An Education in Confidence

Samihah Yasmin, 9M

On Thursday 7th March, the annual WOW (Women of the World) Education Summit was held at Southbank Centre, in celebration of International Women’s Day. This event brought together schools from all around the country to learn about some of the issues and obstacles women face in the world and how to make it a better place for women.

This year the festival saw many inspirational speakers and performers take to the stage and a group of Mulberry students became WOW assistants and helped out with greeting the artists that came in, worked on the reception desk, helped people get to the various workshops and compered the event. Some Mulberry students also performed in the spoken word group, Kabita Collective.

The four workshops that were held this year were on Body Confidence, Role Models, Women in the Media and Feminism. These workshops involved working with other schools to discuss some of the things that affect women and girls today and voicing our opinions on these topics. Some of the things we learnt in the workshops were quite shocking and caused a big impact on how we now look at things in the media. For example, one Mulberry student learnt from the Body Confidence work-

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Breaking News!

Mulberry School for Girls gains a sister...

We are delighted to inform you that Mulberry School for Girls has approval from the Secretary of State for Education to proceed with the foundation of a sister school - Mulberry University Technical College (Mulberry UTC). Mulberry UTC will be a college for young people aged fourteen to nineteen, specialising in learning focused on science and digital technology. It will prepare students for employment and further study in medical services and healthcare as well as digital technology in the creative industries and finance.

Mulberry has prestigious partners involved. The lead university partner is Goldsmiths, University of London. The lead employer partners are Barts Health NHS Trust, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, the Royal National Theatre, the British Film Institute and Southbank Centre.

A University Technical College in Tower Hamlets will help our young people to get the best technical education to take the

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Sixth Form students taking part in Shape Your Culture promote positive body image at their WOW market stall.

Spoken Word Poetry Collective

Saiyata Mobasharaton, 8RA

Six students from Mulberry have had the opportunity to join students from Swanlea School in the Kabita Collective. The word ‘kabita’ means poem, and comes from Eastern Asian countries. The Kabita Collective was put together to bring culture and aspiration together.

We met up every Friday, and worked hard and efficiently on our poems. We had a choice in taking part, in showing our work, and personally I am delighted that I chose to take this opportunity; it has granted me more confidence and self-esteem! In our sessions we were introduced to three amazing people: Bea Colley, Jasmine Cooray and Joelle Taylor. Jasmine and Joelle are two very talented spoken word artists and they helped us produce and perform our work as effectively as possible. Great thanks to them for helping and being so wonderful to us. The girls and I enjoyed working with them a lot! Bea works at Southbank Centre and was an absolute pleasure to meet!

My partner, Samilah Naira, and I wrote a poem called Mirror and performed it at both Southbank’s WOW Festival and the International Women’s Day celebration at school. This was a shock for some, but not as nerve racking as we all had experience of performing before. The Kabita Collective will also be performing at the Alchemy Festival in April.

MIRROR

I’m not what I want to be when I look into the mirror, I have a crack.
I try to heal it sometimes, I do. But marks are left behind.

I’m not what I want to be when I look into the mirror, I have a crack.
I try to heal it sometimes, I do. But marks are left behind.

I am the bumps of the sugar cubes onto your tea, the crystals? They’re my thoughts.

She’s succeeded in more ways than one.
She’s travelled the four corners of the Earth.
She’s gone to fancy parties and balls with her pinky way up high.

She’s written a book of Chaucer’s style, Shakespeare’s time.
She gave her personality a brand new look.
She’s managed to take all the right turns and bends.

Her shoulders don’t slump like mine; she doesn’t have a single look of doubt in her eyes.
I’m not what I want to be, I’m someone. What someone else wants me to be?

I smell of my father’s aftershave, strong ... but dangerous.
I taste sweet like the sugar cube crystals.

But this girl, she looks confident.
She has this thing where she can get along with people well, she doesn’t hide behind her friends or pretend to be shy.

Unlike me, who speaks. No words.
So I can stay unnoticed, so I’ll be unheard.

But her footprints? They aren’t like mine. They’re better.

There are two of me, one you can see and one can’t.

Depending on time.
Making Our Voices Heard on International Women’s Day

Fahima Ahmed, 10Y

International Women’s Day (IWD) celebrates all the achievements women have made and acknowledges the obstacles the face and are still facing today. This year, Kaynath Syeda 10RA, and I hosted Mulberry’s IWD celebration.

This year the theme was voice; we were shown many ways in which we may express our voice by dancing, singing, acting and poetry. Every person has a voice, we just need to know how to express it to people and learn to put our nerves aside, but I know that is easier said than done. For me it took a lot of confidence to stand in front of over two hundred students and teachers. At first I was so nervous I was shaking. I thought to myself “what have I let myself into?”, but by the end of the day I was so eager to do it again - I loved it.

