



MELBOURN
VILLAGE COLLEGE
EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY

An Academy of



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Dear parents/carers,

Thank you for your support this half term. Our young people have responded superbly to our raising of expectations, demonstrating the best characteristics of Melbourn College Students. This half term has been hard work for students and staff as everyone settles into the routines of a new academic year, along with all the challenges that school brings. Naturally, our current focus is upon providing the highest quality education in the safest environment. I fully appreciate that, after speaking to parents, students and staff, there continues to be a variety of issues which need to be addressed.

Within the last year, with support from our Trust over half a million pounds has been spent on improving the quality and safety of the working environment for students and staff. Naturally, it is what takes place within a school that is imperative if we are to succeed in supporting our young people to become the successful adults of the future. To support this aim, we have employed new teaching and associate staff, revised our systems to support students to make the correct behaviour choices and created new roles for staff, specifically targeted towards developing our educational provision.

New staff have taken up teaching posts within Melbourn Village College, already making a positive impact upon students' academic progress and attitude towards school. These colleagues are already forming those all important positive relationships with students. Other staff have taken up positions of leadership within the school, being internally promoted. Can I please take this opportunity to congratulate the following staff upon their secondment to the Senior Leadership Team:

Mr Luxton - Focusing upon the progress of specific groups of students to ensure they make the personal and academic progress of which they are capable.

Ms Cooke - Internal Assessment (not external examinations). We recognise that especially in years 7-9 the information provided to students and parents is not clear enough to provide a suitably detailed overview of academic progress and importantly what students need to do in order to make further progress.

Miss King - Behaviour - this is a challenging remit as we all need to encourage students to make those all important positive behaviour choices. Unfortunately, we also need to ensure that we have a range of consequences that deter but also reduce the disruption that students can experience at times. But we need to do this with empathy as some students may seem to be making poor choices, whereas in reality they are unable to make the right choices due to the life experiences they have suffered. In other words, we are all aware that behaviour is a form of communication. Poor behaviour may be the student's method of calling for help.



Mrs Nicholls – Student participation – school is not just about preparing students for examinations. It is, in my view, getting students ready for their next steps in their educational journey and for adulthood. As part of this preparation, students need to learn about other cultures, challenges they may experience in later life and the values of our own society. To support this aim we need to go beyond the curriculum we teach, we have to extend it encompassing contributions from other organisations.

I believe the strongest sign of the success of a school (after keeping students safe) is their success at their next educational destination. Here at Melbourn Village College, only one student who left in summer 2023 did not progress onto college, employment or an apprenticeship. If Melbourn Village College was a 'normal' school five students would now be unemployed. This does not mean the school will always experience this success. Each year group is different, each needing different support to ensure all are supported to successfully progress from Melbourn Village College.

Future developments

Uniform

Melbourn Village College continues to evolve, with uniform standards being adhered to more closely, but I am not satisfied with the current uniform. This will change from September 2024 for years 7-10 with the removal of the black skirt and the introduction of a tartan pattern skirt. More details will follow in the near future, with the financial support to those families who may find this change a significant burden, but we will ensure the total cost is below the average cost of secondary school uniform of £422.

Length of the school day

Following the publication of the latest government guidance, we acknowledge that the Melbourn Village College school day is not long enough as the requirement is for schools to open to students for 32.5 hours per week. This will mean the school day must become longer by 15 minutes a day, but with the specific arrangements being dependent upon the availability of buses.

Thank you for your support and patience as we continue to develop our provision.

Yours faithfully



Mr C Bennet
Executive Head Teacher