

MVC Newsletter



MELBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE

12 SEPT 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we settle into the new school year, I want to take a moment to share just how proud I am of the way our students have returned. The school is full of energy, purpose, and positivity. Students are already showing real commitment to their learning, embracing our core values of kindness and curiosity in their everyday interactions and lessons. It's been especially encouraging to see how enthusiastically they are using their knowledge organisers in class – a real testament to their growing independence and love of learning.

We are also well underway with preparations for some exciting events this term. Our Open Evening on Wednesday 9th October will be a fantastic opportunity to showcase all that makes MVC such a special place to learn. It would be wonderful to have as many students as possible volunteering on the night – acting as tour guides, helping in departments, and being true ambassadors for the school. Their involvement always makes a huge difference and gives prospective families a real sense of our vibrant school community.

Before that, we're looking forward to welcoming our Year 11 families to the Post-16 Information Evening on Monday 23rd September, where students can explore the many pathways available to them after GCSEs.

Another exciting development is the launch of our MVC Futures programme, which is already sparking real interest and ambition among our students. Next week, we will be welcoming our first professional speaker – the beginning of what we hope will be a rich and varied series of encounters with the world of work. If you or someone you know would be interested in supporting this initiative by sharing your professional journey with our students, we would love to hear from you. Please do contact the school – we are always keen to introduce our young people to the breadth of careers and opportunities out there.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Spencer
Principal

KEY DATES

23 September

Post-16 Information Evening
5.30pm - 7.30pm

2 October

Whole School Photography

9 October

Open Evening 5-7pm
School closure at 12.20pm

15 October

Pupil Flu Vaccinations
(session 1)

24 October

Cross Trust Training Day
School closed to students

27 -31 October

Half Term

5 November

Pupil Flu Vaccinations
(session 2)

20 November

Year 11 Parents' Evening
5.00pm- 7.00pm

22 January

Year 7 Parents' Evening
5.00pm- 7.00pm

12 February

Year 9 Parents' Evening
5.00pm- 7.00pm

5 March

Year 8 Parents' Evening
5.00pm- 7.00pm

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On **Wednesday 17th September**, our first speaker will be Caroline, Product Manager at City & Guilds. Caroline brings extensive experience, having previously worked as an EAL Teacher, a College Lecturer, and within the examinations sector before moving into her current role as a Product Manager.

We are very excited to begin this programme and look forward to the opportunities it will provide for our students.

Autumn Term Clubs

- Knitting and Crocheting
- Art club
- GCSE Drama
- Year 11 GCSE Astronomy
- Year 10 Further Maths
- Science Club Year 7-9
- Hockey
- Football
- Netball
- Squash
- Textiles/Sewing
- Minecraft club
- MVC Choir
- MVC Chamber Ensemble
- Spanish for beginners
- Year 11 Chemistry booster
- Year 11 Physics booster
- Year 11 Biology booster
- Year 11 English booster

We are also excited to announce that auditions for our MVC Musical - Annie, will be held this term. Further information coming soon.

A group of approximately 12 students in school uniforms are performing on a stage. They are arranged in two rows, with some standing and some sitting on a low wooden bench. They are holding large, dark-colored songbooks and singing into microphones. The stage has a black backdrop and wooden flooring. The students are wearing dark sweaters over white collared shirts and dark skirts or trousers.

Chromatography Butterflies – KS3 Science Club

Science Club has started with our first task – using chromatography (means colour writing!) to build the colours on butterfly wings. Our Art department will obviously be very jealous of the skills shown in the pictures! Science Club is open to all Key Stage 3 pupils and takes place at 1:30pm every Wednesday in Sc5 with Dr Wilson (and our helpful Science Prefects!)

