



Newsletter

February 2026

Issue No. 3

What a term it has been!

This week, I had the pleasure of attending our production of *Oliver!*, and I was truly in awe of the talent within our school. From the lead performers to the wider cast, crew and technical team, everyone involved delivered an outstanding show. The dedication of both students and staff ensured a production of the highest quality, and I could not be prouder of our school community.

This term has also seen our Year 11 and Year 13 students complete their second round of PPE examinations as they prepare for their GCSEs and A Levels in May. Their focus and maturity during this important period have been commendable.

Beyond the classroom, students have taken part in a range of enriching experiences, including visits to Ely Cathedral, Disneyland Paris and the Royal Opera House. Over half term, a number of students will also be embarking on a ski trip—another exciting opportunity to broaden their experiences.

The positive attitudes of our students and the hard work of our staff were clearly reflected in our Ofsted report, published in January. We look forward to welcoming parents to an upcoming information evening, where we will share some key highlights from the report and, importantly, outline our vision and next steps for the future. Further details were sent to you earlier this week.

I would like to thank you for your continued support this term. I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable break.

Mr Lee



Damian Lee
Headteacher

In this Issue:

- Oliver! Jnr
- Film Studies
- KS3 Drama
- KS4 Drama
- Matilda The Musical
- Criminology
- Pre loved Prom Dresses
- Thank you PTFA
- Health & Social Care
- Axolotis
- Recruitment & Selection
- Yr 7 Ely Cathedral
- Bronze Dof E
- Art - Teachers Artist of the half term
- KS3 Drama Homework
- Ray S
- Pantomime Trip
- Exams Update
- Yr 12 Question Time
- DT Update
- RA Young Artists
- Dr Fran Visit
- Jack Petchey
- Vegetable Patch
- Library Update
- ROH Trip
- Safer School
- Sports Report

Oliver! Jr

This final week of the half term saw the school production of Oliver! Jr. A cast of 60 students performed four shows for friends and family, as well as one show for local primary schools.

It has been fantastic to see so many Year 7 students and new faces in the cast this year. We also now have a highly professional student stage crew to run our shows. The cast and crew have been a pleasure to work with, and we have all had a brilliant time bringing a bleak (and sometimes smoky!) Victorian London to Billericay.



Oliver Jnr!



KS4 Drama

Year 10 students are currently working on Component 3 – Interpreting Theatre as part of the Edexcel GCSE Drama course. As part of Section B: Live Theatre Review, pupils took part in a theatre trip to London to watch Matilda. Students are developing their understanding of design elements, including set, sound, lighting and costume, and exploring how these choices communicate meaning to an audience. Alongside this, they are analysing vocal and physical performance skills and practising how to respond effectively to 15-mark exam questions.

Matilda the Musical - Trip

GCSE Drama students recently attended a performance of Matilda the Musical in London as part of their live theatre review for the GCSE examination.

The trip was a fantastic evening, and students met all expectations regarding behaviour and conduct. They were polite throughout and represented Mayflower High School exceptionally well. During the visit, students made detailed notes in their theatre review booklets to support their preparation for the examination questions, focusing on the performance and design elements of the production.



Criminologists Cryptic Killers

Last term, just before the Christmas break, our Year 13 Criminology students swapped the classroom for the crime scene as they “became” detectives for the day. Tasked with solving two fictional cryptic killer cases, students followed clues, analysed evidence and put their criminology knowledge to the test in this fantastic interactive activity. The experience encouraged critical thinking, problem-solving and teamwork, while bringing their learning to life in an engaging and memorable way.



Pre Loved Prom Dresses

The team are delivering the Pre-Loved Prom Pop-Up Shop for a second year, following the success of last year's event, which helped 220 local teenagers attend their prom. They are back this year with a bigger space and even greater ambition. The initiative will support even more young people to feel confident and celebrated on prom night. Bookings are now live. This initiative is designed to support families who may struggle with the cost of prom. If this support would be helpful, families are encouraged to book a free slot at: <https://bit.ly/49pl6lw>

There is no cost and no catch — just kindness, community and a shared belief that every young person deserves their prom moment.

