



Mayflower
High School



Newsletter

July 2026

Issue No. 6

What a year it has been! As we come to the end of another successful school year, I want to thank our students, staff and families for everything they have done to make it such a positive one.

There have been so many highlights, from trips, performances and sporting events to our fantastic Ofsted report, which recognised the hard work and commitment of everyone in our school community.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have now finished their exams, and we wish them every success as they look ahead to the next chapter.

Over the summer, a group of our students will be heading off to Peru for an incredible month-long expedition. We wish them a fantastic experience and can't wait to hear all about it when they return.

I hope everyone has a well-deserved, restful summer break, and we look forward to welcoming you back in September for another exciting year at Mayflower High School.

Damian Lee
Headteacher



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Headteacher

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Sports Leader Shine at Primary School Sports Day

Mayflower High Sports Leaders finished the year by supporting the annual Primary Schools Sports Days and, once again, they represented our school with pride, enthusiasm and professionalism.

Throughout the day, the students worked alongside primary staff to help organise events, encourage participants, keep activities running smoothly, and ensure every child had a positive and enjoyable experience. Their kindness, patience and leadership made a real difference, helping the younger pupils feel confident and excited to take part.

The feedback from the primary school staff was overwhelmingly positive. They praised our students for their maturity, reliability and willingness to help throughout the event. Many staff members commented on how well the sports leaders interacted with the children, and how their support contributed to the smooth running of the day.

Parents and spectators also shared excellent comments, highlighting the students' friendly attitudes, encouragement and positive role models for the younger children. It was wonderful to hear so many compliments about the respect, teamwork and enthusiasm shown by our students.

We are incredibly proud of all our Sports Leaders who volunteered their time and energy throughout the year. They have demonstrated outstanding leadership, excellent communication skills and a genuine commitment to supporting others. Their efforts reflect our school's values and helped make these events memorable and successful for everyone involved.

Well done to all of our sports leaders — you were fantastic ambassadors for our school!

Our Sports Leaders: Alfie A, Amelia S, Archie N, Archie W, Ben P, Briar R, Charlie C, Charlie P, Danny P, Dominic G, Edith L, Erin T, Eva A, Eva B, Eva I S, Eva M, Eva W, Florence B, Franky B, Freddie C, Harry P, Isaack K, Isabella S, Izzy S, Jack S, Jamie N, Jasmine B, Jess P, Jessica G, Leo H, Lily P, Lola F, Nicole H, Polina C, Sophie B, Tilly L, Zach P and Matilda C.

Celebrating Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award Success

This term, we were delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievements of a number of our current and former students who have successfully completed the prestigious Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Our award holders were invited to a special presentation event at Buckingham Palace, where they joined hundreds of other young people from across the country in recognition of their dedication, resilience and commitment. Set across two gloriously sunny days, the event was filled with excitement, pride and celebration, with families sharing in this unforgettable milestone.

Several of our students had the opportunity to meet and speak with Prince Edward, the Duke of Edinburgh, who congratulated them on their remarkable accomplishments. It was a truly memorable experience and one that our students will cherish for years to come.

Attending the event required careful planning, as many of our students balanced their attendance around A-level examinations and revision commitments. Their determination to manage both their academic studies and this prestigious celebration is testament to their exceptional organisation and perseverance.

The Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the highest level of the programme and represents years of dedication, challenge and personal growth. We are incredibly proud of all our award recipients and congratulate them on this well-deserved recognition. Their achievements are an inspiration to our entire school community, and we wish them every success in their future endeavours.



Keeping Shadow and Marshmallow Cool This Summer!

Shadow and Marshmallow are fascinating members of a species that originates from Lake Xochimilco in Mexico City. They are known for their unique appearance and amazing ability to regenerate parts of their bodies.

As axolotls come from Mexico, many people assume that they thrive in warm water. However, this is actually a common misconception. Although Mexico can experience hot weather, the waters of Lake Xochimilco remain much cooler than many people realise. Axolotls are cold-water animals and need temperatures of between 16°C and 20°C to stay healthy and comfortable.

Water temperatures above 24°C can be very dangerous for axolotls. Warm water reduces the amount of oxygen available, causes stress, weakens their immune systems and can lead to serious illness. During summer heatwaves, keeping their tank cool becomes especially important.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Mayflower School PTFA, who donated £300, we have been able to purchase a water chiller to keep Shadow and Marshmallow safe throughout the warmer months. This equipment helps maintain a stable, healthy temperature in their aquarium, even during summer heatwaves.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the PTFA for their support. Their donation is making a real difference to the welfare of our axolotls, helping us to ensure that Shadow and Marshmallow remain healthy, happy and comfortable all summer long.

