

MAYFLOWER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Last week I spent time in the Dyslexia Centre reading with a class of Year 7 students as part of Friday Fiction. The students were attentive and confidently demonstrated excellent comprehension, listening and questioning skills. I thoroughly enjoyed the lesson. I am very proud that our school community is committed to ensuring all students are successful in reading. Year 10 students are participating in paired reading with targeted students in Year 7, students in Key Stage 3 throughout the year take part in ERIC (Everyone Reading in Class), as part of the teacher Continuous Professional Development programme this week a session is being run entitled Thinking Reading and other Strategies. It is very reassuring to know just how much work is being done, I am ever proud of those who give so freely of their time to help others within the school community.

It is a pleasure to see the names of so many of our students being recognised for their achievements, in the sporting area, Jack Petchy and internal school awards.

Ms J Williams
Interim Headteacher



Jack Petchey Award

Congratulations to Tony Bowers in Year 8 for winning the Jack Petchey Award for November.

Tony has won the award because he has demonstrated our core values: being respectful, being open to learning and staying safe. He has shown great resilience when faced with a challenge. Well done, Tony!

He has chosen to spend his funding on new reading books for the Progress Centre. Please email any nominations for potential recipients of future awards to Mrs Cooke at educate@mayflowerhigh.essex.sch.uk

Mrs E Cooke



Netball Success

On Sunday 21 November, the U14 and U16 Netball teams competed in the county round of the National Schools Netball Tournament. The tournament comprises the 16 best schools across Essex with top two teams qualifying for the regional round of the competition. Both the U14 and U16 teams had qualified for the county tournament by coming in the top two teams in the Basildon and Billericay District Tournaments.

The tournament was held in Colchester on a bright and cold winter morning. The U16 team played seven different schools from across the county, winning 2 games, losing 4 and drawing 1, showing great spirit and determination throughout. The U14 team started the tournament with a fantastic 17-3 win over Felsted School in just a 14-minute game. They then had two difficult matches against the eventual winners Brentwood School and Colchester County High School, but won their remaining 4 matches and were very unlucky not to reach the semi-finals. Both teams were fantastic ambassadors for Mayflower High School, they played with such determination and within the spirit of the game. The support from friends and family, cheering at the side line, made the whole tournament a fantastic experience and the PE department are very proud of the U14 and U16 achievements. Well done to those involved!

Miss S Smith



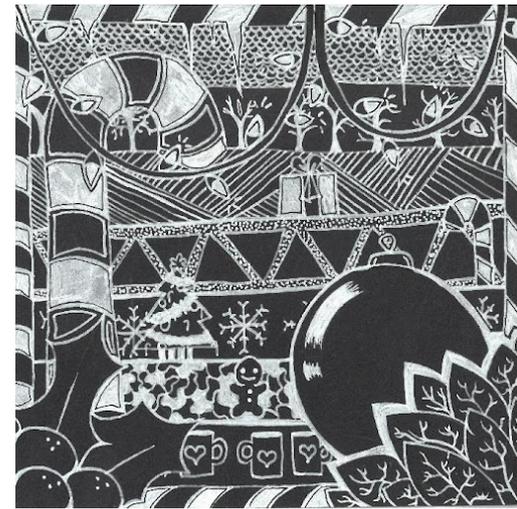
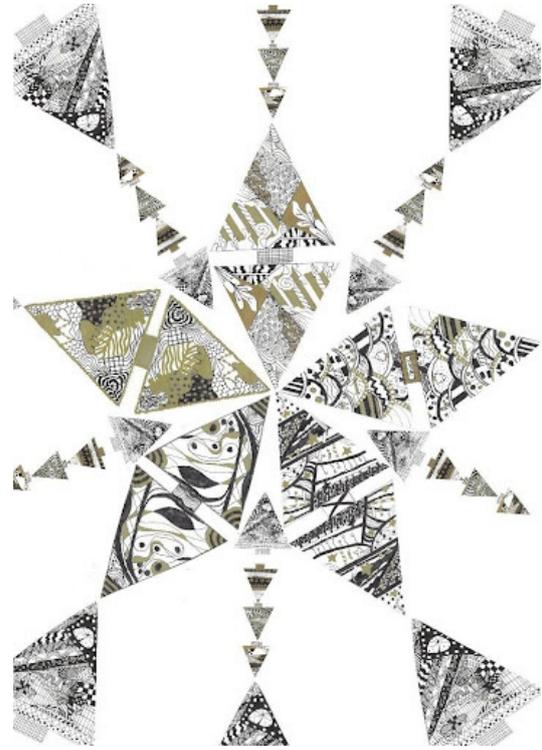
KS3 Christmas Card Competition

