

## Newsletter

Issue 1

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Welcome to our revamped newsletter. We are seeking to highlight the fantastic contribution our students make, within the curriculum and without, inside the school and out in the community on a regular basis.



Our final half term of the year and we have been greeted with glorious summer sunshine, this half term has begun with a return to assemblies. I had the pleasure of speaking to Year 7 students in their very first assembly of this academic year. Year 10 students have been taking formal assessments for the first time, which brings with it associated detailed marking and feedback. My thanks to the teaching and support staff from whom never a word of complaint have I heard, but instead countless examples of suggestions and offers of support to make the situation we are in work for the students and themselves.

**I never fail to be anything but proud of our school, proud of our students, proud of our community.**

*Ms J Williams, Acting Headteacher*

### Eco Club

The Mayflower Eco Club has been working hard this academic year to achieve their goal of Mayflower becoming an 'Eco School'. Throughout the year, the students have completed various targets towards this goal, including raising awareness of the environmental impact of the school. Every week, students volunteer to complete litter picking across the school site, we have collected over 2000 plastic bottles since September 2020.



The Eco Club are currently renovating the Memorial Garden, in order to make it an improved space for reflection and to make it more eco-friendly.

I am thrilled that Mayflower has now passed the Eco School Assessment and has been awarded the highest level, **The Green Award**, which officially makes Mayflower High School an Eco School.

I am incredibly proud of all the members of Eco Club for their effort, attitude and commitment to this cause and look forward to the reopening of the Memorial Garden in the coming weeks.

*Mrs C Davis*



### Royal Mail Heroes Stamp Design

The Art Department would like to say a huge well done and thank you to all Key Stage 3 students who worked so hard in creating their own design for the Royal Mail Heroes Stamp Design Competition. We were so impressed with everyone's effort and we sent off over 200 applications!

Here are a small handful of the fantastic pieces of artwork that students created. Go to the school's social media feeds to find more stamp designs we have shared.

*Miss S Brown*

## A Level Biology students carry out genetic engineering

When Mayflower High School opened in 1965, a model for the structure of DNA had only recently been proposed by Watson and Crick (1953). Their conclusions were based on data from the pioneering British female chemist, Rosalind Franklin, and years of painstaking and innovative scientific investigation by many other groups of notable scientists around the world. Research into DNA structure and function has continued at such a pace that scientists can now read, manipulate and edit DNA in order to detect errors, produce medicines, correct defects and treat diseases such as some cancers according to the specific root cause in the DNA.

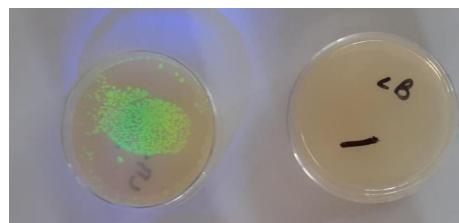


Image: Colonies of genetically engineered fluorescing bacteria (left) and a control experiment (right) produced in a Mayflower High School A Level Biology practical.

Topics related to DNA and DNA technology now comprise around 25% of the A Level Biology curriculum and techniques are so advanced that we are now able to perform basic genetic engineering protocols in a school laboratory. Mayflower A Level Biology students have recently inserted genes from the fluorescing jelly-fish *Aequorea Victoria* into a non-pathogenic species of E.coli to produce colonies of glow-in-the-dark bacteria – the fabulous results are shown in the image above.

The rapid pace of developments in this area of science as well as in stem cells, monoclonal antibodies and vaccine technology (all part of the current A Level Biology curriculum) demonstrates just one area of importance of the biological sciences. The rise and spread of the coronavirus pandemic over the last 18 months and the increasing focus on environmental issues have both highlighted the crucial role of biological scientists in the continuing survival of the human race.

We are extremely proud of all our A Level Biology students who take on this demanding, challenging and rewarding subject. Over the last few years we have been very excited to have a number of students go on to study subjects such as medicine, biomedical sciences, neuroscience, biochemistry, biology, marine biology and dentistry at degree level. However, even the importance of a basic understanding at GCSE of how the body works and what can go wrong; how our lifestyle choices affect our health; how plants sustain our environment and provide food; and how humans are part of a mutually interdependent ecosystem and cannot survive as a lone species; cannot be understated in producing an informed and responsible society. How apt that the Year 9 and Year 10 students all came back to school in September 2020 to a unit on Infection and Response!

