

# MVC NEWS



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**DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS:** Melbourn students learn to solve the problems they encounter from the educational opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

# Learning in many ways

**Melbourn Village College is continuing to evolve.**

Inside this newsletter are examples of opportunities that we have been able to give our students.

Without the hard work and dedication of our staff we would be able to offer very few educational opportunities outside of the classroom.

Learning in different environments and taking part in unusual activities, makes our students think in different ways as they solve the problems they encounter.

This could be within a sports fixture, as students develop their communication and leadership skills, expanding an interest in music or drama, or while working out ways to converse with students from another country.

Staff enjoy arranging these events as it allows them to develop those all-important positive working relationships with students.

Our pastoral system also continues to evolve and I am looking forward to a new member of the team joining in the near future. I believe it is imperative that we support our students both within and outside of the classroom.

We adults know that life brings its challenges which we find difficult at times.

Such challenges must be even more difficult for our students. Therefore, I believe we need to support them to ensure they can make the most of the opportunities which they are given both inside and outside of the classroom.

**Christopher Bennet, Headteacher**

## Drone pictures useful — and impressive!

Site team member Richard Perry has bought himself a drone — with spectacular results. He originally purchased the DJI Mini 3 Pro for fun, with the added advantage of being able to survey the college's high roofs without have to access them personally, reducing the risks to site staff. Now he has discovered his new toy can take incredible shots of not only the whole college — as seen on the front page — but also the village of Melbourn and beyond.



**FLYING HIGH:** A drone's view of Melbourn taken from above the school grounds.

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# Grant boosts bench plan

Melbourn Village College has been handed a grant to provide benches and planters for a new wildflower area.

Trigg's Charity, set up more than 200 years ago, has donated £500 after site manager Irene Bloomfield completed the application in support of a project by Year 11 pupil Jake, who is based in the Student Support Centre and is a prefect on the Community and Events Team.

The school's Eco Group had already highlighted an area for a wildflower meadow between the new Food Technology rooms and the George Edward building and Jake has been fund-raising to add outdoor furniture for students.

He said that he came up with the idea last year: "I was in Year 10, and I wanted to be a prefect. I was trying to think of an idea that would help people with their mental health.

"I thought it would be good to have picnic benches in a quiet area on the back of the field with a flower area where people could go to relax at break and lunchtime.

"It should also be an area where you wouldn't be hit by a football. There should be a bin next to each picnic bench so that people don't throw rubbish on the floor.

"At this time, the Eco Group were planning a wildflower garden on the field behind the staff room. I wanted to do some fundraising for the benches and spoke to Mrs Bloomfield, who helped me by applying for a grant from the Trigg Charity so that we could share the money between my project for the benches and the Eco Group's wildflower area."

Now that has taken a step closer thanks to the charity that was set up in 1821 by John Trigg, of Melbourn, who left '£2,000 for the establishment of a school for poor children in Melbourn, Meldreth and a six-mile radius in South Cambridgeshire'.

Trigg's Charity treasurer and secretary Phil Stewart explained: "The school was



**SEATING PLAN:** Jake is raising money to furnish the new wildflower area.

held in a barn but in 1854 was superseded by an infant's school built by John Mortlock and the Trigg's Charity money was distributed in the form of prizes; arithmetic or woodwork for the boys and needlework for the girls.

"Occasionally money was given for a scholarship to a Cambridge school.

Nowadays, the money is more likely to be requested for library, classroom, playground equipment or computer accessories. Each year we are restricted to dispersing only the interest on our capital investment — so we are not talking about huge sums.

"We approach local schools once a year inviting them to apply for a grant for something which would enhance the quality of their school and which fulfils the Trigg's Charity ethos and the Trustees."



**TARGET AREAS:** The reception is earmarked for improvement and work to refurbish the old-fashioned staff room is already under way.



## Looking forward to further improvements

There are big plans in the pipeline to further develop and enhance Melbourn Village College. With the new food tech and teaching rooms now complete along with enhanced catering facilities, which have been further improved with the addition of a 'grab and go' section, attention is turning to other areas of the college.

The Cam Academy Trust, which oversees MVC, is applying for planning permission for new perimeter fencing, which will enable to creation of a further safe outdoor space for Year 11 students at the front of the building.

The reception area and front of the school are going to be redesigned with separate areas for visitors and students waiting to be collected. Elsewhere there are plans to move the Cabin from the old library, which is now too small, to a purpose-built facility at the back of the school, near the sports centre. Discussions are still at an

early stage but with increased capacity a key priority.

The library will then be repurposed back to its original use.

Meanwhile, the MVC site team are busy refurbishing the staffroom, which was very out of date. It will include new work stations, a small

social seating area and a dining space.

They have also drawn up specifications and tendered for the maths classrooms — upstairs at the front of the school — to be refurbished and are hoping this will be approved by the Trust so the work can take place in the summer holidays.



**FAST FOOD:** The new 'grab and go' section of the catering offering is proving popular.

## Catering team score well

The Caterlink catering team at MVC were audited on Food Safety and Health & Safety earlier this month and were delighted to score 98%, meaning they have now been issued with a certificate of Excellence. They are now busy planning Theme Days. Watch this space.



# Mental health matters

Singer/songwriter **Natalie Gray** visited MVC earlier this term to perform for Years 8, 9 and 10 and talk about mental-health related issues.

She performed two songs and shared her messaging around being an ally of the LGBTQ+ community, how suppressing feelings or events in life can cause longer term issues and the importance of being kind to oneself and others. Her anti-bullying messages were very strong as she speaks from her own experiences at school.

