



A message from Mr Pollok, Deputy Headteacher

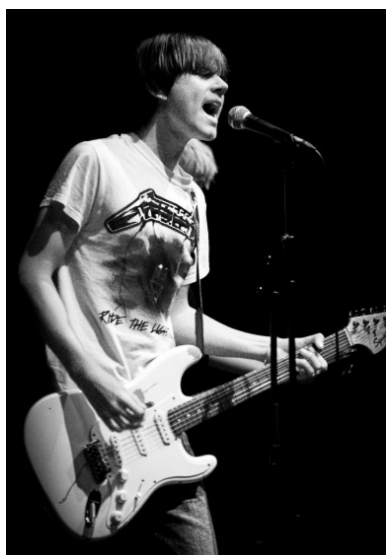
This week has been a vibrant and exciting time at school, with plenty of achievements and events to celebrate across our community.

Our Spring Showcase Concert was a resounding success, as our talented students took to the stage and delivered unforgettable performances. Their musical and creative brilliance left us all inspired and proud.

For our Year 11 students, the English walking talking mocks provided an invaluable opportunity to refine their exam techniques and build confidence. These sessions proved incredibly beneficial as they continue to prepare for their upcoming exams.

On the sports field, we celebrated a huge milestone as one of our students made his debut for Melksham's First Team in football. This incredible achievement reflects his hard work and dedication, and we're so proud of him.

We're also pleased to share that the new routine to support prompt arrival at school introduced at the start of the day has been a great success. It's helped everyone begin their mornings with focus, creating a positive impact on the school environment.



Applications to Sixth Form—Time is running out!

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>

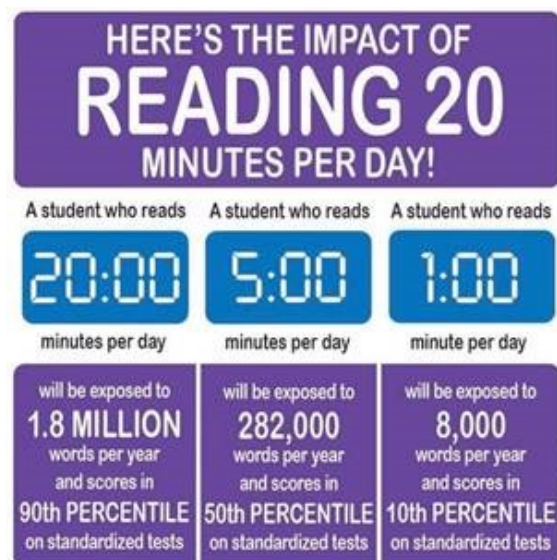


Equipment reminder from Mr Pollok

A reminder of the equipment that students need everyday for school:

- A reading book
- A scientific calculator
- A transparent pencil case containing:
 - Two black pens
 - One purple pen
 - a pencil
 - a ruler
 - a rubber
 - a highlighter

An important element of the equipment students should have with them is a reading book. All students are to have a reading book with them everyday and detentions will be issued if they do not have one.



Lost Property

We have a number of items of lost property. If your child has lost anything at school parents and carers are welcome to reception between 3:10pm and 4:00pm Monday to Thursday to check for any left items.

PE Enrichment Term 3

Terms 3 Enrichment				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3.10pm – 4.10pm				
Multi-skills Club (invite only) CWI	Boys Fitness Club Year 7-10 Sign up with HWA & WHA Girls Bench ball & Dodgeball Club RSA EPR	Netball year 7 girls RSA/EPR Netball Year 8 girls CWI Football Year 7 NBA Football Year 8 HWA Football Year 9 & 10 WHA	Badminton WHA CCO RSA Football Analysis Year 7 boys NBA	



SEND at Melksham Oak

Just a reminder that I will continue to have weekly 'SEND Clinic' appointments which will be a 15-minute online appointment to discuss your child and their SEND needs in school.

Book here— <https://MOCS.schoolcloud.co.uk/> - Miss H Ornov, SENCo

Weekly Wins:

8 students are enhancing their cooking and baking skills at Wiltshire Farm Cookery School. This week they made home made pizza (Dough and sauce from scratch!) with homemade cookie.



SEND Coffee Morning

This is a good opportunity to meet other parents and carers of SEND Children.

