



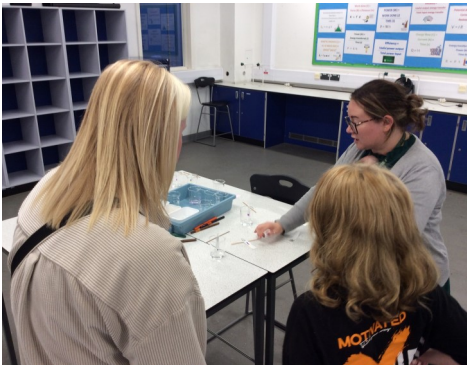
Missed our open evening? You can still book on to one of our open mornings.

Open Mornings on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th October at 9:50am

Book your place here <https://forms.office.com/e/8FPeQaFJPE>

Open Evening

It was a pleasure to be able to introduce so many prospective parents and students to Melksham Oak. Parents had a talk in the hall from Mr Cooper, our executive headteacher, and Mrs Clark, the associate headteacher, with students playing the piano, answering questions about life in school and reading some poetry to celebrate National Poetry Day.



Our staff and students worked hard to provide a range of activities for families as they toured the school. Just a small snippet of activities included scrabble and poetry in the library, humanities taking them back in time in history and relaxed, languages, English, PE, Maths guessing the sweets in a jar amongst other activities, Music providing a sound explosion of drum lessons, Science showcasing a light and dark room and Technology providing opportunities to paint your own keyring.

Our own students did us proud by supporting with this event.



UK Drum Show

Last weekend saw the return of the annual UK Drum Show in Liverpool and this year it premiered it's first ever 'Main Stage Mini' for up and coming drummers. Joe Thomas in Year 11, was chosen to perform two songs at this prestigious event after beating hundreds of hopefuls to secure a top spot.

Over the weekend Joe spent time looking around different drum company stands and playing lots of amazing drum kits. He was able to watch masterclasses by drummers such as Phil Collins' son Nic Collins, Chris Coleman, Aquiles Priester, Bernard Purdie and Chris Turner. After chatting with Chris Turner, who performs with metalcore band 'Oceans Ate Alaska', Chris came to watch Joe play and commented how impressed he was with Joe's performance.

Looking ahead to the future, Joe is considering entering the UK Young Drummer of the Year competition 2025. Before that he is busy performing with his band 'The Sunnies' and collaborating with other musicians. Catch 'The Sunnies' at The Komedia Bath on Oct 4th and at The Pump in Trowbridge on Oct 25th.





Attendance

'Attendance at school is crucial to prepare young people for successful transition to adulthood, and to support their longer term economic and social participation in society. There is also evidence that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A level results'.

The Education Hub, Department for Education, September 2023

At Melksham Oak Community School we will have high aspirations for all our students. Our expectation is that all students will have an attendance between 95-97% or higher. Statistics show a direct link between under-achievement and poor attendance.

- Students with regular attendance make better progress, both socially and academically.
- Students with regular attendance find school routines and school work easier to cope with.
- Students with regular attendance have an easier transfer to further education and employment, having developed positive habits in attending school every day.

Punctuality

Students are expected to be in school at 8:40am. This is so the site can be secured and students are on time for the start of the school day. Any student arriving after 8:40am will be considered late and a detention will be set.

If your child arrives after our register has closed (9:10am) this is recorded as an unauthorised absence*.

Absence Reporting

There are several ways to report a student's absence.

Parents can either:

- Email the Attendance Team on absence@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
- Call the school and follow the reporting a student's absence instructions (01225 792700 select option 1)

PLEASE ENSURE YOU LEAVE YOUR CHILD'S FULL DETAILS, INCLUDING THEIR TUTOR/YEAR GROUP AND THE REASON FOR THEIR ABSENCE.

Absence notifications

Parents are requested to notify the school before 08:45am if their child is going to be absent from school. Our Truancy Call is sent every morning for students unexpectedly absent (please be aware if you have reported your child's absence after 08:45am you may receive a notification).



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Our absence notifications are sent out by text message, we would ask that parents/carers DO NOT respond to this message directly but use the methods above to report their child's absence.

Leave of Absence Requests

DfE guidelines clearly state that absence from school can be taken in exceptional circumstances, and this means that the parent must make a strong case for taking a child out of school in an academic year. Exceptional circumstances must be explained fully to the school who will then consider the request.

If you are going on holiday or have another reason for absence you need to complete an Absence Request Form, available from reception or from the school website.

<https://www.melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk/about-us/school-information/attendance-and-absence>

Finally...

Our Attendance Team are here to help, if you have any queries please contact them via absence@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

Dyslexia Awareness Week

To celebrate and raise awareness of Specific Learning Difficulty (Dyslexia), the library will be running a competition for students to write a story and/or create a book front cover. It is important to share with students that this does not have to be a written task!

The link below also has some fantastic real life stories and information videos to help inspire.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/articles/zkw7qfr>



Punctuality

In a recent survey by Career Builder, it was found that 41% of employers had fired an employee for being late.

