

# Melton Vale Sixth Form College Newsletter

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023



Dear MV parents and carers,

Well, that's my first term completed. In many ways I feel that I have been here much longer as I feel so settled and in other ways it has flown by as there has been so much to learn. I finally have a base in Melton, which has been a game changer; my car gets to have a bit of a rest, as do I!

It has been a good time to start as we look to make some tweaks to the student experience as we move in to the new academic year. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the MV community and I look forward to getting to know more of them and you in the new term.

And speaking of community, we are pleased to be welcoming Birch Wood School as they become part of ours in the new term. They will be setting up a hub within the College for a group of their post-16 students to allow them to experience a more adult environment and get used to the hustle and bustle of a "normal" work space.

They will be taught and supervised by Birch Wood teachers, but we hope that they might be able to join us in some of the events and extra-curricular activities that take place in the College. We look forward to their presence enriching our College as we work towards breaking down barriers to disability.

For the new academic year, term starts on **Monday 4th September** with a UCAS preparation day for our year 13 cohort. They will then have a day at home working on their personal statements and other paperwork whilst we settle our new year 12 students on **Tuesday 5th**, before teaching begins for everyone on **Wednesday 6th September**.

But that is some weeks away; for now, I do hope that you have an excellent summer break, whatever it holds.

With warm wishes

Nicki Dartnell  
Headteacher

## FAREWELL TO MRS LYONS



Kerry joined Melton Vale in 2019 initially as a supply teacher, but soon proved herself to be indispensable and was appointed as a teacher of A level PE and BTEC Health and Social Care. Her drive and enthusiasm also then ensured Melton Vale's successful introduction and delivery of the BTEC Sport qualification. Kerry has been an integral part of the teaching staff here and an inspiration to all of the students she has come in to contact with, she has been an exceptional tutor, building up positive relationships with her tutees, monitoring their progress and encouraging their success. Kerry has also helped establish the Melton Vale netball team, and introduced regular table tennis sessions, as well as organising visits to places such as Lincoln University, and inviting outside speakers in to share their expertise, including from the NHS. Kerry is leaving us to move closer to her family home and we wish her all the best in the future.

## ALUMNI DAY

On Friday July 7<sup>th</sup>, over 50 of our former students joined us at MV for our fourth annual Alumni event. This has become an important part of our careers programme at MV as our year 12s were able to gain first hand advice and information on a range of career paths from our alumni. We were also fortunate that Baroness Morgan of Cotes joined us for the morning, as Chair of the National Careers and Enterprise Company. As Education Secretary (2014-2016) Nicky established the standards we follow today for careers education. She was impressed to see the large number of former students who came back to MV on Friday and who were so willing to support our careers programme.







## COVENTRY UNIVERSITY

Over 200 of us visited Coventry University on June 28<sup>th</sup> as part of our Careers Programme at MV. This was a fully funded event as MV is a 'Phoenix Partner' 6<sup>th</sup> form college with Coventry University. Our students benefitted from a tour of the campus as well as attending bespoke workshops across a range of subjects. Pictured is the winning team from the Business and Economics workshop, where students had £1m investment fund to trade in a fantasy stock market trading floor simulation. Coventry University is also renowned for both its aerospace and motorsport engineering faculties, where several former MV students have gone on to study in the past.



## ART EXHIBITION

On July 10<sup>th</sup> we had a wonderful evening celebrating the hard work and talent of our creative students. Our annual 'Art Show' welcomed families, friends, prospective students and members of the local community to share in the success of our Photography, Graphics, Art and Textiles A level students as well as our Foundation Diploma cohort. Many of the students will join our impressive alumni, enjoying success in the creative industry. This exhibit not only showcases the dedication of our students but also the depth and quality of our exciting curriculum, designed by our Creative Arts faculty.



## MEET MONTY

*MV welcomes a new employee!*

Monty the Golden Retriever joined us for a trial day at the end of June. Monty is a registered therapy dog and he visits schools, Colleges and residential homes to provide a bit of stress and anxiety management. He was a hit with students and staff alike and we will be welcoming him on a weekly basis in the new term.



## PRIDE MONTH

Thank you to our lovely catering staff who helped us celebrate Pride for the whole month of June with their fabulous sweet treats!



## AWARD WINNERS!

Headteacher Nicki Dartnell and Assistant Headteacher Natasha Roberts attended the Sixth Form College Association Annual Awards Ceremony in Nottingham at the end of June. The Awards ceremony brought together nearly one hundred Sixth Form Colleges across the country and aimed to celebrate and highlight some of the excellent practice happening across the sector. Having submitted an entry for the "Enrichment and Employability" category we are delighted to report that we won! The award was in recognition of the College's extensive alumni engagement programme, which matches past students with current students according to career goals, to provide mentorship and advice with applications and onward progression. A spokesperson for the SFCA said that they were not aware of another institution offering the bespoke level of alumni support that is seen here at MV. Well done to everyone involved!

