



**Mayflower
High School**



Newsletter

July 2025

Issue No. 6

As we wrap up a fantastic year, it is clear from all the incredible extracurricular activities just how much dedication our staff and students bring to our community. We are very fortunate to have such committed and talented staff members who go above and beyond every day.

We look forward to working with our newly appointed staff in the coming year. While we are excited about the future, we would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to those staff members who are moving on. Your contributions have made a lasting impact, and you will be greatly missed.

Wishing everyone a joyful and restful summer – see you in September!



Damian Lee
Headteacher

After 17 fulfilling years at Mayflower High School, we have made the decision to retire and begin a new chapter in life. Mrs Ford and I are looking forward to spending more time with our three grown up children. It's been an incredible journey, filled with growth, challenges, and many memorable moments. We are deeply grateful to the colleagues, students, and parents we have had the pleasure of working with over the years.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this experience — your support and collaboration have meant a great deal to us. We look forward to what lies ahead and will carry extremely fond memories of our time here.

Wishing all of you in the Mayflower community continued success and happiness.

Warm regards

Mr Rhodes & Mrs Ford



Christine Ford
Associate Assistant
Headteacher



Jon Rhodes
Assistant Headteacher

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Year 12 Court's Trip

Year 12 Criminology and Law students had the exciting opportunity to see their learning in action. They visited the Old Bailey, where they watched a live criminal court case from the public gallery, before heading to the Royal Courts of Justice to take part in a mock trial.

There are certainly some future lawyers and judges in our Sixth Form!



Elsa Qualifies for Faldo Series National Final!

We're thrilled to share some fantastic news—after a strong performance at the regional final of the Faldo Futures Series at Sunningdale Heath Golf Club, Elsa finished in an impressive tied 3rd place, securing her spot in the Faldo Series National Final!

This is a remarkable achievement. Over 2,000 junior golfers have taken part in the Faldo Series this year, but only 144 players across age and gender categories have qualified for the prestigious final. The event will take place on 20th August at The Belfry Golf Club in Birmingham, one of the UK's most iconic golfing venues.

The final, hosted by golfing legend Sir Nick Faldo, promises to be a memorable experience. It also coincides with the British Masters professional tournament, and winners in each age group will receive an invitation to the 2026 IMG Junior World Finals, previously held at the world-famous Torrey Pines, California.

We're incredibly proud of Elsa and wish her every success in the final!



Spanish Spelling Bee Success!

We are thrilled to announce the winners of this year's Spanish Spelling Bee competition for Years 7 and 8 — congratulations to Thomas L (7R1) and Matteo L (8M1), who impressed the judge, Mrs Whyman, with their excellent spelling skills and calm focus under pressure!

The event was a fantastic opportunity for students to expand their Spanish vocabulary, improve their listening skills, and develop confidence in language learning. Spelling may seem simple, but it plays a crucial role in clear communication and helps build a strong foundation in both written and spoken language.

Well done to all the participants who took part — your enthusiasm and effort were inspiring. Please come and collect a badge if your teacher has not given you one already. ¡Enhorabuena! We look forward to seeing even more budding linguists next year!

Surviving the Heat: A Bronze DofE Expedition

The second cohort of students completed their bronze expedition in June. The expedition was unforgettable, thanks to extreme heat that tested everyone's resilience. With soaring temperatures, hydration became a priority as we frequently refilled water bottles and adjusted routes to seek shade. The heat forced us to adapt, balancing rest and pace. Mental toughness was crucial, and encouragement from teammates kept morale high.

By the end, everyone was exhausted but proud, having learned valuable lessons in planning, perseverance, and teamwork. This expedition proved that overcoming unexpected challenges is what truly defines success, and we all walked away stronger for it.



A Big Thank You to Everyone Who Helped with DofE

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this year's DofE awards possible, not just with the expeditions but with the other sections too. From our incredible leaders and volunteers, to the families who have supported the students along the way, your guidance, encouragement, and hard work were invaluable. Whether you helped with training, provided equipment, or simply offered words of support, we couldn't have done it without you. Your dedication has helped the students achieve more than just a challenge—they have gained confidence, resilience, and teamwork skills that will stay with them for life. Thank you for being part of this unforgettable experience!

Library Update

This term we held our first Scholastic Books Fair since 2007. The fair was a massive hit with students and staff, and it was constantly busy for the whole 4 days.

It was lovely to see so many students excited to browse and buy new books.

Thanks to the wonderful engagement we have earned a huge £189.65 in rewards to spend on new books for the Library.



The Student Librarians have done an amazing job representing the school and the Library this year; I am very proud of them all and the hard work they put in to make the Library a wonderful place for students.

To say thank you for their continued hard work they celebrated with a Library Tea Party.

Sparx Reader has been hugely successful with Years 7 and 8.

Since January, when the programme was rolled out, students have collectively read a massive 708 books, equating to 1,609 hours of reading, and 12,008,730 words read. As a result of this amazing hard work I have some awards to announce.

The below students have reached Gold Reader status since Easter:

Year 7

- Maya F
- Leah N
- Thomas L
- Christopher D
- John O

Year 8

- Scarlett F
- Emily C

And the overall winners of the year, who will receive a gold, silver or bronze reader badge to wear proudly on their blazer are:

Year 7

- 🥇 Gold SRP award: Zach H with 59,234 SRP
- 🥈 Silver SRP award: Sara F with 12,712 SRP
- 🥉 Bronze SRP award: Sam M with 11,960 SRP



Year 8

- 🥇 Gold SRP award: Scarlett F with 5,344 SRP
- 🥈 Silver SRP award: Olivia S with 4,561 SRP
- 🥉 Bronze SRP award: Marcel V with 4,481 SRP

The Library was very grateful to receive funding and support from the PTFA this term to purchase some beanbags and new shelving to get the Library started on its new look.

The Library is undergoing some renovations over the summer so please pop in in September.



