



## A message from Mrs Ebanks, Assistant Headteacher

As we're over half way through term 1 it is great to see the students working hard and making the most of every learning opportunity in the day. Walking around school I've seen such positive learning experiences; 8AW excelled in a science lesson correctly used scientific vocabulary, listened carefully, delighted the teacher with brilliant answers, and jumped into a practical with confidence and expertise! In History a lesson with year 7 showed their amazing analysis of sources and understanding of the sequence of the battles that led to the victory by William the Conqueror. In my own Maths teaching one of my Year 10 students stayed through their breaktime to understand the relationship between Pascal's triangle and the expansion of  $(a + 1)^n$ . I have also been inspired by conduct at lunchtime and the creativity students can bring to letting off steam – for example today the Year 8s that normally play football but were rained off engaged in a highly competitive dance battle (and I was pleased to see, that they have the moves)! Our trust leader (Dr Nichols) often talks about looking for the moments of brightness, and I have been filled with them this week and I am so proud to be a part of this school. The Senior Leadership Team met with school Governors this week to share our fantastic results from last Summer and to discuss our plans for continued development of our school and our relationship with the school community. As always our Governors are there to challenge us and ensure that we uphold our school and Trust values in every decision made. If any parents are interested in joining our Governing body then do please get in touch to support the important work they do.

## Meet the Tutor Evening

The meet the tutor evening is being held in person at the school on Thursday 9th October between 4:00pm and 7:00pm. It is the perfect opportunity to meet your child's tutor with a focus on how they have settled into school at the start of the academic year.

To book your slot for the evening through our Parents' Evening System at this link:  
<https://mocs.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

The booking system will be open from Friday 26th September at 3:00pm to Wednesday 8th October at 12:00pm.



## Open Mornings

Come and see what Melksham Oak can offer your child on one of our tours. To book onto a tour:

<https://forms.office.com/e/Suw79jMCWb>



**Year 6  
Open Morning**

Melksham Oak  
Community School

Ambition | Pride | Respect

THE WHITE HORSE  
FEDERATION

**Year 6 Open Mornings Monday 13<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday  
15<sup>th</sup> October at 9:00am and 10:00am**

Book now to come and see the excellent education that Melksham Oak can offer your child on one of our guided tours.



- Experience our warm, welcoming and friendly school community.
- Visit lessons and meet our friendly students.



Book now: <https://forms.office.com/e/Suw79jMCWb>



<https://www.melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk/>  
[admin@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)



Book Now





## U16 Basketball vs Kingdown School

This year saw the relaunch of the West Wiltshire Basketball leagues for the first time in many years. The U16 team was made up of students Year 9-11, with the squad as follows: James (Y11), Blake (Y11), Ollie (Y11), Noah (Y11), Declan (Y11), Zachary (Y9).

The performance from the entire team was fantastic to see, with some students representing the school for the first time. The squad did incredible well in a very competitive fixture against a strong Kingdown team. The scores were kept low in the first quarter, with the boys getting up to speed with the quick transitions with the ball going end-to-end. Half time score saw MOCS lead 12-4, Kingdown coming out after half time and going into the lead at the



end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, 13-16. The boys were putting in 110% effort, having only one sub and picking up an injury reducing the squad down to bare 5. William (Y11) who was helping out with our scoring system had to be called upon to help the team out and did this without any hesitation – top commitment! With a quick team talk before the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, MOCS went out flying, with James storming through the Kingdown defence, Ollie powerful in attack and a special mention to our young Year 9 student, Zachary, working relentlessly and even scoring a 3-pointer!

Final score MOCS 32-16 Kingdown School.





### Year 9 Netball Team vs Kingdown

This week, it was the turn of our Year 9 netball team to take on Kingdown. With excellent commitment to training, MOCS were able to field a strong squad of 11 players, ready for the challenge ahead.

The girls started brightly, moving the ball with accuracy and confidence into the attacking 'D', securing an early lead to finish the first quarter 3–2 ahead. Kingdown came out strong in the second quarter, scoring quickly, but MOCS rose to the challenge. Outstanding defensive work and crucial turnovers kept the pressure on, with the quarter ending 1–0 to Kingdown and the overall score level at half time.

The third quarter saw MOCS raise their intensity, showing determination and fight to push forward.

Despite their efforts, Kingdown's tight defence limited scoring opportunities. In the final quarter, our girls gave everything, edging ahead 1–0 before Kingdown rallied to even the score and then add another. The game finished 6–4 in Kingdown's favour, but the result did not take away from the brilliant teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship on display from MOCS.

