



A message from Mr Fisher, Assistant Headteacher

Another action-packed week at Melksham Oak has flown by, and as we hurtle towards half-term, it's clear that school life continues at an incredible pace.

This week, we opened our doors to welcome our students, parents, and carers to attend our annual 'Meet the Tutor' evening. Thank you to those of you who attended — it was fantastic to see so many families in school; there was a real buzz throughout the evening!

We continue the positive vibes next week as we celebrate our students' successes from Term 1 in our final assemblies. I couldn't be prouder of how the students have started this academic year. We're looking forward to rewarding them with certificates, badges, and prizes next week — for those who have reached our Reward Boundaries.

This term alone, our staff body has issued 72,000 merits to students for their hard work in lessons or for displaying one of our school values: Respect, Ambition, and Pride. This is an amazing achievement and represents a 60% increase on Term 1 last academic year.

I'm already excited for next term, as our students' hard work is rewarded with the launch of our invitational 'Reward Activity Afternoons'. More details to follow next term.

Can I take this opportunity to thank our parent body for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Paul Fisher

Assistant Headteacher

Behaviour & Culture

Mental Health Week 1

This week we have talking about Self-Regulation in our assemblies. We spoke about Emotions being a Gift and that we need to them as a point of information and a response to our internal and external environment. We learned about what dysregulation might look like and we learnt some strategies to help regulate our emotions when they are becoming difficult to manage (Box breathing, Finger tapping, Cold Hand, Chin up, 5-4-3-2-1). Do ask your children at home to show you these techniques.



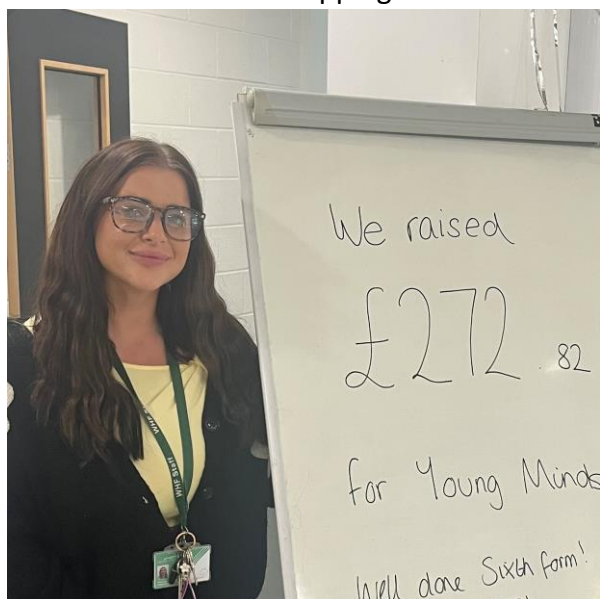


Newsletter

Friday 10th October

In line with our Mental Health week, The Sixth Form Charity and Fundraising Leaders organised a bake sale today to raise money for Young Minds – Hello Yellow Day. We had bakers from Sixth Form, Y7 and Y8; all the cakes were so yummy and all but a last few were sold!

In total we raised a whopping **£272.82!**



If you would like to donate to Young Minds or find out more about the charity. Please follow this link: [Hello Yellow | World Mental Health Day | 10 October | YoungMinds](#)



Year 10 Netball Match Report – Melksham Oak vs Matravers School

The Year 10 girls put on a fantastic display of teamwork, determination and school spirit in their recent fixture against Matravers School.



The opening stages were evenly contested, with both sides going goal-for-goal in an exciting first eight minutes. Melksham Oak produced some excellent passages of play in both attack and defence, moving the ball confidently through the court. Despite a few Penalty passes that allowed Matravers to edge ahead, the girls finished the first quarter just behind at 5–3.

Building on their strong start, the team came out with renewed determination in the second quarter. Amber was outstanding at Goal Defence, reading the game superbly and breaking down Matravers' attacking play. Her efforts, combined with some excellent teamwork, brought the score level at 6–6 midway through the quarter. Matravers managed to find a late goal before halftime, taking a narrow lead into the break.

Both teams continued to play with great intensity as the game progressed. Melksham Oak fought hard for every ball and maintained their composure under pressure, but with no substitutions available, fatigue began to show in the third quarter. Matravers took advantage, stretching the score to 12–8.

In the final quarter, the girls dug deep and continued to give their all, showing true resilience and a never-give-up attitude. Matravers' ability to rotate fresh players gave them the edge, particularly in the final five minutes, with the match finishing 21–8.

Congratulations to Gracie, Elsie, Amber, Melena, Chloe, Amy, Gabi and Amelia — your hard work, determination and team spirit were outstanding. You represented Melksham Oak with pride and should be very proud of your performance.



