



## A message from Mrs Shore, Assistant Headteacher

As we enter the final stretch of the school year, with just two and a half weeks remaining, you might expect things to be winding down—but quite the opposite is true here at Melksham Oak. It's been a vibrant and eventful week, filled with exciting opportunities both in and out of the classroom.

Our Year 10 geographers have been out exploring the Bristol Harbourside as part of their GCSE fieldwork, while Year 10 Business students represented the school brilliantly at the Cultivate 2025 Grand Final and Awards Ceremony—bringing home both 2nd and 3rd place in the competition.

We also welcomed Sean Tilson—known as *Sean the Runner*—for a powerful Year 10 assembly. As an ultramarathon runner and motivational speaker, Sean shared his story of resilience, mindset, and pushing human limits—his message left a lasting impression on students.

Year 12 social science students gained unique insights during a thought-provoking trip to a prison, and we were delighted to welcome prospective families during the first of our summer open mornings.

There may be only a few weeks to go, but the energy, ambition, and inspiration across the school remain as strong as ever.





## Year 13 Prom

The Year 13s gathered for their last official event on Thursday for their Hollywood Themed Prom night. It was a wonderful evening with lots of fun, laughter, and fantastic dancing. We are so proud of this group with their energy towards every aspect of life. A special thank you to Mrs Thompson and the Prom Committee for their brilliant work in organising the event, Mr Bedecker for comparing, and Ms Williams for her flash mob choreography. Ms Cooper and I wish all the best to Year 13s for the coming results day on 14<sup>th</sup> August. It was a lovely event. They all looked very handsome and beautiful. Mrs Ebanks

## Cultivate Challenge with Education Business Partnership sponsored by Zebra Technologies.

On Thursday, we had the exciting opportunity to visit the Zebra Technology Centre in Bourne End for the Grand Final of the Cultivate Challenge. We were proud to take three teams of year 10 students, shortlisted from over 300 participants from schools across the region, to showcase their innovative business ideas inspired by Zebra Technologies.

In preparation for the final, our students worked closely with external business mentors, developing a business plan, creating a promotional video, and honing their presentations for the judging panel.

All of the students involved have shown outstanding commitment and creativity over the past few weeks, dedicating their own time to practice and refine their ideas. They presented with confidence and passion, and they should feel immensely proud of their achievements. The skills they gained throughout this journey will undoubtedly benefit them in their future endeavours.



We are thrilled to share that Soleil and Ava were awarded 2nd place with their app designed to support vulnerable young people, and Jean claimed 3rd place with an app to help cultivate gardens that support native species, each group taking home £250 for their prize. Well done to all of our teams for representing the school so brilliantly — a fantastic achievement!







### Social Sciences – Prison Visit

On Thursday, over 20 year 12 Social Science students from both Melksham Oak and Devizes sixth forms had the exciting opportunity to visit Shepton Mallet Prison. During their visit, they took part in a fascinating tour where they explored the history of punishment and how its purpose has evolved over time. The students were particularly engaged by stories of the prison's most notorious inmates, including the infamous Kray twins, and they gained valuable first-hand insight into the realities of prison life. The day concluded with a highly competitive prison cell escape room challenge where, thankfully, all four student groups managed to escape within the hour!

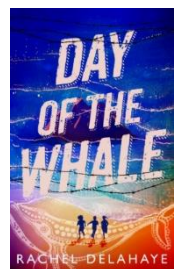


### Q&A session with Lord Bruce of Bennachie

This afternoon, year 12 Criminology students from both Melksham Oak and Devizes sixth forms took part in a Q&A session with Lord Bruce of Bennachie as part of the national *Learning with Lords* programme. Our students were excited to have the unique opportunity to speak with Lord Bruce about his career as both an MP and a peer in the House of Lords. They asked thoughtful and insightful questions about his role in the House of Lords and the UK's parliamentary law-making process. The session proved incredibly valuable, not only for their Criminology course, but also for deepening their understanding of the UK's political systems.

### English – Key Stage 3

We are excited to announce that on Monday 14th July, we will be welcoming Rachel Delahaye, acclaimed author of *Day of the Whale*, for a special visit to our school. During mid-morning break, students will have the opportunity to meet Rachel and, if they wish, have a book signed. Purchasing a book is completely optional, but if your child would like to have their own copy signed, books can be purchased in advance via ParentPay.



### Volunteers Needed for our Careers Education – Can you support?

Do you work for a company that could support our Careers Education events and help inspire our young people of the future?

We are in constant need for employers and employees across all subjects and sectors to align curriculum learning with employer engagement.

If you know of anyone that can help, please contact Miss Ceri Tranter, Head of Careers Education on [TranterC@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:TranterC@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk) or call 01225 792700 Ext 712



## Sports Day Raffle

Tickets will be for sale on parent pay from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

Tickets can also be bought with cash in the morning at student entrance from Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July.

Sports day this year is taking place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July. It's an all-day sports event of alternate and fun sports and activities for students to experience and develop sporting values and teamwork skills. We hire 5 big inflatables to add to the fun for the day. To help this happen lots of local Melksham businesses have kindly donated prizes to help us raise funds towards it. Tickets are £2 per strip (5 chances to win). We are very fortunate to have been gifted the following prizes.

