

# MVC NEWS



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# New head 'feels proud'

**A new head has been in charge at Melbourn Village College this term.**

Christopher Bennet, head of St Peter's School in Huntingdon, has become Executive Head of both his existing school and Melbourn, which are both part of The Cam Academy Trust. Former Principal Simon Holmes is now working for the Trust on specific projects across a number of schools after 23 years at the college, 12 of them as head.

On his appointment, Mr Bennet, who has worked in teaching for 28 years, said: "I am really excited by the opportunity to work with students at Melbourn Village College who are superbly supported by our dedicated staff."

At the end of his first term in the hot seat, he added: "Being the headteacher (at MVC) is a job that makes me feel proud.

"I am impressed by our young people every day and how they conduct themselves around the school and in our wider society.

"Melbourn Village College is building upon the successful examination outcomes which students achieved this summer.

"I was not only particularly impressed with students' results in the core subjects, which are imperative for students' future employment prospects, but also with the outcomes in Foreign Languages and Art.

"This shows the broad range of skills that our staff have and their ability to support students across a range of subjects.

"I am already looking to make further changes at Melbourn Village College. I am especially excited about the development to the pastoral team which is being expanded with additional staff employed in a variety of roles (see Page 6).

"Young people must feel safe before they will fully engage in their learning. It is



**LEADING THE WAY: New headteacher Christopher Bennet.**

my determination that we, as a school, care for our young people, supporting their development (both academic and social) in a secure environment.

"Currently, we are also working to improve the quality of communication with parents who must be fully engaged in their child's schooling.

"If you have particular points that you would like to raise either with myself or the wider staff please contact my PA, Mrs Barr (lbarr@melbournvc.org)

"Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year."

## Class of '22 reunited to celebrate results

Last summer's Year 11 leavers returned to Melbourn last month for a Presentation Evening to collect their GCSE Certificates.

It was a very cheerful event with staff delighted to be able to congratulate students on their record results and chat to them about sixth form life.

Melbourn posted its best set of GCSE results last summer, continuing the upward trend demonstrated before the pandemic, which meant two years of teacher-assessed grades.

In June 2022, 87% of MVC students achieved Grade 4 or above in English and 83% in maths, and Melbourn's Attainment 8 figure — the government's way of measuring how well pupils do in Key Stage 4 — was 50.3 compared to the national average of 48.7.

It was also interesting for staff to hear students' realisations of 'how good life was at MVC' as they discovered the much more serious consequences of missing sixth form work deadlines!

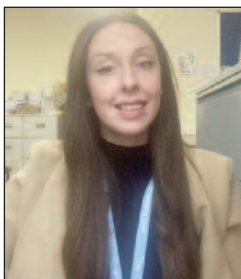
There was a fantastic PowerPoint presentation, made by new exams officer Gemma Stuart and shown by Head of Year, Andrew Kennedy, before each tutor group was invited on to the stage to collect their certificates and have a group photo.

A larger group photo was also attempted at the end!



**BACK TOGETHER: Students gather after collecting their GCSE Certificates.**

## Aim is for a smooth process



**GEMMA STUART**

Gemma Stuart, Melbourn's new exams officer, has 16 years experience working in education and for the local authority in Enfield. She held various roles in primary and secondary settings before moving to South Cambs.

She said: "I am passionate about education and the importance of providing the correct environment for a smooth-running and calm exams process, as well as students and parents having a clear understanding of the expectations and importance of the examinations process, to help us uphold the ethos 'everybody is somebody'.

"My aim is to give each student the opportunity to best reflect their strengths and abilities after all the hard work and dedication put into their lifetime at school. Exams are the end of this part of their life story, but just the start of an amazing journey ahead."

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**THE BIG STEP UP:** Students arrive for their first day at secondary school.

# Starting point . . .

**On Friday September 2nd, the new Year 7 students were welcomed to MVC.**

They had the school to themselves and had a fantastic first day, meeting members of their tutor group as well as their teachers.

The Year 11 prefect team did a brilliant job of leading them on an orientation tour and helped them to make a confident start to their time at Melbourn.

As they continued to settle in this term, it was

already time to start looking ahead to next year and it was great to see so many parents, carers and Year 6 pupils from our partner primary schools and beyond having a look round at the Open Evening on September 29th.

There was lots to see and do in all departments as well as presentations from new Headteacher, Christopher Bennet, Cam Academy Trust Chief Executive Stephen Munday and Melbourn's

Transition Lead Kelly Coghlan.

Especially popular were the demonstrations and hands-on practicals in the science department.

Head of Science, David Wilson, and Second in Charge, Tracey Mayhead, created lots of flashes and bangs to wow the visitors — all planned and safe, of course!



**HAVING A GO:** Visitors to Melbourn's Open Evening had a chance to try activities in various departments.

## Students help new library stock up

The Hub in Melbourn has received a grant to expand their library and MVC pupils have been helping to choose what it should stock.

The grant, from Hopkins Homes who are building within the village, is to buy books aimed at secondary-aged children with SEND, to encourage them to use the Hub library facilities.

Keira, Brodie and Grace, from MVC's Student Support Centre, chose some books from the school's library that they would recommend.

Mrs Shakespeare, from SSC, said: "Once the Hub have a new selection of accessible reading books, my colleagues and I are planning to arrange

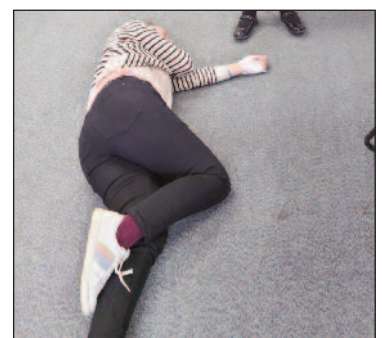
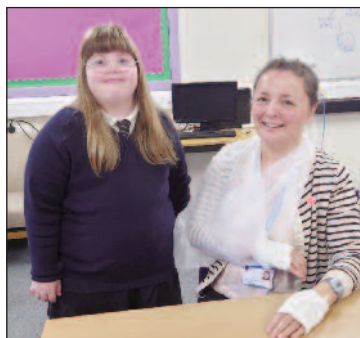
regular visits to the library with our SSC students."

As well as helping with the library project, Grace (year 9) has also been working hard on her AQA First Aid qualification.

She had a training session with Ms Goldsmith, who is a FREC4- qualified First Responder and St John Ambulance volunteer.

After seeing demonstrations and learning about the DRABC response protocol, Grace was able to apply basic first aid techniques.

Patient Mrs Shakespeare had a fake cut dressed, one arm secured in a sling and was put in the recovery position!



**GETTING INVOLVED:** Students from the SSC choose books and worked on their first aid skills.





**NEW LOOK:** A room previously used for IT is now a smart, practical food technology area with individual kitchens.

# Changes focus on food

Melbourn's food technology (FT) department and kitchens have been the focus for major building transformations over the past few months.

FT was previously housed in a single room described as 'not fit for purpose' and 40% too small in a suitability study.

Now it boasts two state-of-the-art workspaces for students to not only learn about the importance of food and nutrition but also to put it into practice in brand new kitchen areas.

The old FT room has been transformed into a classroom complete with demonstration area, while the IT classroom next door has been repurposed as a practical classroom complete with brand new units and cookers.

