



Mill School Bury

NEWS

Summer 2026

Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and Friends of Mill School,

As we reach the end of another successful and memorable academic year, I am delighted to welcome you to our Summer 2026 Newsletter.

Looking back over the year, I am incredibly proud of all that our pupils have achieved. Their enthusiasm, resilience and determination have shone through in every aspect of school life, from their learning in the classroom to the many events, visits and celebrations that have taken place across our school community. Every day, our pupils continue to inspire us with their kindness, creativity and commitment to doing their very best.

This term has been particularly special, with many opportunities for pupils to showcase their talents, develop new skills and create lasting memories. Whether through sporting achievements, enrichment activities or personal milestones, there has certainly been much to celebrate. I hope this newsletter captures some of those wonderful moments and gives you a glimpse into the rich experiences that make Mill School such a unique and vibrant place to learn.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated staff, governors, parents and carers for their unwavering support throughout the year. The strong partnership between home and school plays a vital role in helping our pupils thrive and achieve their full potential.

To our pupils who will be moving on to new adventures in September, we wish you every success and happiness for the future. You will always remain an important part of the Mill School family.

As the summer break begins, I hope you all have the opportunity to relax, spend time with loved ones

and enjoy a well-deserved rest. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, ready for another exciting year of learning, growth and achievement.

On behalf of everyone at Mill School, I wish you a happy, safe and enjoyable summer.

Warmest wishes,

Debbie Morley, Headteacher

Outdoor Education

Outdoor Education continues to flourish at Mill School!

Throughout the year, pupils have enthusiastically participated in a wide range of practical and engaging outdoor learning experiences, helping them to develop valuable life skills, confidence, resilience and independence.

Activities have included fire safety and fire-lighting techniques, woodwork and tool-handling skills, navigation and map-reading, gardening projects and a variety of outdoor construction and environmental activities. These hands-on experiences encourage teamwork, problem-solving, communication and personal responsibility while allowing pupils to challenge themselves in new and exciting environments.

The Outdoor Education programme has become an important part of school life, providing meaningful opportunities for pupils to learn beyond the classroom and develop practical skills that will benefit them long into the future.



Subject updates

English

This term has been filled with hard work, enthusiasm and exciting learning in English. Across the school, pupils have continued to embrace our regular DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) sessions, which take place three mornings each week. These dedicated reading opportunities help to nurture a lifelong love of reading, encouraging pupils to read for relaxation, escapism, learning and enjoyment.

In Key Stage 3, Year 7 pupils have explored a rich and varied curriculum, studying dystopian fiction, Shakespeare and the engaging class reader *Smart – a fast-paced and entertaining murder mystery that captured pupils' imaginations.*



Year 8 pupils have delved into the diversity of our literary heritage, studying a Sherlock Holmes story alongside poetry from a wide range of cultural voices. They are ending the year with Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, discovering how themes of love, friendship and family remain just as relevant today as they were over 400 years ago.

Meanwhile, Year 9 pupils have particularly enjoyed exploring extracts from classic Gothic literature, including *Dracula* and *Frankenstein*, as well as engaging in lively discussions and debates inspired by George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. As they prepare to move into Key Stage 4, they have also begun their Entry Level studies, providing a strong foundation for the next stage of their learning journey.

In the upper school, Year 10 pupils have been working towards their Entry Level and Functional Skills qualifications. Alongside developing their reading and writing skills, they have built confidence

in spoken language through group discussions and by researching, writing and delivering individual presentations.

Finally, our Year 11 pupils have shown tremendous dedication throughout the year as they prepared for their GCSE English Language examinations. We are incredibly proud of the effort, resilience and commitment they have demonstrated. They have been excellent role models and have set a wonderful example for the rest of the school.

Well done to all our pupils for another successful year in English. We look forward to seeing their continued progress and achievements next year.

Mrs Partington

Physical Education

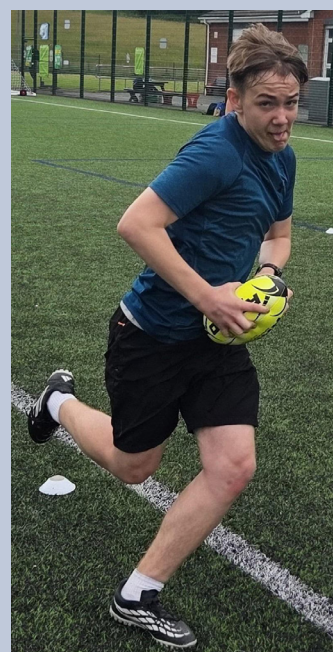
A highlight of the term was the SEND Schools Tag Rugby Festival in Middleton. On 19th June, Mr Sharman accompanied a group of pupils to take part in this exciting event.

