



A message from Mr Mitchell - Assistant Headteacher

The week started with extremely strong winds and heavy rainfall that caused flooding and disruption in our local area, we hope that the disruption to our families was minimised. We want to thank all our staff who made the school site safe and those that spent a long journey getting in to keep the school open. Despite the challenging weather conditions, we are committed to keeping the school open whenever possible. This week's assemblies delivered by our Geography department about climate change were rather apt considering the weather conditions.

It was lovely seeing so many of our year 10 and 11 students planning their next steps by coming in to see all the fabulous sixth form courses on offer by committed staff at MOCs, with both students from MOCs and other local schools seeing what we have to offer.

With Advent about to start, festivities are coming, starting with MOCs Winter Wonderland beginning next week! So keep your eyes peeled on our social media accounts as Christmas is slowly revealed at school.

We wish you all a pleasant weekend.

High Standards

We are now over half way through the term and Christmas is just around the corner!

Just a reminder that earrings are meant to be a single studs, all others need to be removed whilst at school, if they are not these will be confiscated. Mobile phones and use of headphone, are not allowed, these must be in students bags, as per the uniform policy, if they are seen by member of staff they will be confiscated. Please ensure that your son/daughter has the required equipment for their day.



Former Year 11 certificate collection and celebration afternoon

All our year 11 students from last year are invited to come to school at 4pm on Thursday 12th December to collect their certificates and celebrate their successes with tea and cake! Teachers will be there to hear all their news and find out how they are getting on in their new courses. We look forward to seeing them all.

Sixth Form Open Evening and Applications to Sixth Form

It was so exciting last night to see our school site busy with over 100 year 10 and 11 students all discussing their next steps and goals for their future. If you were unable to attend 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>



Food

Year 10 students have been making gluten free goujons after learning about food allergens.



DT

Year 7 have been cutting, sanding and painting coat hooks. They even drilled and bent the metal themselves.



Year 8 Design Technology: they have been consolidating their practical skills at the end of the rotation, using manufacturing aids such as templates and problem solving how to construct the walls. They have been sustainable by reusing offcuts of unbleached bamboo plywood which is much better for the environment.



