

MVC NEWS



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Summer 2023

The News Magazine of Melbourn Village College, an Academy of The Cam Academy Trust



Head outlines key focus

As we rapidly approach the end of this academic year, we, as a school, are reflecting upon the changes that we have made.

Placing students at the centre of our decision-making is imperative if we are to continue to improve students' experiences while attending MVC.

School should be a happy time, filled with memories of friends, positive adults, and exciting opportunities.

Yes, we as adults all recognise the importance of being taught a wide range of subjects, preparing our young people to be successful in those all-important examinations. This is why we are concentrating on:

- Ensuring our school is safe. For example, through new procedures, staff training and work upon our site. Classrooms need to be the most engaging spaces, hence why nine rooms are being refurbished this summer.
- Staff training is a priority to ensure teachers and associate staff can identify the learning needs of our students and know how to provide the appropriate support to students, for example with literacy.

- Pastoral care continues to be enhanced through training, employment of a wide range of pastoral staff and developing our relationships with a broad range of external stakeholders who can help our students.

Inside this issue of our newsletter there are many examples of the opportunities that students have to develop a wide range of skills while creating those positive, happy memories of school.

I am already looking forward to the start of the next academic year as we welcome a new cohort of students.

Already staff are preparing resources and lesson plans to engage all their students in their learning.

Through delivering the best possible lessons, in a secure environment, students will have more happy memories of their schooling experience at MVC, as they develop into the successful adults of the futures.

Christopher Bennet, Head Teacher



MAKING MEMORIES: Students on the Mandarin Excellence Programme visit Chinatown in London and Melbourn's annual in-house Science Festival.

MVC has new wheels

Melbourn has taken delivery of a minibus which has been signwritten with the school and Cam Academy Trust logos.

After six months without a vehicle of its own, the college now has one which is more accessible to both staff and students.

The 'lite' vehicle is not only fully accessible for those with disabilities but can be driven by staff with a 'normal' car licence following a short course to learn how to drive a higher and longer vehicle.

This means staff don't need to take the D1 test, which costs more than £1000 per driver.



HARD AT WOK: Frank Fan cooks for colleagues.

That's rice!

Head of Languages Frank Fan stepped in to supply his colleagues with hot food when operational issues closed the kitchens earlier this term.

He donned his apron and headed to the FT department where he wasted no time in cooking up some egg fried rice for staff.

Mr Fan's cooking became famous during lockdown when he gave online demonstrations and staff finally got to try some.

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THE MAKING: Students took on various roles to make 'The Juice Detective'.



THE SCREENING: The Melbourn students' film is shown at The Junction's film festival.

Film hits the big screen!

A short film made by Cabin students at MVC has been shown on the big screen — and won an award.

'The Juice Detective' was the result of a film-making project in conjunction with registered charity, Cambridge Junction, which delivers creative learning work to schools.

They provided Cabin students — for youngsters with autism — with three workshops with a film-maker as part of the Big Trouble Little Pictures Total Arts Film Festival.

Students loved making the movie — they produced the story and script, acted out the parts as well as taking on the roles of cameraman, sound engineer and director.

'The Juice Detective' is about unravelling the mystery of who is bringing juice into school when only water is allowed.

It was shown at The Junction in Cambridge

alongside films made at other schools including St Peter's in Huntingdon, which like Melbourn is part of The Cam Academy Trust and led by Christopher Bennet.

On the second night, it was revealed that Melbourn's Lizzie (7NEW) had won the award for best actor. Although she was not there to collect it in person, Cabin lead Vinnie French stepped forward to accept the 'Oscar' on her behalf.

He said: "It was a wonderful night and great to see all the fantastic films. It has also been wonderful to witness the joy, focus and professionalism of our students; their collective creativity blossomed throughout the workshops. It was certainly a big hit for everyone here at the Cabin."

Students agreed. Zoe (8FRA) said: "The Cabin did a film project with The Junction back in 2019 and the film then was called 'The Coffee Heist'.

"We wanted to have a similar theme, so I suggested

our story was about juice and how only water was the drink allowed in school, but someone was secretly smuggling juice to students.

"All of us Cabin students produced the story line together, it was a collective process, we worked as a team. I personally enjoyed creating the storyline and acting the most, it was so much fun."

Grigory (8FRA) said: "I thoroughly enjoyed making this film. My favourite part was being a cameraman and sound engineer. I think one day I might like to be an anchor man on BBC radio and TV."

Dylan (7DAR) commented: "Making a film in such a professional manner is something I've never experienced before; I really enjoyed it. For me, I enjoyed the acting part, but also working with everyone in The Cabin to create a story together." Award-winner Lizzie added: "I loved the whole thing; we all worked together on it for three days and it was brilliant, I hope we get to do it again sometime."

Help for red panda

Grace (10DAR) organised a lunchtime plant sale last month with help from staff in the Student Support Centre.

She raised more than £140 from the sale of a wide range of plants, including basil, oregano, reucbeckia, marigolds and spider plants — and completed her AQA Fundraising Unit Award.

