



A Message from Mr Cooper

It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at this week's "Meet the Tutor" evening. Thanks to all of you who were able to attend. A number of parents and carers asked about further communication over the course of the academic year; every student will receive two reports with information about attitude and academic progress, and we will also provide an opportunity for parents to talk directly to subject teachers.

A Message from Mrs Clark

With half term fast approaching it has been great to see students progress so much in their learning, as well as gaining confidence in having positive interactions with adults. Next week we see the start of our Y11 and Y13 mocks, giving the students a chance to showcase their abilities and identify gaps in their learning, which can be addressed in future lessons. I wish all our students luck with this and I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Year 11 Investigate Thorpe Park as a Business



The Business Studies department ran a successful trip to Thorpe Park on Thursday 3rd October. The students carried out research tasks about Thorpe Park as a business including topics such as ownership, marketing, revenue, human resources, use of technology. While having time to experience the rides, they carried out their own customer service satisfaction review.



We will use their research of Thorpe Park to build our understanding of business and they will have the opportunity to create a resource pack about Thorpe Park's business activities.



Year 11 and 13 Mock Exams



Good luck to our year 11 and year 13 students as they begin their autumn mock exams. We know that all their hard work with revision will be rewarded over the next two weeks. A reminder to all of the other students that your time will come with exams so please be respectful and remember to be quiet around exam venues.

**EXAMS IN
PROGRESS**

Year 11 English Revision

Well done to all of the pupils who attended English revision on Tuesday. Over 70 pupils attended and were all amazing! Next week, we will be focussing on the following poems: Exposure, Checking Out Me History and The Emigree.



Safeguarding Self Harm

The theme of this weeks safeguarding post is self harm.

This is a sensitive topic and we know that for the young person and their family it is a difficult time. We know that for many families they feel helpless and especially when it comes to supporting their child/children. As a school we can help with referrals to various services including the school nurse and other support networks. Please do reach out to us if you need help/advice or support.

What is self-harm?

- Self-harm is when you hurt yourself as a way of dealing with very difficult feelings, painful memories or overwhelming situations and experiences. Some people have described self-harm as a way to:
- Express something that is hard to put into words
- Turn invisible thoughts or feelings into something visible
- Change emotional pain into physical pain
- Reduce overwhelming emotional feelings or thoughts
- Feel more in control
- Escape [traumatic](#) memories
- Have something in life that they can rely on
- Punish themselves for their feelings and experiences
- Stop feeling numb, disconnected or [dissociated](#)
- Create a reason to physically care for themselves
- Express [suicidal feelings](#) and thoughts without taking their own life

After self-harming, there may be a feeling of a short-term sense of release or control. This can make people more likely to depend on it and less able to stop. But it's likely that difficult feelings will return soon after. This can include feelings of guilt or shame.

There are some excellent resources available to support young people and their families when it comes to self harm and they can be found here:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/self-harm/>

<https://e-wellbeing.co.uk/sh-resources/>

Statistics show that 1 in 14 people will self harm at some point in their life. Education, understanding and support is therefore vital so please remember to reach out to us at school if you have any concerns. We will always report to you as parents and carers any self harm that we identify or we have concerns about as part of our safeguarding practice.



Sixth Form Update

The new Year 12 students have settled in well to their new courses and life in the Sixth Form. They are mixing with the year 13s in tutor groups and in the common room and using their time well for independent learning. They have started their extra curricular activities as subject ambassadors, reading mentors and peer mentors which is having such a positive impact on our younger students at school. Year 13 are working hard on writing personal statements for their University applications and researching a variety of apprenticeship options. Our online destinations platform Unifrog has valuable information for both parents and students on how to choose their next steps and how to write a successful application. All Sixth Form students have a log in for this website but if students are having trouble accessing this information please don't hesitate to get in touch. With Mocks next week year 13 are also using their independent study time to revise and practice their exam techniques.

Expectations for Sixth Form Attendance:

Students must register at 8.40am every day as tutor time is used for valuable PSHE and Careers information and support. Students may leave site for lunch break (12.40pm to 1.20pm) if they wish however they remain on site during their study periods.

Key dates for Sixth Form this term:

- 14th to 23rd October – Year 13 Mocks
- 21st November – Year 13 Parents Evening
- 28th November – Sixth Form Open Evening for year 11
- 23rd January – Year 12 Parents Evening

Disabled Parking



A reminder to all those using the drop zone and pick up zone in the school car park that the Disabled parking bays are only to be used by Blue badge holders and not to be driven through as a shortcut to bypass queuing traffic.

Library Books

Students in KS3 should have a reading book in school at all times as part of their equipment for lessons. Students are allowed to borrow 2 books for 2 weeks from the school library or can bring in a book from home for this purpose.

All books on loan from the library should be returned in a good, clean condition. If a book is lost or becomes damaged while in your child's possession, please encourage them to come and talk to the librarian in order to find a solution as soon as possible. If a book is lost or returned damaged, parents/guardians will be asked to replace it with a suitable replacement copy or notified, and the replacement cost added to ParentPay.

In order to support our library in maintaining a plentiful supply of desirable books for our students, please place books in a suitable waterproof bag or folder to prevent damage whilst in your child's school bag. This could just be a simple, plastic shopping bag. Unfortunately, the library has had to throw away a large number of books due to water damage during the recent wet weather and from leaky water bottles and lunch boxes. Every book lost is one less book for students to enjoy so thank you for your support with this.



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.

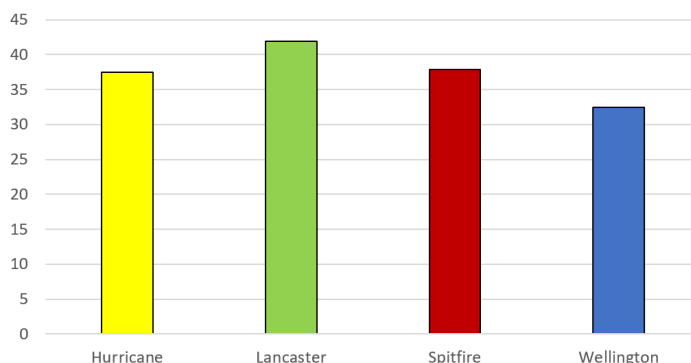


Merits

Almost 49,000 merits have been awarded to students this year so far for a variety reason.



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
- Monday 21st to Tuesday 22nd October:** Year 7 GL Assessments
- Thursday 24th October:** Inset Day, students not in school
- Friday 25th October to Friday 1st November:** Half Term