

MVC NEWS



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Chinese Exchange is a First — Page 5

Youngsters share views

Year 7 students have been discussing the hot topics of the day including the debate over the US/Mexico border, freedom of the Press, the environment, voting rights for 16-year-olds, crime and policing and Britain's relationship with the European Union.

Mrs Gunner, Head of Citizenship, has commented that "our current Year 7 students are very interesting to listen to as they want to discuss the big issues and provide a fascinating insight into how they view the world of politics."

As part of our programme we were very pleased to welcome Councillor Susan van de Ven to our class this term where she sat in on a lesson, discussed the ideas students had about education, the local priorities for the area and what students thought about current affairs, Parliament and the media. She said: "It was easily the highlight of my week! The vibrant and thoughtful students I met in Mr Tobutt's Citizenship Class had plenty to say about their role in society, as well as current affairs not just in the UK, but around the world."

"Almost everyone in the class was in favour

of bringing the voting age down to 16 — 'In a few years we'll be living with the consequences of decisions taken now.' A small handful were against — 'At 18, I'll be more independent minded and not so likely to take the same views as my parents.'

"Where do they get their news, I asked? BBC Radio at breakfast time or in the car, BBC and Guardian app (they're free), listening to their parents. No social media for news. Do you trust social media? 'No!' "It turned out these students were only 11-12 years old; I'd had them pegged as closer to 16, judging from their discussions about what drives people to criminality, should 97-year-old Dukes who don't use seatbelts be allowed to drive, key dangers of a No-Deal Brexit (hard border in Ireland), Trump and The Wall. "Most comments on local issues were around enthusiasm for the A10 cycle network and the need to extend it — this wasn't me asking, but them putting it out there. Spurs from Shepreth to Barrington and Melbourn to Fowlmere would, they explained, fill in gaps and make them more independent. "I'm looking forward to my next visit, but will have some homework to do beforehand!"



DISCUSSION: Councillor Susan van de Ven meets Year 7 students.

Focus on wellbeing

Students in Years 8 and 9 have been taking part in a national survey.

They are involved in a three-year project being run by a group of universities, measuring wellbeing in schools. Last year students in Years 7 and 9 took part in Headstart. Those who were in Year 7 will be followed through to Year 9 for continuity but the study also has a Year 9 group as standard.

The anonymous online survey asks questions about how children feel about their school, friends and themselves. The research aims to gain a better understanding of young people's wellbeing and will help schools better support their students' wellbeing.



HANDOVER: Shepreth staff take delivery of the hedgehog release boxes.

Project provides aid for hedgehogs

Conservationists at the hedgehog hospital in Shepreth were thrilled to receive 47 release boxes made by students at Melbourn Village College.

The boxes were made in pairs by Year 9 students at the college after being designed on 3D software.

The annual build is part of the college's technology curriculum which requires a project that helps the environment.

Melbourn Principal Simon Holmes said: "We are delighted to help the hedgehog hospital on an annual basis as part of our involvement with our local community."

Rebecca Willers, of the Shepreth Wildlife Conservation Charity, which runs the hospital, said: "The boxes will certainly be put to very good use when we release all our Autumn juveniles back into the wild."

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New chair for Trust

The Cam Academy Trust has a new Chair of the Board.

Sue Williamson has taken over as Chair of the Trust. Sue was already a trustee and is Chair of the Local Governing Body at Melbourn Village College.

She has been the Chief Executive of The Schools, Students and Teachers Network (SSAT) for a number of years and lives locally.

Given her work with the SSAT, Sue is extremely well placed to help to guide our Trust in the next phase of its development.

She has excellent knowledge and understanding of the school system and has visited very many schools across the country (and indeed overseas). We are very pleased to be able to benefit from Sue's leadership of our Trust moving forward from here.

Dr Gordon Johnson was the original Chair of the Trust from when it started in February 2011 until he stepped down.

Everyone involved in all our schools owe Gordon a great debt of gratitude for all of his great, pioneering work that has enabled the Trust to get to where it is today.



NEW ROLE: For Sue Williamson.

Primary is to join us

The Trust is set to have another school join in the relatively near future. As always with such potential developments, there is much process that is required before the move takes place. However, the intention is that Offord Primary School should join and this has been agreed by the Headteacher Board of the Regional Schools Commissioner's Office.

Offord is a relatively small primary school located near Huntingdon and fits within our Trust's clearly stated aim of being local and enabling close collaboration between our schools. There are already several primary phase Trust schools in the area (as well as St Peter's Secondary School) and Offord will further strengthen the close working already in existence there as well as across the whole Trust.



WELCOME: Gamlingay Headteacher Shelley Desborough greets pupils and parents on the first day at the new site.

Gamlingay delight at site switch

Gamlingay Village Primary moved into its new premises at the start of this term.

For the best part of a year, the former Village College site on Station Rd was refurbished and redesigned to make it a really great facility for a good-sized Primary School.

The extensive work was completed late in 2018 and the whole school transferred from the First School site in Green End to much larger premises for the Spring term.

