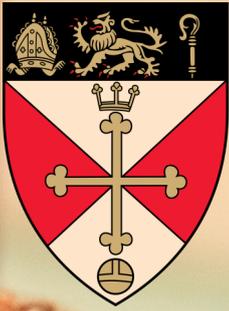


# MALMESBURY MATTERS

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December 2021

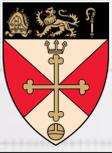
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Malmesbury  
students burning  
bright into the  
new year

Head's



# Foreword



Welcome to the first issue of the brilliant Malmesbury Matters publication for this academic year, and my first as Headteacher. It has been a real pleasure getting to know the staff, students, parents and other members of the Malmesbury School community over the last term and I thank you all for making me feel so welcome.

I have been privileged to visit many lessons each week and I have been continually impressed by the work of the dedicated and professional staff and the enthusiasm and conduct of all students. The year started with our fantastic open evenings for those hoping to join the school in Years 7 and 12, this was a brilliant chance for the students and staff of the school to showcase our many talents and the amazing opportunities on offer.

Success has permeated this term, whether that be on the sports fields as our U15 rugby team reached the regional plate finals, or in the creative arts faculty where we scooped all three awards in the annual and coveted Athelstan Christmas Card competition.

Events such as the Space Event early in the term, the sixth form taster day and the Malmesbury Reads day of reading kept the positivity and excitement buzzing around the school throughout the term. Many Year 7s identified the "suspect" in the science forensics week, "I was framed!" and I was delighted to welcome Paralympic gold medallist, Stephanie Millward to our presentation evening.

Reading is a big part of our school and our structured reading programme in Years 7 and 8 aims to ensure that all students have the chance to engage in literature in tutor time twice a week. The New Year will also see the reopening of our superb library as reading and literacy take centre stage in our school.

My absolute highlight this term has to be the three Christmas Concerts. The range of musical talent on show is for me, unrivalled. The concerts were arranged and led by our talented music staff and the show was a fantastic spectacle, from the lights and sound to the conducting and of course performances.

All of the above has been achieved in the context of the continuing global pandemic, but the consistent support of parents and carers has ensured that we have been able to manage and reduce any in-school transmission, mitigating the impact on the learning of our students. I wish to take this chance to thank you all.

As we enter the festive period and well-earned holidays, I am already excited to see what next term brings and wish you all a peaceful, restful and safe holidays with your loved ones.

**Brett Jouny**

# Remembrance Parade



At 11am on Thursday the 11th November, the whole school observed a 2 minute silence for Armistice Day. As is tradition we held a ceremony in the Memorial Courtyard with a parade from our Army and Air cadets. This year we were also joined by our Police cadets and members of our Scouts, Guides and Explorers. We were also incredibly honoured to be joined by members of the Royal British Legion. This year we streamed the ceremony live so that all students in the school could watch and be part of the service.

The service was presented brilliantly by head student Olivia Broome, with the Cadets led impeccably by 6th former, Sergeant Jack Lippiatt. Wreaths were laid for the Army, Navy and RAF by Maud Nicolas, Ellie Hendricks and Menna Yeoman. Scout leader Ben Glover and Police Cadet Callum Denley also laid wreaths. Mr Jouny laid a wreath on behalf of the school and a wreath was laid for the Royal British Legion by former Malmesbury teacher Paul Thompson.

Head students Sakura Clemo and Lucy John read poems by John McCrae and May Wedderburn Cannan. Head student Toby Tappin then read the exhortation before year 10 student Chloe Hemmings played the last post. The entire school then fell into silence for two minutes to remember the contribution of all our military service men and women involved in both world wars and later conflicts.

Lest we forget.



# Athelstan Trust



## Christmas card Competition

Malmesbury students took the top three places in the Athelstan Trust Christmas card competition.

The judges were so impressed with the wide range of entries they received.

Congratulations to the winner, Lola Porter, who received a £20 book token plus £100 for the school's Art Department! 2nd place, Arabella Howell won a £15 book token and 3rd place, Sophia Chilman, won a £10 book token.

Designs had to include King Athelstan and feature the trust priorities of equality, diversity and inclusion.



