



ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

Headteachers Welcome

As the Easter Holidays are upon us and Spring Term draws to a close, I would like to welcome everyone to our April newsletter. There has been much going on across the academy, but for me, one of the things that has stood out most of all this term is our academy value of **Independence**. It has been fantastic to see our young people developing their skills both in school and out in the community. Whether it be physical skills, transition, home management skills or travel training, students from across the school really have 'given it their all'.

Alongside this there have been a flurry of enterprise activities and Post 16 have been 'put to work' across the academy in a range of rolls as we begin to develop our internal work experience opportunities. It is wonderful to see learners actively participating and contributing to the school community we are all so proud of.

Dates for the Diary

- 28th April- Students return to school
- 02nd May - INSET - School closed to students
- 05th May - Bank Holiday - School Closed
- 23rd May - Enterprise day & Parent coffee morning
- 26th-30th May - Half Term
- 4th July - Summer Fayre

As you know, we ran a lockdown practice drill earlier in the term. This is the first time a drill like this has been practiced at Mary Elliot and we were blown away by how staff and students responded. The systems put in place and collaborative approach by staff led to a very successful drill and our friendly intruder didn't get far!



Post 16 Enterprise

Through the past half term, our Sixth Form classes have been working hard to develop their enterprise skills.

6F1 from the Venture Pathway have set up a staff café where hot drinks, toasties and cooked brunch items such as hash browns are offered. There's always the option for either collection or delivery.

6F2 from the Aspire Pathway have worked hard on developing an enterprise, growing their own plants, which the group then sell. This supports our students with their social development and allows them to interact with a variety of people from across the school.

6F3 from the Endeavour Pathway have established a tuck shop offering students a range of healthy snacks (and the occasional treat of course) that they can purchase. Always there smiling, you will be sure to receive the very best customer service from our students.



Rosenshine Working Group

Two members of our middle leadership team have actively contributed to the Rosenshine Working Group within the Thrive Partnership, focusing on improving student success through evidence-based teaching practices. Guided by Barak Rosenshine's research, the group aims to create sustainable improvements in teaching and learning, ensuring all students, regardless of background, have the opportunity to thrive.

Naomi and Natalie have led bespoke training sessions at Mary Elliot Academy, focusing on key principles such as Modelling, Scaffolding, and Review. This work is designed to equip teachers with practical, research-backed strategies that enhance classroom practice and student outcomes.

Through these efforts, they are helping to foster a culture of ongoing professional development and evidence-based teaching at Mary Elliot Academy, ensuring lasting improvements in teaching quality and student achievement.



Reading & Phonics



This term, we have continued to prioritise the development of Phonics across the Academy—and the impact is clear. Learners are making excellent progress, with many moving up through phonics phases and demonstrating greater confidence in their reading and communication skills.

We're proud to share that we've recently appointed new Phase One Champions to help lead and model outstanding practice, ensuring that all staff feel confident in delivering high-quality phonics teaching. This has been complemented by additional CPD this term, giving teams time to deepen their knowledge and reflect on their practice.

Thank you to all staff and students for their continued enthusiasm and commitment—your efforts are making a real difference!

This term has been extremely busy with parent coffee mornings and whole school events taking place.

World Book Day was an exciting day where the whole school came together to celebrate our love of reading in the comfort of their PJs and onesies.

Students had a 'flipping' good time making pancakes and taking part in pancake racing to celebrate Shrove Tuesday.

We then had our Comic Relief celebration, where Mary Elliot was adorned in red and we raised a fantastic £113.60.

Thank you all for your continuing support!

