



A message from Mrs Ebanks, Assistant Headteacher

This week has been a fantastic opportunity for students to explore their future pathways, with events designed to inform and inspire. Our Year 9 students took part in an **Options Event**, where they experienced a range of GCSE subjects to help them make informed choices for the next stage of their education. Meanwhile, students across the school had the chance to engage with industry professionals at our **Apprenticeship Event**, gaining valuable insights into Post-16 opportunities. Rounding off the week, a group of Year 10 students attended a **Maths Enrichment event at John of Gaunt**, expanding their problem-solving skills and mathematical thinking in a challenging and engaging environment. It's been a busy and rewarding week for all!

Here at the Oak we have been witness to so many students coming on leaps and bounds. This particularly exemplified by the number of students earning merits for doing well in lessons – 873 students have earned a total of 2904 points this week alone (an average of 180 students in each year group). This is over 80% of our Year 7 to Year 11 students. We give special mention to the top student for points earned in each year:

Ruby – Year 7,

Rhys – Year 8 (also top of the school),

Sophia – Year 9,

Fe – Year 10,

Thanh – Year 11

We hope you have been enjoying receiving notifications for Star of Lesson and Star of the Week. It is such a pleasure to give special recognition to a student who has shown particular progress in a lesson, and quite often the teachers wish they could assign the award to more than one student, as so many are really giving their best. Please do login to Arbor and see some of the merits that your children have been awarded this year.

We are excited about what our children can do and are really looking forward to seeing their achievements over the remainder of the year!

National Apprenticeship Week 10th – 14th Feb 2025

Years 9, 10 & 12 had the opportunity this week to learn all about Apprenticeships in our Apprenticeships Insights Assemblies on 4th Feb.

Students heard from Impartial Careers Advisor (Miss Tranter), the DfE Ask programme, Bath College Apprenticeships Team and apprentices, Wiltshire Council and their own, Apprentice, Evie (former student of Melksham Oak).

You can find lots more information here: [-National Apprenticeship Week](#)





AMSP Maths Enrichment Morning at John of Gaunt School

Mr May took 14 Year 10 students to an AMSP Maths Enrichment morning at The John of Gaunt School. Here's some feedback quotes from our budding Mathematicians:

"My favourite part was working with a team and finding the answers that we believed was complicated when the solution was quite easy."

"This trip has made me think about jobs I didn't even know needed Maths and what would be involved in A-level Maths."

"My favourite part of the trip was the questions that we had to answer, especially the one with the houses as it didn't require any logic and was purely based on thinking outside the box. It inspired me to consider taking maths as an A level as lots of different career paths require it, especially some that I'm interested in."

"My favourite part is when they do the summer and the winter born. I think I like when we did the competition too. The Math for Future part was fascinating because it showed how math can be used to solve real-world problems."

"The trip was an innovative way of using our logical abilities to solve complex problems. The inclusion of multiple schools was efficient at developing our team building skills. To conclude, the experience was, overall, incredibly fun and challenging."

"My favourite part of the trip was the audience contribution part of the talk where Ava participated for the summer birthdays side."



PE Fixtures

Girls under 16 west wilts football fixture held at John of gaunt, they took part in a tournament against various schools within west wilts and won. Meaning they move onto the final.

Year 7

Year 7 football won 5-2 against Kingdown. They remain unbeaten.

Year 7 Netballers played Kingdown on Wednesday and gave a great performance. The first quarter finished at 0-0, both teams scored 1 in the second. The girls played with great determination and adapted their game to the wet weather. At the final score Kingdown marginally beat us coring another 2 to our 1. Great performance all round. Well done girls.

Year 8

Year 8 boys won 2-1 against Kingdown.

Year 8 Netball Match Report: MOCS Vs Matravers 30/01/2025

Fantastic effort from the entire Year 8 team! The girls displayed great enthusiasm, determination, and teamwork throughout the game. With the squad growing in recent weeks, we took the opportunity to rotate positions, fielding a different lineup for each quarter to give everyone valuable experience.

The match was closely contested, with each quarter bringing exciting play.

- **1st Quarter:** Matravers took an early lead, winning 5-2.
- **2nd Quarter:** MOCS fought back strongly, securing a 4-2 victory.
- **3rd Quarter:** Matravers regained the advantage with another 4-2 win.
- **4th Quarter:** A nail-biting finish saw both teams level at 3-3.

Overall, it was a fantastic match with plenty of learning opportunities. Well done to all the players for their hard work and commitment!