Being punctual is an important skill for adulthood and important part of maximising learning time and reducing disruption. In order to improve the punctuality of the students we have updated our procedures and made some clear definitions for teachers and students.



Students are expected to be onsite and outside their tutor room by 8.40am. Entering the school at 8.41am is considered to be *Late arrival to school* and without a note/email from a parent will result in a 30 minute detention after school. (Those arriving by public bus after this time are exempted.)

Late to class – this begins from the 6th minute after the lesson change bell or the end of break/lunch whistle

It takes only about 2 minutes to walk from one end of the school to the other and we are allowing 5 minutes for students to transition between lessons or from break/lunch to lesson.

If a student receives 4 or more Lates in one week, then they will be set a *Late to class* detention for 30 minutes.

If a student has two consecutive weeks of Late to class detention, then they will be placed on punctuality report until they have a week of no Lates.

There is a limit to lateness, after which it is deemed that the student is so late that they are actively avoiding the lesson – truanting.

Truancy – admitted to lesson will be assigned to students who arrive from the 11th minute after the lesson change bell or the end of break/lunch whistle. The student may still come into the lesson, but they will have a 30-minute detention afterschool.

Truancy – sent to refocus will be assigned to students who arrive from the 16th minute after the lesson change bell or the end of break/lunch whistle. The student will remain in isolation for the remainder of the day and then serve a 30-minute detention afterschool.

How can parents help? Please explain the new procedures to your children. They will have a presentation on Monday, but it will not hurt for them to hear it from you also. Please have discussions with your children about how being late to work and late to meetings during the day is perceived in the workplace. This is genuine life-skill and affects adults who have not achieved it.

The vast majority of children are moving from lesson to lesson in an appropriate time and arriving calmly and doing great work. The process outlined above is aimed to teach good habits to those who perhaps have been more used to using lesson transition time in less productive ways. We want every child to leave The Oak with the core skills needed to be a desirable employee and we believe punctuality is an important part of that.

We hope you will be able to support us in this process at home. If you do have any questions or concerns please email your child's tutor in the first instance, as they will be best placed support any organisational issues at the start of each day.

Does your child know their timetable?

We have a number of students who each day seem to be unsure of their timetable. Please can you ensure your child knows what lessons they have each day, in what order and where. This information can be seen on both Arbor and Satchel. They should make a written copy if needed to have in their bag. Students should not need to visit reception during lesson transition to find out what lesson they have.



Why am I being given this flyer?

Because it's currently against the law to ride an electric scooter on a public road, pavement or public space - such as a car park or play park.



**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
FOR PARENTS**



Wiltshire and Swindon





Wiltshire Police Roads Policing Unit, the Road Safety Unit, Youth and Early Intervention Teams and the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner, are writing to you ahead of the Christmas period.

We want to provide you with information to help ensure that what your young people may want for Christmas, doesn't turn out to be a financial and legal nightmare!

DID YOU KNOW...

Electrical scooters (also known as e-scooters) come under the category of "powered transporters". This covers a range of personal transport devices which are powered by a motor. Other examples include:

- Segways
- Powered unicycles
- Hoverboards
- U Wheels
- Go-Peds

Focusing on e-scooters, they must **NOT** be ridden on **ANY** roads/pavements/car-parks/play-parks, or anywhere else the public may have access to, such as bridleways and canal walks.

If someone is riding an e-scooter in one of these settings, they are **breaking the law**.

The only place e-scooters can lawfully be ridden is on private property, with the homeowners/landowner's permission.

Even then, if the police receive a complaint, they will investigate for using the e-scooter in an anti-social manner.

This means if the use of the e-scooter is causing alarm, harassment or distress to others, the Police can **seize it** and it may not be returned.

We are sharing this important information to help you make the right decision when choosing presents for your family this Christmas.

For more information, please take a look at the following websites:

- [Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | E-bikes and E-scooters \(dwfire.org.uk\)](https://www.dwfire.org.uk)
- [Are electric scooters legal? UK law explained \(September 2023 update\) – Electroheads](#)
- [Advice on e-scooter usage | Wiltshire Police](#)



Year 11 Support—Autumn Term 2024

Subject	Support Offered - e.g. Revision, coursework catch up, drop in session	Day	Time	By invitation or All Welcome
Maths	Revision	Wednesday	Period 7	By invitation
English	Revision	Tuesday	Period 7	All welcome - sign up sheet outside L1
Science	Revision	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	Period 7	All welcome - sign up to sessions in lessons
History	Revision	Tuesday and Thursday	Period 7	All welcome
Art	Coursework Catch up	Tuesday or Wednesday	Period 7	Art students to attend one session per week
PE	Coursework Catch up	Monday	Period 7	All welcome
PE	Coursework Catch up	Thursday	Period 7	Invite only
PE	Badminton practical	Thursday	Period 7	All welcome

- Year 11 English revision is every Tuesday, please sign up outside L1 by the end of the day on Monday. The focus this week will be on 'An Inspector Calls' and past paper exam questions.
- Textile Design afterschool sessions to Year 11 and 10 on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Careers

We are always looking for business professionals to support our Careers Education here at Melksham Oak.