Tuesday 4th February

09:00– 10:00

To book a space email-

ornovh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

Autistic Girls Network: Family Support

Join us for a virtual event where we will discuss strategies for creating a low demand environment at home for Autistic children.

Learn tips and tricks on how to reduce stress and anxiety in your living space.

Whether you're a parent or caregiver this event is for you!

Date: Tue Jan 21 2025

Time: 19:00 GMT

Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with others and gain valuable insights. Register now!

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/l/1aahai>

CPD | TeachMeet

Autistic Girls Network:
Creating a Low Demand Environment at Home

Tuesday 21st January 19:00

Book Now

autistic girls network



SEND at Melksham Oak

Please find below a list of inclusive activities running in Wiltshire during 2025, including returning clubs and brand-new sessions!

Rising Stars & Fit Club returns!

Rising Stars and Fit Club are weekly SEND activities delivered during term time. A variety of sports/games are delivered, providing opportunities for all to remain active after school, and offering safe spaces for new friendships to be formed.

Trowbridge	Trowbridge Sports	Wednesdays	4.15pm – 5pm	8–16-year-olds	£3.50
Salisbury Rising Stars	Five Rivers Health and Wellbeing Centre	Wednesdays	5pm – 5.55pm	8–16-year-olds	£3.50
Salisbury Fit	Five Rivers Health and	Wednesdays	6pm – 6.55pm	Age 17+	£3.50
Chippenham Rising Stars	Sheldon School	Thursdays	5pm – 5.55pm	8–16-year-olds	£3.50

Wiltshire Inclusive Dance

Wiltshire Inclusive Dance is returning with 2 new sessions! Clubs provide children and young people with an opportunity to explore the space and express themselves to music through movement. Clubs are delivered by qualified dance, movement therapists. All clubs have an additional 15 minutes for refreshments. **For more information contact wiltshireinclusiveactivities@hotmail.com**

Melksham	Melksham Communi-	Mondays	5pm – 5.45pm	11–25-year-	£6
Marlborough	Marlborough Youth Centre	Mondays	4.30pm – 5.15pm	11–25-year-olds	£6
Salisbury	Five Rivers Health and	Tuesdays	5pm – 5.45pm	11–25-year-	£6
Westbury	Leigh Park Communi-	Tuesdays	5.15pm – 6pm	11–25-year-	£6
Trowbridge	Morphew Dance School	Thursdays	5pm – 5.45pm	11 – 25-year-olds	£6



NEST

Bereavement Support Programme

For school years 6 -11

A leaflet for young people & parents/carers

Grief support for children and young people in Swindon & Wiltshire

Registered Charity Number: 1159719

Who are Wiltshire Treehouse?

We help children and young people who have experienced the death of someone important to them.

What is NEST?

NEST is a group of young people and specially trained adults who come together to talk about death and dying, and the effect it has on us.

NEST is for young people in school years 6 to 11. It takes place over 6 Wednesday evenings in the Southwick area of Trowbridge.

Why am I coming to NEST?

You are coming to NEST because you are ready to talk about the person or people in your life who have died.

You may feel:

- Upset
- Angry
- Confused
- Alone
- Guilty
- Low
- Numb
- Worried



You may feel one or more of these things. Or you might feel none of them.

Whatever you feel—that is OK.

Who will be there?

There will be up to 10 young people in each group.

There are adult helpers who will try to make sure you feel comfortable. They will chat with you and offer you a drink.

The other young people in the group will have experienced the death of someone important to them too.

Although everyone's experience is different it is likely that you will find one or more people in the group who you can relate to in some way. This can really help if you are feeling alone or different to your friends. Young people tell us it can be helpful to meet people who "Get it".

What will we talk about?

We have 5 main themes:

1. Memories
2. Feelings
3. How we cope
4. Who can help us
5. The future



As well as talking we make and do lots of things, like making memory sand jars (shown in the photo above).

We have snacks half way through the session.

Will I have to talk?

No, you don't have to talk. We do expect everyone to listen to each other respectfully, but if you'd rather not talk about your own experience that is ok. You may still find ways to help yourself by listening to others.

But, the more you take part the more you will gain from the group. Young people often say the hardest part is walking through the door on the first day, once you've done that it gets easier and most people make friends quickly and easily in the group.

"It was really hard coming on the first day. I was so nervous. The adult came over and showed me where I could make a name badge and asked if I wanted a drink. Once we were all sat down and got talking it got easier. By the last week we didn't want to leave. Some of us still stay in touch now." Charlie, who attended NEST

Will you tell my parent/carer?

