

Mulberry

Working in Partnership
with Parents and Carers



Community

Summer 2015

Year 6 Transition: New Year 7

During June and July, the New Year 7 parents attended sessions over a week where they were given important information regarding Mulberry School. Ms Spellman, as Year 7 Learning Co-ordinator, went through the general expectations of their daughters while at Mulberry, focusing on curriculum, homework and behaviour. This included what Mulberry has to offer such as Out of Hours Learning, Breakfast Club and Adult Learning for parents. The parents found this extremely useful and felt more confident and excited about their daughters starting at Mulberry in September. They were also shown the new uniforms with blazers which look extremely smart.

Keeping Our Families Safe



On 6th May Sabina Khan collaborated with Shahanaz Chowdhury, Victoria Lee and Sue Rider who all helped to organise a workshop with the NSPCC entitled Keeping Our Families Safe. This took place in the Mulberry and Bigland Green Centre where 68 parents and members from the local community attended. The focus was on the issue of grooming and exploitation. It was a very successful workshop with parents learning to identify signs of concern and what to do. They left feeling empowered and said that they would like more such workshops.

Adult Learning Activities

We held the following adult learning classes this term:
Childcare Level 2; Drama; ICT; Literacy for Adult Learners; Maths for Beginners; Aerobics, Zumba and Keep Fit classes.

Future Classes

Please complete the enclosed enrolment form if you would like to join our classes at the new Mulberry and Bigland Green Centre. Forms should be returned to Mulberry School main reception as soon as possible.

Contact us

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Sarah Dickson

Sabina Khan

Penny Constantinou

Mulberry School for Girls is committed to working with parents and the local community. We recognise how important you are in the life of the school and the success of our students.

The purpose of our newsletter is to let you know about the community activities which took place at Mulberry School between April and June 2015 and to give you information regarding the adult classes taking place from October 2015.

VIP Visit

On Tuesday 16th June Mulberry School for Girls welcomed the First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama. She was here as part of her Let Girls Learn initiative which aims to remove the barriers that keep 62 million girls out of education around the world. She had chosen Mulberry School because the quality of the education is outstanding. Dr Ogden guided the First Lady towards the tapestry in reception where Sabina Khan explained about the Big Weave project. The three panels were woven by hundreds of people from our local community including Mulberry. Sabina also explained that the Big Weave encouraged community cohesion by taking it to the Idea Store, the Royal London Hospital and various primary and secondary schools so that people could become involved in its production. It was also created to celebrate Mulberry's 50th anniversary.





The London Aquatics Centre

On Wednesday 20th May Sabina Khan took 13 women adult learners to the London Aquatic Centre at the Olympic Park. While there, they spent the day looking around at the different areas of the park, they swam for an hour and then some of them had lunch together. They found this experience exhilarating and the journey was easy to make. They had a great time together sharing their experiences of being parents and promising to visit again with their families.



School Specialism Team

A small group of parents have been working with the School Specialism team on a Drama project. They began by sharing their personal stories through the sense of smell and the memories this evoked. This was both exciting and emotional. The aim is to enable the group to perform a play in the future based on a Bangladeshi folk tale.

Theatre

As part of the end of term celebrations Sabina Khan organised a theatre trip on the evening of Thursday 14th May where, together with 15 other adult learners, they went to the London Palladium to see Beyond Bollywood. They used public transport and enjoyed having a night out away from their families. The musical play was entertaining, colourful and exciting especially since some of the cast had come from Bangladesh to perform.



Gardening at Mulberry

During the summer term Sabina Khan has encouraged our parents to work together with Mr MacDonald after school in order to establish the very first gardening group. Both fathers and mothers attend after school sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays to create gardening beds, plant seeds as well as various plants. They said "These plants are like our children who need our attention and help to survive." They will of course have to continue their gardening efforts throughout the summer months if they are to enjoy the fruits of their labours during the harvest time.



The ArcelorMittal Orbit at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park



On 9th June Sabina took 14 adult learners to Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park where the group had tickets to visit the distinctive looping structure of the ArcelorMittal Orbit. They walked around the park admiring the scenery and appreciating the flowering shrubs. Then they used the fast lift to go to the top of the striking steel tower which became a perfect symbol of the brilliance and originality of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The parents and adult learners had a fun day out and were impressed at how easy it was to get there.

Reviewing and Evaluating

The community team is reviewing and evaluating the last few years of its work while trying to identify successful activities and what is needed within the community. For this reason Penny Constantinou created a questionnaire which was sent out with the April Newsletter but also given out to our Year 7 parents during their consultation evening. The analysis of the feedback will enable us to plan future courses and events at the Mulberry and Bigland Green Centre.

Coffee Morning at MBGC and a Fond Farewell

We held our final coffee morning of the year on 18th June. The coffee mornings have proved popular this year as a space to meet informally to share views on various topics and participate in family activities like board games. Please join us next time on Thursday 10th September 2015.



On the last coffee morning the parent group also said a heartfelt goodbye to Penny Constantinou, thanking her warmly for her fantastic efforts whilst working with them and encouraging them over the last seven years. We would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Penny for her hard work and dedication and wish her well in her retirement.

