



 **SIXTH
FORM
OPEN
EVENING**

THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 5PM - 7PM
WELCOME TALKS AT 5PM AND 6PM - [CLICK TO BOOK](#)

Book here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/Nex6Ytf1Qi>

A message from Mrs Clark, Associate Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a truly amazing half term we have had! It has been wonderful to see even more of our students engaging in extra-curricular activities – from showing pride by representing the school in sporting fixtures, supporting with our Open Evenings and school tours, and showing respect through voluntary litter picks, to mentoring younger students and demonstrating great ambition during our Year 7 activity days and, of course, in their lessons.



Our Year 11 students have also shown tremendous determination as they start their first set of mock exams. We are confident that all their hard work and commitment will be reflected in their results. A big thank you goes to all of the staff who have supported students during this busy period, especially our Year Leader and Subject Leaders for their motivational talks as students line up, ready to go into their exams.



As a staff team, we also enjoyed coming together this week to watch the Head Student candidacy videos from our Year 12 students. Hearing them speak so passionately about our school values and their desire to represent their peers was a truly proud moment. Next term, there will be opportunities for students lower down the school to join our School Council – a fantastic way to develop leadership and teamwork skills.

To end the term on a high, we've celebrated positivity and our school values through various events. The Sixth Form (and their tutors!) got into the Halloween spirit by dressing up and taking part in a Halloween dance event – with plenty of



enthusiasm led by our Head of Sixth Form! This coincided perfectly with my own Year 13 Biology class, who were completing an eye dissection at the time. We also shared some Halloween treats with students at the gates this afternoon as a small token of appreciation for their continued effort and positivity.



Looking ahead, next half term promises to be just as busy and exciting. We'll begin by welcoming our Year 10 and Year 11 students, along with their families, to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 6th November at Melksham Oak and Wednesday 5th November at Devizes school. We also have our first



non-school uniform day on Friday 14th November, with lots of fun activities during break and lunch organised to raise money for Children in Need. There are many sporting events, from cross country to badminton tournaments and lots of Christmas fun leading up to our next holiday.

We wish all our families a lovely, restful half term break, and we look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 3rd November.



UPCOMING EVENTS >>>>

MONDAY 20th OCTOBER

Year 11 Mock exams until Friday 7th November.

FRIDAY 7th NOVEMBER

Year 7-11 Flu vaccines (first of two dates). Signup online.

MONDAY 14th NOVEMBER

Children in Need, non-uniform Day. More details to follow next term.



Senior Student Leadership Team (SSLT)

It is a special privilege to introduce to you our new Student Leaders in Sixth Form.

Head Students: Billie Payne and Lily Somers



Billie and Lily were voted into post by the staff of Melksham Oak after they had watched their candidacy videos. The Head students will oversee the entire student leadership body, as well as running the Student Council. Election promises included: ensuring every student felt included and being open and approachable to all, as well as helping all students feel heard. We are excited to see what they can do with their tenure.

House Leaders: Miley Packard, Isobel Daysh, Annie Holloway Josh Hiatt



Miley, Isobel, Annie, and Josh were voted into post by the students of Melksham Oak after viewing their candidacy videos in tutor time this morning. Election promises include: being highly competitive, organised, and ready to get involved!

After half-term we will begin the process of deciding Tutor and Year Representatives for both strands of Leadership, and then our Senior Student Leadership Team will begin their exciting action plans.



Diwali

On Monday 20th October students learnt about Diwali celebrations. Students were invited to make Diwali decorations with Ms Brickell at lunchtime.



Year Leader Awards Key Stage 3

Year 7

- Robyn has shown a huge amount of determination and growth. She has learned to stay focused, to work hard even when things get challenging, and to approach each day with a positive attitude and a smile.
- Charlie has shown real resilience and maturity this year and has shown kindness and respect to others.

Year 8

- Molly puts a lot of focus and effort into her lessons, and her teachers and I have been very impressed with her progress so far in Year 8.

Year 9

- Ruby for her unwavering willingness to help and take responsibility, frequently supporting other students.
- Joseph in recognition of his outstanding commitment and remarkable effort
- Lilly in recognition of her remarkable improvement and growing confidence.



Local Governance Committee

The Local Governance Committee (LGC) met for its first meeting of the year on 30th September. The Governors (their details can be found on the school's website) were delighted to receive a summary presentation from the Senior Leadership Team about last year and plans for continued improvements for the coming year.

