



Thursday 23rd May 2024

MVC Parent Letter – May 2024

MVC is a smaller school which has many advantages, with the most important ethos being that 'Everyone is Somebody'. Most of the staff at MVC know the students individually, and this has enabled the staff to organise comprehensive support for students as they prepare for their examinations. Almost 90% of the Year 11 students are taking part in additional activities during the school day to support them with their examination preparations and the submission of coursework. Due to our small size, our timetable is less complex therefore, more flexible, allowing staff and students to amend their timetables in order to work together.

It has been a pleasure touring the school site with visitors. Understandably, with our Ofsted judgement, there is a lot of interest in the impact of the work and support that the school is receiving from - for example, 'The Department for Education'. Visitors to the school have all highlighted how calm the school is, with the students being polite and open about their experiences of being an MVC student. To be clear, whilst we are not a perfect school, we are moving forward, listening to students, staff and parents, as we reflect on the advice we receive and engage in the support that we are offered.

Ofsted has set us five targets, but in order to be judged as 'Good' we need to meet all the relevant criteria. In summary, our progress is:

1. Behaviour - students make significantly fewer negative behaviour choices with frequent reminders to students and staff about the behaviours that are not acceptable. Staff are trained on how to report issues, with any issues raised promptly followed up.
2. Derogatory Language – we have made it very clear to all students the type of language that is not acceptable. Students have been encouraged to report incidents as they know that we are more effective in dealing with the concerns they have raised.
3. Teaching and Learning – this has and continues to improve with many developments coming from our own teachers as they reflect upon their own experiences whilst listening to those of their colleagues. Teachers are now given opportunities to meet, discuss, and develop new strategies and take risks. After all, if we do not change, then we will continue to get the same result. I know that unfortunately we now have some gaps in our teaching staff due to for example ill health. Both the governors and the Trust are aware of this and are supporting the school to address our staffing needs.
4. SEND – Our SEND team has changed, with the teachers making full use of the available funding to further develop skills and allow them to provide more effective support for our students. Teachers now have the information available to ensure that they adapt their teaching and implement differentiation between the needs of the different students. Admittedly, some teachers are more skilful than others, but this is where



the strong sense of teamwork that exists between our staff has a positive effect, with those who are more adept supporting the development of other colleagues.

5. Tutor Time – This is an important part of the day, to the extent that a curriculum (which is being strengthened) has been developed, which directly benefits our students. Teachers recognise that Tutor Time is an ideal part of the day which allows us to support a young person's development into a successful adult.

To further support our students, we are developing another, arguably more important, curriculum. Despite our Ofsted judgment the students who attend school regularly (ideally above 95%) achieve higher grades than students in similar schools nationally. The message to parents is clear, please send your child to school every day if possible. How can any of us, no matter what role we have in our working lives, support students to become the successful adults of the future if they do not attend school.

I am particularly excited about this curriculum development which draws together all our work to support a young person's personal development from Year 7 up to Year 11 into a coherent journey. This planning will enable us to identify and address the 'gaps' in this journey – it could be those 'soft' skills so much in demand by employers or the ensuring that students have an appreciation of the lives and cultural of others. In part, this way forward was inspired by conversations with both employers (who came to MVC working with students on - for example: interview techniques) or student feedback on what the school could do better.

Uniform

This remains an issue despite students wearing it more consistently with our expectations. However, with the coming of warmer weather, and as we enter the last half term of the year, can I remind all parents that the [MVC PE kit](#) needs to be worn for PE lessons. Unfortunately, students will not be able to participate in PE lessons or represent the school if they are not wearing the appropriate PE kit.

For current Years 7-9, the new school skirt is now available through our uniform suppliers <https://mvc.schoolyard-online.co.uk/> with Years 7-10 wearing this from September 2024. Please note that this does not apply to the current Year 10 who will be in Year 11 from this September.

Can I take this opportunity to thank parents for their ongoing support of the school and for the positive messages, recognising staff for the support they provide for the children. However, it is just as important to raise any issues or concerns with the Senior Team as, despite how hard these messages are to hear, they are an essential aspect of our school development. Therefore, please take the opportunity to participate in such events as our 'Parent Surgeries' and 'Parent Panel' sessions, who have some interesting points to discuss this term. We will maintain a list of those parents who would like to attend the 'Parent Panel' and who will be invited to join should a space become available. Sorry, we cannot accommodate all of those who would like to participate.

Listening to our students is obviously imperative and has led to changes within the school. For example, I am looking forward to working with our new prefects, giving them new opportunities and ongoing support.

Safeguarding

In all schools, safeguarding is of paramount importance. While students are in school, they can report any concerns to PSOs, the safeguarding team or any member of staff. But situations arise outside of school, and students (and their parents) may wish to raise a concern outside of the school day. For this reason, we have placed a link on the bottom of every page of the Melbourn Village College website to enable the reporting of any safeguarding concerns. The link will take you to where you can send an email; the email will be received by the safeguarding team, who will then make contact with the person who made the report, as well as taking action.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mr C Bennet
Executive Head Teacher