



### A message from Mrs Clark—Associate Headteacher

We have had another busy and enriching week at MOCS, with many exciting activities and events taking place. We are incredibly proud of our students that took part in Melkshams’ Remembrance Parade last Sunday, they showed great maturity and respect. This was followed by Remembrance Assemblies this week allowing staff and students to reflect on the many sacrifices made. 75 of our Y11 Geography students completed their fieldwork in Bristol and we hosted several sporting events, including the Y7 netball festival and Y8 football matches. Next week we have our first online parents’ evening (Y13) followed by our 6th form open evening on the 28th November, which we hope to see many of our Y11 students and parents at.

I hope that you all have a lovely, restful weekend.



### Sixth Form Open Evening

**Sixth Form Open Evening, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 6pm to 8pm.**

**Talk from Mr David Cooper, Executive Head at 7pm in the Main Hall**

All year 10s and 11s are welcome to come and see our Sixth Form centre and facilities and the wide range of Level 3 courses available at our Sixth Form. We offer vocational BTEC and CTEC courses alongside A Levels in new subjects that students have not been offered before. This week the year 11s have had the first of a series of assemblies to showcase the variety of courses that may be of interest to them with new subjects on offer this year. We look forward to seeing you there. Please direct any Sixth Form queries to:

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

Prospectus: [Sixth Form | Melksham Oak Community School](#)

**OAK SIXTH FORM**

**OPEN EVENING**

Thursday 28th November, 6:00 - 8:00pm  
NO BOOKING NECESSARY

T: 01225 792700  
E: [admin@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)

THE WHITE HORSE FEDERATION Proud to be part of The White Horse Federation Multi-Academy Trust | [www.twhf.org.uk](http://www.twhf.org.uk)





## News From Governors

The Interim Academy Board met just before half-term on 23rd October. We are in the process of returning governance at our school to a full local governance committee (LGC) and we are delighted to recommend to the Trust Board two new Trust Appointed Governors. Trust Appointed Governors are appointed for their skill set and they have an external viewpoint, which is valuable to provide a balance of views around the table when the governors meet with the school leaders. We will provide details once the Trust Board has completed the process. Two staff members are elected by the staff in school and Fiona Litman, DDSL, and Matt Williams, 2nd in the Science Faculty, are the support and teaching staff members respectively.

The LGC constitution allows for two elected parent members. Parents are informed when there is a vacancy.

The role of the LGC is to monitor, challenge and support the school in key areas of school life including safeguarding, SEND, Pupil Premium, Attendance, Behaviour and Quality of Education. We align our visits to priorities in the School Development Plan and provide assurance to The Trust that the needs of pupils and the local community are being met. Members of the Senior Leadership Team attend our meetings to present on various areas of school life and the Vice Principals together with the Associate and Executive Heads are always at the meeting to provide information and answer questions.

Best wishes for a successful Term 2.

Dr Moira Laffey, Chair of IAB



A huge well done to Megan and Freddie in 7L for entering the BBC 500 words competition with their fantastic short-stories. They receive a certificate for entering and hopefully will be shortlisted in February.

50 finalists will be invited to go to a glamorous **grand final** at Buckingham Palace in February next year, where the bronze, silver and gold winners in each category will have their stories read out by celebrities.

There are also lots of **prizes to be won** - each winner will take home a bundle of books and the gold winners also win 500 books for their school library.

Not only that, the winning stories will receive an original **illustration** from **Dapo Adeola, Nigel Parkinson, Lydia Monks, Momoko Abe, Rob Biddulph or Yasmeen Ismail.**

Best of luck to both of them.





## Geography Bristol Trip

Year 11 students spent the day visiting Bristol this week carrying out their GCSE Compulsory Fieldwork.

They carried out Pedestrian Counts, Environmental Quality Surveys and Land Use Surveys to gather data to help them to answer their Key Investigation Question: To what extent has the regeneration of Bristol City Centre been successful?

Many of the students that attended demonstrated an excellent attitude to learning and made their teachers and school proud.









