



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

A message from Mrs Jackson - Deputy Headteacher

It has been great to see so many activities and visitors in school this week. Staff and students alike were getting in the festive mood on Thursday raising money for charity on Christmas Jumper Day and the Year 11s from last year returned to school on Thursday afternoon to celebrate their achievements with staff and collect their GCSE certificates. Tuesday was the Year 8 STEM careers day with a range of activities provided by employers such as Jaguar Landrover, NHS and Thames Water. The students were so enthusiastic and interested in the career opportunities shared with them. On Wednesday the Year 9 students had a special assembly from the local Police raising awareness on how to stay safe and the risks of exploitation. Finally, the Year 3 students from local primaries came to MOCS for a bench ball tournament. Many thanks to all the staff involved in all these activities, we couldn't do any of it without them!



Applications to Sixth Form

There is still time to apply to our Sixth form. Please visit our website or email 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>



The Great British Trench Off

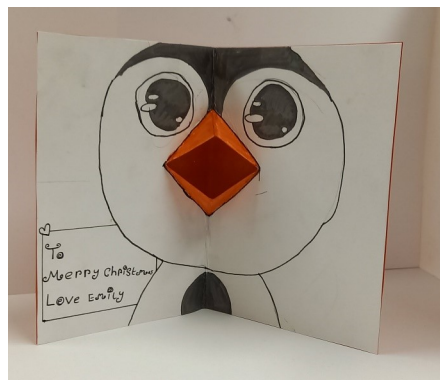
Students were asked to demonstrate their understanding of the key features of a Trench and/or the Trench System as part of their Depth Study of The First World War.

Students were encouraged to creatively present knowledge of range of Key features, yet given the flexibility to use a medium of their choosing: From chocolate cake to Lego, from egg boxes to felting, just fabulous!



DT Year 7 Pop-up Christmas Cards

Year 7 have been working hard in Design Technology on their pop-up Christmas cards. We can see the finished products below, well done!





Safeguarding-Emergency contacts

There will always be occasions when we need to contact home for our students. When this is for an emergency whether that be illness, injury or a wider safeguarding concern it is best practice to have 3 emergency contacts per child. We have identified several students who do not have 3 emergency contacts and we will be contacting those families but if you already recognise that we do not hold 3 emergency contacts then please let us know via admin@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk.

This is also an opportunity to check your child's details are accurate so if phone numbers have changed, you have moved house, changed doctors etc please let us know.

Further Christmas Support

As previously mentioned we appreciate that the holidays can bring joy to families but also challenges. Here are some further links for support and please remember you can also reach out to us at school.

MIND

MIND provide excellent help for those in need of mental health advice. Whether you want to join their virtual crafting afternoon or need to speak with someone who can help, they are always on board to assist. No problem is too big or small for them to listen.

The team add: "We believe no one should have to face a mental health problem alone. We'll listen, give you support and advice, and fight your corner."

Helpline: 0300 123 3393

Family Action

Family Action exists to provide practical, emotional and financial support to those who are experiencing poverty and social isolation across the country. With many households struggling over the festive season, Family Action can help to provide them with whatever they need.

The team explain: "We're here to provide a listening ear, answer particular parenting questions or help with guidance around more complex issues. All support takes place via telephone, text message or email and is free."

Helpline: 0808 802 6666

Thinking of Teaching?

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming a teacher? The National Institute of Teaching (NIOT) is offering fee-paying PGCE courses for Primary and Secondary education. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone passionate about teaching and making a difference in the lives of young learners. For more information, please contact NIOT@TWHF.org.uk or visit [Become a teacher with the NIOT – The National Institute of Teaching](#). Don't miss out on the chance to help shape the future of education!



Library Clubs

LEGO CREATIONS



Monday 3-3:40 in the Discovery
Centre



Open to year 7 and 8

Please see Mrs Curry in the library
to sign up.



Reading Champions

Wed 3pm-3:45pm

Are you a complete book worm?

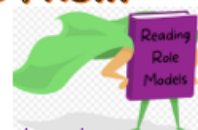
Do you love talking about books?

Gain valuable volunteering experience that will
look great on your CV.

