



Year 6 Open Evening: Thursday 3rd October 5-7pm

Come and see what Melksham Oak Community School has to offer

Open Mornings on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th October at 9:00am and 9:50am

Book your place here <https://forms.office.com/e/8FPeQaFJPE>

Weekly Message from Mr Cooper

I very much hope that you can join us on Thursday 10th October on school site for our “Meet the Tutor Evening” for all year groups. Mrs Clark and I will be present, as will other members of the leadership team. We are all looking forward to the opportunity to meet you and listen to your thoughts about the school.

Message from Mrs Clark

It has been another great week, with lots of amazing lessons and activities going on. We managed to get the majority of students to have their school photos taken today, even though a member of the photography company was off unwell. They all looked very smart and behaviour was exemplary. The photographer commented on how fantastic they all were. The after school clubs have all started up, so please do encourage your child to get involved. Have a great weekend.

Year 11 Support—Autumn Term 2024

Subject	Support Offered - e.g. Revision, coursework catch up, drop in session	Day	Time	By invitation or All Welcome
Maths	Revision	Wednesday	Period 7	By invitation
English	Revision	Tuesday	Period 7	All welcome - sign up sheet outside L1
Science	Revision	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	Period 7	All welcome - sign up to sessions in lessons
History	Revision	Tuesday and Thursday	Period 7	All welcome
Art	Coursework Catch up	Tuesday or Wednesday	Period 7	Art students to attend one session per week
PE	Coursework Catch up	Monday	Period 7	All welcome
PE	Coursework Catch up	Thursday	Period 7	Invite only
PE	Badminton practical	Thursday	Period 7	All welcome

Science experiments

There have been loads of science experiments going on so far this term, from making motors, investigating the properties of ionic and covalent compounds, separating mixtures and even learning how we can safely handle radioactive sources via teacher demonstrations.





Safeguarding Awareness

The focus of this weeks safeguarding awareness is Knife Crime.

We know that Knife Crime can impact on everyone that is touched by it. We have done work on this at Melksham Oak including some curriculum intervention on a bigger scale last year with the police and health and wider agencies.

One of the most reputable resource bases is that provided by the Ben Kinsella Trust.

Ben was just 16 years old when he was stabbed to death in a horrific act of senseless violence on 29th June 2008.

Ben had been out at a local pub to celebrate the end of his GCSEs with his friends. On their way home, he and his friends realised they were being followed by three older teenagers. Scared and worried, they decided to run home.

But the older teenagers chased after them. They were seeking revenge for an altercation in the club that had taken place earlier that evening. Ben and his friends had absolutely nothing to do with the altercations, but when the older boys caught up with Ben, in an entirely unprovoked attack, they stabbed him to death.

Ben was the 17th teenager to be killed in London that year.

As charity set up in his memory they have done amazing work on raising awareness and supporting communities.

Their mission is:

The Ben Kinsella Trust campaigns for action and justice for those affected by knife crime and educates young people so that they can make positive choices to stay safe.

Their vision is:

No family or community should suffer the loss of a life to knife crime.

Please see the following links for more information:

Headline statistics

78

young people aged under 25 were murdered with a knife or sharp object in the 12 months to March 2023.
10 were aged under 16.

50,510

Police-recorded offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in England and Wales up to March 2024.

244

murders involving a knife or sharp instrument in England and Wales in the 12 months to March 2023.

[Resources for parents and carers | The Ben Kinsella Trust: https://benkinsella.org.uk/resources-for-parents/](https://benkinsella.org.uk/resources-for-parents/)

If you have any concerns or need support please do not hesitate to reach out to us at school.



Free School Meals

Families receiving support such as income support, job seekers allowance, employment and support allowance, child tax credit or universal credit may be eligible for free school meals.

Please apply online through the Wiltshire council website: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-free-school-meals>

If you have recently moved into Wiltshire from another county you will also still need to apply even if you were entitled to free school meals at your child's last school.

RUH Careers Evening

We are excited to let you know that the RUH is hosting our next Careers Evening on Thursday 17th October 2024. Please see attached poster for marketing with students.

Date: 17th October 2024

Time slot 1: 17:00-18:00

Time slot 2: 18:30-19:30

Venue: Education Centre (E7), Combe Park, Bath, BA1 3NG


You can register here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/royalunitedhospitalsbathnhsfoundationtrust/1322881>

Only one ticket is required per person and this will automatically include 1 parent/guardian.