We listened, questioned and challenged, as is our remit, information on key areas of school life which included:

- staffing
- attainment including summer exam results
- behaviour, punctuality and attendance
- safeguarding
- community events
- 6th Form
- changes to the school over the summer
- future events and
- much more.

In particular the news that the adaptations to the rewards and behaviour systems have resulted in an amazing number of awards this term was fantastic to hear. Our pupils are to be congratulated alongside families who support them.

With best wishes from the LGC. If you are interested in being a parent governor please contact our clerk lwilkins@twhf.org.uk

Sharon Adams and Moira Laffey, Co-Chairs Melksham Oak Community School

Behaviour update:

As we wrap up our first term back in school, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible achievements of our students this term. We couldn't be prouder of how the students have started this academic year, a special shout-out goes to those students who have reached our reward boundaries this term and been awarded your Postcards and Bronze Badges.

Overall, our students have received 92,000 merits this term alone, an incredible achievement. Keep up the fantastic work - Let's carry this momentum into Term 2!

Mr Fisher

House Points Term 1

1st Spitfire: 23,098
2nd Hurricane: 21,466
3rd Wellington: 19,992
4th Lancaster: 18,743



Year 9 Netball Team vs Matravers

This week, it was the turn of our Year 9 netball team to take on Matravers here on home ground. It proved a challenging game from the start as the team were fewer in numbers. Illness meant they had no had subs for ¾ of the game and many of the team had already endured a tiring day outside supporting and leading a local primary rugby event. Despite this the team were ready and raring to go from the start and they played the first quarter with great energy and urgency.



Matravers came out strong after the first 2/4 but MOC's rose to the challenge with players adapting to the strengths and weakness of their opposition by changing their positions and roles to adapt to the game as it played out. The team demonstrated a determined and adaptable approach with some outstanding defensive work despite this the score at half time, 11 goals to 1 to Matravers inspired an encouraging team talk by Maddie and the team took to the ¾ with a new approach. The third quarter saw MOCS raise their intensity and fight to push forward. Despite their efforts, Matravers's tight defence in the D limited scoring opportunities. Another team talk before the final quarter boosting morale and another change of positions saw the team raise their play in the final quarter.

Our girls gave everything and spirits rose. They successfully limited the advance of the opponents into their attacking D with some great defence and their failing to give up attitude saw the team win more possession in their attacking third enabling many more shooting opportunities. Despite the loss overall the team demonstrated excellent sporting values. They allowed themselves to learn from the experience and they worked so hard to pick and boost themselves up at each quarter break. You've done yourself proud girls, well done!

PE Enrichment Clubs

The following PE clubs will be running in term 2. The afterschool clubs will commence from 4th November and the lunch time clubs will be starting back up in the second week of the term from the 10th November.

Term 2 PE Enrichment Clubs				
Lunchtime 1.25pm-1.55pm				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Badminton Yr 7, 8, 9	Basketball Yr 9, 10, 11 U15	6 th Form Sports	Basketball Yr 7 & 8 U13	Basketball Yr 10, 11 U15
After school 3pm – 4.10pm				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Rugby All years HWA WHA, EPR	Badminton All years Table tennis	Girls Netball Year 7 & 8 RSA Year 9 EPR Year 10 & 11 CWI	



Year 9 Design Technology

Year 9 have started the masterclasses in GCSE in the faculty this year, they will have 2 six weeks modules in each of the three subjects: Design Technology, Food & Textiles. Design Technology is looking at how designers can be more environmentally friendly when designing new products.



They have investigated sustainable materials and we have discussed how the 6R's (Recycle, Reuse, Reduce, Repair, Refuse and Rethink) can be used in designing, making and buying a product. One of their homework's was to bring in an empty milk bottle, this is then rewashed, cut out and broken back down to be recycled and recreate into a brand new sheet of HDPE by our amazing DT technician Mr Grainger. Pupils then trialled their shade in sugar paper before applying their

template to cut and shape their HDPE sheet into a light shade for their moodlight. Amazing designs, it is a shame that we can not see them all!!



