



UPDATE

28 MARCH

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Y10 AND Y12 EMPLOYABILITY READY DAY

MR HUSSAIN'S NOTICE

The Easter Holiday will have begun by the time you receive this update and I do hope that you and your family have time to relax and recuperate after what is always the busiest short term in the calendar.

I am excited to show off the Y10 and Y12 Employability Ready day which was an enormous success given the volunteer input all coordinated by Mrs Tranter, our Head of Careers.

The Student Council will be continuing the Plastic recycling effort after the holidays given the difference that this can and will make over time.

Thank you for your feedback on the school day and the aspects that shape your child's experience which we will use to shape our planning in the next term.

Attached at the end of the newsletter is our new school routine which we will begin from Monday 29th April. With the summer now fast upon us the greater capacity indoors will be of great help in reducing tiredness as the heat builds.

I am also glad to be able to present a Who's Who of our SLT given our farewell to Mrs Furnivall and Mrs Peeling.

With very best wishes for a restful break!

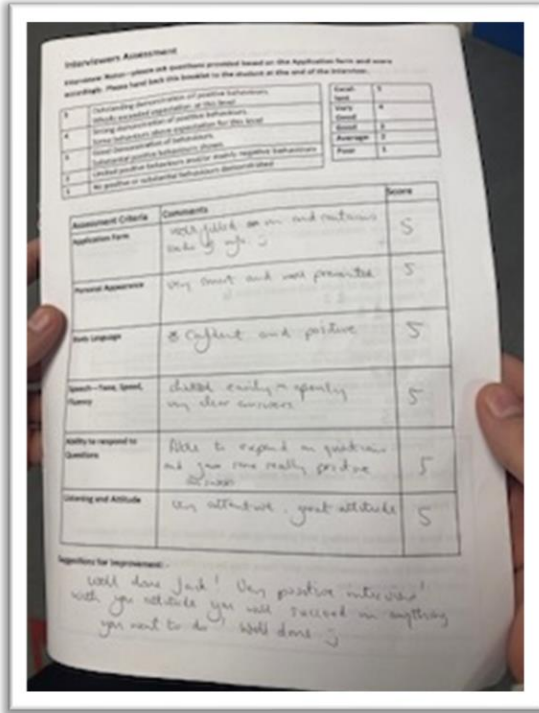
Y10 & Y12 EMPLOYABILITY READY DAY

TUESDAY 19 MARCH 2024

280 students were put to the test, sharpened their employability readiness and rotated through a mock assessment, Psychometric Tests, Team activities and Mock Interview along with CV and employability workshops.

None of this could be possible without our incredible 45 employer volunteers... massive thanks to each and every one of you.

Mrs Tranter, Head of Careers



MOCS SLT

As you will know from previous newsletters we have some staff who are leaving MOCS onto new adventures. We wish them all the very best for the future. Our Senior Leadership Team for the Summer Term will now comprise:

Mr S Phillips, Vice Principal

"I'm very proud to have worked in Melksham for 25 years and have thrived in working as part of our great community. I am a passionate teacher of Design Technology and have been the Head of Sixth Form for seven years which I love. My responsibilities include leading on whole school personal development, student leadership, the school council and student forum, careers and guidance alongside being the Educational Trips Coordinator."



Mrs S Kirwan, Vice Principal

"I am the Vice Principal and my core responsibilities are behavior, safeguarding and attendance. I am the schools designated safeguarding lead and the designated teacher for looked after children. I teach science and health and social care as well as being the subject curriculum lead for health and social care. This is my fourth year at the school having previously worked in West Berkshire, Staffordshire and Birmingham where I am from. I am passionate about the wellbeing of students and have a keen interest in mental health. "



Mrs S E Ebanks, Assistant Principal

"I joined MOCS in September 2021 teaching Maths and overseeing Data for the school. From January this year I am the Assistant Principal overseeing our school's Raising Attainment strategy. I work closely with the Year 11 team. I have a background in international school leadership and timetabling and so you will find me overseeing class changes or supporting students into the right groups."



Mrs P Jackson, Vice Principal

"I trained and started my teaching career in London in 2004 teaching Business Studies and Economics. Since then, I have been a subject leader, Head of Faculty and since 2019 Senior Leader at a large and outstanding Secondary School in West Berkshire. I am looking forward to working in Wiltshire where I live and getting to know the students of Melksham Oak."



Mrs H Sanders, Assistant Principal Inclusion & SENCo

"I am looking forward to working at MOCS. I have been teaching for nearly 25 years, starting in secondary, and then more recently in the primary phase. I have been a qualified SENCo for 8 years and have had a range of roles with pastoral responsibility for most of my teaching career. I believe that a SENCo's role is key in ensuring the child/young person's voice is heard and the correct support is in place to enable them to thrive and achieve their full potential."



