

MAYFLOWER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

In this Issue

- Design and Technology
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme - 2023 Bronze Award
- Eco Trip - Wales
- English and British Championships for Gymnastics
- Food
- GCSE Spanish speaking exam
- History GCSE Berlin Trip
- School Production - Matilda Jr
- Sixth Form Charity Football Match
- Year 7 Spelling Bee



I hope that everyone has had an enjoyable holiday.

As we return after what is a solemn period for many people of faith, it ends with much celebration. As we move through this half term there will be many opportunities for celebration and moments of solemnity. I was delighted and so proud to see how much our students care and respect each other and how determined they can be to embrace the beliefs and cultures of all our community. We have now built a dedicated small multi faith space, and the drive to establish this was spearheaded by our head student Janelle Ndlovu.

As ever this newsletter highlights the amazing work, enrichment, and extra curricular aspects which our students experience and includes : trips overseas, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, participation in a whole school production.

We now embark on the important preparation for summer examinations, a time where resilience, determination and discipline all come to the fore. I would like to thank all who are and continue to care, help and support all students along their journey.

Ms J Williams
Headteacher



History GCSE Berlin Trip

For the first time since 2019, we were very pleased to be once again descending on Berlin as part of our GCSE Berlin trip. With nearly 100 Year 10 and Year 11 students in tow, we spent four History filled days in Berlin at the start of the Easter holidays!

After a 2.15am start at school, we departed from Heathrow airport. Once we arrived in Berlin, we were met by our tour guides for a walking tour of the city. The students were shown the Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe site and remaining parts of the Berlin Wall. Whilst walking around the city, the students were shown stumbling stones commemorating the lost Jewish citizens from local communities. It was fascinating to see historical artifacts on nearly every street we visited.

On the following days, we visited a range of other historical sites across the city. We continued our trip by visiting the Topography of Terror, a museum on the site of the former SS group, which also housed Gestapo jail cells. This museum showed the students a timeline of how the persecution of minority groups grew from 1933 onwards. This visit helped to put into context the effects of these laws, leading to the creation of concentration camps such as Sachsenhausen. At the site of the former concentration camp, students were given the opportunity to explore the site as small groups. With the aid of audio guides, the students were able to see for themselves where many minority groups were imprisoned during the Nazi regime. It was a very moving visit for all of us.

Prior to the Sachsenhausen visit, the students also were able to visit Wannsee. This was the site of the signing of the Final Solution, the plan in 1942 to accelerate the killing of minority groups across Europe. Being in the room where decisions of this magnitude were made was an emotive moment for many of our students. We also visited the Jewish Museum and explored the Reichstag building, home to the German Parliament.

A trip of this size takes many, many months to plan. Special thanks go to Mrs Cumber, who ensured that the trip was organised and planned with great detail. The students were extremely grateful for the opportunity to visit Berlin and behaved brilliantly throughout the four days abroad. We look forward to our next GCSE trip to Berlin, taking place in 2025!

Miss Gunnell



Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme - 2023 Bronze Award

There has been an enthusiastic response to Mayflower's 'Duke of Edinburgh' Bronze award scheme with 73 Year 10 students having signed up and making good progress towards achieving their award.

The students are all undertaking their Bronze award which comprises four sections, skill, physical, volunteering and expedition.

This year's scheme is being run slightly differently with the school working closely with a recommended outsource expedition provider 'East Coast Outdoors'.

The registered students have already begun their chosen Skill, Volunteering and Physical activities and many attended the successful and informative expedition open evening before the end of spring term.

The scheme is being championed by Mr R Griffiths and two of his staff, Ms Walter and Mr Harris with part time help from Mrs Spooner an experienced DofE co-ordinator, leader, assessor and expedition advisor.

The team host a drop-in session every Tuesday P4a for guidance, advice and progress updates to the present and past Mayflower DofE candidates. With expeditions planned for June (training) and September (assessment), we are looking forward to all students achieving their Bronze award in the autumn term this year.



English and British Championships for Gymnastics

In March one of our Year 10 students, Maggie Shepherd, traveled to Liverpool to compete in the English and British Championships for Gymnastics. She placed 13th best in England for her all-around competition.

