

MVC Newsletter



MELBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE

16 JANUARY 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another busy and productive week at Melbourn Village College. We were delighted to welcome our CEO, Claire Heald, to the school on Wednesday. Claire thoroughly enjoyed visiting lessons, seeing teaching and learning in action, and speaking to some students who received awards at our celebration event in December.

We were also pleased to welcome Paul Lawrence, Director of Secondary Education, as part of our continued focus on strengthening teaching and learning across the school. Paul spent time in lessons and led a student voice session, gaining valuable insight into the experiences and perspectives of our learners.

A reminder that a letter has been sent via SchoolPost to reinforce our high expectations regarding school uniform. From Monday, all students are expected to arrive at school in full school uniform.

Finally, I was fortunate to enjoy a sneak preview of rehearsals for our upcoming production of Annie, and it is already shaping up to be something truly special.

Please save the dates - 12 and 13 March, for the MVC musical. Tickets will be available to purchase in the coming weeks, and we very much look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be a fantastic production.

Have a restful weekend

Mrs Spencer
Principal

KEY DATES

21 January

- Year 9 Enterprise Day
- Melbourn Host Primary Friendship games

22 January

- Year 7 Parents' Evening
5.00pm- 7.00pm

26 January - 6 February

- Year 11 Mocks

9 - 13 February

- Children's Mental Health Week

10 February

- Year 11 Mandarin Trip to London

12 February

- Year 9 Parents Evening
5.00pm - 7.00pm

2 March

- Enterprise Day Year 9

5 March

- Year 8 Parent's Evening
5.00-7.00pm

9 March

- Primary School Bee Netball Tournament
- 9 -13 British Science Week

12 -13 March

- Performance of 'Annie'
7.00pm -9.00pm

Switching Off to Switch On: Your Views on a Phone-Free School

We have become increasingly concerned about the impact of smartphones on our young people, both on their wellbeing and their learning. Many of you have shared similar concerns with us. National research shows almost all children in England own a mobile phone by age 12, and screen time has risen sharply. Excessive smartphone use is linked to higher rates of anxiety, depression, sleep difficulties, and reduced classroom focus.

Across the UK, some schools are introducing “phone-free spaces” using lockable pouches or lockers to:

- Minimise distractions
- Improve focus
- Encourage positive social interaction

At Melbourn Village College, our pupils’ wellbeing, personal development, and academic success are our top priorities. We are exploring whether adopting a similar phone-free approach could benefit our school. Before making any decisions, we want to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to complete our survey, your feedback is crucial.

[Smart Phone Free Survey – Fill in form](#)

Deadline: Monday 26th January

For helpful guidance on age-appropriate access to technology, visit the NSPCC website:
[NSPCC – Access to Technology for Different Ages](#).

Mrs Edwards
Vice Principal

Assessment Information

Following from the update sent before Christmas, and ahead of upcoming parents evenings, we would like to provide parents with continued assessment guidance. Each subject has its own matrix that sets out the key concepts of the subject how students demonstrate their knowledge as they move through the curriculum during the year. In Key Stage 3 students are reviewed against four stages – Emerging, Developing, Securing and Mastering – which describe the extent to which they are demonstrating those concepts in their work. These stages are based on the curriculum for that year, rather than across the whole key stage, so that feedback and next steps are always linked directly to what is being studied in class.

For Key Stage 4 , in lesson assessments students are reviewed against the same four stages – Emerging, Developing, Securing and Mastering – which in Key Stage 4 explicitly link to the GCSE specification assessment objectives and indicate how confidently the students are working within different aspects of the course. This language helps students understand their strengths and next steps in specific areas of each subject, while their mock examinations provide a broader view of overall performance. Mocks are marked using GCSE criteria and expressed as grades, giving students a clear indication of their current working level.

If you would like further information on this please find it on the website under the Curriculum tab or directly here - <https://www.melbournvc.org/parent-carer-and-student-information/our-curriculum/assessment.php>

Ms Cooke
Associate Assistant Principal

Inspiring Young People - Achieving Beyond the Classroom



We are delighted to share a glimpse of Layla's achievements beyond the classroom, an inspiring example of her talent making a meaningful impact in the wider community.

