

# MVC Newsletter



MELBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE

19 SEPT 2025

It has been a fantastic week at MVC, and I would like to thank everyone for the continued enthusiasm and engagement across all areas of school life. We are especially excited as we begin planning for our Post-16 Information Evening, taking place next week. This is an important event for our Year 11 students as they begin to consider their next steps, and we look forward to welcoming families to explore the wide range of opportunities available after GCSEs.

This week also marked the start of our MVC Futures talks, which got off to a brilliant start. These talks are a key part of our careers education offer, and it was inspiring to see students engaging thoughtfully with our guest speakers. A reminder to all families that information about MVC Futures talks—as well as clubs and other enrichment opportunities—is shared via the My Child at School (MCAS) app. Please ensure this app is downloaded and notifications are enabled so your child doesn't miss out on valuable opportunities.

It has also been a real pleasure speaking with students this week about their MCF Futures pledges – our students are demonstrating a range of ways they showcase our values from curiosity around stocks and shares to resilience winning tennis tournaments! These conversations are a wonderful reminder of how we can all work together to support each student in achieving their goals and making the most of their time at MVC.

I also thoroughly enjoyed popping into choir practice this week. The energy and enthusiasm were fantastic, and it's clear that rehearsals will soon be in full swing for our much-anticipated Christmas Concert—a highlight of the school calendar that we're all looking forward to.

Finally, as we look ahead, we are beginning to review our school branding to bring it more closely in line with the CAM Academy Trust. As part of this process, we would really value your thoughts. Please take a few minutes to share your views by completing the parent survey linked in this newsletter.

Thank you, as always, 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

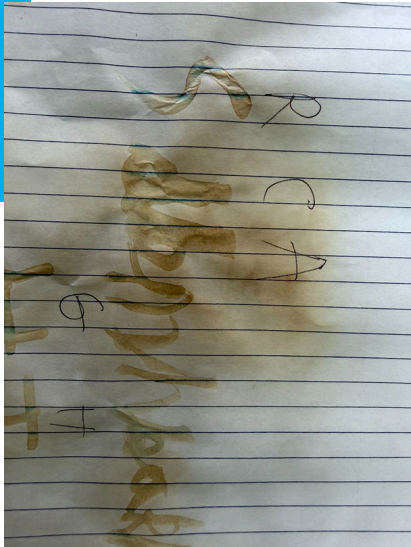
### 5 March

Year 8 Parents' Evening  
5.00pm- 7.00pm



## Science Club

Science Club turned into spies this week, writing messages using a Caesar cypher in lemon juice! We then used flame, CAREFULLY, to develop and decode our messages. Unfortunately, as you can see, some messages will never be read, as they went up in smoke!



## Maths Department News

In maths, students are coming towards the end of the topic “Number” and will be moving on to “Algebra”. To support students with their understanding of negative numbers (especially in Year 7), some teachers have been using double sided counters, where the red side is negative and the yellow side is positive. Putting one red side and one yellow side beside each other creates what we call a “zero pair”, with the net value being zero! This then allows students to add positive (yellow counter) or negative numbers (red counter), create more zero pairs to help them visualise how negative numbers work (it supports going beyond “two negatives make a positive” which some parents may remember from their school days!).

Students will receive their knowledge organisers for maths next week (they will have an A4 one to put in their knowledge organiser folder and one to stick in to their class book). These are essential tools for students to see the topics and content of what they are studying this term, as well as having Sparx Maths reference codes for further practice questions on particular areas. We will be introducing Maths revision guides to students and to parents with opportunities to buy them in the coming weeks. Students are expected to refer to their knowledge organiser for support in lessons and with homework.

Sparx Maths homework has been set and is due in every Wednesday. For Key Stage 3 classes, students have 30 minutes of homework and for Key Stage 4 classes they have 60 minutes. Students are expected to complete this each week and teachers are able to support students with areas they struggled with in lessons. The Microsoft single sign on can be used to access Sparx (<https://www.sparxmaths.uk/>).

Mr Willder  
Assistant Principal (Head of Maths)

## 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.

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September, Royston Tennis held a club doubles tournament. This is the Tennis club in which Ellie trains and coaches.

Ellie played in the ladies doubles with her friend Romy and in the mixed doubles with her coach Matt. Ellie went on to win both. In the ladies doubles they won the final 4-1, 4-0 and in the mixed doubles the final was strongly fought, with Ellie and Matt losing the 1st set 3-4, winning the next set 4-1 then going on to win the final set tie-break 16-14.

Ellie and Matt had to stay focused to overcome their opponents. Ellie also won the Royston Ladies Singles title in July, making her the first person to hold all 3 titles at the same time. Ellie regularly plays for the Royston ladies 1st team and the mixed 1st team, playing in the Cambridge league, and helped them get into division 1.