At NEST we have a strict code of confidentiality. This means that we don't share our conversations with people outside of the group unless we are worried that someone is at risk of getting hurt. So we won't tell anyone—including parents, carers or school - unless we have to. If we need to do this we will always try to talk to you about this first.

How can I get the most from NEST?

Everyone is different but young people have told us that these things helped them get the most from the group.

Come every week

Meet other people who know what it's like when someone important dies

Try to talk to others when you can

Talk about what you've been doing at group with adults you trust, like parents, carers or school. They can help you.

Remember that whatever you feel is ok—you can't compare yourself to others

What do people say about NEST?

"I often feel very sad but I feel safe here."

"It's easier to talk to people here, it helped me open up."

"I was worried about going at first but it has been really helpful, thank you."



For Parents— How can I book this programme for my child?

Please visit www.wiltshiretreehouse.org.uk and fill out the WILTSHIRE TREEHOUSE REFERRAL FORM on our home page.

A member of our team will then be in touch to talk about what might help your child, including this programme.

If you feel like your child needs help with a bereavement, but you are not sure if this programme would be helpful, then please complete the form. A member of the team can then talk to you about what might help.

How else can I support my child?

- Answer questions openly and honestly
 - Reassure them it's ok to ask questions
 - Help them to remember the person who has died
 - Help them to express their feelings
 - Reassure them that their feelings are normal
 - Reassure them that it is normal to feel worried about coming to a programme like NEST, but that there will be people who can help them feel safe and that taking part can help them in the long run.
- Please get in touch if you would like further advice on supporting your child with their grief.

Made possible with funding from Wiltshire Community Foundation



Walking Talking Mock—English Language Paper 2

Year 11 had a Walking Talking Mock (WTM) for GCSE English Language Paper 2 on Monday and Tuesday. A Walking Talking Mock is a structured, step-by-step walkthrough of an exam paper with live commentary, strategies, and examples to help students understand how to approach each question effectively. It is more than just an exam preparation tool—it's a confidence booster.

I would like to congratulate all pupils for their exemplary behaviour, engagement and focus throughout the session. Keep up the great effort as we continue to prepare for your upcoming exams!

Mrs Robinson, Head of English



Blunt Truth

On Tuesday 21st January year 9 will be taking part in the Wiltshire Police Blunt Truth Workshop looking at knife crime. More information about the workshops can be found here: <https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/news/wiltshire/news/2023/november-2023/blunt-truth-knife-crime-education-sessions-delivered-in-wiltshire-schools/>

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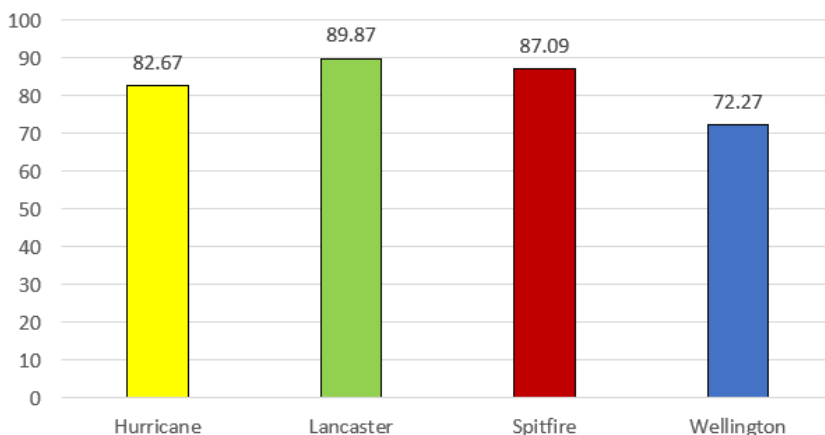
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Merits

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 Team

- Year 7: Mrs H. Pearce pearceh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
- Year 8: Mrs S. Phelps johnsonh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
- Year 9: Mr L. Ballinger 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 21st January:** Year 9 Blunt Truth Workshop
- Thursday 23rd January:** Year 12 Parents evening (online)
- Thursday 30th January:** Year 11 students and parents supporting success event
- Tuesday 4th February:** Apprenticeship Insight Day (Year 9, 10 & 12)
- Monday 10th February:** Year 11 and 13 Mocks