The old offices between the two classrooms now offer a large storage space with fridges installed.

Across the school, in the canteen, there have also been major changes.

Independent operators Caterlink have taken over the preparation and supply of food for students and staff following the retirement in the summer of Catering Manager Lynn Gregory after 23 years.

New equipment has been installed, including ovens, and a 'grab and go' station is

now up and running to alleviate pressure on feeding a growing number of youngsters in a short time frame.

Non-compliant ventilation has been replaced as has the kitchen roof and remedial works have taken place to remove asbestos.

Early issues around managing lunchtimes have now eased and students and staff seem to be loving the healthy options offered by Caterlink, if the three-fold daily increase in takings is anything to go by. This has been further helped by the introduction of data-secure fingerprint scanning to speed up payment.

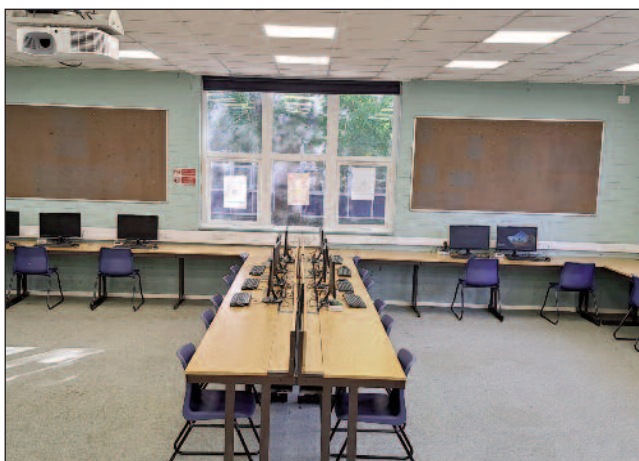
Caterlink were also present at our Open Evening in September to give prospective pupils and their families a chance to experience what's on offer.

The transformation of an IT room has not meant a decline in provision in that subject area, as the Seminar Room has also had a makeover and has now become a new IT suite, complete with new computers.

Elsewhere in the school further SCA funding — which paid for the Food Technology department work and most of the kitchen upgrades (Caterlink also contributed) — has enabled the extension of a small English classroom in the George Edward block to accommodate 30 students.



**REPURPOSED:** The old FT room, which was a mix of desks and practical equipment, is now a classroom with a demo bench.



**OTHER CHANGES:** The seminar room (left) has been turned into an IT suite, while the school kitchen has had a makeover.



# STEM award for MVC

**Melbourn's Head of Science has his sights on silver and gold after the college's Science Club gained their first award.**

After much hard work they have gained the STEM Clubs Bronze Quality Mark Award from STEM Learning, in recognition of the hard work and brilliant activities within the club over the past year.

Subject leader David Wilson said: "We are very proud of this award, as it involved quite a bit of work. I'd love for us to go for silver and gold."

Last academic year Dr Wilson re-launched Science Club with the help of our then PGCE student teacher (now qualified) Emily Piper.

STEM Learning, the national organisation which supports science teaching, launched a STEM Clubs award scheme to encourage schools to gain recognition for all the hard work which goes into such an enrichment activity for the benefit of students.

Science Technician Dr Jeanette Dyer identified this opportunity and helped to plan activities and prepare resources.

We had to show evidence of meeting a number of

specific criteria, gathered over the last six months and then submitted to the STEM Learning Assessment team in the form of a Powerpoint presentation.

The assessor remarked: "I am happy to approve the bronze level award as I feel that the club has a brilliant impact on your students whilst being fun and hands on."

The award will be valid for three years and after 12 months we aim to apply for a Silver Award, which is

more challenging (requiring engagement with local 'STEM Ambassadors' and showcasing science careers to pupils) but we will be working towards this during this academic year.

The Science Club is now confidently led by Dr Julian Johnson and Miss Piper and has already increased its membership.

We also hope to engage with the other science clubs at schools within The Cam Academy Trust in a competition.



**FIRST AWARD:** Science Club members received their first STEM award.

## Explosive start to year of fun

Science Club made an explosive start to the year by experimenting with the mint sweets Mentos and a range of full sugar and diet colas.

Students had great fun predicting what would happen during the group experiment and finding out who was the closest.

Year 9 have been looking at cells and making slides of plant cells to look at under the microscope. They made a slide of onion cells and some students managed to take photos of the slides through the microscope using iPads.

In October, MVC scientists had a two-week project inspired by NASA's recent DART mission to alter the course of an asteroid.

Students were set the challenge of designing and

creating a device that can launch projectiles not only as far as they can but also, as a second challenge, to hit targets!

They followed up with another NASA-inspired event, and have had an egg-cellent time over the last few weeks creating egg landers. The most successful even managed to protect their eggs from being thrown five metres up into the air! To make it a harder challenge the following week, only straws were provided to protect their eggs with. The students made some cracking landers, quite literally.

Next the students watched staff dissect a sheep's lung and heart and have a close up to see how everything is connected and how they work. They followed up by dissecting some eyeballs.



**UP CLOSE:** Students examine dissected organs.

## Hot competition in tests of strength

**MUSCLE POWER:** A press-ups challenge.



Year 7's investigations into the skeleton and muscles brought out the competitive side of some students. Biceps and triceps were tested by doing press-ups and there were some great shows of strength and determination.

Things got even more competitive when the hand strength meter was introduced!

Students collected the results from both tests and talked about how they could analyse them.

Year 8, meanwhile, have been making a pocket solar system to help them understand our place in the universe and answer questions such as 'Is there gravity in Space?' and 'Is Space Vast'?

(The answer to both is yes!)

## Science really rocks for pupils

Primary school pupils have been introduced to the excitement of science by Dr Wilson.

The college's Head of Science visited Hedgehog and Squirrel classes at nearby Melbourn Primary School to talk about rocks! The youngsters have been learning how our ancestors used rock tools to hunt and build.

Dr Wilson talked to them about two properties of rocks — 'Does this rock react with acid?' and 'How soft is this rock?'

The pupils were very excited to see and hear the bubbles when chalk reacted with acid.

Dr Wilson will be visiting our other partner primary schools over the course of this academic year.



**ON THE ROCKS:** Melbourn Head of Science David Wilson talks to primary pupils about two properties of rocks.



**GETTING READY:** Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 have been hearing about the next steps on their education journeys.

# The next steps explained

Pupils in Year 11 have been learning more about the post-16 opportunities available to them after they leave MVC next summer, as well as what it means to be in their final year, while Years 9 and 10 have also been introduced to the next steps. First up for Year 11 was an Information Evening for them and their parent/carers. They learned more about the post-16 process and the options available after GCSE and other qualifications. They also had the chance to speak to representatives from local colleges and sixth form

staff. A week later David Clarke, Head of Comberton Sixth Form, which is also part of The Cam Academy Trust, talked to students about the opportunities available there and gave a presentation which was emailed to all Year 11 parents and carers. There was also a visit from Abi Smith, from the University of Hertfordshire, who talked to students in Years 9 and 11 about going to university, what qualifications they need, the types of courses that are available, location, costs and benefits.

Students asked lots of questions and found the sessions very informative. SHE lessons in KS4 at the start of term have also been looked ahead. Year 11 considered the transition to being the senior students in the school; taking responsibility, time management and respectful relationships. The following week Year 9 looked at the move from KS3 to KS4 — GCSEs, time managements, being positive, pressure, influence, friends and different types of relationships.

