

Melton Vale Sixth Form College Newsletter

July 2025



Follow us on Instagram @meltonvale



Follow us on LinkedIn @Melton Vale Sixth Form College



As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding term, it's a perfect time to pause and reflect on the achievements, growth, and resilience our students and staff have shown over the past year. Whether it was year 12 settling into the rhythm of sixth form life or year 13 preparing for the next chapter, this year has been full of tremendous highs, challenges overcome, and many "proud headteacher" moments, where our students proved time and again what wonderful young people they are. In this edition, you'll find highlights from the summer term—we're incredibly proud of the commitment and

ambition shown across the college and grateful for the support of families and our wider community in helping our students thrive.

Term starts for year 13 on Thursday 28th August, but until then, we wish you all a restful and well-earned summer break.

Nicki Dartnell
Headteacher

NEW STRUCTURE

We are delighted to announce two internal promotions to our Senior Leadership Team, recognising the expertise and dedication of colleagues already making a significant impact in our College community. Jason Rivers has been appointed Assistant Headteacher for Teaching and Learning, where he will continue to drive high-quality classroom practice and support academic outcomes. Toni Johnson has been appointed Assistant Headteacher for Pastoral and Safeguarding, where she will lead on student wellbeing and safeguarding, while also continuing in her role as SENDCO. We know that they will bring great strength to the team in their new roles.



Ms Johnson



Mr Rivers

UCAS FAIR

On Tuesday 24th June, our students attended the UCAS Discovery event at the NEC, a fantastic opportunity to explore future pathways and engage directly with universities, apprenticeship providers, and employers from across the UK. Throughout the day, our students showed great enthusiasm, asking thoughtful questions, collecting valuable resources and taking full advantage of the chance to discuss courses, careers and university life with the experts. Many attended insightful talks on topics such as personal statements and life at university, helping them to feel more confident and informed about their next steps. It was inspiring to see how proactively they approached the day, making the most of every opportunity to plan for a successful future.





ALUMNI DAY

On Friday 4th July, we welcomed back 45 former MV students to inspire our current Year 12 students as they start to firm up their plans for life after MV. We are so fortunate that each year so many of our alumni give up their time to share their career and university experiences and provide such valuable guidance. Jamie Douglas, this year's keynote speaker, introduced the event for us, sharing his pathway and job role as Fleet Experience Director for Virgin Voyages. One key message that Jamie shared was echoed by all alumni through the event, "take advantage of every opportunity as who knows where it may lead and what contacts you will make along the way". Students had the opportunity to 'network' with the alumni after attending career specific talks. We were impressed by how they conducted themselves and took every opportunity to build contacts and ask insightful questions. We look forward to supporting this cohort with their next steps and Mrs Roberts is always happy to answer any questions that parents and carers may have regarding university, apprenticeships, employment and taking a gap year.



UNIFROG CONFERENCE

Last week Mrs Roberts, accompanied by Jess & Grace, had the privilege of attending Unifrog's Higher Education Conference in London. They all took part in the Student & Teacher panel at this flagship event which brought together university outreach teams. The reps were keen to hear their views on how to better engage with GenZ, connect through social media & improve Open Day events. Mrs Roberts, one of Unifrog's dedicated Teacher Ambassadors, provided valuable advice on how the Unifrog platform can better support students and this event allowed the universities to hear directly from our amazing MVerS - the girls provided incredible insights and the reps said it was the highlight of the conference!





CREATIVE ARTS TEAM CELEBRATED FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

We are incredibly proud to share that our Creative Arts team has been awarded second place in the Inspirational Teaching Award at this year's Sixth Form College Association (SFCA) Awards.

This national recognition is a testament to the team's unwavering commitment to fostering creativity, curiosity, and confidence in every student they teach. Their personalised and passionate approach not only inspires outstanding academic and creative outcomes, but also empowers students to find their voice and develop a deep, lasting appreciation for artistic expression.

Coming second in such a competitive national field is a remarkable achievement — and richly deserved. We are thrilled to see their commitment, skill, and impact recognised on a national stage, and we know our students feel the same.

Congratulations to everyone in the Creative Arts team — your work continues to inspire us all.



RAGDALE HALL SPA – COMMUNITY CHEST

We are grateful to have received a £250 donation from the Ragdale Hall Community Chest to enhance our outdoor spaces. This funding will benefit all our students, including the Birchwood students who have classrooms on our site, by creating more enjoyable and engaging outdoor environments. We will keep you updated on this project.