Everyone at the school is delighted with the space and the opportunities provided by the new site. The official

opening ceremony has been set for Friday 21 June when there will be a celebration of the significant journey that has enabled Gamlingay Village Primary to come into existence and operate in its new premises. The school's position has been further strengthened following an Ofsted inspection on Tuesday 5 March. The Lead Inspector took a very favourable view of the school and the education provided there following his one-day visit. Full details of his letter and confirmed judgement can be found on the Gamlingay website www.gamlingayvp.org

IT roll-out set to start

The Trust's IT strategy continues to develop. The acting Director of IT Strategy, Sean Sumner, has been appointed as the Trust's full-time Director of IT Strategy from September. This will enable us to press ahead with our intention to use IT in various ways to strengthen the educational experience for pupils in all our schools, enable our schools to work more efficiently and effectively and for our staff to have more access to on-line training and development.

The first group of pupils, Year 8 at Cambourne Village College, is set to start receiving personal IT devices during next term and to make use of them as an important part of their learning. From there, other groups across the Trust's schools will have the opportunity to do this. Ultimately, we hope that this approach will be available as appropriate to all students.

At the same time, mechanisms are being developed to allow staff from all Trust schools to share resources to have the best possible learning resources available to all.



SPEAKING OUT ON MENTAL HEALTH: BBC newsreader and journalist Kate Silverton.

Prioritising mental health

The Royal Foundation, established by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, seeks to support young people with mental health issues and raise the profile of this significant issue in society.

In February, the Foundation hosted a conference that focused on mental health in schools. Educationalists and others working with schools were invited from across the country to hear input from leaders in the field and to discuss positive ways forward with the issue.

The day was hosted by the newsreader (and recent star of Strictly Come Dancing) Kate Silverton, who kept a firm grip on proceedings, including overseeing panel discussions.

The Duchess of Cambridge attended for nearly all of the day and spoke clearly about her concern about the issue and desire to support better provision for all young people with mental health issues.

I was fortunate to attend a private discussion group with the Duchess and some others where she clearly showed good understanding and a real desire to see positive developments for young people. All attending the day thought it very worthwhile.

Stephen Munday, CEO

Learning by app . . .

Thanks to support from The Technology Partnership, who 18 months ago pledged £100,000 over two years to further development of the science department's high-quality teaching, Melbourn has been able to purchase a subscription to Tassomai, an online learning app that specialises in 'mastery learning'.

Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 have full access to all their GCSE Science topics and already average around 40,000 questions answered correctly every week.

Pupils take a daily quiz of around 30 questions, trying to get as many correct as they can.

The clever AI behind the app then analyses incorrect responses and cycles them into quizzes on following sessions. Students are then able to take control of their own learning.

It has been a real hit among the pupils. Ella said: "It has really helped with my Science learning." Leah commented: "My accuracy has improved since the start!," and Rory added "Tassomai is a great way to start the day!"



MASTERY LEARNING: Melbourn students have access to the science revision app Tassomai.



AMAZING SCIENCE: Mr Rahman demonstrating how electrostatic effects can cause flying of Mylar ribbon.



THAT'S COOL: Dr Wilson demonstrates how cold liquid nitrogen is (-196degC) by shattering a piece of rubber tubing.

A celebration of science

Pupils at Melbourn had a blast to celebrate Science Week.

2019 is the International Year of the Periodic Table and during the week pupils were able to take part, marking important dates in the story of discovery by Dmitri Mendeleev.

Key Stage 3 pupils in Years 7 and 8 were treated to a range of experimental challenges and quizzes that tested their Science knowledge.

Lunchtimes saw a range of exciting hands-on experiments like a rat dissection, making bath bombs and 'really cool' demonstrations using liquid nitrogen. Pupils saw rubber shatter and also ate raspberry ice cream, made in a minute. Our thanks to Homerton College, University of Cambridge, and to all the Science staff for making this possible.

Exciting experiments!

Melbourn Village College welcomed more than 100 Year 4s to take part in their Primary Science Day as part of National Science Week.

They were ably led by a group of Year 10 students through a series of exciting experiments, including extracting iron from matches, making fire extinguishers, bending light and other hair-raising treats! Pupils returned to their local primary schools — Melbourn, Harston & Newton, Hauxton and Barrington — with a much greater enthusiasm for science and we look forward to teaching them in a few years' time.

Our Year 10s were happy to talk about the day. Logan said: "I can tell by their reactions that these Year 4s will be great future scientists," while Beth commented: "It was great to be a teacher for a day" and Ben added: "I loved seeing the intrigue on their faces."



INSPIRING YOUNG SCIENTISTS: Year 10 students work with Year 4 pupils from Melbourn's partner primary schools.



Melbourn gains its own DofE operating licence

Melbourn Village College is now an independent Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) centre.

The process was completed with a handover of our new operating licence from the charity and James Richardson, Melbourn's DofE Manager, said: "This marks the end of a long process and we are happy to now be an accredited centre in our own right."