Thank you, Mayflower School PTFA, for helping us take such brilliant care of our special aquatic friends!



Year 12 Thorpe Park Trip – 2nd July 2026

Students recently enjoyed an exciting day out at Thorpe Park, making the most of the park's world-famous rides and attractions. From the adrenaline rush of the rollercoasters and enjoying getting soaked on the water rides, to spending time with friends; the trip was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the end of a busy term and create lasting memories.

Throughout the day, students demonstrated excellent behaviour, maturity and respect, and were a credit to the school. It was particularly pleasing to see them supporting one another, trying new experiences and embracing every opportunity the day had to offer.

A huge thank you to all the staff who organised and accompanied the trip, ensuring everything ran smoothly and safely. We hope everyone who attended had a brilliant day and we look forward to offering more exciting trips and enrichment opportunities in the future.



🌟 Year 8 Spanish Spelling Bee Champions! 🌟

¡Felicidades! Congratulations to all our Year 8 students who took part in this year's Spanish Spelling Bee. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, resilience and impressive language skills shown by everyone involved.

🏆 1st Place 🌟 Thomas L (8R1)

🥈 2nd Place 🌟 Vellita M (8L2) 🌟 Sophie H (8L1) 🌟 Sarah F (8M1)

🥉 3rd Place 🌟 James H (8B2) 🌟 Will H (8L1) 🌟 Amy A (8R1) 🌟 Oghoghosa E (8B2)

A huge well done to all participants for their hard work and dedication to learning Spanish. We are so proud of your achievements and look forward to seeing your language skills continue to grow.

¡Buen trabajo a todos! 🌟

Mayflower High School Memorial Garden by Eco Club

We are excited to share an update on the progress of the Mayflower High School Memorial Garden. Over the past few months, we have really enjoyed caring for this special space and thinking about how we can develop it next. We are now reaching out to all students and teachers: if you have any ideas on how we can improve or expand the garden – whether it is new plants, design concepts, or how the space could be used by the community – please come and talk to us. You can find us in Room 32, or you can speak to Mr Cerson, who will gather your suggestions for the Eco Club to review. We will go through them all thoughtfully to see what fits best with our vision for the garden. Since we are working with a limited budget, we would also be incredibly grateful for any donations, such as plant pots, soil, seeds or tools. Every little helps, and we truly appreciate your support. We would like to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed so far, and to those who help us in the future.

In addition, a special mention must go to Emily T, Russell S, Kaylee F, Esme H and Selina M, who have dedicated so much of their time and effort to the memorial garden in all weathers. We would also like to say a big thank you to Mr Cerson for supervising this project, and to Mr Kilvert for kindly letting us use his gardening tools. We certainly wouldn't be where we are today without these wonderful people!

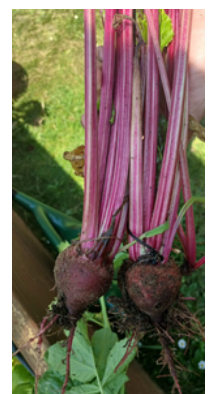
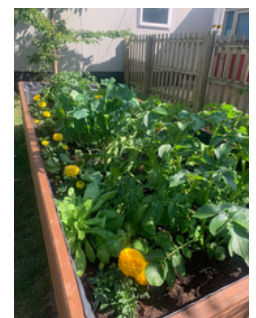
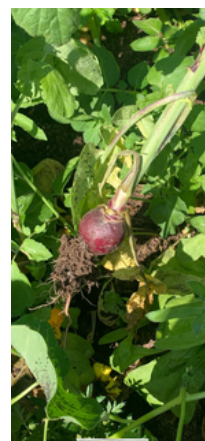
Vegetable Bonanza!

There was great excitement in the school vegetable garden this week as students harvested a fantastic crop of delicious new potatoes. This harvest is the latest success in what has been an incredibly productive growing season.

Throughout the summer, students have also enjoyed picking fresh radishes, spring onions and beetroot, learning valuable gardening skills while seeing the rewards of their hard work.

Thanks to generous donations, our garden has continued to grow. We have recently planted apple, pear and plum trees, which will provide even more opportunities for students to learn about growing their own food. We are already looking forward to seeing the trees flourish and enjoying their first harvest in the years to come.

