

MELBOURN
VILLAGE COLLEGE

Key Notes

Principal's Newsletter

15th January 2021

An Academy of



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Principal. Simon Holmes

First Full Week...

Once again, I'd like to thank you all for your support with helping your children access their online lessons. The engagement has been really good and teachers are working hard to try new techniques and approaches. Thank you for all your observations – we do value them. You may notice a few responses in this newsletter.

Staffing Update

This escaped last week's newsletter – apologies. From the start of this term Mr Kennedy has taken over as the Head of Year 10. As a result, his form group will now have Mr Reynolds as their tutor. We'd like to thank Mr Reynolds for all his hard work as Head of Year over the past few years.

Self-Isolation Update

You may have seen some headlines over the past day or two regarding the 7 day everyday testing alternative to self-isolation. This is an area that our Trust had been pursuing with Local Public Health officials as we felt that it might potentially increase the risk to pupils, staff and families. Advice for schools has now changed and so close contacts will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days as per last year. Parents whose children are attending school at the moment may need to be aware of this newer guidance so they can be prepared for this eventuality. We have had a pupil who had been in school test positive this week – all affected pupils and staff have now been contacted and advised to self-isolate.

Screen Time

Some parents have spoken to us about the amount of screen-time caused by a majority of learning being online and we are looking at ways that we can deal with this. We would like to emphasise to all families that pupils should get up and stretch between lessons, and to do something off-line for the 15 minute break between 11:05am and 11:20am and the half hour at lunchtime from 1:20pm to 1:50pm. We will also be suggesting to staff that they don't set additional homework during lockdown, or that if they do it doesn't involve screen time.



MVC Recipe Book

Mrs Giles is putting together an MVC recipe book and staff have been invited to share a favourite recipe that they often use. This can be anything from a simple quick dinner recipe, dessert, or a lunchtime meal. Look out for lots of menu inspirations to follow!

Technology needed by pupils for learning from home

We are well aware that sharing devices, or trying to access online lessons on phones is not ideal. PCs, Macs, laptops, iPads, Kindle Fires, other tablet devices work much better - although phones may allow a pupil access to view the live lessons, they are not ideal for completing the work. In addition, it's much better if your internet connection is broadband rather than via a mobile phone used as a hotspot (unless the data allowance is large).

To take a full part in lessons, pupils also need to be able to hear the teacher and so speakers or headphones will be needed. To speak during the lesson they will need the device to have a built-in microphone, or a plug-in microphone.

At MVC we know this is a long list and not everyone has access to everything they need. We can help.

- If your child does not have a suitable device for their sole use, please contact the school via this link: [Request to Borrow](#), or email nsmith@melbournvc.org
- If your child would like to borrow a headphone/microphone set (like those used with mobile phones) please use the 'Request to Borrow' link or email address above.

The government has recently created a scheme whereby families who are relying on mobile phone data hotspots for learning may request additional data for free – please contact the school if this would be of assistance to your family. You will need to provide the telephone number, the account holder's name and the name of the provider using this link: [Request for Mobile Data](#), or email nsmith@melbournvc.org

East of England Pistol Shooting Competition

Congratulations to Hannah (9F) who, despite the pandemic and lockdown, has been able to represent Melbourn Village College in the British Shooting Schools Pistol Championships. This is her first year as an intermediate, which means she has to shoot one-handed at a distance of 10 metres. It was a tough competition, but we are proud that she achieved 3rd place. Due to the lockdown, round 2 will not go ahead this year so Hannah will remain in 3rd place for the East of England and receive a medal. Well done!



AudioBooks

The English department will be providing pupils with links to some suitable audiobooks available free from Spotify and Audible. Although not all pupils can sign up for their own accounts (Spotify allows over 13s with parental permission) parents can create accounts, set up parental controls and allow their children to access the stories. We hope this will provide pupils with some curriculum extension alongside a restful activity – many of the stories are read by notable actors and are enjoyable for all the family.



Healthy selfies

It's great to see lots of Healthy Selfies being sent in by active pupils and staff. Please keep these coming throughout January to show how you stay active and celebrate healthy lifestyles during lockdown.

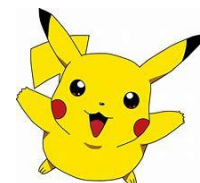
Email your healthy selfie to Miss Evans at cevans@melbournvc.org.



Life Skills

In Ms Smith's year 7 Life Skills lesson this week they talked about finding positive stories in the news and how sometimes laughter can really help. The pupils all told Ms Smith their best jokes and this was Ms Smith's favourite:

Q: How do you get a Pikachu onto a bus? A: You poke him on!