Mrs H Shore, Associate Assistant Principal

"I have worked at MOCS for the past 11 years and was most recently the Head of Maths. In January I became an Associate Assistant Principal, leading on the development of classroom practices for consistent approaches across subjects and lessons. Students will most likely find me in Maths and I still very much enjoy sharing my knowledge of Mathematics with the students of MOCS."



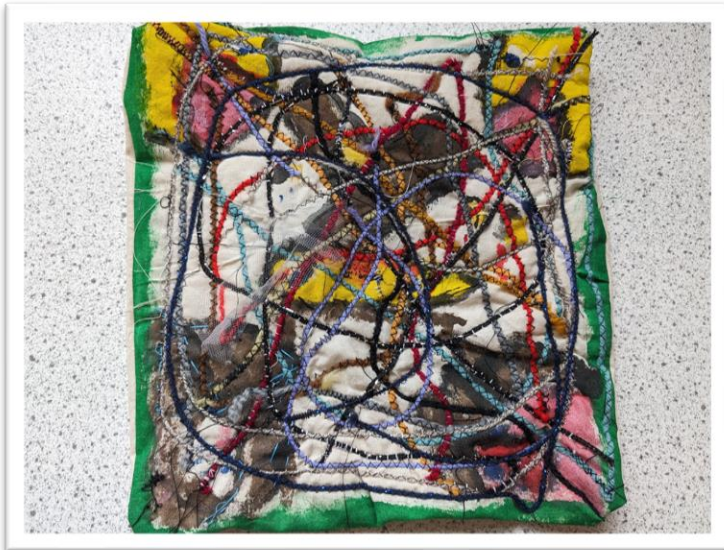
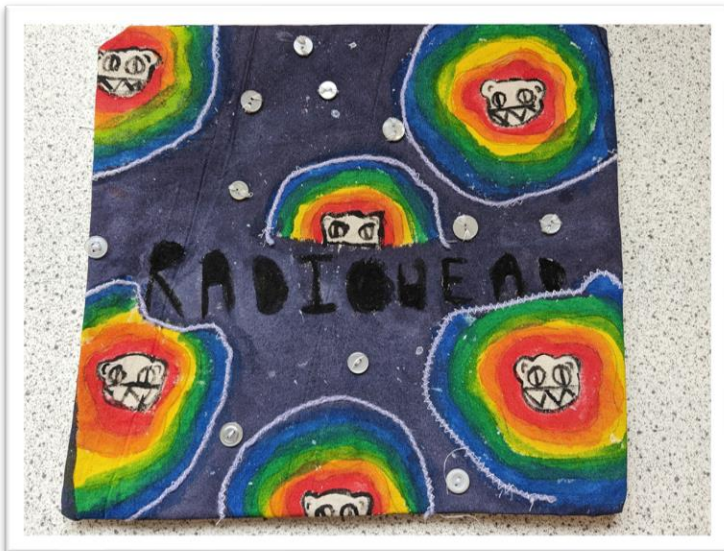
Y10 FOOD SHOWCASE PART 2

Y10 GCSE Food students have demonstrated making a raspberry tart. To do this they made a sweet pastry which they blind baked. They then made a crème patisserie filling and decorated to finish. This has been part of their learning about functions of ingredients, in particular shortening fat and gelatinisation using starch. Excellent outcomes in this particular demanding practical – well done Y10 Mrs Mulhall



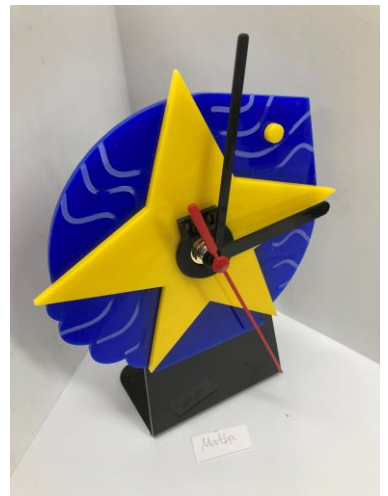
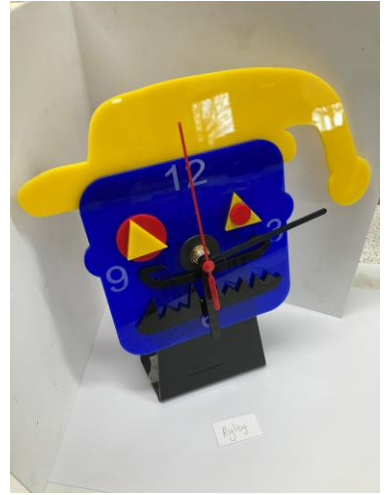
Y7 TEXTILES SHOWCASE

Y7 Textiles have just completed their Pop art inspired cushion covers. Students have learnt to independently set up and use a sewing machine. They have demonstrated making rolled hems, seams and embellishment techniques such as fabric painting, hand stitching, couching, applique and using components such as buttons and sequins. Well done Y7!. Mrs Mulhall



Y8 D&T SHOWCASE

In Design Technology Year 8 have been learning about Memphis Design and the use of computers in design. They have created CAD models using 2D design which have been laser cut, whilst learning about polymers and how to form them with heat. A fantastic set of work which showcases the Memphis style of design. **Mrs K Jones**



Y7 ELECTRICITY SHOW

Today our Year 7's were wowed by the fantastic MGA Team, who, proudly working in collaboration with BAE Systems, The Royal Air Force, and The Royal Navy to delivered an engaging theatre roadshow celebrating STEM.

