



A message from Mrs Ebanks, Head of Sixth Form

Despite a week of heavy rain, today has brought a welcome change, with brighter skies and a beautiful mist settling over the Melksham field this morning — a calm and uplifting start to the day.

We were delighted with the success of our Winter Showcase Concert, which highlighted an impressive range of musical talent from across the school. The variety of musicians and singers was wonderful to see, and students showed fantastic encouragement and support for one another throughout rehearsals and performances. We were also proud to host a matinee performance for our local primary schools, giving younger pupils the opportunity to enjoy the concert and experience our vibrant school community.



Year 11 students began their Walking Talking Mock examinations today, starting with English. Staff were incredibly impressed by the focus and commitment shown, and students themselves reported that the session was extremely useful in helping them understand exam expectations and improve their technique.

Finally, Year 11 and Year 13 photographs took place on Thursday. Order leaflets have been sent home with students for those who wish to purchase copies.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, and I hope you enjoy the rest of this week's newsletter.



UPCOMING EVENTS >>>>

MONDAY 19th JANUARY
Year 10 Assessment week

WEDNESDAY 21st JANUARY
Maths Walking Talking Mock Year 11

THURSDAY 22nd JANUARY
Year 11 Supporting Success Evening
5:00pm to 6:30pm



Winter Showcase Concert 15/01/2026

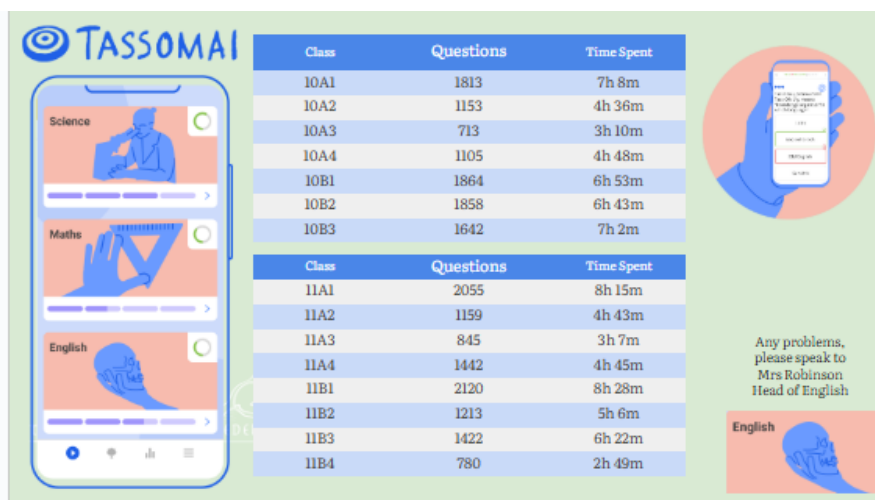
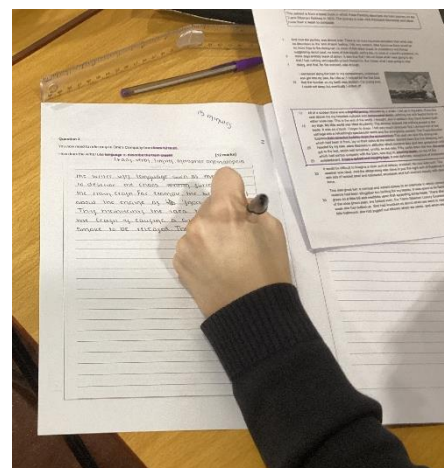
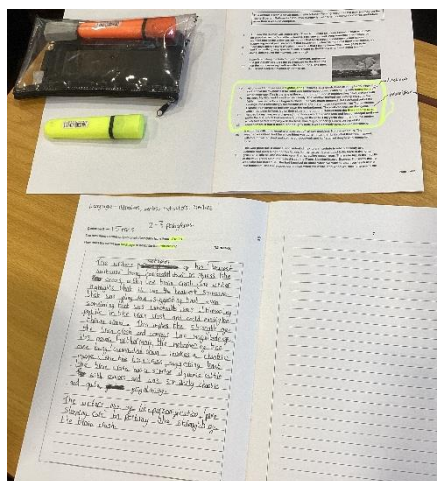
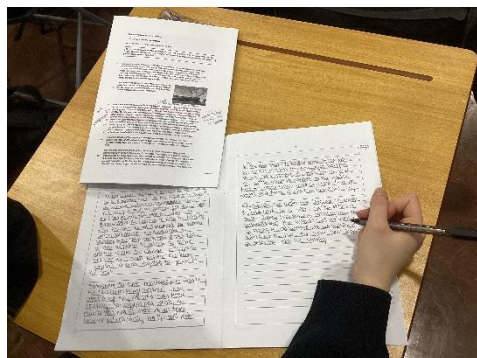
Last night, Melksham Oak Community School Music Department presented the Winter Showcase Concert to parents, students and staff. This did not only include students from every year group but allowed the audience to experience a variety of styles, musical instruments, vocals and genres, whether that was Miley Cyrus, Nirvana, Kanye West or Greece. All the performances were not only memorable but showcased the breadth of talent that we have at The Oak. Thanks to Mike Thomas and all the team supporting him.





