

MAYFLOWER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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With this being my first week in post, I have been really impressed with the welcome that I have received from students, staff and parents. I have seen first hand how proud the students are to be part of Mayflower and am already seeing a positive response from students and staff with the things I have asked them to do.

Before applying to become the Headteacher of Mayflower, one of the things that stood out when I was researching the school was the quality of the newsletter and the variety of opportunities that students are given outside the classroom. This issue is no different and I have particularly enjoyed reading about the Duke of Edinburgh and Eleanor going to Buckingham Palace to receive her award. A real achievement and something to be immensely proud of.

As a keen sportsman myself I always gravitate towards sporting articles and was pleased to see how well we did in the recent cricket tournaments.

Finally we are pleased to announce the new Head Students for 2023-24 are Richstellove Annan and Archie Gay. I look forward to working closely with them to help improve the school further.

Mr D Lee
Headteacher



Head Students

Interest in the Head Student roles was very strong this year and applicants had to write an application letter and go through a two-stage interview process.

We are pleased to announce the new Head Students for 2023-24 are Richstelllove Annan and Archie Gay.

They have introduced themselves below and are very excited to be taking on their new roles.

Interviews for the Assistant Head Students will be taking place in due course for the roles of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Societies and Clubs, Wellbeing and Public Relations.

My name is Richstelllove Annan (don't you worry you can call me Rich). I am one of the new Head Students of Mayflower school. I am beyond grateful for receiving such an honourable role like this, especially as I joined as an external student.

However, this won't hinder me from doing my absolute and utmost best.

I plan to really get to know the school community including governors, teachers, parents and most importantly, the students.

I want the students of Mayflower school to have someone to rely on to get things done and a friendly face to confide in.

I want them to remember that you are enough. That doing your best will allow you to succeed and then the values effortlessly fall into place - being respectful, being a learner and being safe.

And remember, "Be the best version of you. Why - because no one can do it better".

Hello, my name is Archie and I am delighted to have the opportunity to be one of your new Head Students here at Mayflower. I believe that this year, with the support of the sixth form council, I can make our school a more inclusive, equal and friendly environment for all students to feel comfortable in the school surroundings.

My main goal, as Head Student, is to focus on the whole school and not just the sixth form as I firmly believe that each student in the school should be given an equal opportunity in reaching for success.

School isn't just a place for learning, it's a place of joy, unity and most importantly comfort and I believe that our new sixth form council can make this possible.

Here at Mayflower High School, if we take more pride in our community we can make our school a better place. Thank you for having confidence in me with this role of Head Student.



Duke of Edinburgh Awards Update - Gold Award Achievement

Congratulations go out to a former Mayflower student Eleanor Hunt who has recently completed her Gold DofE award which she started whilst at Mayflower. All DofE awards demand determination and hard work from the students with the Gold Award requirements being the ultimate challenge.

Eleanor was presented with her prestigious Gold Award at Buckingham Palace on the 15th May.



Year 13 Leavers Assembly

On Friday 26th May our Year 13 students had their last timetabled day in school before going on study leave to prepare for their exams.

A special assembly was held to celebrate their years at Mayflower. Awards were given to students nominated by their peers for titles including 'Most Likely to be Prime Minister', 'Most likely to Become Famous', 'Besties Award'.

The 'Best Contribution Award' was given to Janelle Ndlovu, Rhianna Tofts, Sophie Lloyd-Gane and Maddy Wallis for all their hard work throughout the year supporting Sixth Form events, charity fundraising and peer support.

Mr McSweeney's final thoughts reminded students, "Whatever happens, on results day, your grades do not define you. Your values, respect of others and future success will. You will always be Mayflower alumni and you will always be welcome back if you need help, advice or just want to say hello".

We are so proud of all our Year 13 students and wish them every success in their upcoming exams and in whatever their futures hold.



Spelling Bee Winner



Congratulations

Annie Jerreat

for winning the Year 8
Spanish Spelling Bee
final 2023!

Well done to the
finalists

Join Electric Jam!

Electronic Jam is an extraordinary opportunity for students to hone their musicianship skills. Held every Friday from 15:30 to 16:30 in Room 98, this club aims to nurture creativity, cultivate talent, and provides an opportunity for students passionate about music to explore digital music making! At Electronic Jam, we enable our students by challenging them to develop their musical abilities through a range of digital music disciplines, including finger pad drumming, sound design, and production skills using Ableton Live.

We welcome all students who possess a love for music, a desire to explore digital music composition, and an eagerness to develop their musicianship skills to join us at Electronic Jam!

We look forward to seeing you at our Friday sessions in Room 98!

