



A message from Mrs Clark, Associate Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a fantastic first week back at school! It has been wonderful to welcome back our current students and to meet our new Year 7 students, as well as others who have joined us across different year groups. Everyone has settled in brilliantly, and we are excited for the year ahead.

If you don't already, please follow our **Facebook page "Melksham Oak Community School"** where we will be sharing regular updates, including news, events, and important information throughout the year.



The first big event is our **Open Evening**, on **Wednesday 17th September** from 5pm-7pm, which is when prospective students and families can come and see our amazing school. In order to support with the set up for this the school will be closing to students at 13:20 (the end of P4), more details to follow.

We are delighted to share that our **new outdoor eating area** is now up and running and has already proven to be very popular with students. In addition, our **new catering pod** will be opening in the next couple of weeks, providing even more food options at break and lunch times.

This week, we **relaunched our merit system**, and we are thrilled to share that **over 8,400 merits** have been awarded to students for their hard work and achievements. Parents will receive an email if their child has been awarded the **"Star of the Lesson"**, which recognises students who have gone above and beyond during class time or the **"Spirit of MOCs Award"** for supporting around the school at social times.

Next week, we will be launching our **lunchtime and after-school clubs**. The schedule will be shared with students during tutor time, and we would love for as many students as possible to get involved. Please encourage your child to sign up for clubs that interest them, as it's a great way to develop new skills and make friends. Thank you for your ongoing support. We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead.





Our New Sixth Formers



It has been so wonderful to welcome our new Y12s and welcome back our Y13s.

We have been so impressed with their maturity, commitment, general amazingness, and lovely manner. We had a fabulous day of team building on Wednesday and on Thursday we had our group photo.



We did ask them to do a silly pose, but they couldn't quite manage it even with an example by the tutors.



Attendance

You may have seen in the media the news story highlighting the importance of a strong start in terms of student attendance to school (you can read the article here should you wish <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cg7jk3rr225o>). It is true that nationally around 60% of students who missed a day of school in the first full week of last academic year went on to miss over four weeks of school in the year.

We are pleased that our school attendance is moving in the right direction, and that we have created an atmosphere where students feel safe & supported. We know that we cannot expect all students to have 100% attendance, but want to support you in encouraging strong attendance to school and ask that you communicate with us in a timely and effective manner if anything might affect your child's ability to attend school regularly.



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 or call 01225 792700 Ext 712

**INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL
MUSIC LESSONS**

**HAVE YOU LISTENED TO A SONG OVER THE
SUMMER AND THOUGHT I WANT TO
PLAY OR SING THAT?**

**WHY NOT SIGN UP FOR LESSONS WITH OUR
VISITING MUSIC TEACHERS?**

**TO SIGN UP PLEASE EMAIL REQUESTS TO:
EMAIL THOMASMI@MELKSHAMOAK.WILTS.SCH.UK**



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
Year 8	Mrs C. Hughes
Year 9	Mr J. Oatley
Year 10	Mr L. Ballinger
Year 11	Miss S. Abraham
6th Form	Ms R. Cooper

pearceh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
hughesc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
oatleyj@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
ballingerl@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
abrahams@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
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 17th September: Year 6 Open Evening 5pm to 7pm

Friday 19th September: School Photos for year 7, 10 & 12

Tuesday 23rd to Thursday 25th September: Year 7 Tutor Trips

Thursday 9th October: Meet the Tutor evening (more details to follow)