

# MALMESBURY SCHOOL

## LEARNING SUPPORT

### DEPARTMENT

#### Mrs Abel-Goldbin - SENDCo, Teacher of English

Welcome to our Learning Support Faculty!

I'm Mrs Abel-Goldbin and I am proud to be the SENDCo at Malmesbury School. I lead a large team of friendly staff who are all committed to supporting students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) so they can progress to the best of their ability and be the best they can be.



I have always loved working with children with SEND. As a sixth former, I supported KS3 students with additional literacy needs and also supported a young girl with Down's Syndrome at our local Rainbow group.

I studied English Literature and American Studies at Swansea University and my third year was spent studying at Athens University in Ohio, USA. I loved studying abroad and travelled as much as I could. During this time, I had the privilege of listening to Maya Angelou speak at our university - she is one of my all time favourite authors and I still feel so lucky to have had this opportunity.

Following university, I taught English in Japan for two years which was an amazing experience. I lived in a small town in the mountains of Niigata-ken where nobody spoke English. To communicate, we relied on a small machine that translated one word at a time; it took a very long time to understand each other. I taught students aged 3-16 and the highlight of my week was teaching a group of students with SEND at secondary school. Our conversation was limited due to the language barriers but we still had lots of fun through music, art and outdoor activities (e.g. planting rice in the paddy fields!).

I began my teaching career at Malmesbury in 2004 as an English teacher and became SENDCo in 2012. I love working with and supporting inspirational students and their families and I also love the fact that I am still learning about different needs and how best to support individuals. Staff at Malmesbury School work hard to ensure every student is fully included in school life and it makes me very happy to see students enjoying lessons and all the extra-curricular opportunities available to them.

I've had to study a lot in order to be a SENDCo (which has helped me to remember what it's like to be back in the shoes of a student!). I hold the following qualifications: NASENCO, Postgraduate Certificate in Vulnerable Learners and Inclusion, Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Practice, AMBDA and Specialist Leader of Education (SLE). I also work closely with other SENDCOs in our MAT in order to ensure we are all providing the best support for our students with SEND.

Out of school, I love spending time with my family. We have a 10 year old daughter and an 8 year old son and we enjoy going for long walks in the countryside and bike rides in the woods. I also practice yoga and read as much as I can too.

We look forward to meeting and supporting you!

### **Mrs Clawson - Deputy SENDCo, Teacher of Dance**

Hey everyone!

My name is Mrs Clawson and I have been a teacher at Malmesbury School since 2011. I originally qualified in teaching dance and spent many years choreographing for shows and competitions. I enjoyed teaching professional works to both GCSE and A Level with an interest in dance history - The Royal Ballet has an amazing story to tell!



Alongside my role as dance teacher, I started in Learning Support by teaching withdrawal classes. I enjoyed getting to know the students, understanding their needs and creating activities to further their learning. When I had the opportunity to complete a level 7 course in Access Arrangements I jumped at the chance! Now I am the lead tester for the access arrangements procedure in school and I feel very fortunate that I can make a difference in supporting students in their exams to reach their potential. This extends into my role as Joint Deputy SENDCo, as I organise the systems regarding access arrangements for students and teachers, alongside KS3 withdrawal and annual reviews amongst other things. In the future I would like to complete a postgraduate course at Bath Spa for the National Award for SENDCo.

When I am not teaching, I enjoy spending time with my family, and I have two young boys who keep me very busy! I love reading with them and finding new creative ways to encourage their play and learning. I also enjoy trips to the theatre - a trip to London to see a West End show is my absolute favourite thing to do!

**Mr Mitchell - Deputy SENDCo, Teacher of PE, Humanities and ASDAN**

I am the joint Deputy SENDCO in the learning support department, head of Athelstan house and a PE and humanities teacher. I have worked at Malmesbury School for 13 years and consider myself an integral part of the school and local community. I was also the school sports coordinator for many years so you may remember me from primary school festivals and competitions!



Before my time at Malmesbury I worked as a learning support assistant at a school in Weston-super-Mare and as a sports development officer in North Somerset. I have always enjoyed engaging young people in learning and supporting them to reach their potential.

As an experienced teacher, tutor and head of house I am approachable, caring and encouraging and can help you with a range of academic and pastoral issues to ensure you are happy and positive whilst at school.