Mr Huxford

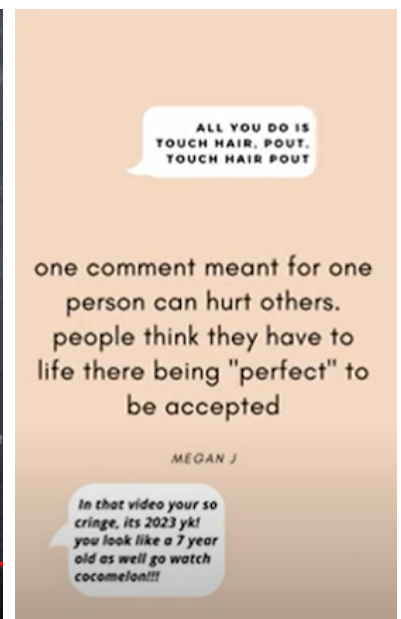
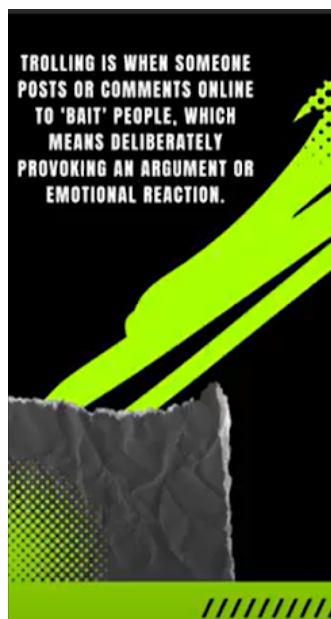
Computer Science

During this half term, students in Year 8 Computer Science have been focusing on e-safety, and how to be responsible citizens in a digital age.

This week the students have been working on putting together some Instagram reels on statistics to do with cyber bullying. I think some of the statistics they researched opened their eyes a little to its widespread nature.

Look out for some of the best reels appearing on our social media feeds over the next few weeks.

Miss McDowell



Jack Petchey Award - Cheyenne Styles

Congratulations to Cheyenne Styles in Year 11 for winning the Jack Petchey Award for June. She was nominated by Mrs Chapman because of the tenacity and determination that she has shown whilst going through very challenging personal circumstances. Cheyenne has always greeted every lesson with a huge smile and a cheery greeting which has simply warmed my heart. I am so proud of her dedication and talent for cooking. She has been supported by the progress centre and the photograph below shows some of the resources that she chose to buy with her money that she received for her award. All the staff within the centre were so pleased to see her winning this award.

Congratulations to Cheyenne and we wish her well in her upcoming GCSE exams this summer.



At Mayflower we are part of the Gold Award Scheme which has seen 6 of our students receiving awards since January, the scheme for this academic year has now come to an end until September. Nominations can still be received using the school email address and educate@mayflowerhigh.essex.sch.uk for the attention of Mrs Cooke, I would love to hear about any of our students who deserve to be nominated for this award.

Alumni published author - Emma Marns (nee Webb)

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that one of our Mayflower Alumni, Emma Marns is having her debut novel published this summer. Emma has kindly offered to drop back into the school next academic year to talk to the students about her experiences and what she gained from her time studying Literature at school.

I will leave the rest of the words to Emma herself, who as you can imagine, is a little better with the written word than I!

Mr Fox

I attended Mayflower from 2002-2009 and I very clearly recall the Subject Fair one evening, where we all had the daunting task of choosing our A-Level subjects for the Sixth Form. The then Head of English said to me, "Emma, you seem like such a Literature student to me."

Listen to your teachers, kids – they know stuff.

My first novel, *The Walk*, comes out on 25th July this year; I am 32 years old now. It took over a year to write and more than two years to sign a publishing agreement, after over 100 rejections from agents and publishers. It was a very long, very arduous and very frustrating process until the finish line was finally reached.

And yet - in lots of ways my journey from Mayflower to the book now feels like quite a linear one. I took the A-Level English Literature course on her advice, and on the syllabus was Northern Irish poet's Seamus Heaney's collected poems and Donegal-born Brian Friel's play *Translations*. I loved them, so very much, and we successfully pestered our teachers into taking us to Northern Ireland for a few days to experience life in Derry – an experience, indeed.

It took two more years to stumble across something Irish in my undergraduate English Literature degree (of course that's what I chose – like I said, listen to your teachers!) – a whole module dedicated entirely to James Joyce's *Ulysses*, because it really does need that much time. I'm almost certain being just mad enough to tackle *Ulysses* as an undergrad was why Trinity College Dublin let me in for their M.Phil. in Irish Writing as my undergrad was ending.