English

Today, pupils took part in a 'Walking Talking Mock' for English, focusing on English Language Paper 2. During the session, Mrs Robinson modelled how to approach each question step by step, explaining what examiners are looking for and how to structure effective responses. Pupils practised answering questions under timed conditions, helping them build confidence and improve their exam technique. The session also shared top tips for success, including managing time effectively, selecting precise evidence, and developing clear, detailed responses. This focused preparation has helped pupils better understand how to maximise marks and approach the exam with confidence.





Wiltshire Cross Country at Sheldon School.

Last Saturday was the date for this year's annual Wiltshire Cross Country Championships at Sheldon School. Joel Y (Year 7), Maddie S (Year 7), Oliver S (Year 9) and Lucas J (Year 9) all competed and represented Melksham Oak. After all their amazing efforts in the previous round at Stonar School, our students found themselves up against some of the best runners in the whole of Wiltshire. We are all very proud of all our students efforts and they should all be proud too. Special mention to Maddie in Year 7 who finished 38th overall, making her the 38th Girl in Year 7 in the whole of Wiltshire, and Oliver Stansby finishing 21st in the boys group for Year 9 – Well done!

Key Stage 3 Girls Football

33 girls from year 7, 8 and 9 attended the first session of the year, it was an incredible session even if the weather was not on our side, it's going to be a very exciting journey and season for these players, hopefully these numbers will just continue to rise! If you are interested please speak with Mr Banks.

Year 7 Netball Finals

On Wednesday 14th January 8 year 7 netball teams from West Wiltshire teams met here at Melksham Oak for a finals night to battle to determine their final positions in the year 7 Netball WW league. Throughout the season our year 7 team have developed their skills and tactics and performed brilliantly in every match, importantly they formed a supportive team and made close friendships. The team successfully finished their pool in top position winning all games against Lavington, Matravers and Kingdown. This set the team to be playing the top 2 finishers in the other pool to position 1st to 4th position overall.

Play Off game:

Wednesdays first match MOC's met Clarendon in their first playoff game. The girls started strong, adapting their play to a shorter passing game in response to the slippery ball and court surface. The match was thrilling and our year 7 team delivered an outstanding performance, securing a 9: 1 victory in a highly competitive game. The players demonstrated excellent skill and sportsmanship throughout, working tirelessly in challenging environmental conditions. This win secured our chance to battle it out with St Laurence for 1st or 2nd overall position in the league.