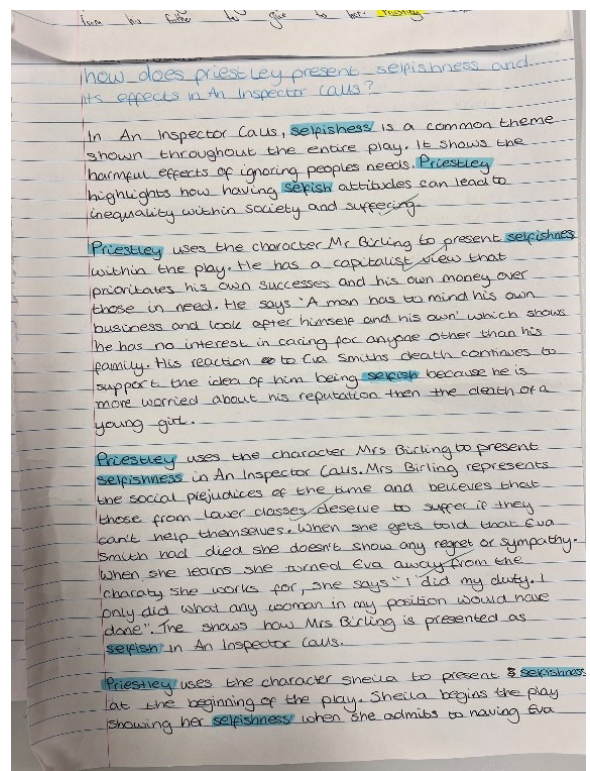
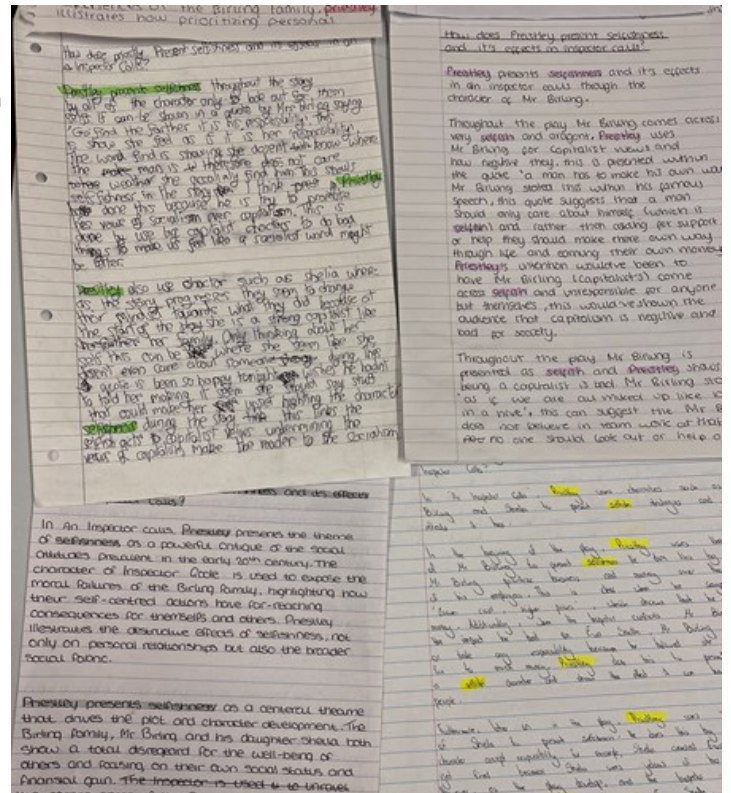
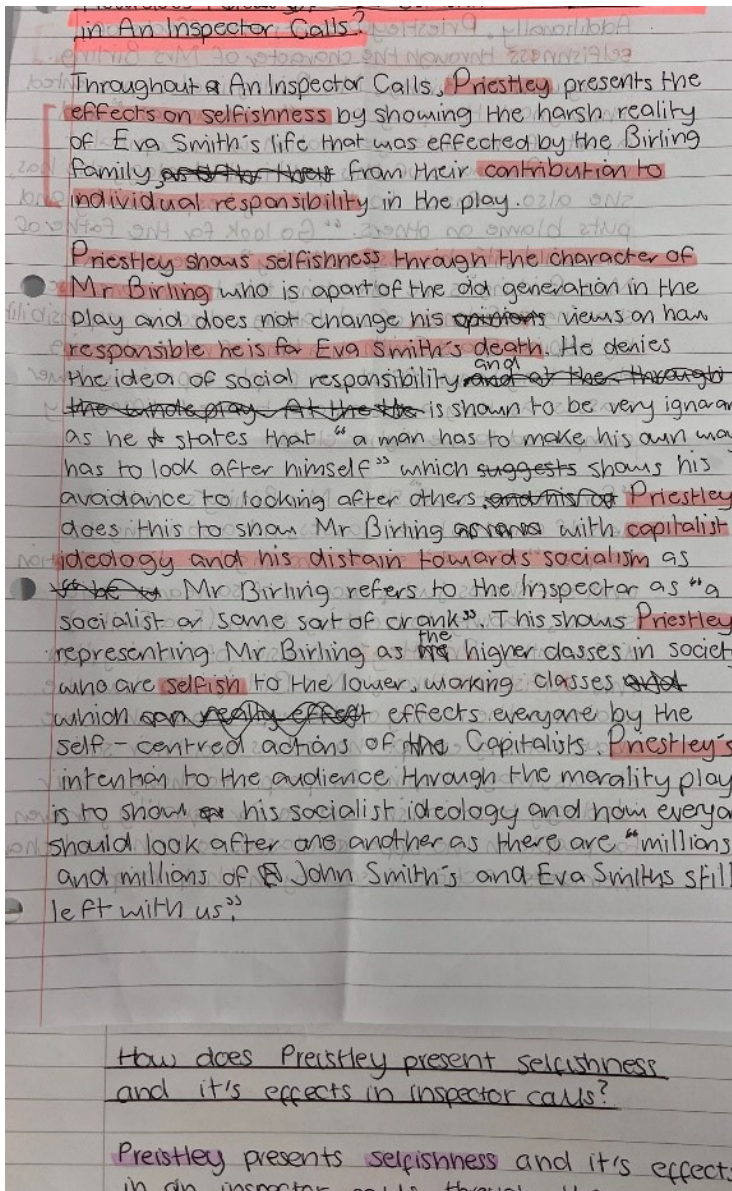


Year 11 English

Year 11 have been working hard outside of lessons and completed an essay response on 'An Inspector Calls' at home.

Huge well done to all of the pupils who completed it in on time - keep up the hard work!

Mrs Robinson
Head of English





Discovery Centre

These books are action-packed and ready to go! Available now from the Discovery Centre.

Gold of the Gods - # 1 In the Mission Survival Series

Author: Bear Grylls

Lost in the jungle! Bruno is on a trip to Colombia in his school holidays. His anthropologist uncle has taken him along on a visit to Don Rafael de Castillo, a descendent of a great explorer who is claimed to have discovered a lost City of Gold. But the secret of the city died with the explorer — until now. . .

A fast-paced, new adventure full of real survival details and tips from survival expert, Bear Grylls.