Pupils participated enthusiastically in a variety of team building and tag rugby skills activities before competing in a number of matches against other schools. The event provided a wonderful opportunity to develop teamwork, communication and sporting skills, while also making new friendships.

All pupils represented Mill School exceptionally well and were fantastic ambassadors for the school throughout the day.

We are incredibly proud of their positive attitude, effort and sportsmanship. Well done to everyone involved!

Mrs Robinson



Mathematics

This year, pupils have enjoyed a wide range of engaging, hands-on activities designed to explore the world around them through mathematics. A key focus has been helping pupils understand that maths is all around us, by investigating real-life situations and recognising how mathematical thinking supports everyday life.

Lessons have been filled with lively discussion and debate, encouraging pupils to explain their reasoning, challenge ideas and develop confidence in communicating their mathematical thinking. Throughout the year, pupils have learned that mathematics is often about problem-solving, exploration and justification, rather than simply finding the right answer.

One of the highlights of the year was our Year 10



visit to Ramsbottom, where pupils explored how local businesses use mathematics in their daily operations.

From managing time and finances to applying concepts such as ratio and proportion in a bakery and photography studio, pupils gained valuable insight into the practical importance of maths in the workplace.

Pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 have also developed their understanding of personal finance through activities focusing on payslips, taxation, budgeting and financial decision-making. These valuable life skills will help support them both now and in the future.

We would also like to congratulate our Year 11 pupils, who have worked exceptionally hard throughout the year. Their commitment, resilience and determination have been outstanding and we look forward to celebrating their achievements when results are released this summer.

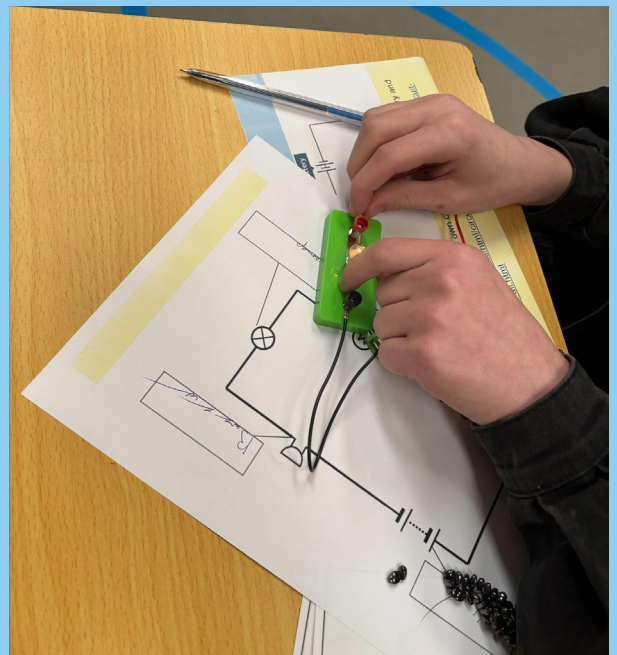
Mr Donnelly

Science

This year has been filled with opportunities to explore, investigate and develop curiosity about the world around us.

Working alongside Geography and Outdoor Education, pupils took part in ecology fieldwork at Heaton Park, embracing the spirit of this year's British Science Week theme, Curiosity. These experiences allowed pupils to apply their classroom learning in a real-world environment and develop important scientific enquiry skills.

Back in the laboratory, pupils have enjoyed a wide range of practical investigations and experiments. They have explored topics including Hooke's Law, stopping distances, the extraction of DNA from fruit and the extraction of iron from ores. These hands-on experiences have helped bring scientific concepts to life and encouraged pupils to think critically and ask questions.



Throughout the year, I have been consistently impressed by the dedication, curiosity, insight and enthusiasm that Mill School pupils bring to their science lessons. I look forward to seeing them continue to grow in confidence and develop their scientific knowledge and skills in the years ahead.

ICT and Computing

This year has been an exciting one for ICT and Computing at Mill School, with two major developments that are already having a positive impact on teaching and learning across the school.

The first has been a significant investment in new laptops and iPads, providing greater access to technology for all pupils in every classroom. These upgraded devices enable pupils to access the latest software and learning resources, creating new opportunities for engagement, creativity and independent learning.

The second exciting development is the enhancement of our Immersive Reality Room.

With the installation of state-of-the-art projectors, a new computer system and Magic Room immersive software, we now have an incredible facility that brings learning to life in innovative and engaging ways. We are continuing to explore how this technology can enrich learning experiences and provide pupils with exciting new opportunities across the curriculum.