## Change is good

Students and staff are beginning to notice the positive impact of the changes to our pastoral team. Melbourn has moved to allocate a member of Associate (non-teaching) staff to support the students in each year group. This member of staff is also available for you to contact directly as form tutors/Heads of Year are also subject teachers, and spend most of the school day in classrooms. These Pastoral Support Officers are:

- Ms Rebecca Drum: Year 7 — [rdrum@melbournvc.org](mailto:rdrum@melbournvc.org)
- Ms Rhonda Howard: Year 8 — [rhoward@melbournvc.org](mailto:rhoward@melbournvc.org)
- Ms Georgina Butcher: Year 9 — [gbutcher@melbournvc.org](mailto:gbutcher@melbournvc.org)
- Ms Emma Tidby: Year 10 — [etidby@melbournvc.org](mailto:etidby@melbournvc.org)
- Mr Andrew Kennedy: Year 11 — [akennedy@melbournvc.org](mailto:akennedy@melbournvc.org) (until Jan 2023) and Ms Ali Flowerdew: (from Jan) — [aflowerdew@melbournvc.org](mailto:aflowerdew@melbournvc.org)

## Call for off-road route

On a rainy Friday, Year 7 student Iris took Nik Johnson, the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, on a bike ride around Melbourn to show him how helpful a safe off-road Melbourn to Royston connection would be. The route would be for bikes, scooters and walking, and includes a bridge over the A505 roundabout into Royston. This would complete the off-road 'Melbourn Greenway', a walking and cycling path from Cambridge to Royston. Iris highlighted the issues with the existing route, and then explained what can be done to solve this problem.



**SHOWING THE MAYOR:** Why there's a need for a bridge across the A505 roundabout into Royston.

## Help with memory

Teachers have been using 'retrieval practice' techniques with students at the start of lessons. Retrieval practice is all about students being able to recall and remember key information and skills. There are various techniques on doing this effectively. Parents/carers are encouraged to support their child's learning, by speaking to them about their day and asking them what they learnt and what they can remember from lessons. Parents and students were encouraged to watch a four-minute video: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zkjpj96f>. It touches on the link between 'working memory' and 'long-term memory'. In school, all subjects aim to start lessons with a retrieval practice task to help pupils practise recalling information from previous lessons, topics and even previous years! This is to try to increase the likelihood of knowledge entering into the long-term memory. The approach of revise, test, revise, test in spaced intervals is really effective. Staff have also been looking at how literacy is taught within subjects, the use of tiers of

language and sharing their reflections and strategies. English teacher Martin Bacon shared information on the tiers:

- Tier 1 — high-frequency words in spoken language (eg table, slowly, write, horrible)
- Tier 2 — high frequency in written texts (eg gregarious, beneficial, required, maintain)
- Tier 3 — subject specific, academic language (eg osmosis, trigonometry, onomatopoeia)

It was interesting for staff to reflect on how they often explicitly teach Tier 3 within their specialist subjects, but tier 2 words may sometimes be a challenge for students. Staff will be asking students to speak in full sentences to improve their everyday literacy, as well as trying to ensure Tier 1 and Tier 2 words are understood by students. Feedback to pupils is really important so they know how they are progressing with their work. This is an area that staff will look at more closely. Students like to have their work marked, but this can be time consuming. Verbal, whole class and peer feedback are other ways that staff ensure pupils are able to see what they are doing well and what they need to do to improve.



# Trust team with Apple

The Cam Academy Trust is pleased to announce that it has been recognised as an Apple Regional Training Centre for 2022–2023.

Being selected as an Apple Regional Training Centre highlights our commitment to facilitating training for teachers to develop skills and build confidence to use Apple technology in the classroom.

In 2019 the Trust embarked on a journey to use iPads to enhance teaching and learning in all our schools. Since then, three of our secondary schools are now using iPads in a 1:1 environment, and all primary schools are integrating the use of iPads into their curriculum. The use of iPads by pupils and staff has the potential to: provide opportunities to enhance pupils' overall learning experience; give access to learning anywhere, anytime — both in classrooms and at home; narrow the digital divide between pupils; encourage pupils to become more independent in their learning; personalise learning to suit individual pupils, and provide opportunities to create and share work.

We believe that iPads empower us to work together to open new avenues to learning, so that our staff and students are flexible, creative, digitally literate and better prepared for the future.

Apple Regional Training Centres create a community to share best practice and support teaching staff to attain Apple Teacher status, a professional learning programme designed to support and celebrate educators. Teachers from across the Trust, region and local authority can attend courses to build knowledge and skills and earn badges to achieve Apple Teacher recognition.

Customised courses on offer this year through our centre will also include:

- iPad Top Tips: Teacher — learn how to use your iPad to enhance the classroom experience for yourself and your learners.



## Regional Training Centre

- iPad Top Tips: Learning Assistant — learn how to use an iPad to help support learners to use an iPad safely and sensibly in the classroom.

- Learning with iPad: Seesaw — An introduction to Seesaw as a digital portfolio that allows learners to create, collaborate, reflect, celebrate and share their learning with their peers, teachers and family members (if invited). Join us to learn:
  - What Seesaw is and the key features
  - How it can be used effectively in the classroom to support all learners
  - How it can reduce teacher workload, save paper and create meaningful learning experiences for all

- Teaching with iPad: ARMAkr — A fantastic virtual reality app that can transport your learners

into the heart of a story. Join us to learn:

- What ARMAkr is and the key features
- How it can be used to bring a story to life, with examples from Year 6 learners
- Opportunity to create your own virtual reality scene to share back in your classroom

- Everyone can create: Garage Band

- Creating with iPad: Clips — Film making for EYFS & KS1. Explore

- What clips is and the key features

- Expectations in content created in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 with examples from each year group

- Opportunity to create a film to share back in your classroom.



A TRUST INITIATIVE: *Comberton's Ground Source Heat Pump.*

## Eco work is critical

Sustainability and climate change are important matters that all organisations must closely examine. The Cam Academy Trust is in the unique position of being able to have two broad impacts: as educators, we can ensure the next generation has the knowledge and skills necessary to make a positive impact in their adult lives; and, as estate managers, we can ensure our buildings are operated efficiently using green energy sources. As pandemic-related pressures begin to ease, now is the perfect time to make progress.

Jacob Powell is the link Trustee for climate change and sustainability. He looks at the Trust's vision and strategy and reviews its operational implementation.

He said: "My first step was to understand the work that is currently being done across the Trust. This has initially involved meeting with staff members at CVC, and it has been wonderful to hear about initiatives ranging from their fantastic Environmental and Sustainability Education curriculum to the recent Ground Source Heat Pump installation. I hope to engage with all schools across our Trust, to hear about their current work.

"A future aim is to create a Trust climate change and sustainability strategy. This is a high priority for the Trust Board, and we are pleased that Simon Holmes will be leading on this operationally.

"This will be a collaborative process, involving stakeholders from across all our schools, involving students, staff and community members. If you would be interested to speak about this matter, please do get in touch via [jpowell@catrust.co.uk](mailto:jpowell@catrust.co.uk)."