The change means that the college will now be in charge of validating awards and issuing certificates. Arwen Spicer, who has recently returned to the college part-time and who previously helped organise many of Melbourn's expeditions, is now the Award Verifier.

The DofE award is one of the longest running youth awards in the country. It provides opportunities to build independence and team-building skills for all students from Year 9.

The award comes in three levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Bronze and Silver can be completed at secondary school, while Gold is usually completed during Sixth Form. Having run Bronze successfully for a number of years, the college is now offering Silver to Year 10 students.

Melbourn Principal Simon Holmes said: "We wanted to continue offering the award to our students as we know what a positive impact it has upon them. Students who complete the award are more confident and independent."

The award is available to all Year 9 and 10 students at the college. Students do not have to have completed Bronze before they start Silver, although this is strongly recommended. The college provides support in allowing students to hire equipment and there is financial support available for eligible parents. Please contact James Richardson for more information on jrichardson@melbournvc.org



ACCREDITED: Melbourn staff and students with the official paperwork.

Here we grow again!

Melbourn Village College is set to grow by another 50 students after a record 149 places were offered to those wanting to join Year 7 in September.

And the final number could be even higher, once applications which missed the initial October 31st deadline are processed.

The latest increase in numbers of approximately 8%

continues Melbourn's increasing popularity and the school is expected to have around 650 students in September.

Principal Simon Holmes said: "It is fantastic to be welcoming yet more students to join our thriving community."

The school, part of The Cam Academy Trust, was the first in Cambridgeshire to teach Mandarin as part

of the curriculum and featured on BBC News television and radio programmes recently in a feature on the decline in languages teaching across the country, despite increased globalisation. Melbourn was highlighted as a school bucking the trend with both Mandarin and Spanish taught to students in Years 7-9 and the first cohort of youngsters about to embark on GCSE Mandarin.



EAT WITH YOUR EYES: Presentation of food is all-important.

Chilling night

Students from Melbourn went to see *The Woman in Black* at the Fortune Theatre in London.

As part of their GCSE, the students study a live production and *The Woman in Black* did not disappoint.

A thrilling ride for all, the students experienced a tense and lively production full of surprises and shocking moments.

Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt from the original novel by Susan Hill, *The Woman in Black* is the story of the vengeful Jennet Humfrye, a woman devastated by the death of her child who is determined to seek revenge on all.

Here is what some of the students thought of it: "The *Woman in Black* was absolutely amazing and absolutely terrifying" — Olivia Bystry. "The technical elements are brilliantly used to create a perfect



THEATRE TRIP: Students at *Woman in Black*.

atmosphere" — Erin Fergus. "Brilliant production! Would highly recommend" — Faith Crockford.

"It was the best production I have ever watched, it was so, so scary; I loved it!" — Kacey Oni Edigin.

"It was a very tense and frightening production. Very enjoyable but be prepared to scream!" — Stephanie Davidson.

Some flippin' good advice!

Students in Key Stage 3 learned some important lessons about food and nutrition on Pancake Day.

As well as discovering about how humans 'eat with their eyes' and that presentation of dishes is vitally important, there were also discussions about the dangers to health and dentition of adding too many treats to the unsweetened pancakes, which were traditionally to use up flour, milk and eggs ahead of Lent, where many abstain from certain foods until Easter. Some boys also brought in bacon and had it for breakfast with their pancakes, sparking another discussion about the importance of having a proper breakfast to aid brain function and the ability to concentrate, particularly on school days.

Exams tips!

Students in Years 10 and 11 taking GCSE Psychology took part in a Conference Day to help develop their approach and writing skills for the exam.

The sessions were held by professional tutor, Ali Abbas, who was impressed with the students' knowledge and ability.

It was a hardworking and focused five hours, but students went away with a clear idea of exam requirements generally, as well as specifically for 9 and 12 mark answers. They also took away the knowledge that they could 'do it!'.

Head of Humanities Marta Gunner is proud of the 15 students who attended and looks forward to seeing the improvements in their writing.

Award for MVC

Deputy Principal Regina Lawrence, who also teaches languages, attended the Houses of Parliament to collect Melbourn's International School Award.

The college received the prestigious British Council Award at the highest level to celebrate its achievements in offering a truly international education to its students.

Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life and work. Melbourn's international work includes a Year 8 language immersion trip to Spain, an opportunity for Year 10 students to carry out their work experience in Spain, and several joint trips with their Spanish partner schools both in this country and in Spain. In addition Melbourn was the first school in Cambridgeshire to offer Mandarin to all students from Year 7 and there is now also a trip to China for those on the Mandarin Excellence Programme as well as a new exchange with a school in Beijing as part of The Cam Academy Trust (see facing page).

The international outlook extends beyond the MFL department with a humanities trip to Rome and a science trip to CERN in Geneva, for example, as well



as extra-curricular skiing and a Year 11 African adventure where students work on a project after completing their GCSE exams. These have included helping build a school or other community facilities in a particular village. Mrs Lawrence said: "The international dimension is one of our five Cam Academy Trust principles. We want all our students to leave Melbourn open-minded and accepting of difference. "Having an opportunity to appreciate different languages and cultures is key to this and we thank all our staff who go the extra mile to organise all the international activities."