Having had her own struggles with body image and mental health, Natalie is the perfect advocate to deliver such a positive message to young people.

"Dance Floor" is her brand new song which highlights the importance of being proud to be who you are no matter what.

Natalie also encouraged pupils to seek help if they are struggling, which pupils at MVC can do through their tutor, pastoral support officer, head of year or any other member of staff they feel comfortable speaking to.

Her performance was fantastic and pupils were able to ask questions and have an informal chat with her too.

Pre-Covid Natalie supported Kaiser Chiefs and Craig David on their UK arena tours and this summer she will perform at more than 20 festivals. She has also performed with Little Mix and Rag and Bone Man.



**A DIFFERENT STAGE: Natalie Gray in the hall at Melbourn.**



**in in-person connections.**

## Making connections

This year's theme for Children's Mental Health Week encouraged children (and adults) to look at making meaningful connections.

All year groups had an assembly about how making healthy connections — to family, friends and others — can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing.

A video was shown of how former Arsenal and England footballer Ian Wright reconnected with one of his old school teachers and he reflected on the impact that person had on him.

Assistant Principal Euan Willder said: "Making in-person connections is key to positive mental health and can help build a sense of belonging, security and confidence in young people."

During tutor time some pupils worked in groups to do a treasure hunt based on the gameshow Taskmaster!



**INTERACTION: Melbourn students work with their Spanish visitors on language, singing and dancing.**

## Students are immersed in language

Spanish pupils from the **Sagrada Familia secondary school in Santander** visited MVC earlier this month.

They were accompanied by José Herrera, from Links Into Spanish who organise the exchange programme, and two teachers from their school.

The 38 students worked in groups with the 35 Year 8 Melbourn students taking part in the Spanish Trip in Santander in May when Sagrada Familia will host to the MVC students on their trip to Spain.

The Spanish pupils enjoyed being language teachers to MVC students and vice versa. All the pupils were very enthusiastic to exchange conversation and thoroughly enjoyed the linguistic immersion day.

They even sang a Spanish song complete with gestures and practised a traditional regional dance.

It was definitely an unforgettable experience for them all.

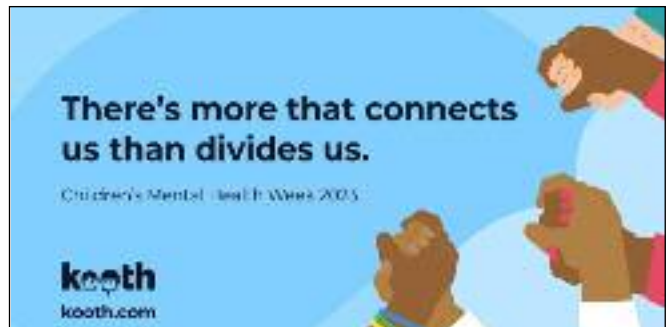
## Resources available

For Children's Mental Health Week Kooth put together a few resources for children, young people and parents and carers that relate to this year's theme of 'Let's Connect.' Topics include:

- Feelings of depression and low mood
- Friendship difficulties
- Family relationship difficulties with siblings

Visit [Kooth.com](http://Kooth.com) for more information and support.

Kooth is an online mental wellbeing community which offers free, safe and anonymous support.





**GOING LIVE:** GCSE students listened to a series of talks on different aspects of science — as well as getting top exam tips.

# Science on the brain!

Thirty students from Years 10 and 11, visited the Cambridge Corn Exchange for the GCSE Science Live event.

The first speaker was Dr Giles Yeo, a geneticist at Cambridge University, who spoke about whether obesity is a choice or is influenced by your genes. Next Dr Hannah Critchlow, also from the University of Cambridge, gave a talk on 'Joined up thinking in the Brain' — how can we make better use of our brain power?

Some volunteers joined her on stage and were wired up to follow their brain waves!

The audience also participated and was asked to run on the spot and then take their pulse to demonstrate the vagal nerve.

An examiner then gave a talk about how to achieve the highest grades in GCSE exams.

He was followed by Professor Alice Roberts who presents 'Digging for Britain' on BBC2. She talked about archeogenomics — how we can take DNA from things that are dug up and analyse them to get information about our ancestors.

After lunch, we listened to Professor Jim Al-Kahlili (of Radio 4 fame) talk about wormholes and time travel.

Professor Andrea Sella then spoke about how zebras got their stripes — chemical reactions of course!

Year 11 Thalia said: "I really enjoyed listening to the scientists speak. Hannah Critchlow talking about the brain was the one I found most interesting."

All the staff who attended were very impressed with the way the students represented MVC.

Second in Science, Tracey Mayhead, said: "It was a brilliant experience that proved to be both inspiring and informative — and a real pleasure to be out with such a well-behaved group."

## Celebrating 'behind-the-scenes' heroes

Friday 10th March was #TECHOGNITION — a national annual celebration of all technical support staff in schools and colleges.

Many departments, such as Science, DT, Art and Food Technology employ technicians to do 'behind-the-scenes' jobs to make lessons that teachers deliver come to life!

This event was started six years ago to celebrate and showcase the often unsung hard work that technicians do. They are encouraged to upload photos of themselves doing one or more of the varied tasks on to social media

using the hashtag #TECHOGNITION.

The newest technician in the school is Vikki Keppey who only started on 6th March! She has moved from Cambridgeshire County Council after 15 years to pursue a new career at MVC as a Food Technician.

This is a completely new career path for her and hugely different to her previous experience but is a challenge that she is looking forward to. She is really enjoying working with the pupils and staff who have all been very welcoming.