The money will go to the Red Panda Network and Grace said: "Red Pandas are an endangered species — by supporting my plant sale you are supporting habitat protection and anti-poaching programs."

She added: "To all the wonderful staff at MVC, I would like to say a HUGE Thank you for all your support. It was AMAZING. I very much appreciate your kind generosity."



PLANT POWER: The sale raised money to help the endangered red panda.



MAKING SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL: A secondhand table has been given a new lease of life.



Table is upcycled

Congratulations to Samuel (11HAW) from the Student Support Centre who successfully finished his up-cycling project for his AQA Unit Award Scheme. He cleaned, redesigned, painted and varnished a secondhand table, then applied a golden Chinese dragon design to the tabletop. It looks absolutely amazing.

Thinking about future

Year 10 students have had several events this term to help prepare them for their next steps after Year 11.

The year group each had a one-to-one mock interview from people who work in local business and industries.

There were volunteers from Taylor Wimpey house builders, the Job Centre, the NHS, Melbourn Science Park, a renewable energy consultant and a few parents who kindly helped out too!

Each student had a 10-minute interview, followed by feedback on their answers as well as their body language.

The volunteers were highly impressed with our Year 10 students, commenting on how well they came across, the quality of eye contact and the real potential that these students have.

A common theme was that students should have a bit more self-belief, which we hope this sort of experience will help with.

Well done Year 10 and thank you to Form the Future for arranging the volunteers. David Clarke, the Head of Sixth Form at Comberton — which, like Melbourn is part of The Cam Academy Trust — gave an extended assembly about the post-16 process.

This included information about the timeline of applications, the importance of visiting colleges as part of their open evenings and/or taster days and other considerations such as trips offered, support available and transport for such colleges.

The courses offered at Comberton include an extensive choice of A levels, including Mandarin for entry in Sept 2024, as well as Extended BTEC courses in Business, Health and Social Care and Sport.

A group of 45 Melbourn students also visited Comberton Sixth Form on one of their taster days.

Students were able to sign up to taster lessons, from the sciences, English and maths to photography and sociology. The students also received a talk from the Head of Sixth Form there.

The aim was to introduce students to what a day in a Sixth Form can be like and the Melbourn students were absolutely fantastic — and seemed to enjoy their day.

Harry (10LEW) said: "My favourite lesson was chemistry, where we did a titration experiment to find how much iron was in an iron tablet."

Aliya (10NEW) said: "In geography we looked at Haiti and how it is affected by

extreme weather. We looked at a case study on this as well as looking at trips available and how A level bridges with GCSE."

Ruby (10NEW) added: "In Spanish, we looked at different Spanish celebrities and had a close look at the A-Level curriculum."

Representatives from Hills Road Sixth Form also visited MVC for a lunchtime drop in with Year 10 students.

It was an opportunity to hear about the college application process generally but also the range of courses offered by the Cambridge college.

They were very clear that students do not need the highest grades to apply. While some courses (such as maths) do require a grade 8 at GCSE as an entry requirement, many of the creative arts and broader arts subjects require around grade 5 or 6.

Students were also advised to apply for 5 A levels at Hills, just to keep options open!



VISITS: To Melbourn by Comberton Sixth Form and Hills Rd Sixth Form staff and to Comberton by 45 MVC Year 10s (left).



‘Voyage’ aims to boost Mandarin studies



Year 10 students attended the ‘Journey to the East: A Voyage of Discovery’ event in Birmingham. This aimed to provide a deeper understanding of Chinese culture and history to motivate students to continue learning of Mandarin at A Level (which is being offered by Comberton Sixth Form).

The event included a series of talks on different topics, such as the Opium War, President Xi Jinping, Chinese internet literature, Chinese cartoons, and a song competition.

Students also enjoyed a live performance of Chinese music by the famous band 'Transition'. This was followed by a traditional Chinese meal to experience the country's culinary culture. Students enjoyed the food and appreciated the chance to try something new.

DIGGER DEEPER: Into Chinese culture and history at an event in Birmingham.



BRIGHT AND INVITING: The newly-decorated underpass between Meldreth and Melbourn.

Underpass transformed

A dark and imposing underpass has been transformed with the help of Melbourn students.

They were given the opportunity to create a design for a mural for the 'Wonderpass' — a community-based project organised by the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership.

Now three of the winning designs — from Harper (Year 7), Ellie (Year 8) and Abi (Year 9) — are part of the mural that has transformed the underpass between

Melbourn and Meldreth into a bright, vibrant and beautiful corridor.

The overall mural composition is the work of local artist, Bec Barnes, and includes frames designed by the MVC trio as well as community groups from the local area. It was painted by more than 100 volunteers.

It was fantastic for MVC to be part of this project which is not only personal to each of the groups involved but has given the underpass a real community feel.



BROUGHT TO LIFE: One of the designs by Melbourn students goes from paper to wall.



DofE students take a hike . . .

Sixty Year 9 and 10 students have just spent last weekend trekking across the Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire countryside for their Duke of Edinburgh bronze award expedition.