Every year, we run a Christmas card competition for Key Stage 3 students in Art. This year, all students worked for two weeks on a piece of work for the opportunity to feature in the final designs. These were the works selected to be entered for each year group and the final design was chosen by Ms Williams. The winning design was *The Christmas Tree Star* created by the following year 7 students:

Phoebe O'Leary 7M1, Abby Caldon 7R1, Sonny Jones 7Z3, Emily Hall 7R1, Harry Vail 7M2, Tiana Charles 7M1, Lenny Batchelor 7R1, Grace Marsh 7F1.

Thank you to the whole of Key Stage 3 for the fabulous creations. It was a very difficult decision as there were so many excellent works to choose from. Look out for your work that will be displayed in the Art Department over the coming weeks.

Mrs C Friday



Black History Month: Art

These highly successful responses concluded our mini project celebrating Black History Month. Well done to all the Year 10 Art students involved who have learnt a little more about their chosen icons and the significant contribution they have made to society to improve the lives for future generations.

Mr A Clarke



Aquí se habla español

Students in 7L2 and 7F1 did some cultural work with Mrs Beal in Spanish, looking at where Spanish is spoken in the world as well as the different languages spoken within Spain.

Did you know that Spanish is spoken in 21 different countries and is spoken by more than 559 million people globally?

Of those, 460 million are native speakers, making Spanish the language with the second largest population of native speakers in the world (Mandarin holds the top title).

There were some really lovely posters created by the students to demonstrate the facts and here are a few!

Mrs C Beal



Geography Work on Hazards

The students in 9M1 had been given a choice of different tasks for their homework this week. We were really impressed that Thomas Williams, Evie Matthews and Chloe Templeman decided to make cakes showing the structure of the earth and Aimee Storey and Sam Bowden made collages.

Really excellent effort to all involved - well done!

Mrs E Cooke



Design & Technology

A huge well done to all our Key Stage 3 students who have all completed their first rotation in both Food and DT. In our department to celebrate the school values and achievement of our students we have implemented our postcard initiative. We are selecting 3 students per class and postcards are given out per rotation.

Our first rotation students are:



Year 7

Jasmine Patel, Khiara Grigg, Archie Cushing, Roxy Hartman, Max Mundy, Niall Weightman, Archie Scott, Harry Smith and Erin Miller

Year 8

Millie Coffil, Ethan Wiles, George Cribb, Jasmine Briggs, Taylor McGuinness, Conor Raftery, Joe Dendle, William Middleton, Amy Baker, Ned Domakin, Phoebe Sutton, Freya Daley, Ella Davies, Lily Manly, Veikko Pursiainen, Mason Grant, Rose Wallis, Alfie Lowrie, Emilija Malakausite, Amelia Bird and Joshua Copp.



Year 9

Sam Anderson, Shelby Coventry, Penny Knight, Charlotte Aris, Mya Scott, Joe Paddock, Ruby Coughlin, Rhianna Fenton, Luke Furness, Layla Hicks, Lani Coughlin, Maddie Clarke, Anai Chaproniere, Amelie Cunningham, Lilly Tibbs, Evie Matthews, Frederick Rayner, Ryan Wheaton, George Hampton, Sophie Farrow and Lucie Martin.

Also a huge well done to our competition winners (from last year) who designed our three postcards. Huge congratulations to:

- Thomas Williams
- Jack Warren-Gunn
- Clayton Kemmann-Lane

You should have now received your own copy of the postcard.
Thank you for your hard work!

Who will get a postcard next time?

Miss J Miles

Antarctica Flag Geography Competition

On 1 December 1959, 12 nations signed the Antarctic Treaty, a document declaring that Antarctica would be off limits to military activity and setting it aside as a place for peace and scientific discoveries. Since 2010, 1 December has been celebrated each year to mark this milestone of peace and to inspire future decisions.

Sixty years on, the Antarctic Treaty has expanded to include 54 countries and is a rare example of international cooperation. The Treaty governs much of the politics, activities and responsibilities within the Antarctic continent and waters south of 60 degrees latitude. For example, all scientific observations should be made freely available to all researchers, no military bases or weapons testing are allowed, and the dumping or burning of any rubbish is prohibited.

