



### A message from Mr Pollok, Deputy Headteacher

As we step into the brighter and longer days of spring, we are excited to share the latest happenings at Melksham Oak Community School. With the change in season, our students are embracing a busy and vibrant time of year. With lots going on both in and out of the classroom: in the classroom the Yr11 Food Technology students have been busy in the kitchen completing their 3-hour final assessment with some stunning dishes produced; out of the classroom 6<sup>th</sup> Form History and Media students are currently immersing themselves in German culture in Berlin and there have been some notable performances on the sports field.

### Gr8 Book Debate

This week, students from year 7 and 8 were excited to attend the launch of the Gr8 Book Debate. They were introduced to students from both Ridgeway and Devizes Schools and everyone was eager to find out which books had been shortlisted. Over the coming months, students will read 5 brand new books and come together in the Summer Term to debate and then vote for the Winner of 2025. Students couldn't wait to begin reading and thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Devizes School Library.



### National Youth Strategy

[National youth strategy](#) the government has launched a national listening exercise to let young people have their say on support services, facilities and opportunities they need outside the school gates. Ahead of the landmark National Youth Strategy, those aged 10-21 years old, and up to 25 years old for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), will be asked to take part in a survey to hear what support services, facilities and opportunities they need outside the school gates to benefit their lives and futures. The survey is now [open here](#), and will close on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

### Attendance Matters – Every Minute Matters

Congratulations to almost 800 students with 100% attendance last week! Please ensure that your son/daughter is in every day as it will impact upon their Yr11 grades and life opportunities.

### Mobile phones and earphones

Please ensure the message from home is that phones and earphones are to be put in (and kept) in students bags whilst in school. These will be confiscated if seen, refusal to hand them over will result in time in refocus with possible further sanctions.



## PE Match Reports

### Year 9/10 - St Augustine's at home on Tuesday- 2-2 draw

This was a really competitive game between two good teams. In the first twenty minutes both teams looked to win the midfield battle, but it was St Augustine's who scored first from a long-range effort. Melksham had chances to score themselves immediately after, though it took until the final minute of the first half for Mason M. to score the equaliser. Melksham came out in the second half positively, looking to build quickly on that late goal. Both teams started to get the ball on the floor and play some eye-catching football. St Augustine's took the lead again in the second half and it looked like it could be a hard second half for Melksham. However, during this game the team showed amazing resilience and with 5 minutes to go scored a late equaliser through Theo H. This match was a vast improvement on the team's previous performance; their attitude and resilience to come back twice in the game was great to see. Both teams played this game in a great spirit.

### Year 7s Football

The year 7 team's enthusiasm was evident throughout this game. High energy and an impressive attacking press were a theme throughout this match. This was a great team performance, with 6 goals scored by Melksham and some brilliant attacking moves on display. St Augustine's were unlucky not to score on a couple of occasions. Lots of positives to take into the next game.

## 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

16357 questions answered and 63hours 26minutes spent revising.

### Year 10

16986 questions answered and 66 hours and 3 minutes spent revising.

Any problems, please find Mrs Robinson in L1.



### Sparx Maths Leaderboard

Congratulations to the following students for their excellent effort with their Sparx Maths homework last week, with a particularly strong performance from Year 7. Here are the Top 10 students from across the entire school... well done for your hard work!

Weekly Leaderboard Monday to Sunday		
1	Millie 7E	3195 XP
2	Katie 7K	2391 XP
3	Joshua 11L	2295 XP
4	Jean 10E	2040 XP
5	Melody 7M	1920 XP
6	Robyn 7M	1780 XP
7	<u>Malamin 7H</u>	1620 XP
8	Ayesha 11H	1497 XP
9	Elizabeth 7E	1440 XP
10	Maddie 8A	1350 XP





**COME TO**

# CROCHET CLUB

Are you creative and looking to make new friends? If so, crochet club might be the place for you! Open to all ages and abilities.

**U48**  
**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
**3-4PM**

**WE WANT YOU!**

**TO TAKE PART IN RED NOSE DAY**

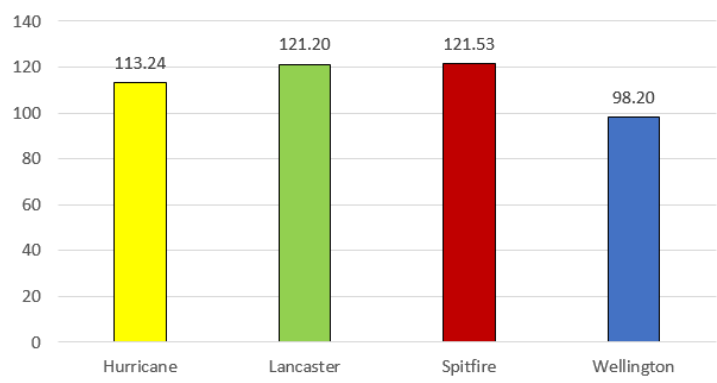
**FRIDAY 21ST MARCH**

**Non-Uniform Day, Cake Sale, Treasure Hunt, Cross-Bar Challenge, £1 Donations**



### 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 Manager

Ms A. Berry

[berrya@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:berrya@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)

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

#### Heads of Year

Year 7	Mrs H. Pearce	<a href="mailto:pearceh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">pearceh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>
Year 8	Miss S. Abraham	<a href="mailto:abrahams@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">abrahams@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>
Year 9	Mr L. Ballinger	<a href="mailto:ballingerl@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">ballingerl@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>
Year 10	Mrs C. Hughes	<a href="mailto:hughesc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">hughesc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>
Year 11	Mr J. Oatley	<a href="mailto:oatleyj@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">oatleyj@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>
6th Form	Ms R. Cooper	<a href="mailto:cooperr@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">cooperr@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>

#### Head of Careers Education

Ms C. Tranter

[tranterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:tranterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)



### Upcoming Events

**Thursday 13th March to Sunday 16th March:** Berlin History and Media Trip (Sixth Form)

**Tuesday 18th March:** Student HPV Vaccines (Year 8)

**Wednesday 19th March:** Safe drive workshop (Sixth Form)

**Thursday 20th March:** Year 8 Parents’ Evening

**Friday 21st March:** Red-nose day, non-uniform day. Donations of £1 to comic relief.



## Protecting my child from harm part 2

This follows on from last week's safeguarding contribution around Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and moves into what is often a connected area of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE).

