

Melton Vale Sixth Form College Newsletter

Friday 24th May 2024



Dear MV Parents and Carers

Where is the year going? We have come to the end of our penultimate half-term and as usual it has been a busy one. Year 12 had their first go at formal mock exams and rose to the challenge brilliantly. They will receive their results on Friday 7th June and progress reviews will take place on Thursday 20th June to discuss their grades and aspirations – more info to follow after half-term. As I write, year 13 Physics, English and PE students are just putting pen to paper for their first written exam in these subjects. We could not be more proud of how hard our year 13 students have worked or how they are conducting themselves during this exam season. Just a few more weeks and then they are free to enjoy their summer, and deservedly so.

ST EDMUND HALL

15 students took the opportunity to visit St Edmund Hall, an Oxford University college on 30th April. Activities included the tackling of entrance exam questions and a critical thinking exercise – what did the heat map represent? We learned some more about the applications and interview process and were guided by Rebecca, our liaison, on an informative tour of Oxford city centre, including the Bodleian Library and some of the other colleges and several famous film locations! Oxford did look resplendent in the sunshine and students then enjoyed a wander around the town centre and the famous indoor market. The day was certainly inspirational and enjoyed by all. We anticipate several applications to Oxford University!



Please encourage them to have some downtime over the bank holiday to recharge their batteries, and whatever you are doing, I hope that you all have a lovely half-term.

With warm wishes

Nicki Dartnell
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

- Year 13 study leave starts 03/06/2024
- Work experience 17/06/2024 – 19/06/2024
- Year 12 progress reviews 20/06/2024
- UCAS parent's info evening (Teams) 24/06/2024
- UK University & Apprenticeship Fair (Nottingham University) 26/06/2024
- Year 13 Prom 28/06/2024
- British museum trip 04/07/2024
- Alumni event 05/07/2024

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

We welcomed Jason Rivers to MV after Easter as our new Computer Science teacher. Having taught at MV previously, Jason left to develop his experience and has returned to us from a role at the Archway Learning Trust, where he had responsibility for the delivery of Computer Science and IT across the Trust. He is already busy planning lots of extra-curricular activities for our students and we are excited at what the future brings!



STAFF SHOUT OUT

Well done to our LSA Andy Masters who received a NODA review based on his recent amateur dramatics' performance.





CRANEDALE RESIDENTIAL TRIP

At the end of April our A Level biology students and staff headed off to North Yorkshire on the annual biology field trip. Students stayed at the Cranedale Field Studies Centre in Kirby Grindalythe where they were able to investigate the ecology of the surrounding areas. On the first day students gained an insight into the efficiency of agricultural ecosystems at an intensive pig farm. This was an eye opener for many and certainly very thought provoking. The first day also saw students wading in local streams to study biodiversity, and later setting humane traps to catch small mammals in a nearby woodland to carry out population studies. The second day started early with an exciting visit back to their traps and the release of a bank vole. We later spent a sunny day at Filey Brigg investigating the effects of desiccation on limpets. Fortunately, sun cream was on the equipment list as well as woolly hats! The day ended with the statistical analysis of snail distribution depending on their appearance. Thank goodness for tall students who were able to reach the agile tree climbing snails! The weather on our final day did not disappoint as we headed into Dalby Forest to investigate moorland succession. Students worked efficiently to collect data to determine the different stages of succession at this site of special scientific interest. This year proved to be another very successful field trip with a wonderful group of students. After three very busy days, including great weather (at last) and wonderful food, the coach trip back was rather quiet as tired students and staff returned home.



LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY

At Inspiring Minds: social sciences and humanities, MV attendees customised their experience and chose up to four different sessions to create a personalised timetable. Subjects available to taste included; criminology, English and liberal arts, geography, history, media and communications, politics and international relations, PPE (politics, philosophy and economics), psychology and sociology. In addition to the subject taster sessions, advice and guidance on university applications and student finance was given. As the starting point for many of the students with respect to considering University, it proved to be an excellent first step.



NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE

English students enjoyed the emotional rollercoaster of watching 'The Kite Runner' at Nottingham Playhouse. The joy of theatre was definitely felt by all and led to some really thoughtful discussions about contemporary issues.





Y13 LEAVERS' AWARD

We couldn't have picked a better day of weather for our year 13 Leavers' lunch on Friday 10th May. Following their final deep dive session students assembled on the grass for a lunch of "dirty fries" (I was reliably informed these would be a hit!) and a final celebration of everything they have achieved during their time at MV. Awards were presented to recognise Extraordinary Progress, Community Leadership and Life beyond Lessons, plus a special "Pride of Dr D" award. For those who didn't win an award there were official MV freebies to remind them of their time with us. We wish them all the very best and look forward to them keeping in touch so that we can share in their onward successes.



To extend the recent revision strategies work done in Personal Development sessions, year 13 students took part in subject 'Deep Dives'. Teachers planned intensive, exploration sessions including group and paired work as well as interactive activities. Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive about this opportunity with 98% of students stating how useful extended time with their subject teacher was. As many exams are up to 3 hours long the longer sessions were a valuable training experience for sustained focus. Below are some of the student comments about the activities they found useful during the individual sessions.



"Completing past papers with peers is a good way to reinforce your own understanding but also a way to learn from one another."

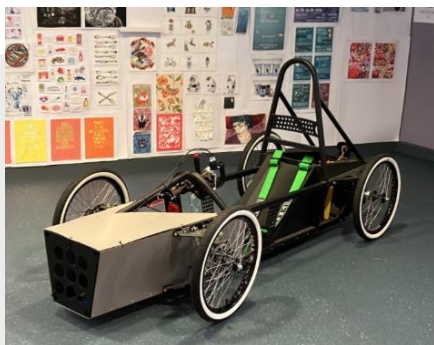
"It was all useful honestly, I enjoyed going through exam questions and it being explained thoroughly to me."

"Group work, sharing ideas, thoughts and approaches, getting real time feedback."

"Going over the course with teachers, getting tested, memory tasks, personalised teacher advice."

GREEN CAREERS

The Greenpower Team is a student-led group who are aiming to construct an electric car from scratch. Unsurprisingly, this is quite challenging and it's even harder without a physical reference. Therefore, we are happy to announce that, to aid our research, we have been donated an electric kit car by HME Logistics! The team are extremely grateful for this opportunity and are already utilising this amazing resource to understand how the car works in a more physical sense. If you'd like to watch the team's progress and find out what we're up to, you can follow us on our Instagram at [@mv16greenpower](https://www.instagram.com/mv16greenpower).



MERTON COLLEGE

Having attended a two-day residential at Merton College, Oxford, Sam Scoble won best in the science philosophy category for his video in the 'What lights up your love of physics' competition. The event featured the students attending a formal dinner, a captivating talk by Dr. Becky Smethurst, astrophysicist and YouTuber and tours of the Oxford University's department of physics.