Key Stage 3 geographers have been taking part in the Antarctica Day Flags Initiative by designing a flag as they do not have one. The aim is to spread the word about this world-wide collaboration and to inspire future generations. The lucky winner will have their flag sent off to Antarctica with a scientist! Pictures and updates to follow.

Well done to all those who took part:

Lucy Clarke, Erin Lambe, Harry Huskie, Sophie Thomas, Xander Baroi-Silvey, Matthew Edwards, Lotty Smith, Ava Parker, Kylan Salih, Isla Nursey, Ben Mesnard, Harry Tansley, Dakota Styles, George Goodwin, Ameilia Rogers, Chloe Callis, George Daines, Grace Mott, Juliet Vinton-Smith, Kristen Lambe, Cerys Peacham, Christopher Reid, Jamie Cooper, Jamie Weddell, Issy Smith, James Bailey, Angus Noble and Taleya Shazly.

Here are some fantastic examples of their work.

Mrs A Reville



The National Museum of Computing

On Wednesday 24 November, 49 students who study Computer Science visited the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park. The centre is run by very friendly and knowledgeable volunteer staff who tirelessly endeavour to showcase what the museum is all about. The day began with a brief talk explaining how Bletchley Park came about during World War II and why it is situated in Bletchley.

There were four activities prepared for the students and I must say all of these were well thought through. First stop was The Colossus. It was an enormous machine, fully functional with first generation valve technology. This was a rebuilt version of the one designed to break the German Lorenz cipher. Here the students learnt about the way this machine was used to decrypt German military secret messages. The volunteer explained how the Lorenz messages were broken as a result of careless repeat transmissions.

Other Cipher machines like the Enigma machine and the rebuilt Turing Bombe machine, created to decipher enigma were also on display.

Next, the students explored second generation computers. They had a talk on the Electronic Delay Storage Automatic Calculator (EDSAC) which is considered to be the second stored program electronic computer and the first computer to run a graphical computer game.

Right opposite the EDSAC was the world's oldest digital working computer known as the Witch machine. This machine was used between 1951 and 1957 at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment to perform calculations.

The students were then guided through the evolution of computers, looking at very large sized but low storage slow computers to modern day tiny embedded systems with very fast processors.

The next activity was to program the old BBC Microcomputers developed by Cambridge-based company Acorn. The students enjoyed programming a snake game on these computers using an instruction written in BASIC. Students then got a chance to play their games and see whose game lasted the longest.

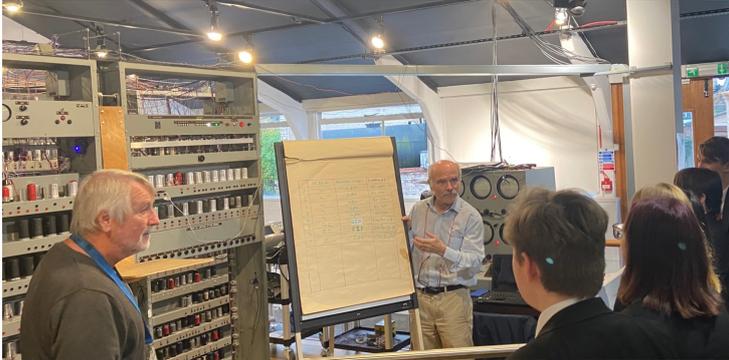
The final activity was for the students to partake in the Turing test and program a bot. During the Turing test, they were able to assess the ability of a computer to mimic a human, as judged by another human who could not see the machine but could ask written questions.

The test is named after Alan Turing who proposed that a computer can be said to possess artificial intelligence if it can mimic human responses under specific conditions.

It was a fantastic day, where the students learnt so much but also had lots of fun. The volunteers were very complimentary on the general conduct of our students and the quality of questions they asked.

It's fair to say that the students had an amazing experience and were good representatives of the school. We are very proud of them!

Miss V McDowell, Mr R Magala & Mr R Kempin



Anti-Bullying Week: One Kind Word

“Are you ok?”

“Sorry, I didn’t mean that”

“Hi, would you like to join my group?”

Sometimes, we can feel like we live in a world of negativity, but one kind word can make all the difference. It can be the turning point that can completely change people’s perspective. Often one kind word can lead to a chain reaction of other kind words which powers positivity.

