

# MVC Newsletter



MELBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE

24 JANUARY 2025

Dear parents and carers,

At the end of our third week back, we can reflect on a successful start to the term. With our new drive on rewards it was a pleasure to attend the weekly hot chocolate rewards with all of our Tutees of the Week on Thursday. The marshmallows are a particular favourite and the students were sharing ideas of how we can move to smoothies or frappes in the summer months! Year 7 students are leading the way with a huge 1158 positive points this week!!

On Friday we welcomed children from our feeder primary school together with our Year 7 students to take part in our Chinese New Year Lion Dance. I would like to thank our Mandarin department and Mrs Coglan for the organisation of such a fun event! I even had the honour of being asked to wake the lion. The Lion Dance is a form of traditional dance in Chinese culture in which performers mimic a lion's movements in a costume to bring good luck and fortune.

We invited trainees from across the Trust into Melbourn Village College on Wednesday to deliver some Maths lessons to our students. The trainees were all incredibly impressed by how hard working the students were and noticed the use of STEPS as students make a conscious effort to thank the trainees for their lessons at the end.

I hope you enjoy the weekend.

Mrs Spencer  
Principal

## KEY DATES

**24th Jan**

Year 7 Lion Dance

**30th Jan**

Year 7 Parents' Evening

**13th & 14th Feb**

Long Road Post-16  
guidance meetings

**13th Feb**

Year 11 Raising  
Achievement Parental Event

**14th - 22nd Feb**

Ski Trip

**17th - 21st Feb**

Half Term

**5th Mar**

Year 8 Parents' Evening

**12th Mar**

DofE Bronze Training



## SAFEGUARDING

This week, all year groups attended an assembly led by Mr Barnes and Mr Mackintosh on the topic of Staying Safe – Safeguarding at MVC. During the assembly, students were introduced to Mrs Deadman our operational safeguarding lead and learned about the importance of safety within the school, as well as how they can contribute to maintaining a secure environment.

The assembly also covered the different coloured lanyards worn by staff and visitors, with visual posters displaying these lanyards being placed around the school for easy reference. We have updated our website page with lots of links on how to get help and support for your child - [see more information here](#).

Students and parents are encouraged to report any safeguarding concerns to:  
[MEL-safeguarding@melbournvc.org](mailto:MEL-safeguarding@melbournvc.org).

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Good school attendance is one of the best ways to ensure that children make the most of their time in school. At MVC every day counts and every minute matters, so it is really important that students are here to make the most of each lesson.

One thing that we have noticed is that many students are arriving late. The school day starts at 8.30am and it is important that pupils are on site and at their tutor rooms or revision sessions by this time. With this in mind we ask students to be at school no later than 8.25am so that they can be ready to start learning at 8.30am. If you as parents can help ensure that this is addressed we would really appreciate it.

**Need help?** - Are you struggling to get your child to attend? Do you need some help with this? If you do, please contact the attendance team who will always be happy to help. The easiest way to contact them is by email on [absence@melbournvc.org](mailto:absence@melbournvc.org)

*Mr Barnes, Assistant Principal*

## POST 16 APPLICATIONS UPDATE

A detailed letter will be coming to parents in the next few days with details around guidance meetings students will have with post 16 colleges. Students have received this information via their school email. Students should be checking their personal emails and mychoice16 for updates on their applications. Guidance meeting will take place in February and March.

*Mr E Willder,*

*Assistant Principal - Teaching and Learning*



## YOU SAID: WE DID

We would like to dedicate this section to themes of queries from parent feedback this half term:

Students have reported they would like some more support and guidance around keeping safe. Mr Mackintosh and Mr Barnes delivered an assembly this week to all year groups on keeping safe. You will also see an update on our school website for further support.

Feedback from the Parent Forum was around who to contact at Trust level. If you would like to raise an issue with the school please email the office [office@melbournvc.org](mailto:office@melbournvc.org) stating who you would like the email to be sent to.

If you would like to contact Mr Mackintosh who is our Director of Inclusion within the Trust executive team and is based at MVC currently, his email is [imackintosh@catrust.co.uk](mailto:imackintosh@catrust.co.uk). We aim to acknowledge receipt of your email within 48 hours.

*Mrs Spencer, Principal*



## MY CHILD AT SCHOOL

The start of the new term has seen our new behaviour system used by all staff for both positive and negative events. To make sure you are able to track your child's behaviour and attendance please gain access to 'My Child At School' (MCAS). MCAS is available as a website on a laptop, PC or tablet, and as an app for phones and tablets, available from all app stores.

You should have received an email inviting you to link with your child's account. If you have not, you can link yourself in the app or website using the school's ID number or postcode (14767, SG8 6EF) and the email address we hold for you. We have allowed access for anyone listed as contact 1 or 2 on the school system – if you have any difficulties linking in MCAS, please email [MEL-DataManager@melbournvc.org](mailto:MEL-DataManager@melbournvc.org) to ask for assistance. MCAS will also be able to show you a live version of your child's timetable.

*Mr Barnes, Assistant Principal*

## REWARDS AND MVC

Well done to so many of our students for receiving positive points (parents can see this via the My Child at School App) for the following areas:

- Kindness and respect
- Effort
- Attitude
- Achievement

Over 5000 points have been awarded to students each week of this term so far.