Recognising Layla's creativity and artistic flair, Eternit Sports and Social Club commissioned Layla to help transform their space for the holiday season.

Layla embraced the project with great enthusiasm and felt truly honoured that her artistic passion had been acknowledged by the local community.



Harvey ran an outstanding race today, finishing an impressive 5th place in the Intermediate Boys (Y10 & Y11) cross country race.

Thanks to this fantastic performance, he has qualified to represent Cambridgeshire Schools at the Anglian Schools Cross Country Championships at the end of this month.

A brilliant achievement, we are incredibly proud of him.



Drama Students Enjoy the Theatre



GCSE Drama students had a fantastic afternoon at the Arts Theatre on 15th January, enjoying a lively performance of *Guys and Dolls*. From the moment the curtain rose, the show's energy, humour and unforgettable music had everyone fully engaged, sparking real curiosity about the world of musical theatre. Students were particularly impressed by the strong character work, confident performances and seamless ensemble scenes. Many commented on the clear storytelling and the effective use of movement, voice and stage presence to bring the world of the musical to life, demonstrating thoughtful curiosity about performance choices and theatrical style.

As well as being hugely entertaining, the trip provided valuable inspiration for students' own practical drama work. Watching professional theatre up close encouraged resilience as students reflected on the high standards of performance and considered how to challenge themselves creatively. It also helped deepen their understanding of staging, performance style, and how technical elements such as lighting and sound can enhance mood and meaning.

Overall, it was a brilliant and memorable opportunity for students to see a classic musical performed to a high standard. Students were complimented by both members of the public and theatre staff for their kindness, excellent behaviour and positive attitude a true credit to themselves and to MVC.

Mrs Nicholls
Teacher of Drama

Pentathlon Success at Swavesey Village College



On 15 January, nine MVC students proudly represented the school at a pentathlon event hosted by Swavesey School.

Competing as a cohesive and determined team, the students consistently supported and encouraged one another throughout the day. The event featured a range of activities, including basketball, bowling, curling, jumping, and ball throwing, all of which tested both individual skills and teamwork.

The experience provided a valuable opportunity for students to develop key qualities such as kindness, communication, collaboration, and resilience. Despite facing challenging moments, the team demonstrated perseverance and a positive attitude, never losing focus or determination.

Their commitment and teamwork were rewarded with an impressive second-place finish and a well-earned silver medal, reflecting both their sporting ability and exemplary sportsmanship.

Mrs Coghlan
Head of Key Stage 3



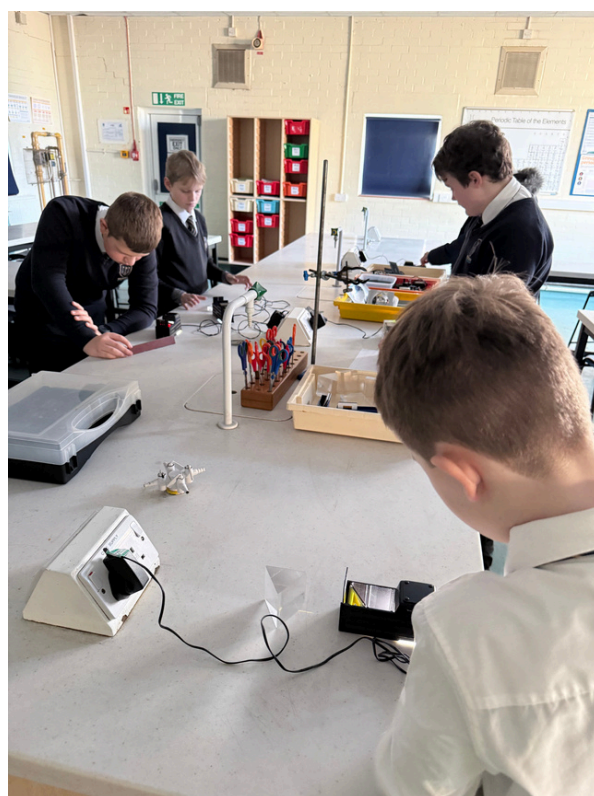
Key Stage 3 Science Club

Our intrepid Key Stage 3 scientists were on a mission today, exploring the fascinating world of light.