## A model provision

A fundamental educational value across The Cam Academy Trust is comprehensive education. We hold firmly to the belief that education should be properly comprehensive: available to a very high quality for all pupils of all backgrounds, types and needs. This can be, and ideally is, provided in the same school setting. We work hard to ensure that this is a reality with all our schools, serving our communities and providing excellent education to all pupils. It is within this crucial principle that our Cabin provision sits. It is perhaps one of the most powerful manifestations of the comprehensive principle in action. This provision provides strong support for pupils with high-functioning autism to be on roll at a mainstream school and to access the curriculum and education at that mainstream school. It started as a small-scale provision in an ageing portacabin at Comberton Village College. In its entirety, it now supports more than 100 pupils in four Trust Schools – Comberton, St Peter's School, Melbourn Village College and Gamlingay Village Primary

Not only has provision spread across several Trust secondary schools, but it is also now firmly established at primary level. It enables very significant numbers of young people to access mainstream education when that might not otherwise be possible. As such, it has become an educational model of considerable national interest and importance. Very many of the pupils involved are able to progress to positive destinations in education and beyond following their time being part of our Cabins.

We are proud of this provision within our schools and continue to look at how we might develop it further still as well as protect it from the funding threats that present themselves moving forward.

Stephen Munday, CEO



**PURPOSE-BUILT:** *The Cabin at Gamlingay is now completed.*



**MAKING AN IMPACT:** Melbourn Head of Languages Frank Fan has been recognised for his work in introducing Mandarin.

# Pioneer wins award

**Melbourn Village College Head of Languages Frank Fan has won a prestigious award for his work.**

He was awarded the UCL IOE Confucius Institute Excellence Award in a ceremony last month. Mr Fan has been recognised by the University College London Institute of Education for his work in introducing Mandarin, initially to the curriculum at Melbourn and more recently across The Cam Academy Trust, of which Melbourn is a member. The Institute supports the teaching and learning of Mandarin and the mainstreaming of Chinese teaching across schools in England. Mr Fan was a newly-qualified teacher when he was Melbourn's initial appointment as they became the first school in Cambridgeshire to introduce the language into the curriculum from Year 7 six years ago.

He is now Head of Languages at the college, where there are a total of three Mandarin teachers, and is promoting the teaching of Mandarin both across the Trust — students can now take A Level at Comberton Sixth Form — and to a wider audience. He believes he won the award for his contribution to Mandarin by sharing resources via the UCL IOE platform; working with the Institute and Oundle School to support teacher training as a PGCE mentor; developing the subject across the Trust; creating Chinese cooking videos for online teaching during lockdown, and making a number of videos with a group of Mandarin Excellence Programme students to 'motivate Mandarin learners', which he shared with UCL IOE. He said: "I am extremely happy to receive the 'Excellence Award'. It is an absolute honour that I will cherish for the rest of my career."

"The award caught me by surprise, but I will live up to the new standards drawn up for me. Because of the hard work of MVC students in the last six years with the excellent GCSE exam results, and the contribution from other Mandarin teachers, plus the support from the members of staff in the school, I had the chance to win the award. Therefore, I thank all of them for my unanticipated award." Last summer's Mandarin GCSE results saw 55% of candidates from MVC gain a Level 7 or above with eight pupils achieving Level 9. As well as learning Mandarin alongside Spanish in language lessons, Melbourn students can join the Mandarin Excellence Programme, which allows for accelerated learning with additional after-school classes, and activities including virtual trips to China and real visits to Chinatown in London.

## Languages really matter at work



**IT'S GOOD TO TALK:** In another language, according to a company director.

David Binns, of Sanako UK, gave Year 9 students plenty to think about when he visited to talk about the world of work. Sanako is primarily a tech company which provides language labs to educational establishments around the world and Mr Binns, the Director of UK Operations, emphasised the importance of not only the STEM subjects, but also languages when you work in global markets. He told students that many of the company's employees have STEM qualifications but he also likes them to have language skills.

His presentation was very informative and will help students to think about choosing a language as one of their options when they make their GCSE choices later in the year. Subsequently, Mr Binns has given Mrs Stanley in the MFL Department a free trial of Sanako Connect. Year 10C Spanish students are the first to use it to revise for their speaking assessment. This technology allows students to listen to questions and insert their own answers seamlessly. They can also practise their reading and writing skills.

## Getting together to improve MVC life



**SPEAKING OUT:** Melbourn students share their views.

Earlier this term, students from St Peter's School in Huntingdon, which is also part of The Cam Academy Trust, visited Melbourn to learn more about students' experiences at the college. The Year 11 and Year 13 students who have had specific training from the NSPCC and gained a Level 2 qualification to support their work, encouraged Melbourn students to speak honestly when talking about life at MVC. These meetings, plus the results of a survey sent to all pupils, will help inform college staff how best to help support all students to become successful adults in the future. Some of the survey findings were fed back to students in Year group assemblies and highlighted the impact of students being unkind to one another. The assemblies are part of a number of initiatives at MVC focusing on keeping students safe, exam results and life beyond the college.



**EXPLAINING THE PROCESS:** A St Peter's mentor talks to Melbourn students.



# iPad rollout gathers pace

## Three more year groups are now using iPads to enhance their learning.

Students in Years 7, 9 and 10 have now had the individual devices distributed for school work on site and at home and have quickly got used to having them as part of their school equipment. Year 8 received them during the last academic year.

The use of leased iPads is part of the Cam Academy Trust's strategy for learning, and students in three of its four secondary schools, but the other secondary as well as some of the primaries now have access to iPads in school.

The Trust has recently been accredited as an Apple Regional Training Centre to create a community to share best practice among teachers using the technology. There is no doubt that digital technology will continue to transform the workplace and all aspects of our lives.

As educators, Melbourn has a responsibility to its students to equip them with the skills necessary to succeed in the 21st century workplace, to be digitally literate; to be able to think and work independently; to be able to problem-solve, and to collaborate with one another.

We believe that technology can play a crucial role in the classroom, transforming the learning opportunities available to our students.

We believe that embracing more fully the potential of using IT in the education process can help students to:

- Learn powerfully
- Learn for life
- Learn from each other

The use of iPads by students on a 1:1 basis has the potential to:

- provide opportunities to enhance students' overall learning experience
- give access to learning anywhere, anytime — both in classrooms and at home
- narrow the digital divide between students
- encourage students to become more independent in their learning
- personalise learning to suit individual students
- provide opportunities to create and share work

We believe that iPads empower us to work together to open new avenues to learning, so that our students are flexible, creative and better prepared for the future.

This scheme is funded using voluntary parental contributions towards a three-year (Key Stage 3) or two-year (Key Stage 4) lease. It is run in conjunction with Albion, an Apple Solution Expert for Education (<https://www.albion.co.uk/education/apple-in-education>) and the Birmingham e-Learning Foundation (<https://www.belf.org.uk/>), a charity whose mission is to work with schools and their parents to provide devices to students, so that they can use technology for learning both in school and at home. The College makes no profit from the parental contribution.

Through the scheme, students receive an 8th generation iPad, case and screen protector, wall charger, full insurance for the iPad against damage and theft, all software and applications needed, and technical support during school hours.

At the end of the lease, iPads can be handed back to the school or purchased for a fair market price for personal use at home.



**SOMETHING NEW:** More groups of students are starting to enjoy using personal iPads for class and homework.

## Additional resources to boost learning

Following a strategy developed in the history department, Mandarin students will be offered extra learning resources via their iPads.

