

Melton Vale Sixth Form College Newsletter

Friday 22nd March 2024



Dear MV Parents and Carers

What a jam packed four weeks! This half-term has been short but extremely sweet, as you will see from this bumper newsletter. If you are reading this as a prospective student or parent – welcome! I hope that this newsletter really gives you a flavour of our fantastic community and we look forward to you joining us.

We have definitely seen that our year 13 students are stepping up a gear in these final few weeks before their exams; if you missed the webinar that we hosted at the beginning of March please find it here:

<https://www.mv16.org.uk/page.php?p=noticeboard>

It is just 30 minutes long and contains some good advice around revision strategies and some ideas as to how you can get involved as a parent. Year 12 students will be sitting formal, internal exams from 7 – 13 May and we will send more details about those to parents/carers after Easter.

Following our “Pride of MV” award presentations to year 13 before February half-term we finally caught up with year 12 just after; congratulations to Ben Fisher, Gamey Yostipana, J S Winder and Grace Corbett who have been demonstrating exceptional commitment to their studies.

The College is currently surrounded by daffodils and the tulips are starting to come through, here’s hoping that the rain starts to fizzle out and we come back to some brighter skies. I hope that you have a lovely Easter break, whatever it holds.

With warm wishes

Nicki Dartnell
Headteacher



EPQ MARKETPLACE

During this half term our year 13 Extended Project Qualification students held an incredibly successful marketplace event. The atmosphere was wonderful as the students presented their individual projects to the staff body. The EPQ is designed to extend and develop the students’ abilities beyond the A-Level syllabus and the success of the event was testament to the hard work and organisational skills of each of our students with the support of their staff members. We had a varied range of research projects on show which highlighted the students’ individual interests and chosen career paths. It was a truly celebratory event that highlighted the many different aspirations of our fabulous community!





LONDON TRIP

English students enjoyed a day out on the Southbank to watch a contemporary performance of Shakespeare's 'Othello' at the Sam Wanamaker theatre, all enjoyed by candlelight. This was an amazing modern take of a classic play. Students were inspired by the production's incorporation of 21st century mental health issues and how racial inequalities can be reported in the media, alongside the occasional substitution of Shakespeare's language to mirror debates within the Metropolitan Police. This all helped to enhance their understanding of themes and issues studied within the play. We look forward to making this an annual trip to enrich students' cultural experience of the arts.



On Friday 1st March year 12 Geography students got the chance to visit the bustling and vibrant Brick Lane area of London. During the afternoon they carried out a range of urban fieldwork strategies that will help support them in designing ideas for their independent study (NEA). Examples of the fieldwork methods they used were: mood mapping, anti-crime surveys, walkability assessments and soundscapes. This data will be used next term by students to help them reflect on ways that they can present raw data and analyse their findings. Brick Lane will also be a key case study that the students will use for their next unit of study 'Changing Places'. The day also provided students with a valuable insight into a contrasting place that is demographically and culturally different to Melton. Well done to all the students who attended for a superb approach and attitude during this trip!



GRANT RECEIVED FROM THE TREE COUNCIL

This year our students have formed an Eco Committee and are developing an action plan to make MV more sustainable, increase environmental learning and benefit our local community. Biodiversity is just one area they are championing as part of our application for the prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag award. We were very fortunate to receive a grant from The Tree Council's Branching Out Fund to enable us to establish a new hedgerow along the southern boundary of the college grounds. On the 15th and 16th March, many members of the MV community came together to enjoy some fresh air and community spirit planting the hedge. Thank you to our students, staff, stakeholders and Birch Wood School who helped us plant 1200 plants in 2 days.

We are also grateful for all the cake donations that kept our energy levels up on day 2!