**CAREER CHANGE:** For FT technician Vikki Keppey.



Are you thinking about a career in education?

We are actively recruiting Teaching Assistants to work in several of our schools.

We would particularly like to hear from you if you are a parent or recent graduate or are looking to gain experience of working in an area that provides tailored support to students with an inclusive outlook.



The post of Teaching Assistant will offer excellent opportunities for training and development in a Trust that has professional development as a core value.

Positions available from 30 hours a week, term time only.

We currently have vacancies in several of our primary and secondary schools. To apply or obtain further information, visit:

[www.catrust.co.uk/key-information/vacancies](http://www.catrust.co.uk/key-information/vacancies)





**MEET THE DRAGON:** Students enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year with a traditional dancing dragon.

# New Year dances in . . .

Students on the Mandarin Excellence Programme and their invited guests enjoyed an amazing performance of the Lion Dance by the Chung Ching Dance Group to celebrate Chinese New Year.

The Lion Dance is a form of traditional Chinese dance in which performers mimic a lion's movements in a lion costume to bring good luck and fortune. The dancers were accompanied by music from a drum and cymbals.

Head teacher Christopher Bennet took part in the lion awakening ritual and the lion then proceeded to dance and give out 'red envelopes' to randomly selected students.

The students greeted the lion during the dance and fed the envelopes into the lion's mouth to bring good luck for the year ahead.

The lion gave out mandarin oranges to students in the crowd as their colour is close to gold and symbolises wealth. The lion dance is one of the most important

traditions at Chinese New Year. This event was a reward for MEP students and their dedication to learning Chinese.

Frank Fan, Head of MFL said, "It was a great event and students really enjoyed the lion dance activity. Our Mandarin team have done a great job and made this event extremely successful."

The Chinese Year of the Rabbit (specifically Water Rabbit) officially began on Sunday January 22nd.

## Festival puts poetry in the spotlight

More than 200 Year 7 and 8 students overcame their nerves to take part in a Poetry Festival at the end of last term.

Few would have done anything like this over the past three years - if at all - and it was fantastic to see them participate with enthusiasm and vigour.

Almost every student took a turn standing on stage in the main hall to perform a piece of poetry, some by heart, and many with creativity and enthusiasm.

It was wonderful to hear them recite poetry but also developing skills in listening and supporting their peers.

Many thanks to English teacher Martin Bacon, who planned and arranged the event, and to the other members of staff who helped the students prepare and practise as well as assisting on stage.



**CENTRE STAGE:** Students perform at the Poetry Festival.

### LESSONS LEARNED:

Students received National Star certificates.



## Becoming travel stars

Former long-serving TA Nicky Patel returned to the Student Support Centre to help youngsters learn about independent travel. She now works for National Star, an award-winning Cambridgeshire travel scheme, and students were delighted to welcome her back for their training. All participants were presented with a certificate after the course, which teaches students how to

travel independently to and from college. The students learned about road safety, emergency strategies, accessibility, how to use a timetable and travel preparation. They looked at different situations, identified hazards, having the correct change for public transport, what to do if the bus or train you were expecting was cancelled and who to call for help or advice.

## Tasty lessons

Delicious decorated gingerbread was the reward for students from the Student Support Centre after they enjoyed working with TAs to make the treat and improve their baking skills. Well done!



**PROUD BAKERS:** Students with their gingerbread men.

# PE and sport are crucial

The Cam Academy Trust is very clear that physical education, sport and physical activity are a central part of the proper education of all young people.

We are very keen that this is true in all schools in the Trust, regardless of context and age range.

This strongly fits within the Trust's 'Broad Education' principle.

Excellent education must be broad in its nature, strongly including areas beyond standard academic courses and programmes. PE and Sport is clearly an important element of that.

One example of taking this seriously across the Trust is the Schools Sports Partnership that we run to serve schools in the South Cambridgeshire area.

This is overseen by our Partnership Manager and School Games Organiser, Claire McDonnell, who has written about that work below.

Another means of supporting quality Sport and Physical Education is through our

work with and Trust-level membership of the Youth Sport Trust.

Through this, we have access to provision that can develop and enhance the offer in all our schools, for example through visits from Athlete Mentors to our schools and high-quality professional development to all staff teaching PE and Sport.

This is overseen by Hannah Curtis, the Trust's Director of Sport and PE, who has an important role in supporting quality PE and sport in our schools.

We were pleased with the recent confirmation of Government targeted funding for PE and Sport for the next two years for primary schools as well as for the network of School Games organisers.

We shall certainly be looking to continue to use this funding effectively to ensure full access to a range of sports for all our pupils and high-quality physical education in the curriculum of all our schools.

Stephen Munday, CEO

## Local partnership is key to delivery

Based at Comberton Village College since 2003, the South Cambs School Sport Partnership (SCSSP) works with 51 primary schools and 10 secondary schools across South Cambridgeshire, including three Trust secondary and four primary schools.

SCSSP has very strong links with Hunts School Sport Partnership, who support five other Trust schools in Huntingdonshire.

Our aim is to ensure all children are **happy, healthy and more active** and to support schools in addressing their whole school priorities by thinking differently about the outcomes PE, school sport and physical activity can deliver.

The School Sport Partnership offers a range of support and programmes to enhance the provision of PE, physical activity and school sport across schools and support the needs of staff and young people.

**Professional development** is key to this, with the SCSSP employing two Primary PE Specialists, who provide team teaching support to staff in 11 schools, as well as offering subject leader support.

Courses are offered for all schools and staff to access and this year have included Sensory Circuits, Bee Netball, Delivering High Quality PE, Swimming and Water Safety and Subject Leader courses.

