Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers

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 your daughters.

### Adult Learning Courses

We have a great range of courses available for January 2017 which include:

- Aerobics
- Developing Writing Skills
- Literacy
- Men's Badminton
- Fruit Carving
- Keep Fit

To join the courses, please fill out an enrolment form available from Sabina Khan.

### Coffee Mornings 2017

The aim of Coffee Mornings is to help parents and carers feel comfortable when coming into school to discuss concerns they have about their child’s needs and the own needs as parents.

Below are the dates for next term’s Coffee Mornings:

- **Tuesday 17th January** 9.30am
- **Friday 24th February** 9.30am
- **Thursday 30th March** 9.30am
- **Friday 28th April** 9.30am

### Special Events

We have places available for the following events:

- **Family Learning Theatre Trip to see ‘The Kite Runner’** on 22nd February 2017
- **Mohila Ongon’s International Women’s Day Celebration at the Brady Arts Centre** on 8th March 2017
- **Women of the World (WOW) Festival at Southbank Centre** on 10th March 2017
- **Aerobics**
- **Developing Writing Skills**
- **Literacy**
- **Men’s Badminton**
- **Fruit Carving**
- **Keep Fit**

To join the courses, please fill out an enrolment form available from Sabina Khan.

### Contact us

Please contact Sabina Khan
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020 7791 7213

Mulberry School for Girls
Richard Street
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Shanaz Begum
Executive Assistant to the Headteacher

Sabina Khan
Parent Liaison Officer

### Family Learning Trip to Oxford, Blenheim and Bicester

This term, we partnered with the organisation Let’s Travel who are an award winning, socially responsible business and tour operator in the UK and offered a trip for our parents and community members from the St Katharine’s and Shadwell Cluster to Oxford on Saturday 19th November 2016 and 47 people attended.

The aim of this trip was for families to learn about the history of Oxford and experience the home of the oldest University in the English speaking world.

The day started off with a guided walking tour of historic landmarks which included, Trinity College, Bridge of Sighs, Hertford College, All Souls College, Radcliffe Camera, the University Church of St Mary and Christ Church College. The group then stopped for some lunch and exploring at the popular Covered Market where they were able to enjoy great British food.

The next stop for the group was Blenheim Palace, the 18th century palace and also the birth place of Sir Winston Churchill. The group enjoyed learning about the history of the palace and how it was built to celebrate the victory over the French in the War of the Spanish Succession.

Continued inside...
Family Learning Trip to Oxford, Blenheim and Bicester continued...

Many parents have expressed a desire to visit Oxford again to go punting in the summer which the Community Learning Team will look into organising next year, so watch this space!

We would like to thank Let’s Travel for working with us and offering a great day out for our families.

A Season of Bangla Drama

The Community Learning Team continues to support the arts ethos of Mulberry School for Girls and during this term we have been supporting the festival 'A Season of Bangla Drama' by Tower Hamlets Council.

The festival which took place in many of the fringe theatre venues in Tower Hamlets brought together a diverse programme of plays incorporating traditional music, dance, comedy and tragedy with contemporary twists and universal themes by local artists. On Friday 11th November, parents and carers from Mulberry were part of a female only audience of the play called ‘Mishit Girls’ written by Raminder Kaur Kahlon at Queen Mary University.

The play was about three British Bengali women who have made life choices which defy expectations of a traditional society. Parent Sirah Zabair found the play very relevant to what many women face in our community and felt that the play was empowering and offered advice to women on how to stand up against the patriarchy.

On Sunday 20th November 2016, 15 parents/careers and community members went to watch the play ‘Moya’s House’ by Jannat Chowdhury at the Brady Arts Centre.

The play explored important issues such as domestic violence and child sexual abuse and also offered advice to women who may be affected by such issues. Our parents contributed to the post show Q&A and acknowledged that as members of society we all need to work together to educate and resolve issues of domestic violence.