**Mrs S Owen**

## Essex Schools' Athletics Championships

On Saturday 12 June, two Mayflower students qualified to compete at the Essex Schools' Athletics Championships. **Callum Lill** (Year 9) competed in the 800m, winning with an outstanding tactical performance, kicking for home with 350 metres to go, finishing in a time of 2m05.89s; this ranks him 13th in the UK. This is a phenomenal achievement, Callum!

**Cameron Wood** (Year 9) won bronze in the High Jump with a personal best jump of 1m65cm, narrowly missing out on a silver medal. This jump puts Cameron 11th in the UK for his age group. This was only Cameron's second competition at high jump, which is outstanding. Well done, Cameron!

All the Physical Education teachers are so proud of Callum and Cameron.

**Mr M Sergeant**



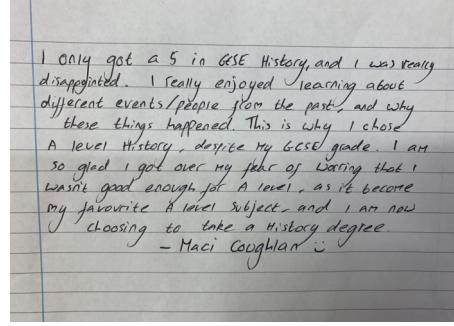
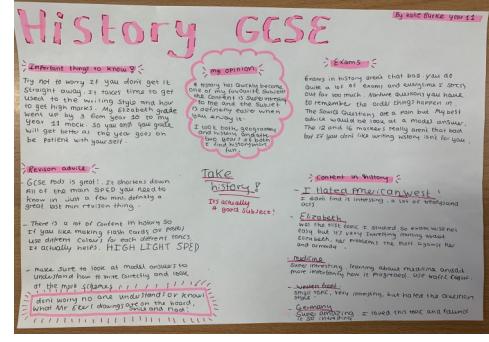
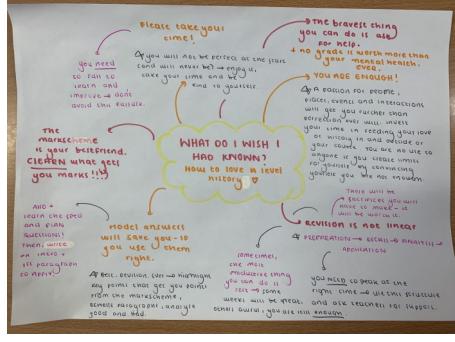
## Reflecting on History

As A Level and GCSE historians were nearing the end of their respective courses, they quite naturally wanted to look back and reflect on times past – their time studying History. They laid out their thoughts, advice and insights in various forms – all of which were highly instructive.

Their words serve a dual purpose, reflecting on the past and instructing those who may be following in their footsteps.

All their History teachers want to thank them for their hard work and insightful perspectives and wish them all the very best for the future.

**Mr C Ekers**



## 7F2 Assembly on Cerebral Palsy

On Monday 14 June, members of 7F2 gave an assembly to Year 7 about Cerebral Palsy and how to support members of our community who have disabilities. It is important to us at Mayflower that we celebrate diversity, as we all recognise that it is a strength, not a threat.

Students in 7F2 spoke confidently about the impact that discrimination can have on someone with a disability and gave practical advice about how we can combat discrimination by educating ourselves and challenging behaviour that is not respectful.

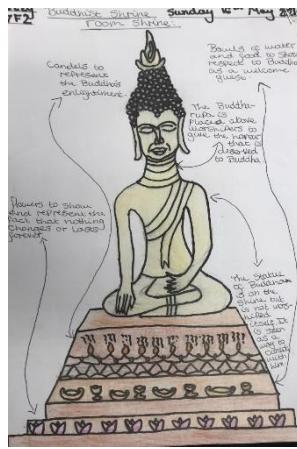
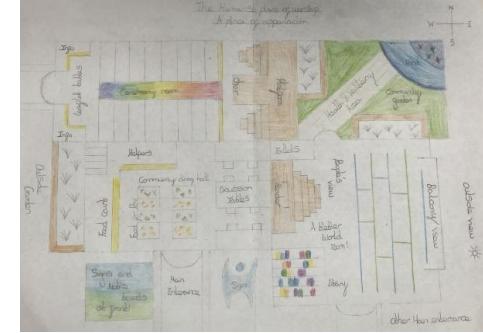
I am really proud of the work all members of 7F2 put into producing and delivering the assembly.