Mrs Sayer

Geography

Year 10 Geography GCSE students took part in an exciting fieldwork trip to Walton-on-the-Naze, where they demonstrated outstanding skills in their enquiry process. They worked diligently to investigate coastal processes, carefully measuring beach profiles and groyne heights to collect accurate data for their 2026 exams. Their enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the day were excellent, making the trip a great success and a valuable learning experience for all involved.



Mrs Reville

Meet Shadow and Marshmallow!

I am delighted to announce the results of the school-wide vote to name our two new axolotls. After a flurry of fantastic suggestions and enthusiastic voting, the winning names are... Shadow and Marshmallow!

Shadow and Marshmallow are now happily settled into their new home in Lab 17. They've been exploring their tank, getting used to their surroundings and have already enjoyed meeting many of our students (Year 6 to 13!) as well as picking up a few science facts along the way!



This project wouldn't have been possible without the support of some amazing people. A huge thank you to Dan and Barry for their brilliant work setting up the tank, to Mrs Wenborn for her expert advice and ongoing support, and to the generous team at Swallow Aquatics Rayleigh, who donated the tank. We'd also like to thank our fantastic Science Technician team, who have been instrumental in helping care for Shadow and Marshmallow.

Awesome Axolotl Facts:

- Axolotls can regenerate limbs, parts of their heart, even parts of their brain!
- Unlike most amphibians, axolotls never undergo metamorphosis and keep their gills for life.

Come by the lab in September to say hello to Shadow and Marshmallow!

Mrs Poole

Exams - Summer 2025

Well done to all Mayflower students who have sat public exams over the last term. It has been a very busy period for the exams team—over 1,000 hours of invigilation and more than 7,500 papers laid out and collected since we returned from the Easter holidays!

Students in Years 10 and 12 faced a steep learning curve during their end-of-year exams. They quickly understood the exam process and adapted well to the challenges. It is important that students and parents are aware of the individual timetables issued to students and available via Bromcom for the Pre-Public Examinations (PPE) scheduled for 2025/2026. These exam periods are very busy for everyone involved, and the individual timetable will indicate which exams are taking place and at what times. Students may not always sit exams simultaneously with their peers if there are subject clashes.

The Exams Team encourages all students sitting exams to be fully prepared — bringing a clear pencil case with black biro pens, pencils, maths equipment, and a calculator. Water bottles are permitted in the exam room, but lids must be solid colours and will be checked. All phones, electronic devices, and watches should either be handed in or stored away in bags. If you are unsure what to bring, it is best to bring everything you might need. Invigilators will remind students of any prohibited items during the exam.

Before we know it, the public exam results days will arrive. For A Level/Level 3 students, results will be available on Thursday 14 August at 8am in the Sixth Form Centre. For GCSE/Level 2 students, results will be available on Thursday 21 August at 9am, also in the Sixth Form Centre. Staff will be available on both days to congratulate and support students as they prepare for their next steps. It is important that students read all the documentation accompanying their results.

Certificates for the Summer 2025 exam series will be available from the main office (8:30am–3:30pm) from Monday 8 December 2025. Certificates are legal documents, so it is important to collect them. There will be a GCSE certificate collection session for students continuing into Sixth Form, held in the Sixth Form Centre; the date and time will be published in the second half of the Autumn term. If someone is collecting certificates on your behalf, they will need a signed note of permission and photo ID. Certificates are only kept by the school for one year, so please ensure they are collected by December 2026.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the exams process this term. The team of invigilators has worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of the exams, and students have been conscientious in their efforts.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing students and their supporters during the results days.

Mrs Skudder

Year 12 A level Geography NEA fieldwork to Southwold

Year 12 students enjoyed two beautiful fieldwork days in Southwold following their initial visit in November. During these visits, they completed data collection for their NEA and had the opportunity to take drone photographs of the coastline. They are now busy writing up their investigations, which account for 20% of the Geography A Level. Some students have focused on the coastal area, investigating the impact of coastal management on landforms and processes, while others have explored the effects of second-home ownership on the town or examined Adnams' influence on the local community.



Ways to support your child with their Geography

The Geography department actively encourages students across all year groups to read around the subject. It would be wonderful if parents and carers could support this by encouraging students to read geography-related texts in their own time. Here is a link to some suitable suggestions: <https://www.internetgeography.net/wider-reading-in-geography/>

How about asking your child to suggest a geographical feature for the UK's new banknotes?
<https://geography.org.uk/what-geographical-features-could-be-on-the-uks-new-banknotes/>

It would also be helpful if parents and carers asked students about what they have been studying and supported them in developing their geographical knowledge, understanding, and skills. Linking the subject to real-world events by keeping up to date with news at a local, national, and international level is a fantastic way to start discussions. Here are a few recent examples: the heatwave and wildfires in Europe, climate change, sea ice extent, and the Basildon Local Plan.

Drama Department

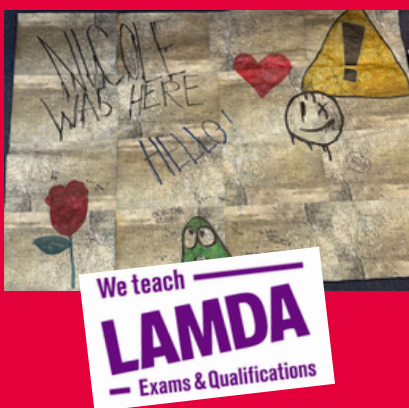
Year 7 Drama

This half term, Year 7 students have been studying Theatre in Education (TIE). They explored how drama can be used as a tool to educate and inform audiences, particularly young people, about important social issues. Students worked in groups to create their own short performances with a clear message or moral, focusing on topics such as bullying, online safety, and peer pressure. Through these activities, they developed key drama skills including role play, narration, freeze frames, and audience interaction. The unit encouraged teamwork, creativity, and an understanding of how theatre can make a positive impact on society.



