

Melton Vale Sixth Form College Newsletter

December 2024



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Dear MV parents, carers and prospective applicants

During this season of giving we encourage our community to think of others so it has been heartwarming to see the donations for the local food bank pile up at reception. In addition, Mrs Kuczynska's knitting needles have been red hot as she has struggled to keep up with the demand for her mini Christmas jumper decorations; over £200 has been raised for Save the Children so thank you to all students who got behind this initiative. As we move into 2025 we look forward to keeping the "Christmas spirit" alive and we know that so many of our

students already act as role models in pursuits outside of College – please do encourage them to let us know all the fabulous things that they are involved with so that we can support their brilliance too.

Please see below for just a few snippets from yet another busy term – we hope that this holiday season is a chance to spend quality time with friends and family and we look forward to the successes that 2025 will bring for our students.

Dr Nicki Dartnell
Headteacher

UCAS APPLICATIONS 2025

As of Monday 16th December, 75 year 13 students have sent off their UCAS application with the support of Ms Parks. The offers are already coming in and students have completed interviews for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Social Work and Teaching as well as five students having interviews to Oxford. For those that have not yet applied to uni, the January deadline is fast approaching so do encourage them to work on their applications over the break.

ANTHONY NOLAN

On Wednesday 18th and 25th November all Year 12s attended an assembly by Keith Sudbury from the Anthony Nolan Trust explaining how and why students should consider registering to become blood and stem cell donors. The assembly was hard hitting and emotional and as a result a record 113 students signed up to join the register via a simple cheek swab. To date, four former MV students have donated stem cells and saved a life. This was all part of our Community focus this half term as part of our Future Ready personal development programme.



GREEN CAREERS WEEK

In November we celebrated National Green Careers Week by hosting a range of talks aimed to expose students to the growing importance of Green Careers. Many thanks to parents, Pippa and Joe Gil from Audifel who introduced Geography and Environmental Science students to their roles as carbon consultants. Several alumni also joined us in different lessons to promote sustainability in architecture, investments and engineering. We also have industry links with the British Geological Survey, who gave two talks both in person and through Teams. If any parents also work within the field of Green Careers, Mrs Roberts would love to hear from you!





LONDON TRIP

On Thursday December 12th forty-three History, Politics, Art & Photography students and staff visited London. The history and politics group had an excellent tour of both the House of Commons and then The House of Lords, being able to briefly observe a debate in each. The group then took part in a workshop on how legislation works its way through both Houses. At the same time the art and photography students were able to tour both the Tate Britain and Newport Gallery, getting inspiration from the variety of creative work on display including work by masters such as Francis Bacon, Jenny Saville and Turner prize 2024 finalist Claudette Johnson. In the afternoon the groups met up at the Imperial War Museum, touring exhibits ranging from the moving Holocaust exhibit to the amazing Power of Image showcase of the importance of visual artists in documenting pivotal moments in conflict history. A fantastically inspirational day for all involved.



TWYXCROSS ZOO

On 28th November, fifty-seven Year 12 Biology and Environmental Science students visited Twycross Zoo to gain first-hand insight into the vital role modern zoos play in conservation, attending an engaging lecture on the topic. The talk highlighted key contributions, such as captive breeding programmes and initiatives aimed at preserving genetic diversity within endangered populations. Students also had the opportunity to explore the zoo and observe its many fascinating species. Among the inspiring success stories was the collaborative effort to save the critically endangered Amur leopard. We learned about the conservation strategy launched in 2001 by Russian and international experts, and Twycross Zoo's instrumental role in this initiative. Of course, the ever-entertaining bonobos and chimpanzees captivated our group with their playful antics, offering an excellent chance to observe primate behaviour. Thankfully, the weather was kind, and the day proved to be both educational and thoroughly enjoyable for all.



OTHELLO

Seventy English students enjoyed a cultural visit to Stratford-upon-Avon, to watch the RSC's production of 'Othello'. We were pleased to invite seven year 11 students from local school John Ferneley so that they could experience what A-level study would be like. This was the first time many students had visited the RSC and the experience was enhanced by the Christmas decorations being up! All students now also have a huge advantage when debating the play in lessons, as they can relate it to the stage action and directorial interpretation they saw in this performance.



GUEST SPEAKERS - Our Criminology students were treated to a day of...