They started out at Riseley Primary School north of Bedford on Saturday, having planned a route to get them to Sunnyside Farm in Stow Longa, across the border into Cambridgeshire, where they camped for the night. Part of the assessed expedition requires them to carry all their equipment, pitch their tents and cook a hot meal.

After a (good?) night's sleep, they broke camp and headed across country to finish at Grafham Community Centre, near Grafham Water, as close to 3.00pm as possible.

Students had been given the best possible expedition preparation for what is often seen as the heart of the DoE award, although participants also have to complete other sections on volunteering, learning a new skill and participating in a physical activity for a minimum of three months.

Last month they spent a day at the Community Centre in Melbourn at a training session run by Azaria Training Limited.

Students completed a carousel of activities which covered:

- Expedition Food
- Kit and Equipment
- First Aid Training
- Pitching a Tent
- Map Skills and Navigation

At lunchtime students learned how to use their Trangia cooking equipment to prepare lunch in their expedition groups and afterwards completed a short practice walk to hone their navigation skills.

The day ended with preparation and route-planning for the main expedition.



ALL GOOD PRACTICE: Pitching tents and cooking outdoors ahead of the bronze DofE assessed expedition.



VARIED PROGRAMME: As well as improving their Spanish, students on the trip to Comillas enjoyed a range of activities.

Fun in Spanish sunshine

Year 8 students enjoyed an amazing immersion trip to Cantabria earlier this term.

Organised by Links Into Spanish, they took part in a full schedule of activities including Spanish lessons with students from a local school, learning about life in Cantabria in the bronze age, enjoying a fantastic visit to the caves of Altamira to see the 20000-year-old cave paintings, and trips to the Gaudi museum and Cabarceno Wildlife Park.

They spent a fun-packed day with their friends from Colegio de Sagrada de Familia, whom they met at Melbourn earlier in the year, working in groups to create and deliver some great presentations. They also played football, did some dancing, tried out some of the local sports, enjoyed a treasure hunt in the lovely village of Comillas and spent time on the beach sampling ice cream, churros and chocolate. A great time was had by all!

"The Spain trip was so inspiring and fun. It was some of the best fun I have ever had. Although it was for educational purposes, it was also really lovely and just like a holiday.

"We also didn't just come back with improved Spanish skills such as speaking and writing, we also came back with many friends and skills. The views were incredible and nature all around was honestly glorious. The hotel was amazing," said Katie (8DAR).

She was not the only one to have a fantastic trip, with Jack (8FRA) commenting: "The highlight of the day was playing football" and Will (8FRA) adding: "While in Spain we had the perfect weather and did some really fun activities."

Layla (8DAR) said: "The Spain trip was very good and we were very lucky to have the good weather and made some Spanish friends who were very nice and friendly."

It was also memorable for Rhea (8LEW), who said: "Spain was fun. We did lots of things. I enjoyed the trip and loved hanging out with my friends and having new Spanish friends; they were very nice.

"I had lots of fun and this is going to be a core memory for me. I still have sand in my pocket! I enjoyed the experience and thanks to my parents."



Students have the chance to 'go home'

Melbourn's Ukrainian students — and some of their peers — had the chance to learn more about their home country thanks to a cross-Trust visit.

Oksana Kramer is from Cam Academy Trust partner school, St Peter's, and she visited Melbourn.

The students chose to play badminton first then enjoyed some interactive educational games to help improve their knowledge of the history, geography, culture and traditions of Ukraine — and the UK.

They finished by giving Ms Kramer a tour of MVC, which is very different to St Peter's in Huntingdon.



LEARNING CURVE: For Melbourn's Ukrainian students.

Trust poised to expand

We have all been relieved to come out of the pandemic.

It really does feel like that is where we are now and it is great to see the wonderful range of wider educational activities and opportunities offered to pupils across the Trust.

Given the Trust's stated principle of 'Broad Education', it is really good to see this happening again.

Another indication that the mindset has shifted to a

post-pandemic way of thinking is that schools seem to be considering their future plans.

In this respect, the Trust has been approached by several schools interested in joining us and seeing this as a positive way forward for them.

We are in several discussions regarding this possibility.

Always, the thinking is that this must make sense both for the potential new school(s) and for the schools currently in the Trust.

One such school is Fowlmere Primary School. Its request to become an Academy and join The Cam Academy Trust has been approved by the Advisory Board of the Regional Director's Office, so this development can now move into formal processes. Fowlmere is already a partner primary of Melbourn Village College, a school already in our Trust. This move therefore makes much sense as we seek to provide quality education for local communities.

Stephen Munday, CEO



LOOKING TO JOIN: Fowlmere Primary School could be the next addition to the Trust.



Focus on providing extra support

While we have very much moved out of the pandemic in terms of how we now operate, we are also seeing something of the difficult legacy of the pandemic and lockdown in our schools.

Nationally, pupil attendance at schools is notably lower than it was before the pandemic.

Schools report some greater challenges with pupil behaviour as young people have to learn how to behave appropriately again when with groups of others and in an organisation.

