

MVC Newsletter



MELBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE

28 FEBRUARY 2025

Dear parents and carers,

We have enjoyed welcoming the students back after the half term break. It has been a busy week for us as well as two evenings for parents this week. I would like to thank Ms Cooke and Mr Thompson for the Year 9 information evening this week. Following some changes to our options process we now have a robust data informed process with clear recommended pathways for every child. Mr Luxton has also organised an event for Year 10 and 11 parents this week specifically looking at study skills to support those students ahead of examinations.

The ski trip took place over half term and students had a fantastic time. I also received an email from our partnership school to acknowledge how fantastic our students were during the trip and how they would like to work with us in the future. Thank you to Dr Wilson and Mrs Nicholls for organising this wonderful experience for our students.

Since the new year it has been a priority for me to review the staffing so we are proactive with recruitment in key areas ready for September. Last half term we hosted Maths trainees for a day of teaching as a new collaborative approach together with our teacher training provider in the Trust. I hope to build on the success of this day with future invitations for trainees to undertake visits to our school with a view to securing newly qualified teachers from within the Trust. Through collaborative work with Cambourne Village College we are delighted to have appointed a Mathematician who will be joining the Trust in September working across both Melbourn Village College and Cambourne Village College. Some of you may be aware that Mrs Storey has been absent with a short-term illness and I know she is looking forward to continuing to drive this recruitment once she returns. In the meantime, we are very grateful for the expertise of Mr Holmes who has increased teaching of Year 11 groups. We would also like to thank Mr Willder and Mr Hodgson who are supporting students in Maths. We will continue to drive recruitment in this key area, exploring creative solutions working in partnership within the Trust. This week we have also interviewed for the post of Vice Principal (Behaviour and Culture) and Assistant Principal (Raising Aspiration). We had an overwhelming number of very high quality candidates apply for both roles and I hope to be in a position to confirm appointments next week with staff and parents.

Mrs Spencer, Principal

KEY DATES

3rd Mar

Netball Fixture at MVC

5th Mar

Cam Academy Trust Games

6th Mar

Year 8 Parents' Evening

6th Mar

Year 10 Path to Success:
Parental Event

10th Mar

Primary Netball Tournament

12th Mar

DofE Bronze Online Training

20th Mar

Year 11 'Boost a Grade Day'

20th Mar

Speed Stacking SSP Event

26th Mar

DofE Bronze outdoor training
session

27th Mar

Spring Concert

2nd Apr

DofE Silver outdoor training
session



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YOU SAID: WE DID

Key stage 4 students have asked for more specific support in study skills.

We were delighted to welcome Kevin Hayes from Constant Change into school on Thursday and Friday to support our Year 11 pupils with effective learning strategies covering:

1. Learning to Learn with Study Skills, Memory Techniques and Revision vs Self Testing.
2. Helping the pupils to work smarter and feel more motivated.
3. Focusing on the pupils' self-esteem and helping them realise they can learn.

Pupils were very enthusiastic about the session - one said "This really works!", another called it, "Epic!" and Jayden said "It was awesome! He taught us a revision technique and I used it in history today and it works, I can remember everything!"

Parents and carers of Years 10 and 11 attended an evening session from 5–6pm to learn about the same techniques and support their child's revision at home.

*Mr S Luxton,
Associate Assistant Principal - Raising Achievement*



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
Emily	7
Grace	7
Lily	7
Holly	7
Balian	7
River	7
Ellie	8
Zac	8
Ava	9
Charlotte	9
Harper	9
Elliot	10
Ollie	11
Poppy	11
Laura	11

CATERLINK PRICE CHANGE

Please note that from Monday 24th March there will be an increase to the Meal of the Day and FSM price from £2.50 to £2.60. All other costs should remain the same.

CHURCHILL COLLEGE VISIT

On 20th February we were delighted to take some Year 11 students to Churchill College Cambridge for an aspiration raising day with a STEM session incorporating maths and science revision and an English writing revision session. The students were a credit to MVC!

Mr S Luxton, Associate Assistant Principal - Raising Achievement



PARENTAL LETTERS



In this section we will be including links to key letters that have been sent to parents and carers during the week. All letters are available to download from our website [here](#).