One of our parents Ferdous Ahmed who is also a Community Learner organised the event ‘Sunday is a Sarre Day’ as part of the festival on Sunday 20th November. Ferdous is the Chair of the organisation ‘Mohila Ongon’ which is a grass roots organisation which promotes the positive work of Bangladeshi women in London. The event was a female only event which celebrated the rich cultures and traditions that are practised by women of Bangladeshi heritage. There was a variety of stalls held at the event by local women who have set up arts and crafts businesses and social enterprises as well as live musical entertainment, poetry readings, a saree workshop and a fashion show. An array of Bangladeshi delicacies were also on offer for people to try. The event was a success and we would like to congratulate Ferdous and Mohila Ongon.

The final stop for the group was a quick visit to Bicester Village to enjoy some shopping time. The families who attended the trip enjoyed the day and learning about the history of Oxford. For many of the families, it was their first time visiting Oxford and the students benefitted from visiting the colleges of Oxford University and imagining what life may be like if they attend university there.

The parents in the ATC group attended the play which incrusted their desire to act again and put on another performance. The play focused on the partition of India in the 1940s and the effects of it. Parent Ahsan got involved and was excited about the success and we would like to congratulate Ferdous and Mohila Ongon.

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The legacy work of the Alumni Theatre Company (ATC) group continues and following the successful run of the play ‘House of Blijqis Bibi’, the group was invited by the playwright Sudha Bhuchar to attend the performance of her new play called ‘Child of the Divide’ on 17th October 2016.

After their informative tour of Blenheim Palace, the group visited the Christmas Living Crafts Fair in the Great Court of the Palace which showcases the best of British craftsmanship including jewellery, ceramics, glass and fashion. This was a perfect opportunity for our families to purchase unique gifts and stocking fillers for the festive season as well as enjoy live musical entertainment.

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Our brand new building will house two dedicated performance spaces designed and developed by leading theatre consultants Charcoalblue, whose recent work includes the redevelopment of the Dorfman Theatre at the National Theatre. We will also have set and costume workshops, so that students can study all aspects of the theatre making process from lighting and sound to costumes, make-up and set design.

Our rich and diverse technical theatre curriculum, developed in conjunction with leading practitioners in the theatre and events sector, will provide students with insight into how all the elements that go into making a theatrical production work together to create a successful outcome.

State of the Art Building
Our brand new school will house two dedicated performance spaces designed and developed by leading theatre consultants Charcoalblue, whose recent work includes the redevelopment of the Dorfman Theatre at the National Theatre. We will also have set and costume workshops, so that students can study all aspects of the theatre making process from lighting and sound to costumes, make-up and set design.

Brand New School opening in September 2017
The latest addition to the Mulberry family of schools, Mulberry UTC is a new school for boys and girls aged 14-19 which is opening in Tower Hamlets in September 2017. Mulberry UTC is a University Technical College specialising in the creative, health and digital industries. UTCs provide a combination of academic and technical learning, working closely with industry partners to ensure young people are well-prepared for future study and the world of work. Our employer sponsors are Bank of America Merrill Lynch, the BFI, the National Theatre and Barts Health NHS Trust. Our university sponsor is Goldsmiths University of London.

Creative Industries specialism
Pursuing a career in the creative industries means doing something you’re passionate about for a living, leading to high levels of job satisfaction. There are now more than 1.8 million people working in the creative economy across the UK, with new jobs being created in areas including media, theatre, advertising, design, fashion, film, music, the performing arts, publishing, software design, television and radio.

Many young people aspire to work in the creative industries but don’t have the right mix of skills, while many companies struggle to recruit the skilled professionals they need. Mulberry UTC will bridge this skills gap, by giving young people the knowledge, skills and professional networking opportunities they need for the wide range of exciting jobs within the creative economy.

Health Industries specialism
Many young people aspire to work in the health sector, attracted by the opportunity to make a positive difference to people’s lives by helping to reduce the causes of ill-health and caring for people who need it most. Mulberry UTC’s health curriculum, designed in collaboration with our sponsors Barts Health NHS Trust, will prepare students for a wide range of careers in the health sector. Students will learn in our simulated health workplaces and healthcare values, priorities and practices.