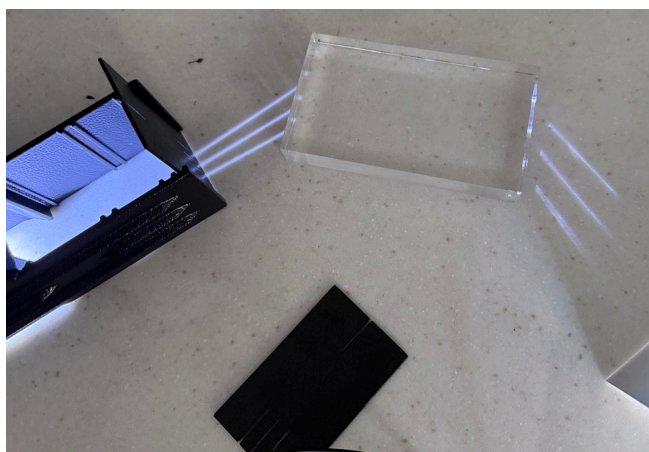
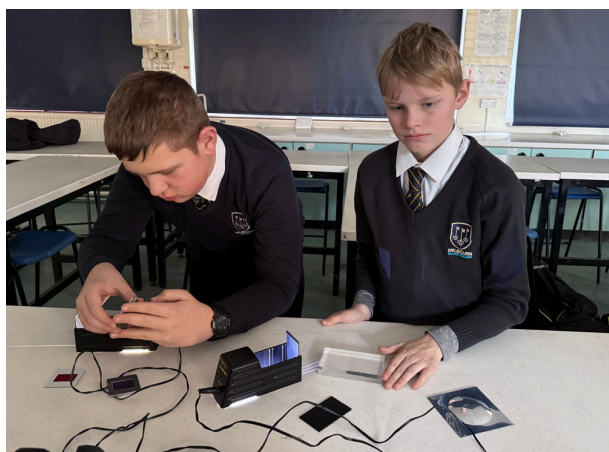
They investigated how light behaves using the (very fancy!) scientific terms reflection and refraction, and even created their own spectacular rainbows with prisms.

Along the way, they were introduced to the legendary Roy G. Biv (the colourful hero of the visible spectrum, of course!). Curiosity, excitement and brilliant questions filled the lab, and it's clear we have some truly amazing scientists in the making.

With an exciting programme of science lined up the spring term at Melbourn Village College, we can not wait to continue inspiring curiosity, creativity and a love of discovery.



Dr Wilson
Head of Science



MVC Futures Talk - 21st January

MVC Futures talk on Wednesday 21st January will be delivered by:
Miss Chan - Gemologist

A gemologist is a professional who studies and values gemstones based on their properties, quality and value. They often work in fields such as gemstone identification, grading appraisal and research. Collaborating with jewellers, designers and collectors. Remember to sign your child up for this talk via the MCAS app.

Mrs Elvin
Assistant Vice Principal

Year 11 Path to Success



The January edition of the Year 11 'Path to Success' has been sent to Year 11 parents.

Please see the link for this latest edition.
[Year 11 Path to Success](#)

Mr Luxton
Assistant Principal

Attendance Matters

We know attendance links to achievement; the higher the attendance the better the achievement! It is important we make everyday count. To check your child's attendance please look on the MCAS app.

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

If your child is sick

If your child is feeling unwell or can not attend for another reason, a parent or carer should email absence@melbournvc.org before 8am with your child's name, year group, tutor group and the reason for absence.

Appointments (like the dentist or doctor) should ideally be made outside school hours. If that is not possible, please provide evidence of the appointment and where possible, and let us know 2 weeks in advance.

If your child is struggling to attend school please talk to your Key Stage team – Your child's PSO or Key Stage Lead, Mrs Coghlan – Key Stage 3 , Mr Barlow – Key Stage 4 or our new attendance officer Mrs Fox and they will be happy to help.

Mrs Elvin
Assistant Principal

**MELBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE
PRESENTS**



Annie JR.
THE MUSICAL

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**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Performances on:
Thursday 12 March 2026
Friday 13 March 2026

Doors open at 6.30pm
Show starts at 7.00pm