- |                                                        |                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1. The Pump Room Bath Jane Austen Tea for 2. Value £89 | 16. INK'D Tattoo Melksham £40 voucher          |
| 2. The Garage on the Hill free MOT                     | 17. Aziz Barber £17 voucher                    |
| 3. Theatre Royal tickets Bath x 2.                     | 18. Sports Bug Optimum Rugby Ball              |
| 4. Melksham Town FC Season ticket                      | 19. Sports Bug Aerobie Pro                     |
| 5. 3 course meal for 4 @ The Water Meadow              | 20. Briggsy's Barber Shop hair cut child       |
| 6. The Milk Churn £30 voucher                          | 21. The Picnic Basket lunch voucher (£10)      |
| 7. Wagamama Trowbridge £30 voucher & Cookbook          | 22. Ooh Lar Laur Beauty £10 voucher            |
| 8. Cholderton Farm tickets                             | 23. Briggsy's Barber Shop hair cut adult       |
| 9. Nando's Trowbridge Voucher                          | 24. The Toy Shop (Melksham) Gift               |
| 10. Wagamama £30 vouchers                              | 25. Melksham Community Campus Family Swim pass |
| 11. Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens 2 tickets       | 26. Hartley Farm Cream tea for two vouchers    |
| 12. Hamburger Hill Paint Balling Vouchers              | 27. Tops hair £25 gift voucher                 |
| 13. Boomerang 2 adult x 2 children entries             | 28. Wine and Chocolate                         |
| 14. Cumberwell Park 4 ball voucher for 18 holes        | 29. Imagine Photography Experience day voucher |
| 15. The Egg Theatre Bath tickets                       | 30. The Kings Arms voucher                     |



The 3 tutor groups that buy or sell the most tickets get an extra opportunity to use the Inflatables during the morning breaktime.





## Attendance

Setting good attendance patterns from an early age will help your child throughout their life, and for every day that your child is absent or late it makes it more difficult for them to progress and achieve their full potential.

Our aim is for every child to be in school every day and on time. The majority of our community have excellent attendance and we appreciate the work that goes into getting them into school on time every day. Every day really does matter with school attendance. The Department for Education research shows that a pupil who misses more days of school is likely to achieve lower grades in their GCSEs, for example a year 11 students with **100% attendance is twice as likely to achieve grade 5 in English and Maths** compared to a student with 90-95% attendance. Persistently absent pupils in secondary school, those with attendance below 85% (which is 28.5 missed days of school a year) could earn £10,000 less at age 28 compared to pupils with near-perfect attendance. A small drop in attendance can really make a big difference.

Attendance %	Days Missed	Lessons Missed
100%	0	0
99%	2	12
98%	4	24
97%	6	36
96%	8	48
94%	11	66
93%	13	78
92%	15	90
90%	19	114

Not sure if your child is well enough for school? <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

We are here to help. If you have any concerns over your child's attendance please do e-mail your child's tutor or [admin@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)

Not sure on your child's attendance? It is surprising how quickly absences can add up, download the Arbor app today and see your child's attendance.



### Arbor App

Follow the instructions below to install the Arbor app:



## We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Parent App

### We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

### How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday

The Sunnyville School of Magic  
W10 5BN, London, GBR

Enter your password

Log in

Forgotten password?

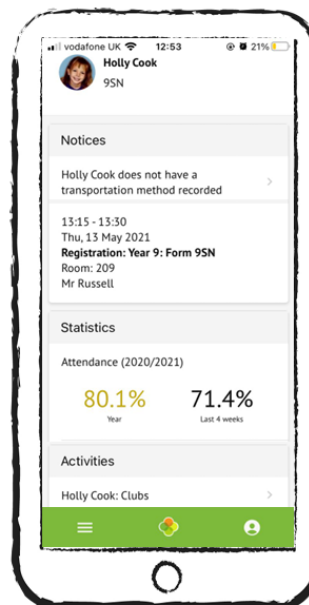
### Need help using Arbor?

**Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal.** Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

#### Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the **password link will have expired**. Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. **Enter the birthday** of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.



More detailed instructions can be found here: <https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/sections/201716749-Parent-Portal-and-App-Getting-started-and-logging-in>



## Sparx

Well done to Years 7 and 8 who continue to dominate the Top 10 Leaderboard. Emily in 8O also deserves recognition for her particularly high score!

