



Early Closure on the last day of term  
12:40 on 20th December 2024

### A message from Mr Pollok - Deputy Headteacher

.....as December begins, the school has come alive with festive energy and exciting activities. This week Christmas decorations have sprung up across the school from the Christmas tree taking pride of place in our main hall, bringing a touch of seasonal sparkle and warmth to the school community, through to the fantastic classroom window displays which tutor groups have been creating.

Our Year 11 Performing Art students wowed us with all of their outstanding performances, showcasing their talent, hard work and creativity.

This week we also hosted the Year 11 Parents evening, this was a fantastic opportunity to discuss students' progress and support their journey towards the upcoming exams. Thank you to all parents and carers who attended and for your ongoing partnership in your child's education.

As the term continues, we look forward to more celebrations and achievements. Thank you for your support and engagement in this busy and exciting season.



### Year 8 STEM Day

On Tuesday 10th December, our Year 8's will be off timetable engaging in a full experience insights STEM day. This will be an exciting opportunity for them to explore STEM careers, different routes into STEM and meet with employers from a number of different companies.



### Former Year 11 certificate collection and celebration afternoon

All our year 11 students from last year are invited to come to school at 4pm on Thursday 12th December to collect their certificates and celebrate their successes with tea and cake! Teachers will be there to hear all their news and find out how they are getting on in their new courses. We look forward to seeing them all.

### Sixth Form Open Evening and Applications to Sixth Form

It was so exciting last night to see our school site busy with over 100 year 10 and 11 students all discussing their next steps and goals for their future. If you were unable to attend please visit our website or email [sixthformadmin@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:sixthformadmin@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk) for course information.

#### To Apply for Sixth Form courses by 31st January:

Current year 11 students have received an email invitation to their school email address (please check your junk email folder if you can't find it) with a link to follow to our application form or go to: <http://melkshamoak.applicaa.com/year12>



### Christmas Support

We appreciate that Christmas is not celebrated in the traditional sense by all of our community, however we also appreciate that the school holidays can be a difficult time for families regardless of celebrating Christmas.

This can cover all aspects of life.

If you have any concerns regarding celebrating Christmas or the school holidays then please reach out to us at school.

Here are also some useful links to enable you to support yourselves and others:

<http://melkshamfoodbank.org.uk/>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/christmas-and-mental-health/useful-contacts/>

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/christmas-present-appeal>

Homeless Christmas  
Shoebbox Appeal



# Shoe box for the Homeless

### Items for the homeless:

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Bar of soap
- Gloves
- Comb
- Hand sanitizer
- Hat
- Hand warmers
- Roll on deodorant
- Socks
- Wet wipes
- Wind up torch
- Sanitary products
- Tissues

Shoebbox  
needs to be  
donated



### INSIDE A CARE PACKAGE FOR THE HOMELESS



### House Challenge

**DEADLINE FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**doorway**  
Moving on from Homelessness in North Wiltshire

Please give your items to your tutor or  
put them into the food back trollies  
Please send them to the sixth form office  
**NO RAZORS OR SHARP ITEMS**







**Christmas Dinner**

**£3.75**

*Roast Turkey Served with Stuffing, Pig in Blanket, Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Veg, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy*

*Winter Vegetable Wellington Served with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes, Carrots & Peas and Gravy (vegan)*

**Gluten free will be available**

**Christmas Dessert**

*Chocolate Frosted Christmas Cake*

**Don't forget to Pre- book your Christmas Dinner, which is being served on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec for years 7,9 & 11**

**19<sup>th</sup> Dec for years 8,10 & 6<sup>th</sup> Form**

**£3.75 a ticket, sales will be cashless and available to purchase through Canteen up until Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.**





Melksham Oak  
Community School



Newsletter

Friday 6th December



Melksham Oak  
Community School



## Christmas Card Competition

Open to all students in years 7-13

The winning entry will be used for the school Christmas card and you will also win a £10 Amazon Gift Card.

Entries can be submitted at student reception by  
**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December.**







## Year 11 Maths Intervention


All Year 11 students are welcome to attend Wednesday period 7 maths intervention from 15:00 to 16:00 on a weekly basis. I would strongly recommend attendance as often as possible to maximise student grades in Maths. Students will just need to check with their

## Science Club

### The Science Club is Back

Calling all curious Year 7s and 8s!  Are you ready to dive into the world of **experiments** and **exciting discoveries**? Join the Science Club to:

-  Reinforce your classroom knowledge with hands-on fun
-  Explore experiments you'll *never* get to do in lessons
-  Work with the amazing **Miss Robertson** and **Mr. Zaidi**

 **When?** Starting 22nd November

 **Where?** U91

## 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				
<b>Multi-skills Club</b> (invite only) CWI	<b>Rugby</b> Year 7-9 Boys HWA  <b>Rugby</b> Years 7-9 Girls EPR	<b>Netball year 7</b> RSA  <b>Netball Year 8</b> EPR  <b>Netball Year 9</b> CWI  Year 10 & 11 Netball training	<b>Badminton</b> RSA  <b>Football</b> Girls Year 7-9 NBA  <b>Football</b> Boys U13 & U16 Squad training  <b>Self Defence</b> 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. This lasts a term, approximately 6 weeks and is delivered by a specialist self-defence instructor, Helen Llwelyn. 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](mailto: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.

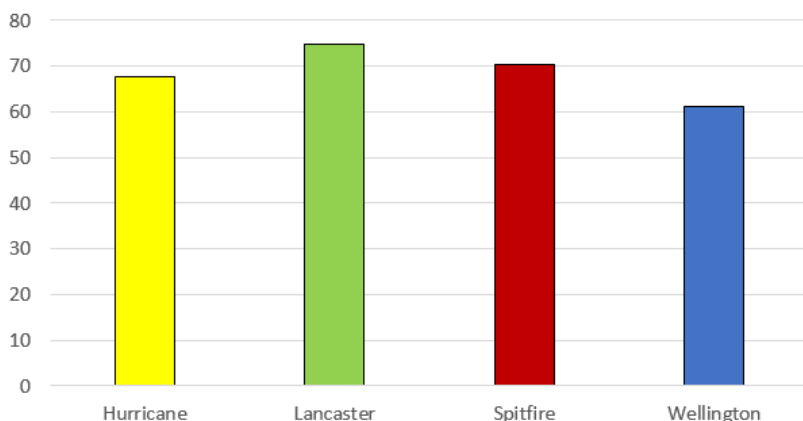


### Merits

Almost 80,000 merits have been issued so far this term!

Well done to all our students that have been awarded merits in lessons, star of the lesson and the star of the week!

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](mailto:pearceh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)
- Year 8: Mrs H. Johnson [johnsonh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:johnsonh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)
- Year 9: Mrs S. Phelps [phelpss@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:phelpss@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)
- Year 10: Mrs C. Hughes [hughesc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:hughesc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)
- Year 11: Mr J. Oatley [oatleyj@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:oatleyj@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)

#### KS5 Leads

- Mrs K. Jones [ionesk@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:ionesk@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)
- Mr C. Butter [butterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:butterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)

#### Head of Careers Education

- Ms C. Tranter [tranterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:tranterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)



### Upcoming Events



- Tuesday 10th December:** Year 8 STEM DAY
- Thursday 12th December:** Normal School uniform plus a Christmas Jumper. £1 donation to Save the Children.
- Tuesday 17th December:** Christmas Lunch Year 7, 9 & 11
- Thursday 19th December:** Christmas Lunch Year 8, 10 & 6th form