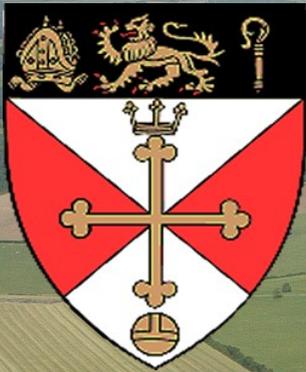


MALMESBURY MATTERS



May 2020

Hoping all in the community stay
safe during this difficult time.

Where can you get help and support if you need it?

Meet our new Headteacher

Students supporting the NHS

In this issue

Pg 3

Mr Moreton

Pg 4

Giving Hope

Pg 5

Supporting the NHS

Pg 6

IBL Bakeoff

Pg 7

Year 9 Poland Trip

Pg 8

Sensational Science

Pg 9

Wonderful Work

Pg 10

Fantastic Fran

Pg 11

Lockdown Challenges

Pg 12

Local help and support

Pg 13

A message from the staff



Head's Foreword

Mr John Barrett

Welcome to the 'lockdown' edition of Malmesbury Matters. It could be some time before we return to any sense of normality and there is a sense of nostalgia reading about year 12 students visiting the Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory and indeed year 9 students going to Poland. However, we must make do, pull together and draw on the strengths of the Malmesbury Community. It is lovely to see our students supporting the NHS and the Town Council in partnership with HEALS (page 12) supporting vulnerable families. We can all help to keep people connected through fun challenges, quizzes or simply sharing stories and video clips on social media. Malmesbury Facebook has regular House Challenges and staff assemblies. There are also crosswords in the 'other' section of the student learning resources on the website. If you have been involved in any kind of community support work or fun activities and would like to share your experience more widely then please get in touch with Mr Baker. For now, keep safe and well and I hope to see you soon.

New Headteacher - Mr Moreton

Rupert Moreton has been appointed as Headteacher for Malmesbury when John Barrett retires.

"I am very honoured to have been appointed as Headteacher of Malmesbury school. The school's reputation has always been one of excellence since I was working in Wiltshire schools over 12 years ago. I am really looking forward to getting to know the students, staff, parents/carers and the wider community.

My first teaching post was in Wiltshire, and I called Malmesbury home for a year prior to moving to Bath over 12 years ago. I have four children, so I certainly understand the joys and stresses of parenthood! Every parent wants their children to be happy and successful. My two eldest children have left school: my son is studying Forensics at university despite having some difficult SEN challenges and my daughter is studying as an apprentice chef. My interests outside of teaching and parenting include cooking, skiing, rugby and drinking huge amounts of coffee.



I am currently Headteacher of Cheney School in Oxford, a fantastically rich and diverse community of over 1500 students. Prior to this I was Deputy Head of the Bristol Cathedral Choir School which was identified as 1 of the top 100 comprehensive schools in the country. In my opinion, successful school leadership is not complicated and is founded upon strong relationships with staff, students, parents and carers. It requires a very strong value driven culture that permeates everything we do such as Malmesbury's 'Happy', 'Caring' and 'Excellent'. It requires extremely high expectations for all our students and a focus on excellent teaching and learning.

I believe decision making should, wherever possible, be informed by evidence-based research and as a result there are huge benefits from working closely with academic institutions. I am currently a Steering Committee member for Headteacher's Publications Board at the Farmington Institute, Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford. I am also engaged with this university's Department of Education researching the future of initial teacher trainee programmes as part of a team redesigning their PGCE and Leadership programmes. Collaboration between teachers and academics is a wonderful way to design best practice and help shape policy.

Education and social equality are a particular area of interest for me. I am on the Advisory Board of the Excluded Lives Project with the University of Oxford, looking at children who are excluded from the classroom. My area of interest is improving the outcomes of our most vulnerable children in society which was the focus of my M.Ed dissertation."

Giving Hope

As part of their work whilst in lockdown, students that were still attending school chose to write letters of hope to residents at a local care home. Here is a selection of some of the letters.

