

MVC Newsletter



MELBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the Christmas break, the MVC calendar has become increasingly enriched with a wide variety of activities, educational visits, and festive learning experiences. It has been a pleasure to see our students embrace this vibrant period of the school year with such curiosity, resilience, and kindness.

I was particularly pleased to receive exceptionally positive feedback following the Year 7 Pantomime trip. Staff commented on the students' exemplary pride and behaviour throughout the visit. Year 11's will be out on a rewards trip on the final day of the term and our Year 9 students had a surprise reward of a Christmas film to acknowledge their excellent attendance as a year group.

This week also marked the launch of our 12 days of Christmas Activities Programme. Each day reveals a new Christmas-themed experience designed to spark curiosity, promote collaboration, and cultivate a warm sense of community across the school in the run up to Christmas.

On Thursday we were delighted to welcome Amjad Ali, a nationally recognised SEND expert specialising in inclusive education. Amjad delivered an inspiring and insightful training sessions to our teachers and teaching assistants, focusing on practical strategies that strengthen inclusive practice. His expertise and guidance have further enhanced our commitment to ensuring that every student at MVC feels supported, valued, and empowered to succeed.

Looking ahead, on Monday we are pleased to be welcoming David Thomas OBE, CEO of Axiom Maths. David will be spending the morning in our Maths department, providing expert input that will contribute significantly to our ongoing programme of professional development. We look forward to the valuable insights he will bring to our teaching and learning community.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Mrs Spencer
Principal

5 DECEMBER 2025

KEY DATES

9 December

- Under 16's National Cup Football

10 December

- Pentathlon Foundation Swimming Gala
- Maths Inspiration Year 11 students

11 December

- District Cros Country Event
- Awards Evening (invite only) 6.00pm-8.00pm

11- 12 December

- Spanish Trip

16 December

- GCSE Astronomy Observing Evening

17 December

- Christmas Lunch

18 December

- MVC Christmas Concert 7.00pm - 9.00pm

19 December

- Year 11 End of Term Trip
- Term Ends at 1.00pm

15 January

- Drama Trip to Cambridge Arts Theatre 12.00pm - 7.00pm

22 January

- Year 7 Parents' Evening 5.00pm- 7.00pm



LTA Young Person of the Year



We are thrilled to share the wonderful news that Ellie has been nominated for the LTA Young Person of the Year Award by both the Herts tournament organisers at Gosling Sports Centre and her coach at Royston.

This nomination is a fantastic recognition of her enthusiasm, commitment, and the valuable contributions she makes through volunteering at tournaments. The award process begins at the Hertfordshire county level, and if successful, she will go on to the national stage. Although the results will not be announced until February/March, being nominated is already an outstanding achievement.

We are incredibly proud of Ellie and the dedication, positivity, and determination she brings to both her schoolwork and her tennis. We remain full of optimism and eagerly look forward to hearing the outcome of her nomination.

Mr Tobutt
Teacher of History

Year 7's Pantomime Trip



On Tuesday 2nd December the Year 7 students embarked on a school trip to the theatre to see Dick Withington.

We would like to say a big thank you to the staff at both Meldreth and Stevenage train station who went above and beyond their role to support our students by ensuring they boarded and disembarked the train safely.

Mrs Coghlan
Head of Key Stage 3

"We went to see Dick Withington. It was amazing. There were bubbles, confetti, fire and amazing actors. They also got children to go up onto the stage and sing a song. 'I thought it was fun, the characters were funny, I also like the cat - Mr General Munchkin Man. Here are some songs we sang YMCA, Ray, Pink Pony Club and Golden. My favourite character was the cat, as they performed lots of gymnastic moves."

We went on the train to Stevenage, it was nice to see the countryside as we went. There were 100 pupils and everyone was really well behaved and loved it".

Year 7 student

Congratulations to MVC Award-Winning Students



We are delighted to share the wonderful news that two of our MVC Students proudly represented our school in the Final of the 4th UK English–Chinese Bilingual Recitation Competition, held on Sunday, 30 November 2025, at the Djam Lecture Theatre, SOAS University of London.