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR ROLE
MODELS TO CHAMPION
READING AT MOCS FROM
YEARS 7-13**



What will I do:





- Plan exciting activities, recommend books and run a book blog to support reading for pleasure.
- Help to create a link between the library and your peer group; talking to students and listening to their views.
- Promote the library and what it has to offer including resources, clubs, events and competitions.
- Help with fundraising ideas and events.
- Creating articles for the library magazine.

Please talk to Mrs Curry in the library to find out more
and sign up 😊



Library Clubs


Do you enjoy books?
Do you love the library?
Would you like to be part of the
Discovery Centre Team?

Tuesday 3-3.40 pm - all year groups welcome.
Please see Mrs Curry in the Library to sign up 😊

Duties include:

- Shelving books
- Labelling and levelling books
- Helping with displays
- Running the desk
- Other duties as they arise.

Refreshment available!



Find it hard to get your homework done?
Too many distractions?
Can't concentrate at home?

COME TO HOMEWORK CLUB

Discovery Centre /Library
Monday to Thursday 3-3.45pm
3-3:15pm Friday
Just turn up!

How can we help?

- Friendly supportive space
- Quiet with no distraction
- Access to computers
- Library resources to support

We look forward to seeing you soon!



Library Clubs

MOCS Discovery Centre

Book Club Bistro

Thursday 3pm-3.45pm in the library
Open to all year groups and all reading tastes.

Do you love reading and want to come and natter about books; make new friends and enjoy a friendly space?

Sign up with Mrs Curry in the library
The club is friendly, fun and flexible so why not sign up and try it out!

Refreshments available!

Book Club Flyer



Family and Community Learning



Supporting My Teen
With Wellbeing

Online Course
Friday 24 January 2025
10am - 12noon

Booking closes
Friday 17 January



- Understand the changes in a teenage brain
- Learn techniques to promote wellbeing
- Explore positive psychology

Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
call the FaCL team on 01225 770478
scan the QR code or visit
<https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>



Our courses are free, if you are 19+ years old, resident in the UK/EU for over three years (some immigration status exempt), have a Wiltshire postcode and meet any of the following criteria: earn less than £25,000 pa, in receipt of benefits, military family, foster carer/care leaver/carer, have a disability.

Wiltshire Council



Melksham Oak
Community School



Newsletter

Friday 13th December

Family and Community Learning



Supporting My Teen With Transitions to Adulthood

5 Online Sessions Fridays 10am - 12noon
Starting Friday 31 January 2025

Book by
24 January

Session Dates: 31 January 7, 14, 28 February 7 March



- Promote emotional wellbeing
- Explore post 16 opportunities
- Support life skills, online safety and decision making

Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
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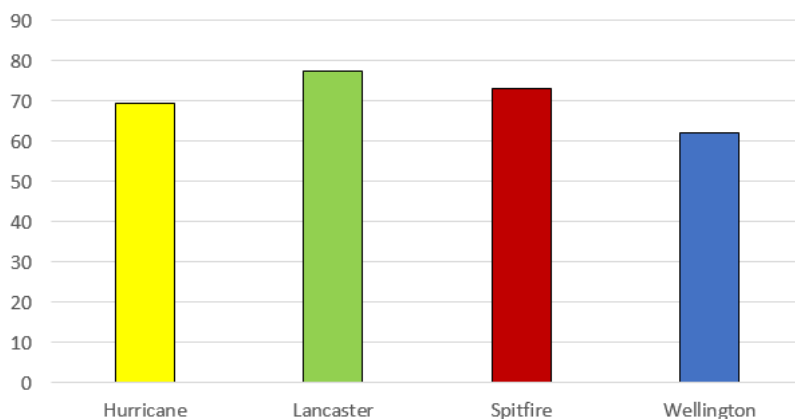
Wiltshire Council



Merits

Well done to everyone that has been awarded a merit this week, lets have a final push to gain as many merits, star of the lesson and star of the weeks before the end of term.

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: Mrs S. Phelps phelpss@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

- Tuesday 17th December: Christmas Lunch Year 7, 9 & 11
- Thursday 19th December: Christmas Lunch Year 8, 10 & 6th form
- Friday 20th December: Early finish at 12:40