Maggie said that "I have also now moved up into the senior category meaning I am up against some of the best gymnasts in the country. I'm very pleased with my performance and excited to see what the next season holds."

We at Mayflower are exceptionally proud of Maggie and all that she has achieved in gymnastics and cannot wait to see what the future holds, maybe even see her at the Commonwealth games soon.

Miss McDowell



Eco Trip - Wales

During the first week of the Easter holidays, 37 Mayflower students attended the Eco Trip to Pembrokeshire.

Students were given the opportunity to explore one of the most incredible coastlines in St David's, where they were able to take part in coasteering, surfing, boat trips and coastal walks. Students were also given an immersive insight into some of the global issues being debated called by conservations and sustainability.

We were fortunate enough to visit Dr Beynon's Bug Farm, where students were able to handle various insects, learn about sustainable bug farming and even try some insects in the farms 'Grub Kitchen', most students tried the tasters on offer including big burgers and cricket cookies.

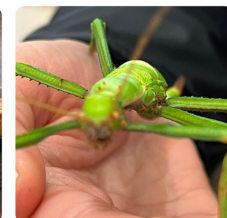
Towards the end of week, students explored Ramsey Island via a boat safari where we learnt about whales, dolphins, seals, birds and porpoises and were lucky enough to spot several seals and porpoises during the trip.

Students took part in various different workshops focused on sustainability, including a fantastic insight into the importance of kelp forests and coastal ecosystems, and their impact on climate change. Students were able to learn about different types of seaweed and try some carrot cake and seaweed cupcakes, which were delicious!

Staying at the incredible St David's Bunkbarns, students were given a home from home with comfortable accommodation and delicious food. They were also able to spend free time playing football, taking part in yoga sessions, morning runs, keeping warm by the fire pit and enjoying movie night.

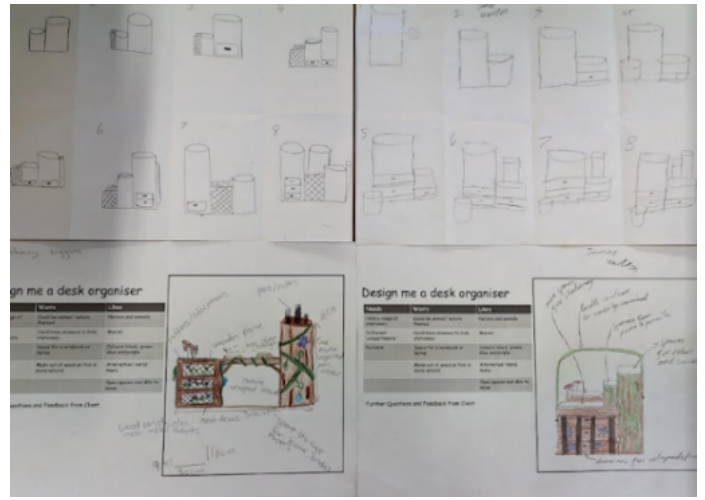
A big thank you to Mr Wallen, Mr Cerson and Mrs Moon who attended the trip with students and to the amazing Brad, Ian & Megan from Flooglebinder who organised everything for us and to Rob & Christine at St David's Bunkbarns for their amazing hospitality.

Mrs C Davis
Eco Club Coordinator

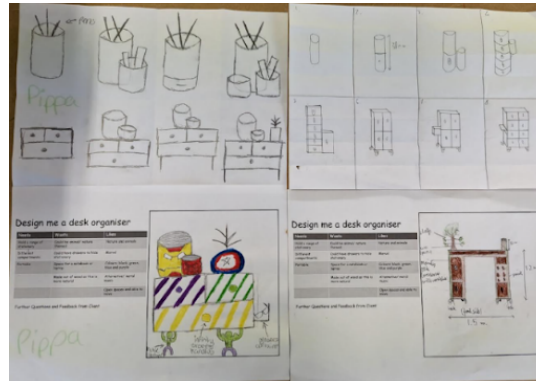
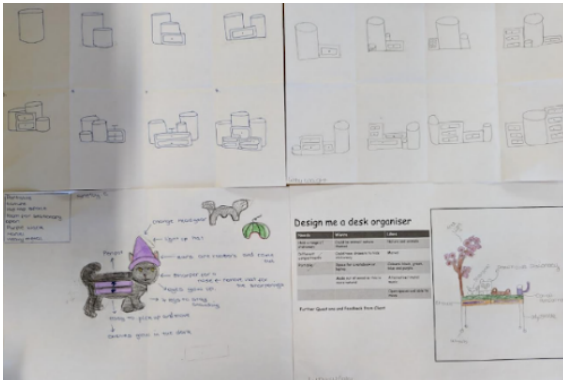