Match Report: Year 8 MOCS vs. Kingdown (05/02/2025)

Another thrilling game of netball as MOCS hosted Kingdown School in a closely contested match. Both teams showed great effort and determination from the start.

Kingdown, the more experienced side, demonstrated impressive attacking play, moving the ball swiftly from the centre third into the shooting D. They took an early lead, winning the first quarter 4-2. Their dominance continued in the second quarter, extending their advantage to 8-5.

However, the Year 8 MOCS team showed resilience and adaptability. They studied their opponents' strengths and adjusted their tactics, leading to an impressive comeback in the third quarter, levelling the score at 8-8.

The final quarter was an intense battle, with both teams responding goal for goal. Despite a fantastic effort from MOCS, Kingdown narrowly secured the win with a final score of 10-9.

Both teams played exceptionally well, demonstrating great skill and sportsmanship. Another strong performance from MOCS, Well done girls!!

Sparx Maths

Weekly Leaderboard Monday to Sunday		
1	Lydia 8S	2,285 XP
2	George 10E	2,009 XP
3	Seb 11A	1,821 XP
4	Curtis 10E	1,670 XP
4	Noah 7M	1,670 XP
6	Sofia 7M	1,605 XP
7	Gowri 8E	1,555 XP
8	Emily 7L	1,525 XP
9	Flourish 7S	1,414 XP
10	Charlie 9H	1,250 XP



English—Key Stage 4

Using Tassomai for English and hitting the weekly goal is an excellent way for pupils to improve their understanding of key concepts. It is designed to support revision through regular practice to help embed knowledge, improve long-term recall and revisit misconceptions.

Weekly Overview

Year 11:

20389 questions answered and 82 hours 55minutes spent revising.

Year 10:

19260 questions answered and 77 hours and 50 minutes spent revising.

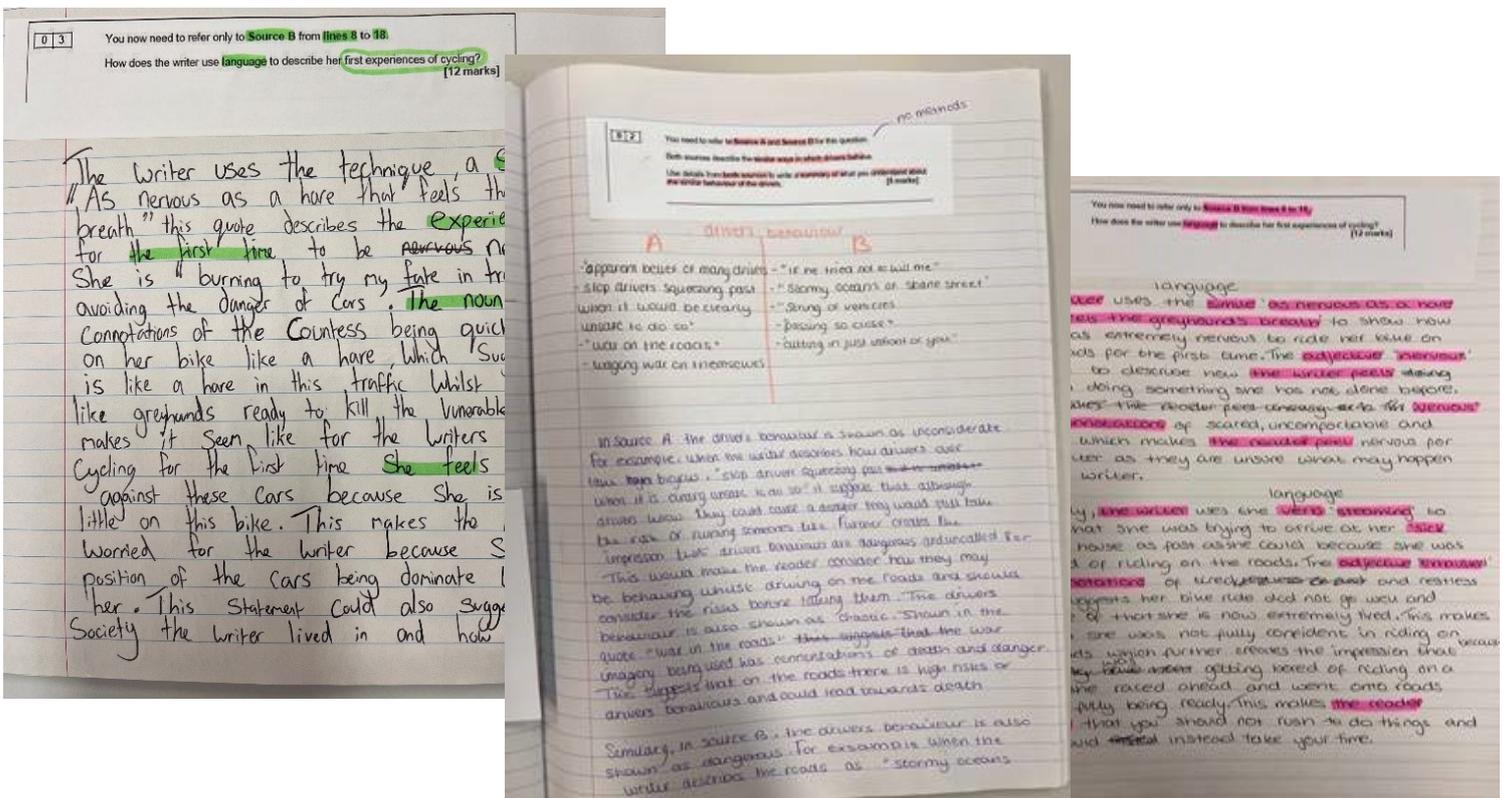
If you have any problems, please find me in L1.

