

# Melton Vale Sixth Form College Newsletter

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023



Dear MV parents and carers,

So, we have nearly made it to the end of a very long half-term. As usual it has been busy and there has been much to celebrate, this newsletter provides just a snapshot of all that makes our College amazing. New this half-term we have introduced monthly "Pride of MV" awards, presented to students who have gone the extra mile in some way, either within their studies or within our community. Congratulations to Fran Foreman, Ellis Fletcher, Sam Orange, Aimee Wightwick-Hotston, Sam Scoble, Grace Wade, Barney Waterworth and Eleanor Hannan for being the inaugural recipients.

Many thanks to all the staff and students for their hard work and commitment this term; we wish you all a restful and happy holiday and we'll see you in the New Year.

Best wishes  
Nicki Dartnell  
Headteacher

\* MERRY \*  
CHRISTMAS



## GREEN CAREERS WEEK

MV celebrated Green Careers Week in November with the incredible support of our amazing alumni. Former MV students working in the field of green careers gave talks in lessons throughout the week in Business, Biology, Engineering and Economics both 'virtual' & 'in person'. They focused on the pathways to green jobs and the future of the green economy, showing our students the role Gen Z will play in creating a net zero future. A special thank you to the British Geological Survey who also hosted 4 different workshops for all year 12 students on the Wednesday afternoon; it was a true privilege to welcome BGS to MV as we are so lucky to have the UK facility just down the road from us at Keyworth. Students gained an insight into the importance of a circular economy and learned that green jobs will be available in a wide range of career paths in the coming years.



## INCLUSION AWARD

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November saw the first Nova Education Trust Transformational Awards Ceremony at University Hall in Nottingham. Schools across the Nova Trust were invited to submit entries under a variety of categories that sought to highlight the transformational practice happening across the Trust. It was a truly heart-warming evening and a pleasure to see the different ways in which schools were going above and beyond to support the education of young people in the East Midlands. I am delighted to say that MV16 won the "Transformational Inclusion" award for our collaborative work with Birch Wood Vale – more about that below!



Dates for your diary:

- Year 13 Mocks **15/01/24 – 19/01/24**
- Parent/Carer Online Student Finance Talk **18/01/24**
- National Apprenticeship Week **05/02/24-09/02/24**
- Year 13 Mock Results Day **05/02/24**
- Apprenticeship Information Evening **07/02/24**
- Year 13 Progress Reviews **13/02/24**





## STUDENT UNION

This term Student Union at MV has expanded even further, with a significant number of new Year 12 joining and members of Birch Wood Vale working with us too. Members of the Union have taken part in a variety of activities, starting with the MacMillan Coffee Morning in September where members helped sell cakes and biscuits, raising over £200. In October we again organised some whole college activities, with fancy dress and an interform pumpkin carving competition for Halloween. In November the Union also contributed to Children in Need, see later article. Finally, this December, as in previous years, the Student Union have organised a 'reverse advent calendar' collecting different goods each college day in December to donate to Melton's Store House. This community building activity is just one more way that the whole of MV, staff and students come together.



## LONDON TRIP

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 45 students and staff visited London to learn more about British Politics and History and tour a number of art galleries. We had an early start at 7.30am and faced some very wet weather, but the history and politics group arrived at Parliament on time and 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 Creative Art students were able to tour both the Newport Gallery and Tate Britain, getting inspiration from the variety of art on display. In the afternoon the groups met up at the Imperial War Museum, touring exhibits ranging from a twisted girder from one of the Twin Towers after 9/11, to the moving Holocaust exhibit. Everyone enjoyed the opportunities to bring their studies to life.



## CHILDREN IN NEED



On 17<sup>th</sup> November MV celebrated Children in Need. The Student Union organised a raffle of an amazing home-made cake; the winner was delighted at his luck but had to share the cake with his mum who works at the College! Mr Bower organised another brilliant open mic, with performances from year 12 and 13 as well as staff. All students could choose to wear fancy dress or pyjamas for a small fee. Finally, the Student Union also organised a guess the name of the bear competition. In total the college raised £410, an excellent result both for the charity and the College community.

On 8<sup>th</sup> December a range of Politics and Geography students travelled to De Montfort University to attend a student focused conference event linked to the COP 28 in Dubai. The main question that all participants were aiming to answer was; 'Can politics fix the planet?' One of the questions that MV students put to the panel was "How can countries use their individual strengths in order to increase their use of renewable energy?" During the event they heard from the person in charge of sustainability at the United Nations and got to put their questions to a selection of local politicians and climate activists.

## DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY



## BBC COVERAGE

Our collaboration with Birch Wood Vale goes from strength to strength. Having started as an agreement for them to rent some space in the College to use as a post-16 hub, Birch Wood students now access College clubs and societies and take part in College events. The difference that it has made to their confidence is extraordinary, and for MV students it has been an opportunity to learn about and normalise disability, and to understand the true nature of inclusion. BBC East Midlands heard about the partnership and came to film at the College so that they could highlight how we are breaking down barriers. The article featured on Politics East Midlands and East Midlands Today, plus a spot on Radio Leicester. We are enormously proud to be trailblazers in this area and are looking forward to sharing our model with others.