We look forward to seeing how these advancements continue to support and inspire our pupils in the years ahead.

Mr Davidson

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Success

We are incredibly proud of the pupils who have successfully completed their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Awards this year.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is one of the UK's most respected youth achievement programmes and pupils have shown remarkable commitment, determination and perseverance throughout their participation.

Over many months, pupils have dedicated themselves to developing new skills, volunteering within the community, participating in physical activities and completing challenging expedition sections. Their success reflects not only their hard work and resilience but also their ability to work collaboratively, overcome obstacles and demonstrate independence in unfamiliar situations.

The experience has enabled pupils to build confidence, develop leadership qualities and create lasting memories



while achieving a highly regarded national award. We congratulate all of our award recipients and look forward to supporting future participants as they continue their Duke of Edinburgh's Award journey.



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The Outdoor Education programme has become an important part of school life, providing meaningful opportunities for pupils to learn beyond the classroom and develop practical skills that will benefit them long into the future.



Looking Ahead: The JAS Outdoor Life Skills Award

We are delighted to announce an exciting new addition to our Outdoor Education programme for September: the JAS Outdoor Life Skills Award.

This accredited qualification has been designed to provide pupils with a structured pathway to develop essential outdoor skills, practical abilities and personal development through a recognised award scheme.

Pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 will have the opportunity to work towards a series of progressive certifications, achieving up to four certificates each academic year. Over the three-year programme, pupils can work towards a total of twelve awards, culminating in a final certification recognising their commitment and achievement.

The programme follows a clear progression pathway:

- Year 9 – White Award
- Year 10 – Green Award
- Year 11 – Gold Award

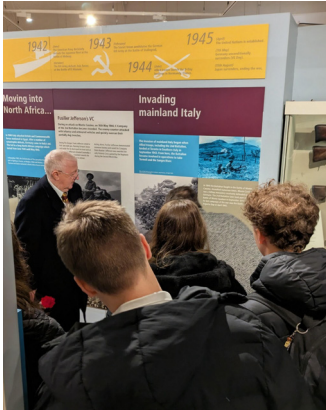
The JAS Award will complement our existing Outdoor Education provision by developing practical outdoor skills, teamwork, leadership, environmental awareness, personal responsibility and preparation for adult life. It will also provide pupils with valuable opportunities to gain recognised accreditation while building confidence, independence, resilience and employability skills.

We are excited to introduce this new programme and look forward to celebrating the achievements of our pupils as they progress through the awards in the years to come.

Mr Marsh

Humanities

Humanities lessons this year have taken pupils on an exciting journey through History, Geography and Religious Education, exploring a wide range of topics that have encouraged curiosity, critical thinking and a deeper understanding of the world around them.



Our Year 7 pupils began the year by investigating the question of myth or fact, using the legend of King Arthur as a starting point before exploring historical evidence surrounding the Battle of Hastings. This provided a fantastic introduction to historical enquiry and the importance of evidence in understanding the past.



In Year 8, pupils considered the thought-provoking question: "What is the right way to live?" Through the study of philosophical and ethical ideas in Religious Education, they explored different beliefs and perspectives. Their discussions demonstrated great maturity and their empathy towards children living in poverty was particularly inspiring.

Year 9 pupils have investigated a range of important topics across all three Humanities subjects, including the World Wars, climate change and sustainable living. These studies helped pupils understand both significant historical events and some of the key global challenges facing society today.

Our Year 11 History pupils explored historical enquiries in greater depth, revisiting the Battle of Hastings and researching Health and People Through Time. They were fascinated by the medical beliefs and practices of the medieval period and enjoyed comparing them with modern healthcare and scientific understanding.

Throughout the year, pupils have also contributed to creating classroom displays and taken part in a variety of fieldwork and enrichment activities. Exploring people, places and society beyond the classroom has helped to bring learning to life and encouraged pupils to think critically about the world around them.

Geography Fieldwork in Manchester

A particular highlight this year was the Year 10 Geography fieldwork visit to Manchester city centre.

Pupils investigated the enquiry question:

"Is Manchester city centre a good place for teenagers to socialise?"

Prior to the visit, pupils researched factors that contribute to enjoyable social experiences for young people, identified key locations and planned methods of data collection, including surveys, observations and photography.



During the visit, pupils gathered evidence while exploring various parts of the city centre, including the popular Christmas markets and other social spaces. Discussions during the journey and fieldwork highlighted Manchester's vibrant atmosphere, street art, shopping and entertainment opportunities, while also prompting thoughtful consideration of challenges such as cost and cleanliness.

