



A message from Mr Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher

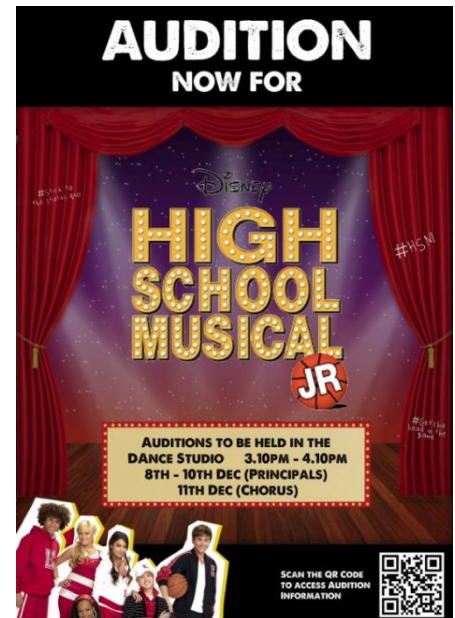
Winter may have arrived with its crisp, frosty mornings, but our school community has remained as warm, welcoming and vibrant as ever. It has been wonderful to see such a strong commitment to learning across the school this week, with students demonstrating focus, enthusiasm and ambition in every lesson. Year 11 students have been thoughtfully reflecting on their recent mock exams, and teachers are now delivering targeted lessons to address gaps in knowledge. Meanwhile, Year 13 students have shown great maturity and dedication as they continue with their mock examinations.

In PE, our local primary Year 4 pupils enjoyed a brilliant benchball event, welcoming teams from Forest and Sandridge, Bowerhill, The Manor, Shaw, Seend, St George's and St Mary's. A huge well done to all pupils involved for their outstanding teamwork, energy and sportsmanship.

Our CAPA Department is delighted to announce that, for the first time in three years, Melksham Oak will be staging a whole-school musical! The audition process has now begun for our production of High School Musical, which will be performed in July 2026. Excitement is building across the school—students wishing to take part should speak to Miss Williams for further details.

A reminder that the Year 11 Parents' Evening will take place online on Thursday 11th December. Appointment bookings will open on Wednesday 27th November at 3pm. We are currently developing a new Travel Plan aimed at reducing car journeys to the school and encouraging more sustainable travel options such as walking and cycling. We would be grateful for your views on school travel, which can be shared via the survey here: <https://forms.office.com/e/NmFjGvBnS3>

Finally, please note that safeguarding remains our highest priority. If you need to collect your child during the school day, you may occasionally be asked to show ID so that we can verify this with the information we hold on Arbor. Thank you for your continued support and always do reach out to your child's tutor or year leader if you need any support.



UPCOMING EVENTS >>>>

THURSDAY 27th NOVEMBER
2nd round of Flu vaccines
Year 12 Sociology Conference

WEDNESDAY 3rd DECEMBER
Year 9 Higher Education Talk

THURSDAY 11th DECEMBER
Year 11 Parents' Evening



A new chapter for 'The Library'

It's been a busy fortnight in the library. It has undergone a big transformation!

Over half term we split the lower and upper floors to create spaces that meet the differing needs of both KS3 and KS4. We have moved the shelving and opened up the lower floor space to make it brighter, more welcoming, and perfect for running clubs, reading groups and author visits. It's quickly becoming a place to gather and socialise - many lively games of Uno have been enjoyed at break and lunch on games days!