As a major annual event celebrating bilingual education, the competition encourages young people aged 5–18 to express themselves confidently through bilingual recitation and to appreciate the beauty and power of language on stage. Both students composed their own original Chinese and English poems and delivered outstanding performances that showcased their confidence, creativity, and deep appreciation of both languages and cultures.

Congratulations to our award-winning pupils:

Eliana – Third Prize Winner

Eliana impressed the judges with her thoughtful original poems and poised stage presence, earning a well-deserved Third Prize in this highly competitive national event.

Florence – Appreciation Award

Florence's dedication and heartfelt bilingual performance earned her an Appreciation Award, recognising her enthusiasm, hard work, and growing mastery of bilingual communication.

We are incredibly proud of both students for their commitment, courage, and passion for language learning. Their achievements highlight the strength of our school's Chinese curriculum and the increasing enthusiasm for bilingual education within our community.

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who supported them throughout their preparation. We look forward to seeing even more students take part in future cultural and language events!

Miss Ni

Teacher of Mandarin

GCSE Students Explore Coast and Community



On Thursday 27th November our GCSE Geography fieldwork trip to Southwold was an outstanding opportunity for students to engage directly with both coastal processes and the human geography of a dynamic seaside community.

On the beach, students carried out practical investigations of longshore drift, using oranges to track the movement of sediment along the shore. This simple but effective activity brought coastal geomorphology to life, helping students clearly see how waves shape the coastline and why management techniques such as groynes are essential.

In the town, students conducted a structured enquiry into the impact of second-home ownership. By surveying a variety of streets and analysing local land-use patterns, they explored how holiday homes can influence housing affordability, local services, and the seasonal rhythm of life in Southwold.

The fieldwork experience not only strengthened students' geographical understanding but also enhanced their enquiry, observation, and analytical skills. It was a highly productive day, rounded off with the essential seaside tradition of Fish'n'Chips.

The students were exemplary throughout, a point warmly emphasised by Chris Webster, owner of the Southwold Geography Fieldwork Centre, who praised their engagement, curiosity and conduct.

Mr Barnes
Teacher of Geography



Year 11 Chemists Create Colourful Chemistry in Anion Testing Lesson



Year 11 students showcased impressive practical skills this week as they carried out anion tests, an essential part of their GCSE Chemistry course.

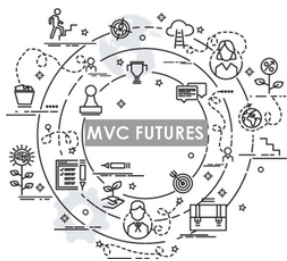
Anions—negatively charged ions such as carbonates, sulphates and halides—produce characteristic reactions, and pupils were able to observe this first-hand as they generated a series of clear, well-formed precipitates. Their careful technique and confident analysis made for an excellent lesson and a strong step toward exam success.

Key Stage 3 Science Club: The Shipwrecked Challenge



On Wednesday 3rd December the students who attended the Key Stage 3 Science Club were transported to a fictional desert island, where they faced the challenge of creating their own navigation device using only limited resources.

Through creativity and teamwork the students applied problem-solving skills to “survive” their shipwreck scenario—an exciting mix of science, imagination and real-world application.



MVC Futures Assembly for Year 10 and 11

Exploring NHS Pathways and Apprenticeships

On Friday 28th November, our Year 10 and Year 11 students took part in a highly informative careers assembly exploring the wide range of roles within the NHS and the growing number of apprenticeship opportunities available to young people. The talk was delivered by Julia, whose insight gave students a clear understanding of how varied and accessible NHS careers can be.

Julia began by explaining the different qualification routes open to students after Year 11, including T Levels, Level 3 apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships. She outlined how each pathway works, the type of learning involved, and the NHS careers they can lead to.