- [Year 9 Options Process Update Letter](#)

YEAR 9 - OPTIONS

On Tuesday we held our options evening for parents and carers. Information from the presentations is available to download below from the links below:

- [Options evening presentation](#)
- [Options pathways](#)

Students will be given information in form time on Monday on how to sign up for their individual guidance meetings. If you would like to discuss anything further please email:

bcooke@melbournvc.org or
jthomson@melbournvc.org

Ms B Cooke, Associate Assistant Principal

Options Key Dates	
24 Feb	Options assembly outlining the new process to all Year 9s
25 Feb	Options Pathways introduced to students in form time. Options Information evening for parents
3-14 Mar	Students optional guidance meeting
12 Mar	Options form sent home
19 Mar	Electronic options form deadline
Summer Term	Confirmation of choices

CAREER CAROUSEL

Our Year 8 students were encouraged to start thinking about their career pathways. They participated in a session listening to a series of career ambassadors who shared their career journey through personal stories and props. They spoke about pathways and qualifications, working life, and job roles and responsibilities. Students had the opportunity to ask career-related questions to gain an insight into the world of work.

A huge thank you to our ambassadors:

- Peter Buncombe, Freelance Photographer
- Pavel Sdor, Structural Engineer
- Tina Veenendaal, Hat Maker
- Tim Gent, Operational Science Researcher
- Jamie Shackleton, Cambridge Regional College



MY CHILD AT SCHOOL

MyChildAtSchool is an online portal for parents that enables you to view your child's performance and other information. Please take the opportunity to check that the contact details we hold for you in school are correct on the 'My Child At School' (MCAS) app.

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.

Parents can link into 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 to ask for assistance.

Mr J Barnes, Assistant Principal



YEAR 7 SCIENCE

Our year 7 pupils are learning about plant fertilisation and seed dispersal at the moment. The pupils made some brilliant 'helicopter'-type seeds out of paper and wanted a little height to be able to launch them from their 'trees'. They were a little disgusted when they watched the squirting cucumbers on YouTube however! Great fun and great science!

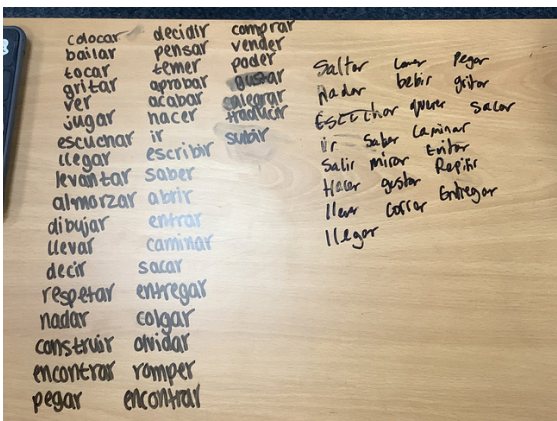
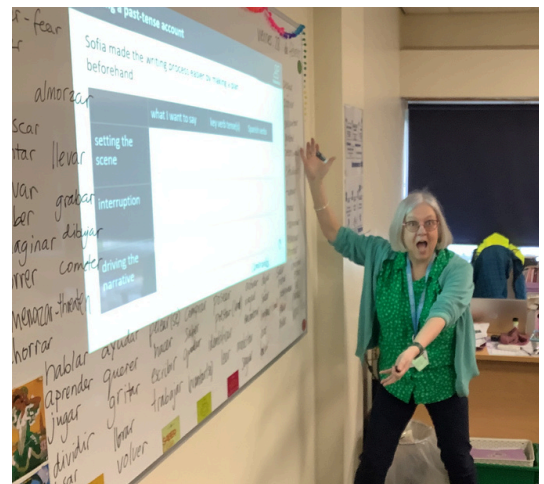
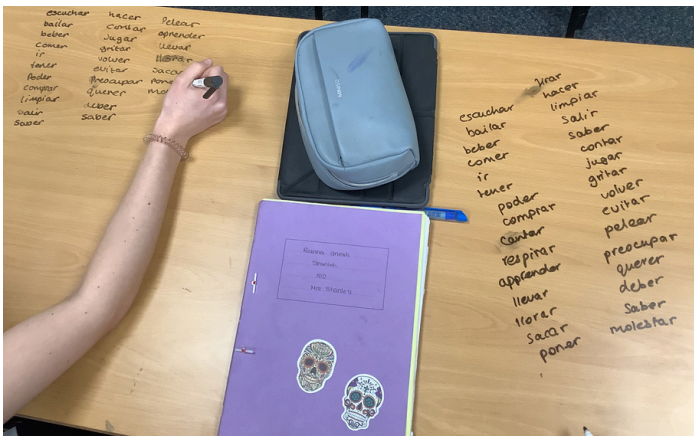
Dr D Wilson, Head of Science