If you have any further questions, please contact the team at zest@key-lime.co.uk or call 01277 600320.

BACK FOR 2026!

PRE-LOVED PROM POP-UP SHOP

Saturday 21st March 9am – 5pm & **Sunday 22nd March 10am – 4pm**

THE BAYTREE SHOPPING CENTRE

Pre-book an appointment at baytreeshoppingcentre.com

Supported by **essex** keylime

Thank You to Our PTFA

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the PTFA for their continued dedication and support of our school. Through their tireless fundraising efforts, the PTFA make a significant difference to our students by providing valuable funding to departments across the school.

The PTFA have held a number of successful events this year, most recently the Artisan Market held before Christmas, which raised a substantial amount of money. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who supported and attended these events, as they directly enable the PTFA to fund resources and initiatives that benefit the school.

Recently, the PTFA have funded the following projects:

- £2,500 towards a new trampoline
- £2,000 for music equipment
- £2,174.96 for equipment for the Science Department
- £150 to support a breakfast club
- £212.48 to provide whiteboards for the Geography Department

These contributions will have a positive impact on both staff and students, enhancing learning opportunities and wellbeing across the school.

We would also like to encourage families to continue supporting upcoming PTFA events, including uniform sales, revision guide sales and the Lucky Lotto. Your ongoing support is invaluable and helps to ensure the PTFA can continue to make such a meaningful contribution to our school.

Thank you once again to the PTFA and to everyone who supports their work.

Health & Social Care - Disneyland Paris

A group of 29 Year 10 and Sixth Form Health and Social Care students recently returned from an unforgettable trip to Disneyland Paris, packed with learning, adventure and magical memories.

From start to finish, the behaviour of all students was absolutely fantastic, and they represented the school with pride at every stage of the visit.

A key highlight of the trip was attending a Health and Social Care seminar focused on barriers and accessibility, where students engaged thoughtfully with important real-world issues and applied their learning beyond the classroom.

Alongside this, students enjoyed visits to both Disney parks, experiencing a wide variety of rides, meeting many much-loved Disney characters and soaking up the unique atmosphere of the resort. The group also visited Val d'Europe, giving students further opportunities to explore independently.

Throughout the entire trip, students showed exceptional maturity, demonstrating independence, resilience and a consistently positive attitude. Their enthusiasm, responsibility and willingness to support one another made the trip a huge success and a truly rewarding experience for all involved.

Having introduced Health and Social Care into the Mayflower curriculum last year, this cohort was the first group to study the subject. Their enthusiasm, happiness and enjoyment have clearly demonstrated how successful the subject has been and highlight its strong potential as it continues to develop within Mayflower.



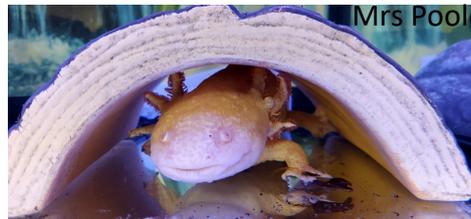
Shadow and Marshmallow – Our Science Lab Superstars!

If you've wandered past the science lab recently, you may have noticed two very special residents quietly stealing the show. Shadow and Marshmallow, our axolotls, have officially become the most glamorous members of the department – and honestly, we are simply looking for excuses to show them off.

Axolotls are fascinating amphibians, known for their permanent smiles, feathery gills and superpower-level ability to regenerate body parts. Shadow and Marshmallow take their ambassadorial roles very seriously, spending their days calmly observing lab life, posing beautifully for photographs and reminding us all to slow down occasionally.

Although they are not performing experiments or solving equations (yet), they are already supporting science learning by sparking curiosity, inspiring questions and providing a great talking point about adaptations, habitats and conservation. They have also been excellent role models for calm behaviour during busy school days.