A key message in her talk was the importance of choosing the right A-level subjects, particularly for those considering competitive university courses such as medicine, dentistry or allied health professions. She highlighted that while certain subjects are essential for medical careers, many NHS roles do not require them, offering students plenty of flexibility depending on their interests. Julia also broadened students' understanding of the NHS workforce, explaining that the NHS is one of the largest employers in Europe, offering over 350 different roles. She emphasised that apprenticeships provide entry points into both clinical and non-clinical careers.

While many students were already familiar with nursing and care roles, they were surprised to learn just how many other professions can be accessed through an apprenticeship, including:

- Radiography and imaging roles
- Operating department practitioners (theatre practitioners)
- Midwifery support roles
- Pharmacy technician apprenticeships
- Healthcare science apprenticeships, ranging from pathology labs to cardiac physiology

She also highlighted the large number of non-patient-facing roles that are equally vital to the running of the NHS, such as:

- Administration
- HR and business management
- Finance and payroll
- Digital, IT and data services
- Communications and marketing
- Legal services and compliance

Students gained a real sense of how the NHS functions as an organisation, with opportunities suited to every skill set—from science and technology to business, customer service and creative work. Julia also explained the benefits of apprenticeships, including earning a salary while studying, gaining practical experience and achieving recognised qualifications without university debts. She also noted that Melbourn's proximity to several major, well-known hospitals provides our students with exceptional opportunities right on their doorstep.

Next week's talk will be delivered by Molly Morgan-Jones. A Scientist at the British Academy. Please sign your child up for this talk using the MCAS app.

Mrs Elvin
Assistant Principal

Melbourn Christmas Calendar

Over the next 12 school days, students will be taking part in our festive Advent Activities programme. Each day, a new door on our Advent Calendar will be opened, revealing a different Christmas-themed event. From film clubs and art activities to science experiments and English writing competitions, there is something for everyone to enjoy.



Students will receive a raffle ticket for every event they participate in. These tickets will go into a prize draw taking place on the final day of term. **Please note:** Students must be in school on the last day of term to receive any prizes. If a winner is absent, a new name will be drawn.

Students should take their raffle tickets to the library at break or lunchtime and place them in their year-group box. Staff will also be awarding bonus tickets to students who demonstrate our core values—kindness, curiosity, and resilience—either in lessons or around school. These additional tickets will also go into the prize draw.

Alongside individual prizes, there will be tutor group activities throughout the festive period. These challenges will contribute to tutor group prizes and the honour of being crowned the best form of the season.

- **Christmas Jumper Day – 18th December**

Students are invited to wear a Christmas jumper on 18th December. This is completely optional, and we will not be collecting money—just encouraging some festive cheer.

We look forward to a fun and engaging run-up to the holiday season and hope all students enjoy the festive activities!

Mrs Elvin
Assistant Principal

Melbourn Village College - Christmas Concert



Thursday 18 December 2025 - 7.00pm in the Main Hall

Celebrating Christmas with musical performances featuring MVC Choir, Chamber Ensemble, Year 11 Band and more

TICKETS: £3 (Adult) £2 (Concession). Available via ParentPay or cash payment on the evening
Come along and invite friends!

Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 17th December



Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to encourage every child to enjoy our Christmas lunch on Wednesday 17th December and will be co-ordinating the day to allow tutor groups to eat together.

If you would like your child to enjoy a lovely festive lunch on Wednesday the 17th December please can I ask that you pay the amount of £3.00 via parent pay by **Monday 8th December** at the very latest.

For students in receipt of Free School Meals, parents/ carers are not required to book a lunch as this has already be catered for and MVC are fully funding this.

Please Note:

No other food will be available to the students at break or lunchtime on this day. Only children who have pre-booked and pre-paid will be served a Christmas lunch.

Friday 19th December - School Term Ends at 1.00pm

As a reminder that MVC will close at 1pm on Friday 19th December for the Christmas holidays.

All school bus companies have been informed and will collect students from school at 1pm. For any students who take public transport (including the public Royston bus) please be aware of this so that you can make alternative arrangements. Mr French has contacted the taxi company's for Cabin students who use this service. These students will also be collected at 1.00pm.

There will be no lunch service on this day. However, if your child receives free school meals and you would like them to collect a packed lunch before they leave school, please indicate on link below before Friday 12th December to enable our catering team to arrange this provision.

<https://forms.office.com/e/ftXRkjMLSf>

Please also note that the school will be closed over the holiday period, and emails may not receive a response during this time.

Year 11 Mocks Examinations

Monday 26th January - Friday 5th February 2026

Year 11s will be sitting their full set of mocks between Monday 26th January and Friday 5th February.

A full mock timetable will be shared with students and parents before the Christmas break, but students will be sitting a paper for all their core and options subjects and should expect to sit two subject papers on some days.

Class teachers will be sharing revision information with students in the upcoming weeks. Access arrangement information will also be updated, following the core mocks in November, and will be distributed to those students in receipt of them.

Ms Cooke
Associate Assistant Principal



Important Notice - Lost Property

We have lots of unnamed lost property – From Monday 8th December it will be in the Key Stage 3 area which will be open for collection at breaktimes.

Any remaining property after 12th December will go to charity.



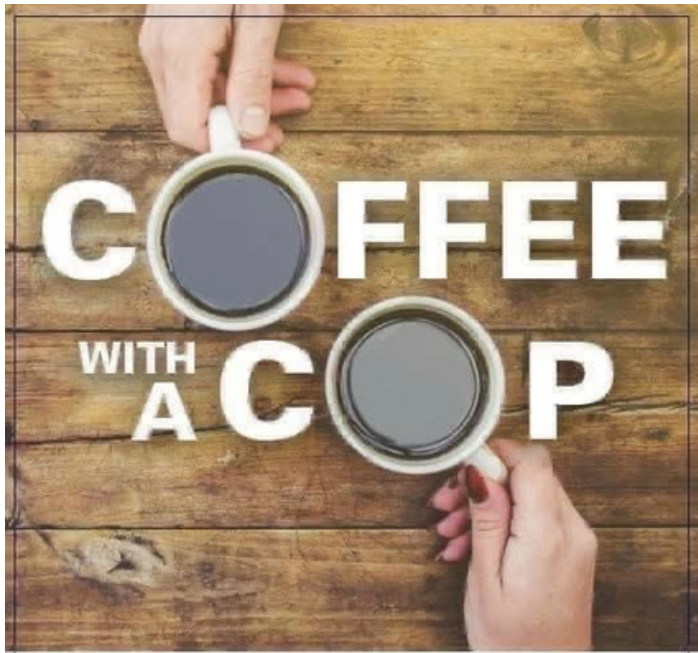
This week during tutor time we have been looking at the risks of vaping, and all students have watched a video provided by healthy schools to explore this issue.

Next week we will be holding workshops with the students who are interested. The aim is to help the students gain an understanding of the vaping risks and offer support where they may have concerns.

If you would like your child to attend a workshop, which are being delivered by Jess from Healthy Schools. Please email Mrs Elvin to confirm your child's attendance - EElvin@melbournvc.org

Mrs Elvin
Assistant Vice Principal

MVC Community News



The Hub

We are excited to announce that our next 'Coffee with a Cop' will be on Tuesday 9th December'.

Please see below for further details which can be found on our Facebook page.

[Coffee with a Cop](#)

 **FORM THE FUTURE**
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CAMBRIDGE
PARTNERSHIP**



INSIGHTS INTO... THE WORKPLACE

Tuesday 13 January 2026 | 5:30pm - 6:30pm

**FREE WEBINAR AIMED AT PARENTS AND CARERS
(AND THEIR YOUNG PEOPLE) WHICH WILL COVER:**

- The most common skills and abilities that employers are looking for
- How young people can develop and demonstrate these skills
- How you can help and support your child/ren to develop these skills to prepare them to write successful job applications.



This webinar is part of a series of Insights delivered by Form the Future – you can find out more about the upcoming editions and watch previous recordings by visiting our website. See the link below.

[Form the Future](#)