



A message from Mrs Shore—Assistant Headteacher

As the teaching and learning lead for Melksham Oak, I really enjoyed getting out into lessons this week and seeing students engaged in their learning. In particular, students in Year 11 and 13 have now had their mock exam papers back and specific feedback provided by their teachers. We hope that this will give students some meaningful next steps to take towards their summer exams. The attendance and behaviour during these mocks was great.

Also this week, we have had our first fully-online parents' evening for Year 13 students, which was a resounding success with over 90% attendance from parents. We hope that this is a positive sign of our parent-school relationship developing positively, following on from our consultation on this. The next parents' evening is for Y11. We also have our 6th form Open Evening next week, so we hope to see many of our Y10 & Y11 students come along to this with their parents/carers.

Looking towards the festive season, we would really like to decorate our atrium with a large Christmas tree and decorations to bring the spirit of Christmas to Melksham Oak. We are taking this opportunity to reach out to the local community to see if there is anyone who would be able to support us with this, please get in contact with reception at the beginning of next week if you can!

I hope that you all manage to stay warm and dry this weekend.

Sixth Form Open Evening

**Sixth Form Open Evening, Thursday 28th 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

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

THE WHITE HORSE FEDERATION
Proud to be part of The White Horse Federation Multi-Academy Trust | www.twhf.org.uk



Chocolate Mousse

We had some lovely chocolate mousses made by year 10 this week they were learning how to separate eggs and whisking egg white to make soft peaks.



Year 8 Design Technology

Clocks are inspired by Memphis design. Year 8 students have learnt how to use 2D design CAD program, which then is laser cut. They have developed their knowledge on thermoforming properties and how to form acrylic. During making the passive speakers, they have focused on the 6R's, reusing their waste to put back into their design to be more sustainable.





PE News

Year 11 Netball Match Results

On Tuesday 19th Nov our year 11 team played a game at home against Maltravers. Team captained by Ruby (GD) comprised of Joy (GK), Amelie (WD) Lily (C), Hannah (WA), Molly (GA) Annie (GS), Ava (GK/GS) and Gracie (WA) played an exciting and confident game. The weeks training on effective movement and passing under pressure paid off and a much improved quality of netball enabled a positive result. The girls took an early in the first dominating play and finishing 2 goals up. The second quarter saw Matravvers come back stronger matching the one goal MOC's scored. After a team talk at half time the team returned to the court determined and played an excellent pacy and effective third quarter scoring a further 2 goals to 0. The final quarter saw a resurgence within the Matravvers team with them starting strong and scoring 3 goals within the first 4 minutes. This ensued some frantic play by our MOC's team which caused some loss of possession, but after words of encouragement to each other to slow it down and hold driven by Ruby as captain they gained composure for the final minutes. A final goal was secured leaving the final score as 6-4 to MOC's. This was exciting and nail biting game to watch with some great sequences of play. The new team is blending well, well done to all those involved.

Primary Dodgeball

On Wednesday 20th November we held our first ever Melksham Primary PE cluster Dodgeball tournament inviting local primary to come and show off their ball throwing, catching and agility skills against each other in some very intense and very loud competition. The games Refereed by some our own students leaders Lily, Melia, Neeve and Amelia became very intense. I would like to congratulate them on such a great job in such a difficult sport to officiate. The results proved interesting with four teams gaining the very same results after 5 grilling round robin games, this left teams from Bowerhill, Aleoric, Forest and Sandridge finishing in joint second position all scoring 14 points with The Manor marginally taking the lead in first position with 17 points. All students played with such great team spirit and were a credit to the teachers that brought them over to compete. Well done to all those involved.



Year 9 vs Matravvers

On Wednesday, 20th November, the Year 9 Netball team travelled to Matravvers School for an eagerly anticipated away match. Determined to build on last week's strong performance, the team began with focus and energy. After securing their first goal, MOCS grew in confidence, particularly in the attacking D. The game was closely contested, with both teams showcasing impressive skill and determination throughout.

The effort and teamwork from every player were outstanding. All team members demonstrated noticeable improvements and showed a solid understanding of their strengths and areas for development. They worked tirelessly to support each other across all areas of the court, reflecting great team spirit. Player of the Match was awarded to M.C. for her exceptional energy and movement through the centre court. Despite their valiant efforts, the final score was 7-5 to Matravvers.