They will be able to scan QR codes and watch videos such as Chinese films, cartoons, culture videos and Head of Languages Frank Fan's ever-popular cooking videos, which became a hit during the Covid lockdowns.

Students are encouraged to answer questions after viewing to test their vocabulary and learning.

Core RE students in KS4 are now using Hodder Education Boost on their iPads to support their studies.

This new digital learning platform brings together quality content and new technology, providing

students with a series of knowledge checks and access to course literature to enhance their learning.

iPads are also proving a popular learning tool in Food and Nutrition, where students have been using them to learn about the different sensory aspects of food.

## Trees are symbolic

Melbourn is fortunate to be located in a beautiful country setting with many trees in and around the grounds.

It is less well-known that two of these were planted specially when the school was built in the late 1950s.

The willow and the walnut, both located on what is known as 'The Willow Lawn' were included to symbolise important values.

The willow represents flexibility and adaptability, and the walnut is for wisdom and discernment.

These values are just as relevant today as when the first students attended the college more than 60 years ago.

The 'Willow Lawn' was also the setting for this term's cake sale, run by the prefects, to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support as part of their 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' initiative.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated items for sale, as well as to those who enjoyed eating them. An impressive £170 was raised for this vital charity.



**THE 'WILLOW LAWN':** A multi-purpose space with historic meaning.



# Young writers in print!

**Fifteen young writers from MVC are having their stories published — and the college will receive a free copy of the book.**

More than 9000 young people aged 11-18 entered the Young Writers Twisted Tales creative writing competition, and the Year 8 students from Melbourn were among those chosen to have their work published in Twisted Tales 2022 — Behind their Eyes.

Well done to Scarlett (Franklin), Tommy (Hawking), Oliver (Hawking), Annabel (Darwin), Harrison (Franklin), Holly (Franklin), Zach (Lewis), Carmen (Franklin), Molly (Franklin), Emily (Franklin), Grace (Darwin), Ella (Hawking) Alfie (Lewis), Riley (Hawking) and Vicky (Lewis).

Congratulations also to Holly (9 Darwin) and receptionist/library manager Hilary Forrester, who took top spot in their categories at Royston Arts Festival Creative Writing Competition with their poems.

Holly's poem was entitled 'My Cat' and was the winner of the 11-14 category. Head of English Kate King said: "I was delighted to see that half the entries in the under-18 category were from MVC students. We promoted the competitions through our creative writing enrichment club and are very proud of them for entering!"

Mrs Forrester won the 19-plus category on the theme of 'Circle of Life'.

She said she took her inspiration from Royston's chalk bedrock which is made of the circular shells of microscopic marine creatures.

Referencing lots of Royston history, the poem played with iambic pentameter (ten syllables per line) and Mrs Forrester said she had lots of fun writing it!

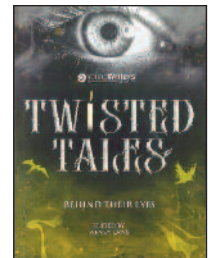
The judges said: "We liked the choice of subject, which was both local and unique to Royston, and embraced the theme of the circle of life.

"The detail was consistent and accurate, though we both had to look up some of the geological terms.

"The use of rhyme and half-rhyme was good and there was a strong sense of the passage of time."

● Melbourn's newest students spent their first week in English discussing their reading and producing some amazing pictures of their reading journeys. They also produced some great book reviews which will appear on the department's book review site: <https://mvy7bookguide.wordpress.com/>

Meanwhile, Year 10 students have been focusing on language analysis of Macbeth and also produced some lovely creative representations about what they've discovered.



**BOOKED IN:** A group of Melbourn students have had their work chosen for a published short story collection.

## Honouring the Queen

Staff and students observed a minute's silence to mark the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and to give the school community time to contemplate her long life of service and hard work.

Then, during tutor time on Wellbeing Wednesdays, students saw a presentation on 'Remembering Queen Elizabeth.'

This touched on bereavement; how this can make people feel and the importance of caring for each other, as well as recalling some happy memories of the Queen.

Earlier in the year, to mark the Platinum Jubilee, the MVC Eco Group took part in The Queen's Green Canopy initiative by planting new trees across the school site.



**VARIETY OF OPPORTUNITIES:** Enrichment offers students the chance to expand their interests, skills and knowledge.

## Seeking more new opportunities

Students benefit in many ways from the amazing enrichment opportunities provided by Melbourn staff.

It allows them to explore in greater depth the subjects they study and expand their interests, but also to learn all-important life skills such as teamwork and communication.

Students are flocking to join the activities on offer, which this term have included golf, hockey, football, rugby, running club, gardening club, show band, songwriting, sewing,

minecraft, choir, science club, creative writing and squash as well as lots of GCSE booster sessions.

New headteacher Christopher Bennet is exploring ways in which students can forge greater links with the local community for mutual benefit.

Anyone aware of any activities or organisations who would like to explore a partnership with the college should contact his PA, Mrs Lorraine Barr on [lbarr@melbournvc.org](mailto:lbarr@melbournvc.org)

**FLORAL TRIBUTES:** To her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.





# Melbourn pauses to remember

Staff and students assembled on the back field and remained in lines to observe a two-minute silence for Remembrance Day as the whole school stood together to pay tribute to those who served in wars during the 20th and 21st Centuries.

Tom (11 Darwin) played *Last Post and Reveille* in honour of the sacrifice made by so many men and women on battlefields across the world.

Deputy Principal Niki Smith said: "The round of applause at the end of the silence was started

by Tom's own year group and was very appropriate.

"We will miss this wonderful contribution to the life of the school that Tom has made for four years now."



**WE ALL STAND TOGETHER:** Melbourn staff and students mark Remembrance Day.

# Pitch for a grand idea

Fifteen SEND pupils took part in a Dragons' Den style event at MVC run by David Welch, from Living Sport.

Students were split into three teams, supported by five prefects. Each team had to develop a proposal for a sporting enrichment club which they then pitched to the Dragons. The stakes were high as there was an opportunity to win £1,000 to start up the winning club.

The activity took place over two sessions and students had to research their chosen sport, the practicalities of running it, use of the budget, the accessibility of

the sport to all students, marketing and identifying any health and safety considerations.

The event was organised by Silvana Vinci, who played the role of head Dragon. Silvana said: "All the students worked really well. The prefects were all amazing, and they were excellent role models."

Huge congratulations to team Black Cats, who won £1,000 towards their proposal for Kin-Ball.

This is a game played between three teams of four players. The object of this sport is for the team whose colour is called to catch the ball with any part of the body before the ball touches the ground. The Black Cats team of Charlie (8LEW), Mark (7FRA), Ethan (7DAR), Rosie (8LEW) and Isaac (7HAW), helped by Jake (Prefect 11FRA) and Matthew (Prefect 11FRA), had very clearly thought about all aspects of the sport from inclusivity, costings, safety and storage of equipment. They did an amazing job in presenting their idea.

David said that the funds from Living Sport should arrive next week. We hope to be able to have the enrichment sessions up and running next term with the winning students participating in the first game.

Silvana was very excited, "I am hoping that the Student Support Centre can also use the equipment for our adapted PE lessons too."