I like to talk to the students I teach and care for every day and am genuinely interested in your interests and achievements. I have always enjoyed working with young people who need support so I am available if you need to discuss any difficulties you may be having in lessons.

In the learning support department, I help students to understand their needs to ensure teachers understand the way you learn and give strategies that will help you enjoy and achieve in lessons. Due to my experience of teaching students with a range of difficulties in subjects including PE, history, geography, RS, Ilearn and ASDAN I know that you all like to learn in different ways!

Away from school, I live with my wife, son Declan who is 11 and daughter Sophia who is 9. As a family we enjoy holidays to the beach and walking our dog Parker. I love football and cricket and help to coach my son's teams as well as going to watch matches in Bristol.

## Debbie Riall - MAT ASC and related needs specialist teacher

My name is Debbie Riall. I am a teacher, but not in the classroom, so you are allowed to call me Debbie. I'm based in Learning Support and I help students who are finding school a bit tough going.



I meet with students who have Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, or ADHD. My husband has Asperger's Syndrome which helps me to understand it better.

I also meet with students who have friendship problems or meltdowns or who are very anxious or upset about something. I have a collection of interesting 'fidgets' to help students relax when they meet with me.

My favourite things out of school are going to church, reading, walking, doing tricky jigsaw puzzles, feeding the birds and looking after my two very old tortoises, Violet and Veronica.

## TEACHING ASSISTANTS

### Mr Aldridge

I am just starting here in my role of Teaching Assistant at Malmesbury School, becoming a member of the Learning Support department. I am very excited to start this position, and looking forward to meeting and working with you all, and hope that I can help in any way that I can.



Before joining, I was actually a student here at Malmesbury School; I started Y7 in 2009, and left after completing my GCSE's in 2014.

After this I studied at New College Swindon, where I did Sociology, Applied Business, and World Development at A-Level. After completing my A-Levels, I started a BA Honors Course in Sociology at Birmingham City University, starting in 2017 and finally graduating this summer with a 2:1. I am fascinated with the content covered at University, and intend to study at a further level in the future.

In my own personal life, I enjoy a wide range of hobbies and activities such as football, where I play in local 5-a-side matches and also watching live matches, especially Reading FC and Cambridge United, who are teams I support. As well as football, I thoroughly enjoy music. I play guitar, collect records and attend concerts and festivals and always enjoy listening to new styles and forms of music. I enjoy travelling and visiting new countries and areas of the world. Some of my favourite locations include Vilnius in Lithuania which I visited in 2019, and I did a month of Inter-railing around Europe with my friends in 2016 where we visited a wide range of cities and countries.

### **Mrs Archer**

Hi, I am Mrs Archer, and I am a Teaching Assistant and member of the Learning Support team at Malmesbury School. I have come to SEND later in life, and so still consider myself a 'newbie' to the role.



I went to school in a suburb of Sydney, Australia, by the sea, and now I find myself in North Wiltshire, 2 hours' drive away from the sea! I have three grown up daughters, who all attended Malmesbury School and have many fond memories of their time here. I can't stop working with teenagers, and love to work one on one, helping and encouraging the pupils I work with. It's good to make learning fun and I have enjoyed helping pupils with Comprehension (reading a text and answering questions on it) and Power of Two (Maths for all abilities), helping students with science practicals, or finding out facts about medieval England. My favourite subjects are Music, Drama, English, Art, and languages. I look forward to meeting the new year 7 classes and to continue working with tutor groups I already know in September. And there is always someone new to meet, and something new to learn! I hope you all have a great year at Malmesbury School and look forward to meeting you.

### **Mrs Avis - ELSA**

Hello my name is Mrs Avis

I joined the learning support team at Malmesbury School as a TA in September 2018. I love my job and being a part of such a great supportive team. I enjoy helping in a variety of lessons but Art, History and DT are the ones I enjoy the most.



I am a mum to three children and have two very playful Beagles which keep me very busy.

In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family, going on bike rides and long walks. I also enjoy reading, theatre trips and listening to classical music.

### **Mrs Barber - Teacher of Horse Care**

I am Mrs Barber and I have been working as a Teaching Assistant at Malmesbury School since 2014. I also teach Horse Care to year 10 and year 11 students.



Working with you and helping you to reach your full potential is very enjoyable. It can be rewarding and challenging with no two days in

school being exactly the same. My areas of expertise include hearing impairment educational needs.