Aligned to the National Curriculum, this fully funded offering included a 50-minute performance to inspire and engage our Year 7 students to STEM with the theme Electricity.

This highly interactive show explored what electricity is and how we generate it. Pupils and teachers were amazing amazed by some of the 'shocking' demonstrations some literally breathless' by the end of the show.

Mrs C Tranter, Head of Careers









YEAR 10 AND 12 EXAMS

It is this time of year that we find ourselves wanting our Year 10 and 12 students to experience their first large examination since entering the Key Stage and taking on new courses.

Of course, we appreciate that students will find this time stressful, the exams are there to measure attainment at exam standard on material they have covered. This is also an invaluable opportunity to develop student familiarity with exam routines approaching this in a thoughtful and measured manner.

These exams form the basis upon which we will assess students for the need for Access Arrangements which is a much more complex case since JCQ require evidence to be within 2 years of the access arrangement being used in a live examination session.

It is vital that students also know what to expect from examinations as we operate them in the same manner that we do the final examinations as per JCQ regulations. Demystifying and making familiar student routines are key to reducing anxiety and stress both before the day, as well as supporting the students in developing good mental health habits and resilience in working through tough times whilst preparing for them.

A copy of the Examination timetable has already been shared with students.

It is important that students have strategies to support revision and the establishment of clear defined routines, with no access to mobile phones whilst revising is keen to reducing the opportunity for distraction and/or anxiety.

KEY EVENTS IN THE SUMMER TERMS

- **Term 4 ends on 28th March:** School closes at 12:40
- **Summer Term 5 begins on Monday 15th April**
- **15th April till 26th April:** Year 10 and Year 12 mock examinations
- **Thursday 2nd May:** Senior School (Y11 and Sixth Form) Awards Evening
- **Thursday 9th May:** Year 10 Parent's Evening
- **Thursday 27th June:** Year 7 Parent's Evening
- **Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd July:** Y6 Transition Days
- **Tuesday 9th July:** Summer Concert
- **Thursday 11th July:** Sports Day
- **Thursday 18th July:** Y9 and Y10 Awards Evening
- **Tuesday 23rd July:** Y7 and Y8 Awards Evening
- **Wednesday 24th July:** Summer holidays: School closes at 12.40

UPDATE ON DAY ROUTINE

Following our call for feedback from parents, staff and students about the day routine, I can now update you with our planned day routine to address the following key themes:

1. The start of the day is difficult for children to arrive with public transport arrival times a concern from Trowbridge and Devizes.
2. Access to WCs, the Canteen, seating areas and recreation spaces are all key areas of demand in break time when all our students are out.
3. Breaks are more crowded than Lunchtimes.
4. Recreation spaces are limited in scope and activities.

Please find below our planned day routine from Monday 29th April 2024. This is the 3rd week back after the break so allowing for time for all stakeholders to consider any changes they may wish to make.

Note that students who arrive by 08:00 will be able to access the Breakfast Club, regardless of whether they eat in the Canteen. Those students who arrive between 08:00 and 08:25 will wait for the main gates to open then. Students can arrive up till 08:45 when the gates will close and students will access the site via Main Reception.

The end of the day remains the same at 15:00.

I confirm that there is NO change to the number of lessons, length of lessons or the ordinary timetable unless heads of department have otherwise planned to do so.

Start Time	Year 7,9,11	Year 8,10 & VI	Start Time
08.00	Breakfast club		08.00
08.25	Student Gate		08.25
08.45	Roll Call & Tutor time		08.45
09.15	Period 1	Period 1	09.15
10.05	Period 2	Period 2	10.05
10.55	Break	Period 3	10.55
11.10	Period 3		11.45
12.00	Period 4	Period 4	12.00
12.50	30 mins Lunch	Period 5	12.50
13.20	Period 5		30 mins Lunch
14.10	Period 6	Period 6	14.10
15.00	Students depart		15.00

At present Years 8, 10 and VI form have 3 lessons between Break and Lunch and this has proven to be more tiring. Having 3 lessons at the beginning of the day is easier when students are fresher and more able to concentrate well.

To give plenty of time for students and parents to adjust and for staff to plan the updated routine this will **begin from Monday 29 April**