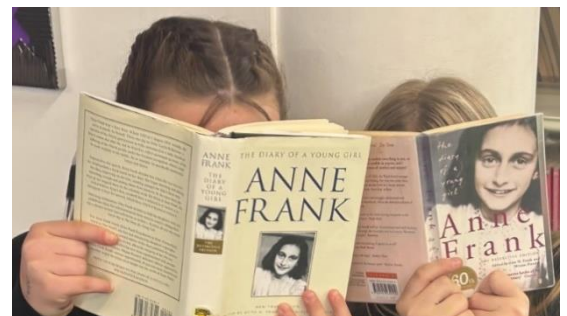


As part of the revamp, we have also cleared out old stock and reorganised the shelves, but the real magic came from our wonderful pupils and their 'pupil voice questionnaire'. All KS3 students completed a questionnaire sharing their thoughts and what they wanted to see more of. Mrs Parfitt had many conversations with pupils about their interests and the types of books they would like to read. She even had some pupils 'virtually shopping' online, by showing her the books that would engage them. Their feedback has already helped reshape our KS3 non-fiction section – we now have books ranging from Facts, Space and to Pet care, Make up and BMX tricks. The result?

Pupils reading and talking about books, and shelves groaning with resources that truly match their interests and curiosity.

New releases like Lottie Brooks: Completely Chaotic Christmas, the latest Diary of a Wimpy Kid, and the brand-new David Walliams title have been flying off the shelves as well as more serious titles. After Remembrance Day, so many pupils requested The Diary of Anne Frank that Mrs Parfitt had to create a waiting list — a brilliant sign of their enthusiasm for powerful, meaningful reads.

We're thrilled to see pupils exploring the new space, discovering new favourites, and getting excited about reading!





PE

Year 9 Netball Match Report

The Year 9 netball team put in a spirited and determined performance against a very strong Lavington side, showing real resilience and teamwork throughout the match. The girls got off to a challenging start, trailing 7–0 in the first quarter and 8–0 in the second, but they showed great character and refused to let their heads drop.

In the third quarter, the team's hard work began to show as they tightened their defence and played some excellent passages of netball, resulting in securing 2 goals, finishing the quarter 7–2. The final quarter saw both teams work hard across the court, with Lavington taking it 5–0, but the effort and determination from the girls never faded.

Despite the final score of 27–2 to Lavington, the team played with real heart and consistently displayed the school values of respect, ambition and pride. Player of the Match was awarded to Maddie for her effort and performance. The girls should be proud of the way they represented their school against such strong opposition.

Year 8 Netball Match Report

The Year 8 team began their first netball match of the season with determination, teamwork, and plenty of positive energy. Despite facing a strong and confident Lavington side, the girls rose to the challenge and demonstrated fantastic development across all areas of the court. From the first whistle, it was clear that Lavington were a well-organised team, showing great movement and confidence in their attacking D.

Throughout the match, MOCS focused on developing stronger passes, increasing confidence in the attacking D and applying tactical skills in both attack and defence. These improvements became more noticeable as the game progressed, showing growing composure and teamwork.



Star Performances

- Izzy W was outstanding in defence, showing excellent vision of play. Her timing was spot on, and she made essential interceptions at the top of the D that lifted the whole team.
- Elsie D, playing in the mid-court and serving as team captain, showed great leadership. She linked the attack and defence superbly and supported her teammates throughout, helping to steady the team in their first outing of the season.
- Sophia M impressed with her movement on court, consistently driving into space and delivering strong, accurate passes to her teammates.



The well-deserved Player of the Match award went to Izzy W, whose strong defensive play and excellent reading of the game made a huge impact.

A special thank you to Bella in Year 13 for her coaching, encouragement, and guidance throughout the match.

Although Lavington came away with the win, our Year 8 players should be incredibly proud of their performance in their opening match. Well done to all those students involved!

U14s Basketball Match Report

The under 14 Boys basketball team travelled to Clarendon School for their first fixture of the season. Clarendon's experience showed early as they moved the ball quickly and used their size advantage effectively. Melksham, though, showed resilience and worked tirelessly in defence. Clarendon got through the first quarter with a comfortable lead.

During the second quarter Melksham began to settle into the pace of the game and grew in confidence.

Clarendon showed their quality in the third quarter, however Melksham's fitness levels were brilliant throughout the match and this showed going into the last quarter. During the last quarter Melksham put together some brilliant counter attacking moves.