My subject strengths are science and maths, however I do like supporting you in other subjects where I can also learn something new. I have a strong scientific background having previously trained and worked for many years as a scientist in a dementia research laboratory. This was a very exciting job learning about the function of the human brain.

When I am out of school I love spending time with my family, taking my dog for walks and riding my two horses.

### **Mrs Buckland**

Hello, I have been a teaching assistant in the Learning Support department at Malmesbury School for many years.

I enjoy being in the classroom helping students and it means I learn new things too. The best thing a student can say to me is "Thanks Miss, I get it now".

My favourite lessons are History, Art and Cooking but all the teachers are great and make learning fun.

Away from school I love spending time with my family and friends and taking part in the Malmesbury Carnival Procession every year.



### **Mrs Carter**

I am a relative newbie to Malmesbury School, having started here in June 2021. I've been a TA for 9 years, having worked previously in several schools in Swindon. I love working in lessons, as no two days are ever the same and I'm always learning something new. My favourite lessons are English and Maths and D&T.



I firmly believe that all students are able to achieve and to the best of their ability and I will do my utmost to help you to do that. But...I won't do your work for you!

Outside of school I enjoy family time and walking/dog sitting my daughter's two Irish Setters (they can be very naughty) and I love being outdoors, enjoying nature all year round. I run a Girl Guide Unit in Swindon and love camping and sitting by the fire.

Although there will be days when it feels as if school goes on forever - make the most of your time here, as believe me, it will be gone in a flash!

I look forward to meeting you soon.

### **Mrs Coates - Lead TA for Medical and Physical Needs**

I have worked as a teaching assistant at Malmesbury School for 12 years having previously worked as a teaching assistant in a primary school. I prefer working in a secondary school due to the variety of lessons on offer and being able to work with a wide range of students helping them to achieve their best.



In my spare time I love spending time with my family and walking my mad Labrador Frankie. My hobbies include reading, baking and I have recently started taking part in triathlons where the cycling part is my favourite. I also enjoy going on holiday especially to Scotland where we do a lot of walking and cycling.

I look forward to meeting you around the school.

### **Miss Coleman**

I joined Malmesbury School as a teaching assistant in September 2019, previously I worked caring for the elderly. My experiences there helped me to become a great listener which helps me when supporting others.



I enjoy working at Malmesbury School as no two days are the same. I get to work alongside many children with different needs and help them succeed throughout their time here.

I look forward to learning about the many different challenges children face and improving the ways I work with others to help them achieve their best.

Outside of school I love going to music concerts/festivals and watching ice hockey. I am always out and about exploring the many different walk ways around Malmesbury or spending time with my friends and family.

### **Mr Corless (Mr C) - Mentor, Teacher of Bricklaying and Construction**

Hello, my name is Mr Corless, but I prefer Mr C as it is less formal. I have been working at Malmesbury School for, I think, 17 years but I'm getting on a bit so I can't quite remember!

I work in a range of different roles which can sometimes confuse people. I work as a learning support assistant part time, across the whole range of subjects with any year group. I teach Vocational courses to year 10 and 11 including Trowel Skills, Joinery, Plumbing and Electrical Installation.

Where I am asked, I also work as mentor for individual students on a 1-1 basis.

I do enjoy my jobs as I like to help students solve problems, overcome difficulties and be successful.

In my spare time I like to spend time with my family, walk my dog, I do a lot of reading and sample the wares of my local hostelry!

I don't have much in the way of hobbies other than watching sport and hill walking when I can. I have been up the highest mountains in England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, North Africa and Africa.

Things I dislike are rude people and golf.

### **Ms De Chair - ELSA and Teacher of Withdrawal Lessons**

A Dorset girl who has found her way to Wiltshire via London and the Isle of Man.

I joined the Learning Support team at Malmesbury School in September 2020 as a Teaching Assistant and really enjoy the diversity of the role and love that I learn something new every day. My favourite subjects are Drama, English, Spanish, Cookery and History.



In my previous life I spent time working in London (19 years to be precise) in the corporate world of recruitment and headhunting, as well as an "eye opening" couple of years working for The Royal College of Psychiatrists. I moved to Wiltshire nine years ago having spent time on "The Rock" (the local name for the Isle of Man).

I have a particular interest in emotional and mental health and have completed a Certificate in Children and Young People's Mental Health, an OTAP course and will be starting ELSA training in September 2021. My interest was piqued whilst working for Wiltshire-based life coaches which has resulted in my passion about taking a more "holistic" approach to life. I am a keen advocate of EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique) and am hoping at some point to complete an EFT course in conjunction with NLP. These techniques can only benefit my role as a TA.