The visit provided an excellent opportunity for pupils to apply their classroom learning in a real-world setting while developing valuable geographical fieldwork and enquiry skills.

EHCP Outcomes Lessons

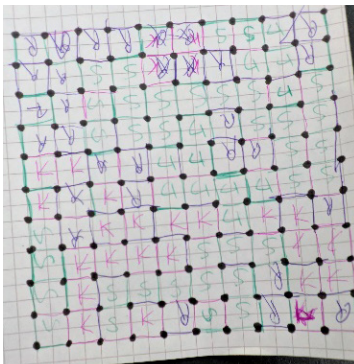
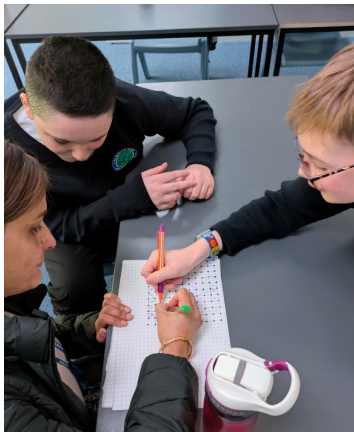
This year, we introduced our new EHCP Outcomes Lessons, and they have quickly become a valued part of our curriculum.

Staff have worked closely with one another and with pupils to carefully plan activities that are meaningful, engaging and tailored to individual learning needs. This ensures that each lesson is closely linked to pupils' Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) outcomes, helping them make progress towards their personal goals in a supportive and purposeful way.

The lessons include a wide range of practical activities designed to develop key skills across different areas of learning. Pupils have taken part in shared reading and comprehension activities to strengthen their understanding of texts, while collaborative problem-solving tasks have encouraged teamwork, communication and resilience. One particularly popular activity involved a cooperative version of Jenga, where pupils worked together to build the tallest tower possible, developing both strategic thinking and interpersonal skills.

Other activities have included logic and reasoning games to promote critical thinking, planning and managing simple budgets to develop independence and life skills, and exploring self-regulation and co-regulation strategies to support emotional wellbeing and positive relationships.

We are delighted with the positive impact these lessons are already having. Pupils have embraced the opportunities to develop skills that are both meaningful and relevant to their individual aspirations, and we look forward to continuing to grow and strengthen this important aspect of our provision in the year ahead.



Remembrance Day and the local community

At Mill School Bury, we are proud of our strong connections with the local community. In November 2025, our pupils and staff had the honour of joining the Lancashire Fusiliers Association and other local schools for the Remembrance Service at The Fusilier Museum in the Gallipoli Garden.

This was a thoughtful and meaningful experience for our pupils, providing a chance to reflect on the importance of remembrance in a supportive and inclusive environment. Our school representatives respectfully laid a wreath, which included heartfelt messages created by pupils and staff.



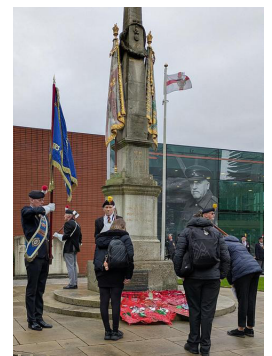
Following the minute's silence, pupils explored the museum's exhibits, which brought history to life through artefacts, letters and uniforms. A highlight for many was the immersive World War I trench experience. We were also privileged to hear from a local fusilier, who shared his father's story of survival during the Dunkirk evacuation and his later service in Italy—an inspiring and memorable moment for all who attended.

In the lead-up to Remembrance Day, our whole school community took part in activities tailored to support understanding and engagement. Hub classes created their own cenotaph displays and crafted poppies, while others took part in reflective sessions, including watching commemorative clips during lunchtime clubs.



We were incredibly proud of how our pupils engaged with the day. Their respect, curiosity and empathy were evident throughout, and they represented our school values beautifully.

Mrs Fair-Lawton



Christmas Fair and Rudy – raising awareness and raising funds

Mill School Bury truly is a family, and this spirit shone at our Christmas fair, where we raised funds for MACS charity. The MSB community—staff, pupils, and their families—came together to enjoy activities such as the tombola, “knock down the tin elves,” and “guess what’s in the bag,” alongside festive treats, hot chocolate, and cakes.

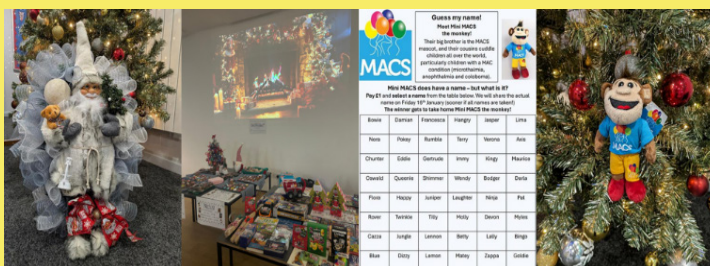
Highlights included a Father Christmas raffle and a challenge to guess the name of the cute and cuddly MACS monkey – it was Bowie!