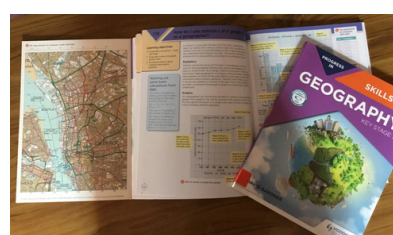
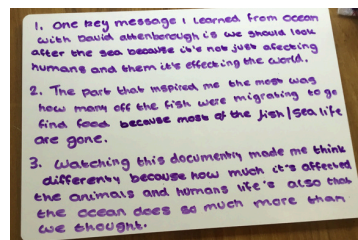
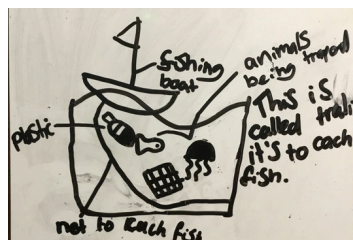
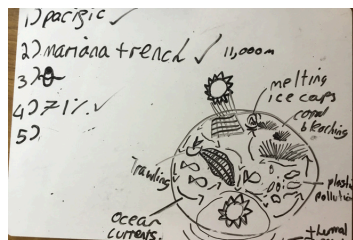
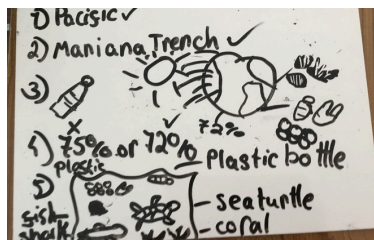
A huge thank you goes to everyone who has supported our school garden. It continues to be a wonderful space for learning, teamwork and celebrating the joys of growing fresh produce.



Geography

As the academic year draws to a close, the Geography department would like to thank all of our students across KS3, KS4 and KS5 for their hard work and commitment over the past year. To wrap up the summer term, our classes have been busy finishing their final units. Year 7 are concluding the year by learning about oceans, Year 8 are investigating glaciers, and Year 9 are studying how we sustain ecosystems. In our exam year groups, Year 10 have been focusing on tectonics, while Year 12 are centring their attention on their independent Non-Examined Assessments (NEA). Please note that all resources used throughout the year remain available for student revision via Google Drive > Shared Drives > Student Resources > Geography. June was also an important month for our fieldwork data collection. Our Year 10 students visited Walton-on-the-Naze for a coastal field trip to study erosion and management, while our Year 12 students spent time in Southwold gathering primary data for their NEAs. Both year groups worked exceptionally hard and collected excellent data. Over the summer break, we encourage students to keep an eye out for geography in the news. Current events provide excellent real-world context for the topics we cover in the classroom. Finally, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the PTFA. Your support this year has been invaluable, allowing us to successfully embed the use of mini-whiteboards into our everyday lessons. Looking ahead to next year, the money raised will also help us embed further geographical skills at KS3. The resources you provide truly make a tangible difference to our department and our students' learning.

We wish you all a safe and restful summer break.
Mrs Reville



Psychology in Action

This term, our Year 12 Psychology students stepped out of the textbook to conduct their own independent research projects. Students were responsible for exploring previous studies, developing a hypothesis, and planning, carrying out and evaluating their own research before presenting their findings to the class.

The projects covered a fascinating mix of classic cognitive science and modern behaviour:

- **Memory & Focus:** Students investigated the Stroop Effect (the mental lag when reading a colour word printed in a different ink colour) and how context-dependent cues affect how well we recall information.
- **Media & Beliefs:** One project tackled reporting bias, exploring how the way information is framed directly alters people's opinions.
- **Social Media & FOMO:** Investigations looked into how age impacts screen time, as well as the influence of FOMO (fear of missing out).

Conducting independent research requires rigorous data analysis, ethical planning and critical evaluation. The Year 12s did a fantastic job managing these academic challenges and delivering some incredibly insightful presentations.

Exams summer 2026

Congratulations to all Mayflower students who have completed a successful round of Public examinations. We've all had a very busy time - the invigilators have handled over 6500 papers across 8 weeks of exams. They have all been impressed with the conduct of the students and the way they have been prepared for each exam. The Pre-Public rounds really helped everyone to be ready.

Internal exams for year 10 and 12 followed very quickly in the middle of June. The students adapted incredibly well to the challenging weather and the changes they faced. Thank you to all the students who rescheduled exams and went above and beyond to sit papers.

After 10 weeks of hard work, the exams office is starting to look a little tidier and feeling a lot calmer. In the final two weeks of term we have prepared for the Public Results days that are ahead of us. A level/Level 3 students will be welcomed to school on Thursday 13th August at 8am and GCSE/Level 2 will be welcomed on Thursday 20th August at 9am. Each student will receive an envelope with the breakdown of their results. There will be information available to students about looking forward, and the services available to them in the days following their results. Staff will be on hand to congratulate and support those receiving results.