Mental health issues in young people are now at far higher levels than they were before the pandemic.

We see these national challenges mirrored in various ways in schools in our Trust.

Clearly, the origins of these sit outside the control of our schools but that does not mean they do not have an impact.

As such, the Trust is looking to do what it can to support all schools as they look to move forward positively with some of these issues. For example:

- The Trust-employed Education Welfare Officer, Rachael Panther, has been working closely with all schools to look at approaches to attendance and ways that these might be developed.

- The Trust is supporting some co-ordination of work on supporting the mental health of pupils in our schools and the related training of staff. We are looking to ensure that proper access to support in this area is available to pupils in all our schools.

- We are reviewing effective approaches to pupil behaviour in our schools and sharing effective practice between all our schools. There are many excellent examples in this area.

- We are reviewing our arrangements for Alternative Provision for those pupils who need this.

There is very little central or local provision in the system now and it is fundamentally up to us how this might be organised.

Again, schools are doing some great things in this territory, but we are looking at how we can strengthen this further, especially by working across our schools to provide as well as possible.

All these things remind us of why we choose to work together as a Trust of schools rather than simply as individual entities.

We can do more and better by working together than we can by trying to go it alone.

Stephen Munday

New event has pupils dodging!

Teams from three schools took part in the first Inter-Trust Dodgeball competition.

And now there are plans to expand it to more primary schools in the Trust after two teams of Year 5 and 6 pupils from each school — Jeavons Wood, Everton Heath and Gamlingay — had a fun afternoon at Cambourne Village College, where Trust Director of PE and Sport Hannah Curtis is also the Head of Department.

The competition was run in a round-robin format with all the teams playing each other — starting with the other team from their own school. Each squad had up to eight players with five in action at a time.

After some fast and furious competition, Jeavons Wood B came out victorious. The event was run by Cambourne Year 9 and 10 sports leaders, led by Tyla, who took charge of the organisation, scoring, timekeeping and officiating and did a brilliant job keeping everything going smoothly.

Miss Curtis said: "We are hoping to have more of these Inter-Trust events going forward and are looking at what different sports we might include. We also hope that the other secondary schools in the Trust will also be able to host them and give their sports leaders the great experience of running an event for younger pupils."



ACTION-PACKED: The inter-Trust dodgeball tournament.

Making connections

Science Week at Melbourn Village College was busy and fun.

The national theme was 'connections' and we worked with that, looking at global warming and climate change.

During lesson time, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 were given the chance to participate in three different activities.

We had a quiz, which was challenging as it had 81 questions. The chance to win a Crème Egg, gave some students the incentive to do well, some answering as many as 55 questions correctly in the

hour. Another lesson was spent navigating an online escape room based on an Antarctic Survey.

Students had to answer questions to get a code to restart the generator.

We also took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry Global Challenge. Students needed to make a battery out of coins, aluminium foil, vinegar and cardboard. They could then use this to light an LED. All the results were recorded and could then be viewed on a map, with other entries from the rest of the world.

On the Tuesday, staff from Cambridge Science

Centre came in to work with Year 8. First, they had an assembly explaining about diversity and then each Year 8 was given the opportunity to participate in a workshop about the evolution of animals.

We also had activities at lunchtimes. On Monday, lots of students saw the world at a microscopic level with Miss Piper. On Wednesday, students made bath bombs with Mrs Mayhead, Thursday saw Dr Johnson and Mrs Santoso dissect a rat and on Friday, Dr Wilson put on a Chemistry Magic Show (It's not magic, it's science!)



ALL KINDS OF SCIENCE: There was a range of different activities to watch and participate in.

Maths aces solve a 'feast' of problems

Seven of Melbourn's exceptional Year 10 mathematicians took part in the annual 'Maths Feast' at Linton.

Split into a team of four and a three, Isla, Maddie, Mayuha, Tilly, Alex, Gethin and Alfie competed against 14 teams from across Cambridgeshire.

While all the problems involved maths, the competition was also heavily reliant on superb teamwork and communication skills.

The competition comprised four rounds where students demonstrated their maths skills under time pressure as well as answering advanced comprehension questions about the proof of theorems in mathematics.

The competition does not announce an overall winner, but the MVC teams did well and were a credit to the college. One MVC team was commended for having consistently high scores in every round, which was a particularly impressive feat as there were only three in that team against everyone else's quartets.



FLYING THE FLAG: For Melbourn at a county-wide maths quiz.

Never too early to consider career options



FORWARD PLANNING: Year 8 heard from several different speakers.

Year 8 students were encouraged to start thinking about what they might like to do in future as they were given a range of different talks in an event organised by Form the Future.

They are a Cambridge-based not-for-profit organisation with a mission to connect young people to a world of career possibilities, inspire them to dream big and empower them to fulfil their full potential. Visitors included Kelly, from 'Kelly's Kitchen', a cake shop in Royston, staff from Mick George, a skip hire and waste management company based in Huntingdon, representatives from Cambridge Regional College and a recruitment consultant.