Well done to the team for their continued progress and a fantastic display of netball!





PE News

Year 8 vs Kingsbury Green

On Thursday, 21st November, Melksham Oak hosted Kingsbury Green in a friendly match between our Year 8 teams. Year 8 don't officially kick off their competitive netball games until the new year, so this was a great opportunity to put into practice what they have been working on in training as well as see the team start to gel together a lot more.

Like Kingsbury Green, we were able to field two teams. This meant we were able to have two games running along side each other, ensuring all our players enjoyed maximal game time. As it was a friendly, we played swapped opposition at half time allowing both teams to experience different players.

Both teams played extremely well with great enthusiasm and encouragement throughout. The girl's worked hard at moving the ball up the court and played to their strengths when shooting. MOCS Blue took the win in their first game with 4-3. MOCS Black weren't so lucky in their first game, with Kingsbury Green taking the win of 8-4. However, both teams continued to play hard, allowing MOCS Black to win their second game 6-3. MOCS Blue endured a fast-paced game against Kingsbury Green A's who won 4-0.

Well done to all those who participated, especially with the temperature dropping. We look forward to building the team ready for the New Year!



Rowing Opportunity

We have a new and exciting opportunity open to students in Year 8. We have teamed up with British Rowing and have entered a competition competing on our fitness gyms Concept 4 rowers in a National competition. We are looking to select 4 girls and 4 boys in year 8 to take place in the first round of this competition being held on Wednesday January 15th here at MOC's at 3.30pm. We are asking any students interested in taking part to speak to Mrs Sawyer, Mr Harrison and Mr Collins for the opportunity to try out and be considered for selection.





Christmas Dinner

£3.75

Roast Turkey Served with Stuffing, Pig in Blanket, Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Veg, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy

Winter Vegetable Wellington Served with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes, Carrots & Peas and Gravy (vegan)

Gluten free will be available

Christmas Dessert

Chocolate Frosted Christmas Cake

Don't forget to Pre- book your Christmas Dinner, which is being served on 17th Dec for years 7,9 & 11

19th Dec for years 8,10 & 6th Form

£3.75 a ticket, sales will be cashless and available to purchase through Canteen up until Friday 13th Dec.







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				
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. 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 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.



Prevent

Prevent is part of the government's counter-terrorism strategy.

The purpose of Prevent is at its heart to safeguard and support vulnerable people to stop them from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent has three specific objectives:

- Tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism.
- Safeguard and support those most at risk from radicalisation through early intervention, identifying them and offering support.
- Enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

All Melksham Oak staff undergo Prevent training to enable us to support our community. We teach about terrorism, extremism and radicalisation in our curriculum.

Parents and carers also have a role to play and we appreciate that this is a sensitive and emotive topic.

Why is this relevant to you?

Any child could be susceptible to extremist narratives. There are some factors that may make some children more susceptible than others. Extremist groups tap into young people's insecurities and claim to offer answers and promise a sense of identity that young people often seek. As part of their recruitment strategy, extremist groups also work to undermine the authority of parents and guardians.

- Extremism is... "the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and respect and tolerance for different faiths and beliefs."
- Terrorism is... "an action or threat designed to influence the government or intimidate the public. Its purpose is to advance a political, religious or ideological cause."
- Radicalisation is... "the term commonly used to describe the processes by which a person adopts extremist views or practices to the point of legitimising the use of violence. "

Channel is a voluntary, confidential programme which safeguards people identified as susceptible to being drawn into terrorism. It is a multi-agency process involving partners from the local authority, the police, education, health providers, and others.

Channel is a support programme - not a criminal sanction. A Channel referral can come from anyone who is concerned about a person they know who might be at risk of radicalisation, including family members, friends, school leaders, or colleagues. Channel can offer a number of different types of support, such as: help with education and career advice dealing with mental or emotional health issues dealing with drug or alcohol abuse theological or ideological mentoring from a Channel intervention provider (a specialist mentor)



Prevent

Indicators

There is no single route to radicalisation. However, there are some behavioural traits that could indicate a child has been exposed to radicalising influences.