Year 8 Drama

This half term, Year 8 students have been focusing on devising, creating original performances from scratch based on a theme or stimulus. This unit gave students the opportunity to develop their creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving skills as they explored different ways to shape their ideas into dramatic pieces. The topic also provided a valuable introduction to the style of work they will encounter in Year 10 for Component 1: Devising in GCSE Drama. Students learned how to generate ideas, experiment with form and structure, and reflect on their creative choices—key elements of the GCSE devising process. This experience has helped build their confidence and understanding of what it means to create meaningful, original theatre.



Year 9 Drama

This half term, Year 9 students have been working on their Final Major Project, which serves as a culmination of the skills they have developed throughout Key Stage 3. Students were given the exciting opportunity to choose their own creative pathway—either by writing a script, performing a piece, or joining the production team to design elements such as costume and set. This project encouraged independent thinking, teamwork, and artistic decision-making, allowing students to take ownership of their learning and showcase their strengths. Whether on stage or behind the scenes, each student played a vital role in bringing their ideas to life, gaining a deeper understanding of the many aspects involved in creating a successful theatrical performance.



Lamda Classes at Mayflower

We are very excited to be working alongside The Drama Centre to provide after-school LAMDA classes starting in the summer term. These classes are open to all students from Year 7 to Year 13 and will run on Fridays from 3.30 to 4.30 pm in the Drama Department. Students interested in starting LAMDA classes can find sign-up links on Google Classroom and Facebook or speak to a drama teacher for more information. On Friday 28th, a group of students took part in a taster session with The Drama Centre's director, Leanne.



Year 11 Leavers Day and Prom

Thursday 26th June marked a truly special milestone for our Year 11 students as they celebrated their final day at school. It was a day full of laughter, fun, and unforgettable memories.

The morning began with a heartfelt Leavers' Assembly held at school, bringing together students and staff for one final time. The assembly featured a number of student awards, recognising achievements across all areas of school life. There was also a touching and respectful tribute to Maci B, whose memory remains a cherished part of the year group's journey.

The assembly included a selection of videos celebrating their time at the school, showcasing memories from lessons, sports, Duke of Edinburgh, Nuclear Races, and a video from staff who left messages for the students. The event concluded with a much-anticipated segment, bringing smiles and laughter as students reflected on how far they've come.

After the assembly, students made their way to the field to continue the celebrations. There, they enjoyed signing shirts, taking photos, and sharing memories with staff. The school field was transformed with dodgems and inflatables, adding an extra layer of fun and energy to the morning.

The day concluded in style with the Year 11 Prom at Downham Hall, a truly stunning venue for such an important evening. Students arrived in a fantastic range of vehicles, dressed impeccably and full of excitement. The setting was picturesque, the atmosphere joyful, and the students carried themselves with real maturity. They were, without doubt, an absolute credit to the school.

It was a day filled with pride, emotion, and celebration. We couldn't be prouder of this year group—for their resilience, character, and achievements. As they move into the next chapter of their lives, we know they do so with bright futures ahead.

Mr Church and Mrs Evident



Year 12 Biology Natural History Museum Trip

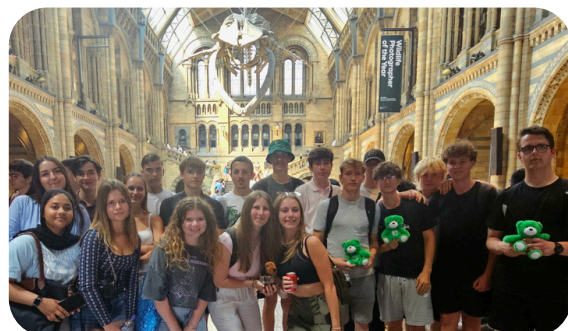
On Friday 4th July, our Year 12 Biology students took their learning beyond the classroom with an inspiring trip to the Natural History Museum in London. The visit was designed to enrich their understanding of key A-Level topics, particularly evolution, biodiversity, and the history of life on Earth.

The students took part in a specially designed scavenger hunt, challenging them to find and analyse key exhibits throughout the museum. They began in the Dinosaur Gallery, examining the skeletons and animatronics of prehistoric giants before moving on to the Fossils Hall, where they studied preserved remains of ancient life forms.

In the Human Evolution section, students traced the development of our species, comparing skulls and features of early hominins. In the Treasures Gallery, they encountered Charles Darwin's pigeons—crucial evidence in his theory of natural selection—and the remarkable Archaeopteryx fossil, the famous “missing link” that demonstrates birds evolved from dinosaurs.

The scavenger hunt encouraged teamwork, observation, and scientific thinking, with students piecing together the story of life on Earth through hands-on exploration. Working in teams, they located information and answered quiz questions that put their biological knowledge to the test.

It was a memorable and insightful day that truly brought the theory of evolution to life.



Maths Department

Firstly, please allow me to thank all students for their hard work, dedication, and resilience throughout the academic year. I have been very impressed by how well students have engaged with the new curriculum, as well as the quantity and quality of the work they have produced in lessons.

The use of the SparxMaths homework platform has enabled students to regularly consolidate their learning and challenge themselves, with over 15,691 hours of independent practice and 930,417 questions completed.

It has been fantastic to see so many students participate in the UKMT Maths Challenge competition, competing against peers from schools across the country and achieving excellent results in a very competitive field.

I would also like to thank the Year 11 and 13 students for the additional hours of study they devoted during intervention sessions—whether in AM form tutor times, lunchtimes, after school, on Saturdays, or during half-term breaks. It was wonderful to see students leaving the examination hall so happy, knowing that their hard work had truly paid off.

Enjoy the summer break and a well-deserved rest.

Mr Hayes

Year 10

And that's a wrap! The end of the term also marks the close of the academic year. We are now over halfway through the GCSE journey, with students having just two full terms left before their exams begin.

The Year 10s have had an extremely busy half term. They completed two weeks of their first round of Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs). Considering this was their first experience of the formal exam process, the students applied themselves excellently throughout what was a demanding period. This experience will serve them well when their exams start next year.