More books from the Mission Survival Series

Gold of the Gods, Way of the Wolf,

Sands of the Scorpion, Tracks of the Tiger,

Claws of the Crocodile, Strike of the Shark,

Rage of the Rhino, Lair of the Leopard



Stormbreaker #1 in the Alex Rider Series

Author: Anthony Horowitz

Fourteen-year-old Alex Rider finds his life turned upside down on discovering that his late uncle wasn't a mild-mannered banker, but instead a field agent for MI6. Soon, Alex himself is dragged into the world of espionage and intrigue.

This well-written and action-packed story is the first in the bestselling Alex Rider series about a daring teenage spy. Cleverly plotted and full of excitement, the combination of spy gadgets and undercover escapades will ensure this story is completely irresistible to young fans of action and adventure.

More book from the Alex Rider Series

Mission 1: Stormbreaker , Mission 2: Point Blanc

Mission 3: Skeleton Key, Mission 4: Eagle Strike

Mission 5: Scorpia Ark Angel, Mission 6: Snakehead

Mission 7: Crocodile Tears, Mission 8: Scorpia Rising

Mission 9: Russian Roulette, Mission 10: Never Say Die

Mission 11: Secret Weapon, Mission 12: Nightshade

Mission 13: Nightshade Revenge





3rd Annual V Coding Bootcamp at the University of Bath

We are delighted to invite your students to the 3rd Annual V Coding Bootcamp at the University of Bath on Saturday, 22nd February. This free event is a unique opportunity for girls to explore coding, develop hands-on skills, and learn about STEM careers.

The workshop is a collaboration between Mighty Girls, University of Bath students, and local firm AB Dynamics, who have generously funded this initiative.

Spaces are limited, so we encourage you to share this opportunity with any students who may benefit from and enjoy such an inspiring event.

It has been useful for Y8 and Y9 girls choosing their GCSE's, Y11 thinking about A Levels, and Sixth Formers thinking about university

Watch our video for more information <https://www.mightygirls.co.uk/vcodevideo2025> and please direct students to our website to register and book their free place: www.mightygirls.co.uk/shop

Homeless Christmas
Shoebbox Appeal



Shoe box for the Homeless

Items for the homeless:

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Bar of soap
- Gloves
- Comb
- Hand sanitizer
- Hat
- Hand warmers
- Roll on deodorant
- Socks
- Wet wipes
- Wind up torch
- Sanitary products
- Tissues

Shoebbox
needs to be
donated



INSIDE A CARE PACKAGE FOR THE HOMELESS



House Challenge

DEADLINE FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER

Please give your items to your tutor or
put them into the food back trollies
Please send them to the sixth from office
NO RAZORS OR SHARP ITEMS

doorway
Moving on from Homelessness in North Wiltshire





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

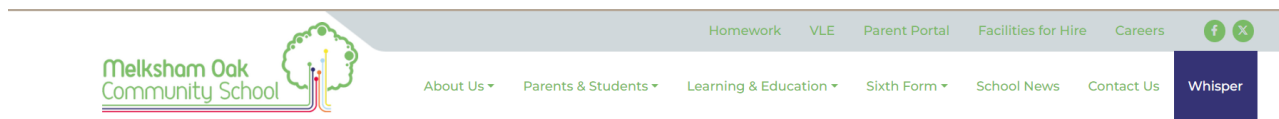
£3.75 a ticket, sales will be cashless and available to purchase through Canteen up until Friday 13th Dec.



Whisper

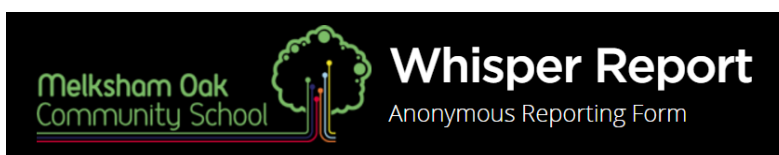
Whisper is our online tool for students to raise concerns anonymously. It was developed by South West Grid for Learning and the link can be found on our website in the top right corner.

Melksham Oak Community School: <https://www.melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk>



This will then take students to the following:

Whisper Anonymous Reporting | SWGfL: <https://swgfl.org.uk/whisper/twh1/>



When students submit a report it will come to Mrs Clark or Mrs Litman the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Students can report anything but there is also a drop down menu to guide students if they want to use it, it offers not sure, online bullying, offline bullying, image abuse, hate crimes, safeguarding/welfare, whistleblowing, privacy/data protection, health and safety or other.

If your child/children feel that they cannot share concerns with us in person please tell us as parents and/or encourage them to use Whisper. Students can checkout the posters in school.

KS3 Student Voice

Over the past few weeks a cross-section of our KS3 students have been taking part in student voice discussions. These are designed for students to share their views on a wide range of topics related to school life. This term's focus has been on Learning in the Classroom and the students have shared some real positives about their experience of teaching and learning here at Melksham Oak.