Life gravely intervened and I didn't go in 2013 as intended – it took five more years before I could finally get on that plane and go. I lived in a converted garage-turned-studio flat next door to a dear elderly Irish woman called Evelyn, whose husband John had an indecipherable Kerry accent and liked to play the concertina at 6 o'clock in the morning.

I suffered horribly with insomnia. I had tea with Evelyn and spoke to her about an article on the BBC news app I'd seen called 'The girls of Bessborough' about the Irish mother-and-baby homes - and she told me a story from her own life that I'll never forget.

The Walk was born that day. I rushed home, got the nearest piece of paper I could find without shutting my front door properly and scribbled notes. I scribbled them from March 2019 to August 2020. A huge bunch of people said no – but as they say, all it takes is one 'yes'.

The Walk's main protagonist is called Maire, a name I took from Friel's *Translations*, where it all began in Mayflower's English department in 2008. In *Translations*, Maire is a simple country woman who dreams of learning English and escaping for a better life.

In literature, and in life, I hope I did her justice.

Emma Marns



Dyslexia Centre Lego Workshop

This successful club is very popular with our students and runs Wednesdays and Fridays each A week for Dyslexia students in Years 7, 8 and 9.

Working as a team using Lego, this intervention encourages engagement, creativity and imagination, including team building and communication skills. Students take part in various activities, ranging from group building, independent building, with topic and collaborative problem solving. There is also a much loved end of term free play session. Students work on specialised innovative builds using iPads and laptops, making models interactive and fun.

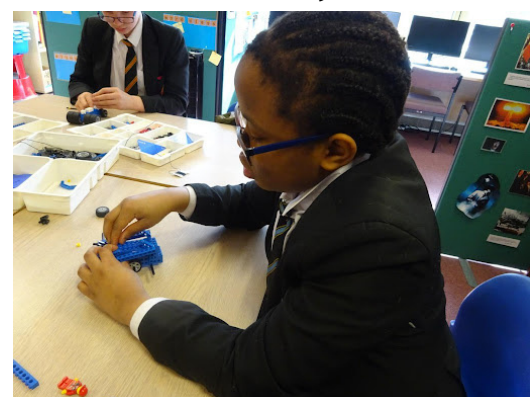
For students, building and playing with Lego includes learning concepts essential for Science, Maths and many other subjects. Lego can be highly creative and its tactile nature encourages learning to take place through challenging scenarios. It also encourages critical thinking in order to produce the desired results of challenges using bricks.

These creative, rewarding sessions for all abilities, encourage spontaneous group conversations and opportunities to converse with peers, with a focus on fostering good mental health strategies and mindfulness.

LEGO building can be a powerful tool for academic success, for friendships and for skills for life!

Come and join us!

Mrs Clarke
Dyslexia Centre



Year 12 Mental Health Support Group

Over the past year, the Year 12 mental health support group have worked to promote a positive mindset throughout the school. We are a group of Year 12 students who volunteer our time to organise mental health related events.



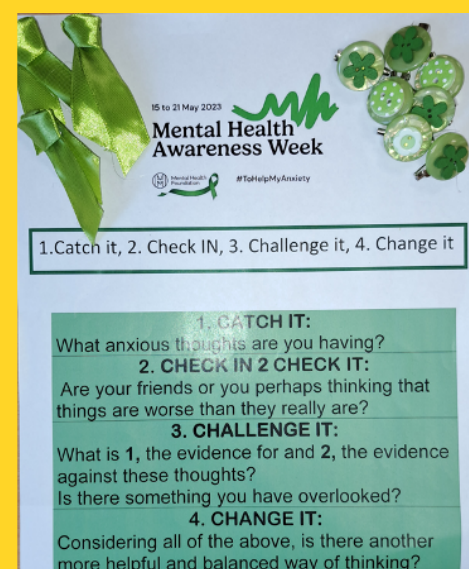
What we've done so far:

We started off the year with an assembly on body image that we prepared and delivered ourselves, allowing members of our group to feel "a part of something special". Later in the year, we visited a selection of forms guiding an activity to help students build bonds with their peers. During the Mental Health Awareness Week, we had a really fun time making ribbon pins, which we then distributed for a donation towards the mental health charity Mind, Basildon. Furthermore, the sixth form and staff participated in a 'wear it green' day, promoted by the Mental Health Foundation.

Our work has opened the important conversation we need to have regarding mental health and the impact it can have on people. This has allowed us to create a support network for students.

We hope to further support mental health in the upcoming year with help from the new Year 12s!

Grace Stansfield and Bethany Beales (Year 12)



Design & Technology

In Design & Technology the Year 8 students have started the clock design challenge project. They have been investigating the Memphis design movement and different client profiles. Recently they have been learning about new design strategies. On the right are some samples of the "ideation design strategy" from 8Y4. Well done Maddie Richbell, Freya Agate, Luis Felipe Lopez Sousa and Julie Santos. Look at the amazing work they have created.