If you have not met them yet, keep an eye out next time you are near Lab 17 – and enjoy the photograph alongside this article. We think you will agree: Shadow and Marshmallow are axolotl-ly gorgeous.



Recruitment and selection



As part of the BTEC Level 3 coursework for Unit 8, the Year 12 students have been actively engaged in completing their coursework roleplays, taking on the roles of both interviewer and interviewee for their chosen job positions. This has helped them to develop their interview skills in preparation for the world of work after Sixth Form, with all students demonstrating excellent listening skills, the ability to ask probing questions, and providing detailed responses. And, of course, they have truly dressed the part!

Mr Taylor

Year 7 Ely Cathedral

Year 7 visited Ely Cathedral as part of their Religious Studies curriculum to support their learning about religion in practice and the historical role of the Church in the UK.

During the visit, students learned about the Cathedral as a place of worship and explored how monastic communities influenced society. They also studied the collapse of the original central tower and its replacement by the Octagon, using this as an example of how religious buildings have adapted over time.

The trip included a range of practical activities, such as designing model replacement towers, candle making and illumination. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to see Religious Studies in context and to extend learning beyond the classroom.

Mr Wallen

Bronze DofE Training Day



Our Bronze DofE participants had a brilliant and busy training day as they continued their journey towards completing the Award. The day focused on developing key expedition skills, including navigation, route planning, teamwork and campcraft. Students practised map-reading and compass work, learned how to pack rucksacks correctly, and discussed how to stay safe and motivated while out on expedition. Everyone showed great enthusiasm, resilience and a willingness to support one another—exactly the qualities the DofE is designed to develop. It was fantastic to see confidence growing throughout the day as skills improved with practice. Well done to all students involved for their positive attitude and effort. We look forward to seeing these skills put into action on the upcoming expedition!

Artist of the Half Term

Each half term, every teacher in the Art Department nominates a student they believe has shown excellent effort both in and outside of lesson time. Congratulations to Peniel O, Gracie S, Grace T and Isabella S for this half term’s nominations, recognising their outstanding work produced so far! We are very excited to see what you all achieve as the year continues.



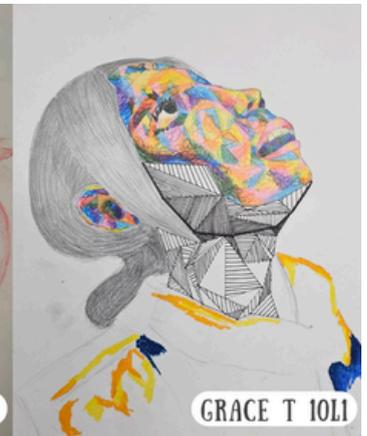
GRACIE S 10M2



PENIEL O 10L2



ISABELLA S 9B2



GRACE T 10L1

KS3 Drama Homework

Rosie-May G’s Winterwonderland Pantomime homework.



Oliver M and his Cinderella homework Jack L’s Lion Cake!



Ray S

Congratulations to Ray S in 8B1, who has been selected to represent England at the Turku Under-13s Ice Hockey Tournament in Finland. This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to R's dedication, commitment, and talent in a highly competitive sport.

Being selected to play at international level is a huge honour, and we are incredibly proud to see one of our students representing their country on the global stage. We wish Ray the very best of luck in the tournament and look forward to hearing all about this exciting experience.



KS3 Drama

Mayflower took over Chelmsford's Civic Theatre as 250 Year 7 students enjoyed the pantomime Aladdin before the Christmas break. We booed, hissed and laughed our way through an afternoon of fabulous pantomime jokes and loved seeing Mr Cottee at the centre of the Dames' attention!



Exams Office

The Exams Office has had a busy half term, with results, Pre-Public Examinations and Winter exams for BTEC students. We are very proud of the students who achieved a grade 4 or higher in the November examination series and continue to support those who will need to retake exams in the summer.