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Lottie and I am 12. I am a student at Malmesbury Secondary School. My mum is a doctor as she is a key worker I am currently going to school in the Intensive Care Unit, and I know this whole coronavirus thing is a bit strange (its almost like we're in a Sci-fi movie!) but I know you can get through this and so will I. Hope is what everyone needs right now and I really do think that everyone can find hope and share their hope with others.

Happiness is something some people can take for granted but at this time it is very important for everyone. It can also help people feel that they are worth it and they can get through anything. I have been washing my hands every time I eat or get back from going out or to school. I promise it will get better,

Lottie ♥

There's a word search on the back!

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Tanatwa and I'm a student at Malmesbury school. All of us here are hoping you keep positive during these difficult times and I'm sure you have been through worse times and that you will persevere through this. We know it can be hard not seeing family however you have other members of the care home going through similar experiences and even children like me. Also you have the amazing staff there to help you and they are doing a great job.

We hope you keep Joyful and we want you to know that we care!

Dear Sir or madam,

My name is Chloe, I am eleven but going to be twelve on Monday (30th March). I am a student at Malmesbury Secondary School, My Mum works at the job centre in [redacted] so I still have to go to School.

I know this whole coronavirus/COVID 19 has complicated things at the moment and you can't really see anyone at the but just remember you have to have **HOPE** because however bad it gets it will get better.

Stay Safe

we all think about your situation as well

from
Chloe



Wonderful
Amazing
Role model
Memories
Trustful
happiness

Hold on
Optimism
Perseverance
extraordinary

Dear sir/madam

my name is Joe and im a student at malmesbury school. Everyone is affected through these hard times however I have no doubt you are staying positive and perscriving as it will all be over and you can once again see loved ones. The amazing care workers around you are doing a great job keeping you healthy and happy. This is a perfect time to look back at everything you have done and fully appreciate your love. We all hope you are keeping optimistic and we want you to know that we about you and are thinking about you

! From someone who cares!

Supporting the NHS

Lilly Giddings (year 11) has made about 40 headbands with buttons that she has posted out to friends working in the NHS.

They work by keeping the hair off the face and the surgical masks sit on the buttons preventing their ears from getting sore and helping to provide a little bit of comfort during long shifts. She was also told that they were being used as eye masks so that the doctors could have a short sleep making it safe to drive home after a shift.

A wonderful effort Lilly. Well done.



Teya Brezan (Yr 7) painted 100 pebbles from her garden blue with the NHS logo on them.

Teya and her younger sister then scattered them on a walk around a local lake so that when people go out walking they can see how many they can spot. Teya did this in order to recognise all the hard work going on by the NHS staff.

Teya has also buried a time capsule in her garden as part of a history project. She included a letter and various items to help explain what life was like during the coronavirus outbreak.

Well done Teya, excellent effort and attitude.



IBL faculty compete in Easter Bake Off.

There was fierce competition between the IBL department as they took part in an Easter Bake Off. Photo entries were officially judged by Mrs Haines' daughter and all entries were to be their own handiwork (hmm I think there may have been a few that bent the rules here!) The official judge's first comment was "Is this adults that have made these?" and other comments included "are Owl's Eastery?" "You can tell it's a bunny but if I saw one of those in the garden I'd be very scared" and "questionable choice of Shreddies".

The winners were announced after some serious deliberation as follows:

1st. Mrs Bradley with her Easter Rocky Road

2nd. Miss Coleman with her Easter Cake pops

3rd Mrs Kirkby with her "Easter Owl/Chick"

The wooden spoon award went to Mr Summerbee for his Crème Egg entry!

He has lain down the gauntlet as a "video of you juggling" for the next challenge. From the evidence so far, there are not many linguists that make good jugglers!

We hope you all had a lovely Easter and might like to try and guess who made the other entries!

