



Newsletter

Friday 9th January

A message from Miss Ornov, Associate Assistant Headteacher

Welcome back to all our students and families after the Christmas break. We hope you enjoyed a restful and joyful holiday season. As we begin the new term, I am delighted to be joining the leadership team with a specific focus on inclusion and transition. These are areas we are deeply committed to, and we look forward to working closely with staff, students, and families to ensure that every child feels valued, supported, and able to thrive within our school community.

We have also been extremely pleased with the positive approach to learning demonstrated by students since returning to school. Across classrooms, pupils have shown enthusiasm, focus, and a strong commitment to doing their best. It has been encouraging to see students engaging thoughtfully in their learning, supporting one another, and taking pride in their achievements, setting a strong foundation for the term ahead.

Over the past few weeks, we have been busy developing our outdoor provision, and we are excited to share that our new rock-climbing activities are now up and running in school. These have already been used to recognise and reward students for their hard work and positive efforts last term. It has been wonderful to see students challenge themselves, build confidence, and celebrate their achievements, and we look forward to expanding these opportunities further as the term continues.



UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

THURSDAY 15th JANUARY

Year group photos for year 7, 11 and 13.
New Year Concert.

MONDAY 19th JANUARY

Year 10 Assessment week

THURSDAY 22nd JANUARY

Year 11 Supporting Success Evening



Library News

The Library is full of winter themed books this month for pupils to choose from – and cosy blankets to curl up with while reading. The pupils that have visited so far, have loved how cosy it is, and some already have their favourite blanket too!

2026 is the National Year of Reading!

Throughout 2026, the Library will be running a range of competitions and activities to encourage pupils to read for fun and pleasure. Please ensure that all pupils bring a reading book in their bag every day, as this is a required part of their equipment. Staff will be checking that all KS3 pupils have a reading book from 20 January. The library is open at breaktime, lunchtime, and after school for pupils who need to borrow a new book. Staff will be checking everyone in KS3 has a reading book from 20th January. The library is open every break and lunch and after school if you need to pick up a new book.



We would be very grateful if parents could encourage their children to find and return any overdue library books. Other pupils are waiting to enjoy them too.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us foster a love of reading in **every** pupil.



English

We have been extremely impressed with the commitment and focus shown by pupils across all year groups as they complete their knowledge reviews. These reviews allow pupils to check their understanding and help us to identify any areas that may need revisiting to ensure continued progress and improvement.

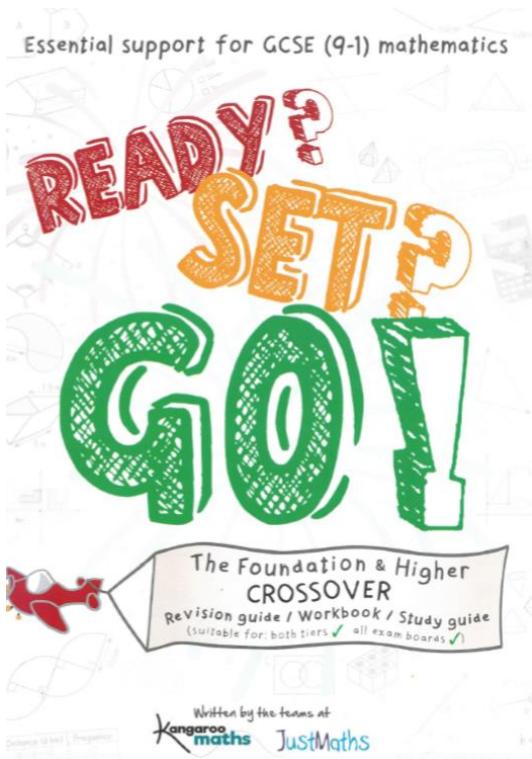
At Key Stage 3, pupils are now moving on to their next unit of study, which focuses on genre, form and context. We are excited to explore a range of texts from different time periods and genres, developing pupils' reading and analytical skills as they deepen their understanding of how texts are shaped by their contexts.

At Key Stage 4, Year 10 pupils are preparing for their upcoming mock examinations. Lessons are currently focused on working through past paper questions, analysing pupil exemplars and developing clear, effective strategies for structuring their exam responses.