## 'Jeans for Genes' Day

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September, students noticed that staff members were wearing jeans instead of their usual work clothes. For the students who were curious enough to ask why, they were already demonstrating one of our new school values: curiosity. The answer was, staff members were taking part in 'Jeans for Genes' Day, a nationwide initiative that raises awareness and funds for children living with genetic conditions. By wearing jeans and making a donation, our staff joined thousands of people across the country in supporting vital research and services that help affected children and their families. This event was a simple but powerful way to show our community that small actions can make a big difference. We hope that it also encouraged our students to see how curiosity can lead to greater understanding of the world around them.

Mrs Elvin  
Assistant Principal



### **This week marked the launch of our first MVC Futures talk—an exciting start to the series!**

This week we heard about Caroline's journey into her career as an exam board – Director of Product, overseeing product design of exams and qualifications. Caroline shared some interesting information about the different courses that colleges she can offer and how her team create these qualifications. She gave some good advice on how to succeed and be successful in the workplace. We will be offering new talks every week hoping to inspire and inform out students about life beyond MVC.

We ask for parents to work in partnership with us on MVC Futures by checking your child's booklet to sign off pledges and use the MCAS app to sign up to MVC Futures talks.



### **Macmillan Coffee Morning Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September, we will be holding a Macmillan Coffee morning. If you would like to donate a cake, please ask your child to bring it to the food room before school. We will be selling cakes to students at break time – please send you child with cash only.

We are really excited about holding our 2<sup>nd</sup> charity event of the year.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Elvin  
Assistant Principal

## Attendance Matters

Why does it matter so much, because the link between attendance and achievement is clear. Recent data shows that Year 11 pupils with near-perfect attendance are almost twice as likely to achieve a grade 5 or above in English and Maths compared to those attending just 90–95% of the time. Let's put that into perspective: missing just 10 extra days across the school year can reduce the chances of hitting those key grades by around 50%. That's a huge impact for what might seem like just a few days.

We understand that achieving 100% attendance is difficult — life happens. But aiming for 95% or higher should be the goal for every student. Every day in school matters. Every lesson counts.

### What you can do:

If you're feeling unwell or can't attend for another reason, a parent or carer should call the school or email [absence@melbournvc.org](mailto:absence@melbournvc.org) **before 8am** with your child's name and the reason for absence. Appointments (like the dentist or doctor) should ideally be made outside school hours. If that's not possible, please provide evidence of the appointment and where possible, let us know in advance. Let's make every school day count.

If your attendance is..	95%	90%	85%
You will have missed....	10 days	4 weeks	6 weeks
Which means you have missed ... of learning	50 hours	100 hours	150 hours

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## Post-16 Information Evening - Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

Year 11 parents should have received a letter last week about our Post-16 evening on the 23rd September from 5.30-7.30pm.

The information evening will focus on your child's next steps, outline the application process and give parents and students the opportunity to meet with staff from local colleges and sixth forms centres.

We ask that all parents and students in Year 11 attend, the evening as it is a valuable opportunity to access further information post-16 and gain advice in regards to the different options available to your child.

Mr Barlow  
Head of Key Stage 4

## Uniform Consultation - We would like your views

As part of our commitment to working in partnership with our school community, we are inviting parents, carers, and staff to take part in a short consultation about our current school uniform.

The aim is to gather feedback on how the uniform is working in practice and to understand any thoughts or suggestions you may have for the future.

Please be reassured that no imminent changes will be made to the uniform.

We would be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the survey by clicking the link below:

👉 <https://forms.office.com/e/38TmzF8zFn>

## Year 10 and 11 GCSE English essential texts

A reminder that all students must have their own copies of the following texts and bring them into English lessons:

Macbeth – Oxford School Shakespeare – William Shakespeare

A Christmas Carol – Annotation Friendly – Charles Dickens

An Inspector Calls – Penguin Modern Classics – JB Priestley

Thank you for your support with this to ensure students have the correct equipment for their English GCSE.

If you are unable to purchase a copy and your child is in receipt of free school meals please contact Mrs Hallam.

Your paragraph text

# 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.

We are delighted to invite prospective pupils and parents to our Open Evening on Thursday 9th October 2025. We will open at 5pm until 7pm with the Principal's speech taking place at 6pm. To register your attendance at our Open Evening, [the booking form can be found here](#).

## In School Sessions

In addition to our Open Evening, we are offering School in Session tours for small groups of families on the mornings of Monday 13th October and Wednesday 15th October. Please note that places are limited and will be confirmed via email. To request a place on a school in session tour please complete [the booking form here](#). If you have any queries, please email the Principal's PA on [lyoung@melbournvc.org](mailto:lyoung@melbournvc.org).