Miss Coleman



Year 9 Poland Trip

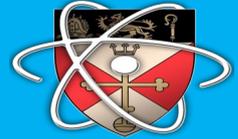
On the 4th-6th March 39 Year 9 students and 4 staff headed off to Poland to find out more about the atrocities that took place within the Nazi camps there between 1941-45. On day 1 we went to the site of the Kraków-Plaszów concentration camp that is now a recreational park. We saw the memorial constructed by the Communists - interestingly with no mention of the Jews on it, and the site of different aspects of the camp - which was where many of the camp scenes from Schindler's List were filmed. We then briefly visited the Ghetto site within Krakow, saw the location of Schindler's factory and finally met with a survivor. Her story made us realise what a hole the Holocaust has left in modern society.

The following day we were up at 5 to head off to Auschwitz-Birkenau. The concentration camp was established in 1940 for political prisoners but was used to house the Jews from 1942. It simultaneously acted as an extermination camp from 1942 until the closing of the Gas chambers in October 1944, and the evacuation of final prisoners on the infamous 'Ghost Marches'. We spent 8 hours at the camp - first looking at Auschwitz 1 then Birkenau. The scale of the sight and what went on there is simply horrifying. Students have since reflected on their visit in lessons.

Thanks to Year 9 for their thoughtful and empathetic approach. We hope that this is something that stays with you and makes you think about how we deal with intolerance in our society today.



Sensational Science



11 Year 13 Biologists took part in the British Biology Olympiad 2020 in February. This is the second year that Malesherbes School has taken part in this competition.

Students have to sit two 45 minute online multiple choice exams that test their A-Level knowledge, the exams include some very challenging questions and as such this is a very challenging competition. 9,500 students took part in the competition from 668 schools across the world.

Top performing students are awarded a Gold, Silver or Bronze certificate (gold is the top award). We had one student achieve our first ever Gold certificate—Concha Gil-Merino achieved a gold certificate and this placed her in the top 6.2% of students taking part in the competition. Two of our students also achieved Silver Awards and 3 students achieved Bronze awards. All students should be congratulated on taking part and doing really well in a very challenging competition. Mr Chipperfield

Year 12 physics students visited the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory for a particle physics masterclass. A superb day full of lectures from leading particle physicists, a workshop to try to identify particles including the elusive Higgs Boson, a live weblink with CERN and a tour of the ISIS Neutron and Muon Source particle accelerator. The students asked lots of questions and had the chance to consolidate and extend their understanding of particle physics and understand its relevance and applications in science and technology. Congratulations to Claudiu Nicsan for winning the photo competition!



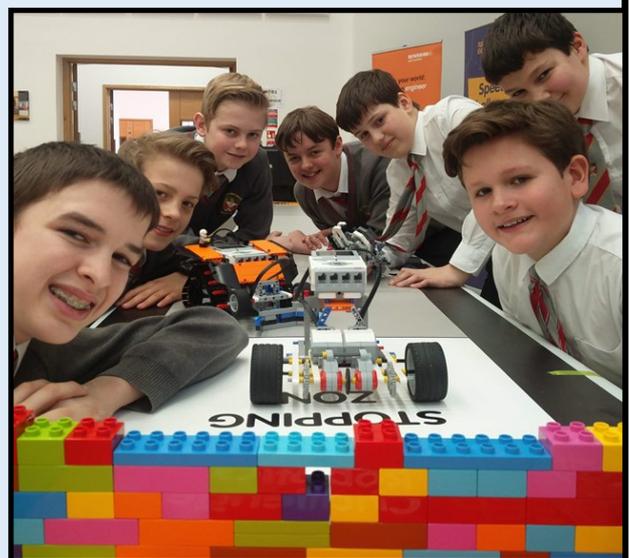
Congratulations to the Malesherbes Robotics club for an absolutely superb effort and achievement competing in two competitions this term.

The team 'Newton's Apples' competed in the First Lego League competition in Bristol, they did brilliantly on the mat challenge successfully completing many of the tasks and keeping calm under pressure. They also delivered a very clear and thorough presentation on how they would transform part of Malesherbes Abbey into a climbing centre and café to provide an enriching activity for the community and thinking carefully about sustainability and accessibility.