Year 11 pupils are nearing the end of their study of Macbeth by William Shakespeare. They have thoroughly enjoyed engaging with their final literature set text and will soon begin focused preparation for their mock examinations. As part of this preparation, all pupils will take part in a 'Walking Talking Mock' for GCSE English Language Paper 2 on Friday 16th January. This session will be delivered by Mrs Robinson and Miss Devlin and will support pupils in understanding exam expectations and techniques.



Essential Support for GCSE Maths



All Y11 students are welcome to attend Maths period 6 on Tuesdays after school. Each week we will be revising topics that our classes struggled with from the last set of mock exams. Students will also be able to use their free Just Maths revision booklets.

SPARX MATHS

January 2026 Update...

- We are aware that, for some classes, the content on students' Sparx homework has not been in sync with content being taught during lessons – this error has now been resolved.
- Students' Sparx homework will from this term always be retrospective – homework questions will involve topics taught during the previous term only, to ensure the content has been covered in class. This may be slightly different for Year 11.

- A reminder that Sparx Maths homework is set every Friday and due the following Friday (following student feedback).
- This will ensure students initially have the weekend to attempt their homework, and seek support from their teacher from the Monday onwards, should they need this.
- Students should sign in via the Single Sign On option (school IT login details).

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your ongoing support.

Weekly Leaderboard Monday to Sunday		
1	Sophia 10H	1635 XP
2	Lily 10A	1495 XP
3	Hanna 9E	1372 XP
4	Nevaeh 8M	1305 XP
5	Benitha 7H	1199 XP
6	Kairi-Ann 10L	1155 XP
7	Phoebe 10K	1115 XP
8	Lily 8L	1036 XP
9	George 11E	945 XP
10	Evie 11S	940 XP



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Inclusion at Melksham Oak

We recognise that some children carry more than most, have had less opportunity and experiences in their early childhood and so need us more.

They neither lack ambition or ability, but they have less capacity, fewer resources and face barriers that tip odds against them. Connects vision statement is to **'inspire lives with greater opportunity and choice'**

Just a reminder that you can book online meetings with the SENCo and your child's Head of Year.

To book an appointment please login to our online system:

<https://MOCS.schoolcloud.co.uk/>



Save money and cook better than the takeaway

JOIN OUR FREE FUN COOKING COURSES
...all you need is a kitchen and a phone!

FREE fun cooking courses AT HOME
Cook great food in just two weeks!
Impress friends and family

Exciting meals can be quick, fun, easy and cheap to cook with our **FREE** (ingredients included), flexible, home-based short courses





CHANA MASALA ITALIAN PASTA SAUCE MIDDLE EASTERN PILAF

To register
Phone or text/WhatsApp 07463 111 006
or email: Wiltshire@bagsoftaste.org
or you can sign up online: <https://bagsoftaste.org/students>

Wiltshire Council

Weekly Top Tip:



Focus Friend, by Hank Green
ADHD-friendly focus timer
B-Tech Consulting Group LLC
Designed for iPad
#1 in Productivity
4.5+ 1.1M Ratings
Free - Offers In-App Purchases

Presenting Focus Friend, a cozy focus timer. When you Focus, your Bean Friend will Focus. Let your Bean complete their work and get prizes to buy decorations! If you interrupt your Bean by turning off the timer, they'll be really really sad. Complete your focus session, and this cute Bean will give you prizes to buy decorations to help furnish their room. Perfect for anyone who struggles with long sessions of concentration. Focus Friend is for students and beyond. Road tested by the Haven Team for the last few weeks, we love that this app is free and ad free. We think this could be the secret weapon for many students who need a helpful incentive to pause their screen time.

Food Bank Support for Families:

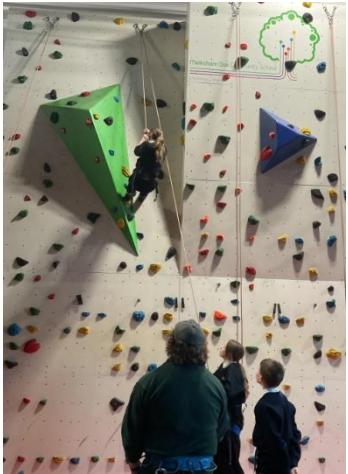
We understand that some families may be facing financial pressures at the moment. Our school is able to offer confidential support through local food bank provision. If you or your family would benefit from this support, please contact the school office or your child's Head of Year in confidence. We are here to help and to ensure all our students and their families are supported.