We have also run “Tutee of the week” with students receiving a certificate from their tutor and then having hot chocolate/juice on a Thursday morning. We are in the process of planning more rewards for students as we recognise that the points they achieve need to be celebrated and recognised!

*Mr E Willder,  
Assistant Principal - Teaching and Learning*

## Y10 MOCK INTERVIEWS ON 29TH JANUARY

On 29th January, Y10 students will have a short mock interview with a volunteer from business or industry. The purpose is to help prepare them for any future interview for a job or college. We will be sending information about Y10 work experience (scheduled for the week beginning 14th July for one week). This mock interview may be helpful in speaking to employers and applying for placements. Students will have prepared for the mock interview in lessons and tutor time, and will receive feedback on what they did well and what they could improve on.

*Mr E Willder,  
Assistant Principal - Teaching and Learning*

## CATERING EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to our amazing catering team from Caterlink who achieved over 95% in their recent safety audit, with 100% for Allergen Management.



## YEAR 7 PANATHLON EVENT

Congratulations to the year 7 Panathlon team who achieved 2nd place in the South Cambs Panathlon xtend event at Comberton Village College. The team have secured their place at the County finals in March at the Ivo school. The students burst back into school and couldn't wait to show Mrs Spencer their medals!

Skylar said *'It was very fun and a new beginning of trying out new challenges'*

Emily said *'it was very fun, it gave us some challenges to work on and some targets to work towards'*  
Mrs K Coghlan, Head of PE



## OUTSTANDING WORK

Congratulations to Polly (Year 9) for her outstanding project entitled, 'How successfully did Hitler Nazify Germany between 1933-39'. Polly took part in the stretch and challenge project in humanities.

Mr Tobutt said: "Her work was exceptionally well written and a real credit to her hard work and superb subject knowledge. The essay was thoughtful, well considered, showed not only great knowledge and understanding, but also outstanding use of relevant language and was able to thread an insightful narrative."

Mr G Tobutt, Teacher of History

## TUTEES OF THE WEEK

Our tutees of the week receive hot chocolate and marshmallows (of course optional!) on Thursday morning as a reward for having a great week last week. This will happen every week for all year groups with students receiving a certificate to take home.

First Name	Year Group
Ray	7
Poppy	7
Scout	7
Darcy	7
Florrie	8
Polina	8
Cameron	8
Bailey	8
Emilijus	9
Lola	9
Ronnie	9
Anna	9
Ellie	10
Masha	10
Maisie	10
Jayden	11
Abi	11
George	11
Matthew	11

## LION DANCE – CHINESE NEW YEAR

On Friday 24th January, Year 7 students enjoyed an amazing performance of the Lion Dance by the Chung Ching Dance Group. The Lion Dance is a form of traditional Chinese dance in which performers mimic a lion's movements while wearing a lion costume, symbolising good luck and fortune. The dancers were accompanied by music from a drum and cymbals. Mrs Spencer took part in the lion awakening ritual, and then the lion began to dance and handed out 'Snake Mascots' to randomly selected students in the audience.

The Lion Dance is one of the most important traditions of Chinese New Year. The loud drumming and energetic performance are believed to drive away bad luck. Later in the day, MVC hosted pupils from local primary schools, (Meldreth Primary School, Melbourn Primary School, Harston & Newton Community Primary School, and Fowlmere Primary School) who were also treated to a captivating performance of the Lion Dance.

*Ms S Ni, Teacher of Mandarin*



## STAFF HEROS

### DR DYER RUNNING LONDON MARATHON

Dr Dyer will be running the London Marathon on 27th April 2025, after successfully gaining a hard-won charity place. She has previously run the Cambridge Half Marathon five times and successfully raised around £1000. This will be her first time running a marathon and she needs to raise £1800 for the charity 'Contact', who support families with disabled children. She has personally benefitted from their resources, getting support for her daughter with a genetic condition. The website for 'Contact' is [here](#). Dr Dyer has been busy training throughout the winter months, and has already reached the half marathon stage. She is hoping to continue this good progress, but would appreciate some motivation for this if you could sponsor her.



#### Fundraising page:

[Contact a Family: Jeanette's page \(enthuse.com\)](#)

## MVC REPRESENTED AT SCIENCE EDUCATION CONFERENCE

On Friday 10th January, science technician Dr Dyer enthusiastically presented 2 sessions to other technicians and teachers at the University of Nottingham.

Dr Dyer has 12 years' experience as a science technician and since 2019 has been leading training sessions to technicians in the local area. She was elected to the Association for Science Education (ASE) Committee for Laboratory Technicians in August who aim to promote the professional standing of the role nationally.

As part of this, she was invited to present at the ASE Annual Conference. She chose a session which she had previously developed for the ASE Technicians Conference at Cambridge Regional College in the Summer, 'Foodie Physics', featuring demonstrations to illustrate concepts using food and drink to give pupils a more accessible and relatable approach. She also led a session 'Resources for new technicians' to enable them to quickly become proficient in the skills required for the job. Dr Dyer said that it was a fantastic day overall and she particularly enjoyed meeting other technicians and sharing their experiences in different schools from around the UK.