When I have spare time (which is not very often), I enjoy spending time with my two fabulous children, playing and watching tennis, going to festivals and concerts, as well as being an extremely reluctant runner!

### **Mrs Hendricks**

Hello, my name is Mrs Hendricks and I'm one of the newest members of the SEN support team. I started working at the school just before lock-down in February 2020 and so far, I've really enjoyed getting to know the students in lessons and in the Learning Support Department. What I enjoy most is helping students of all abilities, witnessing 'light bulb moments' and making sure students are happy!



With a previous career in the Health Service, I feel that I can bring compassion and understanding to the role of a Teaching Assistant, with a natural enthusiasm for science lessons.

In my spare time I enjoy; camping, hill walking, reading autobiographies and gardening in my veggie patch. I also have three teenage children and a very grumpy cat called Oscar!

### **Mrs Huxtable-Smith - ELSA and Teacher of Withdrawal Lessons**

My name is Mrs Huxtable-Smith.

I have been a TA at Malmesbury for just over 6 years and I was at my previous school in Swindon for 10 years working in Child Protection.

I have 3 children myself of varying ages. Two cats and a crazy Labrador called Brian.

I'm currently studying, in my own time, towards a qualification to become a counsellor with New College in Swindon.

I love working at Malmesbury School, it's friendly and has the best Learning Support department! The best part about my job is seeing a student developing their independence and achieving their potential.



### **Mrs Jepson - Teacher of Withdrawal Lessons and Lead for Cognition and Learning**

Hello, I have been at Malmesbury School as a Teaching Assistant in the Learning Support Department for many years now and I still love working here. Everyone is so kind and friendly.

Being a TA means that I get to work with lots of different students in all years here at Malmesbury. I love getting to know new students and learning about their interests and what they struggle with as that means that I can try and help them do their best. I have learnt so much since I joined all those years ago. I have been on many training courses to help me understand many



of the different conditions that students have. This means that I have (hopefully) learnt lots of skills that I can use to help students achieve and succeed.

When I am not in school I love spending time with my family, especially my grandson who just loves being outside or baking cakes! To relax I find that there is nothing better than sitting quietly with my sewing or a good book.

### **Mrs Mackie**

Hi there!

My name is Mrs Mackie & I have been a TA at Malmesbury School for seven very happy years. Previously I was a Learning Support Tutor at Wiltshire College, Lackham; before that a Catering Manager at a Hospice & before that an Energy Education Adviser at Southern Electric.



It is a pleasure to be part of Malmesbury School & Learning Support. You are very fortunate to be here as you can have the opportunity to learn so much & experience such a wide range of subjects. When you are in class you might watch videos, debate, discuss, act, learn new languages, hear about different countries, do experiments & that is without mentioning the more practical subjects like sport, music, drama, cooking, sewing & constructing. So, if you say 'this is so boring Miss' -sorry, I don't usually agree.

One of the hardest things is to say 'I don't understand' or 'this is difficult' but you are absolutely allowed to. You are an individual & you may also have a learning difference or need. I enjoy enabling you to do your best by explaining in a simpler or different way. However, this is a two-way operation & I won't do your work for you.

By the way, I love reading, gardening, camping & spending time with my children & grandchildren but a real favourite is rugby especially the six nations.

Looking forward to seeing you.

### **Mrs Norton**

Hello, my name is Mrs Norton and I started working as a teaching assistant at Malmesbury School in June 2021. I have always enjoyed working with young people and love the atmosphere in schools. I am genuinely interested in learning more about you and am looking forward to building relationships here in Malmesbury. The learning support team is made up of a lovely group of people and I feel lucky to be working with them! We are all here to support you in your journey at school.



In my personal life I am a mummy to two young girls and we have a cockapoo dog. We love baking, swimming and going for walks!

### **Mrs Reynolds - Teacher of Withdrawal Lessons**

Hello everyone. Before working in education, I spent 16 years as an accountant! After having my children, I volunteered as a parent helper at Malmesbury Primary School and eventually took a job as a Teaching Assistant working in Year 1. I was there for eight years and finally applied for a job at big school! Whilst at the primary school I qualified as a HLTA (Higher Level Teaching Assistant). I have now worked at the Secondary School for 6 years.