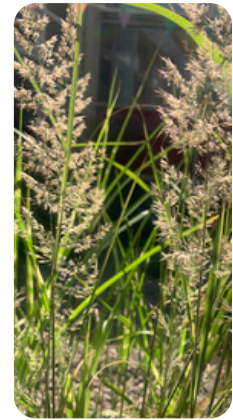
Careers / Work Experience

During Aspirations Week, Year 10 and Year 12 students took part in their work experience programme. After several years' hiatus, work experience was reintroduced, and students were asked to “self-place” — meaning they had to find their own placements independently over the course of the academic year. The feedback from employers has been overwhelmingly positive, with students taking on challenging roles in local primary schools, businesses, London offices, and even with the Metropolitan Police, among others. Congratulations to everyone who took part in what was a hugely successful week.

Sensory Garden

We would like to say thank you to Elms Nursery Garden Centre for helping us with some new additions to our Sensory Garden. Staff have been fantastic in advising us on what plants would work well within the space and we look forward to watching the garden blossom.

Mrs Wenborn



Campeones del duolingo

Firstly, we have our Summer Term winners for each Year group:

1st Place: Mr Chari 10863 XP points

2nd Place: Achyut N 10F1 10395 XP points

3rd Place: Sara F 7M1 7033 XP points

4th Place: Ethan L 9F2 5178 XP points

5th Place: Didina C 8M2 3214 XP points

Also, our top 3 overall 2024-25 Duolingo student winners are:

1st: Sara F 7M1 34965 XP points

2nd: Achyut N 10F1 34008 XP points

3rd Sophie T 10F1 31176 XP points

A huge congratulations to our Champion Sara, a voucher is heading its way to you! The competition will start again in September. Keep your eyes peeled for the new competition codes in Google Classroom.

¡Buenas vacaciones!



Mrs Beal

Aspirations Week

On Friday, 11th July, as part of Aspirations Week, thirteen Year 8 students visited the Grange residential home located next to the school.

As part of their Leadership course, they presented and ran a quiz that they had carefully prepared and planned in advance. Every question was created by the students themselves, and they also took full responsibility for scorekeeping, refreshments, and hosting the event.

The students had a fantastic time getting to know the residents, and we've already been invited back next year! Well done to all involved—they have done the school proud and been excellent ambassadors for Mayflower High School.

Mr M Wallen

Design & Technology: Rampaging Chariots

In the DT department, excitement and nostalgia have been bubbling as we prepared for a thrilling competition. Casting your minds back to the 1990s and 2000s, many will remember the iconic TV show Robot Wars—the talk of the town! This year, a local company, Leonardo UK, hosted a school competition inspired by the show on Saturday 5th July, offering a fun and safer version of the original.

A small but determined group of girls from the DT department rose to the challenge, designing, building, and decorating their own "Chariot" before piloting it in the tournament. Our team, the Mayflower Metis, faced a few technical difficulties on the day but showed incredible enthusiasm and resilience throughout.

They competed in an obstacle course, sumo wrestling, tug of war, and football. We proudly took first place in tug of war—beating Billericay School in what was a huge triumph!

A big shout out to the team: Olivia S, Millie A, Beth P, Isabella S, and the brilliant support of Megan P. Well done, girls—you did the school proud!

We're hopeful that this fantastic competition will return next year.



Design & Technology: KS3

A message from all of your Design and Technology teachers: a huge well done to each and every one of you! You have learned a variety of valuable skills and created some truly wonderful products this year. Many merits have been awarded, and postcards of praise have been sent out to celebrate your achievements.

Well done from all of us—we're so proud of your hard work and creativity! We look forward to welcoming you back in the new school year, ready to dive into even more exciting projects.

To those of you who have chosen DT as an option, we cannot wait to start the GCSE journey with you.

Have a wonderful summer!

The Tech Team

Food Preparation & Nutrition



On 1st July, in Room 07, 32 Year 8 students, alongside two food teachers and one technician, took part in something truly special. The famous chef Jamie Oliver challenged schools across the country to help him break a Guinness World Record for the world's largest cookery lesson. Our staff and students eagerly rose to the challenge and made history together!

The room was hot but the students were busy and accepted the challenge. They made handmade pasta in a fresh tomato, basil and parmesan sauce. The smell coming down the corridors was like that of an Italian restaurant. The staff and students involved all work so hard on the task.



After their hard work, everyone enjoyed the meal they had made together, with most agreeing it tasted delicious—a true reward for their effort.

Later, an exciting message arrived from Jamie Oliver confirming the success of the record attempt:

“Wow! What a fantastic achievement! Together, we smashed the Guinness World Records™ title for the largest cookery lesson (in multiple venues) — and you are a record breaker!

Drumroll, please. The final numbers are in...

10,515 cooks, across 6 continents and 42 countries helped smash the record!

We couldn't have done this without your passion, energy, and love for food.

Whether you were chopping, stirring, or tasting, you helped make history!”

Congratulations to everyone involved—you were amazing! Keep cooking and sharing your love of food.



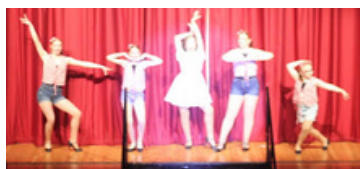
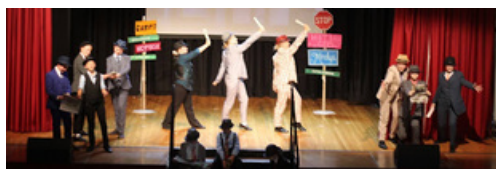
'Guys and Dolls' School Production

Earlier this month, the school hall was transformed into the vibrant streets of 1950s New York City as our talented students brought Broadway magic to life in our production of *Guys and Dolls*. Months of hard work, rehearsals, and creative collaboration culminated in four unforgettable performances for friends, family, and the local community.

