

# MVC NEWS



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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:** Students clean up the college grounds and have planted pollinator-friendly plants.

# Making a difference!

Members of Melbourn's Eco-Group have been working their way through their three-point summer action plan.

The three areas cover bio-diversity, the marine environment and litter.

The Gardening Club have planted pollinator-friendly plants, including lavender and sunflowers around the school borders, and eco team members are campaigning for areas where the grass is left to grow and hope to plant a wildflower area next academic year.

Group members have already been litter-picking in the River Mel that borders the school grounds and collected a bucketload of rubbish. In addition to

clearing the stream, they are asking for more rubbish bins on the playing fields to make it easy for students to be environmentally friendly.

To raise awareness of how much single use plastic is used in everyday life, the eco committee is asking people to collect small items of single-use plastic as they plan to create a mosaic style piece of art work next term.

June 16th was World Refill Day — a global campaign to prevent plastic pollution and help people live with less waste. Their website — <https://www.refill.org.uk/world-refill-day/> — has more information and you can download a free app that helps find places to refill.

At Melbourn, students put together a grant application and received funding for five refill stations and the Eco Group are encouraging other groups to apply if they know somewhere that it's difficult to refill a water bottle.

They are also trialling and promoting different products that use less plastic packaging and have been including tips in the weekly school bulletin.

These include promoting the use of shampoo bars ahead of liquid in plastic bottles, reducing the amount of time spent in the shower as each additional minute uses 12 litres of water, and making hairbands from old pairs of tights!

## Sharing expertise

A headteacher from Singapore spent a day at MVC learning about the work done to support pupils with additional needs.

Mrs Angela Lee, Principal of the APSN Chaoyang School, was looking at the provision for supporting pupils in the Student Support Centre (SSC) and The Cabin, for pupils with autism.

Her visit to Melbourn was part of a UK study trip to learn from schools with exceptional inclusive autism practice.

She was particularly impressed with how pupils are enabled to access mainstream lessons and the high-quality teaching. Her visit included meeting

Melbourn Principal Simon Holmes, as well as staff and pupils in The Cabin and SSC, and observing a Year 8 English lesson.

She said: "I could feel the passion and commitment in all of you as you work with your students and families. I enjoyed the classroom experience, especially the English lesson.

"All of you have given so much of your love, efforts, time, and support for the betterment of your students and families. It has been an insightful and inspiring visit and I thank you all."



**MEET AND GREET:** For a headteacher from Singapore.



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# Ready for next steps

Excited Year 6 pupils spent a day in their new school ahead of the big move in September.

The pupils had a great time experiencing a day in the life of an MVC pupil, as they took part in five lessons ranging from science, maths, Mandarin and English to more practical subjects such as food technology, PE and art.

They particularly enjoyed decorating biscuits and cakes and had to present their best design/creation in a competition.

Pupils produced designs ranging from Peppa Pig, flowers, and an ocean theme, and took their treats home to enjoy.

The visiting pupils were a credit to their primary schools by being organised, responsible, independent, and incredibly well-behaved.

We look forward to welcoming them into Year 7 in September.

Special thanks to our new Prefects who did a fantastic job of guiding the pupils around school, supporting them in lessons and generally making sure they thoroughly enjoyed their day!

In addition, Head of Science David Wilson has been paying flying visits to some of our catchment primary schools, helping them to research mini-beasts and their life cycles.



**LEARNING CURVE:** Year 6 pupils gather to experience life at MVC for the first time with a range of lessons.

Lots of the KS2 pupils were learning about living things this term and Dr Wilson was excited to see that the pupils in Melbourn Primary School even had some newly hatched chicks!



**GETTING TO KNOW YOU:** Dr Wilson visited primary schools and Year 6 pupils had lessons at MVC as part of transition



## Taste of sixth form

A group of 36 Year 10 pupils visited Comberton Sixth Form for a taster day of A-Level and L3 BTEC lessons. Pupils had a talk from the Head of Sixth Form, David Clarke, about post-16 options and what it is like to be a student at Comberton Sixth Form.

Pupils then had three taster lessons, having to navigate their way around the site.

Here are some examples of what pupils did in some lessons:

- Physics pupils were calculating the lost energy on a marble run
- Chemists did a titration A-level style experiment
- Maths pupils looked at equations to describe the rate of energy loss in a cup of tea
- Economics pupils looked at opportunity costs
- Geography pupils studied earthquakes and associated hazards
- Musicians

worked on composing at A-Level with discussions on musical scales

- Computing pupils did logic problems

- Business lessons were about creating products and target audiences.

Some pupils commented: "It was a good insight into sixth form life."

It is worth noting that there is a bus service to and from Comberton (starting in Royston and going through villages including Foxton, Melbourn, Meldreth and Shepreth).



**TASTER:** Pupils at Comberton Sixth Form.



**STEPPING UP:** Melbourn's new prefect team has been chosen.

## New team selected

Melbourn's new team of prefects has been chosen.

Here they describe the process:

To become prefects, we had to submit a letter of application to Mr Holmes, covering topics such as why we think prefects are important and why we are good leaders. We then gave a nerve-racking three-minute presentation to Ms Coghlan, Miss Boniface and Mr Holmes based around the question 'What has MVC done for you?'

It was a great opportunity for us as it allowed us to practise speaking in front of others and general interview skills.

Overall, it was a positive experience and we look forward to fulfilling the roles we have been given and the opportunities that will come over the next year.

Thank you to all who were extremely supportive and helpful during the entire application process.

The Head Prefects are Josh (Darwin) and Jessica (Darwin) with Matthew (Franklin) and Lauren (Franklin) as deputies.

A further 27 pupils have been appointed as prefects in four areas — Community and Events, Sports, Environmental and Peer Mediator & Pupil Support.



# Bringing language to life

Each year, pupils on the Mandarin Excellence Programme take part in a period of intensive study, contributing to their eight hours a week studying the language.

The intensive learning experience has revolutionised the way our pupils learn languages and given them the most amazing enrichment opportunities, which has brought this language to life in many different contexts.

It aims to inspire and motivate pupils to learn Mandarin and Chinese culture.

Pupils in Year 7 have learned Chinese Kung Fu, making dumplings, blow painting and playing Chinese character Scrabble, while Year 8 took part in the language Murder activity for two weeks.

They explored the features of Blue and White porcelain at the British Museum and went to Chinatown, which took place as this magazine went to press.

Pupils in Year 9 participated in an immersive online programme, Virtual China, to improve their language skills and experience China from their own classroom.

Schools were partnered with a host institution in China, who trained teachers to deliver this exciting new programme.

With the help of video technology, pupils visited places of cultural and historic importance in multiple cities across China and covered topics such as the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, COP26 and a visit to a Panda Zoo.

Pupils in Year 10 participated in the MEP Tourism Project, with three days delivered online where pupils follow an interactive online course, and one full-day event at a local university arranged by schools with support from the MEP Team.