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Weekly Wins!



It was great to see our rock-climbing wall up and running again! This will be used as part of our intervention offer as well as rewarding our school values and student effort. A massive thank you to Joel at JSOI Adventures for helping us with our sessions.

Year Group Social Areas continue to be a huge hit with students! This is a great opportunity to touch base with their Head of Year and catch up with friends.



KS3 have started the term strong with their efforts in Literacy intervention!



We are excited to be relaunching our outdoor education provision this week to students. See below on how you can help us!



Can you help us? We are looking for donations of:

Wellies! (Sizes up to 6) - Door mats (the thicker the better!) - Clip Boards -
Insulated cups with lids - Thermal flasks - Warm Coats -
Winter hats - Sun Hats/Caps



This is to support students who are accessing our outdoor provision. Please donate via reception.
FAO: Mr Lavery.



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 or call 01225 792700 Ext 712

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

Key Contacts

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

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

Heads of Year

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

Head of Careers Education

Ms C. Tranter TranterC@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk



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SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2026-27



September 2026						
M			7	14	21	28
Tu		1	8	15	22	29
W	2	9	16	23	30	
Th	3	10	17	24		
F	4	11	18	25		

October 2026						
M			5	12	19	26
Tu		6	13	20	27	
W	7	14	21	28		
Th	1	8	15	22	29	
F	2	9	16	23	30	

November 2026						
M			2	9	16	23
Tu		3	10	17	24	
W	4	11	18	25		
Th	5	12	19	26		
F	6	13	20	27		

December 2026						
M			7	14	21	28
Tu	1	8	15	22	29	
W	2	9	16	23	30	
Th	3	10	17	24	31	
F	4	11	18	25		

January 2027						
M			4	11	18	25
Tu		5	12	19	26	
W	6	13	20	27		
Th	7	14	21	28		
F	1	8	15	22	29	

February 2027						
M			1	8	15	22
Tu	2	9	16	23		
W	3	10	17	24		
Th	4	11	18	25		
F	5	12	19	26		

March 2027						
M			1	8	15	22
Tu	2	9	16	23	30	
W	3	10	17	24	31	
Th	4	11	18	25		
F	5	12	19	26		

April 2027						
M			5	12	19	26
Tu		6	13	20	27	
W	7	14	21	28		
Th	1	8	15	22	29	
F	2	9	16	23	30	

May 2027						
M			3	10	17	24
Tu	4	11	18	25		
W	5	12	19	26		
Th	6	13	20	27		
F	7	14	21	28		

June 2027						
M			7	14	21	28
Tu	1	8	15	22	29	
W	2	9	16	23	30	
Th	3	10	17	24		
F	4	11	18	25		

July 2027						
M			5	12	19	26
Tu		6	13	20	27	
W	7	14	21	28		
Th	1	8	15	22	29	
F	2	9	16	23	30	

August 2027						
M			2	9	16	23
Tu	3	10	17	24	31	
W	4	11	18	25		
Th	5	12	19	26		
F	6	13	20	27		

Term dates summary:

Term 1	3 September to 20 October 2026	34 days
Term 2	02 November to 18 December 2026	35 days
Term 3	05 January to 12 February 2027	29 days
Term 4	22 February to 25 March 2027	24 days
Term 5	12 April to 28 May 2027	34 days
Term 6	07 June to 21 July 2027	31 days
TOTAL		187 days

Bank and Public Holidays 2026/2027

Christmas Day Holiday	25th December 2026
Boxing Day Holiday	26th December 2026
New Years Holiday	1st January 2027
Good Friday	26th March 2027
Easter Monday	29th March 2027
May Day Holiday	3rd May 2027
Spring Bank Holiday	31st May 2027
Summer Bank Holiday	30th August 2027

Key Colours:

Training Days
Holiday
Bank Holiday
Term Time



V Code

STEM Code & Careers Bootcamp

Saturday 28th February 2026

At: University of Bath Campus

For Girls in Yr 8 to Y13.

In this workshop you'll:

- **Learn Coding Basic:** Join an interactive session on coding skills.
- **Hear from Women in STEM:** Gain insights from professionals about their careers and experiences.
- **Q&A with Students:** Chat with current students to learn about studying and thriving as a woman in STEM.



Learn More & Register: www.mightygirls.co.uk