Congratulations to the runner-up teams for their excellent pitches and for making the Dragons' decision very difficult. These were Melbourn United, with the proposal of alternate weeks of Boxing and 'Glow-in-the-Dark Badminton, and Melbourn Warriors, with 'Glow-in-the-Dark Hunt'.

The Dragons on the panel were: David Welch, Silvana Vinci, Hilary Forrester and Hannah Wittkopp.



**FACING THE DRAGONS:** The Black Cats team make their bid for the £1,000 prize to start a new enrichment club.

# Insight into building business from scratch

Building your own business was the focus for Year 9's Enterprise Day earlier this term.

Working with volunteers from Form the Future, a Cambridge-based non-profit organisation which connects young people to career possibilities, students learned about the core principles involved in starting a business.

They then worked in small teams to identify a problem and a potential solution, then apply business basics to turn that solution into an enterprise idea.

Each team then pitched their idea to

their class, with the best pitch going forward to be presented to the rest of the year group in front of guest entrepreneurs in a 'Dragon's Den' style finale in the hall.

Well done to the winning team from tutor group 9 Lewis (Izabel, Aliyah, Amelia, Frances, and Laura) for their fantastic idea called 'The Future'.

This was about how a funeral process could help the environment by planting more trees.

The winning team may have the opportunity to take part in the Cambridgeshire County Final at Newmarket Racecourse next year.



**BRAINSTORMING:** Students worked in groups to identify a problem then come up with a solution and make it a business idea.



# Team MVC take bronze

**A team of eight students from Melbourn came home from Comberton Village College with bronze medals.**

They finished a creditable third of the seven secondary school teams taking part in the South Cambs School Sports Partnership (SCSSP) Xtend competition - in partnership with Panathlon Challenge - for youngsters with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Melbourn's team of Mark, Lizzie, Issac, Jake, Rosie, Charlie, Olli and team leader, Addi, worked together to score points in sports such as athletics, boccia, new age kurling and cricket.

The competition was won by Gretton School, who narrowly beat defending champions Comberton, and will now go forward to the county finals on 23rd March where they will represent South Cambs against the best teams from Huntingdonshire, Cambridge, East Cambs, Fenland & Peterborough.

Earlier in the day seven primary school teams contested a carousel of activities, including boccia blast, new age kurling, basketball, parachute popcorn, precision beanbag and skittles. At each activity children had the opportunity to gain points for their school.

Elsworth topped the table to qualify for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough School Games Disability and Inclusion Festival next year after finishing ahead of Hardwick and Cambourne, The Meadow, Histon and Impington Brook, Cottenham, Swavesey and Pendragon primary schools.

Partnership manager, Claire McDonnell said: "It is always so nice to see the smiles on the children's faces as they take part in the activities.

"Events like this are about developing new skills, forming new friendships, boosting confidence, and most importantly having fun, and I definitely think all of that was evident."



**PODIUM FINISH:** For Melbourn's team.



**ON TARGET:** One of the Panathlon events.

## Primary school earns platinum

Melbourn are not the only school celebrating a School Games Award.

While MVC stepped up to silver (see Page 19), partner primary Harston and Newton are one of just seven schools across South Cambs to receive a prestigious School Games Platinum Award in recognition of their continuing commitment to the development of Physical Education, school sport and physical activity across their school and into the community.

The other primary schools are Coton, Great Abington, Histon and Impington Brook, Linton Heights and Swavesey, along with Comberton Village College, the only secondary school.

Platinum is awarded to those who have maintained consistently high standards with their school sport provision and held a gold School Games award for the previous five years.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust, to reward and recognise schools' engagement in the School Games against a national benchmark and to celebrate keeping young people active. A total of 30 South Cambs Schools secured a School Games Mark Award for 2021-22, including gold for Meldreth Primary and bronze for Melbourn, Barrington and Foxton primary schools.

Partnership Manager, Claire McDonnell, said: "We are extremely proud of all our award winners for the passion which they have shown towards the School Games and their dedication to providing opportunities for all young people to take part in physical activity and school sport.

"It's great to see local schools being recognised and rewarded for their hard work and commitment to provide the very best opportunities for their pupils, and their efforts to engage those young people who haven't previously been active or represented the school.

"With over 4,000 young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our schools for their dedication to all aspects of school sport and we would like to thank all of the young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our events possible.



**GETTING INVOLVED:** Youngsters at the Friendship Games.

## Friendly fun for all

The South Cambs School Sports Partnership recently hosted a 'Friendship Games' event at Melbourn Village College which involved a small group of Year 7 pupils from the host school as well as groups of Year 5/6 children from Harston and Newton, Melbourn and Gamlingay Primary Schools.

Around 50 children took part in the event, which was focused on supporting children's transition to secondary school by helping them to develop new friendships and increase their confidence and motivation while also engaging new audiences in physical activity and sport. During the afternoon children took part in different activities which they might not have tried before, including archery, new age kurling, sport stacking, table tennis and dodgeball.

Sport leaders from Melbourn Village College led the activities and supported the children throughout, making sure they had a really fun packed afternoon.

Claire McDonnell, organiser of the event said: "The focus was very much on providing a fun and enjoyable event for the children, giving them a chance to try out some new sports and activities and perhaps helping them to make some new friends, while dampening any nerves they might have about moving to secondary school."

One visiting member of staff commented on how "the event was such a positive experience for all the children. To see them actively engaged in all the activities with beaming smiles and amongst other schools at a different venue was really special."





**HAVING A GO:** Melbourn girls playing competitive football, many for the first time, at the #LetGirlsPlay festival.

## Inspiring girls to play!

Girls from Years 7 and 8 took part in a the South Cambs Schools Sports Partnership (SCSSP) #LetGirlsPlay football festival event at Melbourn.

The event aimed to build on the England Lionesses' success at the European Championships this summer and we were delighted to get such a massive turnout of girls coming along to enjoy the sport, with many of the students playing fixtures for the first time.

An astonishing 38 girls from MVC were involved in playing matches against Bassingbourn, Comberton and Cambourne. There were some great goals, lots of good passing and moving and all the girls put in

maximum effort and really enjoyed the active afternoon of football!

Afterwards they were rewarded with 20 minutes of internal fixtures on the AstroTurf pitch.

A massive well done to our Year 11 sports leaders too, who helped out at both officiating and coaching throughout the event.

Another similar event will take place at Cambourne Village College on 8th March.

SCSSP is part of a nationwide scheme that aims to mainstream football in school for girls with the vision to ensure every girl has equal access to football in school by 2024.

Partnership manager Claire McDonnell said,

"Football is our national sport and we want to make sure girls have the same opportunities to play football that boys do.

"We want them to play in the curriculum, at breaktime, after school, at local clubs — wherever, whenever they want to play, with no barriers or stereotypes. We are working with schools, clubs and community providers to drive this change locally."

To find out more visit [www.girlsfootballsinschools.org](http://www.girlsfootballsinschools.org) or get in touch [cmcdonnell@combertonvc.org](mailto:cmcdonnell@combertonvc.org)

## Runners in dash to reach the rostrum

There was just no stopping Harston and Newton's cross-country runners at the SCSSP competition at Milton Country Park.

