

# MVC Newsletter



MELBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE

14 FEBRUARY 2025

Dear parents and carers,

We have been on an exciting six week journey and I am delighted with the progress we have made. I am proud of how hard the students have worked on our journey to excellence.

As parents I'm sure you are keen to receive feedback as to the progress of improvements we are making as a school. This half term we have received two important quality assurance visits. The first visit was by Paul Lawrence, the Director of Secondary within the Trust. Paul was pleased to see the changes underway: "The site seemed markedly calmer and more orderly. Pupils could tell that there is a push to transform their expectations and behaviour, and they are starting to respond accordingly." Last week we welcomed Roy Blatchford back into school who led an independent quality assurance review. Roy undertook a visit of the school in May 2024 and he also acknowledged the improvements that have happened in the past five weeks: "A new headteacher, ably supported by the trust, took up post in January 2025. It is early days, yet a page has happily been turned. By common consent, there has been a radical shift in most students' attitudes to learning and in the consistency with which most staff apply the behaviour reset."

After half term we will be pushing again on our improvements with a new theme of 'Community and Culture'. I will be sharing more details on this with students on the first day back in assemblies. I wish you all a restful half term break.

Mrs Spencer  
Principal

## YOU SAID: WE DID

To ease the queues at lunchtimes, the catering team will serve lunch to the Cabin students and the Year 7 students at the earlier time of 1.10pm.

## KEY DATES

**14th - 22nd Feb**

Ski Trip

**17th - 21st Feb**

Half Term

**20th Feb**

Year 11

Churchill College Visit

**25th Feb**

Year 9 Options

information evening

**27th Feb**

Year 10 & 11 Learning to

Learn: Parental Event

**6th Mar**

Year 8 Parents' Evening

**6th Mar**

Year 10 Path to Success:

Parental Event

**10th Mar**

Primary Netball Tournament

**12th Mar**

DofE Bronze Training

**20th Mar**

Year 11 'Boost a Grade Day'



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@Melbourn\_VC

## YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

This week, Year 10 students have been sent information about work experience (WEX). WEX will take place from Monday 14th - Friday 18th July and students have been asked to secure their own placement. Parents can often help facilitate this by using their own place of work, contacts including friends, family and local organisations. The deadline for finding a placement and returning WEX forms to Mrs Brown in the Exams Office is Friday 28th March 2025. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students and their personal development. Students who did WEX last year said that WEX is an exciting experience and they enjoyed finding out more about the world of work.

If you are able to offer a work experience placement for one of our students, please email Ms S Vinci at [svinci@melbournvc.org](mailto:svinci@melbournvc.org).



## SKI TRIP SETS OFF

Students on the trip to Saalbach-Hinterglemm in Austria set off today. We hope you have a great 5 days of skiing!



## TUTEES OF THE WEEK

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

First Name	Year Group
Gus	7
Emily	7
James	7
Alfie	7
Poppy	7
Alice	8
Faith	8
Teddy	8
Jenson	8
Jasmine	9
Martha	9
Izzi	9
Rosie	9
Oskar	10
Freddie	10
Maya	10
Henry	10
Frances	11
Eddie	11
Eva	11

## SCHOOL DAY TIMINGS

Please see below the timings of our school day:

8.25am	Movement bell	All pupils expected on site
8.30am	Tutor time register	All pupils expected to be in tutor rooms. Main gates are locked.
8.30am until 9.00am	Tutor time	All pupils with Form Tutor for personal development programme. This has now been extended to allow for a deeper understanding of these important pastoral topics for pupils.
9.00am until 10.00am	Period 1 lesson	All pupils in lessons
10.00am until 11.00am	Period 2 lesson	All pupils in lessons
11.00am until 11.15am	Break	All pupils in designated areas for breaktime. Pupils are able to use the toilets at this time.
11.15am	Movement bell	All pupils expected to move with pace to lesson.
11.20am until 12.20pm	Period 3 lesson	All pupils in lessons.
12.20pm until 1.20pm	Period 4 lesson	All pupils in lessons.
1.10pm	Early lunch	Only Cabin pupils and Year 7 pupils are taken for early lunch at 1.10pm.
1.20pm until 1.55pm	Lunchtime	All pupils in designated areas for lunch. Pupils are able to use the toilets at this time.
1.55pm	Movement bell	All pupils expected to move with pace to lesson.
2.00pm until 3.00pm	Period 5 lesson	All pupils in lessons

## PARENTAL LETTERS



In this section we will be including links to letters for parents and carers. The letters are also available to download from our website [here](#).

