlight of the assembly was the end, where, thanks to the efforts of staff and parents, we were able to create a memorable and enjoyable experience for the students, as evidenced by the joyful photos!

Following the assembly, the celebrations continued on the field. The students eagerly donned their decorated shirts for signing, showcasing some truly impressive designs. Once the shirt-signing excitement subsided, Year 11 students began to fully enjoy themselves. The dodgems were a big hit, with students playfully targeting Mr. Lee and their tutors, who joined in the fun. It was heartening to see staff and students sharing such enjoyable moments. The field featured a variety of attractions, including several inflatables such as a football arena, an assault course, a bungee run, and the 42ft Mega Slide, the largest inflatable slide in the UK, along with a BBQ. Our wonderful PTFA also generously sponsored an ice cream van for the event.

The evening culminated with the Prom at Downham Hall, who were fantastic hosts. Students arrived in style and were warmly welcomed by staff. A professional photographer captured both formal and informal moments, preserving the magic of the evening. The students looked stunning and behaved impeccably, fully immersing themselves in the experience and enjoying their time with friends. As the sun set and the twinkling lights illuminated the gardens, the dance floor was bustling all night. The students left with full hearts and bellies.

It was a fantastic day and night for all who attended. What a remarkable year group! Have a wonderful summer, Year 11, and we look forward to celebrating with you again on results day.

Mrs. Ball







## Maths Challenge

Three Year 8 students, Sophie Bragg, Taylor Halfhide, and Dylan Foley, have distinguished themselves among the top four percent of young mathematicians nationwide. Their exceptional performance in the Junior Maths Challenge, which tests mathematical reasoning, precision, and fluency, has earned them a spot in the prestigious Kangaroo Challenge. I am incredibly proud of Sophie, Taylor, and Dylan for their outstanding achievement. To get one student to this level is fantastic – some schools go years without getting just one. I attribute their accomplishment to their diligent work both in and out of the classroom.

Mr Hayes



# David Bowie Legend Night

Over the past year, 21 dedicated students from Year 8 to 12 at Mayflower High School in Billericay have worked tirelessly to produce the latest Legend Night concert.

This year's show honoured the life and music of David Bowie, featuring performances of classics such as "Space Oddity," "Life on Mars?," "Oh! You Pretty Things," and "Heroes."

The band, consisting of Alfie Mills and Frank Trump on guitar, Jamie Cooper on bass, and Luke Siegfried on drums, supported an impressive lineup of singers including Phoebe Adams, Florence Porter, Mae Levett, Izzy Cheesman, Lila Eve, Adam Roche, and Frank Thornton. Together, they mastered and performed 21 Bowie songs.

These concerts challenge our musicians and help them grow. It's a joy for students to move from practicing alone to playing in an ensemble and performing in front of a packed audience.

The event also provided valuable hands-on experience for the school's tech crew, who managed lighting, sound, and video playback.

Proceeds from the concert will be reinvested into the Music Department, funding upgrades for equipment such as laptops, guitars, and drum kits.


Thank you to all the support recieved.

Mr Tuck  
Head of Music




MAYFLOWER HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

LEGEND NIGHT:  
**DAVID BOWIE**



Mayflower High School



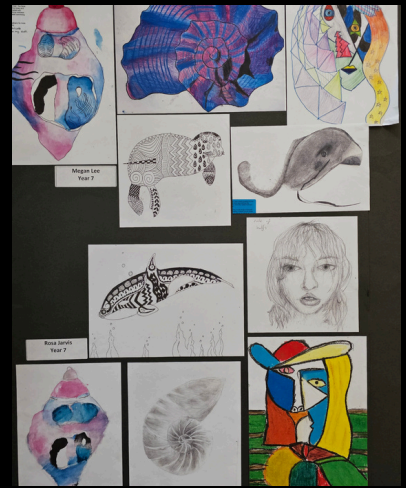
[www.trybooking.com/uk/DPBN](http://www.trybooking.com/uk/DPBN)