We chose to support MACS, a charity for those affected by rare eye conditions (microphthalmia, anophthalmia and coloboma), in recognition of Rudy, the grandson of staff member Mrs Fair-Lawton. Born in January 2025 with bilateral anophthalmia, Rudy also has additional associated conditions, including moderate hearing loss and aspiration.



As his family navigate this rare and complex journey, the MSB community has shown remarkable care and support. Displays around school have shared Rudy's story—raising awareness while celebrating the joy he brings. It was also a privilege to welcome Rudy into school during our deafblind awareness assembly.

Rudy's family extend their heartfelt thanks to the MSB family - your support, awareness, and fundraising mean so much.



Music

What a fantastic year it has been in Music!

This was my first year leading Music at Mill School, and I have been delighted by the enthusiasm, talent and commitment shown by our pupils as they have continued to develop their musicianship skills and confidence.

There have been many highlights throughout the year. Pupils working towards their Silver Arts Award enjoyed a memorable visit to see A Christmas Carol Goes Wrong at The Lowry Theatre in Salford, gaining inspiration from a live professional performance.

Our Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 pupils learned and performed the uplifting song Lean on Me, culminating in a wonderful assembly performance,

which even featured a pupil accompanying on the keyboard. Pupils in Hub 3 developed their keyboard skills by learning excerpts from Benjamin Britten's The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, while Year 9 pupils enjoyed learning to play Three Little Birds by Bob Marley on the guitar and ukulele.

Another exciting whole-school project involved KS2 and KS3 pupils participating in activities linked to Zootopia 2, including learning and performing the song Zoo by Shakira on the keyboards.

I am extremely proud of everything our pupils have achieved this year and look forward to providing even more opportunities for performance, creativity and musical development in the coming academic year.

Mrs Charnley

Technology, Art and PSHE

This year has been another exciting and successful one across Technology, Art and PSHE, with pupils demonstrating creativity, determination and a willingness to embrace new challenges.

Food Technology and Home Cooking Skills

Pupils across the school have continued to develop practical cooking skills and an understanding of healthy lifestyles through our Home Cooking Skills programme.

Our Year 11 pupils achieved excellent results in their Level 1 and Level 2 BTEC Home Cooking Skills qualifications, producing a range of impressive dishes including homemade pizzas, focaccia, curries and pasta dishes. We are particularly proud that one pupil has chosen to continue their passion for food by enrolling on a Catering course at Bury College.

Across the school, pupils have developed confidence in preparing food safely, using kitchen equipment and exploring healthy eating. Pupils in the Hub classes have enjoyed investigating different textures, colours and flavours while trying new fruits and vegetables and becoming increasingly confident using kitchen tools and appliances.

Each year group has built specialist skills throughout the year:

- Year 7 became expert bread makers.
- Year 8 developed their pastry-making skills.
- Year 9 took on more complex dishes, including working with meat-based recipes.
- Year 10 successfully completed their Level 1 Home Cooking Skills qualification for the first time, achieving fantastic results.

Art and Textiles

Creativity has flourished throughout Art and Textiles lessons this year. Pupils have explored a

variety of techniques including embroidery, fabric dyeing, artist research, drawing and mixed-media design.

Our Year 11 pupils have excelled in Art, Craft and Design, producing work of an exceptionally high standard, while Year 10 pupils have engaged enthusiastically with individual projects based on themes ranging from identity and body image to textile and fabric exploration.

We are continually impressed by the imagination, creativity and dedication shown by our young artists.

Farewell to Year 11

As we prepare to say goodbye to our Year 11 pupils, we would like to recognise the enormous contribution they have made to school life.

Throughout their final year, they have exceeded expectations through their dedication to examinations, coursework and practical assessments. They have also acted as positive role models for younger pupils, showing kindness, supporting friendships and contributing positively to the school community.

Following their exams, pupils chose to remain fully involved in school life, participating in travel training, budgeting activities and a range of enrichment visits. Their enthusiasm and commitment reflect the strong relationships they have built during their time at Mill School.

We look forward to celebrating their achievements at the Year 11 Prom and wish every one of them the very best as they move on to college courses, training opportunities and new adventures. You will always be part of the Mill School family.

Miss Fitton

Hub 1

What a wonderful year it has been in Hub 1! It has been packed with learning, laughter and memorable experiences and we are incredibly proud of everything our pupils have achieved.