The team 'Hawking's Universe' then competed at the regional final of Tomorrow's Engineers LegoMind-storm competition and won two of the four categories, returning with a beautiful trophy! Their speed robot 'Sonic' was the fastest to race the track and the team gave an award winning presentation featuring their own new design for robotic drones to effectively plant trees to combat climate change and deforestation. Well done to a fantastic team effort and many thanks to their highly talented and experienced mentors 'Newton's Apples' for all their support with programming and drawing.

Both teams were a credit to Malesherbes School and demonstrated exceptional teamwork, skill, tenacity and creativity.

Mrs Wilkins



Here is a lovely piece of creative writing by Evie Kibble, Year 8.



Gently the water is trickling over all the sandy coloured rocks, into a beautiful blue pool. The light, coming through a small hole amongst the green trees, shines brightly onto the water causing it to glisten slightly. Healthy, colourful trees hang down carefully shading areas of the water from the sunlight. The rocky ground is decorated with emerald green bushes like a carpet. Sprouting from one bush is a small, pale shrub. Alone, one sunflower yellow tree stands tall, towering over the rest.

Admiring this scene is relaxing, the sound of the water slowly drowns out all the other thoughts in your head. You feel completely at peace and in touch with nature. People come here to calm down or as a distraction from everything. The gorgeous, bright colours make you feel happy and uplifted. And being surrounded by nature can make you feel less lonely or sad.

Fantastic Fran



On Friday 13th March we were over the moon to welcome back ex-Malmesbury student Fran Wilson.

Fran left Malmesbury 6th form in 2010 after spending 7 years at the school and has gone on to achieve amazing things.

She was always a keen sportsperson and from a young age excelled at cricket. She played representative cricket growing up for the county and went on to represent Somerset. Fran then represented Somerset at senior level and has gone on to play for Middlesex, Wellington Blaze, Sydney Thunder, Western Storm and Kent. She was also drafted in the hotly anticipated "The Hundred" competition for the Oval Invincibles. Fran is a centrally contracted player with England and has represented the country in all formats of the game. Fran's visit to school came shortly after her return from the T20 world cup in Australia. England were unlucky to lose in the semi final after rain meant the game was abandoned. India progressed through having a better record in the group stages. During Fran's visit she presented at 6th form assembly. Worked with District and County cricket players from school and then held a Q & A session in the afternoon.

Fran really is an inspiration to students and staff at our school and we are incredibly proud of all that she has achieved.

We wish her every success with the rest of her career.



Lockdown Challenges

Mrs Wood works in the learning support department and has written a newsletter briefly outlining how her routine has changed and some of the things she has been doing at home since school closed.

Mrs Wood hopes to inspire students to create their own newsletter to share their news and keep up to date with each other.

"I have included a few fun activities my children and I have enjoyed and if nothing else, it may encourage the children to step away from a screen and try something new! I really enjoyed pulling it together and hope to circulate a new issue once every two weeks."

Mrs Wood would like students to take on the challenge of writing their own newsletter to encourage them to reflect on how they are using their time, share and celebrate their own mini successes and keep in touch.

Please send any examples of your newsletters in via the school e-mail address FAO Mr Baker.

Newsletter by Mrs Wood

3rd April 2020
Issue 1

Happenings @ Home

An update from Mrs Wood

Hello everyone,

What a strange situation we find ourselves all in. We have been asked to stay indoors as much as possible to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 which, for many of us means no going to school or work and lots of spare time to fill at home. Like most people I look forward to the holidays but I also find comfort in the predictability and structure of my term time routine, so I must admit I have found the last two weeks a little unsettling.

Keep busy and stick to a schedule is my advice to you all!

I have found it really helpful to stick to a routine Monday to Friday. I set my alarm clock and get up and dressed just as I would on a school day. I let my dog out into the garden, say good morning to the LS rabbits Lucy and Sophie and sit down with a cup of coffee to write a list of things I want to do during the day. Having a list to work from is a bit like following a timetable. It keeps me focused and as I tick things off, one by one, I am reminded of my achievements.