FRIDAY 12 JULY      TICKETS £7      DOORS OPEN 7PM

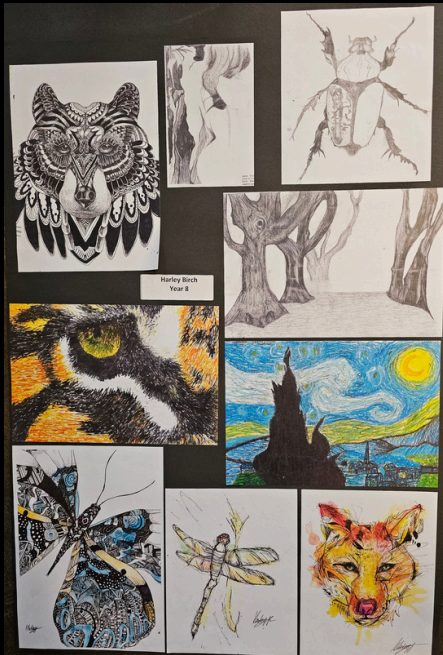


Tilly Lashmar

Throughout the Summer Term, Year 7 focused on Abstract Portraits and explored the legacy of renowned artists. The students began by studying the mixed media techniques of Pablo Picasso, creating their own interpretations inspired by his work. Building on this, they moved on to craft their own cardboard mask sculptures, further expanding their creative skills and understanding of abstract art.



Megan Lee Rose Jarvis

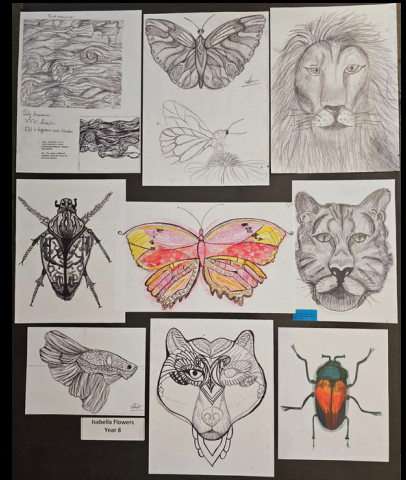


Harley Birch

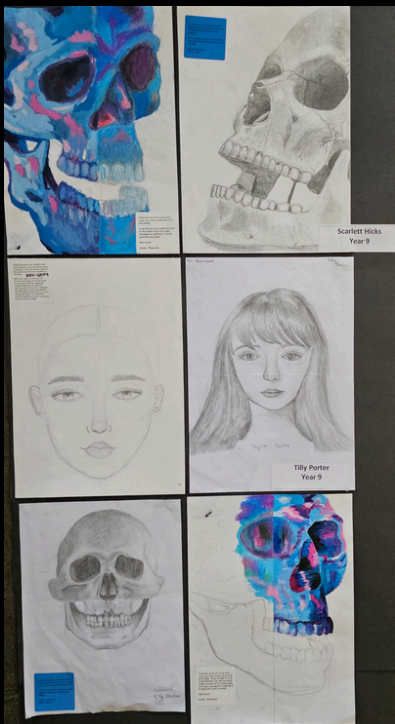
Year 8 continued to develop their own illustrative styles this term. Students created a range of second-hand responses using watercolour and ink.



Sophia Gothard



Isabella Flowers

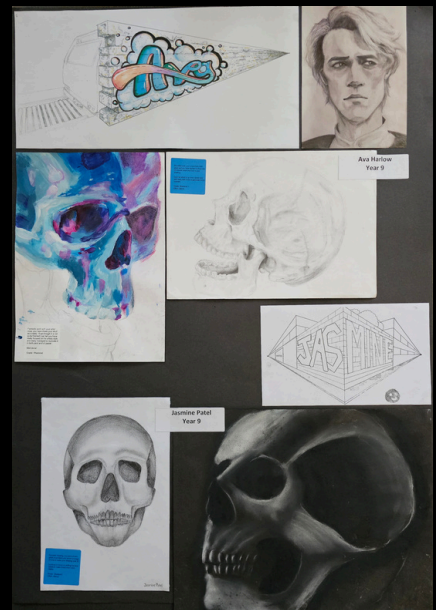


Sophia Hicks Tilly Porter

As a final art project, for some Year 9s, students explored the marvel of graffiti and created clay sculptures of their own distinct and unique graffiti tags.

Well done to all Art and Design students for their efforts in their practise this year; we look forward to welcoming you back in the new academic year.