Year 11 and Year 13 have now completed their final practice ahead of the Summer exams. May I remind students to ensure they have all their equipment in a clear bag or pencil case and that throughout the exams, there should be no talking or communication of any kind. Only water in a see-through bottle is permitted in the exam hall. The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has very stringent rules and regulations, and it is essential that students follow these to the best of their ability. Invigilators, who supervise students during exams, have been trained to uphold these rules and regulations on behalf of the Head of Centre.

After half term, we will be well into preparations for the Summer exams. Students with entries will be sent a timetable to check. There will be practical exams for Food Preparation and Nutrition students. After the Easter break, Language students will sit their spoken element, and Art students will complete their timed assessments. Students must be available from their first exam until their last exam, including the contingency day on Wednesday 24 June. While infrequently used, the contingency day is set aside to account for any local or national emergency. We will inform you as soon as possible if the contingency day is required.

The next half term is crucial for many students, with coursework submissions and the final stages of learning and revision underway. I have seen how hard the students have been working, and in this last stretch they may become tired. While it is important to continue working, it is equally important to rest. I hope the half term break provides a well-earned opportunity for our exam students to recharge.

Mrs Skudder

Year 12

We were immensely privileged to secure tickets once again for the Sixth Form Question Time event at Westminster Abbey this half term.

Fifteen Year 12 Religious Studies and Politics students attended, taking part in a debate in the style of Question Time, with serving politicians, campaigners and people of faith on the panel. Two of our students, selected from over 70 entries, Amelia H and Izzy C, were chosen to pose questions to the panel!

Prior to the main event, the students also had the opportunity to tour Westminster Abbey and the cloisters. This was a rewarding experience for all involved and will continue to support students in both curriculums going forward.

Mr M Wallen, Miss M Hughes

DT Update

This half term, our students have been busy completing projects in Year 7 and Year 8. Next half term, Year 9 will be working on their Helping Hand Grabber project, which will be featured in the next newsletter.



In Year 7, students have now completed their mechanical toy projects. They have learned about the basic cam mechanism to create a functioning toy to take home. In the process, they have developed skills using a range of hand tools and machines, including pillar drills and the disc sander, to complete their projects.



Look at just a sample of some of the amazing work that has been produced.

In Year 8, students have been exploring design strategies to create unique shapes and designs for their clocks. They have learned how to use a craft knife safely and with precision to produce a creative piece of work. Students then used glue guns, coloured card and additional materials to give their clocks a high-quality finish. Take a look at some of the stunning work that has been produced—all crafted from cardboard and card! A huge well done to our Year 8 students; the work demonstrates excellent finishing and highly creative designs.



In Year 11, our GCSE students have been busy creating their final products designed to help in the home. A wide variety of problems are being solved, with products including storage solutions, shelving and even items for pets.

The deadline for completing the practical projects is 20 March 2026, and the NEA slides document must be submitted by 20 April 2026.

As a reminder, we are always happy to support our students in achieving their best. They can check with the DT department to find out when they can come and work with us on their projects. Keep going, Year 11—you can do it!



RA



Call for entries

There is an opportunity for students aged 4–18, studying in the UK, to exhibit their artwork either on site or online at the Royal Academy of Arts. Submissions are open from 5 January to 4 March 2026.

Time to Shine

Young Artists' Summer Show

2026

**Speak to Mr Clarke
for more details**

Royal
Academy
of Arts

Made possible by Robin Hambro



Year 7 Fr Dan visit

We were privileged and delighted this half term to welcome Fr Dan Mason, Parish Priest of Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, to speak to the Year 7 students. Fr Dan spoke about the importance of Jesus to Christians, including discussing evidence for and against Jesus being the Son of God, and the significance of faith in the Christian life.