The university day is designed to give pupils experience of learning in a higher education setting, which will be useful as they approach Sixth Form and start making decisions about their further study, whether that involves continuing with Mandarin or following another degree pathway.



**OUT AND ABOUT:**  
*Visting Chinatown and the British Museum during MEP activity weeks.*

## Pupils experience study beyond school

**UNI DAY:**  
*Pupils learn about future options and the value of Mandarin.*



Twenty-six Year 10 MEP pupils visited the University of Westminster in London for a day to experience what it is like to study Chinese beyond school and sixth form. While they were there, pupils had the chance to see the tourism campaigns produced by other MEP pupils in nearby schools and compare them with their own efforts. Pupils had a fantastic time learning about the many opportunities available to them and how valuable it will be in the future for them to have a good knowledge of Mandarin.

## Chinese food and Asian-style karaoke!

The Year 9 MEP group went on a trip to Chinatown in London last month, where they were taken on a tour of the area by the heritage organisation China Exchange.

The pupils learned about the history of the area and about famous people who had lived nearby before tucking into an authentic meal of tofu, ginger and onion chicken and aubergine in black bean sauce.

In the afternoon they went to sing in an Asian-style karaoke bar, where they sang a few Chinese songs they had learned in class, such as the classic 'In that Distant Place', followed by many more English favourites.



**CHINATOWN EXPERIENCE:** *Pupils take in the sights and tastes during a trip to London.*



**PRACTICAL MANDARIN:** *Pupils cook Chinese food and make posters.*



## Festival time

During the Year 7 MEP Activity Week, pupils learnt about the Chinese Spring Festival.

This included a food-related speaking activity and they also designed posters either about Kung Fu, based on their lesson at the start of the week, or on Chinese Dumplings, which they learnt how to cook. Head of Languages Frank Fan demonstrated how to cook Fried Noodle-Shanghai style and Omurice (Japanese Style) and pupils made their own Chinese dumplings with minced pork and Chinese cabbage.





**FEEDING THE MVC COMMUNITY:** Lynn Gregory has been in charge of catering at the college for 23 years.

## Chef hangs up apron

**Catering manager Lynn Gregory is heading for retirement this summer after laughing, crying, dancing and singing her way through 23 years at MVC.**

But she is worried that come September she will be on auto-pilot and find herself back at the college getting ready for another day in the kitchens – which are being revamped over the summer holidays. It was not a job she expected to last more than two decades when she switched from working at The Heath Sports Club when her daughter Jade, a former MVC pupil, started at full-time school.

"I hated it here for the first term, but I knew it was the right thing for Jade, to spend time with her," said Lynn, who had worked shifts in catering in various restaurants, hotels, hospitals and even a police school.

Things obviously improved and Lynn admitted she has grown to love the cooking — if not the paperwork — and the pupils.

"The best part of the job is the students," she said. "There's good in all of them — some just take time to find it! Getting a 'thank you, that was lovely' is worth more than money at the end of the month."

There have also been major changes. "We are much more aware of nutritional needs," said Lynn, whose favourite dish to prepare is chicken pie. "When I first started here we were contract catering and sold

sweets, crisps and Coca Cola.

"When we went to in-house catering, we had more control and, long before Jamie Oliver, looked at healthy eating. I have always made fresh bread every morning. I think the kids like home-cooked meals and 'Nanny Lynn' telling them to pull their skirts down and tuck their shirts in.



**SSC STALWART:** Nicky Patel has spent 15 years helping pupils with extra needs.

"I will miss the job but not the paperwork. MVC has been my family for the past 23 years. I have laughed, cried, danced and sung my way through."

She is not the only member of staff walking out of the doors of MVC for the final time after a long stint at the college.

Nicky Patel is leaving the Student Support Centre after 15 years where she has focused on entry level maths and supporting pupils with their post-16 applications and the transition process.

The college is also saying farewell to teachers Tracey Seagrove (English), who is returning to Comberton VC, Andrew Lambley (Technology), who is retiring, Joanne Giles (Food & Nutrition), who switches to a school in Peterborough, Joanne Boniface (Assistant Principal), who is becoming Director of Science at Bedfordshire Schools Trust, Simon Callow, who is going to Freman College, and Nayim Rahman (both Science), who is going to teach abroad, Charlotte Joyce (History and Social Studies), who moves to Northstowe Secondary College as well teaching assistants Donna Dishaw, William Hall, Matthew Dommert and Kate Taylor.

In addition, exams officer Ray Lockett finishes this summer and technician Anna Rice, who returned to help out when Dr Jeanette Dyer was recovering from surgery, returns to retirement with grateful thanks from the Science Department.

## New catering company poised to move in

A new company will take over catering at Melbourn following Lynn Gregory's retirement this summer. Caterlink will be feeding staff and pupils at the college — and all seven primary phase schools in The Cam Academy Trust — after winning the contract earlier this term.

Those who tendered were whittled down to three and they were invited to present a selection of food at a tasting event at Gamlingay Village Primary. Caterlink was the most popular, which helped them secure the contract.

They will take over a kitchen which is set to be upgraded with a new roof and new ventilation system, as well, it is hoped, as some new equipment. That is not the only improvements planned for 'food' at Melbourn. The current food and nutrition classroom is being replaced to give the college more space for cooking lessons as well as a separate teaching room.

The practical room will be in what is now a computer suite with the current room becoming a classroom. Also scheduled for this summer is an upgrade to one of the classrooms to provide a better teaching space. These works are part of the Trust's long-term plans for expanding and upgrading the facilities at Melbourn.



**TOP TASTING:** The offering from Caterlink who have won the contract for Melbourn.

# Breakfast of champions

The first GCSE exam for Melbourn's whole cohort of Year 11 pupils took place on May 17 — and the science team made it special.

Ahead of their Biology Paper 1, pupils were invited to join the Science Department for a relaxing breakfast.

Pupils sat happily eating croissants, bananas, apples and healthy snack bars, washed down with fruit juice.

There may still have been nerves, but there were also plenty of smiley faces!

Year 11 have had a tough time with the Covid-19 pandemic disrupting schooling, but they took their first exam together fed and watered for success.

Ten days later, Head of Department David Wilson ran a second breakfast before the Chemistry exam.

However, these were not the first exams for some of the cohort.

The PE Department kicked things off with their practical moderation, where they

were joined by pupils from King James Academy, Royston, as well as Linton and Sawston Village Colleges.

That the moderator asked Melbourn to host is a testament to our fantastic department and great facilities.

PE teacher Richard Barlow said: "Well done to the Year 11 pupils who were involved in the GCSE PE moderation. They all absolutely smashed it and were a credit to the school.

"Thank you also to the Year 10 and 11 pupils who helped out; their talents were showcased too.

"Special thanks to Lynn Gregory and the catering staff for providing visiting teachers with refreshments, and to Mr Kirkham for filming the whole day."

The practical content accounts for 40% of GCSE PE with the rest coming from two theory papers.