DISCOVER MV DAYS

Last week we were delighted to welcome over 350 students to our Discover MV days. Students joined us on either the Monday or Tuesday to try out the subjects they have chosen to study and get a real taste of life at the College. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet teachers, make new friends, and begin to feel part of the vibrant and supportive MV community. The energy and enthusiasm across both days were brilliant, and we're now even more excited to welcome our new cohort in September. Many thanks to the year 12 students that came along to help out — they did us proud.



BELGIUM

Thanks to an incredible opportunity through the Turing Scheme, 14 MV16 students joined 14 students from NUA for an unforgettable educational trip to Belgium. The group explored learning from a new perspective, including a visit to St John's International School in Waterloo. The itinerary also featured cultural visits to Ghent, Bruges, and Brussels, where students immersed themselves in the rich history and vibrant atmosphere of each city. A standout moment was visiting the European Parliament's interactive visitor centre, offering a fascinating insight into European politics. Students also enjoyed a scenic boat tour through Ghent, which brought the city's history to life from its waterways, and took part in a deliciously engaging chocolate workshop and museum tour. Evenings were filled with fun and bonding activities such as a Belgium-themed quiz and games like Sticky 13's Bingo, making it a truly memorable experience for all involved.



PROM

Our 2025 Year 13 Leavers' Prom was yet again a great success, as we hosted an amazing send off for our wonderful class of 2025 at the Market Tavern in Melton town centre. Over 200 staff and students attended the event on the evening of Friday June 27th, to celebrate the end of the exam season and say a final farewell to each other before the students next steps begin, whether that is an apprenticeship, university, a gap year or starting a career in the world of work. Students and staff were greeted with a welcome drink, enjoyed the sunshine in the outside seating area, made the most of the buffet spread, and danced the night away to music played by the DJ. In addition, everyone made the most of the free photo booth to capture memories.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **A Level Results Day**
14.08.2025
- **GCSE Results Day**
21.08.2025
- **MV16 Enrolment Day**
22.08.2025
- **Year 13 Return**
28.08.2025
- **New Year 12 Cohort Start**
01.09.2025
- **New Parent Evening**
17.09.2025
- **Trust Inset Day – College Closed**
03.10.2025

LONDON TRIP

On Monday July 7th, 44 MV students and staff visited London for a day of culture. Creative students had the opportunity to visit the National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery, getting inspiration from a wide range of historical and contemporary creative practitioners. In addition, History and Politics students spent some time at the British Museum, touring exhibits ranging from Egyptian mummies to the Easter Island heads and the Rosetta Stone. Students then all had the chance to tour the sights and sounds of Covent Garden, experiencing a variety of street theatre and London life. It was a wonderful day of inspiration, education and fun.



ART SHOW

On July 8th we had a wonderful evening celebrating the hard work and talents of our year 13 creative cohort. Friends, family and members of the local community gathered together to view the fantastic and varied work of Art, Photography, Graphics, Textiles, Product Design and Media Studies. This evening is a highlight of the year for the teachers involved as it showcases the transformational journey the students have been on since joining us less than two years ago. Many positive and congratulatory comments were made both in conversation and in our visitor's book such as 'Excellent exhibition, great to see all, and well worth travelling from North Yorkshire to see it.' and 'Amazing show, fabulous work! Our son has absolutely flourished whilst at MV16'. We are always so thankful of the support we get from the families of our creative students, and we are delighted to finish their time with us in such a celebratory fashion.



WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK

Our three Work Experience days were a great success, offering students a valuable insight into the world of work through both in-person placements and engaging virtual projects. Those who attended external placements represented the College brilliantly, gaining hands-on experience in a range of industries. Meanwhile, students who remained in College took part in virtual Work Experience, tackling media and crime-focused projects that required creativity, teamwork and problem-solving. Across all activities we were hugely impressed by the level of commitment, professionalism and enthusiasm shown. It was fantastic to see students embracing the opportunity to develop their skills and explore potential career paths with such maturity and focus.

MELTON BUILDING SOCIETY

Nicola Moss and The Business Hub Work Experience, in partnership with Melton Building Society, delivered a highly successful three-day-micro-business work experience for 16 of our A-level Business students. Hosted in the inspiring community space at Melton Building Society, students worked alongside local micro-business professionals to tackle real workplace research tasks, run a mini project from planning to delivery and practise presenting their findings. The highlight for many of the students was the networking event where students embraced the opportunity to boost their communication skills and build contacts. Thanks to Nicola and Melton Building Society for making this happen - we hope to be able to repeat it next year.