## 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.





## WhatsApp

Recent concerns have emerged regarding a WhatsApp group known as 'Add Everyone.' Schools and regional police forces across the UK have warned that this group exposes children and young people to explicit and harmful material.

### **INEQE the safeguarding group has issued the following information:**

Imagine a room filled with children and adults where images, videos and other information are displayed on a screen for all to see. You're probably picturing a concert, a cinema or some other happy family occasion. But what if the adults in the room are those with ill intentions? What if these adults could interact with the children and encourage them to bring other young people to the room? In this room, the imagery on the screen is sexually explicit, violent, and illegal material that's highly inappropriate for children.

Sadly, this nightmarish scenario is reportedly happening on WhatsApp through the use of 'Add Everyone' group chats.

### **What are 'Add Everyone' group chats?**

'Add Everyone' group chats can go by many names, but their purpose is often the same. These WhatsApp groups are spaces where children and young people are invited to join a chat that contains content such as sexual images, material promoting self-harm, sexual violence, racism and other inappropriate content. These chats may be created by adults seeking to connect with younger users or by young people themselves as a seemingly fun activity. However, as the name suggests, it is difficult to control who becomes a member of these groups, which means that access to children and young people can easily fall into the wrong hands. In some cases, the group owners ask for children to add their contacts to the group, 'except their parents'.

***As WhatsApp has lowered its minimum age from 16 to 13 this year, the risk of young users encountering inappropriate content and adults may increase. However, reports indicate that these groups have targeted children as young as 9.***

### **Why would a child or young person want to join the group?**

Children and young people might be drawn to such groups out of curiosity or a desire for social connection. The allure of being part of a larger community can overshadow the potential dangers. Unfortunately, these groups often exploit this curiosity, presenting harmful content and access to strangers as if it were normal or acceptable.

### **Why WhatsApp?**

With [8 in 10 young people using WhatsApp](#) by the time they have reached 16-17 years old, many potential victims are already on the platform. Additionally, WhatsApp's end-to-end encryption (E2EE) makes it particularly appealing for sharing inappropriate content. While these groups can exist on any social platform, this encryption ensures that only the sender and recipient can read messages—neither WhatsApp itself nor the police can access them. This means that inappropriate content shared within groups can be difficult to monitor and is only seen by authorities if a device is seized during a police investigation.



## WhatsApp

### What are the risks?

Many of us routinely use WhatsApp to connect with our friends and families, which can build a false sense of security that this is a normal app where nothing can go wrong. However, all technology is influenced by the people who use or abuse it. These groups can present a number of risks to the children and young people who are invited to join, such as...

[Safeguarding Alert: The 'Add Everyone' Explicit WhatsApp Group - Ineqe Safeguarding Group](#)

### Inappropriate Content

Exposure to child sexual abuse material, adult pornography, or other 'lawful but awful' content. This exposure can be distressing and poses additional risks if a young person saves or downloads such content to their device or forwards it to others.

### Sharing Personal Information

Young people are often encouraged to share their own or others' personal details. This may be done to gain access to more young users or to misuse a child's personal or private information for blackmail, extortion or manipulation.

### Access to Children

Joining these groups allows other users to view members' profile photos and contact numbers. This information can facilitate the contact and exploitation of young people by predators.

### Hate Disguised as Humour

We can all be drawn in by memes and jokes, especially when they are presented in a humorous way. However, sharing misogynistic, harmful, or illegal content through WhatsApp can have serious repercussions and can be traced back to everyone who has had contact with it.

### Encourage Open Communication

Discussing online safety with young people doesn't have to feel like a chore. Approach the topic with curiosity and openness, and have regular conversations about what you hear in the news or what their friends are doing online. This can create a comfortable space for them to share, often making it easier for young people to open up about their own situations and enable you to encourage critical thinking.

### Set Privacy Settings

Work with your child to set [privacy settings](#) that ensure only their contacts can add them to groups and view their information. Remind them that friends can still add them to group chats, so discuss how to handle invitations they receive.