Monday 15 November marked the start of National Anti-Bullying Week where the theme this year is One Kind Word. The assemblies for the week were led by our amazing team of peer supporters and help all students understand that all forms of bullying have a significant impact on a young person’s life. However, simple changes can break a cycle and as a collective unit, through our shared efforts and kindness, we can help people and combat bullying.

Our peer supporters have done an amazing job leading the assemblies all week and their dedication to creating and leading these has been a credit to them. Many of the peer supporters meet with younger students regularly to support them. Their support to the school in this way is invaluable.

Mrs V Gray

Mayflower Greeting Cards - Louisa Menard

The Art Department would like to say Well Done to Louisa Menard, who's work was chosen by Ms Williams to create the Mayflower School's Greetings Cards. They really do look fantastic!

Miss Brown



Basildon District Cross Country Championships

Earlier this month we took 56 students from Years 7-11 to the Basildon District Cross country Championships. All the students performed superbly and demonstrated exceptional team spirit by competing wholeheartedly and supporting Mayflower students from other year groups.

The day started well with the first 6 Year 7 girls finishing 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th and therefore winning the team event for their age group. The Year 7 boys followed this up with more success with Rocco Savill winning the Year 7 race and the team finished 2nd. This great start would be followed up by team wins for the Year 8 & 9 boys squad and the Year 10 & 11 girls squad.

Congratulations must also go to the following students on being selected for the Basildon District Squad that will compete at the Essex Schools County Championships on 15 January 2022 in Writtle.

Year 8 & 9 = *Luca Savil, Mason Grant, Emma Thrussell (Reserve)*

Year 10 & 11 = *Gracie Comitti, Ella Whitfield, Mia Lowe, Callum Lill, Lindo Khumalo, Hannah Fleming (reserve).*

The overall results were as follows:

Year 7 Girls: 1st

Year 7 Boys: 2nd

Year 8/9 Girls: 2nd

Year 8/9 Boys: 1st

Year 10/11 Girls: 1st

Year 10/11 Boys: 3rd

Girls and Boys teams both 1st

Overall: 1st

Mr M Sergeant

English Schools' Athletic Association Cross Country Cup - Regional Final

On Saturday 13 November, our Year 9 and 10 boys squad competed in the Regional final of the English school's Athletic Association Cross country cup. Having qualified from the County Round a week earlier the team travelled to Southend to take on the best teams from Essex and Suffolk. The boys ran exceptionally well finishing as the 6th team out of 12.

This was a fine performance as usually the top teams from Essex go on to win the National Final.

Mr M Sergeant



Sixth Form Christmas Meal 2021

On 24 November, Sixth Form students kicked off the festive period in style with a glitzy, festive evening at Friern Manor.

Students and staff enjoyed a traditional three course meal under a starlit canopy, whilst being serenaded by Friern Manor's resident pianist; the students enjoyed singing along to the latest hits, with a few Christmas songs too!

After the meal, the students made their way to the dance floor to dance the night away. An excellent night was had by all and it was really such a fantastic way to celebrate once again after such difficult times.

We really hope everyone enjoyed their evening.

Dr S Fawell



Achievement Award Winners

Achievement Award Winners

Congratulations to all our students who have achieved their merit certificates this term in assemblies. It is a real reflection on their attitude towards learning and our core values. Students are wearing their badges with real pride around school and the Year Managers and Head of Year have been delighted to award these. A great reflection on our students and their work ethic so early on in this academic term, the current totals are:

Year 7: 9167

Year 8: 7045

Year 9: 6324

Year 10: 4985

Year 11: 5135

The following students have achieved their Achievement Award which means they have achieved 25 merits.

Year 7

Elliot Stephens
Emma Shelley
Poppy Richardson
Sophie Rendell
Teddy Mott
Alfie Mills
Erin Miller
Zahil Kalanzi
Evie Hale
George Goodwin
PJ Fulker
Aaron Bickerstaff
Jack Bentham
Jack Ahrens
Lexi Bearman
Stefany Dzhantov
Charlie Collings
Markella Ntisios
Felix Naman
Ella Walker

Nathan Gillies
Charlie Davies
Ella Davies
Freddy Crooks
Izzy Cheesman
Finley Buckley
Zack Beales
George Andrews
Kei Beadle
Amelia Bird
David Trump
Gabriella Smyth
Megan Mecham
Florence Meade
Olivia Huggett
Elsa Hopwood
David Trump