The SSP also offers a range of programmes to **enhance the sport and physical activity** that schools can offer, including the popular Balanceability and Scootability programmes, which



**GAME ON:** The South Cambs Partnership supported a major Football Activators conference for girls.



are being delivered in Jeavons Wood, Gamlingay and Bourn this year.

These teach Reception, Year 1 and 2 children to ride a bike or two-wheeled scooter, as well as developing children's balance, coordination and spatial awareness and encouraging active travel to school. Also popular this year have been athlete visits, with children being inspired to achieve their best, overcome setbacks and build resilience by hearing from world champions, world record-holders and professional sports people.

Another strand of the SSPs remit is to deliver the Government-funded **School Games Programme**, which aims to provide young people with the opportunity to compete and have positive sporting experiences. It is free to all primary and secondary

schools.

It also allows the SSP to work with schools and local partners to promote the importance of regular activity to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of young people.

The Partnership also oversees a highly successful **Leadership Academy** programme involving Year 10 Sports Leaders from the Trust secondary schools.

Participants access training to develop important leadership and life skills such as communication and organisation and are then deployed to support the delivery of extra-curricular clubs, inter-school competitions and primary school events as well as being guided and

encouraged to volunteer in community sport. Claire Mc Donnell, who manages the SCSSP, is also strategic lead for the local Barclays Girls' Football School Partnership, a nationwide scheme that aims to mainstream football in schools for girls. Funded by Barclays and England Football and overseen by the YST, the vision is to ensure every girl has equal access to football in school by 2024. This year the partnership has run numerous football competitions and festivals with more than 300 girls having taken part already. It also supported a successful Game On Girls Football Activators conference and engaged 17 schools, seven local clubs and more than 2,500 girls in the #LetGirlsPlay Biggest Ever Football Session to mark International Women's Day on 8th March.



**CHAMPAGNE MOMENT:** Stephen Munday receives a YST award.

## CEO's commitment award

Trust CEO Stephen Munday has won an award for his advocacy and passion in supporting schools to deliver high quality PE, physical activity, and school sport for young people.

He received the Campbell CARE Award at the Youth Sport Trust Awards earlier this term. It recognises network leaders and local influencers and Stephen was commended as an inspiring leader, practitioner and advocate in Cambridgeshire.

He has been working with children's charity, the Youth Sport Trust, for the last 20 years and has played an integral role in influencing other school leaders, organisations and educators about the importance of embedding PE, sport and play in the curriculum to achieve better outcomes for young people.

The judges noted that Stephen embodies absolute

integrity, is humble, committed, and hugely generous with his time in support of the Youth Sport Trust's mission to equip educators and empower young people through the power of PE, play and sport.

Ali Oliver MBE, Chief Executive of the Youth Sport Trust, said: "Stephen has demonstrated a huge commitment to the important role of PE, play and sport in improving young people's mental health. "This generation is moving less, spending more time online and has experienced major changes in their lives following the Covid-19 pandemic. "On top of this, increased social inequality amplified by the cost-of-living crisis are creating a ripple effect on their school and home life. It is thanks to changemakers like Stephen that they will grow up healthier and happier."



# 'The best present ever'

**Kristina, in Year 11, one of our Ukrainian refugees, recently returned from visiting her father in Ukraine.**

She had not seen her dad since the start of the war. She told her Head of Year, Andrew Kennedy, that at the moment, conditions are very bad in Ukraine. Her dad does not have electricity, heating or even water for the majority of the time. It is unbelievable to think that people were enduring such hardship in the depths of a Ukrainian winter! At the end of the conversation Kristina pulled a small brown paper bag from her backpack and with a lovely smile she said: "Sir, I got these for you".

Inside were some socks in the national Ukrainian colours.

Mr Kennedy said: "I found it so moving that someone who is having to go through such difficult times would bring me a gift from her trip.

"It really summed up for me why it is so important that we are welcoming to refugees and all people who are in need."

He added: "Those socks will forever be treasured by me as a symbol of unbelievable human kindness.

Thank you Kristina for the best Christmas present I have ever received!"



**DELIGHT:** Andrew Kennedy with his Ukrainian socks.

## Students benefit from 'giving' initiatives

Students, their families and members of the wider Melbourn communities saw in 2023 in better spirits than they might otherwise have experienced thanks to two initiatives over Christmas.

Melbourn prefects organised a collection in aid of Melbourn Foodbank, run by Melbourn Action Community Support (MACS), and were overwhelmed by the generous response to their

appeal.

And a number of students received gift vouchers over the festive period thanks to the brainchild of Ellie, a local Girl Guide.

The Foodback collection basket at MVC was filled to overflowing and donations were sufficient to fill two car boots with goodies to give to families struggling during the cost-of-living crisis.

'The Giving Tree', Ellie's idea, was based at The

Hub, whose motto is 'for the community by the community'.

It enabled local residents to buy a gift voucher for a student in need. Vouchers were returned by donors to The Hub in Melbourn and then sent on to students.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in this really important initiatives.



**GIVING AND RECEIVING:** Prefects organised a collection for the Foodbank while some students received 'Giving Tree' vouchers

## Display supports fight for equality

Grace, in Year 10, created some powerful and inspiring protest posters for an International Women's Day display in the Student Support Centre, based on the learning we did on equality. This covered a variety of topics

- That everybody deserves to be treated equally, regardless of their gender.
- How some women are unable to travel alone, go to school, have fewer top jobs, are paid less, can't own land, sign contracts, prevented or discouraged from following their dreams.
- Looking for an awareness that gender

inequality can be found all over the world, and in many different aspects of life.

