



A message from Mr Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher

It's been an action-packed week at school, filled with a variety of events that have sparked conversation, creativity, and learning. We kicked things off with assemblies on ambition, inspiring students to think about their future goals. The police bike marking event proved to be a hit, with students getting their bikes marked. Our Year 10 artists continue to impress with their stunning artwork on display (which you can see on this page and page 4)!

We also welcomed the Blunt Truth knife crime workshop for year 9, led by police and paramedics, providing our students with valuable insights on safety and making informed choices. Year 9 students also took part in digital health questionnaires, sharing their thoughts on well-being and online habits, while Year 11 students had a productive Maths Walking Talking Mocks, honing their exam techniques ahead of their upcoming mock exams.

Year 12 had a productive subject parents' evening receiving valuable feedback from their subject teachers.

We wish you a restful weekend.



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>



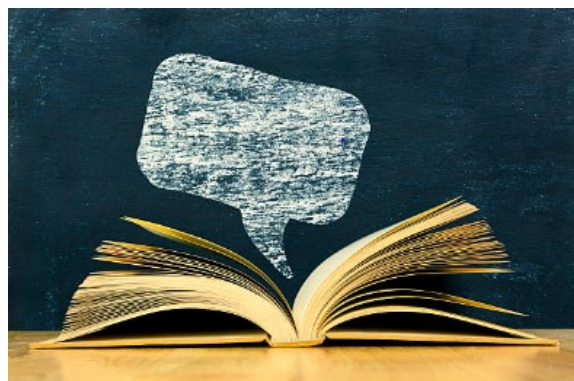
Gr8 Book Debate

Do you love reading and want to be part of an exciting opportunity and participate in the Gr8 Book Debate?

We are looking for 15 students from year 7 and year 8 to represent the school in a collaboration between three White Horse Federation schools. You need to be an avid reader as you will read five shortlisted books and participate as a member of the Melksham Oak School team in an inter-school debate, where you get the chance to select the winner of the prestigious Gr8 Book Debate Award.

Students will be invited to the launch in March and also the big final debate in July.

Please enquire with Mrs Curry in the library if you think you would like to take part.



Discovery Centre Book Swap



The Discovery Centre would like to run a Book Swap as part of our celebrations for World Book Day on the 6th March.

If you have fiction books suitable for pupils aged 11 plus, we would love to find them a new home.

Please contact reception or email library@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk if you would like to donate.

National Apprenticeship Week 2025: 10th – 16th February 2025

On 4th Feb, Years 9, 10 and Sixth form will rotate for an apprenticeships insight day session lasting one period led by Training Providers, Specialist Guidance, Guest Employer and apprentice.

This event is to deliver compulsory guidance to all students in all years and with a view to making all aware of National Apprenticeship Week. Students will receive more details through their tutors.

If you know of any employers who might like to help inspire our students by getting involved please send all referral contact to Ceri Tranter, Head of Careers tranterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

Police Bike Marking

On Wednesday this week afterschool we had a visit from Melksham's Neighbourhood Policing Team and their mobile police station who provided a free bike marking session for our students. This initiative aimed to promote bike security by marking bicycles with a unique identification code and registering them on the national Bike Register database, this service helps deter bike theft and increases the chances of stolen bikes being returned to their rightful owners.



Melksham Police would like thank those students who came along and have said they will be back soon. The team are also offering a bike marking session to the whole community on Sunday 26/01/25 in the town centre between 2pm and 3pm.



English – Key Stage 4

Using Tassomai for English and hitting the weekly goal is an excellent way for pupils to improve their understanding of key concepts. It is designed to support revision through regular practice to help embed knowledge, improve long-term recall and revisit misconceptions.

Weekly Overview

Year 11:

16178 questions answered and 68hours 12minutes spent revising.

Year 10:

17993 questions answered and 74 hours and 41 minutes spent revising.

If you have any problems, please find me in L1.

Mrs R Robinson

Head of English

Wiltshire Community Foundation

WORRIED ABOUT THE COST OF UNI?

You could be eligible for our University Bursary programme:

- £1,600 per year of your degree
- Applicants must be aged between 17 and 24
- Applicants or their parents/guardians must be in receipt of two Means Tested Benefits or two elements of Universal Credit.

APPLY TODAY!
www.wiltshirecf.org.uk
 Deadline 11 April 2025

Tel: 01380 738985 Registered Charity Number: 1123126

Wiltshire Community Foundation

WORRIED ABOUT THE COST OF GOING TO UNIVERSITY?

Wiltshire Community Foundation offers bursaries of £1,600 a year to young people who need support with the costs of studying an undergraduate degree at university.

Bursaries can be used towards:

- general living expenses
- course costs
- travel costs
- books and equipment.

For more information scan the QR Code below, visit our www.wiltshirecf.org.uk or call 01380 738985.

