



Thursday 28th March 2024

MVC Parent Letter

Thank you for your increasing support as the school continues on its improvement journey. Listening to parents is an important part of this process whether this is in person, during school tours, parental meetings, questionnaires or parent evenings. Despite some of the feedback being uncomfortable, please continue to let us know how we can improve our school. Can I ask for you to communicate any concerns appropriately, recognising a response may take more than 24 hours.

We have, and will always, to the voice of parents, regardless of whether these mean us being faced with some uncomfortable truths about our imperfect practices. Currently, the number of concerns and complaints that I am dealing with has decreased by almost 50% in comparison to the number of complaints that I received this time last year. This is a very different experience to that of others within the Local Authority who have recorded that they have seen a 125% increase in complaints compared to this time last year.

Uniform

I believe that many staff and parents, and even some students, would agree that some of our female students choose not to wear the correct school skirts despite our constant reminders. This is why the school uniform has changed for years 7-10 from 1st September 2024, with the only skirt students are permitted to wear being available from our school uniform suppliers 'School Yard'. [Schoolyard Ltd](#) Please also remember that hoodies are not allowed in school, even as worn as a replacement for a coat. The only jewellery permitted to be worn in school is a single pair of plain, undecorated ear studs.

Accidents

We continue to tighten our processes, as we track accidents which enable us to identify risks and contributing factors. What the data has revealed is that there is an increase in the number of accidents caused by students wearing the wrong footwear for PE for lessons on the Astro turf. To avoid this, please ensure that your child has the correct footwear. Please note - if students do not wear all the correct PE kit they will not be able to represent the school in future fixtures.

[Welcome to Melbourn Village College - Melbourn Village College \(melbournvc.org\)](#)

Attendance

Sorry to simply state the obvious, but if your child attends school regularly, they will achieve higher grades. Whilst our target is for all students' attendance to be 96%, if a student attends 91% and above at MVC they will make more progress than the national average. Our teachers can and want to work with the students, but this is made more difficult if their attendance drops below 91%

To help support parents MVC has worked with the Trust to employ a member of staff in a new role, working in partnership with parents to support them in improving their child's attendance.



Trust Support

The school continues to receive considerable support from the Trust, for example:

- Support from The Cam Academy Trust to appoint subject leads in English, Maths and Languages as this further develops our practice and supports staff in those subject areas
- Significant financial support has enabled more leadership capacity to be employed
- The professional development of staff with enhanced leadership positions has had a positive impact
- Teaching staff have been redeployed to the school to support specific departments
- The Premises team has completed numerous works around the school site with several other projects planned e.g. revitalising the library

Vape Detectors

These have been installed and are already proving effective – please note if your child continues to bring vapes into school, they will be searched including the use of a metal detector. Naturally, if a vape is detected and the student refuses to hand the vape to the member of staff, then parents will be asked to come into the school. If, for any reason parents cannot collect their child, then during the reintegration meeting a conversation will be held that will include asking parents how they are supporting their child's well-being if they allow them to vape. Parents will also be asked about how they aim to support the school as it continues to work with their child.

Admissions for September 2024

Unusually for a school with our Ofsted judgement, the number of admissions has not decreased over the course of this academic year. In fact, the school has continued to grow, and from September 2024 for the first time, all the school places have been allocated. This has resulted in MVC applying an oversubscription criterion to our admissions policy and hold a Local Authority waiting list. This is an excellent achievement with MVC being the 1st choice preference for so many parents.

Progress

I believe that the school is making strong progress to being judged as 'Good' by Ofsted. This is not a swift process as we ensure that we meet all of the targets and criteria outlined by Ofsted guidance.

My perspective is rigorously checked by the Trust Director of Education, our School Improvement Board, Department for Education and the Regional Director for Education, who are updated upon our work which includes:

- Assessment - Yes, it is important to send clearer information to parents, and this is planned for the summer term. However, it is more important to further develop the classroom practice of staff, and a current development is, for example: the measurement of skills in PE, science and design technology
- Behaviour – the number of negative incidents continues to decline in the school. This is a positive with staff stating that the atmosphere around the school site continues to improve as shown by a 25% reduction in negative issues recorded (this could be for, incomplete homework, lack of equipment up to a significant incident). Staff have recognised students are more positive with at least a 75% increase in positive events recorded which could include helping another student or holding a door open.
- Recently, a group of students undertook training to be mentors to the younger students and act as a point of contact for any young person who finds speaking to an adult uncomfortable. This highlights that we will not rest until any unwanted behaviour is completely eradicated even though this involves quite challenging meetings with some parents and significant sanctions imposed on the students involved.
- The Parent Panel was recently shown the results from the annual student survey, in which members noted the difference in student responses between October 2022 and January 2024. In every category, the students' opinion of the school has improved significantly, with the category 'I feel safe at MVC' increasing from 54% to 87% and 'I enjoy school' from 39% to 75%. Despite these significant

improvements we will continue to work with the students to ensure all students enjoy their school experience.

- SEND – we continue to work with teaching staff to improve practice and develop their skills to further adapt the teaching to meet the needs of the students. Our SENCO (seconded) from Comberton Village College is effectively supporting these changes.
- Language – Student assemblies are focused on our increased expectations of how students communicate with one another.
- Staff have been specifically trained to support colleagues who do not report any concerns. This is to ensure that these staff are confident to challenge and report any unwanted behaviours. Pastoral staff effectively follow up any issues and monitor the impact of their work. This is clearly evidenced in the decreasing number of such events recorded and through student feedback.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mr Bennet". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mr Bennet
Executive Head Teacher