We looked at how other countries celebrate the day, for example in Nepal, where it is an official holiday!

We also looked at some inspirational women, including Ellie Goldstein and Malala Yousafzai. Both women used their voices to raise awareness around inequality.

Grace hoped to raise awareness of equality and give girls and women hope and inspire them to have a voice while highlighting why IWD is important.



**INSPIRED:** A display to mark IWD.

## Speaking out for better transport



**BACKING BUSES:** At a rally.

Year 7 student Iris has continued her environmental campaigning with her first public speech.

Having previously taken Mayor Nik Johnson on a bike ride to highlight the need for a safe cycling route from Melbourn to Royston, she joined a campaign in support of sustainable transport, where she spoke in favour of better buses. She spoke at the rally which followed a 'walking bus' event organised by the Cambridge Parents for the Sustainable Travel Zone and supported by the Cambridgeshire Sustainable Travel Alliance.

At the end of the short walk from Parker's Piece via Clarendon St and New Square to Christ's Pieces next to Drummer St Bus station, Iris told around 200 people: "I am passionate about the environment, on which all of our futures depend.

"I have been campaigning on transport issues since I was five years old, because I want to be able to get around without buying a car, and without burning fossil fuels."

The walk was one response to the controversial proposal to introduce a Congestion Zone around Cambridge, which has divided opinion in the city and the surrounding area.





**SOMETHING'S COOKING:** Students have new facilities in which to learn culinary skills.

# New room, new teacher!

**Melbourn's new Food Technology suite is up and running — and has a new member of staff in charge.**

Zoe Millwood started at MVC this term as a teacher of Food Technology, although she can also teach Design Technology and Art. She finds herself based in Melbourn's newly refurbished FT Department, which has been created from the old FT room, offices and a computer room. The two state-of-the-art workspaces allow 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.

Ms Millwood said: "I love passing on knowledge to others and watching children thrive and grow through their learning. "I am really excited to be part of MVC and am looking forward to what the future holds. "I've always been creative ever since I was child, it is my happy place and the place I can be myself!



"I have a degree in fashion and interiors and have had a career in retail and design that has spanned over 15 years.

"I have had various roles from being a range assistant for *Next*, *River Island* and *Topshop* and have been a fashion designer for *Debenhams*.

"I have also created woven and knitted textiles for London fashion week on numerous occasions.

"After I had my two children, I decided that I wanted to focus on passing all my knowledge and skills onto the younger generations and decided to change my career and trained to be a teacher where I have taught Design & Technology, Art and Food."



Another member of staff who joined the team this term was James Richardson, who has returned to Melbourn to find one his IT Department rooms is now part of FT and that there's a brand new suite of computers in what used to be the Seminar Room. His previous stint at MVC, where he also helped with the Duke of Edinburgh Award, was pre-Covid and the students who were in Year 7 are now in Year 11! After working as a teacher closer to home, Mr Richardson said: "I came back as I always enjoyed working here and it is a good school. I am excited to return and work with old and new colleagues alike."

**STAFF CHANGES:** Zoe Millwood has joined MVC, while James Richardson has returned to the college.

## You just can't stop the music . . .



Talented Melbourn musicians have just performed their second concert of the term — following the success of their festive offering in January. The Christmas concert was delayed until the start of this term due to the heavy snow in December, meaning staff and students went straight from one performance to rehearsals for the next.

The 'encore' in the form of the Spring Concert was as impressive at the January show with more outstanding solo, ensemble and orchestral numbers to thrill the audience.

The theme of this year's Spring Concert was Film Music, with performances, including the music of Hans Zimmer, John Williams and more.

All students involved performed with confidence and courage and the event was well supported by parents and carers.

Special thanks to all the staff volunteers involved.



**AT THE DOUBLE:** Musicians performed twice this term — earlier this month (above) at the Spring Concert and in January at the delayed festive offering.

# Green career pathway!

All Year 10 students had an assembly during National Careers Week to introduce careers in green energy.

Madeline who works for Orsted, a Danish offshore wind power company which build wind turbines and wind farm, took them through her role and her employers' apprenticeship programme and the opportunities it offers.

Madeline has Marine Biology background, and her specific role is to look at the environmental impact of wind turbines on marine life.

Orsted are one of the biggest offshore wind companies in the world, and they estimate that the green energy sector will see thousands more jobs created in the coming years.

She was able to share information about their apprenticeship programme to become a wind turbine technician.

Apprentices, from age 16, train on the job, attend college once a week and learn how to work safely in an offshore environment. This includes a helicopter simulator and training in a deep pool.

Salaries are as follows:

- Year 1 apprentice: £15,000 per year
- Year 2 apprentice: £19,000 per year
- Year 3 apprentice: £21,000 per year
- Full trained wind turbine technician: £38,000-£45,000 per year

Despite this apprenticeship being based in Grimsby, it is an example of this career



**TURBINE TALK:** Year 10 students hear about opportunities in green energy.

pathway that pupils can apply for when they are in Year 11.

Year 10 students engaged well and we hope some will consider a future in green energy!



**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE:** Melbourn has lots of different after-school activities on offer which change each term.

## There's always something new to learn

More than 40% of Melbourn's 632 students have been taking part in a wide range of after-school clubs and activities this term.

The enrichment programme runs three days a week (Monday-Wednesday) and offers students the chance to learn new skills, try different

sports, take up new hobbies and make different friends.

This term 277 have attended at least one activity and many are keeping busy on more than one afternoon as this term's options have attracted between 160 and 200 participants each day.