We were also very fortunate to hear a witness testimony from Christina, a visiting Catholic from Germany. Year 7 found the experience engaging, and it will be extremely useful for their current enquiry, “Was Jesus the Son of God?”

Mr M Wallen

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

On Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 January, 56 Year 10 students took part in our annual Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge workshops. These workshops provide a fantastic opportunity for our students to work with experts from the Speakers Trust, who deliver sessions focused on public speaking and developing a confident voice. Students learned how to plan, structure and deliver an inspiring speech on a topic they felt passionately about. They also took part in fun games and activities designed to encourage ideas, opinions and confidence. It was wonderful to see the students so engaged and enthusiastic, and the quality of the speeches and topics covered was outstanding. Eight finalists were chosen to progress to the next round, where we will select our representatives for the regional finals, taking place on 19 March at Moulsham High School. A huge well done to all the students involved—it was a truly memorable experience.

Mayflower Vegetable Patch

Mayflower High now has its very own vegetable patch! We have just begun growing some herbs and vegetables, ready to be planted outside once the weather warms up. Students have enjoyed getting involved and are excited to watch their seeds grow. Watch this space!



Library Update

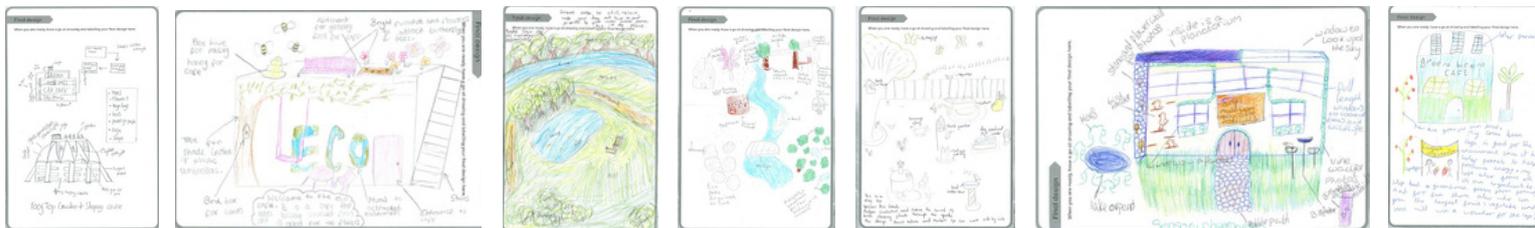
This half term, Year 7 students have been taking part in The We Wonder: Protect Our Nature competition, run by the National Literacy Trust.

Students used non-fiction books to conduct research into nature, conservation and climate change, as well as exploring fiction books that inspired them. Using this knowledge, they then designed a green space that they felt would benefit humans, animals and the environment.

The ideas they came up with were incredible: wellbeing gardens, cafés with beehives, skyscrapers with wall gardens, nature walks, and animal bridges over motorways, just to name a few.

Each class's winning entry will be submitted to the National Literacy Trust competition for the chance to win books for the school and for themselves. Winners will be announced after half term and will receive a Library competition bronze badge—and, of course, some sweets!

Below are just some of the amazing ideas the students created.



Music Department Trip to the Royal Opera House to see Verdi's 'La traviata'

On Wednesday 28 January, we were pleased to take 47 of our musicians from Year 7 and Year 10 to watch a matinee performance of the world's most performed opera, La traviata.

The musical performance was spellbinding, with extremely talented opera singers demonstrating remarkable control over their voices, particularly in terms of intonation and dynamic contrast. A standout moment was the duet in the second act. The orchestra sounded magnificent, and the scenery and staging brought the story to life, eliciting audible gasps from the audience.

We were also privileged to see a behind-the-scenes demonstration of how the scenery is changed between Acts 2 and 3, along with an explanation of how young people can apply for apprenticeships in this field as a potential future career.

It was an absolute pleasure to take such a lovely group of musicians to enjoy the opera. I look forward to working with them after half term on a performance of the famous drinking song, "Libiamo ne' lieti calici", to further develop their understanding of the opera.