Certificates for the Summer 2026 season will be available from the main office (8:30am-3:30pm) from Monday 7 December 2026. There will be a GCSE certificate collection time for students who are staying at Sixth Form, in the Sixth Form Centre - the date and time will be published in the second half of the Autumn term. Future educational institutions and employers will request to see these documents to verify your academic achievements, so they must be collected as soon as they are available. We are obligated to destroy any unclaimed certificates after one year (November 2027). If someone is collecting on your behalf they will need a signed note of permission and photo ID.

The Exams Team continues to encourage everyone sitting an exam to be fully prepared - a clear pencil case with black biro pens, pencils, maths equipment and a calculator. Water bottles are permitted in the exam room (solid colour lids will be checked). All phones/electronics/watches should either be handed in or in your bag. If you're unsure of what to bring to an exam it is best to have everything with you. The team of invigilators will remind you what you can't have during an exam.

Thank you to everyone who has offered support in any way over the last term. I hope you all have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing students and their supporters during the results days.

Mrs Skudder

Campeones del Duolingo

These are the results for the summer term:

1st Place: Mrs England Year 9 Manager 28605 XP Points

2nd Place: Amy A 8R1 11510 XP points

3rd Place: Seb M 7R1 8310 points

4th Place: Vanesa A 9F2 6689 XP points

The winner of the 2025-26 whole school competition is:

1st Place: Amy A 8R1 24520 XP points. A huge congratulations to Amy who will receive an Amazon voucher.

2nd Place: Grace B 7R1 14076 XP

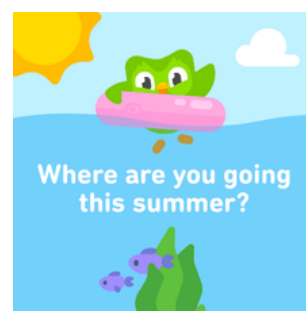
3rd Place: Isabella S 9B2 10727 XP

Mrs England has won the whole staff competition for the academic year 2025-26 and is very happy with her Duo Plush who will be accompanying her on her summer travels!

Thanks to everyone who has participated in the Duolingo competition over the last 2 years. Sadly, Duolingo has decided to shut down the school competition but please continue to practise on your own!



Mrs Beal



Bonjour tout le monde!

Our year 8 French spelling bee took place on 1st July, and it was fantastic to see how well the participants did! They applied their language skills impressively with dedication and enthusiasm.

Special congratulations to our winner Saiha G. 8M1 Félicitations!! 🏆👏👏

Congratulations also to our joint runners up: Zach H. 8B1 and Joshua G 8R1 🥈 and to Ronnie T 8F1 and Edward G. 8R1 in joint 3rd place 🥉.

★ Bravo à tous! Very well done to all! 🙌

Year 13 Leavers' Prom – One Last Dance!

The Year 13 Leavers' Prom was the perfect way to celebrate the end of an unforgettable chapter. Our students arrived looking absolutely incredible, proving that they can swap hoodies and revision notes for suits, gowns and glamorous outfits with remarkable ease!

The evening was filled with laughter, dancing, great food and plenty of photo opportunities as friends celebrated the memories they have made over the past seven years. The dance floor was buzzing all night, right up until the doors closed!

After months of coursework, revision and exams, it was wonderful to see everyone relax and enjoy a well-deserved evening together.

We are incredibly proud of everything our Year 13 students have achieved, and the resilience, determination and character they have shown throughout their time with us. Whether they are heading to university, embarking on apprenticeships, entering employment or setting off on exciting new adventures, we wish them every success for the future.

Thank you to all the staff who helped organise such a memorable evening, and to everyone who made it so special. To our Year 13 leavers: remember to aim high, stay in touch, and don't forget us when you're rich and famous — or at least when you finally work out what "real life" actually costs!

Good luck, Class of 2026 — you will always be a part of our school community.



Going for Gold: Year 12 Students Conquer the Yorkshire Dales

We extend our warmest congratulations to our dedicated Year 12 students, who successfully completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award qualifying expedition last week.

Over four demanding days, the groups navigated the rugged and spectacular terrain of the Yorkshire Dales, trekking for more than eight hours each day. Demonstrating exceptional self-sufficiency, the students carried all their own equipment – including tents and cooking stoves – and established a new campsite each evening. The challenging itinerary saw them conquer the iconic Yorkshire Three Peaks, whilst also passing historic landmarks such as the Ribbleshead Viaduct and Malham Cove.