In Year 7 with Miss. Miles students have been soldering their electronic circuit for their torch project. A huge well done to: Hattie Sains, Reese Earp, Zoe Byrne, Amy Tear, Eliana Newman, Zack Briggs, Darasimi Adefemiwa, Russell Salvatore, Bella Ehrlich and Lily Ryder for completing their circuits and helping others in lesson to finish the soldering on time.



In Year 9 students have been learning basic wood working techniques and learning about quality of finish in order to make a litter picker (the helping hand project). Students have been shaping the long piece which the jaw will attach to and shaping the handle to teach them about ergonomics. Designers considering how the object will feel and sit in the hand of the intended user. Well done to David Lyczewski and Lily Shirmer who have made an excellent start.

Postcard Competition

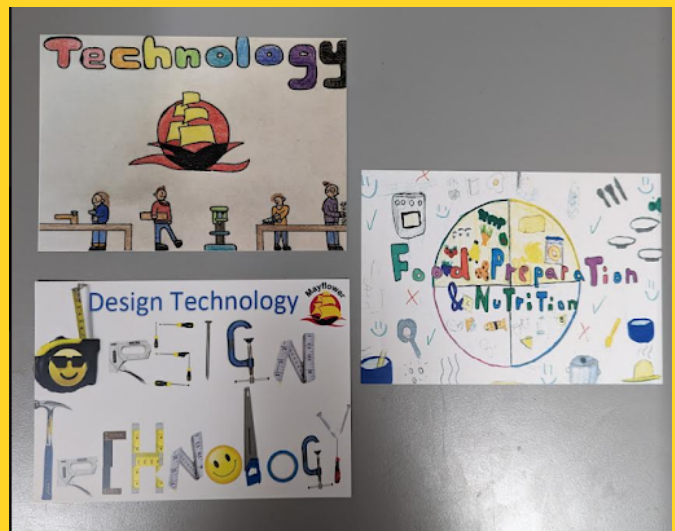
Your challenge is to design a postcard for the technology department.

- It needs to include the department name.
- It needs to fit in the box provided
- It should be in colour
- It should include images/drawings of what we do in technology. This could be tools, subjects taught or machinery.
- It could also include the school logo.
- A merit will be awarded for entering the competition.

If you enter you will receive a merit for your hard work. Three winners will be selected and will have their postcard printed and used by the department to praise outstanding work, patience, perseverance, kindness and helpfulness etc.

Please see Miss. Miles (usually in Room 4) with any queries and to submit your competition entry.

Deadline: 3rd July 2023 Good luck ☺



Food

In Year 7 with Miss Miles students have been making granola bars. Students have been melting butter, honey and sugar in order to make the liquid that will bind the oats and dried fruits. Just look at some of the work from: Millie Warren, Tom Fox and Gabriel Tanner they look delicious.



In Year 9 students have been making banana muffins with Miss Miles. Students were combining ingredients and flavours to make sweet treats to take home and they looked delicious. Can you spot yours?

Girls Cricket

On 18/05/23 a team of Year 7 & 8 girls cricketers went over to Ingatestone & Fryerning Cricket Club to take part in the U13 Girls Chance to Compete-Central group competition run by Essex County Cricket Club.

Playing a total of 5 very competitive and skilled matches, Mayflower U13 won 3 and lost 2. This resulted in a highly respected 3rd place finish. Shoutout to all the girls that played (Rose Threadgold, Louise Perrin, Anni Tidder, Juliet Wenborn, Bella Bleakley, Katie Walsh, Leila Marns, Elsie Shepherd and Evie Andrews) as well as Emily Turner in Year 10 who helped coach.

On the 23/05/23 a team of Year 9 and 10 girls entered a similar competition, this time hosted at Leyton Cricket Ground. The girls played 3 group matches, winning each and earning themselves a spot in the final against St Martin's School. In an incredibly high scoring final, St Martin's batted first and scored 90 runs off their 10 overs, leaving Mayflower 91 runs to win. In reply, Mayflower batted very well and despite a blistering 24* from Nicole Tidder came up 8 runs short in a very tight final. Well done to all the girls that played; Violet Harmer, Darcy Westhall, Beatrice Bleakley, Nicole Tidder, Tali Wittridge-Shaw, Freya Daley, Emma Eccles and Charlotte Dowson.

Both days were excellently run and all the girls were a credit to the school. I hope that it has inspired many of them to pick up a bat and a ball outside of school; and potentially even join a club.

Mr Sullivan

