



MELBOURN
VILLAGE COLLEGE

Key Notes

Principal's Newsletter

8th January 2021

An Academy of



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Principal. Simon Holmes

Up and Running

It's been a very busy few days. Before going on to anything else I'd like to thank you all for your support as we have instigated online learning. Many of you are organising your children at home alongside your own work or other commitments; in some cases, a number of children, possibly from a number of schools, all at once. I hope that the new arrangements using the normal school timetable and live teacher input are helping. Please note that we are learning ourselves as we go along and that teaching over Teams is very different to the normal classroom – even something as simple as the fact that we rely on visual feedback from, and interaction with, pupils who we now cannot see. There are also bound to be occasional IT-based 'hiccups' so please bear with us.

If you do have any comments, please pass them to myself sholmes@melbournvc.org or Ms Smith nsmith@melbournvc.org – we'd both like to say a huge thank you for all the positive feedback we have had so far. Teachers have worked hard to adapt their skills and it's reaffirming for them to know that their efforts are appreciated.

Support With Online learning

Whilst online learning on Teams has created a real buzz and it's been lovely to see so many pupils managing to get online and join in with the lessons, we are aware that it's not always that simple. If you do have any problems with remote learning, be it lack of/or misbehaving equipment or any other reason, please email office@melbournvc.org and we can try to help. We are constantly sourcing additional IT equipment to support those in need – indeed we have had some very generous offers of donations for which we are very grateful.

Yr11 Pupils / GCSE results 2021

Amongst all of the other aspects of lockdown the change to the Summer exams will have clear implications for Y11 pupils. Although the picture is still not completely clear, I will be writing to Y11 parents and pupils separately to address this issue.



BTEC Exams

Whilst Summer exams have changed, pupils due to sit their BTEC exams next week in Construction (Y11) and Sports Studies (Y10 & 11) will still have the option to go ahead. All pupils this affects have been contacted. Good luck to all the candidates!

Y11 Post 16 applications

All Y11 pupils have made their post 16 applications with a few finalising them this week! These will now be sent off to Sixth Forms and Colleges in the local area. It is exciting that a number of our Y11s have applied for the Mandarin A level course at Comberton Sixth Form as well as other A level courses, and vocational and creative courses in sport, art, construction and media. Y11 pupils will be able to log in to the Mychoice@16 website to monitor their applications and see if they are called for interview. Interviews will be held by providers online in February/March. Well done Y11 on completing this exciting process!

Mental Health Provision During Lockdown

During this time, pupils will have different experiences of the pandemic. They will also have varying levels of coping skills and resilience in dealing with those experiences. As teachers and parents, we need to have an open mind about what pupils may be going through and how they will be coping.

We are aware of the experiences that pupils went through during the last lock down and the specific challenges that individual pupils, parents, staff and communities experienced. Supporting pupils during the pandemic will draw on many of the skills we use day-to-day to provide emotional and academic advice and guidance. Given that there are many kinds of loss that pupils may experience over the coming months it is likely we will see different kinds of emotional responses. Children and young people will respond in different ways to challenging experiences. The same child may display different responses from day-to-day.

In order to support pupils with their mental health, our counselling service at school will continue to run and will be available to those who require support. Please contact jbarnes@melbournvc.org for more information. Additional support and information can be found through the NSPCC website. www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/

Year 7 Self-isolating Book Club

The Year 7 Book Review website is growing, with some great reviews written over the holiday period. The site includes access to free audiobooks and a recommended reading list. One student read and reviewed 5 books over Christmas. Well done! <https://mvcy7bookguide.wordpress.com/>



Healthy selfie

The PE department are starting the School Games spring term virtual competitions this month by supporting the Healthy Selfie Campaign throughout January to show how to stay active, promote and celebrate healthy lifestyles. We are asking MVC students and staff to share their healthy selfies. This can be anything from walking, running, cycling, home workouts, trampolining in the garden, cooking healthy foods or making healthy snack options. Please email your healthy selfie to Miss Evans at cevans@melbournvc.org.



The poster features a colorful diagonal graphic on the left. At the top right, there are social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, with the hashtag #GoodHealthySelfie below them. The central logo reads 'SCHOOL GAMES' in a blue box, with 'CAMBRIDGE SHIRE & PETERBOROUGH' underneath. Below the logo, the title 'HEALTHY SELFIE' is written in orange. The main text describes the campaign's purpose and provides examples of activities. A blue call-to-action box at the bottom encourages participation. At the very bottom, there are five logos for partner schools: Peterborough, Hunts, Witchford, Cambridge, and South Cambs, each with a colorful figure icon.

SCHOOL GAMES
CAMBRIDGE SHIRE & PETERBOROUGH

HEALTHY SELFIE

The healthy selfie campaign is for schools and families to show how they stay active and promote and celebrate healthy lifestyles.

This can be anything from walking to school, PE lessons, active breaks, trampolining in the garden, active learning, a trip out in nature, cooking healthy foods or making healthy snack options.

This is a great way of sharing ideas, celebrating those big and small healthy choices and inspiring others to be active and eat well.

Staying active and eating well is even more important in the current climate so get involved and share what you are doing! We can't wait to see your healthy selfies!

Peterborough Hunts Witchford Cambridge South Cambs
School Sports Partnership School Sports Partnership School Sports Partnership School Sports Partnership School Sports Partnership



Have a good weekend.



Mr Holmes