The International School Award encourages and



AWARD: Deputy Principal Regina Lawrence collected Melbourn's award.

supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A whole school approach to international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- Year-round international activity
- Involvement of the wider community

Sir Ciarán Devane, Chief Executive of the British Council, said: "Melbourn Village College has brought the world into its classrooms. Their pupils' education is enriched with international activities that help children develop the skills they need to thrive in a globalised world."

Chance to practise as Spanish drop in



BREAKING THE ICE: Melbourn students and their Spanish visitors get to know one another.

Melbourn students were joined by a group from Santander as they returned to school after half-term. The 20-strong group of 14 and 15-year-olds from Kostka School brought the Mediterranean weather with them as they started a four-day visit to Cambridge by joining Years 8, 9 and 10 as teachers during a morning of Spanish lessons.

The Year 8 class, many of whom are taking part in Melbourn's Spanish trip to Comillas in May, were shy to start with but soon warmed up and enjoyed using their Spanish to ask and answer questions about food, which they have been working on during the past half-term. They also had the chance to meet José, the Spanish facilitator of both visits.

The students also took part in a

'Find someone who . . .' exercise in English to help the Spanish students break the ice.

Year 10 students talked with their Spanish counterparts about social media and mobile phones — good practice for their GCSE speaking exams — while making friends and becoming more comfortable interacting in Spanish, which will really help the 18 who have signed up to do their work experience in Cantabria in July.

A group activity with Year 10 GCSE Spanish students took place in the afternoon with participants able to take advantage of the weather to use the sports field to find virtual objects in a cross between Minecraft, geo-cache and escape rooms.

Making the case for languages

Nine Year 9 students took part in the 'Why Not Languages at GCSE and Beyond' day at the University of Cambridge.

They attended a talk about studying languages at GCSE and beyond and found out how useful speaking other languages is.

They were given plenty of interesting facts about languages — for example that 75% of the world's population speaks no English at all and that, in many countries, being bilingual is normal and often people speak many more.

Languages are certainly in high demand from employers, not least because they give students excellent transferable skills. Student Ambassadors talked to them about the languages they are studying, their classes, their year abroad and how much they enjoy studying at Cambridge. The final part of the visit was a tour of St John's College, including the library and the chapel, which was really impressive.



UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE: Melbourn's students at St John's College where they found out about studying languages at GCSE and beyond.

Great start to exchange



OUT AND ABOUT: At King's College and in the Cambridge University Museum of Zoology.

Students are counting down to their trip to China after a successful first leg of the inaugural Chinese Exchange organised jointly with Comberton Village College.

They leave for their eight-day trip to the Chinese capital, Beijing, on Monday, eager to meet up with their exchange partners again.

Just before half-term 29 students from the High School affiliated to the Beijing Institute of Technology spent a week in England, enjoying warm hospitality from host families and attending lessons as well as seeing some of the country.

With their exchange partners, they enjoyed a day trip to Oxford and also gained a flavour of secondary education in the UK. Chinese students did joint research and presentations about their school in English.

The exchange partners in Melbourn, the first school in Cambridgeshire to offer Mandarin as part of the curriculum, also worked together to introduce their school in Mandarin, with some excellent, high quality Mandarin being spoken and written.

Melbourn Deputy Principal and acting Head of Languages Regina Lawrence said: "It is fantastic to see these young linguists exchanging their ideas fluently in the language they are learning.

"I believe it is not only a wonderful opportunity to practise speaking but also a

culturally enriching experience for them."

Joyce Shi, teaching Mandarin in Melbourn for a year as part of the Hanban programme, accompanied the Chinese students as they explored the beauty and cultural aspects of Cambridge.

Besides a day tour of King's College and the Fitzwilliam Museum, the Chinese visitors also had an environmentally-focused day trip to the Museum of Zoology. She was also the main contact for the host families and said she was particularly moved by the strong support from the hosts and the friendship between Chinese students and their exchange partners.

The inspiration of this exchange programme has gone even further. Mrs Zeng, the visiting Chinese teacher, was deeply impressed by Melbourn's ethos of 'Everybody is Somebody' and said it was illuminating to see all students at Melbourn flourish and develop their fullest potential and value in such a supportive environment.

Mrs Lawrence added: "We look forward to seeing the students broaden their horizons and enjoy their stay in China, bringing back wonderful experiences and inspiring other students and teachers."



ON TV: Teacher Frank Fan and some of the students studying Mandarin.

Bucking the trend

Melbourn Village College was featured on both national television and radio earlier this term.

A film crew documenting the decline in the number of students studying languages at GCSE nationally descended on Melbourn to show a good example of a school bucking the trend.

The college was selected as they have recently changed their provision, with students studying not one, but two

languages from Year 7, Spanish and Mandarin.

Three years ago Melbourn became the first school in Cambridgeshire to offer Mandarin as part of the curriculum and from September the first cohort, who are currently choosing their options, will start studying the GCSE syllabus.