Year 11 Netball match results

On Wednesday 18th September our year 11 team headed over to Clarendon to play friendlies against both Clarendon and St Laurence. The team with some members new this season played brilliantly. The team captained by Ruby Langsford (GD) comprised of Joy Waqanivalu (GK), Amelie Bezzard (WD) Lily Somers (C), Hannah Davis (WA), Molly Biggs (GA) and Annie Holloway (GS) beat Clarendon 4-1 in the first match, won 4-3 against St Laurence B team and lost 6-1 to St Laurence A.

Determined and excellent play was demonstrated throughout.

LIBRARY 


Do you enjoy books?
Do you love the library?
Would you like to be part of the
Discovery Centre Team?

Tuesday 3-3.45 pm - all year groups welcome.
Please see Mrs Curry in the Library to sign up 😊

Duties include:

- Shelving books
- Labelling and levelling books
- Helping with displays
- Running the desk
- Other duties as they arise.

Refreshments available!





Careers

We are always looking for business professionals to support our Careers Education here at Melksham Oak.

Do you know of someone who can help engage, inspire and motivate our students? Please email Miss Tranter, Head of Careers tranterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

Our Collapsed timetable events are below – if you are an employer, ambassador or business professional and can spare any time, we would be most grateful for your time.

Please do sign up and save the dates as soon as you can <https://forms.office.com/r/ejL4xgQKbG>

DATE	Event	Employer Requirement	Times	TYPES of Volunteers
Post 16	W/C 23 September W/C 30th Sept W/C 7th October	Post 16 Providers to each deliver 1 assembly and a lunch time stand to Year 11's – 9 slots available Monday - Weds	12-2pm	FE Colleges Training providers Forces
10th December 2024	Year 8 Experiences of the Workplace	Inspire our Year 8's with an experience of your workplace workshop in lesson time – Sessions delivered on rotation to groups of 28	9am-3pm	Any Employers in STEM
4th Feb 2025	Apprenticeships, Apprentices and Alumni	Whole School Assembly on Rotation about Apprenticeships	9am-3pm	Apprentice Ambassador Apprenticeship Employer and apprentice from MOCS
5th March 2025	Employability Ready Programme Year 10 and 12	Recruitment and Selection Mock Assessment Centre – Mock Interviewers needed	9am-3pm	ALL Professionals as Mock Interviewers
15th July 2025	Next Steps Fair	Whole School business insights fair.	8am-2.30pm	ALL Employers, Providers, Charities, Skills, Work Experience, Uni's, Colleges

Post 18 Day

Year 13 students of Melksham Oak and Devizes came together for our first joint Careers education event.

Students engaged in an afternoon understanding and exploring all Post 18 options, applications and employability skills. Our guest business professionals enabled a Human Library where students intractably listened and asked questions in speed style universities, apprenticeship providers, employers, skills providers and HE institutions





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				
Multi-skills Club (invite only) CWI	Rugby Year 7-9 Boys HWA Rugby Years 7-9 Girls EPR	Netball year 7 RSA Netball Year 8 EPR Netball Year 9 CWI Year 10 & 11 Netball training	Badminton RSA Football Girls Year 7-9 NBA Football Boys U13 & U16 Squad training Self Defence 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. The lasts a term, approximately 6 weeks and is delivered by a specialist self-defence instructor, Helen Llwyn. 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 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.



Instrumental Lessons

Did your child play a musical instrument in Primary school or have they just seen a video on YouTube and have gone "I want to do that!"

At Melksham Oak we have amazing visiting peripatetic music teachers who have spaces for new students from September 2024.

If your child is interested in learning a new instrument then please fill in the Google Form from the link below:

<https://forms.gle/USFdRRUrKbdfqjGX7>

It's never to late to start learning a musical instrument!

MOCS INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS



STARTING
SEPT 2024

- Electric Guitar
- Acoustic Guitar
- Bass Guitar
- Piano
- Drums
- Singing
- Flute
- Clarinet
- Saxophone

To sign up
please complete
the **Google**
Form link below

Iceland Trip 2025

What's included?

- 3 nights full board at the Hotel Ork
- Return flights
- All coach travel

- Secret Lagoon.
- Lava Centre.
- Hellisheidi Power Plant.
- Fridheimar Tomato and stable visit Greenhouse and stable visit.
- Visits to the Reykjanes Peninsula, Golden Circle and South Coast regions
- A Lava Show
- Travel insurance.