Among the options this term were sewing club, programming club, science club, drama club, Minecraft, biology, girls' football, art, squash, running and table tennis.

A new programme will operate for the summer term.







# First steps to next phase

Students in Years 9 and 11 have made some important choices as the next phase of their education journey starts to become a reality.

Year 11 have completed their college applications and have been attending guidance interviews with their chosen providers before hearing if they have been offered a place.

In total 217 different applications were sent off to a range of colleges and sixth form centres.

Meanwhile Year 9 students have made their options choices for Key Stage 4 after receiving guidance and insight from staff.

Headteacher Christopher Bennet led a motivational assembly where he talked about how life is filled with events, emotions - joys and disappointments - and the important thing is how people respond.

He told the year group that emotions can cloud perspective and seeing things differently can change the response.

He told them they can decide whether to listen to the inner critic, which is negative, or the inner coach, which encourages and inspires you to improve.

Students also took part in an options carousel, where stalls for

each subject were set up in the main hall. Staff and students in Years 10 and 11 who are taking that subject were on hand to explain the courses and answer any questions.

Before finally submitting their choices, students had a taster lesson in subjects they were considering as well as a personal meeting with a member of staff to discuss their plans.



**IMPORTANT DECISIONS:**  
Year 9 students learn about the pathways for their KS4 learning at the Options Carousel.

# Never too early to think about future

Year 7 pupils experienced a fantastic event where five different visitors from business and industry talked to them about their career and jobs. However, students had to start by asking questions to try to guess our visitors' jobs!

They asked some fantastic questions, and developed their questioning skills to get the answer more quickly.

They were often surprised as to the specific role of our visitors! We had:

- A Former Head of HR, Cambridge Libraries
- A Community and Commercial Manager, Bruntwood SciTech
- A Mortgage Advisor
- A Police Sergeant
- A person who works for Amazon, specifically on 'Alexa'!

Our visitors were highly impressed with our students and it offered pupils a chance to think about future careers. After all, it was National Careers Week!



Years 7, 8 and 9 received an assembly all about careers to mark National Careers Week. This included a 'match the member of staff to their previous career' The key message was for students to ask staff about other roles they have had in their career to help them think about their own future.

Students were also introduced to the idea of an apprenticeship — these are now offered in many areas of business, industry, finance and in more vocational roles. Did you know we have staff at MVC who have the following qualifications/previous jobs: trained solicitor, freud defence lawyer, optician, carer, sports journalist, qualified scuba diver, worked at the BBC, designed food recipes for photoshoots, qualified bricklayer.



**WHO AM I?** Students had to question visiting speakers to find out what job they do.



# Artists develop skills

Students taking GCSE fine art have been honing their skills and developing their interests.

Year 11 have had mock exams, producing personal themed mock exam prep in their sketchbooks and amazing final pieces.

Year 10 are developing their GCSE sketchbook work following their chosen themes. They have completed their artist's responses and are starting to develop their own ideas and experimentation.

And in Year 9, those thinking about taking art as one of their options have been

focusing on the human body.

Year 9 have completed complex Day of the Dead composition which show a strong understanding of the design, culture and imagery - mainly skulls — of the Mexican festival.

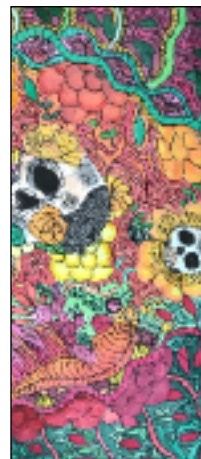
They have recently started to produce realistic animal eyes showing a high degree of tonal skill and mark making in charcoal. They are starting to design a colourful animal eyes response incorporating lettering for the title page of their animal eye project.



**MOCKS:** Year 11 are counting down to their final exam. Their work is due to go on display at The Hub in Melbourn later in the summer.



**EXPLORING:** Year 10 have been researching artists whose work interests them and reproducing it.



**THE EYES HAVE IT:** Year 9 work on animal eyes and the imagery of The Day of the Dead.





**GETTING STUCK IN:** Students embraced all the challenges at the Xtend Panathlon.

## Another bronze for MVC

A different team of Melbourn athletes emulated last term's success.

The Year 7 squad also took bronze at the second round of the South Cambs School Sports Partnership (SCSSP) Xtend competition — in partnership with Panathlon Challenge — for youngsters with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The team of Issac (Hawking), Jake (Darwin), Dudley (Franklin), Hannah (Franklin), Polly (Franklin), Charlie (Franklin), Poppy (Hawking) and Joe

(Lewis) were third of the seven teams competing at Impington Village College. The team of seven contested a variety of activities, working well together as a team to accumulate points at the different adapted sports stations. These included Boccia, basketball, target practice and bowling. The competition was won by Comberton, who joined Gretton School, winners of last term's event in the county finals last week.



**GEARED UP:** Meldreth (left) celebrated getting a new kit by taking second place.

## Hockey hotshots lift title

Youngsters from Harston & Newton Primary School are the 'Small Schools' Quicksticks hockey champions.

They won the South Cambs School Sports Partnership Cup in the annual competition at the Cambridge University Sports Ground at Wilberforce Road.

In a closely-contested final against Meldreth Primary School, they took the title with a 2-1 win in a thrilling, high-quality match.

That was one of four finals as 40 teams came together to play in one of four competitions. As well as the 'Small Schools' Cup, there was a Plate competition, won by Barton, as well as similar events for 'big schools' — based on pupil numbers.

These were won by Histon Brook, who beat University of Cambridge Primary 2-1 and Pendragon (Papworth), who saw off Trumpington Park in the Plate final after both qualified from their groups with 100% records.