Keep it realistic – there is nothing worse than ending the day with only 3 things ticked off a list of 10!

I include things like checking emails and logging into Teams. I allow time to exercise, to read a book, ring or text a friend and do something simple like a crossword or sudoku puzzle (I love sudoku!)

I aim to learn something new every day. My daughter has been teaching me sign language and I am working hard to practise my very rusty French!

Spending time outside is good for our physical and mental health and although opportunities are now limited, there is still plenty we can do. Last week my children and I pruned the apple tree in our garden—a real team effort! We mowed the lawn, played with our dog, enjoyed walks across fields well away from other people and even made a bird box.



MY HIGHLIGHTS:

- We made a bird box!
- Baking healthy oat and banana muffins
- Walking and playing 'Quick Draw!'

YOU MIGHT LIKE:

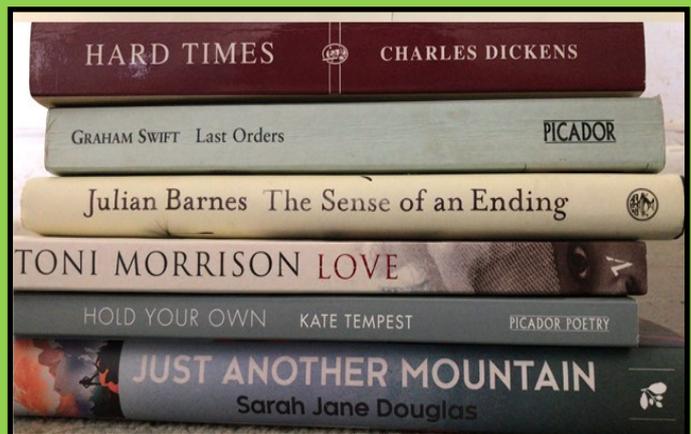
- How to make rainbow bunting for your windows
- What am I reading? The Beast of Buckingham Palace (David Walliams)

Inspired by Bath's bookshop 'Mr B's Emporium of Reading Delights', Mrs Kilburn-Bond and her son have had some lockdown fun 'writing' book spine poetry - you organise a selection of books in a pile, using just the book titles as lines in a poem.

The pictures show some examples of what they have created.

It's a great challenge for students and parents to try out.

Have a go and send your poems to the school e-mail address FAO Mr Baker.



Local help and support

Malmesbury Town Council and local charity Heals of Malmesbury are working in partnership to support people in Malmesbury and the surrounding villages during the current health crisis

They have set up a Helpline Service on 01666 815888 to offer help to those who need it in the following areas:

- * A pre-prepared free meal supply to families and individuals in need, three times a week
- * Prescription collection for people self-isolating or unable to get out
- * Telephone shopping orders from the Co-Op for people cannot shop themselves
- * Dog walking service
- * Friendship telephone calls

Heals are also offering help in these areas:

- * Our Malmesbury Area Emergency Hardship Fund is open to receive applications - it is aimed at keeping people out of debt by helping with essential bills, debt resolution and replacing key household equipment. Donations to the Fund are also welcome.
- * Free secondhand, properly configured IT equipment for young people who don't have access to a working laptop or tablet at home, or who may not have access to the internet
- * Foodbank vouchers for people in Malmesbury and surrounding villages who need them

For Heals related help, please email heals.malmesbury@gmail.com or go to the Heals website www.healsmalmesbury.co.uk for more details on the Emergency Hardship Fund and how to apply or donate.

If you or someone you know is struggling to access school work due to a lack of IT equipment or internet connection please contact Mr Baker at school. He can put you in contact with the IT support that is being offered by HEALS and help ensure that you are up and running with IT equipment and internet access ASAP.

If you have any unused laptops at home, please donate them to Heals so that they can be upgraded and used to support those that have no access to the Internet or IT equipment.

