



## Year 6 Open Evening: Thursday 3rd October 5-7pm

Come and see what Melksham Oak Community School has to offer

### Weekly Message from Mr Cooper

I've enjoyed meeting the staff and students at Melksham Oak and very much appreciate the welcome I have received. Over the next few weeks, Mrs Clark and I will be arranging some opportunities for parents and carers to meet us informally over tea and coffee to introduce ourselves and listen to your thoughts about the school. I hope that you will be able to join us and look forward to meeting you.

### Message from Mrs Clark

What a amazing first week. I have had the pleasure of seeing many great lessons, with students actively engaged with their learning. It was nice to meet all students last week in their welcome assembly, where I mentioned the importance of involvement in extra-curricular activities as well as working hard in lessons. You will find the sports offer for this term in this Newsletter and we will be adding information about more clubs as well as showcasing what students are doing next week. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

### Key reminders for parents regarding uniform

It has been a fantastic start to the term and we thank you and your child/children for supporting our uniform standards. We want all students to be proud of our uniform. Please ensure that when wearing jewellery your child/children are only wearing a watch and one pair of small studs in their lower earlobes. Facial piercings are not part of the uniform policy, please therefore ensure that your child/children are not wearing facial piercings when they leave home to attend school. A polite reminder that clear nose piercings retainers are also not permitted.

School shoes should also be black and polishable. Trainers are not part of our uniform policy.

Skirts should be a professional length and not rolled.

Ties should be worn with the top button done up on their shirts and tucked in at all times. School jumpers with the Melksham Oak logo should also be worn at all times.

### Equipment

Students should have the following equipment with them on each day of school.

- A reading book (KS3-years 7 to 9)
- A scientific calculator
- Two black pens
- A purple pen
- A pencil
- A ruler
- A rubber
- A highlighter

### Mobile Phones



In line with government guidance mobile phones are prohibited in school.

**If a phone is seen or heard it will be confiscated.**

If a student is sent to Refocus they will be required to hand their phone over for safe keeping for the duration of the time they are in Refocus



## Safeguarding Awareness

Safeguarding is a key priority for Melksham Oak and the partnership between home and school is a crucial part of that priority, Each newsletter will contain a section on safeguarding to help inform parents/carers and guardians to support their child/children in the modern world in which we live which may look very different to one we grew up in. If parents/carers and guardians want support on any of the topics raised in this safeguarding section please do not hesitate to reach out to us as at school.

Today's section concerns sextortion-this may be a term that is not yet familiar to many in our community. You can read more for yourselves at :

- UK Safer Internet Centre: <https://saferinternet.org.uk>
- Eliminating Child Sexual Abuse Online: <https://www.iwf.org.uk>

Sextortion cases are on the rise as criminals target younger children, warns the Internet Watch Foundation, 02 Sep 2024

Children as young as 11, as well as more girls, are now being targeted in an increasing number of sexual extortion cases, warns the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF). Just in the first half of 2024, the IWF, a partner in the UK Safer Internet Centre, reported a 19% increase in child sexual abuse reports related to sexual extortion, also known as "sextortion", compared to the same period in 2023.

Criminal gangs are targeting younger victims and girls, exposing them to violent threats, and making them feel humiliated and isolated. In extreme cases, some young people have taken their own lives because of the distress inflicted by criminals.

Criminals will deceive or coerce young people into sharing sexual imagery, and then threaten the victims to share the content with their relatives and friends if they fail to make a payment.

The Report Remove helpline is a world-first service run by the IWF and Childline which allows young people to report their own images, to see if they can be taken off the internet. The IWF can also prevent these images from being shared on the open web by scammers or criminals.

"Report Remove can give children and young people back the power, and can be a ray of hope for the increasing numbers of children being snared by these criminals.

"We also want to see the Government bring forward legislation to ensure AI nudifying technology is not available to UK-based users, and to encourage other governments globally to take similar measures."

You can read more about Report Remove here: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>

We do a lot of curriculum work at Melksham Oak on online safety however home school communication and home school shared knowledge is also key in keeping our young people safe online. As stated above do reach out if you have any concerns.



## Punctuality

It has been wonderful to see the vast majority of students being on time in the morning so they are ready for the day and for tutor time and therefore ready to learn. Please remember that the school gates close at 0840 and students arriving after this time must sign in at reception and will be recorded as late.



## Free School Meals

Families receiving support such as income support, job seekers allowance, employment and support allowance, child tax credit or universal credit may be eligible for free school meals.

Please apply online through the Wiltshire council website: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-free-school-meals>

If you have recently moved into Wiltshire from another county you will also still need to apply even if you were entitled to free school meals at your child's last school.

## RUH Careers Evening

We are excited to let you know that the RUH is hosting our next Careers Evening on Thursday 17th October 2024. Please see attached poster for marketing with students.