Under the expert direction of Mrs Evans, Miss Warren, and Mrs Darvill, the cast and crew delivered a polished, high-energy rendition of this classic musical comedy. The ensemble's infectious enthusiasm shone through in iconic numbers like "Luck Be a Lady" and "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat," while the backstage technical team ensured every performance ran smoothly with professionalism and calm.

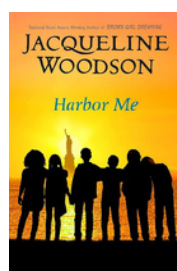
We extend our heartfelt thanks to the parent volunteers, staff, and community sponsors who supported this production. *Guys and Dolls* was more than just a school play—it was a celebration of talent, dedication, and the joy of live theatre. Bravo to all involved!

Stay tuned for the announcement of the 2026 school production this September!



Year 7 Aspirations Week Inspires with Theatre, Creativity, and Confidence!

Last week, our Year 7 students took a break from their usual timetable to immerse themselves in Aspirations Week—a vibrant, three-day celebration of creativity, confidence, and future possibilities. The week kicked off with a high-energy performance by Box House Theatre Company, showcasing skillful platform theatre using just six actors and one gym mat! Following the show, the company led a lively Q&A session where students discovered everything from the actors' shoe sizes to how the idea originated during their own Year 9 drama class. Students then engaged in workshops with the actors and explored career opportunities in the Arts. They also began working with one of nine novels chosen as stimuli for further creative projects, sparking imagination and deeper learning.

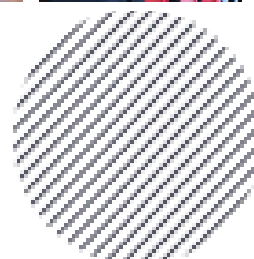


Tutor groups were each assigned a novel addressing themes of diversity and challenged to pitch their ideas for a new Musical Theatre production inspired by their book to a panel of expert theatre professionals.

Thursday and Friday morning were dedicated to collaborative work in sub-teams, developing material and ideas in preparation for their presentations on Friday. We were thrilled to welcome three industry professionals from marketing, casting, and management, who impressed us with their high-profile experience and credits from shows many of us have enjoyed.

Each tutor group had a 10-minute slot to present their pitches, showcasing impressive set models, elaborate costume designs, and skillful drama performances. Presentations were delivered with confidence and charisma. The judges awarded B1 the winning tutor team for their outstanding work inspired by the novel *Refugee* by Alan Gratz.

A huge thank you to Box House Theatre Company, our dedicated staff, and the talented students for making Aspirations Week such a memorable success. Year 7 have reminded us all of the power of performance, collaboration, and dreaming big. For those looking for a summer read, these novels come highly recommended! We can't wait to see how these young stars continue to shine—both on and off the stage!



Aspirations Week

Aspirations Week brought exciting adventures and new connections across the school, broadening horizons and encouraging ambition. It was fantastic to witness the relationships being built and to see students engaging with new experiences and activities.

More than just a break from the normal timetable, Aspirations Week offered a purposeful and enriching opportunity for students to:

- Explore different careers and future pathways
- Gain real-world skills such as communication, collaboration, and critical thinking
- Grow in confidence, ambition, and independence
- Be inspired by new experiences and opportunities

Year 7 took part in a **Performing Arts** project centred around the theme of Diversity, helping them develop confidence, teamwork and empathy, while celebrating individuality and inclusion.

“Last week we had Aspirations Week and it was a really great experience. Every form had a different novel to use as inspiration for a short 10-minute show. We broke into five different sub-teams: masks and costumes, music, design, media, and drama. It was an amazing project. I was in the masks and costumes team, and because my novel was based in Vietnam, we explored the culture by using bright colours in our costumes and making traditional Vietnamese hats. On Friday, we had a group of professional judges come in to watch us pitch our idea. Everyone took turns presenting on stage, and at the end we had a final winner. Congratulations B1!”

— Evie, 7R1

Year 8 – Resilience and Leadership

Pathway One: 180 students took part in an exciting residential trip to Mersea Island, where they built resilience, independence and leadership through a range of outdoor activities.

Pathway Two: Students who remained in school completed the nationally recognised Young Leaders Award, developing essential leadership, teamwork and communication skills.

“At the beginning of the Young Leadership Programme, we took part in fun and engaging events such as building the tallest tower from marshmallows and raw spaghetti — it was really creative and competitive! We also played different outdoor games like variations of Tag and Rounders that everyone enjoyed.

By Thursday, we started planning a quiz to deliver to residents of The Grange Care Home, while other groups prepared games to share and play together. We really appreciated the creative freedom we had when designing our quiz rounds, from deciding on the format and length, to assigning roles and creating the content.

Delivering the quiz was a brilliant experience — it was great to see everyone involved and enjoying themselves.”

— Toby, Year 8

A big thank you to The Grange Care Home for welcoming us — we look forward to visiting again soon!

Year 9 stepped into the **world of business and innovation** during Aspirations Week, working in teams to take on creative challenges inspired by Dragons’ Den and The Apprentice. Students pitched product ideas and developed entrepreneurial thinking while designing and marketing their own T-shirts.

“Aspirations Week was well organised. I really enjoyed designing the T-shirt and the artistic aspects.”

— Edward and Jessica, 9L1

“I really enjoyed the creative freedom we had to design our T-shirts. I learnt new skills about how to start and run a successful business.”

— Grace and Evie, 9L1

“The best thing about Aspirations Week was the teamwork — we always supported each other and just had fun!”

— Tiffany and Harry, 9L1

Aspirations - Year 8

As part of our Aspirations Week, we took 197 students to Mersea Island for a two-night residential. We stayed in tents and, during the day, completed a range of activities including climbing, caving, swimming and cycling.

The highlight of the trip was on Friday morning, when all the students took part in It's a Knockout, with various games involving inflatables and lots of water.

Our students were amazing and an absolute pleasure to take away. A massive thank you also goes to all the staff who supported the trip.