You can apply for a bursary if:

- you, your parents or guardians receive two means-tested benefits, two elements of Universal Credit or you are in the care of the local authority
- you are between 17 and 24 years old
- you have been living in Wiltshire or Swindon for at least two years*
- you are eligible for funding through Student Finance England
- you are planning to study (or already studying) for your first undergraduate degree at a UK university/institution.

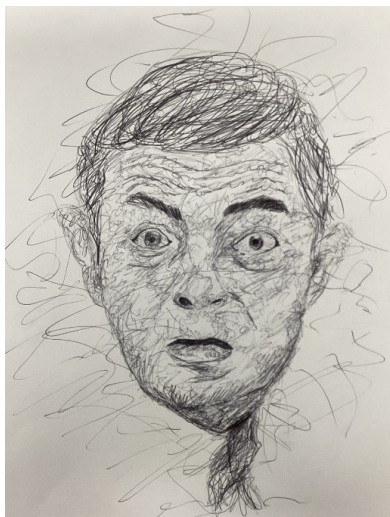
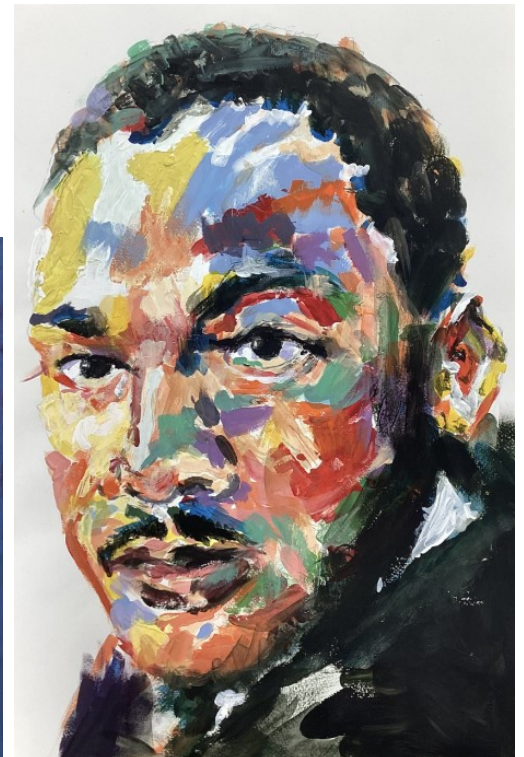
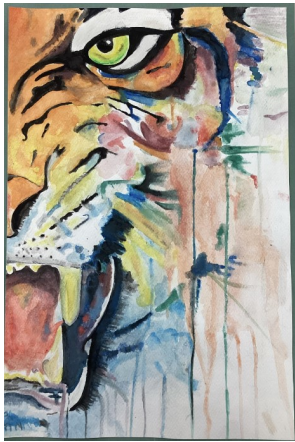
*There are some exceptions to this so please call us to discuss.

www.wiltshirecf.org.uk
 Registered charity no. 1123126



Year 10 GCSE Artists

Yr10 GCSE Artist have been producing some stunning work over the last two terms. As part of their GCSE they have to choose an Artist work to study and recreate. These are the wonderful pieces they have created.





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

Your Feedback Matters!

[I would be grateful if you could spend 5-10 minutes to complete this SEND Parent/Carer feedback form.](#)

I will use the results to shape and develop our SEND offer.

<https://forms.office.com/e/R03YvLYshf>

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

Wiltshire SEND Local Offer

[Wiltshire SEND Support for 0 to 25 - Local Offer](#)

[Wiltshire Local Offer - English BSL](#)

The local offer explains what help and services are available for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities in your local area.

Supporting Literacy at Home

Every student has access to boost their literacy skills through our online literacy platform.

Go onto www.lexiapowerup.com

If asked to enter teachers email –
Ornovh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

Username: Your school email address – e.g.
24smitha@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

Password: ABC1





Melksham Oak Community School



Newsletter
Friday 24th January



Looking for SEND Information?

Are you looking for information to support you to help your child with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)?

This free to attend event is for parent carers of children with SEND, and those who work with them. It could be just what you are looking for to help you find out more about some of the services and support in Wiltshire.

The aim of the event is to provide a range of information to help illustrate some of the choices and options available for children/young people, showcase elements of the Local Offer in an accessible and interactive format, and provide a comfortable space and opportunities to facilitate networking opportunities for both parent carers and professionals alike.

Other reasons to attend include: -

- Free workshop
- Information from over different services and providers
- Free tea, coffee and cakes
- Meet and talk to other parent carers and a range of professionals and practitioners

See our virtual pre-event pack for lots more information



You can book using this QR code



**Friday 7th
February 2025**

**Civic Centre
Trowbridge
BA14 8AH**

**Registration from
9.30am**

**Event Runs from
10am to 2pm**

Parent carers will be able to claim travel & childcare expenses from the WPCC
(Contact us to discuss childcare claims before the event)

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

You can book online
www.surveymonkey.com/n/SENDISFeb25

Alternatively

Phone: 01225 764647 (option 1)
Email: reception@wiltsppc.co.uk

**Booking closes 5pm on
31st January 2025**

February Half Term 2025 Wiltshire

NEW! **Mon 17th Feb**

Gymnastics
10:00 - 11:30 | 7 - 16 year olds | £5
West Wilts Gymnastics Club, Trowbridge, BA9 0XE
Try out different equipment including the balance beam and jumping into the foam pit! Suitable for children who are neurodivergent including those with autism & ADHD and their siblings.