Undertaking these strenuous ascents in intense heat required immense physical endurance and mental fortitude. By overcoming these testing conditions, our students demonstrated that hard work, teamwork and resilience truly pay off. Well done to everyone involved!



Our Inaugural KS3 Careers Day was a fantastic success!

This week, our Key Stage 3 students took part in our very first dedicated Careers Day, which gave them a fantastic opportunity to explore a wide range of future pathways and industries.

Students made the most of a bustling Careers Fair, where they met and networked with employers, further education providers and professionals from a variety of sectors. We were delighted to welcome representatives from Essex Police, the Royal Navy, local colleges, and several of our own parents, who generously gave up their time to share their career journeys and provide valuable insights into their professions.

Throughout the day, students also participated in engaging STEM and drama workshops, helping them to develop new skills, build confidence and think creatively about their future opportunities.

A huge thank you goes to all of our visitors and exhibitors for inspiring our students and making the day such a memorable experience. We would especially like to thank Andrea from the DWP for her incredible support in helping us to organise and deliver such a successful, large-scale event

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 lessons. Congratulations to Jess A. (8R1), Lily D. (9B1), Isobella F. (10F2) and Maggie J. (12F) for this half-term's nominations, recognising the outstanding work they have produced so far. We are very excited to see what you all achieve as the year continues!



JESS A 8R1



LILY D 9B1



ISOBELLA F 10F2



MAGGIE J 12F

Celebrating Staff Success

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of several members of our school community who have been recognised for their outstanding dedication and commitment at the Pearson National Teaching Awards 2026.

Viv Clarke has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement in the Teaching Assistant category, recognising the exceptional support she provides to our students. Meanwhile, Anne Walter received a Highly Commended award in the Unsung Hero category, in recognition of her outstanding commitment to leading and supporting our Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. We are also incredibly proud that our Dyslexia Centre has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement for SEND and Inclusive Practice, highlighting the expertise, care and high-quality support the team provides for students with additional learning needs. These well-deserved accolades reflect the professionalism, dedication and positive impact these members of staff have on the lives of our students every day. We are immensely proud of Viv, Anne and the Dyslexia Centre team, and we congratulate them on this fantastic recognition!



Year 10 & 12 Work Experience

During the week commencing 6th July, our Year 10 and Year 12 students took part in their work experience programme, spending the week developing valuable workplace skills and gaining first-hand insight into a wide range of careers. Demonstrating great initiative and independence, our students were responsible for securing their own placements. They worked across a diverse range of settings, including Ford, local primary schools, London-based offices, hair and beauty salons, and many other organisations. The feedback from both employers and students has been overwhelmingly positive, with many hosts praising our students for their enthusiasm, professionalism and willingness to learn. We are incredibly grateful to all of the employers who supported our students and helped make the experience such a valuable and memorable step towards their futures.

Mr Hurd

Year 11 Prom

Year 11 marked the end of an important chapter with a wonderful Leavers' Day and Prom. Leavers' Day was filled with mixed emotions as students said their goodbyes to friends and staff, reflecting on the memories and achievements they have shared over the past five years. After the formal farewells, everyone enjoyed celebrating together in the sunshine on the school field, marking a fitting end to their time at school. The celebrations continued later with a fantastic Prom at Downham Hall, where our students looked absolutely wonderful and enjoyed a truly memorable evening together. We are incredibly proud of everything this year group has achieved. We look forward to welcoming many of them back on Results Day, and are excited to see so many of them continue their journey with us in the Sixth Form.



Head of Music Wins National Teaching Award

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that our very own James Tuck has been named a Silver Winner in the prestigious Pearson National Teaching Awards as Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School 2026!

Announced on National Thank a Teacher Day, these national awards shine a light on the teaching profession, celebrating the incredible impact educators have across the UK. As a Silver Winner, Mr Tuck is now officially in the running to be named the overall national Gold Winner later this year.

As well as leading the brilliant music department here at Mayflower High School, Mr Tuck works closely with pioneering music technology company Ableton as a certified trainer and curriculum developer. He creates free, highly-valued resources to support teachers and young people globally, with his programmes being taught to students all around the world.

His innovative curriculum focuses on:

- Creative vocal work
- Whole-class ensemble performances
- Using cutting-edge music technology for live performance and production

Please join us in sending the warmest congratulations to Mr Tuck on this incredible, well-deserved recognition. We wish him the absolute best of luck in the upcoming Gold Award finals!

