



A message from Mrs Shore, Assistant Headteacher

The school has been buzzing with activity as we dive into the 2025 summer exam season. A big congratulations to our Year 11 students, who have shown incredible dedication in preparing for their French and Spanish speaking exams this week. Well done also to those in Years 11, 12, and 13 who have completed their art, business studies, and creative media exams. And, finally, a special shout-out to the talented students who performed at this week's Performing Arts Showcase – we are so proud of your hard work! With the sun shining, our students have been making the most of the beautiful weather, enjoying the outdoor spaces that make Melksham Oak such a special place. We wish everyone a relaxing bank holiday weekend, and let's hope the sunny weather sticks around!

Year 11 Exams

We are very proud of all our Year 11 languages students who have completed their speaking exams. This is worth 25% of the GCSE grade and they have approached this exam with maturity and resilience! Students have also been working for two days on their final Art exam pieces and the standard of work produced is fantastic. We would like to thank all the students in school for supporting this process by moving around the school calmly and being mindful of the red 'exam in progress' signs as we continue with more practical exams in the coming week for Textiles and Art A Level. We wish all our year 11 and 13 students the best of luck for next week with the first written papers on Friday for our year 11 Business GCSE and the first whole year group paper on Monday 12th May. We are all here to help and support them through the exam season.

Year 11 Performing Arts Students

This week the year 11 performing arts students completed their final performance to friends, family and staff with an amazing show of talent ranging across all dance styles and acting. They worked incredibly hard leading up to this moment to produce 15-minute pieces on the theme 'joint effort'. The pieces were emotional and strong. Their teacher Miss Williams expressed she couldn't be more proud of them!





VE Day Thursday 8th May

To commemorate the celebrations of VE day on Thursday 8th May we will be:

- Non-uniform day with students and staff encouraged to wear Red, White & Blue or armed forces uniform (voluntary £1 donation to RBLI veterans).
- 07:30 – 11:00 there will be a Sherman tank parked on the courtyard, for students to see before school and at breaktime.
- Tutor time activities during the week including a VE day assembly and VE day quiz.
- Themed food in the canteen during the day.
- VE day competition for students to celebrate VE day – poem, artwork, design a badge, bake a cake etc. prize for the winner.
- Tea party P1 for the top 30 students by merit score in Y7-10 & 12.
- Photo opportunity for any students in armed forces uniform with the tank P2.
- We will be inviting local Y5 students along from our trust primaries and the media.





Sparx Maths Leaderboard

A huge WELL DONE to Year 7 in particular for their commitment and effort with Sparx Maths homework since returning after the Easter holiday.

Remember to keep up-to-date with your Sparx homework – it will really support your understanding of content being taught during lessons.

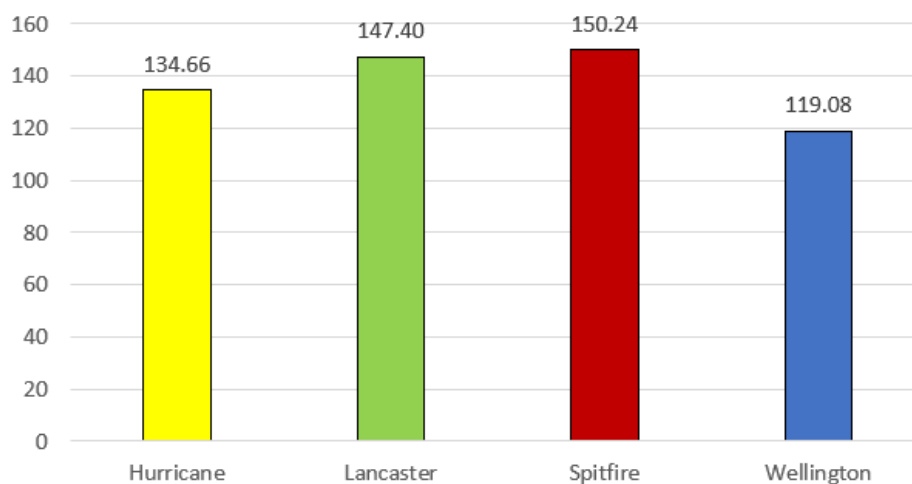
Research has shown that with regular, positive engagement with homework, a student can jump a whole grade in their GCSEs!

Weekly Leaderboard Monday to Sunday		
1	Edward 7E	3208 XP
2	Rose 11O	2320 XP
3	Evie 7H	2210 XP
4	Ava 7E	2170 XP
5	Malamin 7H	2136 XP
6	Sofia 7M	2121 XP
7	Edward 11M	1795 XP
8	Gabe 7S	1785 XP
9	Immy 7M	1775 XP
10	Merryn 9H	1750 XP



Merits

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 Manager

Ms A. Berry

berrya@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

Heads of Year

Year 7	Mrs H. Pearce	pearceh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
Year 8	Miss S. Abraham	abrahams@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
Year 9	Mr L. Ballinger	ballingerl@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
Year 10	Mrs C. Hughes	hughesc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
Year 11	Mr J. Oatley	oatleyj@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
6th Form	Ms R. Cooper	cooperr@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

To e-mail any other staff member
please e-mail
admin@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
with a subject line of FAO: <staff
name>

Head of Careers Education

Ms C. Tranter

tranterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk



Upcoming Events

Wednesday 7th & 8th May: GCSE Textiles Exam

Thursday 8th May: Year 7 Parents' Evening 16:00 to 19:00

VE Day – red, white & blue non-uniform day (£1 donation)

Thursday 22nd May: Year 10 Parents' Evening 16:00 to 19:00.