Year 9

Sophia Rekasheva
James Walton
Erinne Turk
Lily Tibbs
Lily Slater
Will Gaffney
Anais Chaproniere
Izaak Brough
Luca Poloni
Tyler Owen
Max Jonston
Oliver Huntley
Bella Henderson
Omar Haroon
Amber Gooch
Harry Gilbert
Lila Eve

Lillie Smithers
Charlotte Sell
Amelia Rogers
Libby Evans
Amelie Cunningham
Amber Cummins
Lewis Cory
Neve Burton
Adam Bubb

Year 10

Lucas Yeo-Evans
Ben Woolley
Cameron Wood
Maxwell Williams
Maggi Stewart
Benjamin Powell
Ruth Powell
Dominic Phillips
Abby Nicklin
Toby Mapp
Beales Jake
Isabelle Hoffman
Lewis Hall
Oisin Coughlan
Jake Beales
Gulsu Bekem
Poppy Collins
Oliver Gill
Thomas Mackaness
Adam Roche
Lewie Tear
Elizabeth Nunn
Harry Martin
Lillie Hart
Isabel Hale

Ruby Edwards
Ronnie Dobson
Evie Carvell

Year 11

Tilly Woodford
Aidan Wood
Lilah Stephens
Calum Smith
Lucy Sherwin
Malachie Semain
D'arcy Saxton
Jessie Rump
Tommy Peck-
Springer
Keira Jull
Elizabeth Jennings
Grace Hadley
Muhammad Fakhri
Ava Fabb-Bourne
Ava Borrageiro
Harris Barnes

Special Congratulations goes to the following students for achieving their Bronze Award for 50 merits.

Year 7

Mia Wilson
Anthony Tindle
Julie Santos
Thomas Overton
Isla Nursey
James Luck
Will Hurren
Eleanor Chaplin
David Brace
Charlotte Bilby
Chloe Barnes
Edward Ames

Abby Wilkins
Guy St Pierre
Luca Savill
Luke Peters
Alex O'Sullivan
Penny Knight
Joshua Edwards
Shelby Coventry
Lauren Carter
Nancy Carroll

Year 10

Freya Agate
Olivia Winter
Pippa Waker
Betsy Thomas
Lotty Smith
Laura Simpson
Elsie Shepherd
Mia Pearson
Lennon Harris
Ollie Fowler
Isabella Currie
James Binks
Ollie Alsemgeest

Samira Shams
Mae Levett
Eleanor Welch
Libby Walsh
Caitlin Randall
Archie Goddard
Eloise Dodd

Year 11

Year 8

Ben Mesnard
Violet Harmer
Phoenix Hill
Archie Henson
Chloe Healy
Millie Coffill

Arselma Sam
Maddie Vickery
Jack Surrige
Jude Layzell
Rachael Hampton
Lois Blackmore

Year 9

Isobelle Simmons
Sam Mouldsdale
Olivia Cooke
Chloe Callis
Bartholomew
Bloomfield
Beatrice Bleakley



Silver Merit Award
Achievers (50 merits)

Year 7

Taleya Shazly
Matilda Pierce
Daisy Mears
Ellie Lovell
Megan Jobbins
Annie Jerreat
Grace Vasiliou
Emma Hughes

Year 8

Chris Reid
Eloise Lock

Year 10

Libby Walsh
Prisha Mistry
Annie Eastman

Year 11

George Hayhow



A special congratulations to Thomas Williams in 9M1 for achieving his Diamond Merit award for 150 merits - Well done, Thomas!

We look forward to celebrating more of our students' successes and we will be having special celebration assemblies at the end of term. The totals are published fortnightly and these were calculated on Friday 26 November taking into account positive and negative points.

Thank you for your continued support..

Mrs E Cooke and Mrs N Ball



Alumni: Marissa Goursaud

I am a first-year student studying English at Kings College London, having left Mayflower last summer.

I currently have four modules per semester. Two of the four modules I study at the moment are literary theory, and American Literature. The first year provides you with a wide set of surface level knowledge, although having modules selected for you also means that you don't need to worry about feeling inferior to your peers as everyone is starting from the beginning. I was pretty petrified to study poetry as that was something I hadn't encountered at A-level, ironically this is actually my current favourite module. I think this goes to show that as long as you try to enjoy what you're studying, it doesn't particularly matter how new you are to a subject.