NEW! **Tues 18th Feb**

Climbing
10:30 - 11:30 | 7 - 16 year olds | £5
The Arc, Chippenham, SN15 3HZ
Rope climbing in a fun and supportive environment: for beginners and those who have climbed before. Suitable for children who are neurodivergent including those with autism & ADHD and their siblings.

NEW! **Tues 18th Feb**

Football
13:00 - 14:30 | 7 - 16 year olds | £5
Trowbridge Sports Centre, BA14 0DN
Indoor fun football session! Suitable for children who are neurodivergent including those with autism & ADHD and their siblings.

NEW! **Thurs 20th Feb**

Wheelchair Multi-Sports
14:00 - 15:30 | 7 - 16 year olds | £5
@ Melksham Community Campus, SN12 6ES
Be active and play fun games like wheelchair basketball. Suitable for children with additional needs & their siblings. Sports wheelchairs provided. Must be able to transfer (no hoist on site).

NEW! **Thurs 20th Feb**

Sensory Sport
15:00 - 16:30 | 4 - 12 year olds | £5
@ Longfield Community Centre, Trowbridge, BA14 7DZ
Suitable for young people with multiple and complex disabilities and their parents/carers. Free play sensory sport activities. Facilitated by specialist Nova coaches, participants are taken on a journey through the smells, sounds, feels and actions of playing volleyball, surfing and swimming in the ocean (sports subject to change). There is also time for a free cup of tea/coffee and a chat with other parent/carers.

To book or enquire about suitability of activities email Jenny with your child's name, date of birth, the activities you are interested in and a little information about your child (if you are new to Nova Sports).

bookings@novasportsandcoaching.co.uk 07880743453

Please note: Limited spaces available. Your space is not confirmed until payment has been made via Spend (app). If finance is a barrier to attending please let us know.

DEVIZES *Music* ACADEMY

"Oh my days, look at ya! You're amazing. You're fearless. You're Emmeline Pankhurst!"

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT

JAMIE

THIS AMAZING SHOW IS COMING TO DEVIZES! WAAAAH!

TEEN EDITION

AUDITIONS!

SUNDAY 23rd FEBRUARY
1pm @ DEVIZES MUSIC ACADEMY

Show dates:
19th April and 25th July

Rehearsal dates:
13th - 18th April
24th July

To register email jemma@fto.org.uk

THE ASSEMBLY HALL

THE LION KING

18 FEB, 2025 11:00-13:00 TICKETS: £2.50

HALF-TERM MOVIES

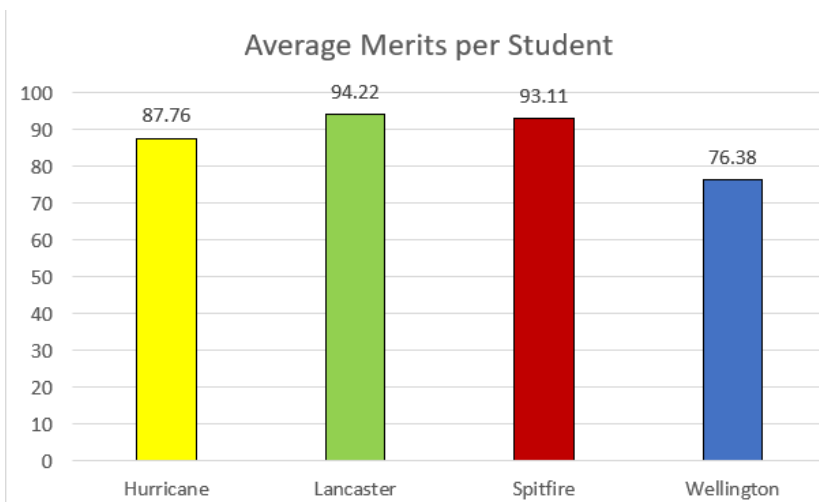
Melksham Assembly Hall
Market Place
SN12 6ES

BOOK HERE!

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Merits



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

Pastoral Manager	Ms A. Berry	berrya@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
Year 7	Mrs H. Pearce	pearceh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
Year 8	Mrs S. Phelps	phelpss@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

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

KS5 Leads

Mrs K. Jones	jonesk@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
Mr C. Butter	butterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

Head of Careers Education

Ms C. Tranter	tranterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk
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Upcoming Events



- 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
- Wednesday 5th March:** Employability Ready Day (Year 10 & 12)