YEAR 10 SPANISH

Year 10 pupils were preparing to do some writing and Mrs Stanley asked them to write down as many verbs as they could from memory. They came up with over 80! Mrs Stanley was amazed! Special credit to Benji and Caitlin who wrote over 60! Well done.

Mrs I Stanley, Teacher of Spanish



MVC SKI TRIP FEBRUARY 2025

Dachstein West, with its expansive ski resorts and snow-covered mountains, provides the perfect backdrop for students to challenge themselves and embrace new adventures. From the moment the group arrived, the beauty of the alpine landscape took everyone's breath away. Whether it was gazing out from the ski lifts or taking in the panoramic views from the slopes, the scenery was something that could only be truly appreciated in person. But it wasn't just the views that made this trip special—it was the progress the students made, both on the slopes and as individuals.

One of the most remarkable aspects of this trip was watching students of varying abilities push their limits and develop their skiing skills. For many, it was their first time skiing, and the transformation was incredible. Beginners who were hesitant on the first day, unsure about balancing or controlling their speed, soon found themselves zipping down the beginner slopes with newfound confidence.

The ski schools' instructors were key to this rapid progress, offering tailored support that helped each student master the basics before advancing to more challenging runs. As the days went by, it was clear that the students had overcome their fears and were excited to take on steeper slopes and faster runs. The most rewarding part, however, was watching students who had previously been anxious or uncertain about skiing, conquer new challenges with a sense of pride. For more experienced skiers, the trip provided an opportunity to refine techniques and take on higher-altitude slopes. By the end of the trip, even the most seasoned skiers had developed more precision and control, having pushed themselves through a mix of tough terrains and varied weather conditions.



While the technical skills learned on the slopes were impressive, the real magic of the trip lay in the bond the students formed. Skiing can be an individual pursuit, but this trip was about working as a team. They celebrated each other's progress, no matter how big or small.

The trip was not without its challenges - students faced a few tough days with challenging runs, and the physical strain of skiing at high altitudes. But it was through these challenges that their true growth occurred. Every fall was met with resilience, and each student learned to dust themselves off and try again. It was inspiring to witness the perseverance and positive attitudes, proving that skiing was about much more than simply mastering the slopes. It was about pushing through adversity, staying motivated, and having fun along the way.

We were partnered with another school for this trip and a member of staff from the other school commented: "It was a real pleasure to work with your staff and, in particular, your terrific students: they showed great humour, resilience, commitment - all the things you would want from students in an adventurous, challenging environment. They integrated so well with NLS students. It was a pleasure to work with them." Well done MVC.

Mrs C Nicholls, Associate Assistant Principal - Pupil Development

A MUSIC SUCCESS STORY

Josh attended MVC between 2018–2023 and as many members of our school community will remember, he made several significant contributions throughout his time here.



In terms of music, from the beginning of Year 7 through until the end of Year 11, Josh performed at many college events, from Open Evenings to promotional performances and in our Christmas and Spring Concerts. As a highly accomplished pianist, Josh accompanied singers and instrumentalists at various levels and in the larger ensemble contexts, Josh performed within our chamber ensemble, jazz, pop and rock groups.

I distinctly remember how impressed I was when Josh was able to seemingly almost sight-read the entire eleven-page piano score for 'Bohemian Rhapsody', when we rehearsed and performed that in 2019.

Following his successful completion of GCSE Music at MVC, Josh went on to study A Level Music at Hill's Road College in Cambridge.



During his time at Hill's Road, Josh has achieved his ARSM piano performance certification with distinction. This is a post-Grade 8 standard that not many people achieve. In addition, most recently, Josh has been offered places to study for a music degree at two of the most prestigious colleges for music in the UK – Trinity College London, and Oxford University!

We wish Josh all the very best with his continued musical journey. Please keep us updated, Josh!

Mr J Thomson, Subject Lead - Music