**FUELLING UP:** Year 11s at a science breakfast.



**AND THEY'RE OFF:** The first exam was GCSE PE moderation.

## Fantastic artwork goes on display

The Melbourn Village College GCSE Art Exhibition enjoyed a three-week stint at the Hub in Melbourn until 21st July.

This followed a private viewing evening on Friday 1st July, which was very well attended by pupils, their families, Principal Simon Holmes, MVC art teachers Sarah Heeks and Sam Ward, as well as invited guests including Anthony Browne MP, Bridget Smith, Leader of South Cambs District Council and Anna Bradnam, Chair of SCDC. All were impressed by the outstanding artistic work on display and the music, which was provided by Ruby, a gifted young violinist and MVC pupil.

Mr Holmes said: "Once again I am blown away by the quality of work produced by MVC pupils. They are such a talented bunch, and we are delighted to be able to give their work the public

audience it so richly deserves."

Mrs Heeks added: "The incredible creative art produced by MVC art pupils shows how valuable art is to the young. In difficult times, art allows students to be creative, overcome problems, develop resilience, express their dreams and use their imagination.

"The class of 2022 should be very proud of how they have expressed their individuality and produced meaningful and impactful work.

"It is wonderful to be able to celebrate their work with an art exhibition this year. The exhibition is supported by a virtual exhibition online for those who are not able to attend in person. The virtual exhibition also provides a wonderful yearly record of the art produced by pupils and is a true legacy of their outstanding creativity. I am truly proud of all of them."



The virtual exhibition can be viewed by scanning the QR code above and is also available on the MVC website:

<https://www.melbournvc.org/parent-carer-and-pupil-information/our-curriculum/art.php>



**FIRST LOOK:** Friends, families and invited guests, including Anthony Browne MP (left) attended the private viewing of Year 11 artwork at The Hub in Melbourn before it went on public show for three weeks.







**ALL DRESSED UP:** With somewhere to go. Melbourn's Year 11 pupils at their end-of-year prom

# Stunning send-off . . .

Year 11 pupils enjoyed their end-of-year celebration event at Minstrel Court in Arrington.

The evening was a fitting send-off for the pupils and all enjoyed the beautiful surroundings of the venue.

Everyone partied and the food and disco were fantastic.

The whole evening came to a rousing climax with a wonderful fireworks display.

Head of Year Andrew Kennedy was so proud of the pupils and said: "Everyone looked amazing and I'm blown away with the positivity and beautiful atmosphere of the evening."

He added that he wanted to thank all the staff who supported the event, especially Caroline Deadman and Emma Tidby, who worked tirelessly to make sure the evening was such a success!



**GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK:** To the SSC leavers.

## Farewell party

On the final day of school for Year 11 before the start of their exams, pupils in the Student Support Centre held a special party for three of their number who will be moving on — Keeley, Jess and Zak.

They enjoyed lots of cake and fun with Karaoke, courtesy of Keeley. We wish them all the best in their new ventures next year.

## End of an era

After the final physics exams, leavers' events took place to bid farewell to our fantastic Year 11s.

There was shirt signing in the hall followed by an assembly with presentations from Principal Simon Holmes, Assistant Principal Euan Wilder, Head of year Andrew Kennedy and all the form teachers.

The sun came out just in time to finish the afternoon off with an ice cream! Goodbye, good luck and we will miss you.



**SIGNING OFF:** Year 11 pupils sign each other's shirts.





**BAKING SKILLS:** Pupils at work making their celebration treats and (below) some of the finished goodies.

# Food fit for the Queen!

The reign of Queen Elizabeth II was in its early years when Melbourn Village College opened its doors to the first pupils.

An incredible 70 years on from her accession, the nation marked the occasion with a four-day Bank Holiday weekend during half-term.

Before that, however, Year 11 took advantage of this unprecedented anniversary to practise their baking.

They each made one component of a luxury afternoon tea — scones, brownies, biscuits, cakes, cheesecake and pastries — and were able to take a package of treats away to enjoy their own mini celebration.

Isabella did a fantastic job decorating cakes and creating a display with a Jubilee



theme.

Joanne Giles, Head of Food, Art and Technology, said: "The Year 11s have worked really hard this year and it was nice to see them enjoy being creative and baking with the objective of sharing. "Food is something that brings people together and it was lovely seeing the class bake a component for the afternoon tea so every pupil could take home a package of treats."

"Afternoon tea is British, and we celebrated that fact by producing our own version.

"We would have made the (Jubilee) trifle,

however, an hour lesson meant we had to come up with an alternative British-themed lesson for the Jubilee."

**SONG FOR AN ICON:** 'Marilyn Monroe' from the musical *Blood Brothers*.



## Keeley makes grade

After impressing with her performance of 'Feed Me' from the *Little Shop of Horrors* last term, Keeley was again treading the boards for her AQA Drama Award.

This time she was Mrs Johnstone from the musical *Blood Brothers* and gave another fantastic solo performance, this time singing 'Marilyn Monroe'.

At the end of her performance, for which she had also made her own apron, Keeley found out that she had passed all the required qualifications to get on to a performing arts course at Cambridge Regional College in September. Well done Keeley and good luck for the future.

## Urban fieldwork!

The GCSE Food, Preparation and Nutrition pupils were not the only Year 11s given the opportunity for practical revision ahead of their exams.

Right at the end of last term, GCSE geographers went into Cambridge city centre to revise some elements of the course and to practise their fieldwork

techniques, which they needed for their final geography exam.

Geography teacher Andrew Kennedy said: "The Year 11s had a great time visiting, observing and analysing the environment around them. The trip helped them to put into practice what they have been learning on the course."



**IN THE 'FIELD':** Pupils out and about in town.

## Pupils enjoy day in Chinatown

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Pupils enjoyed a day in Chinatown.



Melbourn's first class of Mandarin Excellence Programme pupils celebrated the end of studies with a day in Chinatown.

Pupils, plus Head of Languages Frank Fan and Head of Year Andrew Kennedy, were dropped in Covent Garden and explored the area and indoor market before walking to Chinatown for a delicious Chinese meal.

Suitably fed and watered, the group soaked up the atmosphere of Chinatown

and the pupils bought some gifts.

Mr Fan said: "We all had a brilliant day and it was so nice to finish off the year with such a nice celebration meal."

He added how much he had enjoyed working with the talented and committed pupils from the MEP class and it had been an extremely rewarding experience. He wished them all the best for their futures and is convinced that they would all be successful British/Chinese ambassadors!



# Looking at ways to grow

The Cam Academy Trust is considering future growth after recent consolidation.

In the schools' White Paper earlier this year, there was a clear indication that all schools in England are expected to be academies and to have joined a multi-academy trust by 2030. Given this our Trust has been confirming some potential ways forward.

Trustees have judged that the Trust is well placed now to consider some further growth given the considerable consolidation that has been done in the last three years.

Possible developments are considered to be:

- Further primary schools joining the Trust in the local areas where we already

have schools. There has been some interest from local primary schools in this.

- Looking at nearby areas where developments in schools are proposed and we might be well placed to help to oversee.