Miss L Herbert



Ava Harlow Jasmine Patel

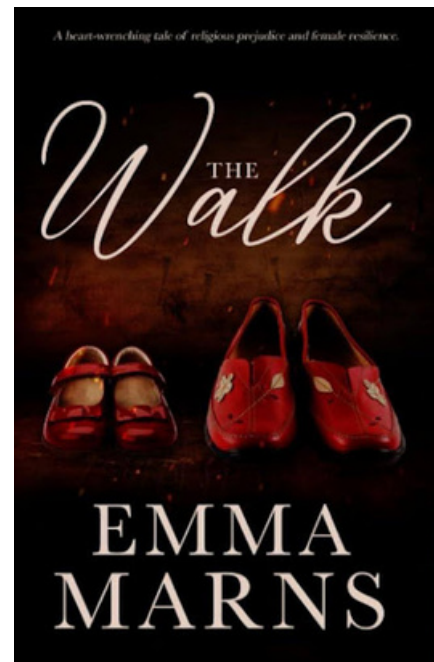
## Mayflower High School Author Visit 15th May 2024

It was a privilege to welcome Emma Marns, a former Mayflower High School student, to speak with our Year 12 students about her journey in education, life, and her success as a published author. Emma is the first graduate from Mayflower High School to achieve such a significant milestone, and we are immensely proud of her accomplishments.

Emma delivered an inspirational address, sharing how her time at Mayflower High School significantly contributed to her journey as an author. She offered valuable advice and encouragement, emphasizing that becoming a published writer is not limited to English Literature students. There is a growing demand for textbooks across various subjects, which presents opportunities for all students.

Emma's book, *The Walk*, is a work of fiction inspired by her own life experiences. She shared some of the book's inspiration and even read an excerpt to the group, which was met with excitement. Emma also answered questions from the students, providing insights into the writing process and the challenges of getting published, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Emma's visit highlighted her resilience, dedication, and creativity. Her journey serves as a testament to the possibilities that lie ahead for our students and the impact that persistence and passion can have on achieving one's dreams.



To show how inspirational Emma is, she met with one of our aspiring writers, Athina Mitchell, who is in Year 9 and talked to her about being a writer and getting published. She has shared her contact details with Athina and her family so that she can guide them through the whole publishing process. She is just an amazing person and writer and we have an illustration of her book in this article. Please go out and buy it because it is just fabulous reading. I am sure that she would willingly help any budding writers out there. Amazing.

Mr Ncube

## School Games - Sports Leaders

Our Mayflower sports leaders have had an exceptionally busy and impactful term. They have successfully organized and run several major events, including:

- Sports festivals for Year 3 and 4 students.
- The Partnership 3T Cricket Competition.
- Mini Olympics with over 250 Year 2 students from our local primary schools.
- Support for Stock, Downham, Buttsbury Infants, and Buttsbury Juniors during their sports days.

This year, the dedication and hard work of our sports leaders have been invaluable. Their efforts in organizing, officiating, and coaching have allowed us to offer a wide range of sporting events to our local primary schools. The positive feedback from parents and staff has been overwhelming, reflecting the significant impact our sports leaders have had on the community.

We are incredibly proud of their achievements and grateful for their commitment to fostering a love of sports among younger students.

**Mayflower Sports Leaders:** Rose Threadgold, Jessica Abraham, Isabella Currie, Julie Santos, Juliet Wenborn, Chloe Locke-Sinclair, Julianna Mason-Bauckham, Charlotte Bilby, Elsie Shepherd, Maddie Richbell, Thomas Lehman, Oliver Sargood, Ben Mouldsdale, Samuel Hull, Connor Mint, Aaron Bickerstaff, Harry Alsemgeest, Teddy Veness, Hayden Fitch, Rocco Savill and Benedict Guthrie – Blunkell.

## 50 Ways Into Football by Dan Freedman

On July 3rd, 2024, Mayflower High School was honoured to host Dan Freedman, a motivational speaker and successful writer known for his deep connection to the world of football. Imagine being in the company of figures like David Beckham, John Terry, Paul Scholes, and even Nelson Mandela—that's the kind of inspiration Dan brought to our students.

Dan's presentation was both insightful and captivating. He shared his unique journey through the football industry, illustrating how passion and determination can lead to success, even if one isn't a Premier League player. His role in the Three Lions squad's media unit during a visit to South Africa was a testament to his dedication to football.