Do you know of someone who can help engage, inspire and motivate our students? Please email Miss Tranter, Head of Careers tranterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

Our Collapsed timetable events are below – if you are an employer, ambassador or business professional and can spare any time, we would be most grateful for your time.

Please do sign up and save the dates as soon as you can <https://forms.office.com/r/ejL4xgQKbG>

DATE	Event	Employer Requirement	Times	TYPES of Volunteers
Post 16	W/C 23 September W/C 30th Sept W/C 7th October	Post 16 Providers to each deliver 1 assembly and a lunch time stand to Year 11's – 9 slots available Monday - Weds	12-2pm	FE Colleges Training providers Forces
10th December 2024	Year 8 Experiences of the Workplace	Inspire our Year 8's with an experience of your workplace workshop in lesson time – Sessions delivered on rotation to groups of 28	9am-3pm	Any Employers in STEM
4th Feb 2025	Apprenticeships, Apprentices and Alumni	Whole School Assembly on Rotation about Apprenticeships	9am-3pm	Apprentice Ambassador Apprenticeship Employer and apprentice from MOCS
5th March 2025	Employability Ready Programme Year 10 and 12	Recruitment and Selection Mock Assessment Centre – Mock Interviewers needed	9am-3pm	ALL Professionals as Mock Interviewers
15th July 2025	Next Steps Fair	Whole School business insights fair.	8am-2.30pm	ALL Employers, Providers, Charities, Skills, Work Experience, Uni's, Colleges



PE Enrichment

PE Clubs for terms 1 and 2. Students are to come down to PE promptly after school. It's free to come and join.

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 10 & 11 Netball training	Badminton RSA Football Girls Year 7-9 NBA Football Boys U13 & U16 Squad training Self Defence Year 7-9 girls only Limited numbers each term Contact RSA to sign up.	

Self-Defence

We have had great interest in students wanting to attend our self-defence course. The lasts a term, approximately 6 weeks and is delivered by a specialist self-defence instructor, Helen Llwyn. The course focuses on supporting girls in developing:

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

Please email Mrs Sawyer sawyerr@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk to sign up. Courses will run throughout the year each term so please email interest to secure your daughters place in one of the courses.



Mayor's Christmas Card Competition

Open to all Melksham Town children aged 11 and under!

Enter now for a chance to have your
design featured on the Melksham Town
Mayor's Christmas Card for 2024!

The winning artist will be invited to turn on the
lights at 6pm at the Christmas Market &
Lights Switch On, Saturday 7th December 2024!

Deadline for entries: Monday 21st October 2024

You can submit entries in person or by post to
Melksham Town Hall, Market Place, SN12 6ES
or by email to comms-events@melksham-tc.gov.uk





Photo credit: Chippenham Museum Photo Club

 **Chippenham Youth Council**
Chippenham Town Council

Photography Competition

27 April - 10 November

The Youth Council and Museum Photo Club are looking for photo entries from young people that match the theme of 'Natural World' in Chippenham.

Two categories to enter:

- 11-17 years old
- Under 10 years old

Entries should be submitted before 11.59pm on Sunday 10 November by email to:
youthcouncil@chippenham.gov.uk

Entries must be high quality jpegs submitted with an entry form.

One entry only per person.

Prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category.



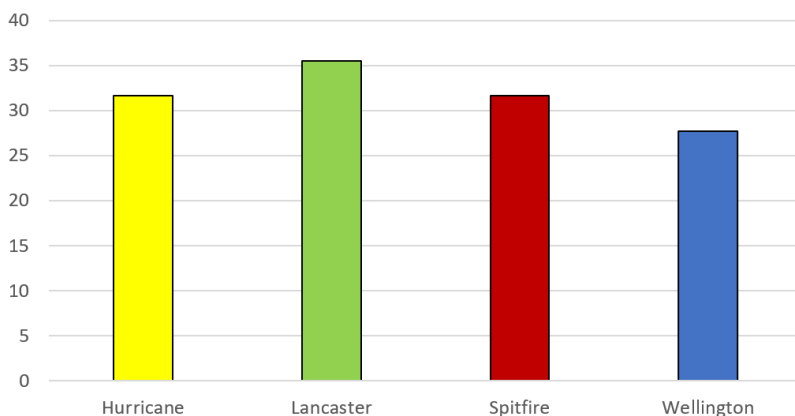


Merits

Over 36,000 merits have been awarded since the start of term for a wide variety reasons.

Lancaster house are still holding the lead with an average of over 35 merits per student, the other houses are not far behind.

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 pearceh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
- Year 8: Mrs H. Johnson johnsonh@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

KS5 Leads

- Mrs K. Jones ionesk@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
- Mr C. Butter butterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

Head of Careers Education

- Ms C. Tranter tranterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk



Upcoming Events

- 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