### Adjust Auto-Saving Settings

WhatsApp can automatically save images to the user's camera roll unless adjusted in the settings. This could lead to young people unintentionally storing harmful or illegal images sent in group chats.

### Screenshot, Report, and Block

If a young person is added to an inappropriate group chat, take a screenshot of the evidence\* and report it directly to the platform. Encourage them to block any concerning users and to speak to a [trusted adult](#) or an organisation like [Childline](#) on 0800 1111.

**\*NEVER screenshot an indecent image of a child.**

**Please reach out to us at school if you need support with this or any online concerns.**



## PE Newsletter

The start of term two has been a very busy one within the PE department, with a number of fixtures taking place as well as the annual cross-country competition. Here's how our teams got on:

### Primary Cross Country

On Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> November, Melksham Oak Community School hosted 70 students from primary schools within the local area who competed in the primary cross-country event. This saw a variety of students take part, all of which gave it their very best efforts with great big smiles on their faces throughout. A massive well done to all those who competed.



### Cross-Country

Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> November, saw the annual cross-country event take place at Stonar school. Having completed cross-country in their PE lessons before half term, the top runners across years 7-10 were given the opportunity to represent the school at Stonar. In some very cold conditions, all participants gave brilliant performances and completed the course all whilst being up against some of the best runners in the county. We are so proud of everyone who took part, well done! We are still waiting on the final results to come through and can't wait to share these when they do.







Year 7 Boys



Year 8/9 Girls



Year 8/9 Boys







### Year 7 Netball Festival

On Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November, Melksham Oak Community School hosted a year 7 netball tournament. This was a fun opportunity for our year 7 girls to showcase their skills as well as experience some exciting competition against other schools. The team, showed great teamwork and determination throughout the tournament. They have worked really hard during training to build on their skills and understanding of the rules and it is brilliant to see it all starting to come together. Brilliant work girls! We're looking forward to playing some more competitive games against local schools over the next two terms.



#### **Year 8 Football vs. Lavington**

Also, on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November, Melksham Oak hosted Lavington School. The team showed great determination and quality in their skill set allowing them to come away with three goals. Unfortunately, Lavington came away with the win 5-3, however the boys showcased brilliant attitudes and exceptional sportsmanship in what was a good quality game over all.

#### **Melksham Oak Year 9 Netball vs. St. Laurence**

On Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November, the Melksham Oak Year 9 netball team faced a challenging fixture against an experienced St. Laurence team. With several Year 9 players unavailable, a group of Year 8 players stepped up to the plate, showcasing their skill and determination in support of the Year 9 squad. Despite the difficult circumstances, the girls demonstrated outstanding resilience, teamwork, and sportsmanship, never giving up even as they faced an uphill battle.

Although the final score didn't fully reflect the tremendous efforts that Melksham Oak displayed on the court, every player gave their all. The team put in a valiant effort, showing grit and adaptability against tough opposition.

Looking ahead, the Year 9 team will play their next match away at Matravers on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> November. With hopes of strengthening and building the team further, any Year 9 students interested in joining are encouraged to speak to a member of the PE staff.

Great effort, girls—let's keep building for the next game!

#### **Year 11 Netball match results**

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Nov our year 11 team played St Laurence home here at MOC's. The team played brilliantly against tough competition. This newly formed team fought hard however conceded more goals than scored in the first 2 quarters. Into the third quarter the team came back strong adapting positions and play and narrowly finished the quarter a goal down. Despite high efforts and improved play as the game went on the game finished at a 13-5 defeat. Well done to the determination of all those involved.





### Girl's Rugby Club

Girl's Rugby continues to run on a Tuesday afterschool, 3pm-4pm. We are currently working with other schools in the area to get matches and joint training sessions organised. We really want to grow the team, so if you have played rugby or if you have never picked up a rugby ball before and want to give it a try please come along and give it a go! All girls in Year 7 and 8 welcome!

### Book Fair in the MOCS Library

The Melksham Oak Book Fair is running until Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November in the Discovery Centre.



Scan the QR code to pay for your books online or visit [bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay](http://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay)

Please come in and support us.