Player of the Match: Elsie

Players' Player: Melena



The Melksham Primary Cross Country and Fun Run Event



The Melksham primary Cross Country and Fun Run Event was held here on our MOC's playing fields on Wednesday 8th October. We had over 160 runners taking part from Seend, Bowerhill, The Manor, Aloeric, Forest and Sandridge and St Mary's. Many students came to run for fun around our fields whilst others came to race competitively against other students in their year. We were lucky, the weather was perfect for running, but the course was quite challenging with students in year 3 and 4 racing both our school fields, a distance of 1.2km and the year 5 and 6's racing 1.6k. Every child gave their absolute best, showing brilliant determination and sportsmanship.

A huge thank you to the MOC's student leaders that marshalled the events and a well done to all the runners who took part! You made us incredibly proud with your effort, perseverance, and positive attitude. We are already looking forward to next year's competition!



Stay Connected with the Arbor Parent App and Portal

Are you using the Arbor Parent App or Portal? It's the easiest way to stay up to date with your child's school life — all in one place!

With the app, you can:

- Check and update your contact details
- View medical information and manage photo consents
- Keep track of attendance, merits, behaviour incidents, and detentions

Getting started is simple — just follow the steps in this guide:

<https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/360020147458-Log-into-the-Parent-Portal-and-the-Parent-App#what-is-the-parent-portal--0-0>

If you have any questions please contact admin@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk



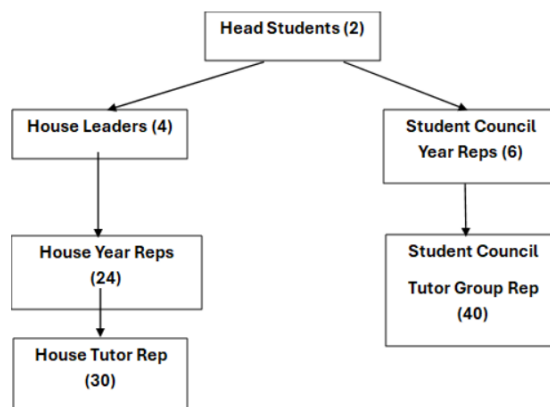
Student Leadership

Next week tutors will be taking students through an introduction to our Student Leadership Opportunities Program. We will have two main strands for our leadership team.

The first will be the Student Council, this will be an opportunity for Council reps to gather important feedback from their tutor groups, as well as be part of the student team that can make suggestions for making our school even better.

The second will be the House Leaders. We will be increasing the number of House events this year to provide a variety of opportunities to students. To support the successful running of these events and ensure a high participation across the year, we have House Reps in each tutor group to make sure everyone gets involved in something. The House team will also be the ones who suggest the year's events to Mrs Clark for approval. The Year 12 students will run both strands. Student council will be run by the Head Students and House Reps will be run by House Leaders. These posts will be decided by election on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st October.

Student Leadership Structure



Tassomai

English

Tassomai			
Class	Questions	Time spent	
10A/En1	1988	8h 17m	
10A/En2	2096	8h 28m	
10A/En3	1297	5h 45m	
10A/En4	1186	4h 38m	
10B/En1	1918	7h 58m	
10B/En2	2238	8h 57m	
10B/En3	2103	8h 58m	
Class	Questions	Time spent	
11A/En1	2086	8h 48m	
11A/En2	1786	6h 47m	
11A/En3	2143	7h 44m	
11A/En4	1818	6h 23m	
11B/En1	2369	9h 43m	
11B/En2	1963	7h 59m	
11B/En3	2119	8h 44m	
11B/En4	2374	7h 39m	

Maths

Any problems,
please speak to
Mrs Robinson
Head of English

English





 Weekly Leaderboard Monday to Sunday		
1	Ashleigh 9A	2559 XP
2	Aerin 9E	2022 XP
3	Anna 7H	1953 XP
4	Aron 8K	1785 XP
5	Amelia-Rose 7M	1745 XP
6	Brooke 7H	1709 XP
7	Darcie 9K	1695 XP
8	Deacon 7S	1599 XP
9	Joseph 10L	1536 XP
10	Tia 11L	1475 XP

Please see below for key information regarding Sparx Maths homework:

- Homework is set every Monday at 3pm – this has changed following feedback from students, who stated the 5-days previously given was not an adequate amount of time.
- Homework is due the following Monday by 9am – this allows a full week for completion.
- Students should sign into the Sparx website using their usual MOCS computer login details, via the Single Sign On option.
- A Support Session is run by Maths teachers, every Friday lunchtime in U52/3. Students can drop in for as long or short a time they wish, use the computers, and seek support from a Maths teacher.
- Failure to do any homework at all will result in a Wednesday lunchtime detention in the Maths Faculty.
- Failure to attend the above Wednesday lunchtime detention will result in an after-school detention the following day.
- An unsatisfactory attempt at a homework will result in an 'unsatisfactory homework' demerit, logged on their Arbor behaviour, generating an automated message to parents/carers to keep you informed.
- If students need advice, guidance or support from their Maths teacher please encourage your child to speak with them – we are also reminding students of this – however this is not always possible during lessons. Breaktimes/lunchtimes/after-school is more appropriate.