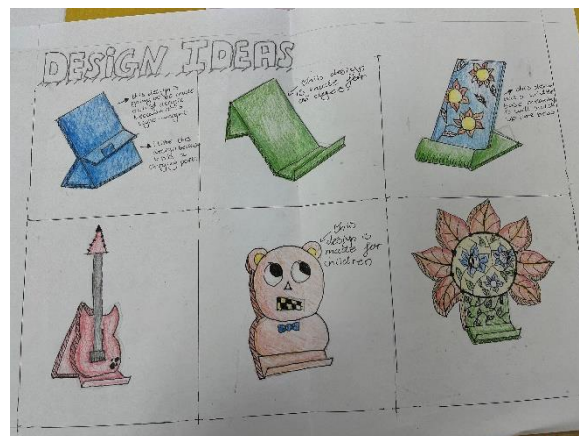
Well done Year 9 another brilliant rotation of work. Mrs Jones



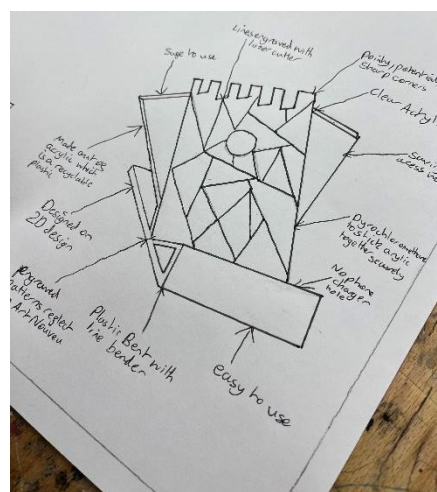


Year 10 Design Technology

During this term we have been focusing on Polymers, where they originate from and how they are produced. Pupils have also been introduced to more advanced CAD/CAM: using 2D design, we have recapped their Year 8 CAD skills of simple shaping and engraving, we have now advanced to make a shape into an isometric view which is quite tricky. Then we have practised basic CAD skills in google sketch up which is a free program to use and is on the VLE for pupils to use at home. We have designed mobile phone stands by hand and have then created in google sketch up a basic phone stand and their final design.

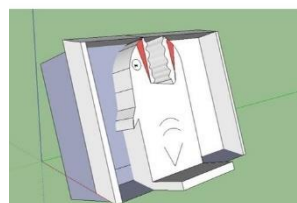
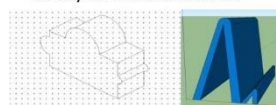


We are now at the stage of drawing their final design, making card prototypes scale 1:1. Using the technical drawing skill: nets (the yellow box is their mobile phone drawn as a net to the right size) and

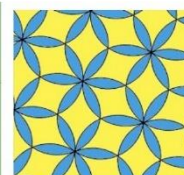


problem solved of how they are going to make their stand in card modelling, deciding to see if they want to use the strip heater to line bend or join together using finger joints and adhesive.

CAD/CAM DESIGNS

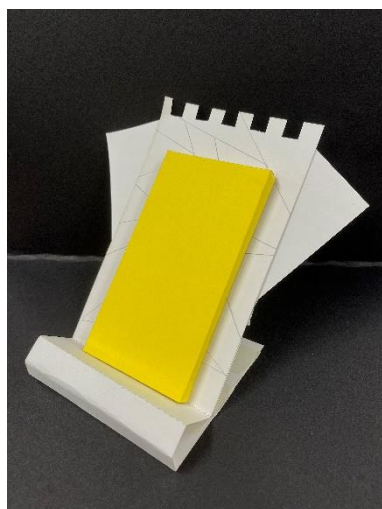


Definition	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
CAD (computer aided design)	Accurate	Needs energy
CAM (computer aided manufacturer)	Consistent high quality and speed	Can give out pollution



Lay planning is a process that positions pattern templates onto materials. Manufacturers may use tessellation to use as much material as possible to save money and reduce waste.

Year 10's are making amazing progress and such a pleasure to teach this term. Well done all! Mrs Jones





Year 10 – Monoprint Masterpieces

This week, our talented Year 10 students have been busy exploring mono-printing techniques as part of their GCSE coursework. Using a variety of textures, patterns, and layered ink, they've produced some truly expressive and original prints. From abstract designs to intricate portraits, the creativity and effort on display has been outstanding. Well done to all – your sketchbooks are looking fantastic!