- Being ready to put in proposals for opening new schools where these are seen as needed in our local area.

- Being open to consider developing a new hub of schools in an area beyond our local area if it was clear that there was strong sense and mutual benefit in doing so.

If there are any notable developments on any of these fronts, then all school communities will, of course, be updated.

## Even more support

The Trust is very pleased to be able to expand the staffing capacity available to schools with posts working across the Trust from this September. In addition to our pre-existing posts, there will be:

- Greater capacity in both Maths and English with both primary and secondary specialists in post
- A new Director of PE and Sport to take up post and help with developments in this crucial area of educational provision in our schools
- A Lead in Primary IT supporting training and teaching and learning with IT
- A new Safeguarding Officer role
- Subject co-ordinator roles

The hope and expectation is that these roles can help to provide stronger support to all schools and to enable further sharing of ideas and resources. All this is with the aim of improving further still the quality of education that is provided to all pupils in all our schools.



**TRUST ROLE:**  
*For PE specialist Hannah Curtis.*



**NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS:** *Nabeel Mardi, Rita Monson and Jacob Powell.*

## Youngest Trustee joins Board

Three appointments to The Cam Academy Trust's Trustee Board this year include the youngest ever Trustee. Those to join are Jacob Powell, Nabeel Mardi and Rita Monson.

Aged 20, Jacob is currently studying for a Masters degree in Management and Manufacturing Engineering at the University of Cambridge.

Nabeel comes from the information technology and telecommunication industry where he has worked for more than 30 years. He has a BSc (Hons) in Administrative Sciences, an MSc in Data Communication and is a member of the Institute of Engineering and Technology. He is currently chair of governors at Everton Heath Primary School.

Also a governor at Melbourn Village College, Rita Monson has a bachelor's degree in Mathematics, a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Cambridge and is passionate about finding ways to increase access to Higher Education.

Despite his young age, Jacob has experience in this area, having previously been a charity Trustee at Jesus

College, Cambridge, a role he was appointed to after being elected as the Student Union President. Jacob said: "I've always had a keen interest in the public sector and wanting to help people, so had been actively looking for people-focused roles and how I could combine my degree knowledge with my career. "Being a charity Trustee was the perfect combination of these two things and gave me the ambition to continue on this career path and be actively involved in helping the Cambridgeshire community — leading me to apply for the position at the Cam Academy Trust. "What stood out to me the most when applying for this role was the Trust's six core principles. I felt that they really resonated with me, in particular, the comprehensive principle. Coming from a comprehensive background myself, I feel passionate about ensuring an excellent education for all and working at a Trust that's driven by these values. "I will always be passionate about providing young people with a well-rounded education so they can have a good start to life."

## Community principle borne out

The Trust's motto is 'Excellence for All' and one of our core principles is 'community'.

We want all our schools to be rooted in and at the heart of their communities.

This includes providing adult education for those in the local area where possible.

This is completely in keeping with the vision for rural schooling in Cambridgeshire as articulated by Henry Morris, who established the village college system.

Morris took up his post as Director of Education in Cambridgeshire 100 years

ago this year and has been celebrated across the county.

In a wonderful illustration of this, Derek Skipper recently went viral, not just on social media but also across the Press, TV and radio for being the oldest person to sit a GCSE exam when he took his Maths exams this summer at the age of 92.

We are very proud that Derek had participated in an adult learning programme run out of Comberton Village College. Henry Morris would have been delighted.



**AGE IS NO BARRIER:**  
*Derek Skipper, 92, took GCSE maths at Comberton.*



# STEM club target award

The STEM club for KS3 pupils, led by Dr Wilson and Miss Piper, was re-launched for the summer term with a bang!

Among the activities pupils have explored the explosive properties of metals and made 'divers' to examine the density of water.

They have planted seed balls, inspired by the BBC TV series 'The Green Planet', which were carefully nurtured for four weeks, allowing the seeds to germinate.

We should end up with some lovely wildflowers as the plants were recently relocated outside with the help of the Eco Group.

In early June, our KS3 STEM Club pupils produced some beautiful blue solutions following a recipe that KS4 pupils normally follow to make a soluble salt from an insoluble compound.

They learned some valuable skills and Dr Wilson and Miss Piper were very pleased with how competent and brave (bunsen burners can be scary!) lots of the pupils were. The crystals that formed were some of the largest we've ever grown at MVC!

Also in June, our pupils were encouraged to bring out their artistic side, using red cabbage indicator and a range of household fluids of different acidity/alkalinity. This gave them a colour palette to use to paint their gecko picture with.

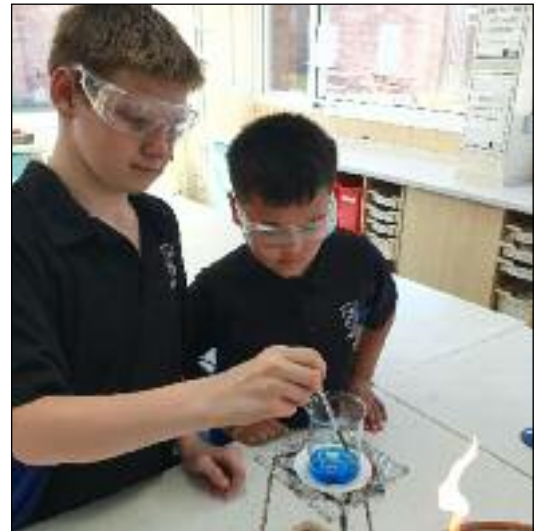
Pupils also used micropipettes for the first time and quickly became very adept at dispensing very small drops onto their pictures. The results speak for themselves! Finally, our KS3 STEM Club pupils have also been 'focusing' their efforts on microscopes! Mrs Jones (one of our science technicians) taught them how to use the expensive Year 11 microscopes. Pupils drew what they saw down the microscope.

Thanks to all the hard work of our pupils, the STEM club is working towards gaining a 'STEM Clubs Quality Mark Award — Bronze Level'.

After a strong start, and over the coming year, they will have to show evidence of meeting certain criteria then submit it to the STEM Learning Assessment team.



**STEM ACTIVITIES:** Have included using a microscope, making crystals (right) and making their own colour palette to drop-paint gecko pictures.



## History on the doorstep

Miss Joyce and Mr Tobutt took their Year 7 historians to visit All Saints' Church in Melbourn to examine the architecture, cultural and religious significance of this fantastic local building.

The trip helped with their new history topic for this term on the importance of the Church in the lives of medieval people.

They have been looking at superstition,

the portrayal of Heaven and Hell, and how this influenced the behaviour of the English peasantry.

All Saints' Melbourn responded to the visit via our Facebook page saying: "You are more than welcome at any time. "It's a privilege to be able to stay unlocked for this type of thing — and private prayer throughout the week."



