

MAYFLOWER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Last week was such an encouraging and busy week in school. I noticed that Year 7 students were asking fewer questions about how to navigate the school site and Year 10 students were familiarising themselves with new courses and specifications.

During the final two primary roadshows at Downham Church of England Primary School and Stock Church of England Primary School, I talked of how proud I am of our students who take time to support charities. On Friday 24 September, students from all year groups from Year 7 to Year 13 participated in the Macmillan Coffee morning: baking, donating, selling and buying cakes; then, cleaning up after the event. I applauded them all. It was an amazing morning and the sun shone, which is always a bonus.

This week, I had the pleasure of greeting many of our Year 11 students with their parents who attended the first GCSE Focus Evening. In addition to walking around the school site, I have started a series of directed learning walks. I have now observed all of the teachers who joined the school in September; the lessons were well delivered, engaging and challenging, with committed students actively participating in a range of dynamic learning activities. We are very fortunate to have such talented professionals join our school community.

There is so much, at Mayflower High School, of which to be proud.

Ms J Williams
Interim Headteacher



Rights Action Group

This month Rights Action Group has been working on projects for Peace Day and the Link to Hope Shoebox appeal.

Peace Day Report by Prisha Mistry and Sophie Vaidya, Year 10

On 21 September, it was International Peace Day. This day is celebrated around the world to strengthen ideals of peace, it is important because it promotes a kind, caring environment that we all need. Peace Day helps us remember what rights we have as humans and how we should protect them.

For Peace Day, we have been making origami cranes and writing letters as a symbol of peace to exchange with schools in the USA, China, Canada and the Philippines. Origami cranes are symbols of peace because of a girl named Sadako Sasaki, who suffered the effects of the Hiroshima bomb. She made over 1000 paper cranes in hospital out of wrapping paper and labels of medicine bottles. After she passed away on October 1955 her friends raised money for a children's peace memorial in Hiroshima park where people today leave cranes in memory of those lost in the bombing and in honor of the peace the park represents.



Shoebox Appeal

In assemblies this week we have launched our annual shoebox appeal, this year we will be partnering with the charity Link to Hope to send boxes to families and the elderly in impoverished regions of Belarus, Moldova and Romania. The students of Rights Action Group are hoping to collect at least 80 boxes by 1 November.



We will be happy to accept donations of full boxes or items for boxes. For those wishing to contribute all boxes must include:

- Candles with holders (such as tea lights)
- Gloves or scarf or hat
- Sweets or chocolate
- Soap & flannel
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Small games

They should then include 5 or more additional items appropriate for a family or the elderly. Suggestions include: Coloring pads, crayons, soft toys, hairbrush, hot water bottle, reading glasses, etc. Any liquids must be under 300ml and taped shut and not battery powered items should be included.

Please ensure all boxes have a contents list on the front filled in for customs (available from the school or from Link to Hopes website), plus £3 for postage.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. McKay or Mrs. Archer through the school phone or email address on our website.



Mrs K McKay

The Biggest Coffee Morning in the World

On 24 September, Mayflower was able to once again to get back to raising money for Macmillan cancer support. Over the years we had great success in helping this excellent cause donating over £18,000, This year we once again got the whole school involved with lower school students bringing in cakes, the sixth form also and wearing green clothing and the staff baking and buying cakes in the staff room. The event showed great generosity from all involved and we managed to raise around £1500. While the pandemic has made community fund raising more difficult it was uplifting to see the enthusiasm shown by all. The staff showed the benefits of being inspired by The Great British 'Bake Off' including a sensational coffee walnut cake and some raspberry and white chocolate brownies. Students managed to bake some great cakes too and a Hamburger cake created by Lara McKenzie was so good we raffled it along with some sweet creations donated by Jamie Cooper. The sixth form added hot chocolate to their offerings this year and raised over £450 alone.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Lara McKenzie created this amazing 'Burger' cake for the Macmillan Coffee morning. Her fantastic skills were so impressive that Lara's cake was then placed as top prize in the student raffle. Thank you Lara for your donation and a huge well done.

Mr R Maples



Year 13 Art

Our Year 13 students have all been busy creating exciting portfolio work since returning to school. We can't wait to see how the projects develop.

Miss S Brown



National Arena Junior League Final

A huge congratulations to Jamie Comitti for winning his 50 Freestyle race at the National Arena Junior League Final. His amazing achievement helped his team, Basildon and Phoenix Swim Club, to win this very prestigious competition.



Year 8 Dancing Stars

Since our last publication some of our students have been super busy entertaining audiences by performing on stage.

Amy Norman, Grace Millen and Emily Baisden have enjoyed taking part in Performance in the Paddock for the San-Marie Stage School.

Beau Kelly and Eleanor Packman graced the stage for the Adagio School of Dance.

A huge congratulations to you all and hoped you enjoyed being back in the spotlight.

Defibrillators

The school has two iPad defibrillators on site, which a number of staff are trained to use. This term, will be extending that training to Year 11 students who wish to receive it. This will enable them not only to use the school defibrillators with confidence, but to use any of the public access defibrillators that are available.