The Final

The final game with worsening weather conditions was the greatest challenge the team have faced all season, and they certainly rose to the challenge. The first quarter saw St Laurence take the lead with a staggering 8 goals scored against our 1. It was clear from the beginning that St Laurence had some top club and county players and that the team was far beyond the usual standard expected at this level. This first major challenge and taste of defeat lead the team into unknown territory and it was here that the team demonstrated their true colours. Yes emotions were raw and high and nerves wobbly but from this the team emerged with a determined and supportive approach into the second quarter. St Laurence continued to



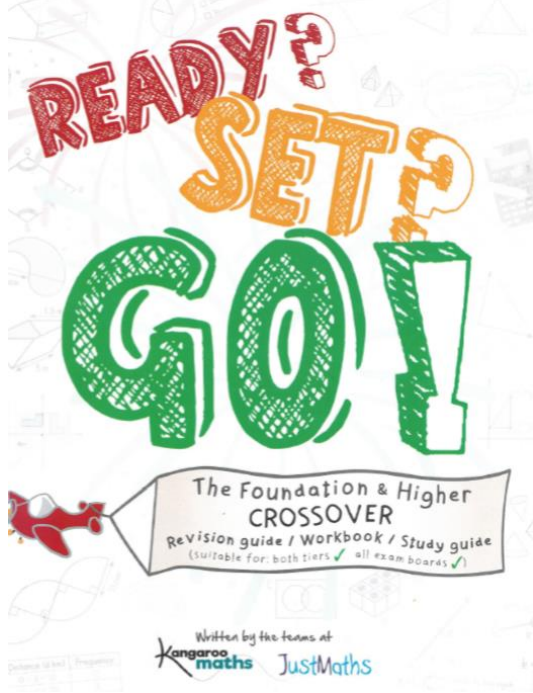
increase their lead but had to work harder against MOC's focused defence and countered attack. MOC's gained more possession than the first quarter and created more opportunity to advance into their attacking D. At half time the team gathered and rallied together, they gave words of encouragement to motivate each other and set a new tactical strategy. The team stepped into the final 2 quarters with a determined and focused strategy on marking and defence. During these final 2 quarters every ball that went to ground was won by MOC's, every contested ball snatched from the opposition, defence was tight and pressured, attack was determined and the desire to keep fighting for possession was clear. Less goals were conceded and more possession gained. At the final whistle the MOC's year 7 team had lost their first game, but in this heavy defeat they played a great game. They learned, they adapted they pushed on. The strengths of a team are often only seen in the manner in which they play when the pressure is on and defeat is on the cards. The bond and support the team persevered with was beautiful and I was proud to witness it. Well done girls, what a season and what a team!

Over all Our year 7 Netball team came 2nd out of all West Wiltshire Schools. Cant wait for next season.
Mrs Sawyer



Essential Support for GCSE Maths

Essential support for GCSE (9-1) mathematics



All Y11 students are welcome to attend Maths period 6 on Tuesdays after school. Each week we will be revising topics that our classes struggled with from the last set of mock exams. Students will also be able to use their free Just Maths revision booklets.

SPARX MATHS

January 2026 Update...

- We are aware that, for some classes, the content on students' Sparx homework has not been in sync with content being taught during lessons – this error has now been resolved.
- Students' Sparx homework will from this term always be retrospective – homework questions will involve topics taught during the previous term only, to ensure the content has been covered in class. This may be slightly different for Year 11.
- A reminder that Sparx Maths homework is **set every Friday and due the following Friday** (following student feedback).
- This will ensure students initially have the weekend to attempt their homework, and seek support from their teacher from the Monday onwards, should they need this.
- Students should sign in via the **Single Sign On** option (school IT login details).

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your ongoing support.



Volunteers Needed for our Careers Education – Can you support?

Do you work for a company that could support our Careers Education events and help inspire our young people of the future?

We are in constant need for employers and employees across all subjects and sectors to align curriculum learning with employer engagement.

If you know of anyone that can help, please contact Miss Ceri Tranter, Head of Careers Education on TranterC@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk or call 01225 792700 Ext 712

Careers Events 2025-2026 sign up here: - <https://forms.office.com/e/TebUjfu023>

Key Contacts

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

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

Heads of Year

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

Head of Careers Education

Ms C. Tranter

tranterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk