Mulberry Reach TeenTech Finals

On Wednesday 25th June, students from the TeenTech Awards club attended the final round of TeenTech Awards - a science competition that encourages young people to design innovative solutions to current world issues using science and technology.

The presentation ceremony took place at The Royal Society in Green Park. Shara Nahreen 11L, Mohsena Munira 11L and Zainab Ahmed 11B developed a revision app for the Education category while Hafzah Mohamed, Nusrat Khanom and Rumina Hussain from 9Y developed an app to make dressing up easier for the Entertainment category. Afsana Begum 10U also reached the finals in the Journalism category for her article on ‘scientific inventions that changed the world’.

Science Journalist Simon Singh with the Year 9 Teen Tech Group.

Students worked on their ideas over the course of the year and spoke to professionals from the digital industry and lecturers from Coventry University when developing their entries for the awards.

At the finals, students presented their ideas to judges and special guests who attended the event, including actor Stephen Fry, physicist Professor Jim Al Khalili and HRH Duke of York.

The Year 9 students were runners up in the Entertainment category and were awarded with JVC headphones and cameras by the judges.

It was a great experience for the students who gained insight into how science and technology can be applied in a real life context.

Karma Korma Fundraising Day

On Friday 4th April, Mulberry took part in the Karma Korma fundraising day to raise money for Frank Water, a charity that funds innovative and safe clean water projects in India and Africa.

There was a Bollywood inspired non-uniform day and students and staff were served biriyani.

Other activities included a Bollywood bazaar where students sold samosas and cup cakes as well as a workshop on how to wear saris. Tickets were also on sale for an after school screening of the film Bride and Prejudice.

A colourful and fun day was had by all and a grand total of £1380.26 was raised. Well done to all staff and students who took part!

From left: Students at the lunchtime Bollywood bazaar and some of the delicious Asian food on sale.

Professor Jim Al Khalili with the Year 11 Teen Tech group.
Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict

Simran Mahmud, 10Y
On June 10th a group of Mulberry pupils went to the Global Summit, which was co-chaired by foreign secretary William Hague and Angelina Jolie. The event which was held at London Excel Centre took a look at the many campaigns and projects with an aim to end gender based violence in conflict. We spent an hour in the exhibition before taking our seats in the Plan UK workshop, a project that emphasises the importance of education for children. We sat discussing why we thought this was important and were joined by the co-chairs themselves who joined our discussion. Shortly afterwards we watched the opening ceremony for the summit and the day that followed included activities such as live debates, discussions and theatre performances. The message that struck us the most was that gender based violence was most commonly used as a tool of war and moreover the regular perpetrators were law enforcers including soldiers and police. Overall this event has really opened my eyes to the big issues in the world today, and has made me grateful to the many organisations doing their best to ensure these atrocities do not continue. However it has also come to my attention that there is still so much to be done, and if everyone put in the slightest bit of effort, we could have an outstanding effect on issues like these.

Explore Beyond Mulberry Week

Hafsa Hassan and Sumayyah Begum-Khan, 12CD
As part of Exploring Beyond Mulberry week, 6th form students visited a number of museums and galleries as a reward for our hard work.
On Friday 13th June, we visited the Serpentine Gallery in order to quench our thirst for art.
The exhibition taking place was called “512 Hours” and was held by Marina Abramovic. She is known as the ‘Grandmother of Performance Art’. We slowly walked around, confused but fascinated by what we saw. Ms Abramovic, dressed all in black, was walking around the space observing the visitors to her gallery; she is the ‘art’ that we have gone to see.
She whispered to the public words of wisdom and verses that enhanced the mysterious vibe of the art.
We were suddenly aware that Marina Abramovic had come over to us and she gently held both mine and Sumayyah’s hands. She pulled out two chairs and gestured for us to sit down. After we were seated, she whispered to us “life is too complicated”. She also told us both to focus on the wall and think of simplicity.
Slowly she disengaged from us, whispering the words “Thank you for putting your trust in me.”

A Private Viewing of the Magna Carta

On Thursday 12th June, Anisa Khalique, Afsana Begum, Ramila Mohamed and Sadika Begum were invited to attend the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Art Conservation Project reception at the Society of Antiquaries of London.
There, the students had the opportunity to view a copy of the Magna Carta, the first legal document which protected human rights and provided the basis for British parliamentary democracy.
This was a special occasion as only Fellows of the Society have had access to these documents in the past.
Sanjida Shania Rahman, 12SH
On 24th June, a group of Mulberry students were lucky enough to go to a journalism conference hosted by the News Academy to find out what the profession is really like and what the future holds. It gave us an insight into all aspects of the profession. Yes, one of part of journalism does include your average gossip writing, but other aspects are also explored including war, environment, science and education.

Throughout the day we participated in various panel discussions, each with its own list of prestigious journalists such as the Editor of The Times himself. From these discussions we learnt that as long as the content of the writing is for the good of the public, is informative and entertaining, then any piece of writing can be considered journalism.

We also took part in break out sessions in small groups and had about fifteen minutes to talk to each journalist. Both of these activities were really beneficial as it gave us a window into the world of journalism, what you need to do to get there and the range of things you can do within it.

The topics ranged from free press to what makes a good newspaper – is it about entertainment or making sure we tell the truth?

Later in the day we participated in a really exciting mock press conference in which we had twenty minutes to write an article and come up with a creative headline.

It was really fun to have the experience of being a journalist competing with others to get all the juicy details for the lead story. There was also a competition to write the best story and the best headline. We learnt how to be on the ball with questions, challenge what is being said, and have every nitty gritty detail written down.

Although we didn’t win, the skills we gained out of it were rewarding enough.

This was a great experience as it opened our eyes to an occupation that we could possibly see ourselves in the next couple of years.

Aishah Siddiqua, 8Y
In Science Club at Mulberry School, we attempted to hatch chick eggs recently. A lady from Stepney City Farm brought in six eggs which came from a variety of hens so they are not all siblings.

We had to follow a strict instruction sheet telling us what actions we should take in order to properly hatch the eggs. We had to heat the eggs, this replacing the mother hen which would usually sit on the eggs and transfer her body heat. If the temperature is too high then the eggs would be scrambled!

We also had to turn the eggs as the mother hen would turn the eggs with her feet, delicately, to make sure the chicks were growing the right way round.

After day twenty one, one of the chicks hatched! This one was a black chick. Two more chicks hatched the next day and these two were small and yellow.

When the chicks come out of the incubator they are put into a box called a brooding box. The box has to be filled with straw, and water and food and a lamp has to be provided for the chicks to keep them warm.

I think that the best ‘foster mother hen’ Award goes to Ms Barrow as she kindly offered to take the eggs and chicks home with her.

We will keep the chicks for one more week and after that they will go back to the farm where they will live happily ever after and maybe produce more eggs for Science Club!

London Rowing Competition
Mayesha Anjum, 7B
On Wednesday 4th June, Mulberry hosted and took part in the London Youth Indoor Rowing East London Final.

It was a great opportunity to represent my school. It was a thrilling experience, which helped me to develop my confidence.

Our opponents were Kingsford School who won the competition, however we as a team tried our very best. I feel like I achieved a lot, as I came second which was very exciting for me as well as my team.

While I was rowing with my team, the teachers who were there at the time were very encouraging, which helped me a lot.

As this was my first competition at Mulberry, I was nervous, however after the rowing competition I gained more confidence and will be very happy to take part in more competitions in the future!

Girl Be Heard Performance
The Girl Be Heard Theatre Collective visited Mulberry on Tuesday 17th June and spoke to students about using the expressive arts to talk about issues affecting young women.

Students were treated to an exclusive performance by the group and were inspired by their confidence and creativity.
International Trips and Visits

Berlin

Nazifa Kamali, 10M
On Tuesday 17th June, forty Year 10 History students travelled to Berlin, Germany, for four days to learn about the city’s story.

Over the course of the four days, we visited various famous historical places including the Holocaust memorial. This memorial was built to commemorate millions of people, including over six million Jews, who were massacred during the Holocaust. The memorial consists of 2,711 concrete blocks, each one a different height to represent the individuality of those murdered by the Nazis.