There are only 3 spaces left on this trip that must be filled in order for the trip to run. The total cost for the trip is £1,050

For a letter/more information please contact Mr Wallace.

Trips Abroad Survey

You still have time to voice your opinions on the cost of school trips which is going out to all of the secondary schools within our Academy Trust.

The purpose of the survey is to obtain feedback from as many of our Parent/Carers as possible on the cost of school trips. Future trips abroad will depend on the outcome of this consultation.

Please may this be completed and submitted before half-term, no later than Wednesday, 23rd October 2024 – many thanks for your support.

To access the survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/YMpsfzsj>



Find it hard to get your homework done?

Too many distractions?

Can't concentrate at home?

COME TO HOMEWORK CLUB

Discovery Centre /Library

Monday to Thursday 3-3.45pm

3-3:14pm Friday

Just turn up!

How can we help?

- Friendly supportive space
- Quiet with no distraction
- Access to computers
- Library resources to support

We look forward to seeing you soon!



LEGO CREATIONS



**Monday 3-3:45 in the Discovery
Centre**



Open to year 7 and 8

**Please see Mrs Curry in the library
to sign up.**





MOCS Discovery Centre

Book Club Bistro

**Thursday 3pm-3.45pm in the library
Open to all year groups and all reading
tastes.**

Do you love reading and want to come
and natter about books; make new
friends and enjoy a friendly space?

Sign up with Mrs Curry in the library
The club is friendly, fun and flexible so why not sign up and
try it out!

Refreshments available!



Book Club Flyer



Reading Champions

Wed 3pm-3:45pm

Are you a complete book worm?

Do you love talking about books?

Gain valuable volunteering experience that will look great on your CV.

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR ROLE
MODELS TO CHAMPION
READING AT MOCS FROM**

YEARS 7-13

What will I do:



- Plan exciting activities, recommend books and run a book blog to support reading for pleasure.
- Help to create a link between the library and your peer group; talking to students and listening to their views.
- Promote the library and what it has to offer including resources, clubs, events and competitions.
- Help with fundraising ideas and events.
- Creating articles for the library magazine.

Please talk to Mrs Curry in the library to find out more |
and sign up 📖

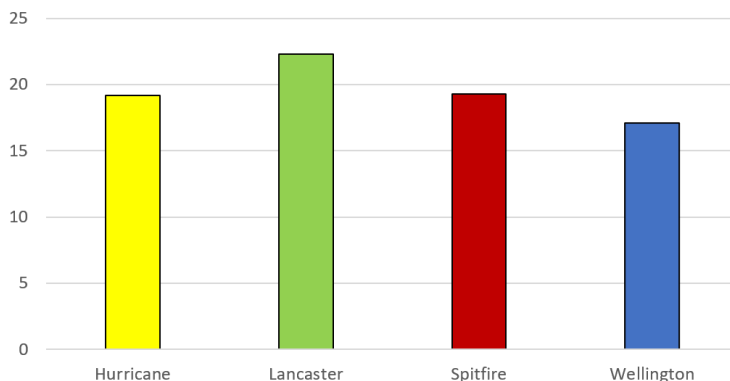


Merits

Students have been awarded a large number of merits in school since the start of term with over 22,000 merits being issued so far!

Lancaster house are currently ahead with an average of over 22 merits per student. As all our houses have varying number of students in we have divided the total merits by the number of students in the 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
- Year 8: Mrs H. Johnson johnsonh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
- Year 9: Mr L. Ballinger ballingerl@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 jonesk@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
- Mr C. Butter butterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

Early Closure

Please be aware that on **Thursday 3rd October the school will be closing at 2:10pm** to allow the school to prepare for Open Evening.



Upcoming Events

- Tuesday 24th September to Friday 17th September:** Year 7 Tutor Group WOLT day trips
- Monday 30th September:** Yr 11 MfL Speaking Mock
- Thursday 3rd October:** Yr 6 Prospective Parents’ Open Evening & Yr11 Business Studies trip.
- Thursday 10th October:** Yr7-13 Meet the tutor evening 16:00 - 19:00 (booking information to follow)
- Monday 14th October:** Start of Yr11 & 13 Mocks