Students stated that they found teachers' high expectations at the starts of lessons really helpful for getting them settled quickly and ready to learn. They find 'Do Now' tasks at the beginning of lessons a key part of this routine and thought these activities were both helpful as a 'warm up' for the lesson and also a good way for staff to check their understanding of prior learning.

Students also shared that they were able to progress well in lessons because staff used clear modelling and the 'I do, we do, you do' structure to support their explanations. They also recognised that questioning was a key part of the learning process and liked lessons where their teachers asked challenging questions, but supported them in answering them.

Students said they received regular feedback, particularly after low-stakes quizzes. This gave them another opportunity to revisit challenging content and ask clarifying questions, thus supporting their progress. Students also valued Parents' Evenings, as they provided a further opportunity to receive one-to-one feedback from staff.

Most of all, students clearly valued the relationships that they have with staff and voiced this as a key reason they enjoyed lessons and made good progress at MOCS. We look forward to hearing from our KS4/5 students over the coming weeks and also actioning some of the feedback that students have shared.







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.

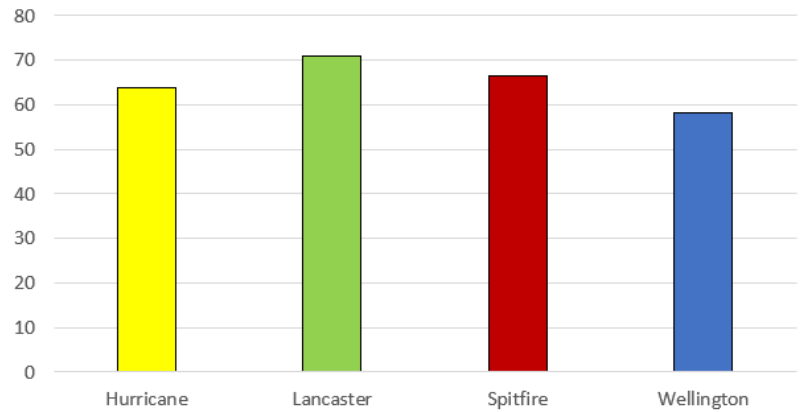


Merits

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 yet to be moved from the top spot, can Spitfire gain a few more merits next week to take the lead?

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 5th December:** Year 11 Parents’ Evening
- Tuesday 10th December:** Year 8 STEM DAY
- 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



Safeguarding

The theme of this weeks item is road safety. As we are into the darker mornings and evenings as well as inclement weather with rain and freezing temperatures please ensure that your child/children are reminded of the key elements of road safety.

As our uniform is dark and most students wear dark coats please consider a high viz/reflective component to clothing even if that is a sticker on their bag/rucksack straps. Think about a torch for any routes where street lighting is less good. Encourage well lit journeys wherever possible. Encourage only crossing at recognised crossing points wherever possible. Remind them to look both ways and not be on their phone or have their headphones in when crossing the road-see the article at the bottom of this piece.

Some students have arrived without coats and although we appreciate sometimes this is student choice, if we can help then please reach out to us at school.

Lots of our students cycle or scoot to school and this adds extra elements to road safety. Ensure especially with cycles that they are serviced and have had the brakes and tyres checked and are preferably fitted with lights.

This then brings the wearing of cycling helmets into consideration. Most of our student cyclists do not wear cycling helmets and although it is not law in the UK please consider the below:

The Highway Code outlines best practices for road users and advises cyclists to wear a safe and well-fitting helmet. Rule 59 of the Highway Code states: "You should wear a cycle helmet which conforms to current regulations, is the correct size and is securely fastened". However, it's essential to note the word "should". This implies that while it's strongly recommended, it's not a legal obligation.

You will also find that most organised cycle events, including cycle club rides, will insist on you wearing a helmet. Most cycle facilities such as bike parks will also insist on a helmet.

The Statistics

A major study of bike helmet use around the world taken from more than 64,000 cyclists has found cycle helmets reduce the risk of:

- Head injury by 51%
- Serious head injury by 69%
- Face injury by 33%
- Fatal head injury by 65%

Figures compiled by RoSPA show head injuries are very common injuries to cyclists. Data from hospitals show 40% of cyclists and 45% of child cyclists suffer head injuries.

Safety benefits:

The safety benefits seem to be more pronounced for children. Tests on children's bicycle helmets show helmets offer up to 87% reduction in the acceleration experienced by the skull during an impact. They can help the skull resist forces up to 470 pounds in a crush accident. Please consider the purchase of a cycling helmet and the discussions with your child/children around road safety in general. If you need any support then please reach out to us at school.

This website is useful: Road Safety GB | Home <https://roadsafetygb.org.uk>

This is a good article from the website above and provides a good starter to conversations with your child/children.

Students back campaign targeting their peers: <https://roadsafetygb.org.uk/news/students-back-campaign-targeting-their-peers/>