The competition involved teams of four — two boys and two girls — playing 10-minute matches. The first round was a pool set-up with all playing each other in that group in a round-robin format. There was also recognition on the day for those teams who had taken part in the 'Spirit of the Games' and demonstrated good teamwork and honesty in their performances.

There were lots of nominations for these awards which was great to see, and the winners were Meldreth 2, Waterbeach, Bassingbourn 2 and Jeavons Wood (Cambourne), who were all nominated for being supportive of their teammates and the umpires and showing great teamwork and fair play towards other teams.

## Leaders excel

Melbourn hosted the second round of the primary school Bee netball league.

Five partner schools, Barrington, Foxton, Harston & Newton, Melbourn and Meldreth entered a total of eight teams to play in the tournament.

The standard of play was very impressive with lots of goals being scored.

Foxton 1 were the overall winners of the latest tournament.

We would like to thank the Melbourn

VC sports leaders who ran the event with Mrs Coghlan and Miss Evans. Students umpired the games, scored and ran the timing and the table to ensure the event ran smoothly and successfully.

All teams will get another chance to compete. The B Team finals took place on March 29th at Impington Village College, which will also host the A Team Shield Finals on April 27th. The A Team Plate finals take place on April 24th at Comberton Village College.



**IN CHARGE:** Sports leaders ran all aspects of the primary school netball tournament.



# Sports course taster

Year 9 students experienced a taste of the OCR Cambridge National Sport Studies course again on offer next year.

One aspect of the course involves pupils developing their skills as a performer in two different sporting activities and as a leader in one activity.

Some of our Year 9 students had the opportunity to plan, deliver and review safe and effective sporting activities for Year 7 students.

It was fantastic to see such positive leadership qualities displayed by our students, including motivating younger students to achieve in PE!



**GETTING INVOLVED:** Year 9s experience being participants and leaders.



## Mixed fortunes in cup competitions

Melbourn's youngest team were hoping to go into the Easter holidays still involved in their District Cup football competition.

They were due to play Swavesey in the quarter-finals earlier this week (after the magazine had gone to print) after convincingly winning their opening match against Impington.

Harvey, the team captain, and Harvey, the Year 10 sports leader who manages the team, combined to report: "On Monday 23rd January, the Year 7's first match of 2023 was a great success as we won 6-1 with a great team performance.

"In the first half, we started not as well as we could, but we grew into the game quickly as Finlay opened the scoring for us with some quick reactions off a powerful shot.

"Then we started to create more and more chances and Finlay scored a second! By the end of a decent first half, we were 3-0 up thanks to a goal by Leo — a great turn and finish.

"The second half started with us in a good position and looking for more goals. We played some good football in their final third and scored as Tyler slotted home from a one vs one.

"Then we got a free kick that Harry stepped up to and delivered a good ball, where Leo touched it down and Finlay finished well into the bottom corner giving himself a hat-trick and us a commanding lead.

"A slip at the back led to Impington scoring, but we were cruising! Minutes later Ozzie danced past a tackle and played it to Harry in acres of space and he rocketed it into the bottom corner.

That goal was the last of the action and capped a decent team performance that resulted in the final score being 6-1. Well played boys!"

Year 11 were also hoping to still be involved as they faced Stephen Perse in the quarter-finals after the magazine went to print, but Years 8, 9 and 10 are all out of their respective competitions.

Year 10 were beaten by a strong St Bede's side in fading light, going down 2-0 despite some impressive defending by Lenny and Dan P. Johnny also merits a mention for his technical ability.

Year 9 beat Sancton Wood 4-0 in their opening match. They used an amazing 18 players on a cold Monday afternoon in January and wrapped up victory with goals from Riley, Billy and Sam.

They bowed out in the quarter-finals earlier this month despite finishing the game against Netherhall much the stronger side.

Sam's goal helped them to a 1-1 draw in normal time but only Billy managed to put away his penalty as Netherhall won the shoot-out 4-1.

Year 8 went out in their first-round game, beaten 4-1 at home by a slick Trumpington Community College side despite a stunning goal from Josh.



**BATTLING:** Year 9 finished the stronger team against Netherhall but went out on penalties after the game finished 1-1.





**INSIGHT:** Students learn what it takes to be a professional athlete and take part in a masterclass.

# ‘Hard work is the key!’

A Commonwealth Games gold medallist gave Melbourn students an insight into the life of a professional athlete.

Scotland’s Steve Frew, who won a gymnastics gold at Manchester in 2022, visited the college in his role as an athlete mentor for the Youth Sports Trust (YST). The aim is for these mentor to inspire our students’ attitudes to learning and improve emotional well-being and resilience.

Steve spoke to the students about his life journey and the struggles and

successes of being a top-level athlete.

He also delivered a masterclass on teamwork, working with students on mental strength, hunger to achieve, people skills, knowledge and breaking barriers.

It was great for students to see that success does not come easy and hard work and dedication are key to achieving your dreams.

Melbourn’s membership of the YST enables the college to have one visit a year from one of their mentors.

## Awards ceremony honours Year 11s

The Cambridge and District Secondary School Sports Association (CDSSSA) hosted the annual Roy Burrell Awards at Netherhall School earlier this month.

This was the first time since the pandemic that the event has been held in person so it was lovely to see athletes, staff and parents all together to celebrate the sporting success of Year 11 pupils.

PE depts from schools in the Cambridge and South Cambs are asked to nominate Year 11 pupils who play sport at county level of above for a Roy Burrell award.