Louise Pinder- HM Senior Coroner for North Leicestershire and Rutland

Katharine Bakewell- Senior Coroner's officer

Louise led a session detailing the role of the Coroner in the modern criminal justice system and how this role has evolved over hundreds of years. She discussed the legislation involved in the job and how this shapes the criminal investigation process. She also discussed other, little known aspects of her role such as being responsible for 'treasure' and what this means in contemporary law. Louise also explained how individual case law, for example the murder trial of Harold Shipman, led to new legislation governing the role of the Coroner to try and prevent such cases in the future.

Sergeant Jack Chester- serving officer for Nottinghamshire force, responsible for the Clifton and Meadows area

Jack led a session which included details about the application process for police officers including information about upcoming changes for those students specifically interested in being a Detective (there is now a fast-track programme available). He talked honestly and openly about the challenges faced by police officers including a lack of funding/ staffing in local areas. As he has extensive experience across a wider range of roles within the force, he discussed the benefits and drawbacks of each one and how they suit certain types of applicants. He was able to talk directly about the legislation that governs how police officers conduct investigations which tied in directly to the Unit 4 which Y13 are currently studying. Jack also showed the students the equipment he carries with him on a daily basis as he was able to arrive in full uniform. This included handcuffing students, explaining restraint techniques which included the use of sprays and tasers (not demonstrated, of course!).

Jack also took one of our Y13's on a 'ride along' on one of his day shifts shortly after visiting MV. This is someone who wants to apply to be a police officer and who Jack has been mentoring through the Alumni programme.



GOVERNOR OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE



We are looking for two parent governors to join our board. This is a great opportunity to be more involved in our college vision – please do contact us for an informal chat about the role on contactus@mv16.org.uk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Year 13 Mocks – **15.01.25 – 21.01.2025**
- Year 13 Mock Results Day – **04.02.2025**
- Lincoln University Online Student Finance Talk – **05.02.2025**
- Year 13 Progress Reviews – **11.02.2025**
- National Apprenticeship Week event – **12.02.2025**

**March 19th MV Careers Fair
(11am – 1pm)**

Please get in touch if you or the company you work for would like to host a stand at our Careers Fair.

RParks@mv16.org.uk



SPOTLIGHT ON... COMPUTER SCIENCE

NCCE COMPUTING QUALITY MARK

Our efforts in developing the quality of Computer Science teaching has been formally recognised with the prestigious NCCE Computing Quality Mark, awarded this October. This accolade highlights the exceptional training, expertise, and dedication of our teaching team, as well as the college's commitment to delivering an ambitious curriculum and fostering unparalleled opportunities for our students. As an NCCE Computing Quality Mark-accredited institution, MV16 stands among the nation's leading educational establishments in delivering outstanding computing education. The award celebrates our ability to equip students with the essential computational skills and knowledge vital for thriving in today's fast-evolving digital world and in their future careers.

MASTERCLASS ON GAMES PROGRAMMING

In December, during Computer Science Week, we enriched the student experience with a variety of innovative activities designed to connect classroom learning with real-world applications. Highlights included a virtual tour of Amazon's fulfilment centres, offering insights into the transformative role of algorithms and robotics alongside the environmental implications of computing. We also explored computer encryption and ciphers and concluded the week with an exclusive Masterclass on Games Programming, delivered by a Technical Director from Microsoft and Xbox Games. This session provided students with a unique perspective on programming within constraints, offering invaluable insights into the gaming industry.



INTERNATIONAL BEBRAS COMPUTATIONAL THINKING CHALLENGE

Our department's commitment to excellence extends to extra-curricular achievements. In November, 33 of our Computer Science students participated in the international Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge, showcasing their problem-solving and analytical skills on a global stage. We are thrilled to share that six of these students earned the prestigious Gold Award and secured places in the next round of the Oxford University Coding Challenges. Among these outstanding achievers, Year 13 student Jack Haynes deserves special recognition. Jack not only achieved the highest score at MV16 but also emerged as the top-performing sixth-form student in Leicestershire across all participating schools—a remarkable accomplishment that reflects both his talent and the strength of our Computer Science program.

AWARD FOR INNOVATION

We are delighted to have received the Innovation award at the annual Nova Education Trust Transformational Awards evening, along with a generous donation of £1000 from ONEMS Global. Thank you to our wonderful staff who worked hand on this project.