For example:

- Beginning to isolate themselves from family and friends
- Becoming increasingly argumentative
- Legitimising the use of violence to defend ideology or cause
- Unwilling to engage with and becoming abusive towards individuals who are different
- Embracing conspiracy theories
- Feeling persecuted
- Changing friends and appearance and distancing themselves from old friends
- Producing or sharing terrorist material offline or online
- Being secretive and reluctant to discuss their whereabouts
- Being sympathetic to extremist ideologies and groups
- Drawing and graffitiing extremist symbols and imagery

The Online Space

With the growth of the internet, social media, gaming platforms, and chat platforms, extremist individuals and groups have taken up this opportunity to radicalise and recruit others in the online space.

It's important that you're aware of your child's online activity and digital footprint, and that you can support them in developing critical thinking skills that will allow them to build up their resilience to radicalisation and extremist content.

Some possible indicators that a young person has been or is being radicalised online include:

- Accessing extremist content online
- Joining or trying to join an extremist group or organisation
- Changing their online identity
- Being sympathetic to extremist ideologies and groups



Prevent

Going Too Far?

This is an interactive classroom resource developed by the Department for Education and London Grid for Learning.

The resource aims to help young people understand their online behaviour and the risks this may bring. You may find it useful to access the resource to help you promote critical thinking skills to your child so that they are able to challenge extremist narratives and consider the consequences of their online actions. <https://goingtoofar.lgfl.org.uk/>

Susceptibility

Children from all kinds of backgrounds can be radicalised. Below are some factors that may make some young people more susceptible to radicalisation and extremist narratives than others.

- Feeling socially isolated
- Struggling with a sense of identity and belonging
- Questioning their place in society Issues within the family and at home
- Experiencing a traumatic event
- Experiencing racism or discrimination
- Difficulty in interacting socially and lacking empathy
- Difficulty in understanding the consequences of their actions Low self-esteem
- Becoming distanced from their cultural or religious background

Starting Conversations

It can sometimes be difficult conversations with young people. Here are some tips on how to get started, but remember - you know your child best and what works for you.

- Choose somewhere your child feels at ease and make it a time when you're unlikely to be interrupted
- Perhaps start the conversation when something relevant to extremism comes up on TV Ask them what they know about the subject and their opinion on it
- Ask questions that don't result in a yes or no answer
- Take care to listen to them and let them answer without interrupting
- Encourage them to ask you any questions
- Talk about your own views on extremism
- Try not to react if they say something you don't expect.
- Ensure that they know that they're not being told off

If you have any concerns or want further advice or support please reach out to school.



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! 🌟

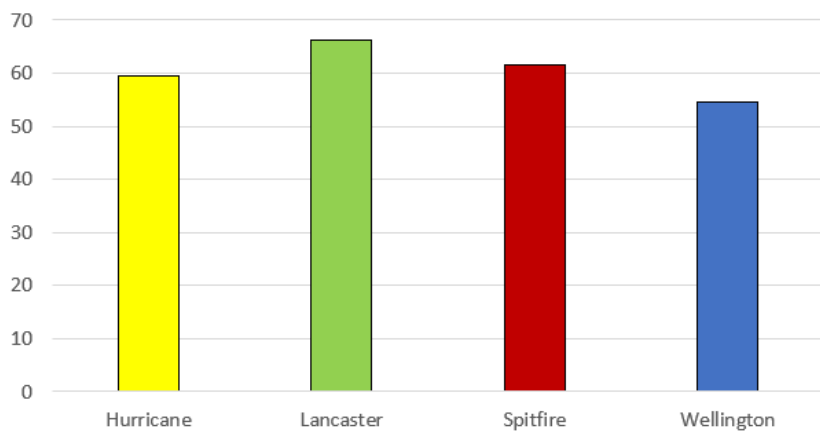


Merits

Well done to all our students that have been awarded merits in lessons, star of the lesson and the star of the week!

Lancaster house are still leading, can any other house knock them off the top spot?

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



- Thursday 28th November:** Sixth Form Open Evening 6—8pm
- Thursday 5th December:** Year 11 Parents’ Evening
- Thursday 12th December:** Normal School uniform plus a Christmas Jumper. £1 donation to Save the Children.
- Tuesday 17th December:** Christmas Lunch Year 7, 9 & 11
- Thursday 19th December:** Christmas Lunch Year 8, 10 & 6th form