To any prospective English students, I'm sure you have heard about the incredible amount of reading, so to compare the jump from A-Level to university, I studied language and literature at A-level, when in two years we read two novels, a play and a nonfiction anthology. In the last three weeks at university I have read a novel, around 30 poems, a play, two short stories and countless academic essays on literary theory, and I know the amount only increases as you progress in your degree. This amount of reading can feel a bit overwhelming at points, however when there is such a large range of texts to read, it is more likely that you will find a text you can really connect with and enjoy.

I think one of the best things about studying English as a degree compared to an A-Level is that you are introduced to so many texts that you have never heard of; out of everything I've read in the last three weeks, I think I'd only heard of about three of them. However, this week I am studying some of Virginia Woolf's essays! I'm also assuming that if you are considering taking an English degree, you already enjoy reading, so the increased amount of reading assignments won't be too much of a challenge and more like a fun pastime.

Writing is also a huge part of an English degree. Unlike A-levels, writing at university is less controlled and structured. I have my first set of exams in January, but my current writing tasks have consisted of analysing texts with little to no guidance but also with no feedback or marking. This seemed intimidating at first but it was surprisingly refreshing as you can explore your own writing styles, without constantly checking a mark scheme!

For me, the biggest difference between studying English at degree level compared to in sixth form, is the freedom of focusing solely on a subject that I love.

Marissa Goursaud



Alumni: Mitchell Pether

Rewind 10 years and around about now, I was in your position at Mayflower. I wasn't the prefect student; I occasionally got myself in trouble. I didn't follow a standard route through my school career. However, my time at Mayflower was great fun. Fast forward and I am now a Civil Engineer managing drainage across the rail network in Wales

I joined the school in 2007, completed my GCSEs by 2012 and I was on the way to Cardiff University by 2015. My options choices ranged from Geography to PE at GCSE and Economics to Biology at A Level. I re-sat GCSE Maths at Sixth Form and changed some subject choices, completing an additional year and learning that past decisions do not always have to be final. I studied Geology at undergraduate level and side-stepped into Engineering by specialising with a Geotechnical MSc degree after a short stint in gold exploration. That job took me to Northern Sweden where I was working 8 days on, 6 days off in the Arctic Circle. I was mapping the wilderness and sampling gold mineralisation in rock outcrops for a major mining company. I encountered moose, reindeer and my best commute to date which was a helicopter ride to an area where roads didn't exist. Geological mapping was a skill I learnt at university having spent 6 weeks in the foothills of the French Pyrenees completing my dissertation project. My BSc degree took me all over the place with fieldtrips to Cyprus, Spain and great spots in the UK as well. I managed to score 84% in my dissertation, gaining the highest mark in my year group and an award for my efforts.

I had no plan to become an engineer until I signed up for the Masters course 30 days before it started. Even through my postgraduate studies, I was not set on any one discipline and that remains to this day - it's never too late to make a change and past qualifications definitely do not define you.

I joined Network Rail as a placement student 2 ½ years ago and I now hold a post as an engineer overseeing £7 million worth of investment in rail infrastructure annually. My current focus is on flooding that affects both train service and our lineside neighbours. In light of COP26 taking place in Glasgow recently, I have completed interviews with the BBC and ITV explaining how climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of rainfall events in the UK.

If you are interested, please click on the links below to see my television appearances!

BBC News [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-wales-59221584?](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-wales-59221584?fbclid=IwAR2vA4ULsBH8V75EfY0grVzdaVt_NFwjnW6_aZ5YIH8oYmHDf1EUCOXO4Ik)

[fbclid=IwAR2vA4ULsBH8V75EfY0grVzdaVt_NFwjnW6_aZ5YIH8oYmHDf1EUCOXO4Ik](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-wales-59221584?fbclid=IwAR2vA4ULsBH8V75EfY0grVzdaVt_NFwjnW6_aZ5YIH8oYmHDf1EUCOXO4Ik)

ITV News <https://www.itv.com/news/wales/2021-09-30/25m-to-rescue-newport-gloucester-railway-line-ravaged-by-climate-change>

I am on the pathway to becoming chartered with the Institute of Civil Engineers which will give me international recognition of competency, allowing me to travel the world with my occupation if I wish.

The foundations of my knowledge began at Mayflower and I have great appreciation for my teachers and their patience! I especially want to thank my form tutor, Mrs Nicol, for being part of my journey. Thank you to all the teachers at Mayflower High who helped along the way and for your continued commitment to education!

Mitchell Pether