The aim of the event was to inform and inspire students and is part of Melbourn's comprehensive careers programme. More details are available on the college website.



PARTY TIME: Year 11 students arrive at The Hilton hotel in Cambridge for their leavers' celebration

Year 11 bow out in style

Year 11s had a fantastic time at their Leavers' Celebration Prom last month.

This year the event was held at The Hilton, in Cambridge city centre.

Lots of the students made a grand entrance in various vehicles of all shapes, sizes and vintage! It was really good fun to see different groups of friends arriving in such style!

The event provided an ideal opportunity for students to remember their time at Melbourn Village College and really let their hair down and enjoy finally finishing their GCSEs!

The venue looked stunning with a red carpet, balloon arch, photobooth and function room.

Tables were lavishly decorated with candelabra and the dance floor was replete with glitter ball! The resident DJ provided the music and, after a short speech by Head of Year, Andrew Kennedy, the party quickly got into full swing!

The food was perfect and we had our own private area and bar; the students were able to relax and really express themselves on the dance floor and there were some top dance moves on display from students and the adults alike.

All of this was captured perfectly by our professional photographer. The whole evening came to an end at 10.30pm and all the students conducted themselves brilliantly all evening.

The hotel staff were blown away by how well behaved the students were and said we would be welcome back anytime!

It was a truly special evening and one that will live long in everyone's memories and the perfect way for the students to round off their time at MVC!



PLANNERS: Staff worked hard to decorate the hotel venue and make it a night to remember.

Saluting the last five years with ice-cream!



END OF AN ERA: June 16th was the last day in school full-time for Year 11 students. There was a leavers' assembly with presentations from Andrew Kennedy, the Head of Year, and the form tutors as they said farewell to the another cohort. Then followed plenty of shirt-signing and students finished off the afternoon with an ice-cream. Goodbye and good luck. We will miss you!



SOMETHING NEW: Year 6 students experienced lessons in the science labs as well as the Food Technology room.

Intake Day is a big hit

Enthusiastic Year 6 pupils from all Melbourn's partner primary schools and beyond spent an exciting first day at the college.

The 136 youngsters from local primary schools as well as from Royston and Gamlingay took part in a range of activities on a day designed to make the transition from primary to secondary school as seamless as possible.

They adapted well to the new environment as they took part in a wide variety of lessons, including maths, English, science, humanities, languages, arts, PE and technology, and displayed excellent behaviour throughout.

They participated actively in class activities, showed a positive attitude and demonstrated strong teamwork and problem-solving skills.

Overall the day was marked by enthusiasm, adaptability and a keenness to explore new subjects.

Assistant Principal John Barnes said: "It was lovely to see so many students arriving at Melbourn and enjoying the range of activities on offer to them. We look forward to all students starting with us in September."

The previous evening was the turn of parents to gather in the school hall to hear about Melbourn's plans as their children join the college community.



THE PARENTS' TURN: Head Teacher Christopher Bennet talks to those whose children are starting at MVC in September.



IN STOCK: Students recommended books for The Hub Café Library.

Book-ed in!

Brodie and Keira, from the Student Support Centre, visited the library at The Hub Café in Melbourn to see the books they had recommended on the shelves.

After the library received some funding from a property development company, voluntary worker Yvonne invited students to make suggestions as to what they should purchase.

Together with Grace, the trio prepared a list of books to recommend to young readers with dyslexia and some reading difficulties.

The Café Library is open to any suggestions from students as to which books they would like to see to encourage them to use the facility.

Tips from the top

Steve Frew, Scottish Commonwealth Games gold medalist in gymnastics, visited a group of Year 7 students earlier this term.

He spoke to them about his journey as a medal-winning athlete and how to be at the top of your game.

Steve was 28 when he won gold on the rings at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester — one of five Games he competed at in a career which saw more than 100 appearances for his country and Great Britain.

His win was all the more remarkable as he had only been able to devote himself to gymnastics on a part-time basis, due to limited funding for the sport in Scotland at that time. He had not been considered as a possible medalist.

In the second part of the session, he did some team-building games with the students, focusing on skills such as communication and resilience. Students had a lovely morning and enjoyed the experience.



TELLING HIS STORY: Steve Frew shares his gymnastics journey with Year 7 students.

Different ways to learn

Year 7 and Year 8 students on the Mandarin Excellence Programme recently engaged in an enriching one-week intensive learning week.

Throughout this immersive experience, they had the invaluable opportunity to delve into the captivating world of Chinese comics, igniting their creativity and enabling them to craft their own exceptional works.

On Tuesday, their focus centred on an in-depth study of the First Emperor, as they diligently prepared insightful presentations delving into the wonders of the Terracotta Army.

Wednesday provided an exciting highlight for the Year 7 students, as they eagerly embarked on a memorable visit to Chinatown, immersing themselves in the vibrant culture and flavours of China. Year 8 enjoyed a similar experience the following week. Thursday, a day dedicated entirely to fostering cultural appreciation, saw the students engrossed in an array of engaging Chinese folk games, hosted within the lively atmosphere of the sports hall.