Safeguarding online-update for parents from SWGFL

Roblox Launches New Parental Controls April 2025

Roblox has recently launched some new parental controls, offering more transparency and management over young people's accounts. The new features allow parents to block specific friends, as well as view more detailed insights into their child's activity. Roblox has incorporated more real-time awareness that can be adapted depending on where parents feel most comfortable, and can be adjusted as their child's digital experiences develop.

What's Included?

To access to these features, parents and carers will need to link their own Roblox account using a verified ID in a move to encourage only trusted individuals to access and modify parental settings. Once linked, parents can:

- Block specific users from their child's friends list which will remove direct messaging and engagement with that user.
- Block individual experiences – this is content that they may not want their child to see. Parents can already set a maturity level for the content they are exposed to, but this feature allows for specific blocking on experiences that may fall out of the maturity level.
- Track the time that they spend on Roblox - this gives parents a clearer picture of what their child's screentime is highlighting, and more specifically, what experiences they are engaging with the most.

Updates to the Roblox Safety Center

Roblox have also updated their [Safety Center](#) which is now redesigned as a hub for all safety-related resources, guides, and reporting tools. We recognise that tools alone are not enough; they must be paired with awareness, education, and access to support. Roblox's move to centralise these elements can help demystify what is available on these platforms and helps to reinforce the need for ongoing parental involvement and discussion.

While it is important to remember that no system or online feature is ever foolproof, giving parents insightful tools to support their child's digital experiences is an important step in their journey. At the same time, communication and transparency is always the best method of supporting children with their online experiences. Having open conversations about why parental controls may be needed and working towards adapting and relaxing them as time goes on can strengthen confidence and awareness of staying safe online.



Online Safety & Gaming



Gaming refers to playing electronic games, whether through consoles, computers, tablets, smartphones or other devices. Gaming remains one of the most popular forms of entertainment, attracting a wide range of age groups from all across the world. Gaming is always looking to develop, often improving on graphical features, accessibility and user engagement as years go by.



Unlike many other forms of media, gaming brings a sense of challenge to the player. Usually there is a degree of skill involved that players need to develop in order to progress. Depending on the type of game, it can also offer players a platform where they can be imaginative and explore their own creativity.

Some games have rich storylines and characters that are engaging and memorable. Many players also use it as an opportunity to compete and socialise with other users whether it be in person or online. More often than not though, people game, because it is fun!

Benefits of Gaming

- 1 Can develop critical and creative skills
- 2 Can bring educational benefit and awareness
- 3 Is available to most audiences and family members
- 4 Is an easy and accessible way to socialise with others



Considerations for Gaming

- 1 Have awareness of appropriate age restrictions
- 2 Parental awareness around purchasing
- 3 Active discussions around socialising safely
- 4 Reporting harmful or offensive content online

Socialising Online

A staple of gaming is the community that surrounds it. Groups and audiences can gather around a specific game, character or theme to build specific fan bases that can interact with each other. Young people may like to socialise online because:

- 1 It gives them a platform to be with friends outside of school
- 2 There is usually a competitive element at play, which can feel rewarding
- 3 It can build confidence and social skills which may not be attainable physically
- 4 It gives opportunity to young people who have difficulty socialising with friends and others



Reporting and Blocking

Gaming communities can range from supportive and educational, to toxic and harmful. In some instances, it can even lead towards more radical content being promoted. When faced with something or someone being harmful online, make sure young people know how to:

- 1 Report the player or piece of content
- 2 Mute or block the player
- 3 Manage their privacy settings or communication options
- 4 Speak with a trusted adult for support



To find out more about Gaming visit the SWGfL hub:
swgfl.org.uk/topics/gaming/

or scan the QR code



Further Support

Professionals Online Safety Helpline: saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service: swgfl.org.uk/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/

Report Harmful Content:
reportharmfulcontent.com





Creative Writing

Remote instructor-led classes
for 11-16 year olds

Unleash your imagination

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Creative Writing

Develop your storytelling skills, create believable characters and turn your ideas into great stories.

Thursdays - 5pm to 6pm

Creative Tasters

Explore different types of writing from game writing, poetry to blogging. Find new ways to express yourself!

Thursdays - 6pm to 7pm

Summer Term: 22rd April to 5th July 2025

Visit our website or email us to find out more

 www.ignitehubs.org.uk

 Creativewriting@ignitehubs.org.uk

UK Registered Charity 1186658



WIGHTY GIRLS




Art & Photography Portrait Workshop


TUESDAY 27TH MAY
BRADFORD ON AVON
9.30 - 3.30 AGE 8-11 £39

- Plan & Take Part in Your Own Photoshoot
- Create Monoprints & Collages of your Photos to Take Home
- Develop Creative Skills, Build Confidence, Challenge Body Image Stereotypes & Explore Healthy Friendships.

A Fun, Creative Day to Celebrate You!

Further details visit www.mightygirls.co.uk

Partially funded by:  **Wiltshire Council**



WIGHTY GIRLS



Self Defence half day workshop

WEDNESDAY 28TH MAY
TROWBRIDGE
1.30PM - 4.30PM. AGE 11-18
COST £25

Mighty Girls & Helen from Systema bring you:

- Practical self-defence techniques
- A focus on movement, breath work, relaxation, and posture
- Enhance self-awareness & resilience
- Help equip you to handle various situations effectively

www.mightygirls.co.uk or QR Code to book



The club is offered at a discounted rate for all & free to some thanks to the support from:  **Wiltshire Council**



Melksham Gardening Competition

Deadline for entries: Friday 20th June 2025

Judging will take place during the week commencing
Monday 14th July 2025.

Awards will be presented at The Food & River Festival on
Sunday 31st August 2025

For more information on the competition, please email
communitydevelopment@melksham-tc.gov.uk

Scan the QR Code
to enter:

