

Melton Vale Sixth Form College Newsletter

Friday 16th February 2024



Dear MV parents and carers,
As I type it is 5pm and, whilst the sun is sadly missing I can still see daylight outside, which is a sign that we have come to the end of a dark and gloomy half-term and better things are ahead. Year 13 have completed their formal mock exams and we hope that they are taking on board the advice and guidance from their teachers and are thinking about how to make the most of their remaining time with us. We want them to go into their exams confident that they have done the best that they can to prepare for them and we are asking them to reflect on how they might achieve and prioritise their time accordingly. This week I have awarded this half-term's "Pride of MV" awards to year 13 (year 12 will happen after half-term). They have been presented to students who have embodied the values of hard work and perseverance in their studies, so congratulations to Ali Joseph, Seth Spradbury, Suzy Ayre and Hannah Neale.

On Thursday 7th March, at 6.00pm, we will be holding a student/parent webinar for year 13 parents and carers to attend (although year 12 – you are also very welcome!) The webinar will be delivered by me and Toni Johnson, our SENDCO & study skills coordinator, and we will be discussing what you can do to support your young person in the run up to exams.

YEAR 13 PROM

On Friday June 28th we will be sending off our class of 2024 with a Leavers Prom themed as "A night under the stars". This will be a celebration for our year 13 community, staff and students and a chance to say goodbye and good luck. The MV student union are busy planning this event, which will be held at Melton Rugby Club – details to follow.



We will cover top revision techniques (some that you can help with, if allowed!) and how to manage exam nerves, and we will be including some comments from our students as to what they would (and would not!) welcome from you in terms of support. Please look out for an email after half-term to invite you to that.

For now, I hope that next week brings some sunshine for you all, in whatever form that may take, and I look forward to our next (very short) half-term and the emergence of Spring.

Warm wishes
Nicki Dartnell
Headteacher



BOOK SWAP & SALE

On March 7th MV will be celebrating World Book Day with a book exchange and sale. Students and staff will be able to donate their unwanted books and swap them for another good read. Anyone can drop off a book at reception, receiving a raffle ticket in return. That raffle ticket can then be exchanged for a different book. This will take place between March 4th and 8th, a week to celebrate the benefits of reading both academically and for mental health.



NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

National Apprenticeship Week 2024 was a busy week with many of our former students joining us to promote apprenticeships as an option for life after MV. Companies represented included: JCB, McLaren, Mars, PwC, KPMG, Brush, Samworth Brothers, Dunelm and Freeths. Year 12 students selected a talk to attend to learn more about the application process for higher and degree apprenticeships and how this route is different to the traditional university pathway. We were also pleased to see so many parents and carers at our information evening, where Grace from LEBC presented the important facts when considering this route. A special thanks also to Harry and Ollie, in year 13, who spoke to the audience about their first hand experiences this year when applying and securing degree apprenticeship offers. Please see our website for comprehensive careers information and contact Mrs Roberts if you have any questions.





FATAL 4

On Wednesday 31st January year 12 students watched an amazing presentation from Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service called 'Fatal4'. This annual visit focused on the dangers of driving and the main causes of accidents, including speeding and use of mobile phones. This hard-hitting presentation comes at a very appropriate time for year 12s as they turn 17 this academic year and begin driving. In addition, students had the opportunity to take part in a virtual reality experience showing exactly what happens during a collision. The whole experience will hopefully stay with our students and ensure that when they do pass their driving test they become safe and responsible road users.



COMMUNITY PLANTING EVENT

We have been very fortunate to have secured a grant to establish a 200m hedgerow along the southern boundary of the College thanks to funding from The Tree Council's Branching Out Fund. Branching Out provides grants ranging from £250 to £2,500 to community groups, schools, small registered charities and Tree Warden Networks seeking to establish trees, hedgerows, and orchards throughout the winter planting season.

We are lucky to already have resident muntjac deer, squirrels, rabbits and a barn owl at MV16 and we hope to further provide for wildlife and enhance the biodiversity of the College grounds.

We now need everyone's help to plant our hedgerow and invite you all to come and dig in! Student planting day will be Friday 15th March for MV16 and BW16 students and staff. Then on Saturday 16th March everyone who has a connection to MV is invited to join us. Families and children are welcome. Just bring boots and a spade! Hot drinks and cakes will be offered to all who help us on the day. We are also asking for donations of tree bark chippings from local tree surgeons and contractors and the site is ready to receive them now in preparation for the planting weekend.



The Tree Council Grants Officer, Geraldine Creaven said: "Branching Out presents a fantastic opportunity for schools and community grounds large and small to get their spades in the ground and start establishing life-enhancing and biodiversity boosting trees, hedgerows, and orchards in their neighbourhoods. "We're so thrilled for all our successful applicants, especially MV16!"

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Ms Kuczynska delivered a lecture this week to year 13 students entitled "Who do you think I am?" The lecture was based on her mother's deportation from Poland to Siberia in 1940 as a 9-year-old child. Coping with the loss of her parents and relying on the kindness of strangers, she described the odyssey from Poland to Russia, Karachi and finally Valivade in India, where she spent five years in school. Traumatic yes, but ultimately the story left us with the sense of triumph of the human spirit in the most adverse conditions.



Dates for your diary:

- *National Careers Week 04/03/24 – 08/03/24*
- *Lincoln University Talk (P4) 13/03/24*
- *C-Card (Lunchtime) 15/03/24*
- *Community hedgerow planting 15/03/24 – 16/03/24*
- *Neurodiversity Celebration Week 18/03/24 – 22/03/24*
- *Careers Fair (P3/4) 20/03/24*

STUDENT UNION

The MV16 student union continues to raise its profile across the college with a number of events in February. Firstly, they are coordinating our celebration of LGBTQ+ History Month by identifying and sharing stories of historical figures from the LGBTQ+ community whose journey can inspire all of our students. In addition, as part of raising both awareness of their work and funds for them to carry out future projects, the student union sold Valentine's roses and gift bags of chocolates. These activities help foster an even stronger sense of community across our college and will be continued by our new student union president, who will be elected in the summer term.