The BBC report interviewed Principal Simon Holmes as well as a number of Year 9 students.

Day trip to MVC

Ten Chinese students who were studying in England for a week spent one of their days at Melbourn Village College.

The 10 youngsters, who were based at Cambridge Melchior College, an independent residential school in Willingham, had asked to spend a day in a

local school.

Melbourn, with its burgeoning reputation for teaching Mandarin as part of the curriculum, was chosen and the visitors were buddied with Year 8 and 9 students.

They spent the day with them in lessons and joined in activities.



GETTING TOGETHER: Melbourn students with their visitors from China.

Exciting term for iPad pilot

During the Spring term students and staff at Melbourn have undertaken a pilot project trialling the use of iPads to enhance learning.

Three teaching groups in Year 7 were lent iPads for this term to investigate how these devices can benefit both classroom learning and improve the access to online material at home.

The majority of teachers were also issued with iPads so they were able to communicate directly with student tablets, share work and use tools such as Apple Classroom to monitor and guide the learning process.

Head of Maths, John Holder, who has been overseeing Melbourn's iPad trial, said: "We have seen students benefiting from excellent experiences in many subjects. There has been a much greater use of online resources which can now be woven into lessons alongside traditional teaching approaches.

"Students have been able to show greater independence, using the iPads for research in lessons, but always with the oversight of their teacher managing the learning. Specific apps such as Google Earth, Sparkpost and the Microsoft suite have proved very useful in many subjects already. "Of course this is also a learning experience for teachers and as everyone gets better acquainted with this new teaching style we envisage lessons will use iPads in even more sophisticated ways,

providing our students with greater opportunities than they have ever had previously."

The iPad pilot officially finishes this week and staff will next reflect on what they have learned from the project and consider the next steps towards our goal of providing the latest technology in classrooms to support the best learning for MVC.

The trial at Melbourn was the latest phase on an ongoing trial across The Cam Academy Trust, which has plans to roll out the use of personalised devices across its schools.

Sean Sumner, IT Strategy Leader for the Trust, said: "We have been working on developing a fully comprehensive IT strategy for the Trust to ensure quality and consistency across all our schools. As part of this, we launched the iPad project to enhance students' and teachers' learning.

"The aim of the project is to test the benefits of pupils and teachers having access to their own iPad device."

Testing has already taken place in Cambourne and Comberton Village Colleges and the feedback so far has seen students report that they are more organised, more engaged with learning, researching



ON TRIAL: Students test using iPads in lessons.

and preparing more for homework and even enjoying lessons more.

Mr Sumner added: "Teachers are echoing the benefits of students having the ability to access class resources anytime to undertake independent learning. They are also finding it easier to share resources with other teachers and personalise resources for their students."

The Trust is also developing a SharePoint solution to enable resources from across all 10 schools in the Trust to be shared through an online portal.

"We want to use technology to facilitate learning and sharing across our schools and to prepare our students for working in the 21st Century," said Mr Sumner. "It is an incredibly exciting project and could potentially transform the way we teach and learn."



Play highlights the dangers of 'County Lines'

Students in Year 9 watched a performance of 'County Lines' which was touring round a number of schools in the area, alerting them to the dangers of criminal exploitation. 'County Lines' refers to when gangs and organised crime networks exploit children to sell drugs, often across counties, and use dedicated mobile phone 'lines' to supply drugs.

Gangs own a mobile phone 'line' that they use to take orders for drugs. They then send the children and young people out to other places, often rural and coastal areas, to deliver the drugs, collect the cash and bring it back to the gang.

These gangs deliberately target vulnerable children and teenagers from all backgrounds and groom, deceive or threaten the young people into carrying and selling drugs for them.

Gangs may initially offer something in return for the young person's involvement — such as money, food, drugs, alcohol, jewellery or expensive clothes, status or belonging, but this doesn't always last and a debt can be set which means the young person 'owes' the perpetrators.

Principal Simon Holmes said: "We've had regular Alter Ego productions over a number of years and this one didn't disappoint. It covered an extremely important topic and the students were captivated for the entire play."

Some of the signs that a child is being exploited include:

- Returning home late, staying out all night or going missing
- Being found in areas away from home
- Increasing drug use, or being found to have large amounts of drugs on them
- Being secretive about who they are talking to and where they are going
- Unexplained absences from school, college, training or work
- Unexplained money, phone(s), clothes or jewellery
- Increasingly disruptive or aggressive behaviour
- Using sexual, drug-related or violent language you wouldn't expect them to know
- Coming home with injuries or looking particularly dishevelled
- Having hotel cards or keys to unknown places

Advice for parents/carers and more information on this issue can be found via the following links:

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/tackling-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/county-lines-resources> and <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/news-and-blogs/our-blog/how-children-and-young-people-are-forced-to-sell-drugs-through-county-lines>

Creativity with clay

Melbourn's pottery studio is a truly thriving creative hub.