They had podium finishers in all four races for Years 5 and 6 in the annual small schools competition, making them the top team overall. Harston and Newton claimed three wins, with Hayden and Sophie winning the Year 6 races as did Hari (Year 5 boys). Sophie completed the medal haul with bronze in the Year 5 girls' race.

Neighbours Haslingfield won the team title for Years 3 and 4, thanks to particularly strong results in the older age group.

Thriplow finished runners-up despite having no individual medallists as they showed great strength in depth across their team to secure second spot. They also finished sixth in the Year 5/6 team competition – only open to schools who had teams in all four sections – with Barrington ninth. Harston and Newton were sixth in the Year 3 and 4 competition, with Barrington eighth.

Foxton also took part in the event but did not have enough runners to qualify for the team event.

A couple of weeks later, more than 900 runners assembled in the mist at Wimpole Estate, for the 'Big Schools' event.

This ran on the same format as the small school competition but with 20 teams in both the Year 5 and 6 and Year 3 and 4 team competitions. The competition was dominated by Histon and Impington Brook, who retained the older age group trophy and added the one for younger runners to their collection.

However, among the 14 schools who had a runner on the rostrum was Oliver, whose third place in the Year 4 boys' race helped Melbourn Primary School to their best result yet.

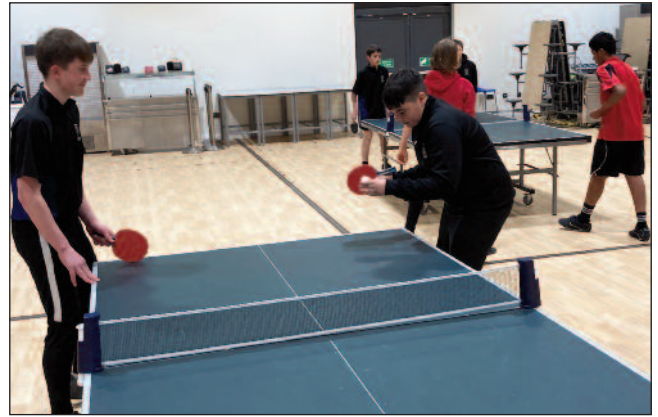
They were runners-up to Brook, with Histon and Impington Park primary in third.

Neighbouring Meldreth finished fifth in the Year 5 and 6 team event.



**AND THEY'RE OFF:** The start of a 'big schools' race at Wimpole (top) and a 'small schools' one at Milton.





**TEAM SPIRIT:** Students of all ages have been representing Melbourn in inter-school fixtures in a range of sports.

# Flying the Melbourn flag

Students across the school have been very busy this term representing Melbourn at after-school fixtures in a range of sports.

## Football

Melbourn's Year 10 County champions started their pursuit of Year 11 glory in the England Schools FA Cup with a second-round game at home to Sawston. The success in the County Cup last year earned a bye in round one. Melbourn took a little while to get going, but some good pressing from Joseph (11 Lewis) and George (11 Lewis) forced an error from the goalkeeper. George followed this up with some good footwork and created other openings with help from the industrious Callum (11 Lewis) and Tye (11 Lewis). MVC eventually went 3-0 up but then conceded shortly before the interval. Sawston scored a second as Melbourn were pinned back as the wind picked up, but thanks to George's first-half hat-trick, they earned a third-round tie against Longsands. The St Neots school then conceded, leaving MVC to face Samuel Whitbread School, from Bedford.

Melbourn's increasing roll is having a knock-on effect on the sports field with many year groups now having to compete against much larger schools as they are no longer eligible for the 'small schools' competitions. The much larger Bedford school won the fourth round match 5-1.

This is also the case for the Year 10 boys when they contest the ESFA national cup. They are hoping that key players, Fletcher (10 Darwin) and Laurence (10 Franklin) will be fit for that and other important matches after Christmas. The team gave a good account of themselves in their first match, against Freman College, Buntingford, despite a serious injury to Fletcher in the lead-up to the game and then losing striker Laurence with a broken leg sustained in a collision with the Freman goalkeeper.

Both the Year 7 and Year 8 A teams made winning starts against Cambourne. MVC scored several goals and played some excellent football. PE teacher Richard Barlow was pleased with what he saw. The Year 7 B team beat Cambourne 7-4 in their friendly Shout out to Harvey (10 Hawking) and Mylo

(10 Darwin), who organised the team and refereed the game.

## Hockey

Melbourn teams all made strong starts against local opposition. A squad of 19 Year 7s played in two teams who rotated against Bassingbourn. Both squads played some excellent hockey and persevered to win 2-1. The Year 8 mixed team went to Cambourne and won 2-0. Year 9 and 10 fielded a combined team against Bassingbourn, who took an early 2-0 lead. Despite goals from Isabelle (10 Hawking) and excellent work from players of the match Hattie (10 Franklin) and Laura (9 Lewis), they lost 5-2.

## Rugby

It's not often rain is a welcome feature for sports fixtures but after a long dry summer, the wet stuff meant rugby fixtures were able to take place on ground that was no longer bone dry.

On Wednesday 9th November our Year 8 and 9 students hosted Comberton, and on Tuesday 15th we played away at Bassingbourn.

The Year 8 boys rugby team followed up their first game against Comberton with a narrow win over local rivals Bassingbourn. The team were split in half and played a small-sided game first then finished with a big game. John (8 GOO) was our player of the game with a hat-trick of tries.

and now in fixtures." Well done!

## Table Tennis and Badminton

GCSE PE students went to Comberton for badminton and table tennis matches. The teams played a range of matches, perfecting their skills for their GCSE PE course. A special mention to Gethin (Lewis) and Jake (Newton) who, among others in that year group, have been using the outdoor table tennis facilities at break and lunchtimes. They stepped up against older boys at Comberton and gave outstanding performances with Jake, beating Comberton's top-rated student. Year 11s Emma (Darwin), Olivia (Franklin) and Thomas (Franklin) represented MVC at Cambourne. They played singles and doubles, developing skills in preparation for their GCSE PE assessment.



**SUCCESS:** For three Melbourn students who swim, shoot and play tennis.

# Girls shine in their chosen sports

A trio of girls have been enjoying success in their chosen sports away from school.

At the start of term Royston Swimming Club member Olivia (11 Franklin) took part in 'Sprint with the Stars' at the London Aquatic Centre. She made it through to the 50m backstroke final and raced against Medi Harris, a European and Commonwealth medalist.

Olivia said: "When I signed up to compete at 'Sprint with the Stars', my goals were to race in a 50m pool and watch the elite swimmers. "Never in my life did I expect to make it into the backstroke final against Medi Harris! I didn't win but it was amazing to take part and to be congratulated by Adam Peaty and James Guy at the end."

Hannah, also 11 Franklin, finished fourth in the East of England regional

round of the British Schools Pistol Shooting Championships at Ipswich High School.

Competing in the Senior age group for students in Years 11-13 for the first time, Hannah just missed out on automatic qualification for the national 10m air pistol competition as the top three went through.

However, she could qualify if her score ends up being in the top 10 nationally among those who haven't automatically qualified.

Meanwhile, Ellie (8 Darwin) finished as runner-up in the under-14 Grade 4 tennis tournament at Royston Tennis Club. Given a wild card as her ranking was not high enough for automatic entry, she beat county players on her way to the final, eventually losing to the No 2 seed, ranked more than 600 places above her.