One of the highlights of the year has been our weekly swimming sessions at the Village Hotel. Pupils have worked hard to develop their core strength, coordination and water confidence. It has been fantastic to see some children progress to swimming a full length of the pool, while others have made tremendous strides in becoming more comfortable and confident in the water.

Our Traditional Tales topic was a huge success. During Outdoor Education sessions, pupils brought stories such as Little Red Riding Hood and The Three Little Pigs to life in our woodland area. Through role play, sequencing activities and visual storytelling, children developed their communication skills while having great fun recreating their favourite tales.

Throughout the year, sensory circuits have played an important role in our daily routine, helping pupils regulate their emotions, improve focus and prepare for learning. We have also enjoyed visits to local play centres, providing opportunities for physical activity, social interaction and plenty of fun.

In Literacy, pupils have worked hard to develop their phonics knowledge, learning new sounds and practising blending and segmenting words. During Independent Living lessons, Road Safety activities have helped children identify signs and symbols in the community and learn important skills for staying safe when out and about.

Exploring the local area has been another favourite activity. Walks around the reservoir have supported learning about direction and navigation, with pupils learning left and right, following simple maps and even creating their own treasure maps to locate hidden treasure.

David Attenborough has provided wonderful inspiration this year, with pupils exploring fascinating facts about underwater creatures and embarking on prehistoric adventures through Andy's Adventures. Using immersive reality experiences, children created their own Steve Irwin-inspired documentaries while learning about animals and their habitats.

Communication and interaction have remained a key focus through the use of Intensive Interaction and Attention Autism approaches. These strategies have helped pupils develop listening skills, attention, turn-taking and communication.

Occupational Therapy activities have also supported the development of both fine and gross motor skills, with pupils practising pinching, squeezing and rolling movements to strengthen the foundations needed for early writing.

Our current topic is Recycling, and pupils have been busy creating imaginative models from recycled materials. In Science, they have investigated and sorted different materials, including wood, metal, plastic and glass, developing their understanding of the world around them and the importance of caring for the environment.

It has truly been a fantastic year in Hub 1. We are incredibly proud of every pupil and all they have achieved, and we look forward to many more exciting adventures next year.

Miss Afzal

Hub 3

This academic year, pupils in Hub Three have enjoyed a rich and varied programme of activities that have supported both their learning and wellbeing. Each week, the group has taken part in swimming sessions at the Village Leisure Club, building confidence in the water and developing important life skills.

Alongside this, the boys have benefited from regular horse-riding sessions at Margaret Heys Riding Centre, where they have shown great enthusiasm and made excellent progress in their communication, coordination and teamwork.

Outdoor education has also been a key feature of our year, with weekly walks and activities led by Mr Marsh, giving pupils valuable opportunities to explore the local environment, develop independence and enjoy time outdoors.

In school, we have introduced a daily sensory circuit to help pupils regulate and prepare for learning, alongside regular yoga sessions which have supported calmness, focus and physical wellbeing.

Hub Three has also engaged fully in wider school life, enjoying dressing up for Halloween and World Book Day, as well as attending school discos, which were a highlight for many.

The pupils also took part in a Careers Fair, where visiting colleges shared information about future opportunities, helping to build awareness and excitement about life beyond school.

To round off the festive season, some of our students had the exciting opportunity to attend the Christmas pantomime at Bury College, creating lasting memories and experiencing live theatre. Overall, it has been a fantastic year in Hub Three, filled with growth, enjoyment and many shared experiences.

Mrs Peachman

Hub 4

Since we started as a new class in January, Hub 4 has had a brilliant year. We began as a class of six children and have since expanded to a class of 8.

Straight after forming as a class, we started to go horse riding every Tuesday, from January all the way up to Easter. The children loved riding and looking after the horses and it was a shame when our turn to go came to an end.

Another highlight of the year has been our weekly swimming lessons at the Village Hotel. We have worked on lots of skills, including gross motor skills, co-ordination and keeping safe in water. The confidence of the children in the water has improved hugely over the course of the year. All the adults in Hub 4 and the swimming instructors are very proud of Hub 4!

We learned a lot in our Geography topic of Around the World. We had lessons about France, Kenya, the USA and Australia to name a few. We gained a lot of knowledge about different cultures and the different things people eat and do in different countries.

Just before Easter, we went to Playtopia with all the other children from the Hub. It was an amazing session, and everyone had a great time. We were all on our best behaviour and it was a very positive experience. The Easter disco was also absolutely amazing. We all had a lot of fun. The Easter egg hunt was also brilliant! We followed all the clues that had been left for us and found a lot of eggs throughout the school. Our picnic at the end of it all was incredible!