LinkedIn

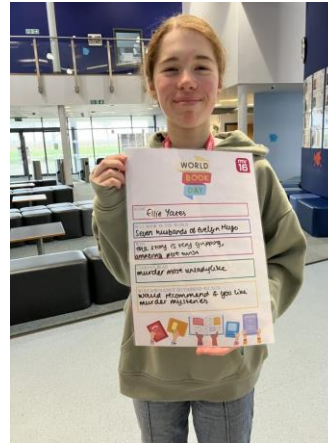
On March 6th alumni George Icke delivered a virtual presentation to our year 12 students on LinkedIn as part of National Careers Week. This was our first cross-Academy Trust post-16 event, with students from our college and other Trust schools learning about the value of having a LinkedIn profile.





WORLD BOOK DAY

MV students and staff shared their must reads and current recommendations for World Book Day. The foyer was buzzing with good reads talk, as book group guided members of our MV community to share their reading experiences, select a mystery read or participate in a book swap.



STUDENT UNION

On Wednesday 13th March MV held an election to choose our new student union president from across year 12. Three students put themselves forward; Izzy Hickling, Alice Lambert and Libby Perkes.

The students prepared a slide explaining their ideas for the college and their interests, which was shared during personal development lessons. Students were invited to vote for their chosen candidate via Microsoft Forms. The result was a close call, reflecting the calibre of the candidates, and the overall winner was Alice, so congratulations to her. All three will continue to contribute to our student union and work together to raise its profile with their excellent teamwork.

NEURODIVERSITY AWARENESS WEEK

This week, MV are celebrating neurodiversity. There have been multiple events across a variety of platforms spotlighting neurodiversity and the need to celebrate different ways of thinking. Students have had access to a variety of online speakers through the neurodiversity celebration week platform. These talks have been on a variety of topics including 'We don't all fit into one box' and global perspectives of neurodiversity around the world. We have also had a neurodiverse hall of fame around college, showing different thinking styles in different industries from well-known individuals, as well as a brilliant talk from Alumni James Healey, who came and spoke to MV and Birchwood students on neurodiversity in the workplace. Students have also had supportive information and documentary recommendations on our daily neurodiverse spotlight.

'WHAT LIGHTS UP YOUR LOVE OF PHYSICS?'

MV student Sam Scoble has reached the finals of the 'What lights up your love of Physics' national competition. Students nationally were encouraged to share their passion for physics in a captivating video and Sam's entry caught the judge's attention. He has been selected to showcase his video to a panel of judges at Merton College Oxford early next month. Sam could see himself winning an all-expenses paid field trip to the largest particle physics laboratory in the world, CERN. We wish him every success at the competition grand final.



Neurodiversity Celebration Week is a worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences.





EMPLOYABILITY FAIR

On March 20th we welcomed over 45 visitors from universities, apprenticeship providers and employers to our annual Careers Fair. Year 12 students took full advantage of the wealth of advice on offer from each stand as part of our careers programme. Visitors included some of our alumni, who came back to represent the firms they now work for, including: McLaren, Samworth Brothers, Mars, Brush Group, EMA Training, LEBC and Renishaw Engineering. Universities represented included: Lancaster University, University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University, Leicester University, Anglia Ruskin University and many more. Many of our students are showing a keen interest in the degree apprenticeship route where representatives from Rolls Royce, Caterpillar, KPMG and others were available to advise. On June 26th we will be taking year 12 students to the University of Nottingham for the annual UCAS fair where all universities and many apprenticeship providers will be present. Please keep an eye out for an email after Easter to sign up through MCAS.



Dates for your diary:

- **Deadline for Work Experience**
08/04/2024

Extensions permitted upon request please email nroberts@mv16.org.uk

- **Loughborough University Taster Day (Year 12 only)** **09/04/2024**
- **Kite Runner Trip – Nottingham Playhouse** **18/04/2024**
- **Compulsory exams briefing (All students)** **01/05/2024**
- **Bank Holiday** **06/05/2024**
- **Year 12 End of Year Assessments** **07/05/2024 – 13/05/2024**