Most importantly, Melksham showed fantastic determination and took a great deal from the game, learning valuable lessons about the importance of positioning and decision-making. The game was played in a wonderful spirit, with some of the more experienced Clarendon players supporting Melksham, the game was played with great respect throughout. Final score was Clarendon- 66 Melksham-7.



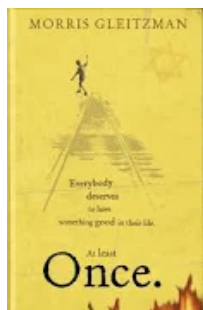
English Tassomai

Class	Questions	Time Spent
10A1	2022	8h 9m
10A2	2288	8h 20m
10A3	1284	4h 46m
10A4	1363	5h 1m
10B1	2110	8h 10m
10B2	2084	7h 36m
10B3	1904	7h 34m

Class	Questions	Time Spent
11A1	1888	8h 3m
11A2	1284	4h 40m
11A3	1351	4h 43m
11A4	1663	6h 28m
11B1	1939	7h 58m
11B2	1571	6h 19m
11B3	2007	7h 48m
11B4	1265	4h 29m

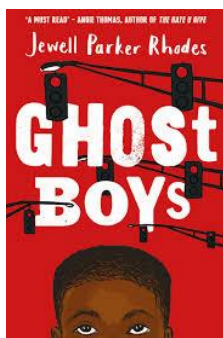
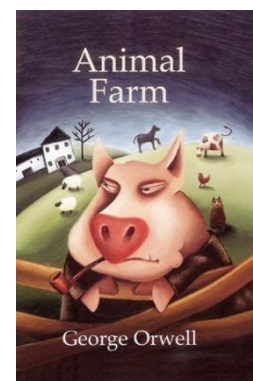
Any problems,
please speak to
Mrs Robinson
Head of English

English – Key Stage 3



Year 7 are studying *Once*, exploring themes of courage, friendship, and the impact of war through Felix's journey.

Year 8 are engaging with *Animal Farm*, exploring how Orwell uses allegory to critique power, corruption, and political systems.



Year 9 are reading *Ghost Boys*, as they follow the story of a boy, Jerome, who is tragically killed and returns as a ghost to help others understand the impact of racism and injustice.



Sparx Maths

Weekly Leaderboard Monday to Sunday		
1	Darcey 10A	3334 XP
2	Martha 8M	2866 XP
3	Samuel 7A	2144 XP
4	Benitha 7H	2114 XP
5	Orla 7H	1715 XP
6	Leo 7A	1645 XP
7	Linh 11O	1605 XP
8	Rebecca 7E	1496 XP
9	Hanna 9E	1464 XP
10	Kailam 10M	1452 XP

Key reminders...

SPARX MATHS

- Thank you and well done to our students who continue to make an excellent effort with their Maths homework every week.
- Homework is due every **Monday by 9am**.
- Students should sign in via the **Single Sign On** option (school IT login details).
- Less than 20 minutes is not considered an adequate effort – we encourage a minimum of 40 minutes.
- Please monitor potential use of AI apps, which diminish any independent learning and understanding of the key skills.

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

Wiltshire Admissions Consultation

Wiltshire Council is consulting on the proposed admissions criteria and admission arrangements for its Community & Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2027/28 academic year. It is also consulting on the proposed schemes for co-ordination of admissions to all maintained schools and academies for the 2027/28 academic year.

The consultation started on Wednesday 19 November 2025 and it ends on Wednesday 7 January 2026. The consultation documents can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-admissions-consultation



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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*In partnership with the
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**Join our FREE Webinar
Get into Teaching with TWHF**

Dates: Thursday 18th December 2025
or
Thursday 8th January 2026

Time: 16:45 – 17:45

Sign up today!
<https://forms.office.com/e/8XJ1W7VAfQ>
or scan QR code



Melksham Oak
Community School



Newsletter

Friday 21st November

Melksham at
CHRISTMAS

CAROLS
BY
THE **TREE**

THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER 5:30-7:30PM
MARKET PLACE, MELKSHAM

 **MELKSHAM**
Town Council