We also visited the Berlin wall. The Berlin wall was built as a physical divide between the communist East Berlin and capitalist West Berlin, and it stopped people from escaping over the border. It stood for almost thirty years before it was announced that the borders from East and West Berlin were open. People started chipping at the wall with hammers and chisels in celebration of the reconciliation of East and West Berlin.

Opposite the Berlin wall was a museum called the Topography of Terror. There, we learnt more about the persecution of Jews and minority groups during the Holocaust. The museum is located at the site where the headquarters of the Gestapo and the SS once were. The Gestapo were the secret police who spied on people they thought were a threat to Nazism and the SS were Hitler’s private army.

Overall, the memorable four days were a great way for us all to experience the historical changes Berlin had undergone in the time that Hitler had taken power.

New York

Summaya Bilqis, 10B
On May 15th eight students went to New York to attend the Global Classrooms International Model UN Conference 2014.

All of us represented the country Swaziland in double delegations in different committees. Anisa Khalique 10B and Afsana Begum 10U won honourable mentions representing Swaziland in UNESCO.

We really enjoyed it there; the city was amazing. Anisa Khalique, who represented Swaziland in the UNESCO committee said “I loved everything about New York, especially Times Square – it was so bright and beautiful.”

New York lived up to our expectations – it was busy, bright, brilliant and it was full of yellow taxis. We enjoyed every aspect of it!

We visited Times Square, Central Park, The Brooklyn Bridge, the Empire State Building, the Damien Chrysler building (one of the first skyscrapers ever built), the UN building of the USA and China Town. The architecture was brilliant!

Paris

Samiha Chowdhury and Nishat Ali, 8R
On Monday 16th June 2014, forty students went on an adventurous journey to the capital of France, Paris (‘Paree’ – as the French would say).

It began with a two hour coach ride to Dover, where we were placed in a ferry which took us to Calais (North of France). We travelled to Chateau De Versailles, where we were able to wander around the beautiful gardens, glamorous statues and sparkling fountains.

After a relaxing rest in The Explorers Hotel, we went to the centre of Paris. There, we took lots of photos and had a boat ride on the River Seine.

We were taken around to see all the famous landmarks in the centre of Paris.

After that, we saw the Louvre Museum, however it was closed on that day. Also, we were given freedom to explore the streets of Paris. C’était magnifique!

In groups we had the chance to communicate with shopkeepers in French when buying our lunch. We ate delicious baguettes, croissants and jus d’orange. We travelled to Montparnasse Tower, the tallest building in France. Sixty floors later, we were on the rooftop of Montparnasse tower. The view was amazing! The whole of Paris was below our feet.

Our voyage to France was a wonderful experience. We certainly all hope to come back very soon!
Mulberry Community Opera

Tahsin Sabah, 10L
For the grand fiftieth celebration of the school’s birthday, Mulberry School has been getting ready for a big, exciting event: Mulberry’s first Community Opera.

I am a singer of the school and have been singing with other students and teachers since January in preparation for the Opera. My friends and I have been attending rehearsals every Wednesday, and we have learnt several songs that will feature in the show. We have had the privilege of being accompanied by professional singers, the school music teachers and the composer of the Opera, Jana Roland.

So far the production looks and feels great. Things are looking good and I know that once you see the performance in November, you will feel the same.

A lot of teachers and parents will also be taking part in the Opera. It is great to see the whole Mulberry community join together for this exciting project.

Voice Week at Mulberry

Sausan Syed, 7E
In recognition of World Voice Day, we held Mulberry’s own ‘Voice Week’.

The theme was about finding your voice and the importance of your voice.

As part of the week, there was a larynx competition where we had to decorate our own voice box, which is called a larynx.

We decorated them with glitter, ribbons, sequins feathers etc. The winners were Tasfa Alam 8M, Tamanna Islam 8B and Sausan Syed 7E.

We also enjoyed a spoken word performance from three famous poets: Zena Edwards, Jasmine Ann Cooray and Katie Bonna.

In the main reception there were voice themed notice boards for everyone where students could attach post-its saying ‘why our voices matter’.

Professor Gary Watt, from Warwick University, kindly created an ‘Introduction to Rhetoric’ film for our school which was played in assembly.

To encourage students to use their voices expressively, there was a poetry café in the SEN department.