There were around 180 pupils at the event, who participated in sports including football, netball, rugby and hockey as well as less high-profile ones like shooting, rowing, boxing, golf and roller hockey. Guest speaker was Tess Howard, who plays hockey for Great Britain and England and recently won a Commonwealth Games gold medal.

Tess, now 24 and playing for East Grinstead, went to school in Cambridge, played for Cambridge City and herself attended the Roy Burrell awards when she was 16.

Tess spoke to the audience about what was needed to become a top athlete



**WINNERS:**  
MVC students received awards.

and represent your country and her speech was bound to inspire many of the athletes who heard it.

Congratulations to Hannah (shooting), Claude (boxing), Jake (golf), Phillippa (rowing) and George (football) for their outstanding commitment to their sport and for receiving a Roy Burrell award.

The long-running awards are presented annually in memory of a former Chesterton School headteacher, who died aged just 49, and was passionate about inspiring students to excel at sport.

**WORKING TOGETHER:** Melbourn students and staff were joined by those from King James Academy in Royston to play and compare netball grades for those taking GCSE PE.



## Pushing up standards

Year 10 and 11 students from King James Academy in Royston to complete part of the GCSE PE Netball moderation. The session was used for students to play netball to a high standard and for the teachers

to compare grades. This was a great opportunity for the students and provided them with useful experience for the final moderation with the examining board, OCR.

## First win for Ellie

Year 8 Ellie (Darwin) has won her first Grade 5 tennis tournament and the success has left her hungry for more. She beat a player ranked more than 100 players above her in the under-14 entry level event at Westcliff-on-Sea in the final and has climbed 43 places in the rankings as a result.

She is now looking to play more Grade 4 and Grade 5 events to boost her rankings after making a slow start to 2023 thanks to a broken finger from a fall on ice. Grade 5 tournaments are run on a first-come, first-served basis but Grade 4 are county level and based on rankings with those ranked highest given the places first. Ellie only moved up to under-

14 (those born in 2008) in 2023 but is already showing that her two hours a night training at Royston Tennis Club is starting to pay off.



**ON THE UP:** After a first tournament win.





## MELBOURN SPORTS CENTRE news

For those of you who don't already know, we have:

- A state-of-the-art fitness suite offering a variety of membership schemes
- A 20-metre swimming pool (kept ever so slightly warmer than most!)
- A comprehensive swimming lesson programme, catering for all ages and abilities
- Upgraded multisport courts for hire including tennis, football and squash courts
- Water sports courses and activities
- Traditional and modern exercise classes
- Access to Melbourn Village College sports hall and gymnasium for activities such as trampolining, badminton and basketball
- Supervised sports and pool parties

### OUR SWIMMING POOL

MSC's 20-metre swimming pool is the perfect place to get fit for an affordable price! Swimming is one of the healthiest activities you can engage in, having a positive effect on your fitness and figure with little impact to your joints and bones. There's also swimming fitness classes to enjoy, too, such as Aqua Fit.

Not too confident in the water? No problem. We have a comprehensive programme of swimming sessions and lessons that cater for all ages and abilities.

This term we've also welcomed back local primary schools, including Melbourn, Foxton and Meldreth and the School Sports Partnership for top-up swimming.

### OUR ASTRO-TURF PITCH

Our new 3G Astroturf pitch goes from strength to strength, with local clubs and organisations lining up to make good use of this fabulous facility addition to the Melbourn site, including local team Melbourn Dynamos. We also had the pleasure of Cambridge Utd running their holiday camps at half term, training stars of the future. For more information on how to book the pitch, and for prices, please contact [robbie@mc-sport.co.uk](mailto:robbie@mc-sport.co.uk)

### OUR FITNESS SUITE

Why not take advantage of one of our great membership schemes to our fitness suite, including CV machines and resistance machines, an ideal location for keeping fit and healthy! We are also continuing to work closely with South Cambridgeshire District Council and local GPs in providing the Active and Healthy 4 Life Scheme.

#### April 2023

We've got a bumper bag of Easter activities this year, including our Ofsted-registered Play Scheme, where children can enjoy trampolining, swimming and creative crafts. Other holiday activities include Swimming Crash Courses. These activities do require booking, as spaces are limited.

#### May 2023

We welcome back the outdoor sports and tennis season this month. And for all you budding Wimbledon stars, courts can be hired mid-week and at weekends. Later this month, we will be running our children's holiday activities once again to coincide with the Whitsun holiday, with Play Scheme and a mixture of indoor and outdoor activities available.

#### June 2023

For something a bit different this Fathers Day, how about treating your dad to his own gym membership or purchasing a gift voucher for our other activities here at Melbourn Sports. It's a great way to help a loved one get fit!

Plus, why not start planning your summer sports early this year, with our holiday courses like the Children's Sports Camps and Swimming Crash Courses on offer? Bookings taken from June onwards.

Other activities available this spring and summer include:

- Our usual popular swimming lessons, both group and private
- A range of aquatic exercise classes including Aqua-fit and Swim-Clinic (pool training session)
- Indoor and Outdoor Court Hire

We'd like to end with a huge thank you for your continuing support. All leisure facilities, particularly smaller ones, are struggling to survive, but with your help and patronage, we will continue to thrive!

For further details on memberships or any of our activities, please call 01763 263313 or go online at [www.mc-sport.co.uk](http://www.mc-sport.co.uk). You can also follow us on our Facebook page (melbournsports).

We look forward to seeing you!

**Melbourn Sports Centre**, The Village College, The Moor, Melbourn, Royston,  
Hertfordshire, SG8 6EF 01763 263313  
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