Parents welcome from 3-3:40 pm

Payments can be made in cash, online or by card at the fair.

Orders must be made before 3:40 on Monday.

**BOOKTOK MADE ME BUY IT**

**Payment at our Book Fair**  
Please check with your school for the best way to pay for your books

- You can pay online at the Fair via card reader machines if your school has one or by using the online payment link at [www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay](http://www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay) and simply selecting your school from the drop down menu.
- Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in £5, £10, £15, £20 and £25. Go to [www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers](http://www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers) to buy vouchers for your child before the Fair.
- If you can't attend the Fair in person, your child can order books via a Wish List - please ask your school for details.

**HELP EARN FREE BOOKS FOR YOUR SCHOOL!**  
Scholastic is one of the largest providers of free books to schools via our Reward scheme which helps to ensure that as many children as possible have access to books that support reading for pleasure. Every time you buy from the Book Fair you help to make a difference by supporting literacy in your child's setting. Last year, with your help, we gave over £3.3M worth of free books to schools nationwide, which stocked school libraries and classrooms.

\*This book is subject to terms and conditions. Please contact your Book Fair Organizer or Scholastic Book Fairs for details.

### Writing Competition

Well done to all of the students who entered the writing competition. The winner is Millie from 7K for her fantastic front cover and graphic novel titled 'My (Imaginary) Friend Anya'



# FAMILY NIGHT EVENT

## MELKSHAM ASSEMBLY ROOMS



### 🌟 Melksham Family Night 🌟

📅 **Date:** Friday, 29th November

🕒 **Time:** 6 PM - 8 PM

📍 **Location:** Assembly Rooms, Melksham

Come along for a fantastic family-friendly evening hosted by the **Melksham Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)**!

This event is all about bringing the community together, supporting children and young people; showcasing the resources available to keep them active, engaged, and safe.

#### \*\*\*What's on offer?\*\*\*

- 🌟 Bike Marking by Melksham NPT - just in time for Christmas!
- 🌟 Meet the Police Cadets
- 🌟 Engage with local youth services like 4Youth and Youth for Christ
- 🌟 Discover clubs like Melksham Swimming Club and Melksham Football Club
- 🌟 Connect with support organisations such as Spurgeon's and the Wiltshire Police Youth Offending and Neighbourhood Harm and Reduction Teams
- 🌟 Chat with Town Council representatives about community initiatives
- 🌟 Snap Fitness - they will be offering exclusive discounts for those who sign up on the night!

Bring the whole family along, learn about local resources, enjoy the activities, and discover new ways to support and inspire our young people.

🌟 We can't wait to see you there! 🌟

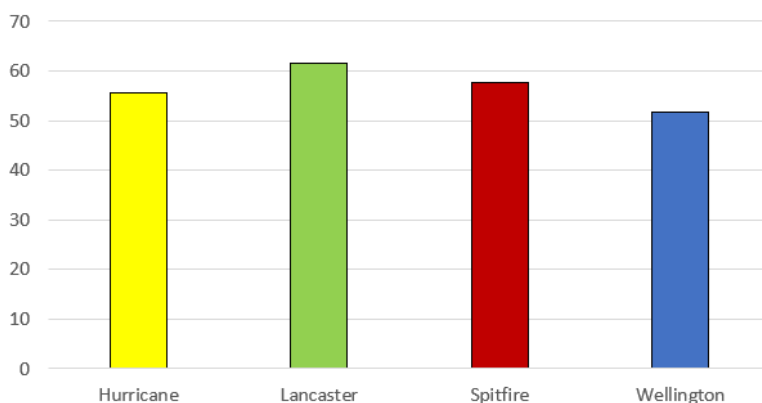




### Merits

Well done to everyone that has been awarded merits, star of the lesson and star of the week this week. The house totals per student are still close and every merit helps your house!

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

- Thursday 21st November: Year 13 Parents’ Evening
- Thursday 28th November: Sixth Form Open Evening 6—8pm
- Thursday 5th December: Year 11 Parents’ Evening