A special thank you goes to Bella, one of our A-Level Sport students, who has been supporting training sessions and also stepped in to umpire the match.

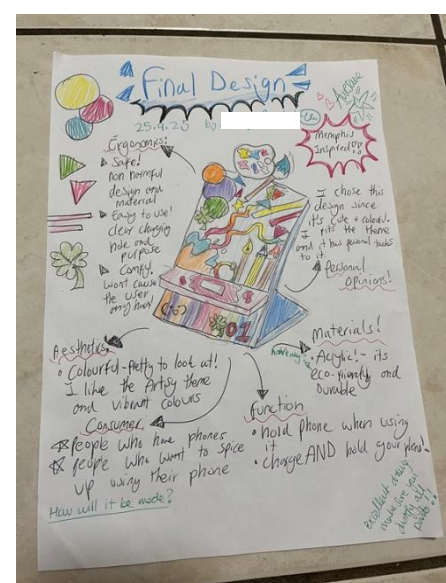
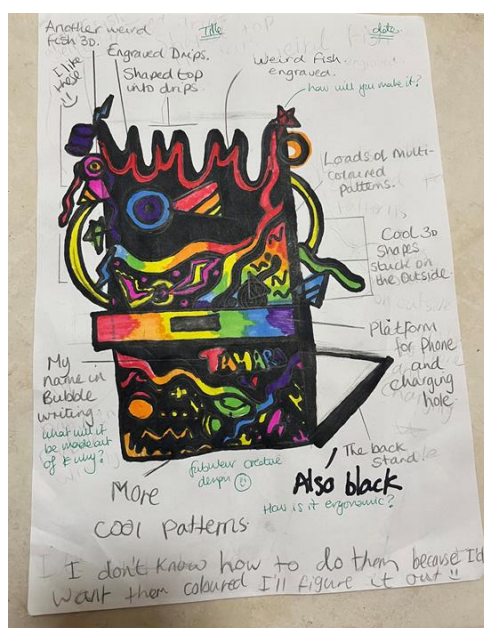
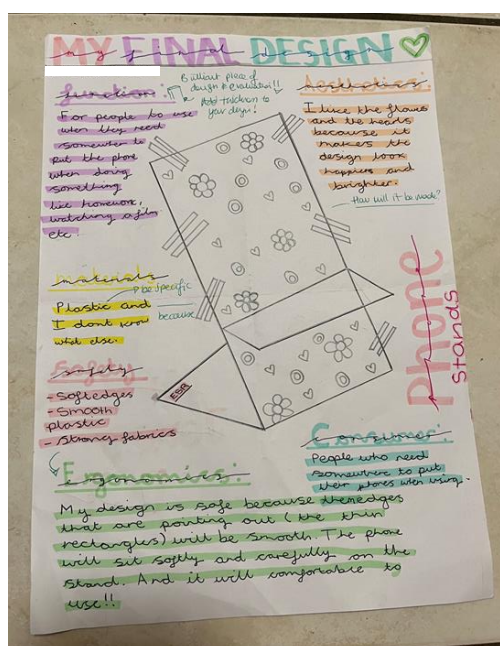
We look forward to building on this performance in training and are excited for our next fixture: **Wednesday 15th October, at home to Matravers.**





## Year 8 Design Technology

The first project in Year 8 DT is focused on learning about polymers and using CAD/CAM – they have been brilliant in picking up 2D design techniques very quickly, skills that are used frequently in GCSE & A level DT. These awesome design assessment homework's show what they intend to make out of acrylic. Based on Memphis Design they will need to now modify their design for the laser cutter to manufacture it. Looking forward to seeing the creations of their mobile phone stands.



## Year 7 & 8 Homework Club



**Year 7 & 8 Homework Club**  
**Wednesdays: U52 3pm-4pm**



💡 Why come to Homework Club?

- ✓ Get help with your homework
- ✓ Use school resources
- ✓ Ask questions and get support
- ✓ A quiet place to focus
- ✓ Boost your confidence and skills



**No sign up needed – just show up!**

**Bring your homework, your questions, and a positive attitude!**





## Year 11 & 12 Art

Year 11 have been creating some brilliant mixed media observational drawing pages in their sketchbooks. They've been combining a range of materials – including pencil, collage, and watercolour – and linking their work to well-researched and thoughtfully presented artist studies. It's great to see such strong personal responses coming through!



Year 12 have been busy experimenting with tie-dye techniques, then developing their fabrics further with expressive paintwork and hand embroidery. There's been a real focus on creative exploration and it's resulted in some really exciting, original outcomes.