Dan engaged actively with the students, answering a wide range of questions including:

- His favorite player.
- What inspired him to pursue a career in football.
- The notable players he has met.

The session, skillfully moderated by Mr. Kilvert, featured open discussions and a Q&A segment where the top three questions were rewarded with prizes. Dan also promoted his book, *50 Ways Into Football*, which offers invaluable advice for anyone looking to break into the football industry, regardless of their playing talent. Dan's personal story of overcoming multiple rejections before achieving success highlighted important lessons in resilience and determination.

Dan's talk effectively bridged his love of football with the importance of literacy, sharing how he transitioned from being a reluctant reader to a prolific writer. His message resonated with students, offering inspiration and practical advice for those interested in pursuing careers in football or any other field.

The book has received rave reviews, with readers praising it as a comprehensive guide to achieving one's dreams in the football industry. It's described as an essential read for anyone passionate about football, offering guidance on scoring their dream job both on and off the field.

We highly recommend Dan Freedman's *50 Ways Into Football* for anyone eager to explore opportunities in the football world and beyond. It's a fantastic resource for anyone who loves football, regardless of age!

M. Ncube  
Literacy Coordinator  
Teacher of English



# District Athletics

This year has brought some excellent results, both individually and as a team. Mayflower High School achieved a commendable 2nd place overall, narrowly missing out on the top spot to a very strong Woodlands School.

Placement	Year	Event	Name	Result	
1st Place	Year 7	800m	Dominic Grant	2m27s	
		100m	Chioma Nwobodo	13.80s	
		1500m	Sophie Bickerstaff	5m31s	
			Javelin	Nicole Howlett	16m55cm
			4x100m Relay	Girls	
		Year 8	800m	Freddie Wallace	2m20s
		High Jump	Jayden Owusu	1m42cm	
		Discus	Olivia Johnson-Marns		
2nd Place	Year 7	800m	Archie Neathercoat	2m34s	
		800m	Lily Peart	2m51s	
		1500m	Alexa Ramirez	6m01s	
	Year 8	Shot Putt	Jack White	9m60cm	
		100m	Taraoluwa Morafa		
	Year 9	800m	Abby Caldon	2m44s	
	Year 10/11	200m	Harry McGee	23.01s	
		High Jump	Jack Warren-Gunn	1m60cm	
		Javelin	Ruby Toll	19m90cm	

3rd Place	Year 7	Hurdles	Leo Honey	18.25s
		Shot	Isabella Shipway	7m64cm
	Year 8	1500m	Luke Wheaton	5m15s
		Discus	Dylan Foley	21m11cm
		Javelin	Henry Worley-Smith	25m65cm
		800m	Anya Smith	2m58s
		Javelin	Anya Smith	15m30cm
		Shot Putt	Taraoluwa Morafa	6m54cm
		4x100m Relay	Girls	58.87s
	Year 9	200m	Archie Austin	25.40s
		800m	Max Langshaw	2m22s
		Hurdles	Jessica Abraham	15.10s
		100m	Julianna Mason-Bauckham	30.50s
		300m	Juliet Wenborn	51.60s
	Year 10/11	100m	Jack Warren-Gunn	11.31s
		4x100m Relay	Boys	
		200m	Oliver Neathercoat	



## Essex Cup Cricket

Unfortunately, the senior team faced a very strong Ilford School in their latest fixture.

Batting first, our boys managed to score a respectable 82 all out, with Sam Stroud top-scoring with 23 runs against some high-quality bowling.

Despite this, Ilford successfully chased down the total, losing just one wicket in the process.

## Gifted and Talented Football Trips

This term, our Gifted and Talented girls' and boys' football players had the unique opportunity to experience life as a professional footballer for the day. The Ferdinand Football Group (FFG) hosted this exclusive event at Bowers and Pitsea FC.

During the day, students received exceptional coaching and participated in sessions covering media training and the expectations of professional football players. Our students fully embraced this opportunity, and we look forward to offering this enriching experience again in the future.