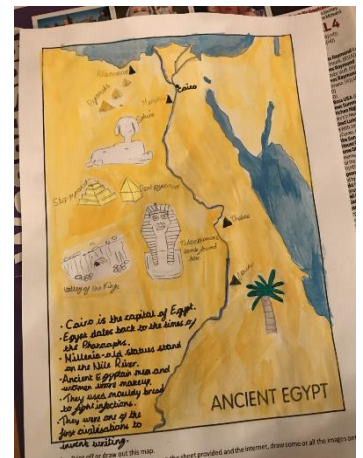
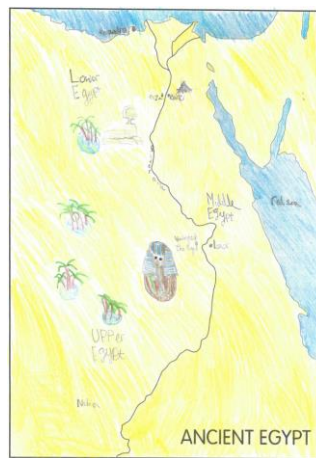
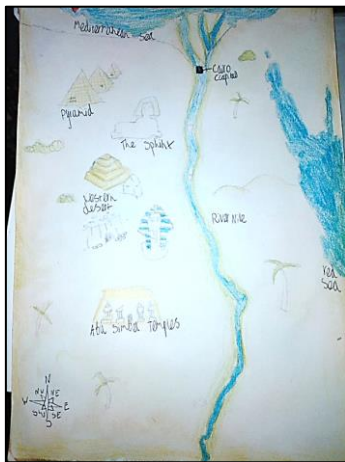
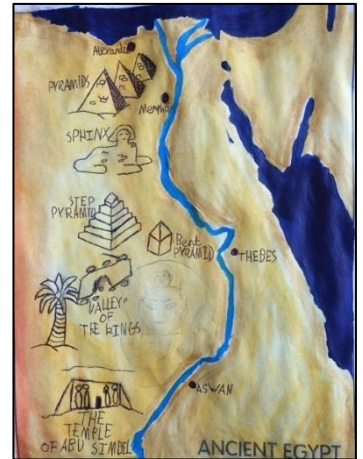
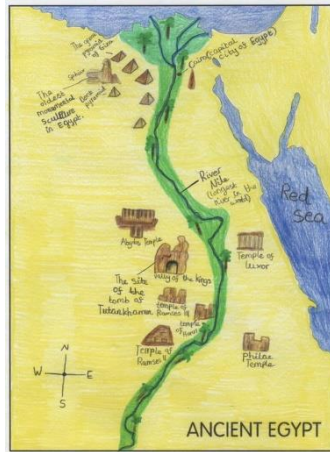
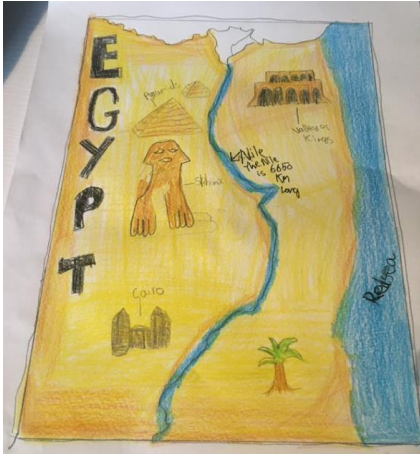
Student showcase: Year 7 Art

Year 7 students have been producing some fantastic Egyptian Maps. Mrs Heeks and Mrs Ward are very impressed. Keep up the great work.

Have a good weekend.

Mr Holmes

Year 7: Egyptian Maps



Egypt – sites and facts

Cairo. Capital city of Egypt. Grand Egypt Museum which will have all the ancient artefacts due to open in 2021 (right)



Valley of the Kings (below). The Valley of the Kings is where many Pharaohs were buried. There are 64 tombs in the valley. A ticket to the valley of the kings allows you to visit three tombs.



The great pyramids of Giza. The Great Pyramid of Giza is the oldest and largest of the three pyramids. It is the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. It is located on the Giza plateau near the modern city of Cairo (below left).



River Nile. The Nile is a major north-flowing river in north-eastern Africa, and is the longest river in Africa about 6,695 kilometres (4,160 miles). The Ancient Egyptians used the river for drinking water, food, trade and transportation. The Egyptian god of the Nile was known as Hapi (middle)

The High Aswan dam was built (1960-1970) to control the yearly flooding of the river. The Dam is 4000m long and 111m tall