Aspirations - Year 9

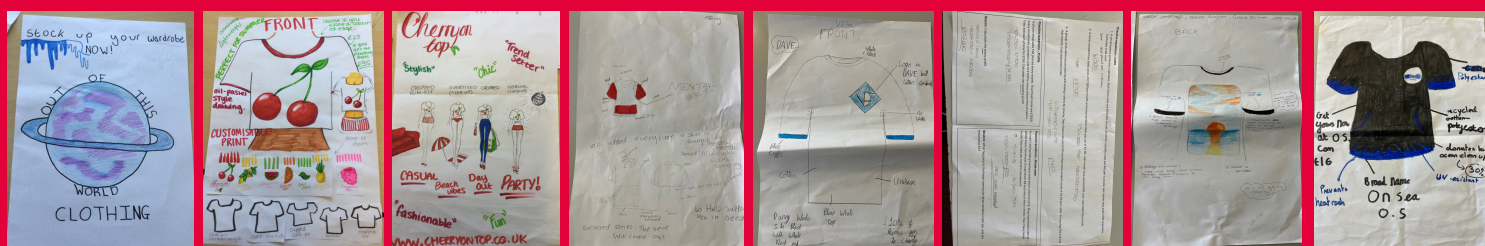
During Aspirations Week, Year 9 were tasked with creating their very own product in the form of a T-shirt. Students were put into teams and worked together to develop their own market research tools, designs, and promotional materials — all in time to present to a panel at the end of the week. The goal was to be selected to design for Class Designs, a brand created specifically for this real-life work project.

Year 9 demonstrated incredibly high levels of maturity and enthusiasm throughout the week, resulting in some outstanding presentations and a consistently high standard of supporting materials across the year group. A huge congratulations to Mr Brooks and the winning group — Elly, Leo, Kim and Vasilios — for impressing our panel with both their design and the confidence they brought to their presentation and product.

For those taking Business or Enterprise and Marketing at GCSE, this project has provided a strong starting point for their course, as well as offering valuable insight into how the subject applies in the real world.

All students who took part should be extremely proud of themselves and the positive impact they had in developing new working relationships across the year group, while also building skills that will support them in the world of business as they begin to explore future career choices.

Mr Taylor



Years 10 and 12 – Work Experience:

As part of Aspirations Week, we were incredibly lucky to welcome a range of inspiring guests who gave their time, insight and support to our students.

Year 7 welcomed Jo Sanderson, a performing arts practitioner and theatre company owner; Lauren Beauchamp, Performing Arts teacher and school Governor; and Daniel Friar, Marketing Director for London's West End. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to gain insight from professionals deeply rooted in the industry.

Year 9 were supported by Sophie Allchin from Mid Essex ITT and Sian Millar, Founder of Polka Dot Farm Nursery. Sian joined students virtually throughout their business project, offering real-world advice and inspiration from her own entrepreneurial journey.

Thank you to all our guests for making Aspirations Week such a memorable experience!

Years 10 and 12 – Work Experience:

Students in Years 10 and 12 took part in work experience placements throughout the week, gaining invaluable insight into the world of work and developing key employability skills to support their future pathways.

Work experience was reintroduced this year after a long pause, with students asked to self-place — independently sourcing their own placements over the course of the academic year.

The feedback from employers has been overwhelmingly positive, with students taking on a wide range of roles in local primary schools, businesses, London offices, and even the Metropolitan Police.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in a hugely successful week!

Abigail S

Abigail S competed in Walking Dressage at the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) National Championships on Saturday 12th July, which took place at Hartpury University and College. Hartpury specialises in equine therapy and horse riding.

Abigail came 6th out of 14 in Walking Dressage, receiving a purple and white rosette. She came 1st in Best Turned Out, receiving a red rosette, and also received a green rosette for participation.

Well done to Abigail on this fantastic achievement!



Callie W

Callie Wins the Barcelona Girls Cup!

We're delighted to share some fantastic news— Callie and her team won the Barcelona Girls Cup this weekend! Callie played brilliantly throughout the tournament, helping her team reach the final after a hard-fought semi-final victory against Swindon Town FC.

The standard of competition was incredibly high, making their win even more impressive. Although Eva couldn't be there in person, she was certainly with the team in spirit.

Callie is rightly proud of her achievement, and we're thrilled to share this photo to celebrate. Well done, Callie!



Thomas Heads to Number 10

I had the great honour of representing our school at a recent roundtable hosted by the UK Prime Minister, alongside Formula 1 champion Lewis Hamilton. The event, held in the beautiful Downing Street gardens, focused on addressing inequality and disadvantage within our education system.

I attended as a representative of the Fair Education Alliance (FEA) – an organisation committed to ending academic inequality through advocacy and data-driven strategies. The FEA brings together over 3,900 members from across education, civil society, youth organisations, business, and think tanks. Also present were partners from the Reach Foundation, Cape Mentors, the Chartered College of Teaching, Board of Advisors for Sky, Co-op Academies, and Oasis Learning Trust.

Convened by Mission 44, the roundtable highlighted the FEA's vital role in championing educational equity. Together with over 300 organisations, the alliance campaigns to ensure every student has a fair chance of success.

During the discussion, we explored innovative approaches to tackling educational disparities and the structural inequalities that persist in our system. We shared insights into effective strategies for supporting disadvantaged students and celebrated pioneering work by organisations such as the Co-op Academies and the Reach Foundation.

As a result of our conversations, the government committed to working in partnership with us to develop inclusion principles and guidelines for schools, enhance student voice and engagement, and address the disparities between young people from low-income backgrounds and their more advantaged peers. These collaborative efforts aim to scale up proven interventions and influence future policy to benefit all learners.

Participating in this roundtable was a truly inspiring and memorable experience. It strengthened my commitment to driving positive change in education and deepened my passion for advocating for a fairer, more inclusive future for all students.