Mrs R Robinson

Head of English

Year 11

Year 11 have been working incredibly hard in their lessons and preparing for their mock exams next week. Their hard work, focus and engagement in lessons has been very impressive!

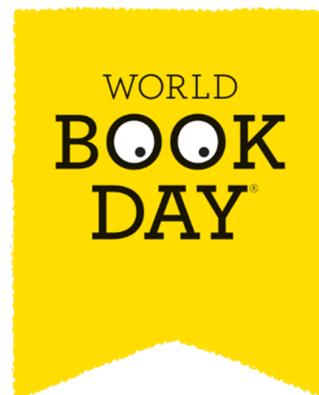




World Book Week—3rd to 7th March

World Book Day 2025 will take place on Thursday 6 March 2025. The Melksham Oak Community will be taking part in a week-long celebration of authors, illustrators, books and the joy of reading with many exciting and fun activities planned to mark this important, annual event.

World Book Day provides a fantastic opportunity to focus on reading for pleasure, supporting children's autonomy in book choice, and embedding a habit of reading that brings a wide range of benefits.



World Book Day Tokens

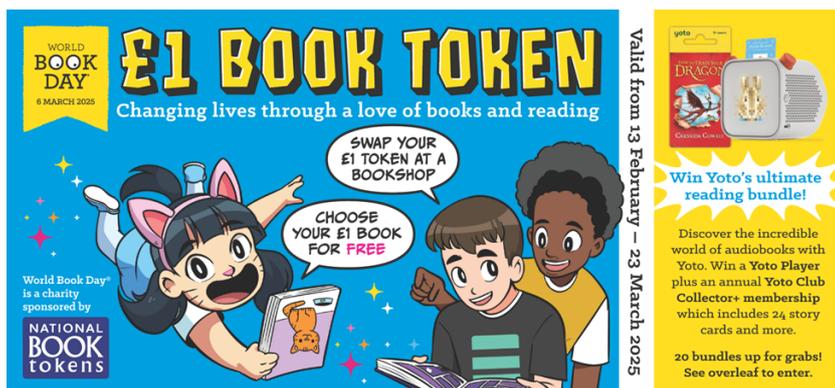
Students can obtain a £1 Book Token from their form tutor. Tokens can be used in participating retailers from the 13th February to the 23rd March.

How to exchange your £1 token

Children can swap their £1 token for any of the £1 books or get £1 off a full price title, any full price book or audiobook (as long as the book or audiobook costs at least £2.99 at participating booksellers).

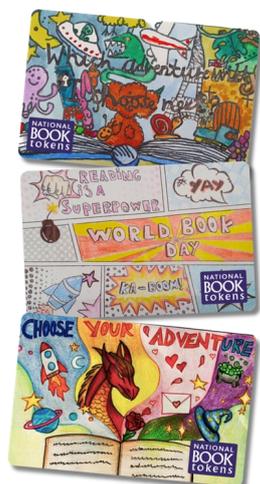
For more information can be found at:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/>



Donations for the Book Swap

We are asking for donations of good quality second-hand books or unwanted new books to provide students with a free book in exchange for World Book Day £1 tokens. Please drop donations into reception.