We have had an amazing time in phonics and English. In phonics we have all increased our knowledge of sounds and progressed through the different sets and stages of Read Write Inc. English lessons have seen Hub 4 make their own spells and make their own versions of Jill Murphy's story 'Peace at Last'. World Book Day was amazing. We all had a brilliant time dressing up as our favourite book characters and enjoyed the activities we had on offer!

We have recently added sensory circuits into our daily curriculum. This has been a huge success and has given Hub 4 a chance to regulate and prepare for a day of lessons and learning. Some of the activities involved in this include trampoline bounces, throwing and rolling at a target and yoga.

Over the last few weeks, Hub 4's technology lessons have changed from Art to Food Technology. We have created a huge number of delicious foods, including bolognese, pizzas and cheese scones. This has been productive, and our life skills have increased thanks to these lessons.

As part of our independent living, we have looked at a wide range of skills that will help us in the outside world once we leave Mill School. For example, we have looked at hygiene, recycling and what to do and who to call in an emergency.

Mrs Golding

7A

This term, pupils in 7A have enjoyed a range of exciting enrichment activities alongside their classroom learning, including fishing and horse-riding lessons.



Horse riding has been a particular highlight, with pupils demonstrating enthusiasm, resilience and determination throughout the experience. Although some pupils initially felt nervous or unsure, they approached each session with a positive attitude and quickly grew in confidence with encouragement and perseverance.

Over the course of the programme, pupils developed a variety of new skills, including mounting safely, understanding riding techniques and learning how to communicate effectively with their horses. It has been wonderful to see pupils challenge themselves,

overcome their fears and celebrate their achievements along the way.

The fishing sessions also provided valuable opportunities for pupils to develop patience, focus and teamwork while enjoying time outdoors and connecting with nature.

We have been particularly proud of the way pupils have supported and encouraged one another during these activities, demonstrating excellent teamwork and a willingness to try new experiences.

The progress made by every member of 7A has been impressive, and they should all be incredibly proud of their achievements both in the classroom and beyond. Well done, 7A!

Mrs Royds

8A

As we reflect on another successful year, 8A have so much to be proud of.

Throughout the year, pupils have made excellent progress both in and out of the classroom. They have worked incredibly hard to build positive friendships, develop their teamwork skills and strengthen their understanding of themselves and others through Occupational Therapy (OT) sessions and targeted support.

Pupils have enthusiastically taken part in a range of team-building activities and have shown increasing independence by developing their organisation and planning skills, taking greater ownership of their school day and learning.

The progress made by every pupil has been unique and significant, whether academically, socially or emotionally. We are extremely proud of their achievements, resilience and growing confidence, and we look forward to seeing them continue to thrive as they begin their Year 9 journey in September.

Mr Marsh

9A

What a fantastic year it has been for 9A!

This year, we were delighted to welcome a new pupil to the form group, who has settled into life at Mill School wonderfully and quickly made new friendships.

Pupils have enjoyed a variety of enrichment opportunities, including a careers visit to Manchester Airport and a trip to Bury College to watch a festive pantomime performed by college pupils. They also demonstrated excellent teamwork and enterprise skills by raising a significant amount of money at the Christmas Fair through their popular 'Higher or Lower' game stall.

Throughout the year, 9A have celebrated many successes, including earning the title of Form of the Week and receiving numerous individual subject awards and certificates.

As they reach the end of their Key Stage 3 journey, pupils have carefully considered and selected their Key Stage 4 options and are looking forward with excitement and confidence to starting Year 10. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and cannot wait to see what they accomplish next.

Miss Charnley

9B

What a tremendous year we have had in 9B!

This year, pupils have continued to strengthen the positive friendships and supportive relationships that make the class such a welcoming environment. We were also pleased to welcome two new pupils to the form, both of whom have settled into Mill School and become valued members of the group.

Pupils have enjoyed a wide range of educational visits and enrichment activities throughout the year. Highlights included a team-building trip to Paradise Island Adventure Golf, a careers visit to Manchester Airport and a cross-curricular trip to Heaton Park, where pupils participated in activities linked to Maths, Science and Geography.

At the Christmas Fair, 9B demonstrated excellent teamwork and enterprise skills

by raising funds through their Lucky Dip and Tombola stalls. Their hard work and positive attitude have also been recognised through earning Form of the Week and receiving numerous individual subject certificates.

As they prepare to begin Key Stage 4, pupils have selected their options and are ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges that Year 10 will bring. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved this year and look forward to seeing their continued success.

Miss Brookes

10A

10A have embraced every opportunity that has come their way this year.