## Essex Schools County Athletics

Seven students represented the school in the Basildon District Athletics Squad at the Essex Schools County Championships:

Chioma Nwobodo

Eva Branch

Dominic Grant

Archie Neathercoat

Sophie Bickerstaff

Alexa Ramirez

Olivia Johnson-Marns

Freddie Wallace.

Dominic ran in the Year 7 800m and earned a silver medal moving from 4th to second place in the home straight.

## Basildon District Cricket Tournament

The Year 10 and 11 Boys Cricket Squad delivered an outstanding performance at the District cricket tournament, hosted by Wickford Cricket Club.

In the semi-finals, Mayflower faced off against Woodlands. From the outset, Mayflower showcased their dominance with superb opening bowling by Cameron Ball and Albert Longlade, restricting Woodlands to just 52 runs from 10 overs. In response, Sam Stroud played a rapid innings of 17, supported by Albert Longlade who added 13 runs, guiding Mayflower to victory.

The final pitted Mayflower against Beauchamps, who had also delivered a strong performance in their semi-final against Bromfords. Mayflower set a solid foundation with an opening stand from Sam Stroud (15 runs) and Zac Abdale (17 runs), both of whom retired. Archie Austin then contributed an elegant 14 runs, setting Beauchamps a target of 61 runs to win. Beauchamps began their innings strongly, but Mayflower's bowlers maintained pressure throughout. A spectacular final spell by Harrison Dempsey, with figures of 1 wicket for 8 runs in 2 overs, secured a 7-run victory for Mayflower.

Squad: Sam Stroud, Oliver Stroud, Zac Abdale, Archie Austin, Cameron Ball, Harrison Dempsey, Harry Alsemgeest, Jamie Weddell, Freddy Crooks, James Blyth Tancock, Albert Longlade

Congratulations to the squad for their exceptional performance and thank you to Wickford Cricket Club for hosting the event.

## Under 13s Girls Cricket

Our U13 girls' cricket team has become district champions in the first-ever district competition. This follows their impressive 3rd place finish in the county round of the Chance to Shine competition hosted by Essex Cricket. The team's outstanding performance in both batting and bowling led them to victory.

Congratulations to all the girls for their dedication and success!



## Under 13s Boys Cricket

Congratulations to the U13 cricket team for becoming district champions at Wickford CC, where they triumphed over Bromfords and Woodlands. The team's well-rounded performance was highlighted by standout contributions from Ben Pentecost and Maanas Reddyvari.

In the Essex Cup, Mayflower posted a solid 91-5 from 15 overs, with Dexter Lyons scoring 30. However, Ilford County High successfully chased down the total with just one wicket lost. Thanks to St Johns Billericay Cricket Club for hosting the match.



## Year 7 District Rounders Champions

Congratulations to the Year 7 rounders team for becoming District Rounders Champions with an excellent performance both at bat and in the field. This achievement adds to an already impressive year, as the team has also secured titles in Cricket, Netball, and Basketball, and were runners-up in Athletics. Well done to all the girls for their outstanding accomplishments!



## Year 8 District Rounders Champions

Congratulations to the Year 8 Rounders team, who also became District Rounders Champions. A brilliant display of fielding from the whole team, including many outstanding catches, led to them getting the whole opposing team out. They also had a great performance when batting, scoring numerous rounders. Well done, girls, on your first time at this tournament—what an amazing result!



## Sports Week 2024

This year Mayflower High School hosted their first ever sports week. On the first two days, every student in years 7-10 took part in one team sport of Netball, Football, Rounders or Bench ball, earning points for their form along the way.

The behaviour, attitude to competing and skill level of the students was exceptional across the first two days and the buzz across the school was really building ahead of the final day of Athletics.

On the third and final day, students competed in field events in the morning, before all staff and students ascended upon the athletics track for a spectacle of running events in the afternoon. Once again, the students created an incredible atmosphere whilst they cheered on their peers who were collecting valuable points for their forms.

There were lots of prizes on offer, including individual awards for students in each year group who had demonstrated an outstanding contribution to sports week and these trophies were won by Eva B in year 7, Jayden O in year 8, Julianna M-B in year 9 and Alfie L in year 10.

The interforms competitions were won by 7L2, 8R1, 9L1 and 10L1 and the overall form winners were L1 across all four year groups.

The PE department would like to congratulate all students in taking part and are already looking forward to making next years Sports Week bigger and better!