Design and Technology

In Miss. Miles Year 10 class before Easter students were given a task of designing a desk organiser. They had to produce a small design each minute and change it in a small way. This then progressed to designing with a user in mind (Miss. Miles) and they had to design based on their needs, wants and likes. Students then worked as a team to try and select the best parts of designs in order to create a new design for Miss to choose which she liked the most. This was to teach the class about design strategies and prepare them for their end of unit test, mock and coursework.



There is some fantastic work here, look at the creative ideas from: Reuben Tervit, Pippa Harris, Shelby Coventry, Libby Wright, James Walton and Zachary Liggins. Well done Year 10 these are amazing and creative design solutions.



Meanwhile in Mr.Fowlers class students have been revising and recapping their timbers theory ready for their mock exam. This has included some practical elements to the learning. In one lesson last term students were learning about knockdown fittings. This included learning about how to put Ikea furniture together which features knock down fittings. Fittings that are easy to assemble with basic tools and are easy to take down and transport or store. Students had the difficult task of even having to ensure all the pieces go back in the box ready for another class to use! It was a race against time for them to assemble to furniture and assemble it correctly, then take it down again. We believe the students have all enjoyed this activity and it has reinforced the learning of timbers and fittings.



For KS3 we are again running the Textiles club starting again on Tuesday 2nd May after school 3.15- 4.15. This time the project is making bunting to celebrate spring and summer. Limited spaces available, ask Miss. Miles for more details and to sign up

Food

Before Easter in Year 7 students were making their rock buns into Easter nests with Miss. Miles. What an excellent job they all did making these, they look delicious. A shout out particularly to: Harrison Campbell, Vasileios Vasileiadis, Jessica Dowson, Evie Fairmaner, Flinn Cox, Archie Moore, Eliana Newman, Shyanne Walmsey and Zoe Byrne.



In Year 8 students have been making vegetable Bolognese. Students were learning about how to combine flavours in order to make a healthy and delicious sauce. Students were then able to learn a bit about plate styling and look how well these students did with their presentation. A shout out goes to: Henry Tune, Matilda Cunningham, Bonnie Kinsella, Abby Caldon and Tilly Cranshaw. Your dishes look very tasty, I hope they taste as good as they look!



Sixth Form Charity Football Match

Members of the Sixth Form council organised a charity football tournament last month in aid of the men's mental health charity, Manup. Rhianna Tofts, Eliza Cox and Maddie Wallis organised the event supported by other members of the Sixth Form council and raised a massive £320!



The evening was held at Billericay Town Football Club with a very well supported six-a-side, Year 12 vs Year 13 tournament. The Year 13 students were victorious being cheered on by their fellow students from the side-lines. Great fun all round and one definitely to be repeated next year - get practising Year 11s!



GCSE Spanish speaking exam

Year 7, We are inviting you to a Spanish Spelling Bee on Tuesday 2nd May at 1.50 pm in room 103. Please revise modules 1-3 (see your workbooks). Successful candidates will be entered into the final on 16th May at 1.50pm in room 103. The winner will be awarded a prize and published in the newsletter. All participants will be given 3 merits. ¡Hasta Pronto!

Señora Whyman



Year 7 Spelling Bee

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¡Hasta Pronto!

Señora Whyman



School Production - Matilda Jr

For three months the cast of Matilda Jr has been rehearsing several times a week to recreate the fabulous story of Matilda Wormwood. This amazing bunch of 'maggots' have been drawn from Years 7 to 12 and have collaborated in a most enthusiastic and professional manner. Rehearsals are always lively and entertaining (sometimes hilarious) and I have been really grateful for everyone's contributions. It has also enabled different areas of the school to work together on one project.

Many thanks to all the staff, parents and students who have helped bring the show to life.

Mrs Holland