Date: 17th October 2024

Time slot 1: 17:00-18:00

Time slot 2: 18:30-19:30

Venue: Education Centre (E7), Combe Park, Bath, BA1 3NG

You can register here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/royalunitedhospitalsbathnhsfoundationtrust/1322881>

Only one ticket is required per person and this will automatically include 1 parent/guardian.

## PE Enrichment

Terms 1 & 2 Enrichment				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3.00pm – 4.00pm				
Multi-skills Club (invite only) CWI	Rugby Year 7-9 Boys HWA  Rugby Years 7-9 Girls EPR	Netball year 7 RSA  Netball Year 8 EPR  Netball Year 9 CWI  Year 11 Netball training	Badminton WHA RSA  Football Girls Year 7-9 NBA  Self Defence Girls years 7 -9 Limited spaces available see RSA to sign up.	





## Friends of The Oak Logo Competition

**LOGO  
COMPETITION**

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW LOGO  
FOR OUR P.T.A CALLED  
F.O.T.O  
(FRIENDS OF THE OAK)

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:**

- OPEN TO ALL YEARS
- CAN BE DRAWN OR DIGITAL
- SHOULD INCLUDE THE NAME (F.O.T.O)
- CLEAR SCHOOL LINK IN THE DESIGN
- DEADLINE - FRIDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

**CHOSEN DESIGN WILL WIN  
A £50 AMAZON VOUCHER**

ENTRIES TO BE SENT TO MISS ORNOV -  
ORNOVH@MELKSHAMOAK.WILTS.SCH.UK  
OR TO L43

## Iceland Trip 2025

There are still 4 spaces left on this trip that must be filled in order for the trip to run.

For a letter/more information please contact Mr Wallace.

## Car Parking

Can we ask that all visitors that make use of the car park be mindful of other road users. Please only park in approved spaces and when driving in the car park be mindful of pedestrians and other road users.

## Trips Abroad Survey

We would like to request you to take part in the below survey, using the link shown, which is going out to all of the secondary schools within our Academy Trust.

The purpose of the survey is to obtain feedback from as many of our Parent/Carers as possible on the cost of school trips. Future trips abroad will depend on the outcome of this consultation.

Please may this be completed and submitted before half-term, no later than Wednesday, 23rd October 2024 – many thanks for your support.

To access the survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/YYMpsfzsjs>

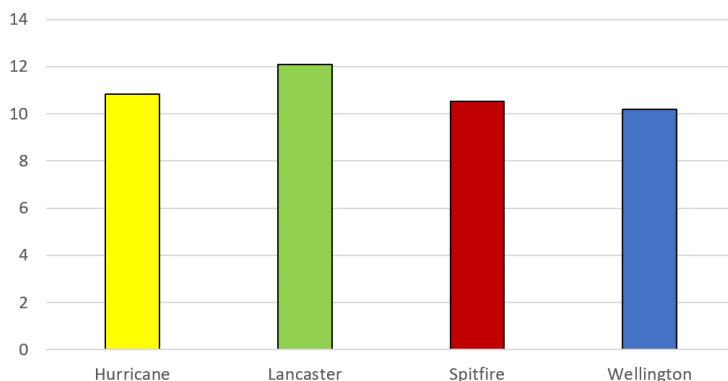


### Merits

Students have been awarded a large number of merits in school over the last week and a half with over 12,500 merits being issued so far!

Lancaster house are currently ahead with an average of over 12 merits per student. As all our houses have varying number of students in we have divided the total merits by the number of students in the house.

Average Merits per Student



### Key Contacts

**In the first instance please contact your child's tutor**, who will be best placed to answer your query or direct you to the best person who can give you an answer. Details of the pastoral team are below:

#### Pastoral Team

Year 7:	Mrs H. Pearce	<a href="mailto:pearceh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">pearceh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>
Year 8	Mrs H. Johnson	<a href="mailto:johnsonh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">johnsonh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>
Year 9	Mr L. Ballinger	<a href="mailto:ballingerl@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">ballingerl@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>
Year 10	Mrs C. Hughes	<a href="mailto:hughesc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">hughesc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>
Year 11	Mr J. Oatley	<a href="mailto:oatleyj@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">oatleyj@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>

#### KS5 Leads

Mrs K. Jones	<a href="mailto:jonesk@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">jonesk@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>
Mr C. Butter	<a href="mailto:butterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">butterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>

### Early Closure

Please be aware that on **Thursday 3rd October the school will be closing at 2:10pm** to allow the school to prepare for Open Evening.



### Upcoming Events

**Thursday 17th September:** Yr 13 Post 18 Guidance (period 4 to 6)

**Friday 20th September:** School Photos

**Tuesday 24th September to Friday 17th September:** Year 7 Tutor Group WOLT day trips

**Monday 30th September:** Yr 11 MfL Speaking Mock

**Thursday 3rd October:** Yr 6 Prospective Parents' Open Evening & Yr11 Business Studies trip.

**Thursday 10th October:** Yr7-13 Meet the tutor evening 16:00 - 19:00 (booking information to follow)

**Monday 14th October:** Start of Yr11 & 13 Mocks