I have learned so much here about how the smallest factor can have the biggest impact on a child and their learning. I thoroughly enjoy supporting students who find school and life a challenge and the feeling that I am making some small difference to their lives, even if it's just for the 6 hours they are with us.

Whilst I enjoy being in the classroom, I also love my role as one of the teachers of withdrawal lessons in Learning Support. I currently teach years 7, 8 and 9 in reading and spelling.

In the future, I would like to learn more about anger management and mental health for young people. ELSA is also something I have been interested in for a while now.

At the moment I am a student too, just like you, at the Open University and I am studying for a degree in Criminology and Psychology - purely for pleasure!

I have two adult children and two crazy, little dogs called Maggie and Dottie whom I enjoy walking every day. I also love knitting, sewing and reading/watching anything to do with crime!

### **Mrs Wicks - ELSA and Teacher of Withdrawal Lessons**

Hello, I'm Mrs Wicks and I joined Malmesbury Secondary School as a Teaching Assistant in January 2019, after being at a local primary school for 6 years.

I live in Malmesbury and have 3 children.



I love my job as a TA because I get to know and help lots of children in various year groups and be in lots of different subjects. I love the variety of the job and working alongside all the wonderful teachers. No day is ever the same!

My favourite subject is English, as I love books and am always reading!  
Over the years I have worked with lots of children with different levels of need.  
Outside of school, I am mostly running my 3 teenage children around or walking my dog.

### **Mr Winton**

Hello! My name is Mr Winton. I joined Malmesbury School in February 2020 as a member of the LS staff. Being able to be part of a faculty like learning support is great because I'm able to use everything I have learned myself to help others.



Previously, I studied Performance for Live and Recorded media at University where I took part in various creative/ learning experiences which allowed me to interact and inform younger students on difficult subjects such as Cyberbullying and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. As well as University, I have had experience within a Primary School setting, helping out where needed, be it in the Year 6 final production or as a general helper in the classroom.

As a person I'm someone who enjoys imagination and the use of creativity, taking part in various activities that involve it in my spare time, for example playing guitar and visiting theatres.

### **Mrs Wood - Lead TA CI/SEMH**

I joined the Learning Support faculty 2018. This is my first role in education following a career in Trade and Brand Marketing within the FMCG sector.



As well as a full-time Teaching Assistant, I am mum of two teenagers, a dog owner and a student at the University of Birmingham, studying MEd autism (children). The Learning Support rabbits, Lucy and Sophie, live at my house. They come to school with me every day and enjoy spending time with our lovely students.

I love my job. I look forward to going to school and I sometimes find it hard to leave! Malmesbury School is a friendly, caring and happy place to be. I thoroughly enjoy supporting and encouraging our incredible students, especially those who face additional challenges and find it tricky to come to school each day. It is a privilege to get to know and work with such extraordinary young people and I am consistently inspired and amazed by their courage and resilience. I have a patient, encouraging and

nurturing nature and I am a good listener. I love helping people and I hope to inspire young people to always do their very best.

I have a particular interest in autism, specifically understanding the gender differences relating to diagnosis and the different challenges faced by adolescent autistic girls relating to mental health, relationships, identity and overcoming barriers to inclusion at school.

In my spare time I enjoy walking my energetic dog, Shadow in and around the beautiful Malmesbury countryside. I also enjoy reading a wide range of books. My guilty pleasure is reading children's fiction. Michael Morpurgo is one of my favourite children's authors although his books usually make me cry. As a child, I enjoyed The Chronicles of Narnia. I still own my original copies. I wrote a letter to C S Lewis when I was 11 years old - unbelievably he replied! I like to cook and occasionally play tennis with my children, although both are far more accomplished tennis players than me!

### **Lucy and Sophie - Learning Support Rabbits**

Hi, we are Lucy and Sophie, the learning support rabbits! We are three year old Velvet Rex rabbits and we live with Mrs Wood, who brings us to school every day.

Although we are sisters, we have very different personalities! Lucy is for learning, she is bold and inquisitive - meaning she loves to investigate everything! Sophie is for support, she is kind, gentle and enjoys being stroked.



We love to eat lots of hay, as well as plenty of leafy, green vegetables such as kale, cabbage and herbs! We like being around all of the students in Learning Support and we love to be stroked calmly and gently... don't be afraid to come and say hello!