# MVC hits the Mark!

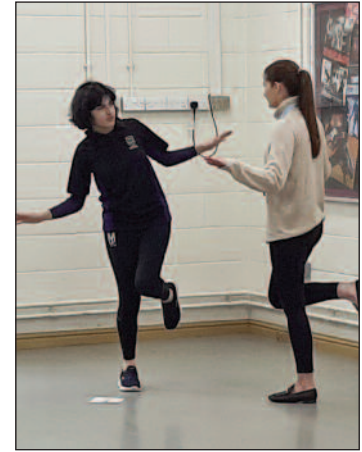
Melbourn Village College has achieved the School Games Mark Silver Award as recognition of their sporting work with pupils with additional needs.

The college already held the bronze award and assessors recently upgraded this to silver for the 2021-22 academic year, commenting: "It has been great to see you identifying and supporting children with additional needs to access and benefit from school sport and competition experiences and supporting them to access your intra-school sports day, for example."

The School Games Mark is a government-led award scheme, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward and recognise schools' engagement in the School Games and to celebrate keeping young people active.

Teaching Assistant Nicky Patel, who was instrumental in expanding the offering to students with additional needs before moving on to a new job at the end of last term, said: "I am incredibly proud of our students, they take part in sports that they find difficult for various reasons.

"They have embraced and thrived in adapted PE by having opportunities to work on their stamina, turn taking, gross and fine motor skills, and they have all gone on to shine in all the sporting activities they compete in."



**EMBRACING SPORT:** Students with additional needs get stuck in.

## Learning to lead different sports

**IN CHARGE:**  
Year 10 leaders helped with umpiring and officiating at a primary schools' netball event.



Year 10 Sports Leaders have been busy honing their skills following a successful launch event.

They started by learning how the programme will develop their interpersonal skills, enhance their CVs and provide a career pathway.

Leaders received uniform, which they wear when they help deliver enrichment clubs, competitions, festivals, and events to children across South Cambridgeshire.

Their first leadership course was an introduction to officiating netball, and following that, they used their newly-acquired skills at the Melbourn regional round of the BEE South Cams Netball League for primary schools.

Next up was a very successful 'Introduction to Football' refereeing course and as a result the tutor has offered to host a full referees' course if there is sufficient interest.

Meanwhile, our Year 10 and Year 11 Football Activators achieved their Youth Sports Trust Award in girls' football. They started the award last year to develop life skills and leadership through football. The FA wants to give every girl equal access to football by 2024, and our Football Activators have been a vital part of this mission. Our Football Activators have been volunteering their time to run after-school sessions for younger students, and we are very proud of what they have achieved.



**AWARD COMPLETED:**  
For Melbourn's Year 10 and 11 Football Activators.

## Runners put their best feet forward



A small group of KS4 students took part in the annual Cambridge and District Cross-Country event at Netherhall School.

On a cold crisp day, students in Years 10 and 11 who have chosen athletics or cross-country as one of their GCSE sports were given the opportunity to record a time and compete against other schools over the 3-4km course.

Noticeable performers were James (10LEW) and Joseph (11LEW), both of whom navigated the infamous Cherry Hinton hill on the back field at Netherhall with aplomb to finish in the top 20! Congratulations also to Annabelle (11LEW), as she has overcome a major injury and battled her way to a top 30 finish, with Olivia (11FRA) and Emma (11DAR).



**LONG CLIMB:** Up Cherry Hinton hill.

**ON THE RUN:** Melbourn competitors in action.





# MELBOURN SPORTS CENTRE news

## AUTUMN REVIEW

There's been a lot going on this term at the sports centre to keep the community fit and ready during the Autumn weather. Aside from our normal classes, courses, swimming and fitness suite activities, we also had:

A bumper bag of half-term activities, including our Ofsted-registered PlayScheme with a Halloween theme, where children were treated to trampolining, swimming and creative crafts. Other holiday activities included a Swimming Crash Course as well as teaming up with Football Fun Factory, who ran another Soccer Camp at half term too!

Thanks to TTP Group PLC's generous donation, we have been able to upgrade our wet-side changing room lockers, which now take the new £1 coins.

Finally, it is with sadness that we wave goodbye to our colleagues Alex Robertshaw and Emily Jelley. It's sad to see them go and we wish them all the best for the future. However, we welcome Natasha Sterecki and Tyana Down to our team. They have both settled in well and look forward to working with you to keep you fit and safe!

We hope to see you all this winter for plenty of sports activities and challenges to keep you fit and well, and thank you once again for your continued support during this difficult time.

## **DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH - A WINTER WONDERLAND AT MSC!**

We have loads on offer this month, with something for the whole community to get involved with... so why not come along and find out more about your local sports centre!

### **COME IN OUT OF THE COLD**

We're not going to let those long winter nights stop us from enjoying our exercise! As well as our indoor facilities like the swimming pool, squash courts and sports hall, we have loads of swimming classes to keep you fit and healthy including adult lanes, female only sessions, Young At Heart swim and AquaFit. We also offer table tennis alongside our normal indoor racket sports. They're all reasonably priced, so the one thing that will stay plump is your purse!

### **PARTY TIME!**

Looking to book a birthday or Christmas party? How about bouncing those cares away with a trampolining party or what about a football party instead? All sessions run by a fully qualified coach. We also offer our traditional pool parties, which are always a great hit! To help save the mess at home, we also have the adjacent Community Centre available for bookings, which is an ideal room for you to have tea and cake/sandwiches after the party.

### **ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN**

With Christmas fast approaching, it's an ideal time to book your young ones onto our Ofsted Christmas PlayScheme. We will also be taking bookings from January 2023 for our February half term activities, which will include our swimming crash course and our popular Ofsted PlayScheme.

### **THE PERFECT PRESENT!!**

With Christmas just round the corner, keep your eye out for our gift promotion – a fun and fit idea if you're looking for something different to buy a loved one or friend (or treat yourself!) Or why not take advantage of one of our great membership schemes to our fitness suite, an ideal present for a loved one!

### **SPRING TIME**

It's a universally accepted fact - Mums are great! This Mother's Day, how about treating her to her own gym membership or purchasing a gift voucher for our other activities here at Melbourn Sports? Make this Mother's Day one she'll never forget!

For further details on parties, gift memberships or any of our activities, please drop in, call 01763 263313 or go online at [www.mc-sport.co.uk](http://www.mc-sport.co.uk). We look forward to seeing you this season!

## **Christmas Activity Day(s)**

Would you like some child-free time in the build-up to the big day or some peace and quiet after a hectic Christmas? Then why not book your child onto our Christmas Play Scheme! We'll amuse, encourage and tire them in a packed day of activities that will include:

**Trampoline, Art & Crafts, Games, Swimming and lots of FUN!**

**Age range: 5 - 13 year olds**

**Date: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

**Time: 08.30 – 17.30**

**Price: Members £24.00 – Non Members £27.00 per day**

(Please note that as an Ofsted registered playscheme childcare vouchers will also be accepted). Please email [graham@mc-sport.co.uk](mailto:graham@mc-sport.co.uk) for more details

**Melbourn Sports Centre**, The Village College, The Moor, Melbourn, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 6EF  
01763 263313 / [www.mc-sport.co.uk](http://www.mc-sport.co.uk) / [info@mc-sport.co.uk](mailto:info@mc-sport.co.uk)