As the programme neared its conclusion on Friday, the students were further enthralled by the chance to hone their culinary prowess, as they acquired the skills to expertly prepare traditional Chinese fried noodles.

Year 9, who went on the trip with Year 7, enjoyed a similar week of activities a fortnight later.



TASTE TEST: Students try the traditional Chinese noodles they cooked.



IMMERSED: In Chinese culture with folk games and singing forming part of the MEP Activities Week.



Culture and fun on day out in London

Year 7 and 9 MEP students spent the day in London earlier this term as part of the Mandarin Excellence Programme's Activities Weeks. The theme of the trip was Heritage and History, and students visited the British Museum and Chinatown, including lunch in a Chinese restaurant.

Students had a wonderful time and really enjoyed the experience. Head of Languages Frank Fan said: "It is so important to immerse students in the culture of the language they are studying to gain a full understanding of Mandarin.

"The British Museum is a glorious location and a must see for all students both old and young; it has a rich, diverse, intriguing and unparalleled legacy of bringing the world to London.

"Our visit involved the great hall, a gallery dedicated to South East Asia, China has such a depth of artistic endeavours and it was fitting for our Mandarin students to explore these wonderful exhibits as we arrived in the capital.

"We enjoyed a fabulous lunch at the New China restaurant, a favourite of the Modern Foreign Languages Department, where students tucked into a traditional Chinese meal with gusto after their appetites had been whetted at the British Museum.

"Another interesting part of our visit was the foray into the shops in Chinatown, where students were able to deploy their language skills and learn more about the Chinese experience in London."

With a bubble tea in hand, an essential item for students, they headed back to Melbourn, having enjoyed a very cultural and fun day out.

Mr Fan added: "I'd like to thank the Year 7 and 9 MEP students for their excellent behaviour and for all their hard work which has really paid off again this year as we continue to expand Mandarin as a subject across the Trust."

Year 8 went on the same trip a couple of weeks later.



BIG DAY OUT: Students visited Chinatown in London as well as having lunch at a Chinese restaurant.



Bringing history to life



WALL OF DEATH: Where the Nazis shot some of their prisoners held at Auschwitz.

Forty-three GCSE history students recently travelled to Poland to enhance their understanding of their Weimar and Nazi Germany course as well as to gain an appreciation of another country, as the world has opened up again.

We know that exploring history outside the classroom is an excellent way to learn and for students and their teachers to share common cultural experiences together.

Our four-day visit took us to the famous Wieliczka Salt Mine, Krakow's Jewish Museum, the historic centre of Krakow, the Pharmacy under the Eagle, where many Jewish residents were saved from persecution by Tadeusz Pankiewicz, and finally to Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.

Maths teacher Andrew Benson commented: "Seeing the Salt Mines was a fascinating experience, the extensive underground network which has its own chapel carved out of the rock where local residents still hold the weekly Sunday service. Pope John Paul II famously visited the mines and held mass there and it has a unique atmosphere with intricate carvings and

a real sense of wonder."

Terry Brame, Head of Business, recalled his visit to the Pharmacy under the Eagle as a particular highlight. "It is the small stories of heroism and selflessness that bring the history of such dark times to life for me, where one man stood up for his fellow citizens and gave hope to many," he said.

As an English and Media teacher, Beth Cooke felt that visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau was an experience she would never forget. "I studied history at Cambridge and I've since read up on much of the war years, but nothing can prepare you for actually visiting a site like Auschwitz. History cannot only be learnt in the classroom or in textbooks, I spoke to many students afterwards about this and am confident this experience will live with them for a long time." I'd like to thank all the teaching staff and students who made this visit such a great success and really allowed us to extend the learning of history to a new level.

James Stuart, Head of Humanities



STEPPING BACK IN TIME: Students visited the Wieliczka Salt Mine, complete with chapel, and the Pharmacy under the Eagle.



Most engaged students earn rewards

The Humanities Department recognises the outstanding efforts and active participation of our students throughout each term. We believe it is important to acknowledge and celebrate their hard work and dedication so we post a selection of names on our Rewards Board outside HM01 each term and students are able to see if they have been nominated.

This creates a wonderful buzz across the school and faculty. Humanities teachers carefully select two students from every class they teach who have consistently demonstrated exceptional commitment to their studies and active engagement in class discussions.

Each nominated student will receive two achievement points and a postcard home from James Stuart, Head of Humanities, to recognise their achievements. Two students from each year group are then randomly selected to receive the prestigious Humanities Reward of a total of four achievement points and an invitation to the Humanities Reward Lunch. In addition, these students are nominated for a meeting with Deputy Principal Niki Smith to discuss their academic progress and receive valuable guidance and feedback. In recognition of their outstanding

achievements, these students will also receive a special certificate and the chance to sign the Humanities Book of Rewards, which serves as a tangible reminder of their dedication and perseverance.

An email is also sent home detailing this information and encouraging parents to celebrate their child's accomplishment.



REWARD FOR EFFORT: Selected students are invited to sign the Book of Rewards.