Plenty of Key Stage 3 students are taking advantage of the opportunities available to produce a broad variety of pottery in response to project themes.

The Year 7 groups who have timetabled pottery lessons have been producing shell and sea creature-based work. They have also responded in various ways to the theme of Egyptian Art. Year 8 have produced Mehndi peacock feather designs and leaf wrap vases while a class of Year 9 students have produced Day of the Dead Skull and animal designs.

All students taking pottery at Key Stage 3 have gained great insight in to how to design in 3D and have added another level of practical art skills to their ever-expanding repertoire of creative techniques.

For those who would like to have a go at pottery but don't have it on their timetables, don't forget you can sign up to give it a go as part of the after-school enrichment programme, where, this half term, students have been learning to construct using slabs of clay, making a small pot and a lighthouse. They have also used glazes to add colour and decoration to their ceramics.



POTTERY IN ACTION: Pieces from the Key Stage 3 timetabled lessons and (right) students at work during enrichment time.

Students go into the 'field'

Year 11 geographers enjoyed their day completing human geography fieldwork — in central Cambridge.

Students had to collect data to answer the question "How effective is traffic management in reducing the risk it poses to cyclists and pedestrians in Cambridge?"

The students behaved in an exemplary manner all day and they learnt lots of different skills, most importantly that it is probably a good idea to wear a coat, if you are going to be outside all day at the beginning of March!

Undoubtedly that lesson was taken to heart for their next fieldwork adventure, looking at rivers for their physical geography practical a couple of weeks later.

Andrew Kennedy, Geography Dept



FIELDWORK:
Students collect data for their geography fieldwork.



POPULAR: Year 5 enjoyed modelling fish.

Day of lessons

Melbourn hosted the second of its two Year 5 days for the local partner primary schools.

It was a fun packed day, with students taking part in art and drama workshops, PE sessions, Mandarin lessons and science activities.

In the art workshops the nine and 10-year-olds were able to experience the pottery room, where they modelled clay into fish shapes and decorated them. These were left to be fired in the kiln and returned to the pupils when ready. This session was definitely a favourite among pupils and primary staff.

In PE, youngsters took part in dodgeball, with children placed into mixed teams so they had a chance to play with pupils from other primaries. They demonstrated excellent ball skills, teamwork and sportsmanship.

In science students created their own lava lamps and looked at the science behind these wonderful creations; there was colour in abundance.

Mandarin with Mr Fan is always a favourite with the primary visitors; they are excited to be in his lessons and enjoy his teaching style.

Quick work impresses

It was an action-packed day of hockey as the South Cambs School Sports Partnership welcomed a record entry of 48 teams into their annual Year 5/6 Quicksticks hockey competition.

To accommodate all the entries, the competition, which took place at Comberton Village College, was split into a morning and afternoon event.

Teams from the 25 schools saw their A teams playing in a Cup competition and schools' B, C and D teams playing in a Plate competition. Teams played in a round robin format in quick seven-minute matches.

The event was part of the county-wide School Games programme with the top four schools qualifying to represent South Cambs SSP at the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough School Games Summer Festival where they will face the best from Cambridge, East Cambs & Fenland, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough.

There were plenty of competitive matches and close-scoring games as the Year 5 and 6 children gave it their best effort.

At the end of all the matches, which were umpired superbly by the sports leaders from Comberton Village College, the qualifying schools were Willingham, Harston & Newton, Histon & Impington Juniors & Meldreth, with the latter two teams both winning all five of their matches on the day.

In the plate competitions, it was Meridian B and Swavesey B who came out on top in the morning event and were delighted to receive their winners' medals.

In the afternoon Histon & Impington Juniors B and C teams won nine out of their 10 games between them and drew the other one to mark a memorable afternoon for them, with all three of their competing teams winning their respective pools without a single loss!

There was also recognition on the day for those teams or individual players who had taken to heart the 'Spirit of the Games' and really demonstrated good teamwork and/or honesty in their performances.



PASS IT ON: Action from the Quicksticks tournament.

There were lots of nominations for these awards, which was great to see, but the winners were: Georgia (Swavesey), Orla (Bassingbourn), Ahrel (Meridian), Ellie (Bar Hill), Jack (Dry Drayton), Alex (Jeavons Wood), Julius (Cambridge University Primary), Sam (Steeple Morden), Juno (Dry Drayton) and Daniel (Gt Abington). Claire McDonnell, South Cambs SSP Partnership Development Manager said: "It was great to see so many children playing and enjoying the game of hockey in a fun and relaxed environment."

"There were some competitive matches with lots of end-to-end action and generally plenty of goals."

"We have been running a Quicksticks hockey competition for six or seven years now and the standard of play has definitely improved over the years, with some great skills and teamwork on display and, importantly, all of the teams got some good, equal competition."



JUDGES AT WORK: Watching the vault competition.



LEADING INDIVIDUALS: From the gymnastics event.

Gym competition couldn't have been closer

Teams of Year 3 & 4 gymnasts from 14 South Cambs primary schools took part in the annual School Games Gymnastics Competition at Comberton Village College.

