



ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2025

As we come to the end of the autumn term, I would like to thank our students, families, and staff for their continued support and commitment to our school community. This term has been rich with meaningful experiences, from our thoughtful Remembrance activities to the warmth and generosity shown at the Christmas Fayre.

We have continued to place a strong focus on developing communication skills for our learners, helping them to build confidence, independence, and resilience, while recent visits from the DWP have supported our shared aspiration to prepare pupils for life beyond school.

Throughout all of these activities, our core values of **Respect, Independence, Aspiration, Resilience, and Community** have been clearly reflected in the way our school has worked together.

I wish everyone a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to welcoming you back in the new term.



Spring Term Dates:

School open to students: Monday 5th January – Friday 13th February 2026

Half term: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026

School Closed to students: Monday 23rd February

School open to students: Tuesday 24th February – Friday 27th March



Working in Collaboration with DWP:

A huge thank you to Julie and Penny from the Department for Work and Pensions for delivering engaging sessions to our Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4, and Post-16 students. This term, our students have taken part in workshops covering employer expectations, resilience, stereotyping, and post-16/18 choices. These sessions play a vital role in helping our students prepare for adulthood and future careers by building confidence, developing essential transferable life skills, and understanding the world of work.

We're excited to welcome them back next term for more engaging activities, including interview skills and the interview dress challenge, LMI quiz, and DWP's Fast Track Programme, supporting students to get ready for work experience, voluntary roles, supported internships, and to strengthen their transferable skills.

Communication at Mary Elliot:

Communication is central to life at Mary Elliot Academy, and we value working closely with families to support our learners. Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Speech and Language coffee morning, where we shared practical ways to support communication at home and in school. Families were introduced to communication books and Aided Language Displays, which help learners make choices, express needs and develop understanding through everyday interactions. These shared approaches strengthen consistency and have a real impact on learners' confidence and independence. If you would like further support, please contact your child's class teacher.

Highlights from Endeavour:

Students following the Endeavour pathway have been developing their self-regulation skills, emotional regulation and communication skills. Students achieved this by using short sequences of alerting, organising, and calming activities within sensory circuit sessions.

This supports students to prepare for the day, support focus, and ease transitions. Regular use of these routines strengthens self-regulation and helps create a more inclusive, ready-to-learn environment for all students.

Remembrance Day

On Tuesday 11th November, students and staff came together to honour the brave men and women who lost their lives during World War II. Throughout the day, students laid handmade poppies in our Community Garden, prepared by the PMLD department.

At 10:50am, the whole school gathered for a special assembly, learning about the importance of Remembrance Day and observing a two-minute silence at 11:00am.

Student representatives from each pathway laid a poppy wreath on the Remembrance Display, showing our shared values of community and respect.

Christmas Fayre

On Friday 12th December, we held our annual Christmas Fayre. It was wonderful to see students, their families and staff come together as a whole community.

The morning was made even more special with a performance from our wonderful choir. It really was the best way to get in to the Christmas spirit.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported us, we raised an incredible £96!!!!