ON DISPLAY: Students' finished pieces as well as the developmental work in their sketchbooks.

Artwork goes on show

Students and staff gathered at Melbourn Community Centre late last month to view the exhibition of GCSE artwork from the latest Year 11 cohort.

Visitors were able to see not only the final compositions but also the developmental work in students' sketchbooks at the private viewing evening.



Art teacher Sarah Heeks said: "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 2023 should be very proud of how they have expressed their individuality and

produced meaningful and impactful work."

Fellow art teacher Samantha Ward added: "I am so impressed by the stunning and meaningful art produced by this year's art students; they have showed creative individuality, and produced truly original work."

Both teachers are delighted that MVC is able to offer students the opportunity to celebrate their work with an in-person exhibition, where guests were also able to sample canapes made by Year 10 students studying food and nutrition.

The show is supported by a virtual exhibition for those unable to attend but also provides an annual record of the art produced and is a lasting legacy to their outstanding creativity.

You can view the virtual exhibition at

<https://sway.office.com/oau42kAfkWmlFckKo?ref=Link> or scan the QR code on this page.



PRAISE: For truly original work.

Champions again!

Harston & Newton Primary School are Quadkids champions again.

The Years 5 and 6 team won the 'Small Schools' competition run by the South Cambs School Sport Partnership at the Cambridge University Sports Ground in Cambridge earlier this term. All their athletes ranked in the top 75 to help Harston & Newton retain the trophy they have won the last three times the competition has been held.

Meldreth were runners-up with all of their athletes finishing in the top 100. Meanwhile Petersfield, from Orwell, produced their best ever performance to finish third, largely thanks to their boys who incredibly all ranked in the top 30.

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.

The top individual in the 'Small Schools' competition was, for the girls, Sophie from Harston & Newton who was also fourth individual overall (across boys and girls). Maisie, from Meldreth, was third.

For the boys Lenny, from Petersfield, top-scored with a massive 263 points with great performances in all four events including a sub 2min 600m. This score also ranked him as best athlete across the whole day and out of 340 children. He was followed by Ben, from Meldreth and Maxime, from Harston & Newton.

The winners of the 'Big Schools' competition were Histon and Impington Brook Primary School, who have a strong tradition in the event and retained the trophy they won last year with all 10 of their team putting in strong performances and finishing in the top 75 athletes overall.



STAYING PUT: The Quadkids trophy was retained by Harston & Newton.

Runners up were the University of Cambridge Primary, while Trumpington Park were a close third.

Partnership Manager Claire McDonnell said: "It was a great day; it is always one of our favourite events of the year and this year certainly didn't disappoint.

"We were blessed with lovely sunshine, there were some incredible performances and most importantly a lovely atmosphere as the children supported their teammates and the sports leaders encouraged every athlete to give their best.

"We had a good turn out of parents as well which adds to the occasion and helps to spur the children on in the running events.

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

Foxton finished sixth overall with Harston B eighth, Meldreth B 14th and Barrington 16th.



BEST OF THE BUNCH: The top three individual boys and girls at the 'small schools' competition.

Different sport, another age group — same winners

There is just no stopping Harston & Newton when it comes to sport.

They showed they have talent coming up through the school as their Year 3 and 4 cricketers following their Year 5 and 6 Quadkids competitors in winning their event.

Competing against other schools in the Dynamos competition at Caldecote Recreation Ground at the end of last month, they won all their matches to take top spot in their event.

Other winners on the day were Swavesey Primary School while in the other tournaments, held at Sawston, victory went to Histon & Impington Brook and Great Abington, who both won all five of their matches.

Runners-up across both events were Bourn, Linton Heights, Jeavons Wood and Dry Drayton, who with only 15 pupils in Years 3 and 4 and 74 in the whole school, took all those eligible to play to the event!

Meldreth and Thriplow, like Harston & Newton



TRIUMPHANT: The winning team from Harston & Newton.

feeder primaries for Melbourn Village College, also took part.

Dynamos cricket is for eight-11-year-olds, with everyone on the team getting to bat and bowl. A no ball or wide gives the batter a 'free hit' from a batting tee to give everyone the opportunity to score runs. More than 220 youngsters in 22 teams from 19 primary schools were involved.

Partnership Manager Claire McDonnell said:

"Both events went really well, with lots of competitive matches and some great fielding and batting in particular.

"It was great for schools to get to play against other schools in some friendly competition.

"They loved playing at a proper cricket ground, they had lots of chances to hit the ball and loved being part of their school team."

Youngest boys lead way

Melbourn's Year 7 boys were the college's stand-out team at the annual Olympic Cup athletics competition.

Taking on youngsters from many of the other local schools, they picked up an impressive six wins between them to top the section on one of the warmest competition days for many years. The PE department worked together to provide a gazebo, large patio umbrella and lots of water at the Cambridge University Athletics Ground to keep students as cool and refreshed as possible.