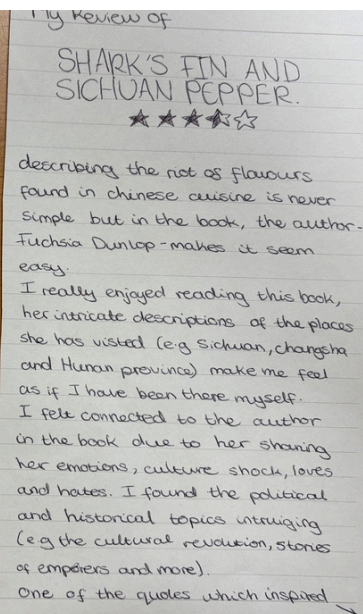
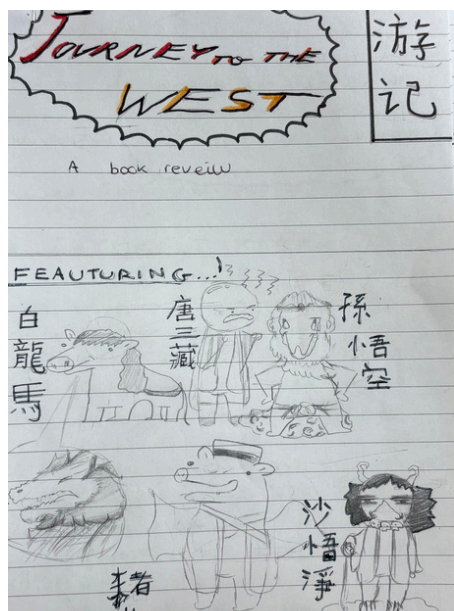
Dr Wilson

Head of Science



Summer Holidays Mandarin Challenge

Over the summer holiday, Miss Ni set an exciting Mandarin challenge for Year 8 pupils, by encouraging them to read a Chinese book, watch a Chinese film, and maintain or begin a Duolingo streak to practise their Mandarin skills. We are thrilled to celebrate the achievements of two outstanding pupils who successfully completed the challenge: Isobel K read Shark's Fin and Sichuan Pepper, reached an impressive 959-day Duolingo streak, and watched the film Once Upon a Time in China. Florence B read the classic novel Journey to the West and created a review booklet showcasing her reflections and insights, demonstrating how much she enjoyed the book. She also continued her remarkable Duolingo streak of 608 days. Both pupils clearly enjoyed their reading and film experiences, showing dedication and enthusiasm for learning Mandarin over the summer. Congratulations to Isobel and Florence for their hard work and impressive achievements!



Inspiring Young People

We are delighted to hear stories of our student success outside of school. Our students showcase our new values of kindness, curiosity and resilience.

My name is Oleh and this is my story about a passion of mine - Kayaking. My story began when I was 11 years old and living in Ukraine. Despite only being 11 years old, I trained persistently every day, and over time, Kayaking was not just a hobby but the meaning of my life. During the school holidays, I would train twice a day once in the morning and again in the evening, and this equated to around 4 hours a day. Even during the air raid sirens, I did not give up and I kept going, because no war can break someone's dream unless it takes their life. A year passed, and in 2023 I had my first regional championship, but I did not win, and I was ready to give up and forget about this sport because I thought that I had no chance of ever winning. The next day I did not show up for my training, and my coach called me, "Oleh, where are you? I didn't see you at training today, what is the reason?" I replied: "I don't want to do this anymore because I failed." He told me: "You lost the battle, but not the war" Those words brought me back. I started training again twice a day during holidays and once a day during school term time. In the winter I trained even in the cold, wearing a spray deck on the kayak.

In Spring 2024, I entered my second regional championship:

- 1st place — 1000m
- 1st place — 200m
- 2nd place — 500m



Thanks to my results, I qualified for the National Championship of Ukraine and became the National Champion in the K4 (boys born 2010–2011). My coach, my parents, and I were all very proud. But then I had to leave Ukraine because of the war and the danger to life. I moved to the UK and continued my studies at Melbourn Village College. I adapted to school life, but I had no time for kayaking. I joined the Bishop's Stortford Canoe Club. This was not close to where I live but I managed to train there twice a week. My first competition in the UK took place in Nottingham and I won first place in the Boys D, then in Boys C.

One day there was a race categorised by age groups, and I was approached by athletes from the U18 category who invited me to join their K4. I agreed, as it was a chance to compete with the strongest boys in the country, even though I was only U16. Our K4 managed to win a medal, 3rd place in the 500m at the official British Championship. In this sport, only persistence and faith in yourself matters to the very end. Even when it seems pointless to continue there is always a meaning if you believe and know you will succeed.

Listed below are my Uk competition results:

Marathons:

- Bedford div 5 (12.8 km) — 2nd place
 - Leighton Buzzard div 4 K2 (20 km) — 2nd place
 - Bishop's Stortford div 4 K2 (20km)— 1st place
- Sprint (Nottingham):
- K4 U18 boys (500m) — 3rd place
 - K1 boys D (200m) — 2nd place
 - K1 boys D (2000m) — 2nd place
 - K2 boys C (500m) — 1st place

Thank you for reading this
Oleh



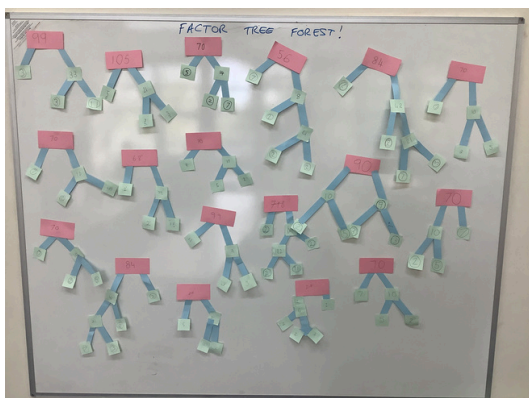
Start of Term – an update from the Maths Department



It has been an exciting fortnight in the Maths department at Melbourn Village College. We have been excited to welcome students back and immediately dive into some great work on the current topic “Number”.

We welcomed new teachers to the department last week. Mrs Mallet, who is the Director of Maths for the CAM Academy Trust, is teaching students and brings a wealth of experience for making Maths engaging and exciting having most recently worked at the Cambridge Maths School. We also welcomed Mr Stafford and Mr Pritchard to our Maths team. Mr Pritchard is also teaching “Further Maths” to Year 10 after school on a Wednesday. This week the Further Maths group covered vectors and an introduction to matrices.

Maths teachers have been using our new mini white boards with students in lessons, which allows teachers to quickly assess student understanding of the key Maths being covered.



Mr Willder

Assistant Principal (Head of Maths)

Maths homework

On a more practical point, Sparx Maths will be launched with students from next week, with homework due in every Wednesday. Sparx Maths is an online platform where teachers set students questions on their current topic and generic revision questions. There are help videos available for questions too. Students are expected to complete this every week, with feedback given in lessons. Students will shortly be given their knowledge organisers for Maths too. These link to Sparx Maths and to a revision guide that we recommend all students purchase. Parents will be sent a separate letter on this.

MVC Futures pledges

This week, to acknowledge National Food Bank Day, we asked students to bring in a donation for the food bank. A huge thank you for your kindness and generous support of the Melbourn Food Bank. We'll be making a delivery to them this Monday, and we are so grateful to everyone who contributed. Your generosity will go a long way in supporting local families. For our students, this collection also marked an important milestone in their MVC Futures journey.



Each donation has counted towards their first pledge, now proudly signed off in their MVC Futures booklets. This small but meaningful step reflects the values we aim to nurture—kindness, curiosity, and resilience. This is just the beginning. Over the coming weeks and months, students will have more opportunities to complete pledges, develop new skills, and contribute positively both inside and outside of school supporting their personal development journey.

Exciting News: Breakfast Club Launches at MVC

Starting Monday 15th September 2025, Melbourn Village College is launching a brand new Breakfast Club open to all students! Come kick-start your day with a nutritious breakfast, friendly faces, and fun games to help you settle into school life. Whether you're looking to socialise, relax, or simply enjoy a bite before lessons, this is the perfect way to begin your morning. There's a voluntary contribution of just £1 for the half term via ParentPay. Don't miss out—join the buzz before the bell!



E-Scooter safety

We would like to remind all families of the current UK law regarding electric scooters (e-scooters) and the serious safety concerns associated with their use. As of 2025, privately owned e-scooters are illegal to ride on public roads, pavements, cycle lanes, and parks in the UK. They are classified as “powered transporters” under the Road Traffic Act 1988, meaning they require insurance, tax, and registration—none of which are currently possible for private e-scooters. Only government-approved rental e-scooters may be used in designated trial zones, and even then, riders must hold a valid driving licence and follow strict safety rules.

We have received direct instruction from the police that:

- Any e-scooter brought onto the school site will be confiscated and not returned.
- The school is to report all incidents directly to the police.
- Riders may face prosecution, fines, and penalty points.

This is part of a wider enforcement campaign aimed at protecting young people and the public from the risks associated with illegal e-scooter use.

Mrs Edwards
Vice Principal

Melbourn Village College Open Evening

Join us to explore our vibrant school community

Mrs Rachel Spencer
Principal



9 October 2025 @ 5:00-7:00 P.M.

PRINCIPAL PRESENTATION @ 6:00 P.M.