Thomas W – Year 12 Student



Paired Reading Trip

On Tuesday 8th July, 18 Paired Reading students enjoyed a well-deserved rewards trip to CJ's Bowling Alley in Rayleigh. Since November, a group of Year 7 students have been attending the library during tutor time to develop their reading and comprehension skills, as well as boost their self-esteem and confidence. Their commitment and hard work have been outstanding – we are incredibly proud of them.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to our fantastic Year 9 and 10 volunteers, who generously gave their time to support and mentor the younger students. We truly appreciate your efforts!



Congratulations to Our New Head Students – Izzie and Henry!

We are delighted to introduce Izzie and Henry as our newly appointed Head Students for this academic year. Both have already shown great commitment, enthusiasm, and a desire to make a positive difference within the school community. We look forward to the contributions they will make in their leadership roles.

Izzie – Head Student

My name is Izzie, and I'm currently in Year 12. I'm incredibly honoured to have been chosen as one of this year's Head Students. I am studying A Level Politics, A Level Sociology, and Health & Social Care.

I joined Mayflower High School in September to continue my studies in the Sixth Form. As an external student, I was immediately struck by the strong sense of community here, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute to it even further.

I am passionate about helping all students feel heard and supported, and I aim to be a friendly and approachable figure for both students and parents. My main goals this year are to promote student wellbeing and help create a welcoming, inclusive school culture. If you ever need anything, please don't hesitate to come and find me!



Henry – Head Student

Hi, I'm Henry, and I'm a Sixth Form student studying A Levels in Mathematics, Economics, and Politics. I'm thrilled to have been named as one of this year's Head Students (yes—it's a real title!), and I'm really looking forward to working with both students and staff to help make Mayflower an even better place to learn and grow.

One of my key priorities is ensuring that students' voices are not only heard but also reflected in the way the school continues to develop. I also want to be someone who's approachable and easy to talk to—whether you have a suggestion or just want a chat, I'm always happy to listen. Your voice matters.



English Schools National Track and Field – Regional Final

After an outstanding performance in Round 1, both the Junior Boys and Inter Boys teams progressed to the Regional Final at Chelmsford.

All athletes delivered strong performances, despite competing on one of the only wet days of the summer!
In the Inter Boys category, Niall W. was the top scorer with 39 points, running 26.0 seconds in the 200m and throwing 30.94m in the Discus.

For the Junior Boys, Leo H. led the way with 38 points, running 13.8 seconds in the Hurdles and achieving a throw of 9.55m in the Shot Putt.

Well done to all involved for representing the school with such determination and effort!



Essex Schools Championships

This year, 17 students from Mayflower represented the Basildon District Squad at the Essex Schools Championships. The highlight was Elliott A., who became County Champion in the Year 7 Discus with a throw of 23.76m.

In Year 10, Jessica A. finished 5th in the 300m Hurdles Final, and Year 9’s Olivia J.-M. completed a strong performance (please provide Olivia’s finishing position or event to complete the sentence).

District Athletics

This year’s athletes have trained and competed hard all season, reaping the rewards both individually and as a team. The school finished 2nd overall, with the standout performance coming from the Year 9 Girls team, who finished 1st!

To the right is a list of our District Champions and their results.

| Athlete | Event |
|--------------|--------------|
| Elliot A. | 100m, Discus |
| Harry G. | 800m |
| Leo F. | Javelin |
| Charlie C. | 100m |
| Dominic G. | 800m |
| Rocco S. | 800m |
| Sonya S. | High Jump |
| Blossom B. | Discus |
| Sophie B. | 1500m |
| Lily P. | 800m |
| Scarlett D. | Discus |
| Lily S. | Hurdles |
| Hattie S. | High Jump |
| Anya S. | 800m |
| Olivia J.-M. | Discus |



Boys results

| Year 7 | | | | | | | |
|---------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Beau | Bas | Bill | Brom | DLS | May | JHS | Wood |
| 34 | 22 | 58 | 31 | 24 | 64 | 54 | 146 |
| 5th | 8th | 3rd | 6th | 7th | 2nd | 4th | 1st |
| Year 8 | | | | | | | |
| Beau | Bas | Bill | Brom | DLS | May | JHS | Wood |
| 62 | 49 | 46 | 32 | 67 | 62 | 60 | 155 |
| 3rd | 6th | 7th | 8th | 2nd | 3rd | 5th | 1st |
| Year 9 | | | | | | | |
| Beau | Bas | Bill | Brom | DLS | May | JHS | Wood |
| 93 | 33 | 62 | 44 | 62 | 54 | 57 | 131 |
| 2nd | 8th | 3rd | 7th | 3rd | 6th | 5th | 1st |
| Year 10 | | | | | | | |
| Beau | Bas | Bill | Brom | DLS | May | JHS | Wood |
| 55 | 48 | 59 | 37 | 48 | 54 | 49 | 151 |
| 3rd | 6th | 2nd | 8th | 6th | 4th | 5th | 1st |

Girls results

| Year 7 | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Beau | Bas | Bill | Brom | DLS | May | JHS | Wood |
| 42 | 43 | 23 | 54 | 36 | 86 | 40 | 108 |
| 5th | 4th | 8th | 3rd | 7th | 2nd | 6th | 1st |
| Year 8 | | | | | | | |
| Beau | Bas | Bill | Brom | DLS | May | JHS | Wood |
| 65 | 12 | 27 | 66 | 51 | 98 | 61 | 102 |
| 4th | 8th | 7th | 3rd | 6th | 2nd | 5th | 1st |
| Year 9 | | | | | | | |
| Beau | Bas | Bill | Brom | DLS | May | JHS | Wood |
| 74 | 21 | 59 | 11 | 90 | 109 | 37 | 99 |
| 4th | 7th | 5th | 8th | 3rd | 1st | 6th | 2nd |
| SNR | | | | | | | |
| Beau | Bas | Bill | Brom | DLS | May | JHS | Wood |
| 48 | 73 | 29 | 52 | 46 | 37 | 66 | 152 |
| 5th | 2nd | 8th | 4th | 6th | 7th | 3rd | 1st |



Boys Under 13s Cricket

The boys' Under-13 cricket team competed in the district tournament held at Wickford CC. They played two hard-ball T10 matches, securing a convincing win against Woodlands, but narrowly losing to a very strong Beauchamps side.