Legends Night in Photos



Drama Department

Year 7 Drama: Theatre in Education (TIE)

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 a deeper understanding of how theatre can make a positive impact on society.

Year 8 Drama: Devising Original Theatre

This half-term, Year 8 students have been focusing on Devising, where they created 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 a dramatic piece. 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 — all of which are 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: The Final Major Project

This half-term, Year 9 students have been working on their Final Major Project, which is the 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 technical 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 individual strengths. Whether performing on stage or working hard behind the scenes, each student played a vital role in bringing their ideas to life, gaining a deeper understanding of the many cooperative aspects involved in creating a successful theatrical production.

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

Last week, our Year 7 students stepped away from their usual timetables to take part in a vibrant and unforgettable Aspirations Week – a week-long celebration of creativity, confidence and future possibilities. We kicked off with a high-energy performance by the Box House Theatre Company, which demonstrated some skilful, platform-style theatre using just six actors and a single gym mat! The company hosted a Q&A session afterwards, where we learnt everything from their blood types to the origins of their show, which actually started out as an idea back in their own Year 9 drama class. Students then took part in workshops with the actors, tackled a tutor-group scavenger hunt, and spent time learning about one of nine novels that would become the stimuli for their further creative work. A special congratulations goes to form group 7M2, who won the scavenger hunt with some impressive teamwork and the fastest filming and editing of a promotional video we have ever seen!



Best Practice Sensory Garden

Autism Sensory Garden Update

Mayflower High has been chosen by Essex County Council to be the first secondary school in Essex to have its own Best Practice Autism Sensory Garden.

Our space is being transformed into a multi-sensory environment that engages the five senses, providing stimulation, relaxation and exploration. The garden will be open predominantly to SEND students, our school community, and other local schools who may need a place to reduce stress, improve mental well-being and enhance learning.

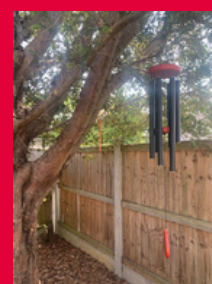
Our team has been working tirelessly through heavy rain and sweltering heat to get the project underway. There is still a fair bit to do, but things are coming along very nicely. The garden is set to open in mid-September, and we look forward to sharing photos and news upon completion.

Thank You to Our Supporters

We would like to thank the school project team, our parents for their donations, and the following companies for their generous materials and advice:

- Elms Nursery, Billericay
- Supreme Turf & Soils, Billericay
- SAS Construction

Can you help? If you feel you may be able to donate in any way to our project, please let us know.

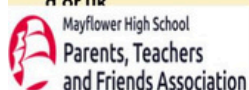


How can you help with fundraising for Mayflower School PTFA in 2026/7?



1. SIGN UP TO EASYFUNDRAISING

www.easyfundraising.org.uk



2. TAKE PART IN OUR MONTHLY LOTTO

www.pta-events.co.uk



3. STIKINS – FUNDRAISING NUMBER 13128

www.stikins.co.uk



4. MAKE A DONATION VIA CHARITIES AID FOUNDATION

<https://www.cafonline.org/home/donate>

Library update

Scholastic Book Fair

Our final Scholastic Book Fair of the year was a huge success, raising £242.26 for us to spend on brand-new books for the library.

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the book fair in any way!

Student Librarians

Our Student Librarians have been incredibly busy getting the library organised and ready for the new school year, including meeting and welcoming our rising Year 7s during their induction day. They have worked exceptionally hard all year to make the library such a welcoming, lovely place to be. I am incredibly grateful to each of them for their outstanding dedication to their roles!



Sparx Reader Reading awards!

Year 7:

1st - Felicity B - 32,196 SRP

2nd - Louie P - 18,003 SRP

3rd - Rupert K - 17,800 SRP

Year 8:

1st - Zach H - 89,349 SRP

2nd - Ayur K - 44,578 SRP

3rd - Ava H - 13,291 SRP

Year 9:

1st - David R - 13,192 SRP

2nd - Maise P - 13,044 SRP

3rd - Nicole H - 13,004 SRP



We Wonder: Protect Our Nature reading challenge

Year 7 students took part in a competition run by the National Literacy Trust earlier in the year to design a greenspace using only books for research and inspiration.

Although we didn't win the overall competition, our entries designed by Grace S, Kaydee T, Casian M, Lara P, Louie P won the Library some beautiful nature books.

Well done to everyone in Year 7 for taking part in the competition!



A Massive Thank You From The PTFA

The Mayflower High School PTFA would like to extend a huge, heartfelt thank you to absolutely everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts over the past academic year.