**OUT AND ABOUT:** Pupils at All Saints' Church in Melbourn.







# Spanish links restored!

Twenty-five Spanish pupils from the secondary school Eloy Villanueva in Santander visited MVC in May with José Herrera from 'Links Into Spanish' and two teachers from their school. They were paired with 25 of our Year 7 pupils, who were chosen at random to take part in activities to help practise their language skills.

The Spanish pupils enjoyed being language teachers to our pupils and vice versa. All the pupils were very enthusiastic to exchange conversation and thoroughly enjoyed the linguistic immersion day. We have missed this link over the past two years and are really happy to have reinstated it.



**LEARNING CURVE:** MVC and Spanish pupils practised their language skills.



**SHINING A LIGHT:** Pupils built a parallel circuit to see physics in action.

## Light bulb moment!

In physics, Year 9 pupils set themselves a challenge to build the biggest parallel circuit of bulbs that they could muster! This enabled them to prove to themselves that potential difference (voltage in old money!) is the same everywhere in a parallel circuit, but the current is shared between the loops.

## Welcome return of live music

Just before the Easter break we held the first live music event at Melbourn Village College in well over two years! The MVC Spring Concert included performances from the Year 7 Choir and Year 10 Show Band, as well as solo and duet performances from some of the GCSE Music pupils. Principal Simon Holmes said: "It was fantastic to see pupils experiencing the joy of making music together and passing on that joy through their performances. We have some exceptionally talented musicians at MVC." Head of Music, Jonathan Thomson, said: "It was a great pleasure to be able to share the musical progress of all pupils involved, with their family and friends." The audience was limited by invitation only, but more than £150 was raised for the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Special thanks to Mr Thomson for all the time put into rehearsing and organising, and to the staff who helped out on the night.



**VOCAL ITEM:** The Year 7 choir was one of the performances at the spring concert.

## Boxing clever

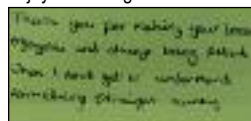
"Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee." This term Year 10 pupils began their GCSE Drama Devising Component — working in groups to create an original performance based on their response to 'Muhammad Ali'.



**FIGHT SCENE:** Response to 'Muhammad Ali'

## Thank you

There was a day that focused on staff wellbeing, with a whole school assembly during Tutor Time, followed by an activity where pupils could write a 'Thank You' note to a member of staff. There were some lovely messages and staff really enjoyed reading them.



**THANKS:** A pupil note.

## Researching

Ms Seagrove's Year 7 class have been continuing their research work on the context and themes in the book 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo. Their individual and group work has been fantastic. They made a wonderful classroom display.



**LESSONS:** For Ukrainian pupils.

## A new life

Ukrainian pupils appeared on BBC Look East to talk about how they are settling in to school at MVC and life in the UK. The news clip can be viewed on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrH4F3qvh00>. For information on how Ukrainian pupils can join MVC please email [nsmith@melbournvc.org](mailto:nsmith@melbournvc.org)



# It takes a village . . .

**Accessing Mental Health support for our children can currently be very difficult owing to the significant demands on all services since the pandemic.**

This places additional pressure on parents and carers trying to support our children with very limited resources, advice and guidance.

We are very fortunate in Melbourn to have a great community with many support groups we can

access.

'It takes a Village' is a new group that recognises the needs of parents and carers to enable them to feel supported in what can feel like challenging times. The group can help by supporting each other and with people who have been on a similar journey, have first-hand experience and have come out the other side and are willing to be there to give advice, help and chat.

The group is open to residents of Melbourn and surrounding villages.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact Steph Trayhurn (07710 198299), Pilan Ramiah (07815 764606) or email Mrs Deadman on cdeadman@melbournvc.org

She is working with the 'It takes a Village' group and will be happy to help you.



**READY FOR ACTION:**  
Pupils were trained to become mental health champions.

## Peer support

Five Year 10 pupils took part in a Cam Academy Trust event at Comberton.

The Youth Sport Trust (YST) sent Vernon Samuels, a former GB Olympic triple jumper, to train the pupils to become mental health champions.

The seminar was designed to talk about mental health and how to help pupils to have good mental health through physical activity.

MVC pupils will be designing sessions over the summer to help support the new Year 7s in September with the transition between primary and secondary school.

## Early insight into career opportunities

Year 8 pupils took part in a 'careers carousel' event earlier this term.

They met various visitors, each of whom gave a short talk about their own career.

Pupils rotated between the different guest speakers, learning about what it is like to be a police officer, a dog groomer, a structural engineer and a software engineer.

This event is part of our careers provision where we aim for pupils to have as much understanding and ambition as possible to take advantage of the huge range of opportunities in the world of work.

Two of the visitors from engineering backgrounds commented that languages are very important these days, particularly Mandarin and Spanish, which are both taught as part of the curriculum at MVC.



**LISTEN AND LEARN:** Year 8 pupils hear first-hand about different careers.



**RAISING FUNDS:** A non-uniform day and bake sale to celebrate Pride month raised funds to support youth mental health.

## Taking Pride in big day

There was a fantastic turnout of LGBTQ+ pupils, staff and friends at the meeting with Mrs Daly and Mr Wilder to plan Pride Day events for the last day of June.

More than 50 pupils attended the meeting and were excited about supporting the event by making posters and bunting.

There was then a non-uniform day on June 30th to celebrate Pride Month and pupils and staff wore bright colours to school.

There event included a bake sale on the Willow

Lawn.

There were lots of delicious cakes and biscuits decorated in multi-colours made by pupils and staff. All funds raised will go towards charities supporting young people with their mental health and wellbeing.

Well done everyone who took part and thank you to all the bakers — we raised an amazing £450 from non-uniform and £200 from the bake sale and 'Guess the number of sweets in the jar' competition.



## Ready to aid dogs

Congratulations to Nyle in 7 Franklin, who has successfully completed a canine first aid course. He was presented with a certificate and a new furry friend, whom he has named Chris.





**PITCHING:** Teams competed by presenting their business idea to expert judges in an event at Newmarket Racecourse.

# Bright idea in spotlight

Three pupils who were part of a group which won Melbourn's Year 9 Enterprise Day in the autumn took their idea to the next level of competition.

'Stitch Made Perfect' had proposed taking 'fast fashion' destined for landfill and remaking and repurposing it into new items.

Samantha, Hattie and Maddie (all 9 Franklin) joined teams from Bassingbourn and Linton village colleges in 'Pitching for the Prize', where they presented their business idea on the Entrepreneurship Marquee stage in the Cambridgeshire County Day final at Newmarket Racecourse.

The team first received coaching tips and met members of Lucy Cavendish

College, Cambridge University, AstraZeneca, Deloitte UK and the Mayor of Cambridge, who all congratulated them on their project.

The girls did an amazing pitch, using microphones for the first time and enthusiastically explaining their idea within the time limit of just three minutes. Audience members voted for their favourite pitch and despite a close call, the MVC team were just beaten by Bassingbourn.

Afterwards, the girls joined pupils from other schools to look around the many stands from local companies and public sector institutions, who gave them plenty of inspirational ideas for their future careers.