Design a National Book Token competition

National Book Tokens are running a competition to design a new National Book Token. Students can submit an entry by completing a design sheet which is available from the school library. There are great prizes for winning entries, including £100 worth of books and the opportunity for the school to win £350 of free books!

For more information visit:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/competition/design-a-nbt/>



Melksham Town Council—Next Gen Gig

Melksham Town Council has organised a great night of music for their first youth event for 14-18 year olds next Saturday 15th February.

They've got live music from 2 amazing local bands; The Sunnies and Between The Lines, and there will be opportunities to get your say on issues that impact the youth in Melksham.

Help make this a successful night and hopefully it will be something we will see more often in Melksham for the youth.

Tickets can be bought via the QR code, the Melksham Town Council office or on the door on the night.

THE ASSEMBLY HALL
Melksham

NEXT GEN GIG

FT THE SUNNIES +
BETWEEN THE LINES

YOUTH EVENT
14-18 YEARS OLD

19:00
-22:00

15 FEBRUARY
2025

£2.50
TICKET

MELKSHAM ASSEMBLY HALL

<https://www.melksham-tc.gov.uk/>
01225 704187



Pablo Nicopods

We have become aware of students being in possession of Pablo Nicopods.

These are not legal for under 18's and carry health warnings as do all nicotine containing products.

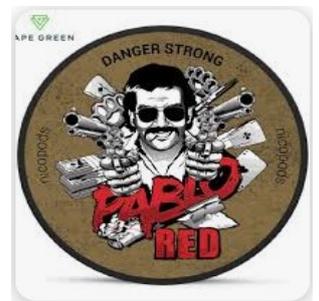
They contain more nicotine per pouch than many vapes and are not designed for the teenage brain.

The packaging contains significant warnings about not swallowing them, not getting them in your eyes and being an irritant. The warnings also indicate potential allergies and risks to diabetics and people with heart conditions/high blood pressure.

The front packaging suggests that they contain 50mg of nicotine per pouch whereas the back of the packet shows 30mg. They are designed to be put under the top lip and in theory can be left in place for up to 30 minutes. They come in a variety of sweet flavours that are appealing to children.

There are other brands available, such as Ubbs, and all contain similar advice.

Please keep an eye out for your children having these and using them. Please contact school if you have any concerns/want support with your children in terms of smoking/vaping/nicotine usage.



ARE YOU EIGHT YEARS OR OLDER AND EAGER TO GET ACTIVE?

JOIN OUR DOORSTEP SPORTS CLUB!

Doorstep Taster Session

February Half Term

Thursday 20 February
1:00 - 3:00pm

Forest Community Centre,
Bowmans Court, Melksham
SN12 7FF

Our **FREE** sports sessions are taking place in locations across Wiltshire, every week.

Sessions are fun, inclusive and everyone is welcome. Find out what is going on in your community now.

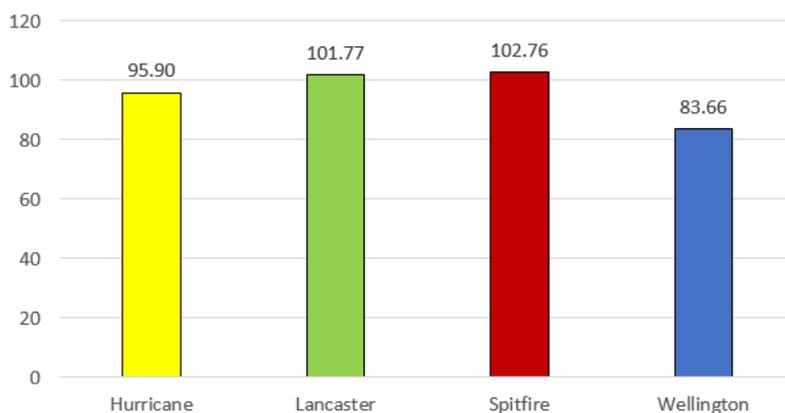
 **SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR FREE SESSIONS**

  **Wiltshire Council**



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 Team

Pastoral Manager	Ms A. Berry	berrya@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
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

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

KS5 Leads

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

Head of Careers Education

Ms C. Tranter	tranterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
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Upcoming Events

- Monday 10th February:** Year 11 and 13 Mocks
- Thursday 13th February:** Year 9 Subject Parents' Evening
- Wednesday 5th March:** Employability Ready Day (Year 10 & 12)