Kaynath gave a speech about insecurities which really made me think. We young women need to be confident in who we are, as Kaynath herself stated, “Why can’t we say I’m proud of who I am?”. A lot of girls lack in that, including myself, but we need to be putting ourselves out there for things we wouldn’t normally do, for example hosting events, attending after school clubs and taking part in workshops.

That weekend I went to the WOW festival, and I know I wouldn’t have done that if it wasn’t for hosting IWD. I went in my own time and went to talks. It was so interesting and it made me think that we young ladies have so many opportunities, we’re so lucky to have the education we have, yet we still have girls taking it for granted. Don’t we want an education? I’m sure many girls want to go Sixth Form and University and make their family proud, but that doesn’t just happen with you clicking your fingers; the effort you put in is what you get out. We are the young women of this world and we want to make a difference.

I hope to see all of you doing many things you wouldn’t normally do.

Costume Making Workshop at London College of Fashion

Kaynath Sveda, 10RA

On Saturday 19th January I had the privilege of visiting the London College of Fashion. The London College of Fashion is one of the leading centres of fashion education in the whole world, and is also the only college in the UK to specialise in fashion education; here I took part in a workshop where I had to create a costume for the Step-Up acrobat group called Mimbre. The workshop was amazing. I had the opportunity to meet with people who were similar to me as they to enjoyed designing and creating extraordinary clothes. At the beginning of the workshop I was given a brief to design an outfit based on the theme noughts and crosses. During the workshop I learnt how to let out my creativity through designing, I also learnt that creating clothes is not an easy job! Although I got really stressed out creating my clothes, the stress finally paid off as my outfit came out exactly the way I had imagined it. I even got to see my work on stage as I visited the Discover Young Hackney: Alter Ego show at Hackney Empire, where I felt as though I was a designer! My experience at London College of Fashion was amazing and I would love to do it again!

Ruzina Begum 10L brings her designs to life.

Mimbre wear the finished costumes on stage.
Sporting Successes this Term

Layla Abbade & Maryam Dipika, 9M

Mulberry has been involved in many sporting competitions this term including indoor rowing, indoor athletics, netball and mini marathon trials. Also, the Year 10 Sports Ambassadors attended their second training session.

The Tower Hamlets indoor rowing competition took place on Friday 1st February. Mulberry School for Girls came in 4th place overall, which was an excellent achievement for the team as this was Mulberry’s first rowing competition. Also, Layla Abbade from 9M competed in the Year 10 competition; she rowed for five minutes and came in second place.

Year 7 and 8 students went to the indoor athletics event at Bethnal Green Technology College on 5th February. They competed in sprint races, relays, long jump, triple jump, vertical jump and speed bounce. Both Year 7 and 8 teams came 4th place.

On 14th February students from Years 7, 8 and 9 ran three miles in the Mini Marathon Trials at Victoria Park. The first sixteen students in each race were selected for the borough team to compete in the London Mini Marathon which is taking place on 21st April. Well done to all the girls who competed, especially Rafia Khanom 7B, Layla Abbade 9M and Simran Mahmud 9Y who finished their races in the top sixteen and have been selected to train with the Tower Hamlets borough team at Mile End Park.

The Year 7 and 8 netball team attended the Olympic Values Tournament at Langdon Park School. The students played extremely well and Abida Rahman 8M scored goals to win lots of games. Well done to the Year 7 and 8 netball team for coming 4th place in the tournament.

Fatimah Laskar 10L and Hafija Khatun 10R have been selected to be the new Mulberry School Sports Ambassadors. They have been attending training at Langdon Park School along with other students from schools across Tower Hamlets. Their role in these positions will be to promote sport and activity to young people, especially girls, and to assist local primary schools in organising sports competitions. We wish them the best of luck in their new posts.

Thank you to our student journalists for all their hard work!

Students who wish to contribute to the next issue, please contact the editor, Jo Latham.
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Mulberry Welcomes Royal Visitor

On February 7th 2013 Mulberry had a very special visitor, Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall, Camilla! Well, I was excited indeed. Camilla chatted to pupils and got involved in lessons at the school before moving on to officially open the new Mulberry and Bigland Green Centre. The centre aims to provide healthcare, education, advice and support for the local community.

Camilla is very interested in literacy and so was very keen to know about the school, its students and the way we learn. HRH saw a great range of the things Mulberry offers to its students, varying from the Model United Nations, a School Council meeting, an English lesson, Judo and was even taught some sign language in the Learning Lab. In a short speech, The Duchess told us “I’ve been so impressed by everything I have seen,” adding “I hope it goes from strength to strength and I’m sure you will too”. HRH also had the opportunity to see a performance of the award-winning play The Unravelling which she really enjoyed. Students presented a beautiful bouquet of flowers and it was an incredible experience to have the opportunity to meet her and host the visit.