



A message from Mrs Clark, Associate Headteacher

All the staff at MOCS wish you all a wonderful, relaxing Christmas. We hope that you all manage to have time to pause and reflect on your year and we look forward to working even closed with you next year.

We have definitely celebrated Christmas in style here, with Christmas Jumper Day, the 6th form Christmas PJ day, the wonderful festive window displays (well done the winners—7H & 8H), Christmas lunches and finishing off with our end of term celebration assemblies and tutor parties.

Well done to all of the GCSE and A-Level students who have completed coursework and good luck to the students who will be preparing for their unit exams in January.

Unfortunately, we are saying goodbye to Miss Irvine (Teacher of Art) and Mrs Johnson (Head of Year 8), we would like to thank them for all of their contributions to the school and we wish them all the best in the future.

See you in 2025!



Shoebboxes for the Homeless to Doorway Charity

Year 12 & 13 delivered 20 shoeboxes to the Homeless charity Doorway in Chippenham, which covers the homeless in the Wiltshire area. Recently their premises were devastated by the floods and Doorway are still assessing the impact of the damage - but their HQ is expected to need months of repair work, costing thousands of pounds. They were delighted to see us when we handed over our shoeboxes, especially as they were having their Christmas Party on Thursday, reaching out to people who need shelter, food etc "it was incredibly kind of Melksham Oak pupils and staff to donate at this time of year, so many thanks". If anyone would like to donate to help the homeless over the Christmas period please use the link <https://doorwayproject.org.uk/donate-2/>



Thank you to everyone who gave something and we hope we can beat this years boxes in 2025

Mrs Jones

Applications to Sixth Form

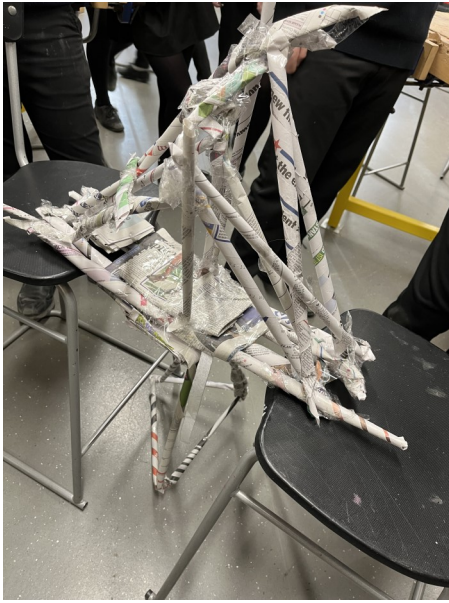
There is still time to apply to our Sixth form. Please visit our website or email sixthformadmin@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk for course information.

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>



Year 8 Design Technology



During the last few weeks, some Year 8's have been learning about structures and triangulation. They have worked in small groups to create bridges made out of rods of newspaper to span a gap of 300mm. They have demonstrated resilience, perseverance, communication, innovation and shown excellent team skills.



Year 10 Design Technology

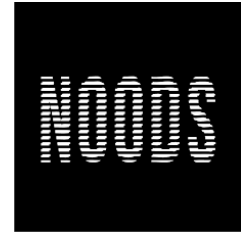
Year 10 have been learning about Manufacturing aids this term in Design Technology. Working on marking up and accuracy to use a jig to drill numerous holes. The end product in the festive season is a Christmas tree. They have had all the same measurement and materials, but they are all completely unique. Fantastic work from everyone and looking forward to them using this knowledge in the next timber practical in the New Year.





Year 12 & 13 Creative Media

The year 12 and 13 Creative media students had a in-class industry talk from Izzy Cross Outreach & Events Officer for NOODS Radio and DBS Institute. The talk was on the alternative career paths for getting into the creative industry, whether that is apprenticeships or a university and building up local links. They were able to discuss the fact that the creative industry is a growing area and that Bristol is one of the local hubs for film, animation, radio and many other avenues.