Specialist employer-led learning
Mulberry UTC’s specialist technical curriculum has been designed in collaboration with industry specialists, including our sponsors. Students will regularly meet with industry experts and practitioners, gaining first-hand information about their work, collaborating on live projects and learning how to solve real-world problems, as well as taking part in work experience, mentoring and community service projects. They will develop deep understanding of the values, priorities and practices of the workplace, to ensure they are well prepared for future careers in the creative industries.

Application forms can be completed online or downloaded from the Mulberry UTC website. The deadline for applications is 31st January 2017. Visit our website at www.mulberryutc.co.uk

We are accepting applications for students who are currently in Year 9 or Year 11, who wish to join us for Year 10 or Year 12 in September 2017. We also have some places available for Year 12 students who are currently studying Level 2 courses and wish to progress to Level 3 study at the UTC.

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**Adult Learning Courses**

This term, the Community Learning team ran a range of courses which were available for our parents, carers and community members with 19 courses on offer each week which include Literacy, Admin and Business, Childcare, Arts and Fitness courses. We have managed to reach out to approximately 200 adult learners each week. Participation for the courses has increased and all the Literacy, Childcare and Fitness classes have been oversubscribed. Congratulations to all our Adult Learners who have completed their courses. Below are a few highlights of some of the classes.

There will be many more courses on offer for January 2017, please see the back of the newsletter for more information on how to sign up.

**Keep Fit and Aerobics Class**

Following on from the courses and events which ran last academic year on health and fitness, the Aerobics course and Keep Fit course have received the highest number of learners and as a result we will be looking at providing more fitness courses in the new year. Well done to all our adult learners who are keeping up with their fitness!

Throughout the summer term parents and carers continued their gardening efforts in the Gardening Club. Families were able to enjoy the fruits of their labour during harvest time. The group grew strawberries, runner beans, courgettes, pumpkins and marrows which were shared with everyone. We would like to thank Mr. MacDonald for his help with this club.

**Interpreting Course**

16 Adult Learners are on their way in completing the Interpreting Course and will be qualified to become community interpreters. This qualification is recognised by many public services and our adult learners can go on to work in areas such as healthcare or the civil service. We would like to wish all the adult learners all the best for searching for employment once they have qualified.

**Bag Decorating Class**

A creative Bag Decorating course was offered for parents and carers of Year 7 to help them transition into life at Mulberry. 14 Adult Learners completed this course and parents provided positive feedback on how the school has not only helped their daughters adjust to a new setting but has also provided a platform for parents.

**Year 7 Parent Trip to the Olympic Orbit**

Our first trip for families this year was a trip organised for Year 7 parents and carers to the Olympic Orbit. 13 parents attended on 22nd September 2016. This trip was organised to help with the Year 7 transition. The parents enjoyed exploring the UK’s tallest sculpture and enjoyed looking over London from the 80m high viewing platform. Some parents were also brave enough to go on the slide, descending from a height of 178m!

**Coffee Mornings**

We have held two Coffee Mornings this term and we were very pleased with the increase in the number of attendees. We have a core group of parents who attend regularly and this year new parents have joined. The aim of Coffee Mornings is to help parents and carers feel comfortable when coming into school to discuss concerns they have about their child’s needs or their own needs as parents.

There will be many more courses on offer for January 2017, please see the back of the newsletter for more information on how to sign up.

Dr. Katharine Vincent, Principal of the Mulberry UTC attended the first Coffee Morning in September 2016 and informed parents of the developments of the UTC.

Parents were extremely positive about the UTC and offered to help with the marketing through word of mouth. For more information on the Mulberry UTC, please see the article below.

We also had representation from the community organisation Mohila Ongon who run empowerment events in Tower Hamlets for women. Parents attended their Macmillan Cancer event in October 2016.

The group in their second meeting of the term suggested organising a festival for parents in March 2017 to celebrate International Women’s Day and signed up to be on the Planning Committee which will be run by Sabina Khan. The Planning Team will meet shortly to discuss the focus and content of the festival. This festival will support the work the School is already doing in celebrating International Women’s Day by contributing to the WOW Festival and school celebrations.

If you are interested in joining the planning committee, please contact Sabina Khan.