## Attendance

It has been a pleasure to see so many of our students in school each day.

Since the start of September, we've awarded nearly 10,300 merits for 100% attendance—an incredible achievement! Every lesson truly counts, and it's been wonderful to see our school community come alive each and every morning, with students engaging in exciting lessons and acting as role models during social times and lunchtime activities.

As we head into winter and seasonal bugs begin to circulate, please remember: students can still attend school if they do not have a high temperature. We will continue to monitor their wellbeing during the day, and if necessary, they can go to Student Reception. Their Head of Year will assess whether they need to go home. If a student goes home ill and is not showing any further symptoms and is well enough, then they can come back to school the next day.

For more detailed guidance, please visit the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> As always, if you have any questions about attendance, don't hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year.



## Volunteers Needed for our Careers Education – Can you support?

Do you work for a company that could support our Careers Education events and help inspire our young people of the future?

We are in constant need for employers and employees across all subjects and sectors to align curriculum learning with employer engagement.

If you know of anyone that can help, please contact Miss Ceri Tranter, Head of Careers Education on [TranterC@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:TranterC@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk) or call 01225 792700 Ext 712

Careers Events 2025-2026 sign up here: - <https://forms.office.com/e/TebUjfu023>

## 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 Manager

Ms A. Berry

[berrya@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:berrya@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)

### Heads of Year

Year 7	Mrs H. Pearce	<a href="mailto:pearceh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">pearceh@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>
Year 8	Mrs C. Hughes	<a href="mailto:hughesc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">hughesc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>
Year 9	Mr J. Oatley	<a href="mailto:oatleyj@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">oatleyj@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>
Year 10	Mr L. Ballinger	<a href="mailto:ballingerl@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">ballingerl@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>
Year 11	Miss S. Abraham	<a href="mailto:abrahams@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">abrahams@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>
6th Form	Ms R. Cooper	<a href="mailto:cooperr@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk">cooperr@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk</a>

### Head of Careers Education

Ms C. Tranter

[tranterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:tranterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk)

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



## Upcoming Events

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October:** Meet the Tutor evening 4pm to 7pm

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October:** Year 11 Mocks start

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October:** Year 13 Post 18 Pathways Event





**MELKSHAM  
COME MEET LEGENDS**

Come meet World Cup winning  
England legends  
**ZOE ALDCROFT**  
**AND**  
**ALEX MATTHEWS**  
**at**

Event starts at 12.30pm.  
Meet the players, Q&A session

Melksham RFC this SUNDAY!

**ALL  
WELCOME**

MELKSHAM RFC  
FAIRE SANS DIRE

**MIGHTY GIRLS**

**Mighty Girls Club  
BOA**

**THURSDAYS STARTS 6<sup>TH</sup> NOV**  
**BRADFORD ON AVON**  
**4.30-5.30PM. AGE 8-12**

- Meet up
- Make friends
- Feel empowered
- Have fun!

Join us and be part of something inspiring

To learn more and book your place visit our website or  
email [info@mightygirls.co.uk](mailto:info@mightygirls.co.uk)

[www.mightygirls.co.uk](http://www.mightygirls.co.uk)

Supported by: **Wiltshire Council**

BRADFORD ON AVON  
TOWN COUNCIL

**MIGHTY GIRLS**

**MIGHTY  
GIRLS ART  
CLUB**

**MONTHLY MEET UP**

Come and join us for fun, relaxed evenings where we'll  
explore different art forms and open up conversations  
about things that matter most to you.

First Wednesday of the month - Next Session 5<sup>th</sup> November

Stone, Paper, Scissors, Tithe Barn Workshops, 4 Pound Lane,  
Bradford on Avon, BA15 1LF

Open to girls aged 12 + (Year 8 upwards)

6:00 to 7:30 PM

Learn more: [www.mightygirls.co.uk](http://www.mightygirls.co.uk)

Art Facilitator  
Sharkey

COMMUNITY  
FUND

Positive  
Relationships

**MIGHTY GIRLS**

**Self Defence  
half day workshop**

**WEDNESDAY 29TH OCT**  
**BRADFORD ON AVON**  
**2PM - 5PM. AGE: 11+**  
**COST £25**

Mighty Girls & Helen from Systema bring you:

- Practical self-defence techniques
- A focus on movement, breath work, relaxation, and posture
- Enhance self-awareness & resilience
- Help equip you to handle various situations effectively

[www.mightygirls.co.uk](http://www.mightygirls.co.uk) or QR Code to book

The club is offered at a discounted rate for all & free to some thanks to the support from: **Wiltshire Council**