Year 11 – Dramatic Drawings in Charcoal and Chalk

Year 11 have been experimenting with tone and contrast in their latest art project, using chalk and charcoal on coloured sugar paper. These materials have helped students create dramatic, high-impact drawings that showcase strong observational skills and confident mark-making.

The level of detail and artistic maturity shown has been really impressive – excellent work, Year 11!



Year 12 Photography Students

Year 12 Photography students have been getting creative this week with colourful powder paint photoshoots for their coursework. The vibrant bursts of colour made for some eye-catching and energetic images, as students explored movement and timing in their photography. The results are bright, bold, and brilliant!





English Tassomai

Tassomai

Class	Questions	Time spent
10A/En1	2338	9h 24m
10A/En2	2386	8h 58m
10A/En3	1681	6h 41m
10A/En4	1692	6h 8m
10B/En1	1516	7h 43m
10B/En2	2689	9h 42m
10B/En3	2024	8h 35m

Class	Questions	Time spent
11A/En1	2250	8h 57m
11A/En2	1630	6h 7m
11A/En3	2259	8h 20m
11A/En4	1972	7h 17m
11B/En1	2121	8h 39m
11B/En2	1947	7h 56m
11B/En3	2261	9h 43m
11B/En4	2180	7h 38m

Any problems, please speak to Mrs Robinson Head of English

Maths Tassomai

Yearly Leaderboard This academic year		
1	Kelsie 8S	2559 XP
2	Aimee 9M	3255 XP
3	Kacper 9E	3240 XP
4	Gowri 9E	3210 XP
5	Flourish 8S	3046 XP
6	Jenna 11C	3010 XP
7	Ivy 9K	2955 XP
8	Riley 9M	2935 XP
9	Connie 8A	2845 XP
10	Alfie 10A	2735 XP

Key Information:

- Homework is set every **Monday at 3pm.**
- Homework is due the **following Monday by 9am.**
- Students should sign in via the **Single Sign On** option (school IT login details).
- A **Support Session** is run by Maths teachers **every Friday lunchtime** in U52.



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



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!





Message from Sportsbug

Regrettably, after 15 years in Melksham, I am writing to inform you that our Melksham Shop will close on the 31st October, and all School Uniform stock will be transferred to our Trowbridge Shop. We will continue to offer the flexibility to purchase uniforms either in-store or online, with the choice of click and collect or home delivery.

Sales at our Melksham Shop have declined significantly over the past year, due both to a reduction in uniform requirements from Schools and an increase in the use of second-hand. This is understandable given the current climate of rising costs for families. Despite reducing our opening hours in response, this Shop is no longer viable to keep open, even on a limited basis.

For many Melksham Schools, this is in fact a return to our original supply arrangement, where uniforms were supplied from Trowbridge alongside delivery to School or sales events held on the school premises. In addition, we also now offer an online service

Whilst it has been an extremely difficult personal decision to close this shop, I recognise that times are changing, and we must adapt our offering to remain relevant and competitive.

Our Trowbridge Shop address is:

Sportsbug
8 Fore Street,
Trowbridge
BA14 8HD
01225 767020
enquiries@sportsbug.co.uk
sportsbug.co.uk



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



YOUTH INSIGHTS PANEL

YOUR ENERGY YOUR SAY YOUR FUTURE



National Grid is undertaking a huge and continuous transformation in the move towards net zero and are committed to embedding the perspectives of young people into its strategic planning through the establishment of a pilot Youth Insights Panel. The panel will be the voice of future customers, enabling National Grid to better understand the needs, concerns, and aspirations of younger generations.

We are now recruiting, and we're looking for brilliant young people to join us. Sessions will take place online, and outside school hours.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY,
PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE OR TYPE THE LINK
BELOW INTO YOUR BROWSER:**

[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/E/ILFQ8BPSHF](https://forms.office.com/E/ILFQ8BPSHF)



Scan here

WHY APPLY?

- Connect directly with the leaders shaping the energy system.
- Get an insider's view of careers, technology, and sustainability.
- Build the skills and confidence to shape your own future.
- Ensure young people's voices influence real decisions.

ARE YOU...

- 14 - 19 years old?
- A changemaker with fresh ideas?
- Hungry to discover how things work?
- Motivated to shape a fairer, greener world.
- Excited by STEM innovation, engineering, and future energy?
- Living or go to school in the East Midlands, West Midlands, South Wales or the South West.

In partnership with

nationalgrid