And it paid dividends with individual wins for Mckenzie (7DAR) in the 800m, Thomas (7HAW) in the 100m, Danny (7HAW) in the 200m, Harvey (7HAW) in the 1500m, Harry (7LEW) in the shot. Mckenzie, Danny, Billy (7NEW) and Thomas won the relay.

There were also wins for Aeron (10DAR) and Jack (8FRA), both in their year's shot event. Melbourn achieved their best placing in the competition for many years, finishing sixth of the teams taking part.



THAT WINNING FEELING: For a number of Melbourn athletes at the Olympic Cup competition.

William in great Form

William (7HAW) has won a national Tang Soo Do title. He took top spot in his category for Forms — one of the three events he took part in at the National Championships in Nottingham — and was delighted to top the podium.



WINNING WAYS: At the National Championships.



READY FOR ANYTHING: Some of the equipment that might be used for outdoor and adventurous activities.

Outdoor clothes!

Students in Year 10 taking Sports Studies started a new unit on outdoor and adventurous activities. One assignment was to write about the equipment used and PE teacher Richard Barlow decided to play a fun game where students had to use their sense of touch to identify a piece of equipment that was concealed in a bag or envelope.

When the answers were read out, Alfie kindly agreed to try on some of the equipment. He's just missing a whistle and the wetsuit!

Charlie's super catch

Well done to Charlie (9HAW) who landed the catch of his life at Thriplow Fishing Club last month.

He hauled in a 12-15lb carp — just as he was thinking about going home!

The teenager said: "It was near the end of the day and we were thinking about packing up. "I threw all my bait into the water and cast my line, but it just sat there doing nothing for about 10 minutes. Then suddenly it started to move.

"My instructor thought I'd caught a small one, but then my rod started to really bend right over and I was being dragged along the bank.

"I wore the fish out and then my instructor helped me land it and it turned out to be a whopper. It's the largest fish I have caught. I returned the carp to the water, as this is what you do at the fishing club, so that it can be caught again."



IT'S A WHOPPER: The landed carp.



WINNING LINE-UP: Melbourn's Year 9 and 10 netball team.

MVC edge cracker

A big well done to Melbourn's Year 9 and 10 netball team for their performance in an evenly-match game against Cambourne.

Down by two goals after the first quarter, a few changes of position saw the team gather momentum as the game progressed.

They intercepted a number of balls in defence, attacked with more confidence and played some excellent netball to lead 12-9 at half-time and 14-12 going into the final quarter, where they secured a 19-15 victory in a fantastic game to watch.



MELBOURN

SPORTS CENTRE news



JULY / AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2023

We have plenty of activities on offer this summer, with something for the whole community to get involved with....

SWIM FOR ALL!

Swimming is one of the most popular sports in UK. As well as being fun, swimming is a great way to keep fit, stay healthy and make friends. It is also an activity that you can continue for a lifetime, which has many physical and mental health benefits. We believe we have a session for everyone, so why not find that costume and towel and head on down to your local Centre for a dip! For more details on swimming sessions and prices, then please visit our website www.mc-sport.co.uk

KIDS & TEENS ACTIVITIES

With summer holidays approaching, it's never too early to start planning your summer sports. We have a variety of activities to choose from, including our Ofsted Registered Playscheme (The Kidz Factor), Sport Taster Sessions and Swimming Crash Course.

For those who want to take their swimming to the next level, why not consider joining our swimming lesson programme? We currently have spaces on our intermediate to advance classes. For more information then please email info@mc-sport.co.uk.

Specifically for those aged 14 or over, we have teen training sessions on our Fitness Suite machines as well as swimming lessons, lifeguard courses, tennis coaching, triathlon sessions, tennis coaching, squash and much more.

GET FIT FOR THE SUMMER!

Why not let us help you shape up before the summer? We have loads of classes to keep you fit and healthy. Or why not take advantage of one of our great membership schemes to our fitness suite including C.V, resistance machines and free weights (for those rainy days throughout the year).

We also welcome back outdoor sports and the tennis season. For all budding Wimbledon stars, courts can be hired midweek and at weekends.

PARTY TIME!

Looking for the perfect venue to hold your children's birthday party? Then your search is over! We have all the facilities here for a fun-packed event with a variety of activities for your guests to enjoy, including trampolining (always a popular choice), football and traditional pool parties.

SWIMMING CRASH COURSE

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

Monday 24th July - Friday 28th July / Monday 31st July - Friday 4th August / Monday 7th August - Friday 11th August

Monday 14th August - Friday 18th August / Monday 21st August - Friday 25th August

Time: 10.30 – 11.00 / 11.00 – 11.30 / 11.30 – 12.00 - See groups below

Price: Members £26.00 / Non- Members £31.00

RED stage 1a/b (Shallow) – 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.

10.30 - 11.00

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.

11.00 – 11.30

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.

10.30 – 11.00

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.

11.00 – 11.30

For further details on these or any other activities, please drop in, call 01763 263313 or go online at www.mc-sport.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you this summer!



Melbourn Sports Centre, The Village College, The Moor, Melbourn, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 6EF
01763 263313 / www.mc-sport.co.uk / info@mc-sport.co.uk