Performing Arts Trip

Students in Year 9 and 10 were given the opportunity to watch the Christmas Bath Dance College performance this week with Miss Williams and Miss Tranter, to be inspired to pursue performing arts, dance and music post-16.

Students were an absolute credit to the school, completely wowed by the professionalism and opportunities at the small College in Radstock.

The show was amazing and all the students left with a buzz of excitement and energy thinking about their future.

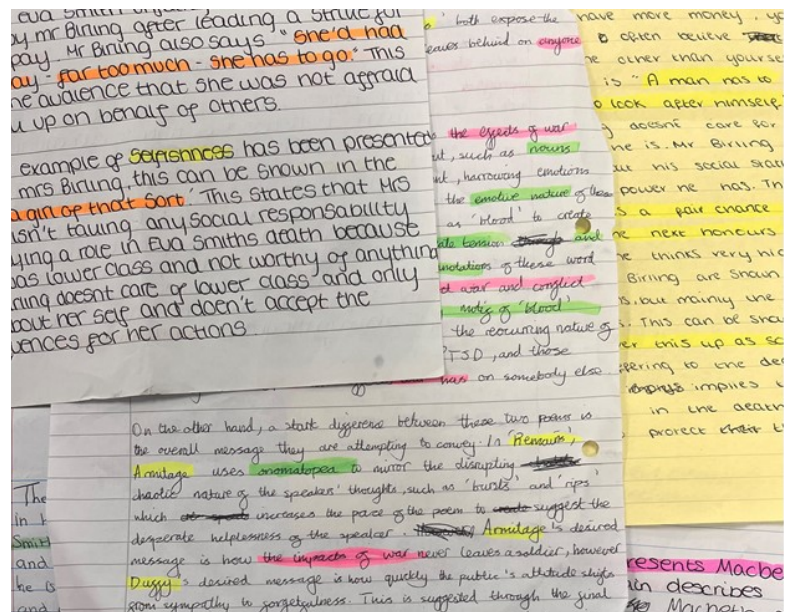
Thanks for having us BDC

Key Stage 4 English

Key Stage 4 have been working hard outside of lessons and completing essay responses for home-learning. It is wonderful to see how hard pupils are working - keep up the great work!

Mrs Robinson

Head of English





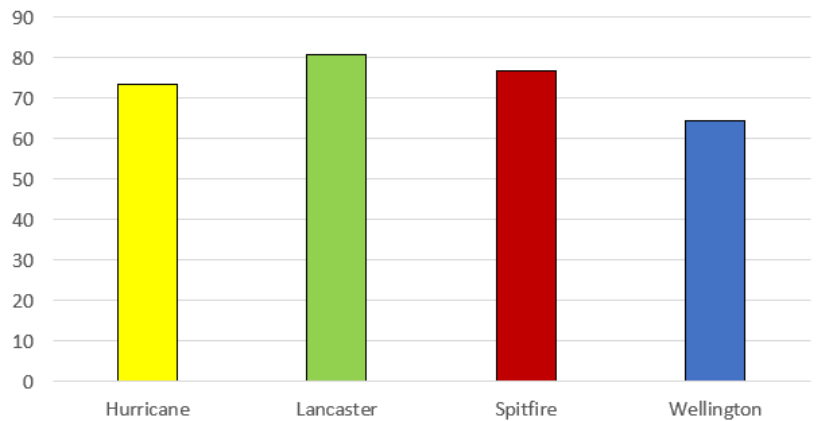
Merits

Our merit leaderboard at the end of term 2:

1. Lancaster
2. Spitfire
3. Hurricane
4. Wellington

Well done to all the students that have gained merits in class, student of the lesson and student of the week. Well done!

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



Monday 13th January - Friday 17th January: Year 7 to 9 In-class assessments

Wednesday 15th January: Winter showcase

Thursday 16th January: Year 7, 11 & 13 year group photo

Thursday 23rd January: Year 12 Parents evening (online)