The gymnasium was silent and the atmosphere concentrated as competitors demonstrated their skills on the vault and floor.

At stake was the chance to represent South Cambs School Sports Partnership at the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough School Games Spring Festival, with the top two schools taking on the best from across the County.

The competition was fiercely contested and fewer than eight points separated the top 10 teams! Linton Heights Junior School retained the title by just 0.1 from Gt Abington. Both went on to the finals at Huntingdon Gymnastics Club late last month, where the Comberton and Cambourne student judges were also invited to officiate.

The three top-scoring individuals were also awarded medals. Abigail, from Castle Camps, took top spot with 19.50, ahead of Molly, from Harston & Newton, and Isabel, from Linton Heights, who both scored 19.20.

Plaudits for leaders

Primary school staff have praised the sports leaders who helped out at the gymnastics event at Comberton.

"What a lovely afternoon it was and I have to say the young sports leaders and judges were absolutely fantastic. Soooooo supportive and encouraging. Credit to them all."

"Really fabulous Sports Leaders today. It was a real highlight to witness how supportive and encouraging they were to the most nervous gymnasts!"

Spirit of the Games awards were nominated by the sports leaders and given to those children who strongly demonstrated self-belief and passion and included Freddie from Dry Drayton, who showed real perseverance and

bravery. He finished the event with a huge smile as did Bethan (Haslingfield), who conquered her nerves and apprehension to produce a shining performance.

Claire McDonnell, South Cambs School Games organiser said: "It's nice to offer children the opportunity to represent their school and compete in a more artistic type of event such as gymnastics. It always amazes me how well the children perform under quite intense pressure."

"While we recognise and celebrate the winners, the main purpose of all of our events is to ensure the children have an enjoyable time and to encourage them to achieve their personal best and I think they all did that."

"The young judges also did an exceptional job, we couldn't have run the competition without them; they were focused and efficient throughout and even supported a couple of the gymnasts through their routines when nerves got the better of them."

Ex-pupil springs to medal

Former Melbourn student Dan Goodfellow collected a medal in his first international in a new diving discipline.

He has teamed up with Olympic champion Jack Laugher and the pair collected bronze in the 3m springboard synchro competition at the first leg of the 2019 FINA Diving World Series in Japan.

The pair have only been working together in Leeds for six months but showed their potential as the countdown to the 2020 Olympics begins in earnest.

"I think it was a really good competition considering it was our first international, our first World Series and my first 3m springboard competition in the synchro!" said Goodfellow.

"It's great to go out to the World Series and in the first couple of rounds get a medal under your belt; it boosts your confidence, especially as a new pairing, and hopefully other countries have seen our performance and seen that we're contenders for the medals."

After winning Olympic bronze in the synchronised platform event with Tom Daley in 2016, Goodfellow has switched to the 3m springboard event following a series of injuries from diving from the 10m platform.

Laugher's Olympic gold-winning partner Chris Mears is taking a year out of the sport, giving Goodfellow the opportunity to take his place.

"It's very rare for a platform diver to transition to a springboard dive, never mind



MEDALLISTS: Former Melbourn pupil Dan Goodfellow (left) and new diving partner Jack Laugher.

into a synchro pairing," said British Diving performance director Alexei Evangulov. "Goodfellow has proven that he can deliver very high DD (degree of difficulty) and British Diving are very excited about this new pairing."

Super seven receive sporting accolades

Seven Melbourn students have received Roy Burrell Awards for their sporting success.

The annual Cambridge and District Secondary School Sports Association celebration honours Year 11 students who are attaining highly in their chosen sport and who go above and beyond in volunteering as sports leaders.

Joseph Randall (swimming), Oliver Jones (hockey), Cameron King (football), Holly Henry-Barnett (dance), Maya Ireland (dance), Matthew Pinney (athletics) and Joshua Biddlecombe (hockey) were among students from across the area to receive awards at the ceremony at Netherhall School.

Former England and Great Britain hockey player Helen Richardson-Walsh was the guest speaker and she told the audience of recipients and their families of her highs and lows in sport and competing in three Olympic Games. She also brought her two Olympic medals.

She presented the students with their awards, given in memory of a former Cambridge deputy teacher who was an advocate of school sport but died very young in 1955, and offered advice and encouragement on being a high-performing athlete.



WINNERS: Melbourn students with their Roy Burrell awards.

Goal-den boys off to a flier

The Year 7 football team has made an impressive start as they represent Melbourn Village College for the first time.

They have scored an incredible 24 goals in their first two matches and conceded only two as they beat St Bede's 7-1 and Linton Village College 17-1.

Not to be outdone, the Year 8s have also won twice against the same opponents, 7-3 then 3-0. Year 9 lost 5-1 at St Bede's but reached the quarter-finals of the District Cup after beating

Comberton 6-2 with a hat-trick from Jake Wainwright to set up a clash with Cambourne or Swavesey. They followed up that win with a 2-0 victory at Bassingbourn.

Year 10s went out of their District Cup competition, however, conceding a goal in the final minute to go out 2-1 to Soham.

There have been mixed results for Melbourn's netball teams. The under-16s were beaten by one goal by Sawston, drew with Bassingbourn 15-15 and were

then well beaten 27-18 after St Bede's pulled away in the final quarter.

The Year 9 girls opened their season with a 7-4 win over Bassingbourn thanks to a powerful second-half performance then followed up by edging out Sawston 7-6.

Well done to Daisy Moxham, Martha Taylor, Olivia Bedlow, Rosie Elliott, Ellenor Riggs, Amy Whybrow, Scarlett Gleghorn, Katie Foulger and Ruby Stapleton.



POISED FOR ACTION: The Year 9 netball team who started their season with back-to-back victories.

Sport in short

- Five students went to the adapted Multisports competition at Impington Village College where they took part in Boccia, New age Curling, Polybatt and Table cricket. The students had a great time working in pairs against other people from other schools and trying new sports.

- A group of Year 7 pupils went to Netherhall School to compete in the partnership badminton and table tennis competitions.

This event was attended by numerous schools in the South Cambs area. Congratulations to the table tennis team who won and qualified for the next round at the School Games.

- Six partner primary schools entered the Year 3 & 4 football tournament, which this year moved outside due to the growing number of participants and spectators. Melbourn sports leaders refereed the matches and kept the scores in an event won by Harston & Newton. A great time was had by all.


MELBOURN


SPORTS CENTRE news

For those of you who don't already know, we have:

- A state-of-the-art fitness suite offering a variety of membership schemes
- A 20 metre swimming pool (kept ever so slightly warmer than most!)
- A comprehensive swimming lesson programme, catering for all ages and abilities
- Upgraded multisports courts for hire including tennis, football and squash courts
- Water sports courses and activities
- Traditional and modern exercise classes
- Access to Melbourn Village College sports hall and gymnasium for activities such as trampolining, badminton and basketball
- Supervised sports and pool parties

April 2019

We've got a bumper bag of Easter activities this year, including our OFSTED-registered Play Scheme, where children can enjoy trampolining, swimming and creative crafts. Other holiday activities include a Swimming Crash Course and Trampolining Crash Course. NB. These activities do require booking, as spaces are limited.*

May 2019

We welcome back the outdoor sports and tennis season this month. And for all you budding Wimbledon stars, courts can be hired midweek and at weekends.

Later this month, we will be running our children's holiday activities once again to coincide with the Whitsun holiday, with Play Scheme and a mixture of indoor and outdoor activities available.*

June 2019

For something a bit different this Father's Day, how about treating your Dad to his own gym membership or purchasing a gift voucher for our other activities here at Melbourn Sports? It's a great way to help a loved one get fit!

With the summer fast approaching, why not let us help you shape up before your summer holidays? We have loads of classes to keep you fit and healthy, including Boot Camp, Aqua Fit and Body Workout. Or why not take advantage of one of our great membership schemes to our fitness suite, which houses the latest in gymnasium equipment, including CV machines fitted with audio visual technology.

July 2019

Why not start planning your summer sports early this year, with our holiday courses like the Children's Sports Camps, which are always well attended and consists of eight different sports over a five day period, including gymnastics, tennis and basketball. Each sport has been overseen by qualified coaches, who ensured that the participants were put through their paces in a fun and safe environment.

Other activities running this summer will include Swimming Crash Courses, Trampoline Tasters and Gymnastics Sessions. Bookings taken from June onwards.

Finally, after last year's success, we are also looking to run another Mini Triathlon event (September), enabling youngsters to complete a mini fun triathlon, where they scoot or bike and then run around a basic course on site. Full details will be released over the Summer Months.

Other activities available this spring and summer include:

- Our usual popular swimming lessons, both group and private
- A range of exercise classes including Aqua-fit, Body workouts, Boot Camp, Pilates, Swim-Clinic (pool training session)
- Indoor and Outdoor Court Hire

For further details on these or any other activities, please drop in, call 01763 263313 or go online at www.mc-sport.co.uk. We look forward to seeing you this season!

Graham Johnson-Mack / Melbourn Sports Centre Manager

ACTIVITIES FOR TEENAGERS AND YOUNG ADULTS

TEEN TRAINING An hour fitness session using our fitness suite machines

Age range: 14 years upwards **Date:** Monday – Fridays / 15.00 – 16.30 & Weekends / 14.00 – 15.00 /

Price: £2.50 per session/10 sessions for £20.00

TRAMPOLINE COURSE This course is a great way to introduce your child into this fun and energetic sport. Start to learn all the basics including twists, shapes and drops!

Mondays 16.00 – 17.00 (4 ½ - 7 years); 17.00 – 18.00 (7-10 years); 18.00 – 19.00 (10 – 16 years);

Price: £5.00 - £6.00 per session (booked on a term basis)

Melbourn Sports Centre, The Village College, The Moor, Melbourn, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 6EF /

01763 263313 / www.mc-sport.co.uk / info@mc-sport.co.uk