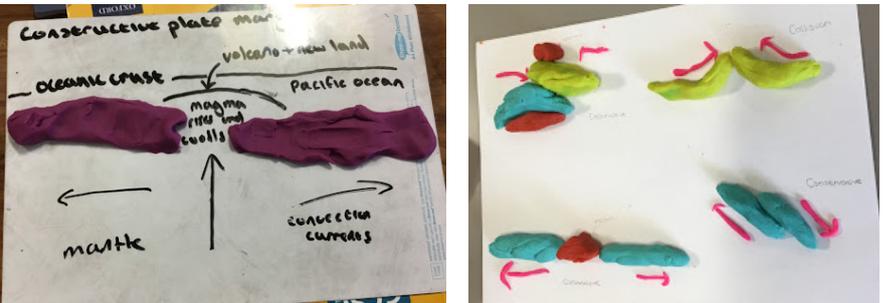
Mr N Feltimo



Year 10 Geography

Year 10 GCSE students have been recalling and revising tectonic plate movements in creative ways - well done!

Mrs E Cooke



English Schools Swimming National Relay Championships - East of England Round (Boys)

This event took place on Friday 24 September in Watford.

After the success of the School Swimming teams at the National Finals in 2019 and the cancellation of the competition last year the boys squads were excited to be competing again. The quality of this round is extremely high with some outstanding schools from Essex, Suffolk, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire competing for places in the National Final. The night started well with the Year 7 & 8 Boys team narrowly missing the Gold medal in the Medley Relay. With this result the Boys went into the Freestyle Relay with heightened confidence and swept all the rest aside to take Gold. The Year 9 & 10 Boys finished 5th in both Relays missing the medals by very small margins. The Girls Squads will look to build on this on Friday 8 October in Watford too.

Year 7 & 8 Team
Saxon Minto, Jamie Comitti, Aidan Dunbar and Max Langshaw

Year 9 & 10 Team
Kieran Sterry, James Baker, Daniel Mcguinness and Thomas Waide.

Mr M Sergeant



Dyslexia Team Building Day at Stubbers Activity Centre

In keeping with Dyslexia Centre tradition, Year 9 Dyslexia students, Mitchell Hill, Cheyenne Styles, Harvey Morgan and Kie Blackford (now year 10) organised a team building day for all the Dyslexia students at Stubbers Activity Centre. These students were tasked with organising a day out for all Dyslexia students, where team building was their main objective. This involved making phonecalls, costing the trip as well as designing a questionnaire to investigate interest in a variety of activities across year groups.

19 students, from Year 7 to 12, spent the day learning how to shoot an arrow from a bow, honing their team tactics in laser tag and working strategically as a team on the banana boat rides. Great fun was had by all students and new friendships and bonds were formed on this day. Year 8,9,11 and 12 worked as a group with the new Year 7s being shown how the day works by Year 10 students.

As staff members, it was fabulous to see year groups finally mixing again and cross year group friendships being developed. These friendships will likely remain and provide support throughout their Mayflower journey at school. It was also lovely to see students' confidence grow in this outside environment and see perseverance and team work develop over the course of the day.

Mrs C Thorogood



Alumni: Jim Palmer and Crystal Lane-Wright

We are so very proud of two ex students who competed at the recent Paralympics in Tokyo.

Crystal Lane won 3 silver medals in track and road cycling only losing out to our most decorated Paralympian ever, Dame Sarah Storey on each occasion. She won these in the Individual pursuit, The road time trial and the Road Race.

Jim Palmer won Bronze as part of the Wheelchair Basketball team. He was a pivotal part of a squad that narrowly missed out on the final. After losing to host Japan in the Semi final they rallied to beat Spain 68-58 to gain bronze.

I loved teaching Jim when he was at Mayflower High School. I could see very early on he had the desire and commitment to achieve his dream of playing for GB at the Paralympics. He would work hard on his fitness and basketball skills He would even practice on the outside court in winter if he couldn't practice inside! I know Mrs Butler, who worked extensively with Jim, is very proud of him as she would work with him and often help him with his drills and training in school.

Mr M Sergeant



Food Preparation & Nutrition

This week in Food Preparation and Nutrition Miss Miles was particularly proud of her year 8 students and their fruit crumbles. They smelt delicious and mouthwatering. Hopefully they all enjoyed eating them too.



Mrs Chapman's Year 7 students have been practising their safe knife skills - bridge hold and claw grip - to prepare a variety of fruit for a colourful and healthy fruit salad. Here are some examples of their creative food styling and plate styling! Well done!

Mrs A Chapman

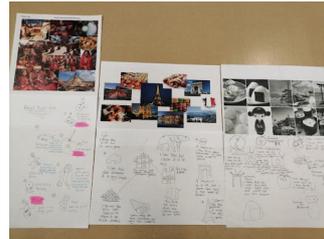


Design & Technology

This week in Mr Fowler's year 8 class they have been exploring the use of rivets in order to attach materials including metal together. These rivets will then be used to attach materials for their candle holder project.



Miss Miles is particularly proud of her Year 8 students for creating some amazing design work for their cultural inspired pendant/keyring that will be cast out of pewter.



They could select any culture of their choice and design a range of pendants from them.

A huge well done to Emilija, Abigail and Emma. Your design work really stands out and will make an excellent pendant.

In Year 9 this week Miss Miles' class has completed their speaker circuit board. She is particularly proud of Lani, Maddie, Amelia, Erinne, Sonny, Layla Tyler and Owen for completing their circuit board and helping others to complete theirs.



Miss J Miles

Games Club

Many students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have already enjoyed going to Games Club on a Tuesday lunchtime. There they've been able to play all sorts of games, including Chess, Jenga, Guess Who and many more, making new friends along the way. This is already proving popular, with regulars already attending and new students every week. We look forward to seeing new and old faces alike in the coming weeks.

Mr M Wallen



Year 7 Drama Club
Thursdays
3.15 – 4.00pm
Vocal Studio



Mrs Holland