# Pupils battle through heat to DofE success

Year 10 completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition during the penultimate weekend of term.

Four groups of pupils set off from Riseley in Bedfordshire to walk 18km on this first day and finish at their campsite on the outskirts of Kimbolton. They planned the routes themselves and also had to make sure they all packed enough food for the whole weekend. Laden with heavy rucksacks they all set off for their first day in good spirits.

It quickly became apparent to the Assessors from Azarias Outdoor, which groups could and could not navigate effectively. Some groups made excellent progress and checked in at the designated checkpoints and coped well with the gruelling task ahead of them.

Other groups spent a lot of time getting lost and going around in circles! It was after 8pm when the final group made it to the campsite.

They had walked considerably further than their planned route and had been out for 11 hours! Despite this, everyone's spirits seemed to recover after they cooked their evening meal.

Day two was even more challenging with the heat reaching a sweltering 32 degrees!

Despite this all the groups completed the 19km route in a much more timely fashion; their

navigation skills were much improved!

All the participants enjoyed the weekend and rose to the challenge.

We thanked our Assessors for providing us with such professional guidance and support and everyone on the trip learnt so much about themselves and their team-mates.

Everyone went home tired but with a glow of contentment, or was that just their sunburn?

Andrew Kennedy, DofE Co-ordinator



**FINDING SOME SHADE:** Pupils take a break out of the sun on a scorching DofE weekend.



**IN GOOD SPIRITS:** Pupils on their DofE expedition.



**HALFWAY THERE:** One tent pitched, one to go!



# School retains the title

Harston and Newton are the South Cambs Quadkids champions — retaining the title they won when the competition was last held before a Covid-enforced three-year break.

They took the 'small schools' title on an action-packed day at the Cambridge University Sports Ground on Wilberforce Road in Cambridge as 28 primaries competed in either the 'big' or 'small' schools events, which were held on the same day. Quadkids is a team-based competition with five boys and five girls each competing in a 75m sprint, a 600m run, a long jump and vortex howler throw. Individual performances are scored using a points table and the winners are the team with the highest cumulative points score so it is important that every athlete puts in their very best performance in each event.

Harston and Newton finished with 1624 points, well clear of runners-up Great Abington (1587) with Castle Camps (1524) third and Haslingfield (1480) fourth.

The top three individual points scorers among the boys also came from Harston and Newton with Will outperforming his team-mates to take top spot.

The winners of the 'Big Schools' competition were Histon and Impington Brook Primary School who retained the trophy they won when the event was last held back in 2019. Runners up were the University of Cambridge Primary with Linton Heights a very close third.

There were also some great individual performances on the day with a mere four points separating the top 3 placed girls in the 'big schools' event and only seven points separating the top 3 boys. Reid from Pendragon was the top boy across all 4 events whilst Lila from Histon Brook was top placed girl and finished in an impressive 10th position overall with a fantastic time in the 600m run and 75m sprint.

The event was supported by members of the Partnership's successful Leadership



**CHAMPIONS:** Harston and Newton's winning team.

Academy programme with a team of leaders from both Swavesey and Cambourne Village Colleges helping at both competitions and demonstrating responsibility, care and initiative beyond their years in leading the events, scoring and acting as team managers.

Claire McDonnell, Partnership Manager said: "It was great to be back holding this event again it has always been a really popular competition with schools and the children love competing at the track and getting to use such amazing facilities.

"We had a good turn out of parents as well which adds a bit of atmosphere for the running events and spurs the children on.

"There were some excellent performances on the day so congratulations to all our winners and well done to everyone who took part.

"As always, we have to thank the sports leaders, who organised and scored the events for us. They did a great job and we couldn't have run the event without them."

## Leaders help serve up a tennis treat

Sports Leaders from MVC were among pupils from secondary schools around South Cambs who helped introduce tennis to groups of primary school children.

They were the workforce behind the festival at Melbourn Sports Centre, one of several venues which hosted Year 3 and 4 pupils from 21 schools.



**HELPING HANDS:** MVC Sports Leaders in action.

The festivals, hosted by the SCSSP in partnership with Game Set Tennis and head coach Toby Jackson, are aimed at youngsters new to the game.

They are part of the LTA Youth Schools programme which aims to get children aged 4-18 involved in tennis.

Sport leaders from Melbourn, as well as Cottenham and Cambourne at other festival venues, provided the workforce for the events leading the eight different activity stations.

The players then rotated around to try fun games such as coconut shy, target tennis, bounce about and fast forehands.

Claire McDonnell, organiser of the events, said: "The focus was very much on

providing a fun and enjoyable event for the children whilst helping them to develop their physical skills and just as importantly, if not more importantly, boosting their confidence and providing them with a really positive experience.

"I think from the feedback we got from the teachers and children we managed to do that."

Following the event children said how they felt "really proud of themselves", loved being able to achieve in every activity and how they liked "learning new skills and having fun".

Staff commented on how the event had "made the children feel positive about themselves", "given them a massive confidence boost" and made them feel "happy and proud".

For any children or parents wanting to play more tennis check out the programmes being offered by Game Set Tennis [www.gamesettennis.co.uk](http://www.gamesettennis.co.uk) or find your local court here

<https://www.cambslta.org.uk/get-on-court/cambs-venues/>

## Glory on a Plate!

Coton are the South Cambs Bee Netball League champions.

They took the top title by the narrowest of margins — one goal — to lift the shield ahead of Linton Heights and Swavesey, who finished on the same points.

Also with the same points but an inferior goal difference were Meridian, from Comberton, who took fourth.

Initially, schools were split into three pools, with each team playing all of their rivals within that group to determine whether they qualified into Division 1, 2 or 3 for the next round of matches.

The A Team Plate final is for those teams who finish in the lower half of their local league after the initial rounds of matches and gives all schools the opportunity to compete in a finals' night.

This featured 14 teams, with Barnabas Oley, Harston and Newton, Meadow and Hatton Park making it through to the top division after the first round of matches.

After a display of excellent netball across all of the courts, the overall winners were Harston and Newton, with Barnabas Oley second.



**PLATE WIN:** Harston and Newton





**SOMETHING DIFFERENT:** Pupils took part in a range of adapted sports.

# The power to inspire!

A group of pupils from the Student Support Centre represented Melbourn VC at the Powerhouse Games in association with the Cambridge University Hawks and Ospreys Club. The pupils competed in a variety of activities and worked their way around different sports stations, taking part in a range of inclusive and adapted sports such as boccia, sitting volleyball, goalball and walking football, rugby and kwik cricket. Well done to everyone involved.



**VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE:** Pupils competed in a range of different adapted sports.



## Netball is back on the fixtures schedule



**ACTION-PACKED:** Pupils in Years 7-10 enjoyed netball fixtures earlier in the summer term.

Early in the summer term, Melbourn's players in all years enjoyed some netball fixtures against local opposition. First off, they hosted Bassingbourn, which gave the teams an opportunity to train outside as the weather had improved. A special thank you to Mrs Rogers who has gone above and beyond her role as a maths teacher by firstly transporting some boys to the football and also running the year 9 girls netball team this year! Year 9 had a match against Cambourne VC a couple of weeks later. They played well as a team, showing some great skills. Well done to Player of the Match, Alice, who scored as did Lara, Annie and Hattie. The defence was excellent, especially Maddie who made some amazing

interceptions. They came away with their first win of the season – 11-7. Year 7 also had a fabulous afternoon of netball. They also went to Cambourne and played some great games, in very hot conditions. The Year 8 and 10 teams played Cambourne – at home. The Year 8s had a convincing win, with some excellent shooting and defensive work. The team have been working very hard during enrichment training sessions and deserved the victory. Meanwhile, the Year 10s had a hard-fought game against tough opposition; they were resilient and worked hard right to the end. Great effort by all!





# Return of District event



**STRENGTH IN DEPTH:** Melbourn took 60 pupils to the Olympic Cup competition.

Melbourn took an impressive 60 pupils to the Cambridge University Athletics Ground to compete in the Olympic Cup, the first district athletics competition since the pandemic.

A total of 10 schools took part across years 7-10 and there were some notable individual performances as Melbourn took sixth place overall.

Hattie (Year 9 100m), Jude (Year 9 discus) and George (Year 10 200m) were all runners-up in their events while there were third place finishes for Sam (Year 8 discus), Alex (Year 9 1500), Mylo (Year 9 hurdles), Louis (Year 9 javelin) and Joseph (Year 10 400m) as well as the Year 9 girls and Year 10 boys relay teams.

A big thank you also to the sports leaders, who assisted with the officiating and smooth running of the discus events.



**RUN, JUMP, THROW:** Melbourn pupils in action in various events at the Cambridge University Athletics ground.

## Something for everyone at sports days

Pupils battled for points at sports day as they competed in Ultimate Frisbee, Pupil Hunt, Rounders, Tug of War and Relay. Congratulations to the winning houses from the combined year group teams who were Darwin for Years 7 and 8 and Franklin for Years 9 and 10.

Many thanks to everyone who helped ensure that sports day ran smoothly. Meanwhile, the Student Support Centre ran an adapted sports day alongside the school's sports day.

Pupils competed in a range of sports which were adapted so all could participate including discus, javelin, shot put, hurdles, bowling, table cricket and targets.

Pupils even made their own medals!

Everyone had a great time and there were some impressive scores.

Overall Darwin came out in first place.



**SPORT FOR ALL:** Pupils competed in events including tug of war and ultimate frisbee, while the SSC Sports day included javelin, discus, targets and hurdles.







**COMPETITION SUCCESS:** Melbourn topped a Trust table tennis competition.

# Boys are table-toppers!

Key Stage 3 stars-of-the-future competed in a Trust table tennis tournament. Melbourn hosted teams from Cambourne, Comberton and St Peter's schools in mainly doubles matches that required agility, coordination and of course communication. It was great to see the boys going toe-to-toe with our bigger partner schools.

If many decide to choose GCSE PE in the future, we can expect some more impressive practical scores in this area. Melbourn won the event ahead of Cambourne with Comberton third and St Peter's fourth.

## Impressive leadership from MVC pupils

**LEADING ROLES:**  
For Melbourn pupils at a primary cricket event.



Year 10 sports leaders were given training and top tips from an expert as they prepared for a busy summer of volunteering. Matt Morley, Cambridgeshire's Cricket Development Manager, ran a session for pupils before the first of their outings, at the Foxton

Primary cricket tournament. The leadership skills they have demonstrated this term have been very impressive as have their commitment to helping at local primary schools' sports days. Immediately after the cricket, where they showed



great positivity and gave clear instructions, several returned to college to assist with the Year 8 athletics festival, where they did an excellent job of officiating. They are great ambassadors for MVC.



**GOING INTO BAT:** Melbourn's rounders teams competed in a Trust tournament.

## Teams both finish in runners-up spot

Year 7 and 8 girls and boys travelled to St Peter's for another round of the Cam Academy Trust competition against Comberton, Cambourne and hosts St Peter's - this time at rounders. Year 7 started off strongly by winning their opening game, continued by competing in

the other two games, showing some good teamwork. Year 8 got progressively better and better after each game and showed great team spirit. Both teams finished second overall in their groups. Well done to all pupils!

**MELBOURN SPORTS CENTRE**  
**HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**

SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AGED 4-14 YEARS.....

**SWIMMING CRASH COURSE**






These 5 day crash course are ideal for children either just starting on lessons or those finding it difficult to progress to the next level.

**Date:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August

**Time:** See groups below  
**Price:** Members £25.75 / Non Members £30.75

**10.30 – 11.00 / 11.30 – 12.00**  
**RED** stage 1a/b (Shallow) – **RED** Stage 1a/1b – Entrants to this class may be using armbands and will be learning basic movement skills and water confidence. Ideal for children at full time school who have had little water experience or are weak swimmers.  
**11.00 – 11.30**  
**ORANGE** stage 2 / **YELLOW** stage 3a (Shallow) – Entrants to this class will be water confident and capable of independent movement with/without aids. They will be able to demonstrate basic floatation skills and have the ability to swim 5 - 8 metres, all without aids.  
**10.30 – 11.00**  
**YELLOW** stage 3b / **GREEN** stage 4a (Deep) – Suitable for confident swimmers who can swim comfortable in deep water over a distance of 2 width (15-20m) without aids. Lesson will take place out of swimmers depth.  
**11.00 – 11.30**  
**GREEN** stage 4b / **BLUE** stage 5 (3/4 Depth) Entrants to this class will be able to show all three basic strokes with breath control and a good understanding of basic technique.

To book then please call us on 01763 263313 or email [info@mc-sport.co.uk](mailto:info@mc-sport.co.uk)

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)





**WINNERS:**  
Melbourn's  
Year 10 team  
who won the  
county cup.

# Final delight for MVC

Melbourn are the Year 10 Cambridgeshire Schools football champions. They won the County Cup with a 2-1 victory over Longsands Academy, from St Neots, in a tense final at Histon FC. Melbourn, one of the smaller schools in the competition, came from behind to snatch victory in front of delighted parents, staff and fellow pupils who had dashed over to the Cambs FA HQ after school for a cracking final. Longsands took the lead from a near cross whipped in from the right and a flicked header over goalkeeper George W. But Melbourn bounced straight back thanks to some neat interplay from George M and Thomas F which saw the latter drive the ball at goal from an angle and nutmeg the goalkeeper to level the scores. Thomas had to be substituted after a collision with the Longsands keeper and it was his replacement, Tye, who scored the cup-winning goal — a looping shot from more than 20 yards midway through the second half. Melbourn defended strongly as Longsands threw everything at trying to get an equaliser and special mentions go to Harry, named player of the match, and Callum, who came through injury and scored crucial goals in earlier rounds. This is one of Melbourn's highest

accolades in PE and the boys worked really hard to achieve it, even leading their own training sessions at times.