For sixth formers, voice practitioners gave a workshop on communication skills. I really enjoyed voice week and trying to find my voice. I think people have become a lot more confident after using their own and hearing other people’s voices.

Romeo and Juliet Ballet Trip

Jemima Islam, 8Y
On 19th June 2014, we went on a fantastic trip to watch the beautiful production of Romeo and Juliet by the English National Ballet at the Royal Albert Hall.

The performance was stunning and elegant. As a dance piece, there were no words involved but the performers communicated through actions, facial expressions and emotion.

The two main characters, Romeo and Juliet danced well and definitely stood out from the rest of the dancers. They both showed such passion towards the love that they felt for each other and made sure that the audience really understood what was happening.

After the show, we waited by the stage door to see if any of the dancers would come out. Luckily, they did. They were very polite and gave us their autographs and took ‘selfies’ as well.

The trip was great, we all had a fantastic time and really enjoyed the ballet piece. On behalf of everyone that went on the trip, I must say that we were very grateful to be selected and given the amazing opportunity to go. I hope there are many trips like this to come.
Feminist Fridays

Farha Uddin, 10M
If you haven’t heard about Feminist Fridays yet, then let me tell you all about it. A group of girls come together once a fortnight and dedicate Friday lunchtimes to discussing the strength and power of women. Occasionally we also get to meet strong women who tell us about their experiences in the real world and the issues of feminism they have had to face throughout their lives.

A few weeks ago we met a university lecturer called Dr Christina Scharf who told us about the difficulties she has overcome in her career. To say it was an eye opening discussion would be an understatement. None of the girls in our group really thought that people would discriminate against women, subtly or not, at such a high level of education. We thought that by that stage of their lives, nobody would care about gender or race.

Since attending these sessions, I, and most of the girls, would openly call ourselves a feminist as the sessions have created a safe environment for us to voice our opinions about the unfair treatment of women around the world.

At the beginning of the year, when we first started our little group, many of us were blissfully ignorant of world affairs concerning women from the struggle of equal pay rights to female genital mutilation but since attending we have all realised that it is our duty to step up and voice our thoughts to those around us. The sessions have not only informed us on these issues concerning women but actually given many of us girls the confidence to stand up for what we believe and to something bigger one day.

The Feminist Friday meetings have also given many of the girls the courage to feel comfortable in their own skin and not let themselves be pushed around as we have been surrounded by strong, confident women throughout our Feminist Friday journey.

Placing Women’s Safety Centre-Stage Conference

On 7th July, a group of Mulberry students attended the ‘Placing Women’s Safety Centre-Stage’ Conference organised by the Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper MP at the UNISON Centre.

Students participated in a group discussion on the topic of the kind of world young women are growing up in and listened to a number of politicians and activists speak on issues such as women’s safety on the web, and the need to improve the state response to violence against women.

Outspoken at Magic Me

Nazmin Begum, 9RA
The world of being outspoken has been opened to me and other students in Year 9 through Magic Me; an interesting, enjoyable and creative project for women aged between fourteen and eighty years old.

This was a fantastic opportunity to build our confidence and learn what it meant to be outspoken.

We met with the ladies from the project at the Bishopsgate Institute where we looked at posters, pamphlets and books from the Institute library to find out where and when women were outspoken and where and when they were not.

In these sessions, we also looked at the type of words and phrases speakers sometimes use to make an impact on people, and put together a special spoken word performance.

We wrote our own short speeches about a particular issue that we felt passionate about.

We also produced a photo exhibition that explored the impact of words when speaking out.

At the end of the project, we performed our spoken word piece and our own speech to a packed audience of family and friends at the Bishopsgate Institute.

The audience were very interested in our speeches and also volunteered to do their own speeches afterwards.

We were all proud of what we did and celebrated what we all achieved.

Thank you to the school, Magic Me and their sponsors for this great opportunity.