Whether taking part in educational visits to Ramsbottom, speaking with local business owners, or exploring future pathways through college visits, pupils have approached every experience with curiosity, maturity and an open mind.

Throughout Year 10, pupils have made excellent progress both academically and personally. It has been a pleasure to watch them grow in confidence and independence while continuing to demonstrate the qualities that make the group so special.

Their character shines through in so many ways, whether taking on leadership roles during sports activities, showing kindness and patience towards younger pupils, or supporting one another through challenges. They have consistently stepped outside their comfort zones, embracing new experiences with resilience and determination.

Most recently, pupils have shown outstanding perseverance in preparing for and completing their Year 10 examinations. Their hard work and commitment have been evident throughout the year.

As they look ahead to Year 11, there is a real sense of excitement and ambition. While the year ahead will bring new challenges, 10A have already shown that they possess the resilience, confidence and determination needed to succeed. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and look forward to supporting them as they work towards their future goals and aspirations.

Mr Donnelly

10B

Since September, it has been a privilege to witness the continued growth, learning and development of 10B.

Throughout the year, pupils have enjoyed a range of trips and visits, explored future college and career opportunities, and continued to develop academically, socially and emotionally.

What has stood out most has been the resilience, enthusiasm, commitment and camaraderie shown by the entire form group. Whether in lessons, during enrichment activities or around school, 10B consistently demonstrate the values that make Mill School such a positive and supportive community.

Pupils have worked hard to achieve success in their studies while also supporting one another and contributing positively to school life. Their excellent conduct, positive attitudes and determination to succeed set a wonderful example for younger pupils across the school.

We are incredibly proud of everything 10B have achieved this year and look forward to watching them continue to grow in confidence, maturity and independence as they embark on their final year at Mill School in September.

Mr Blackburn

Year 11 – A Year of Celebration and Achievement

As our Year 11 pupils prepare to say farewell to Mill School and begin their next exciting chapter, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on an incredibly successful year.

Much of the year has been focused on revision, coursework and examination preparation, with pupils demonstrating outstanding commitment and determination to achieve their very best. Their hard work and perseverance have been admirable, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.

Alongside their studies, pupils have attended college visits, information events, interviews and transition days to help prepare them for their post-16 destinations. These experiences have supported them in making informed choices about their futures and developing confidence for the next stage of their education.

One particular highlight was the Food Technology examinations, where pupils showcased their impressive culinary skills by planning and preparing meals for others. The standard of work produced was exceptional and reflected the dedication pupils have shown throughout the course.

For some members of the year group, participation in inter-school football competitions provided an opportunity to demonstrate excellent teamwork, leadership and sportsmanship. Others achieved significant success through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, with three pupils proudly completing their Silver Award, developing valuable skills in independence, resilience and outdoor education.

Following their examinations, pupils embraced opportunities to further prepare for adult life through a range of independence-focused activities. These included financial awareness sessions, travel training using public transport and educational visits to Manchester and Bolton, helping to build confidence and life skills for the future.

As they leave Mill School, we would like to congratulate every member of Year 11 on their achievements and wish them every success and happiness in the years ahead.

Mr Davidson and Miss Fitton

Careers

It has been another busy and exciting year for Careers at Mill School.

Throughout the year, pupils have benefited from hearing from a range of inspiring guest speakers representing different industries and professions. These visitors shared their experiences, challenges and successes, helping pupils understand the many routes available to them after school. Many pupils found these talks particularly motivating, especially when speakers discussed overcoming their own challenges and achieving their goals.

Our annual Careers Fair was once again a great success, with local colleges, training providers and employers providing valuable information about future pathways. Pupils had the opportunity to ask questions, explore different career options and begin thinking about their aspirations for the future.

At the start of the year, Year 11 pupils visited a variety of colleges to support their post-16 decision-making. More recently, Year 10 pupils have begun their own programme of college visits, giving them an early insight into further education and training opportunities.

Pupils have also taken part in a range of educational visits linked to careers education, including:

- Manchester AeroZone
- Lancashire Railway
- Salford Stadium Careers Event

These experiences have helped pupils make meaningful connections between their learning and the world of work.

This year also saw the introduction of virtual work experience opportunities through Springpod, enabling pupils to explore a wide variety of industries and career sectors. We continue to develop our work experience programme to ensure pupils can access meaningful and relevant experiences that support their future ambitions.

As we look ahead to next year, preparations are already underway for another exciting programme of careers activities, including employer engagement opportunities, further college visits and our next Careers Fair.

We look forward to continuing to support our pupils as they develop their aspirations, explore future possibilities and prepare for life beyond Mill School.

Miss Heslop