Boys Under 12s Chance to Compete

The Year 7s played in the County Finals of the Essex Softball 'Chance to Compete' competition. After the first round was cancelled due to rain, Mayflower was invited to take part in the finals day held at Wickford CC.

The day started strongly, with the boys winning both of their opening games, including an impressive victory against Westcliff High School for Boys. Despite the good start, the team were unable to maintain their momentum and finished the tournament in a respectable 4th place.

Train Like a Pro Elite Football Day

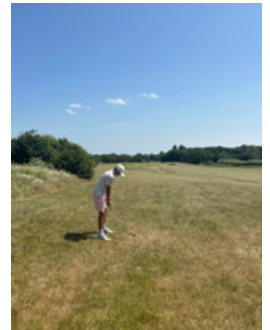
Over two days, we had the pleasure of taking sixty-three gifted and talented footballers to Bowers & Pitsea Football Club — thirty-two boys on 27th June and thirty-one girls on 4th July. The aim of the trip was to give students a taste of life as a professional footballer. They received coaching from top-level coaches with Ferdinand Collective, focusing on developing their technical and tactical skills.

At the end of each day, the coaches praised the students' skills, effort, and manners, and expressed their enthusiasm to work with the school again.



Mayflower Golf Trip

Nineteen pupils from Years 8 to 10 were invited to take part in the 'Mayflower High School Golf Day' at Garon Park Golf Club. The day included coaching from a PGA professional, followed by 18 holes on the Championship Course. Brilliant golf was played by all—less so by Mr Sullivan!



Year 7 Rounders

A massive well done to the Year 7 rounders team, who have played many matches this term, finishing with the district rounders competition. The pupils took part in numerous extra training sessions and have improved tremendously since Easter. They began the season with friendlies against Redden Court, Anglo, Beauchamps, and Bromfords, winning three out of four.

In the district competition, the team played against several local schools, winning four games and drawing the final to become joint winners. Unfortunately, the result was decided on rounders scored, so unofficially they finished second. Massive congratulations to the team on an excellent season!



Year 9 Girls Rounders

Congratulations to the Year 9 rounders team, who were crowned district champions for the second successive year. They beat James Hornsby at home 12-3 and Beauchamps High School 7.5-3.5. This is a true testament to their hard work and dedication since Easter. Well done, girls – a well-deserved win!

Year 8 Rounders

The Year 8 rounders team have had a busy half term competing in numerous matches. They started the season with friendlies against Redden Court and Beauchamps, securing two wins thanks to some excellent fielding. Next, they played Bromfords in a crucial match, knowing a win would see them through to the County Finals. Once again, outstanding fielding led to a well-deserved victory.

At the County Finals, the team gave an excellent effort against strong opposition but narrowly missed out, finishing in 4th place. Their final tournament of the year was the District competition, where they aimed to defend their title from last year. Three comfortable wins meant they successfully retained the District Rounders Championship.

Well done to all the players for their hard work and dedication in training and matches this year!





Under 13s Girls Cricket

The U13 Girls Cricket team were crowned district champions after victories over Woodlands, De La Salle, and Beauchamps at Rettendon Cricket Club. It was a fantastic morning of cricket, with all players showing great skill in bowling, batting, and fielding. This is Mayflower's second consecutive year winning the trophy. Well done, girls!

Mayflower Park Run Takeover

What a fantastic morning we had for Mayflower's takeover of Billericay parkrun! On a gloriously warm Saturday, Lake Meadows was buzzing with energy as we welcomed 333 participants and a record-breaking 82 volunteers. A huge thank you to all the parents, staff, and pupils who made it possible by running, walking, or volunteering. The morning was perfectly topped off with our incredible Mayflower cake. Our next event will be the junior parkrun takeover on Sunday 5th October — we hope to see lots of you there!



Sports Leaders

We want to thank all our amazing sports leaders for their dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work throughout the year. Your support in organising and running over thirty sporting events for local primary schools, motivating teams, and leading by example has made a huge difference. The positive feedback from staff and parents has been overwhelming. Thank you for being such an important part of our school community!

Edith L., Nicole H., Lily P., Eva B., Jessica G., Jasmine B., Tilly L., Eva L.-S., Isabella S., Sophie B., Ben P., Henry M., Harry P., Danny P., Joey P., Ethan A., Jack S., Leo H., Kieran A., Ethan L., Elliot L., George J., Hudson D., Chris C., Taylor H., Will T., Eliana N., Bella E., Hannah C., Freya S., Zoe M., Olivia J. M., Sophie L., Maisie W., Denisa P., Jessica C., Anya S., Olivia G., Amy T., Esme P., Hollie S., Harry D.

Sports Day 2025



MAYFLOWER PTFA FUNDING FOR 2025!

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**OUTDOOR
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**DRAMA
SCREEN**

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MATS &
BENCHES**

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GIMBALS** **SPORTS
MEDALS**

£345

£382

ECO CLUB

**LITTER
PICKERS**

£130

**SPANISH
BADGES**

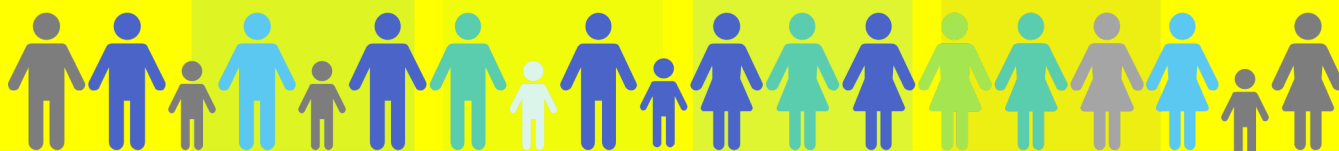
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**All money raised will be spent on
projects in the school for 2025/6**

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