Nazmin Begum and Hager Awadh 9RA performing their speeches at the Bishopsgate Institute.
Exploring London Places of Worship

Maymunah Riyah, Jasmin Sultana and Nadia Mohammed 8RA
“When we went to St Paul’s, the view was quite breathtaking.”
That was what most of the Mulberry girls said as they reached the top of the Cathedral.
We answered questions about the design of the cathedral, famous paintings, statues and monuments within the cathedral.
Our journey started at the font which is the place where babies are baptised. Then we went to the Whispering Gallery where we could hear people whisper all the way from the other side of the wall.
As we finished our journey we ended up at the end of the Cathedral, also known as the Black Gate; the Cathedral is a way of showing the beginning and ending of life.
We also visited the London Buddhist Centre. This was the first encounter of a Buddhist Centre that the Mulberry Girls in Year 8 had experienced.
We never realised how quiet the atmosphere can get when we are all quiet and calm.
We asked Sri Vati (our guide) questions about Buddhism and what kind of Buddhist she is.
She shared details about her daily routine and some of the key principles Buddhists abide by.
Overall we had an amazing day learning about the life of a Buddhist. The weather was beautiful and we learned a lot. We had a great outing with the all the year groups from ERRAY.

Year 9 University Trips

On the first week of June, the whole of Year 9 visited various universities outside of London to find out more about what educational opportunities these universities had to offer.
Students visited universities in Kent, Surrey, Manchester, Northampton, Nottingham, Bristol, Norwich, Loughborough, and York where they spoke to university students about what it’s like to study beyond school and college.
Taster lectures and seminars were also run by universities which ranged from creative writing at the University of East Anglia to making ice cream using liquid nitrogen at the University of Bristol.
Students had a tour of each campus and learnt the differences between campus based universities and city universities.
Aliyah 9L said ‘I enjoyed the Bristol trip very much and was amazed by the physics lecture making ice cream in front of us. I ate it, even though I thought it would be dangerous to eat! It was amazing when she used nitrogen liquid and there was lots of smoke. It was brilliant.’
It was an amazing experience and inspired students to consider higher education.
**Creative Writing and Drawing Contest**

A group of Year 9 students won the Creative Writing and Drawing Contest organised by StoneCrabs Theatre and the Heritage Lottery Fund. They looked at videos of people filmed for the Brasiliance Oral History Project who served as inspiration for their piece. Their work will be published in a book as part of this project. Below are excerpts from their winning submissions!

**Francesco**

When I returned home I told my mum about the news and she was ecstatic as I thought she would be. My five year old sister Natalia was there and she was jumping with joy. My mum’s eyes started tearing up and when I asked her why she replied ‘Your father would’ve been so proud’. All three of us smiled sadly but it was interrupted with a knock. I went to open the door and saw Mr Drimenia and Chef Alonso waiting eagerly to come inside. Before I even closed the door Chef Alonso informed us that the he’d forgotten to inform me that the trip was in Spain and I’d be gone for a few years with some time off for holidays. In an instant the whole room turned silent, just the flutter of the curtains were heard.

**Adela Begum 9Y**

**Demetria’s life**

“Little ladies like you don’t do martial arts, Demetria… they sit at home and BEHAVE,” my dad had said when I mentioned it. I was disappointed that my parents didn’t really support what I wanted to do in the future; my mother just told me to do what my father thinks is right. Was it wrong for me to figure out my own career path? I didn’t think so at all. My friend Rose just wanted me to do the same thing as her: be a carer for the elderly. I didn’t want to hurt her feelings or anything, but friends can’t always do EVERYTHING together. I felt so strongly about this capoeira career I was prepared to sacrifice everything for it. And by that I meant EVERYTHING.

**Zainab Kais 9U**

**Grandmother**

For a split second I was no longer that black illiterate woman who was a slave to the people. I was an educated woman who saw the world as an opportunity to make a difference in people’s eyes like, Maya Angelou. With that I curled my fingers into a tight fist encouraging myself that I could make a difference. I stroked the dangling silver pendant with engraved intricate designs which wrapped around my bare neck that my mother had passed on to me. With that I smiled gaily knowing that I would hopefully make a better life for myself and my family.

**Farzana Yasmin 9B**

**Sylvia**

A ray of light burst through,
In my bleak dark universe, where my dreams were fantasies
Which stayed in my dreams
A woman, a red haired green eyes woman,
Made my dreams true and lightened my universe,
Before black and dull, now bursting with color
And a sense of direction, a destination.

**Nazrana Islam 9L**