Use of AI apps

In the Maths Faculty we are aware that some students are using AI phone apps to scan their homework questions and type in the answers, achieving a high score in little time. This is of course both a waste of their time and of an important independent learning opportunity being missed.

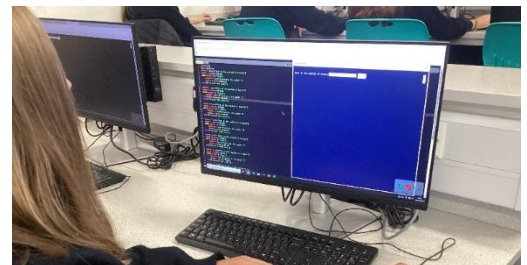
Homework is an ideal time for students to practice Maths questions, identifying areas and gaps in their learning that require improvement or development. Practicing skills through homework completion can significantly improve outcomes in GCSE exams, as proven through established (and ongoing) research.

As parents/carers, we ask for your support with checking in on your child when they are completing their homework to ensure it is a true reflection of their current understanding.

Thank you for your support.

Computer Science

Year 9 students have been strengthening their problem-solving skills in Computer Science by designing algorithms and coding them in Python to create interactive quizzes. They've enjoyed challenging each other's general knowledge in the process.



School Photos

We would like your views on school photos. At present all students have a yearly photo at the start of the year that are available to purchase. Would you like this to continue or would you prefer the opportunity to have the opportunity to purchase a photo in year 7, 10 and 12 only?

<https://forms.office.com/e/9yN6n6VQ48>



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!



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

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

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

Head of Careers Education

Ms C. Tranter

tranterc@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk



Upcoming Events

Monday 20th October: Year 11 Mocks

Tuesday 21st October: Year 13 Post 18 Pathways Event

Friday 7th November: Year 7-11 Flu Vaccines (signup online)

Friday 14th November: Children In Need (non-uniform day). More details to follow.

Monday 17th November: Year 13 Mocks




Family and Community Learning

Supporting My Teen With Wellbeing

Online Course



Booking essential!

- Understand the changes in a teenage brain
- Learn techniques to promote wellbeing
- Explore positive psychology


Friday 14 November 10am - 12pm
Booking closes Friday 7 November

Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
Visit <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>
Call the FACL team on 01225 770478 or scan the QR code



Courses are no cost to learners who meet our eligibility criteria. Learners must be aged 19+ on 31 August 2025. They must have a Wiltshire postcode and meet certain residency requirements. Learners must also be able to tick one of the following criteria: on a lower income, individual income less than £25,750 a year; in receipt of benefits (other than child benefit); be a care leaver, foster carer or carer; be a military family or ex-armed forces personnel; have refugee status; have a learning difficulty or disability; be looking to go into work, now or in the future.

Wiltshire Council




Family and Community Learning

Understanding School Anxiety

Early Signs of Emotional Barriers to School Attendance

Online Course

Co-taught with education psychologist



Booking essential! Booking closes one week before course date

Course Overview

- Strategies to support with anxiety and worry
- Strategies to support attendance
- Advice on reasonable adjustments that schools can make


Friday 12 December 10am - 12pm

Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
Visit <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>
Call the FACL team on 01225 770478 or scan the QR code



Courses are no cost to learners who meet our eligibility criteria. Learners must be aged 19+ on 31 August 2025. They must have a Wiltshire postcode and meet certain residency requirements. Learners must also be able to tick one of the following criteria: on a lower income, earning less than £25,750 a year; in receipt of benefits (other than child benefit); be a care leaver, foster carer or carer; be a military family or ex-armed forces personnel; have refugee status; have a learning difficulty or disability; be looking to go into work, now or in the future.


Wiltshire Council



Family and Community Learning

Supporting My Teen to Understand Their Skills

Online Course



Booking essential!

- Support your teenager to recognise their unique contribution
- Develop communication skills that nourish your teenager
- Appraise skills, interests and personal qualities with your teenager
- Explore how to nurture resilience and independence
- Support your teenager to use their strengths to plan for their future

Friday 7 November 10am - 12pm
Booking closes Friday 31 October

Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
Visit <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>
Call the FACL team on 01225 770478 or scan the QR code



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Wiltshire Council