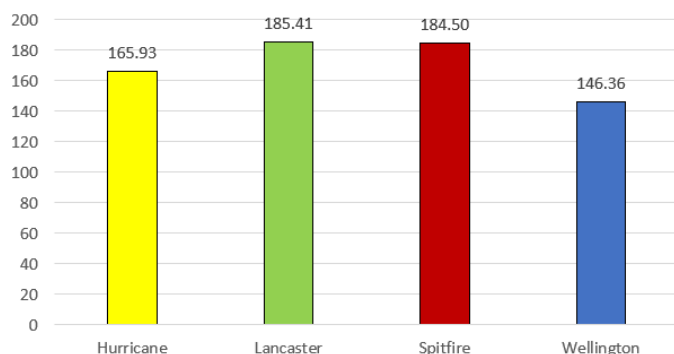
Weekly Leaderboard Monday to Sunday		
1	Emily 8O	4050 XP
2	Freddie 10S	2180 XP
3	Ashleigh 8A	1664 XP
4	George 10E	1613 XP
5	Joshua 7A	1573 XP
6	Hanna 8E	1572 XP
7	Evie 7A	1502 XP
8	Elizabeth 7E	1435 XP
9	Esther 8S	1415 XP
10	Dylan 7L	1350 XP





## Merits

Average Merits per Student this year



### Merits this week

Hurricane:	972
Lancaster:	865
Spitfire:	864
Wellington:	788

## 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](mailto:berrya@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)

### Heads of Year

Year 7	Mrs H. Pearce
Year 7	Mrs C. Hughes
Year 8	Mr J. Oatley
Year 9	Mr L. Ballinger
Year 10	Miss S. Abraham
6th Form	Ms R. Cooper

[pearceh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:pearceh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)  
[hughesc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:hughesc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)  
[oatleyj@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:oatleyj@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)  
[ballingerl@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:ballingerl@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)  
[abrahams@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:abrahams@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)  
[cooperr@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:cooperr@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)

To e-mail any other staff member  
please e-mail  
[admin@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto: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](mailto:tranterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)



## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July:** Next Steps Careers Fair

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July:** INSET Days, school closed to students

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July:** Yr10 & 12 Work Experience

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July – 21<sup>st</sup> July** – Sixth Form Taster Lessons for Y10 (for those who have signed up lesson timings will be on Arbor)

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July Period 5 and 6** – Sixth Form Afternoon for Y10 Taster lesson students





## Year 5 Taster Days



Ambition | Pride | Respect



*Year 5 Taster day on 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> July*

Experience a day of **creativity**, experiments and **discovery**.

- Please wear primary PE kit and trainers
- 9:15am arrival for 9:30am start
- Returning to your primary school at 2:10pm

*Your primary school teachers will be accompanying and organising travel to and from Melksham Oak Community School on your taster day.*



## Open Morning Tours Friday 4<sup>th</sup> & Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Come and see what Melksham Oak can offer your child on one of our guided tours.

- Guided tours at: 9:00am, 10:00am, 11:00am & 12:00pm
- Come and see our school in action
- Visit lessons and meet our students

Book now: <https://forms.office.com/e/eAEn0wZNfq>



<https://www.melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk/>  
[admin@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)



Book Now





<https://apps.wiltshire.gov.uk/fuelprogramme>

The free holiday activity and food programme

Science and Technology

Creative Arts

Animal Care

Dance and Gymnastics

Sports and Games

Hot Meal provided

Outdoor Pursuits

Skateboard and Scooter

Summer 2025  
Booking now open

Booking Essential

[Click here for more information and booking](#)

Department for Education

Wiltshire Council

**FUEL**  
The free holiday activity and food programme

### Camp Locations

Up to sixteen days at each location from 28 July

**Locations:**

- Malmesbury: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
- Chippenham: Sheldon School, The Rise Community Hub
- Corham: The Pound Arts Centre, Springfield Campus
- Bradford on Avon: Fitzmaurice Primary School
- Melksham: Melksham Community Campus, Forest and Sandridge School
- Trowbridge: St Augustine's Catholic College, West Wilts Gymnastics, Rode Common Farm
- Westbury: Westbury Leigh Primary School, Westbury Skate Park, Brokenwood
- Warminster: Warminster Sports Centre
- Codford: Wylye Coyotes
- Mere & Zeals: Zeals Pavilion
- Cricklade: Skate Park
- Purton: Ridgeway Farm CE Academy
- Royal Wootton Bassett: Lifford Leisure Centre, Wootton Bassett Infant School
- Calne: Calne Leisure Centre
- Marlborough: Marlborough Leisure Centre, Marlborough Skate Park
- Pewsey: The Vale Community Campus
- Devizes: Devizes Leisure Centre
- Tidworth: Wellington Lions Academy
- Amesbury: Amesbury Sports Centre, The Bownan Centre
- Durrington: Avon Valley College
- Wilton: Castle Meadow Pavilion
- Salisbury: Salway Academy, Salisbury Arts Centre

**Food**

F is for Food! You will receive a nutritious lunch each day and you'll also have fun and keep fit!

**Unity**

Unity means making new friends in your community, while friendly staff are supportive and understanding.

**Energy**

Take part in a range of activities that will keep you energised, excited and educated.

**Laughter**

There will be plenty of opportunities for fun and laughter throughout the programme and opportunities to learn new life skills.

Dayle

SEEDS OF SUCCESS

MLP

WILTSHIRE CREATIVES

Sam IVIN

UK FUTURES

WILTSHIRE CREATIVES

Pound Arts

West Wilts Gymnastics & Fitness

active HOLIDAYS

PH CAMPS

Wylye Coyotes

IQ Sports Coaching

ROBEYOUTH

Activate Camps

ELEVATION