As a direct result of your incredible support, the PTFA has been able to fund just over £12,000 worth of equipment and resources across the school, making a hugely positive impact on every single student at Mayflower!

Our Year in Highlights

- **Preloved Uniform:** Our uniform provision continues to go from strength to strength – raising vital funds whilst supporting an ever-increasing number of families with school clothing costs.
- **Social & School Events:** Attendance at our social events has been fantastic, bringing the Mayflower community together. Our refreshment stands at various school events have also been widely appreciated (especially during the recent warm weather!).
- **Lucky Lotto:** This initiative remains a key pillar of our fundraising success, and we are immensely grateful to all of our current members.

None of this would be possible without our unwavering volunteers who juggle work, family, and personal commitments to give up their time. Thank you to every member of our PTFA team for making our work so fun, rewarding and impactful.

Our Two Key Goals for the New Academic Year

As we look ahead, we have two vital objectives where we urgently need your help:

1. We Desperately Need New Volunteers!

As students progress and leave the school, we inevitably lose precious volunteers. We are looking for friendly individuals to join our warm, relaxed and supportive team. If you would like to find out more, please get in touch:

- Email: mhsptfa.events@gmail.com
- WhatsApp (Karen): 07709 358069

2. Join Our Lucky Lotto

Our Lucky Lotto is currently supported by only a small percentage of our school community. For just £12, you will be entered into our monthly draw for 12 consecutive months—giving you 12 chances to win a £100 cash prize! The lotto is open to everyone, including friends, family, neighbours and colleagues.

- Sign up here: pta-events.co.uk/mayflower-high-school



Save the Date: Artisan Market!

Please save the date for our biggest fundraising event of the year: our annual **Artisan Market on Friday 13th November 2026!**

MAYFLOWER PTFA FUNDING FOR 2026!

£12,003

**EBSA
BREAKFAST
CLUB**

£150

**COOLER FOR
AXOLOTIS**

SHADOW &
MARSHMALLOW

£290

MUSIC

GUITARS &
AMPS

£2,000

**SCIENCE
EQUIPMENT**

£2,300

GEOGRAPHY

WHITEBOARDS &
BOOKS

£832

P.E.

TRAMPOLINE

£2,500

**SCHOOL
GARDEN /
SEATING**

£1,551

**ENGLISH
NOVELS
(KS3)**

£1,100

**SEND
CHESS
BOARDS**

£180

**ENGLISH
CLASSROOM
VISUALISERS**

£1,100



**Mayflower High School
Parents, Teachers
and Friends Association**

Music trip

On Thursday 2nd July, 46 musicians from Year 7,8,9 and 10 travelled to Saffron Hall in Saffron Walden to experience a live music event performed by the Aurora Orchestra.



Recently, our Key Stage 3 students had the incredible opportunity to attend Aurora's Symphonic Sounds concert. These unique performances offer secondary school pupils the chance to discover great classical works through Aurora's signature memorised performances. Each piece is first "uncovered" in a staged presentation featuring conductor Nicholas Collon and the players, who deconstruct the music before reassembling the orchestra for an electrifying final performance. Our students focused on Mozart's Symphony No. 41 (the 'Jupiter' Symphony)—the longest and final symphony he ever composed.

Here is what our students had to say about this unforgettable experience:

"I really enjoyed the trip and thought it was inspirational. I loved seeing the variety of instruments being played."

— Florence B. (7F2)

"The Aurora trip was amazing. The coach journey was about an hour long, so we got to interact with our friends, but the concert itself was incredible! To see how much work the musicians put in to play their instruments was extraordinary. Listening to the music calmed me and everyone around me – it was the trip of a lifetime!"

— Sara F. (8M1) "The trip was very surreal. First of all, seeing such an orchestra play was incredible, but what added the 'wow factor' was that they had learnt everything completely from memory – all roughly 3,000 notes! It was also amazing to hear the instruments playing all around and encompassing you, providing an extraordinary soundscape. There is no way to describe how it sounded; it was like nothing I have ever heard before. The only way to describe it (though even this cuts it short) is like listening to the symphonies of Mozart through a speaker with the greatest dynamic range ever created – I was hearing things I had never heard before. It is so refreshing to listen to music with a lack of technology, just pure acoustic instrumentation. You have to be in the room with the instruments to fully experience the music exactly as Mozart intended."— Oliver G. (10R1)

"Hearing the orchestra play was so surreal, and the way the music was presented made it a really fun and awesome experience that will stick with me for a long time! Thank you so much, Miss, for taking us – it was a brilliant day out!"— Hannah H. (9R1)

"The trip to see the Aurora Orchestra was absolutely amazing. I found it incredible and insightful to be taught the inner workings of the orchestra, and to see how the beautiful melodies fit seamlessly together within the symphony. Honestly, I just thought the entire experience was astoundingly good."— Rosa J. (9F1)

"I absolutely loved the trip! I think it was a great experience to have all the instruments that close to you. It made me feel really happy as I have a passion for music. I would definitely go again if I could!"— Ruby R. (7F2)

"I thought the orchestra trip was very eye-opening and a spectacular experience. When they were playing, I felt inspired, like I understood everything it was about. It was brilliant! Thank you, Mrs Darvill, for taking us."

— Alex T. (7L1)



Paired Reading reward trip to Hackers!

Thank you and well done to all our Paired Readers for this year.
We finished of the year with a well deserved reward trip to Hackers to end on a high.
Keep reading!



Track and Field Success

A massive well done to our Intermediate Boys (IB), Intermediate Girls (IG), and Junior Boys (JB) athletics teams, who recently qualified for and competed in the Regional Final of the English Schools Track and Field Cup!

All three teams performed brilliantly against tough competition, achieving the school's best-ever combined result in this event since its introduction over 30 years ago.

The final overall team standings were:

- Intermediate Boys: 2nd Place overall 🥈
- Intermediate Girls: 3rd Place overall 🥉
- Junior Boys: 7th Place overall

This is a historic milestone for our PE department and a true testament to the dedication, talent and training of our athletes. We are incredibly proud of you all!



Mayflower District Runners Up!

The final athletics event of the season saw incredible success from our entire squad, who competed with superb determination in very hot and challenging conditions.

Over 130 of our students proudly represented Mayflower High School, putting in outstanding individual and team performances. Thanks to their collective hard work, we secured a brilliant second-place finish overall in the district, only narrowly losing out to Woodlands School in the final standings.

Congratulations to the entire athletics squad on a fantastic end to a highly successful season!



Rounders Success

Our Year 7, 8 and 9 rounders teams have enjoyed a brilliant half-term of sport, with fantastic turnouts at our weekly clubs.

All of that dedication and hard work has truly paid off on the pitch! We are absolutely delighted to announce that both our Year 7 and Year 9 teams have been crowned District Champions, while our Year 8 team finished as proud District Runners-Up!

Congratulations to all of our players for their outstanding teamwork, sportsmanship and commitment throughout the season. What a fantastic set of results to celebrate!





Under 15s Girls Cricket

Our Under 15 Girls cricket team are the "unofficial" District Champions after a heavily rain-affected tournament at Rettendon Cricket Club!

The girls got off to a flying start, playing some superb cricket to win their opening two matches against Beauchamps and James Hornsby. They looked absolutely destined to lift the trophy, but unfortunately, the British summer weather had other ideas. Heavy rain arrived, forcing the tournament to be abandoned before it could be fully completed.

Nevertheless, our girls had a fantastic day out, refused to let the downpour dampen their spirits, and thoroughly deserved their "unofficial" champion status. Well done to the whole team for a brilliant effort!

Under 15s Boys Cricket

Due to a frustrating mix of poor weather and opposition cancellations, our Under 15 boys' cricket team did not get as many opportunities to showcase their talents on the pitch this year as we would have liked.

However, their patience was rewarded with a fantastic trip to the County Finals Day, hosted at the beautiful Bentley Cricket Club. This was a superb opportunity for the team to play at a lovely local ground and test their skills against some of the strongest opposition in the county.

While the match ultimately ended in a tough defeat, it was incredibly pleasing to see the lads representing the school badge with such pride. It was also a great chance to see several of our players showcasing the skills they have been developing outside of school, with many now regularly playing senior men's cricket for various local clubs in the area.

Well done to the entire squad for their brilliant attitude and commitment throughout a disrupted season!



The collage consists of 18 individual photographs arranged in a 6x3 grid. The top row shows three girls posing with medals, a group of boys sitting on the grass, and three girls wearing star-shaped glasses. The second row features a large group of boys sitting on the grass, three boys posing with medals, and a boy running on a track. The third row includes two women smiling, a group of boys running on a field, and four girls posing with medals. The fourth row shows a group of girls posing with medals, a boy running on a track, and a boy running on a track. The fifth row depicts a boy running on a track, a group of girls sitting on the grass, and a man celebrating with his arms raised. The bottom row shows a group of boys cheering, a boy running on a track, and a group of boys running on a track.