### Letters from Cambridgeshire Secondary Heads:

- [Introduction from Cambridgeshire Secondary Heads](#)
- [Attendance letter from Cambridgeshire Secondary Heads](#)

If you missed any emailed letters from the Principal, here is a list of the most recent:

- [11 February 2025](#)
- [5 February 2025](#)
  - [Ofsted Letter Feb 2025](#)
- [7 January 2025](#)
  - [Journey to Excellence: Spring Term](#)

## YEAR 11 'BOOST A GRADE' DAY



We are excited to announce that we will be having a 'boost a grade' day for all Year 11 pupils on 20th March. We have secured the services of a renowned company, [PET-XI](#), who will be delivering maths interventions to accelerate the progress of the pupils. They will be running two sessions, one targeting grades 7+ and one targeting grade 4 / 5. Any pupils not taking part in the PET-XI sessions will have English, maths and science sessions delivered by Melbourn Village College staff. This is a wonderful opportunity for our Year 11 pupils to increase their grades in these subjects.

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



## YEAR 11 FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

Year 11 pupils have been working tirelessly all week to complete their cooking practice for their upcoming GCSE practical exam, and it was a great success. The students demonstrated excellent preparation and skill as they worked through their recipes, managing their time effectively and following instructions with precision. Each dish showcased their growing understanding of both technique and presentation. Mrs Millwood said, "I was super impressed by how they faced the challenge with confidence and creativity with impressive results. They produced high-quality dishes that reflected their hard work and commitment, making it a highly productive and encouraging experience for everyone involved. I am very confident that their exam will be a huge success for all and I am excited to see what they create."

*Mrs Z Millwood, Head of Food, Art & Technology*



## CONNECTION BUS PROJECT



We are delighted to welcome the return of the newly refurbished connections bus project which is due to be back on the school site in March. The connections bus project provides vital youth services across Cambridgeshire. For further details please see [www.connectionsbusproject.org.uk](http://www.connectionsbusproject.org.uk)

# SCHOOL BUSES

Please make your child aware of the bus code of conduct below.

## SCHOOL BUS CODE OF CONDUCT

**Responsibility:** All students are expected to behave in a responsible and courteous manner when travelling on the school buses.

**Rights:** All students have the right to travel to and from school in safety. Any behaviour which distracts the driver is dangerous and will not be tolerated.

**Rules:** All buses have rules. Students travelling on the bus should respect the rules. You must only travel on the bus allocated to you and carry your bus pass at all times. Lost passes for Council-run buses must be replaced at a cost of £8.50 and can be ordered via the online form available [here](#). A temporary pass can be obtained from the school reception, which is valid for one week. Replacement passes for the Royston bus are issued by reception once payment has been received.

The school Code of Conduct applies off the premises during school visits and when travelling to and from school. Students who do not heed our Code of Conduct will be dealt with in accordance with our published behaviour policy. A permanent ban from the buses could apply.

Please remember:

1. Arrive at the bus stop 5 minutes before the scheduled departure time.
2. Wait sensibly at the bus stop
3. If a bus is late in the morning, wait at least 20 mins. If the bus is late at the end of a day, wait in an orderly queue at the front of the school.
4. The school code of conduct applies on the buses.
5. Smoking sanctions apply on the buses, in the same way as they do in school.
6. Stay seated whilst travelling, and wear the seat belt.
7. No eating, drinking or littering.
8. Treat each other with respect.

### Code of Conduct for bus journeys

- We are still at school on the bus, so act in the same way
- Have your bus pass ready to show the driver
- Respect the seats and wear seatbelts where provided
- Be patient with the drivers – they do not decide the route
- Stay in your seat and do not distract the driver
- Think about others (especially when listening to music – not everyone will want to listen)
- Never throw anything
- Obey the instructions of the bus driver and the bus leaders.