SAFER SCHOOLS ENGLAND

To find out more information on how to be safe online, download the Safer School England App.

You can sign in using the QR code or the codes that are for your Key Stage.



Mayflower High School



KS3
2952



KS4
3766



KS5
7650



Parent and Carers
5500



Essex Schools ITT Recruitment Evening - 12th March 2026

Are you considering a career in teaching? Join us for the Essex Schools ITT Recruitment Evening on Thursday 12 March 2026 at 7:30pm (London time) to discover more about Initial Teacher Training opportunities across Essex. This is a fantastic chance to meet representatives from local schools, ask questions about the ITT process, and explore how you could start your journey into teaching.

Event Details:

- Date & Time: Thursday 12 March 2026, 7:30 PM
- Location: Online via Zoom
- Zoom Link: [Join Here](#)
- Meeting ID: 893 7735 8145
- Passcode: 346832

Don't miss this opportunity to take the first step towards a rewarding career shaping the future!



English Schools Cross Country Cup Regional Final at Felsted School

The Year 11 football team finally ended their five-year losing streak against Woodlands in the district league with an impressive 3-1 win. The boys earned every bit of their victory, showing real maturity both on and off the pitch.

Standout performances included Lucas F., who scored a wonder goal after weaving past three or four Woodlands players, and Year 10 Archie M., playing a year above, who completely shut down any attack down the right-hand side.

This win currently puts Mayflower at the top of the league, meaning a semi-final against the fourth-placed school is likely. Could this be the year the boys go all the way and win it at Billericay?

Updates on the next round of the County Cup will feature in next half term's sports report, as the matches are scheduled for the final week of the half term. Both the Year 10 and Year 11 teams have a great chance of progressing further.



Year 8 Boys Basketball

Having trailed Beauchamps from the second minute, the boys never gave up, keeping the score close throughout. Going into the fourth quarter, they were three points behind. George delivered a rousing team talk before taking the court, and Kyle responded with two consecutive two-pointers to secure a lead they would not relinquish, finishing 22-21.

MVP went to Elliot, who made a remarkable comeback after breaking his leg in September.



Year 7 Girls Basketball

The Year 7 girls recently played De La Salle and established a strong position by taking an early lead in the first quarter. They maintained their momentum through the second and third quarters. By the fourth quarter, De La Salle began to fight back, but the Mayflower girls weathered the late storm to secure a well-deserved victory.

Next up: St Martins in the Essex Cup semi-finals!



Girls Netball

The Year 9 girls have continued their impressive run in the district this half term, playing all their remaining matches. They have won every game and are now unbeaten in the district – well done!

The U14A team have also continued their progress in the Essex Plate, defeating local rivals Billericay in a hard-fought quarter-final. This victory takes them into the semi-final, which will be played after half term

The U14B team also continued their run in the Essex Cup, playing a quarter-final against Redden Court. It was goal for goal in the first half, but unfortunately Redden Court managed to pull ahead in the second half. A fantastic achievement for a team made up mostly of Year 9 students to reach this stage!

The Year 7 team have had a busy half term, playing two district matches. Despite the wet and cold conditions, they fought hard to secure two well-deserved wins. They now look forward to their upcoming Essex Cup quarter-final.



Year 7 Boys Basketball

The Year 7 boys continue to impress with a strong district league win over De La Salle. Player of the Match: Jamie R.



Under 13s Cricket

A combined team of Year 7 and Year 8 students have qualified for the County Finals of Indoor Cricket. Two emphatic wins in the group stage secured our place, and we now look forward to the finals day at Leyton Cricket Hub. Player of the Tournament: Teddy S.

Boys Senior Basketball

A big win against Beauchamps in the Senior Boys District Semi-Final has secured the boys a place in the district final. A narrow league defeat to Woodlands earlier highlighted the challenge that awaits in the final, but the team is ready to rise to the occasion.