It is again a sensitive area to read about and to be able to support your child in. We are again using resources from The Ivison Trust.

### What is child criminal exploitation?

Child criminal exploitation is the manipulation, coercion and control of children and young people to commit crimes usually for the benefit of other abusive adult's or peers.

There are many forms of child criminal exploitation. All are extremely harmful to a child and their families both in the immediate and long term. Children can be manipulated, coerced and controlled into many activities that could result in crimes being committed by the child/young person.

County lines is just one form of criminal exploitation. It is a police term developed to describe the selling, storing, moving of drugs. The line in county lines is the phone line that stores the numbers and contacts of which the deals are made.

It's important to remember that county lines is not the only form of criminal exploitation.

Ivison Trust see's children and young people being groomed and exploited for the purposes of carrying out many forms of crime. This includes but not limited to;

- Deception – young people are used to move counterfeit money/goods,
- Theft – young people are used to steal to order from shops,
- Street robberies and stealing of vehicles
- Holding and moving of guns and weapons,
- Being used to perpetrate violence against rivals, for money or to control members of their own group as punishments

If your child is affected, it is important to remember:

The harms experienced as a result of the psychological/physical experiences a child and young person is exposed to can be significant. As a parent understanding the behaviours you may be seeing in your home and relationship with your child can be distressing and challenging. It's important to remember it's not your fault, and it's not your child's fault. This is most often the result of the trauma they are experiencing due to harm outside of the family home.

### Signs of criminal exploitation

Here are some signs to look out for that can suggest that someone you know might be being criminally exploited.

- Frequent missing episodes and being found in a different area to where you live
- Found with large quantities of drugs or weapons
- Found with drugs inside rectum or vagina
- Unexplained amounts of money, mobile phones, credit, clothing, jewellery, new haircuts or other items and gifts





- Being arrested in a different area to where you live – especially for drug related offences
- Multiple referrals for incidents in the same location
- Returned from missing episodes with injuries, or dishevelled appearance
- Change in behaviour, ie more secretive, withdrawn, or isolated from peers, or not mixing with usual friends
- Unexplained absences from, or not engaged in school, college, training, or work
- Increasingly disruptive, hostile or physically aggressive at home or school, including the use of sexualised language and language in relation to drug dealing and/or violence
- Expressions around invincibility or not caring about what happens to them
- Increased interest in making money
- Reports of being taken to parties, people's houses, unknown areas, hotels, nightclubs, takeaways or out of area by unknown adults
- Increasing use of drugs or alcohol
- Fear of reprisal from gang members or violence from young people or adults
- Having multiple mobile phones, sim cards or use of a phone that causes concern eg multiple callers or more texts/pings than usual
- Possession of hotel keys/cards, or keys to unknown premises
- Disclosure of a sexual or physical assault, followed by withdrawal of the allegation
- Abduction or forced imprisonment
- Entering or leaving vehicles/cars with unknown adults
- Self harm or significant changes in emotional well-being
- Agencies unable to engage with the child or young person
- New peer groups and/or relationships
- Relationships with controlling or older individuals or groups
- Neglect

Please reach out to us at school if you have concerns or the police either on 999 if an emergency or 101 if not an emergency but you think it requires police intervention.

Also have a look at these resources for help and support.

[For parents - Ivison Trust](#)



### Trowbridge Cricket Club

[www.trowbridge.cc](http://www.trowbridge.cc)

**TROWBRIDGE CRICKET CLUB**

**GIRLS CRICKET TASTER DAY** 

Aged between 8 and 13 years old? This is your chance to meet new friends and try your hand at cricket, completely free of charge this Easter holiday at Trowbridge Cricket Club!

**Location:** Trowbridge Cricket Club, Lower Court, Trowbridge, BA14 8PX  
**Date:** Tuesday 8th April 2025  
**Time:** 10:00am to 12:30pm

No equipment needed! To register for a spot, please email us on [fixtures@trowbridge.cc](mailto:fixtures@trowbridge.cc)



At Trowbridge Cricket Club, we are passionate about supporting and encouraging girls to participate in sport, recognizing the significant benefits for both physical and mental well-being. With this in mind, we are working to expand our girls' section at the club, offering opportunities in both softball and hardball cricket. We are delighted to invite girls from your school to a **free taster day** at Trowbridge Cricket Club on **Tuesday, 8th April**. This session will provide a fantastic introduction to cricket in a fun, inclusive, and supportive environment.

We would greatly appreciate your support in spreading the word by including the attached flyer in your weekly newsletter. By doing so, you'll be helping to encourage more girls to experience the joy of cricket and all the benefits that come with it.





## Family and Community Learning



# Supporting My Teen With Transitions to Adulthood

5 Online Sessions Wednesdays 12.45pm - 2.45pm  
Starting Wednesday 26 March 2025

*Book by  
19 March*

Session Dates: 26 March, 2 April, 23 April, 30 April, 7 May



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

Contact [familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto: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/carers, have a disability.

Wiltshire Council