En route to glory, Melbourn beat St Peter's, from Huntingdon, 3-0 in the first round, Stephen Perse 5-2 in round two then Impington 4-2. Kelly Coghlan, Melbourn's Head of PE, said: "the boys have worked very well with Mr Barlow and Mr Mills but also led some of their own sessions and this self-led learning is a sign of how much they have gelled as a team, culminating in the County Cup! It's probably our best ever extra-curricular achievement as a school."



**EYES ON THE PRIZE:** Melbourn's players focus on beating Longsands Academy.



## Activators kick-start game!

Year 9 and 10 Girls' Football Activators have been working hard to encourage more girls to play football. The girls have been working together on their leadership and marketing skills to provide opportunities for their younger peers to participate in after-school girls'

football enrichment at MVC. The Activators kicked off their initiative by leading taster sessions during the Year 7 girls' PE lessons. They showed lots of passion and came up with some great ideas to get more girls playing football.



**PROMOTING GIRLS' FOOTBALL:** Melbourn's Football Activators have been working hard to share their love of the game.



**ON THE ATTACK:** In the match against Comberton.

## Cup experience

Well done to our Year 7 girls football team who played another round of the Cam Academy Trust Cup just before half-term. Great play all round as we hosted the event and a massive thank you to sports leaders, Jess (10 Franklin) and Joseph (10 Lewis), for superb refereeing. Winners were Comberton, ahead of Cambourne, St Peter's and Melbourn. Refreshments were served afterwards thanks to our fantastic catering team.



**United calling**

Congratulations to George in 10 Hawking, who, earlier this month, took part in a pre-season training camp at Oakham with Cambridge United.



# Melbourn's got talent!



**NATIONAL**  
**TITLE: For a**  
**Melbourn pupil.**

## Claude hits title heights

**Year 10 pupil Claude has fought his way to a Junior English Boxing title.**

Claude beat a range of fighters in the southern area at exhibition fights and qualifiers.

He then defeated a semi-finalist from Birmingham and finalist from Manchester to be crowned England Boxing's Male Junior Cadet Under 66kg champion.

He then travelled to the Guildford Spectrum in Surrey for the high-pressured National Junior Championship finals day with hundreds in attendance.

This is where the cream of boxers from across England at Junior Level meet in the semi-finals and finals stages to crown national champions for 2022.

Claude won his two sets of 3 x 2 min rounds, first convincingly beating Harvey Thorley, from Walsall Wood Boxing Club, in the semi-final with some neat combinations and excellent footwork.

He then followed that up with victory over the previously unbeaten Kevin McDonagh, from

Ardwick Lads, by a split decision in a frantic final.

Claude's lightness on his feet and calmness in the ring were evident throughout, even if the final became a bit of a tear up!

Many of Claude's school friends streamed the fight live on YouTube and his PE teacher Richard Barlow said, "To have a national champion in any sport takes some doing but Claude deserves a great deal of credit as he has remained committed to GCSE PE and his other subjects while being a role model around school with excellent behaviour, and balancing a heavy training load in Essex some evenings!" The fifteen-year-old from Meldreth boxes out of the Rainham Gym and has shown great commitment to spar there weekly as well as frequently using the gym at the Melbourn Leisure Centre to maintain a high level of fitness.

When he is not at one of those establishments you can frequently see him out running around Melbourn and Meldreth.

At Melbourn we are always delighted to celebrate the achievements of our pupils, both in and outside school. Here we feature four pupils nurturing their sporting dreams away from Melbourn. If you would like to tell us about your sporting life, please email Mrs Forrester on [hforrester@melbournvc.org](mailto:hforrester@melbournvc.org) and we will include your story in a future edition of MVC News.

## Central to team!

Year 10 basketball player Elias represented the Central region at an Aspire All Star event in Manchester last month after being selected as one of only 12 under-15 players.

He was chosen for the national championships from a huge pool of potential players from a region that includes the East and West Midlands, Central England and the Bristol area.

Central competed against South, North and eventual winners London at the national Basketball Performance Centre for the 48 leading players in the country and under the watchful eye of the Great Britain selectors.

Elias (10 Hawking) has already been snapped up by leading club Leicester Riders and plays for their under-16 premier team as part of their academy.

He is also under the watchful eye of coaches from the USA, where he is considering continuing his basketball journey at 18, and Charnwood College in Loughborough.

Their academy is supported by Loughborough University and Riders and they are keen to recruit Elias to their sixth form.



**IN THE SPOTLIGHT: GB selectors watched the regional teams compete.**



**WINNERS: Football success with their teams.**

## Duo aid top team

Congratulations to Annabelle (10 Lewis) and Emma (10 Darwin) who were part of the Under-15 Coton team which won the Cambridgeshire Girls League title. The team had been plagued by injury, but fought hard to take the title for the second year in the row. There was also silverware for Poppy (9 Newton), who plays for Cambridge City. Her team won the S-Tech Girls Under-15 League Cup and Poppy scored one of the goals in a 3-1 win.

## Cricketers find their groove

Year 8 cricketer Lily (8 Hawking) had her efforts for Reed recognised with a call-up for Hertfordshire under-13s and marked her debut against Cambridgeshire with a couple of wickets and a catch.

Ollie (10 Lewis) top-scored for his team Reed against Bishop's Stortford with 35 and took a couple of wickets in a MOM performance that was key to their victory.

Harvey (9 Hawking) continues to improve in PE and is showing a lovely bowling action at school and for his team Foxton. Johnny (9 Goodall), has also done exceptionally well in PE this year and is now playing adult cricket, also at Foxton. Yashitha (9 Hawking) has followed up his commitment to school enrichment and is starting to show real potential for his club team, St Giles.



**RISING STAR: At rugby.**

## County call

Evie in 10 Franklin has recently been selected for the Under-15 Hertfordshire girls' rugby squad.

Evie, who is with the Royston club, plays full-back for the county and they won their first two games.

We wish Evie well for her future matches and look forward to seeing her develop her game.



**RISING STAR: At cricket.**





# **MELBOURN** **SPORTS CENTRE** **KIDZ FACTOR** **(Play scheme)**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July (weekly or daily bookings)

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August (weekly or daily bookings)

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August (weekly or daily bookings)

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August (weekly or daily bookings)

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August (weekly or daily bookings)

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September (weekly or daily bookings)

## **HOLI DAY PLAYScheme**

Let us entertain your child/children this Summer Holiday with our Ofsted registered play scheme! We'll amuse, encourage and tire them in a fun packed day(s), that will include art and crafts, fun games & swimming, so they're bound to have a great time with us!

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

### **ITEMS REQUIRED:**

- Packed lunch, including water bottle that we are able to replenish
- Suitable clothes/shoes for active games
- Swimming kit and towel
- Lots of enthusiasm



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

**Time: 08.30 – 17.30**

**Price: Members £24.00 – Non Members £27.00 (per person per day)**

(Please note that as an Ofsted registered play scheme 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  
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