**Miss K Whiddett**



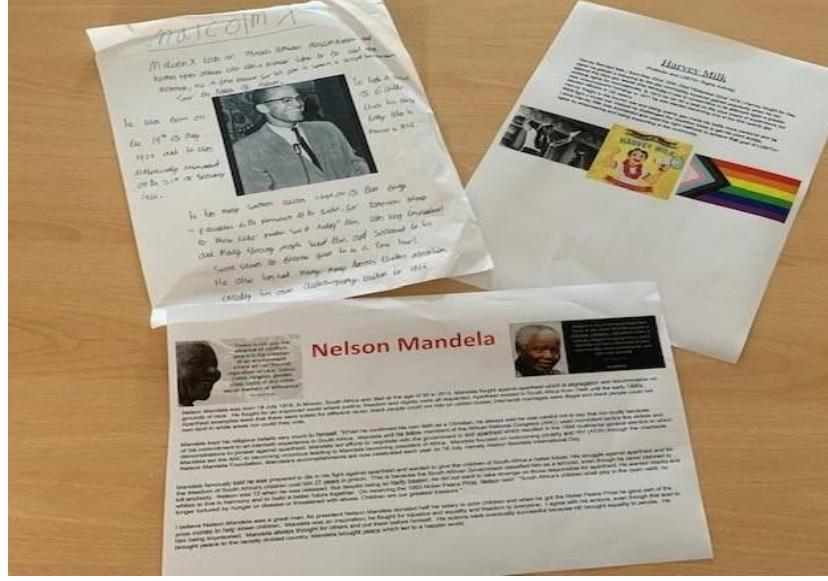
## Religious Studies

For their end-of-term project, Year 7 students have been designing places of worship to show what they have learnt this year about different religions. They produced some very creative plans and models for a wide range of belief systems including Christianity, Buddhism, Humanism, Zoroastrianism and more! Some of the projects will be displayed in Billericay High Street, Street Pastors Community Hub, so we can share their wonderful work with the community.



The winner of the best project will be announced in assembly before the end of term!

This term in RS, Year 8 students have been learning about Forgiveness & Justice. Recently, students completed work based on some inspirational people who fought for human rights. Here are some great examples of the work they completed. Well done! We are really proud of the work you have done!



Over the last few weeks, Year 9 students have been learning about Buddhist Practices. Many students also had the opportunity to try out some meditation during lessons. Lots of the students found it relaxing and beneficial, especially when feeling stressed or overwhelmed.

If you would like to give meditation a try then why not pop along to Meditation Club with Miss Edwards.

**Ms K McKay and Mrs C Davis**

## **Mayflower Music: Developing Music Technology Skills**

This term in Music, Mrs Darvill's Key Stage 3 classes have been developing their music technology skills using Ableton Live and Melodics.

Year 8 students have been creating their own piano inspired dance tracks using Ableton Live. For this project students have selected existing piano loops from composers such as Debussy, Grieg, Schumann and Mendelssohn and have added drum, bass, chord loops and a variety of sound effects to create new music with fantastic results! They have also been exploring how to use Ableton's Push 2 device as a live instrument.

Melodics – it's back!! Students have been enjoying using the Ableton Push 2 devices to develop their finger drumming skills using the Melodics app. Melodics is such a great resource available for all Key Stage 3 students to develop their musicianship skills (both at school and at home) on keyboard, pads and electric drums. See your Music teacher if you have forgotten your login details or if you are having any problems with your account.

***Mrs K Darvill***



## **Food Preparation and Nutrition**

Our Year 10 students have recently undertaken their three hour food practical exam. They had half an hour before the Year 10 exam to set up their work area and collect equipment, two hours to cook, and half hour after to ensure that all washing up was completed.

Their task was to use the five basic ingredients for shepherd's pie – mince, onion, carrots, peas and potatoes – and make a dish that is not shepherd's pie! The students were allowed to make pastry, pasta, sauces, bread, etc. to make their chosen dish(es) more complex and original.

I am so proud of the students' preparation and commitment to this exam. It was their first experience of a food practical examination and we chose the hottest week to have on 9 ovens in the food room!

Please have a look at some of the fantastic dishes that were produced.

***Mrs A Chapman***



***Proud of our students, proud of our school, proud of our community!***