**1st**

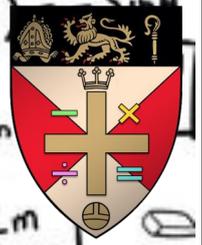
**3rd**



**2nd**



# Marvellous Maths



## Athelstan Maths Challenge



On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November the first post lockdown Athelstan Maths Challenge went ahead at Bradon Forest School for year 7.

With keen young mathematicians ready to rise to the challenge, famous mathematicians as team names were the order of the day and with year 10 leaders supporting each team it made for a

captivating atmosphere, complemented by the humorous compering!

Each round tested the students team working and problem-solving skills, and the lead changed hands several times as the morning went on. The collaboration between students from each school was a real positive, each drawing on their different strengths to help their team.

Bradon Forest School who organised the event said 'It was brilliant to see how all the students threw themselves into solving the problems given to them. I was particularly impressed with how they worked and how Bradon and Malmesbury students interacted and worked together. I'm looking forward to the next event.'

Malmesbury School commented '... incredibly impressed with their maturity and enthusiasm in collaborating with students from other Trust schools. It was fantastic to see students utterly engrossed in some really interesting and challenging activities involving Maths in a myriad of ways.'

The next Maths challenge is for year 9 in January, hosted by Malmesbury School, where hopefully we will see more Athelstan schools ready to compete for glory!

### **Dates:**

Y7– Hosted by Bradon Forest School- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Y8– Hosted by The Dean Academy- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Y9– Hosted by Malmesbury School- 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Y10– Hosted by Sir William Romney's School- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

Y12– Hosted by Chipping Sodbury School- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022





# ATHELSTAN STUDENTS MEET MATHEMATICIAN AND SLAM POETRY WORLD CHAMPION, HARRY BAKER



In November, Year 7 students from across The Athelstan Trust were treated to a performance by mathematician turned slam poetry world champion, Harry Baker.

Chipping Sodbury School kindly hosted this event with students from other Athelstan schools arriving by minibus to experience the event and subsequent workshops. Athelstan students not lucky enough to meet Harry Baker in person were able to watch a live stream of the performance which included poems about prime numbers, falafels, dinosaurs, the creation of the universe, paper people and angel delight!

It was fantastic to see students so engaged by Harry's performance and whether in the hall at Chipping Sodbury School or watching via a screen from a different school, students were encouraged to join in; a particularly fun moment involved everyone shouting out in German: 'wie viel falafel ist zu viel falafel'!

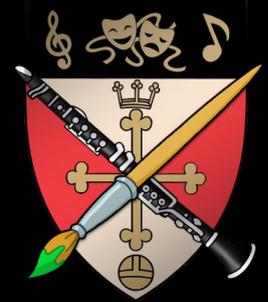
The theme of the morning was opening our minds to the creative potential of different subject specialisms and Harry's performance showcased this through sharing his passion for maths, science, and history through the medium of performance poetry. In the following workshops, students wrote and shared their own poems with Harry and with Mrs O'Neill and Ms Kilburn-Bond, students read an autobiographical extract from one of NASA's 'hidden women', Katherine Johnson, as a prompt for discussing why maths matters in our everyday lives before using their learning from English to write a persuasive speech arguing that maths should remain on the curriculum of a futuristic school built on Mars. The students comments at the end of the morning are a joy to read and speak volumes about the power of enrichment opportunities like Harry Baker's visit:

*'My favourite part was writing my own poem because I didn't know that I was so good at making poems'; 'he is a very cool guy'; 'my favourite part was the dinosaur poem because of the sound effects'; 'it was fun to learn about NASA'; 'It was amazing to hear Harry Baker read out his poems' and last but not least, 'it was all brilliant'!*

The live stream can still be enjoyed with this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wC98qq-CEVY>



# Tate Modern Art Trip



On 3<sup>rd</sup> November the Art department took all our A' Level artists along with lots of our potential A' Level artists from year 11 on a fantastic trip to Tate Britain and Tate Modern. It was wonderful to spend the day with our creative artists seeing work first hand amongst the buzz of London.

We started the day at Tate Britain with the dramatic new installation by Heather Phillipson called *Rupture No 1; blowtorching the bitten peach* where colour, sound and motion combine in what she describes as a "pre-post-historical environment". The installation completely transformed the central hall of Tate Britain creating a striking ambience that echoed through all the more traditional galleries creating a fascinating dialogue between historical and contemporary art.

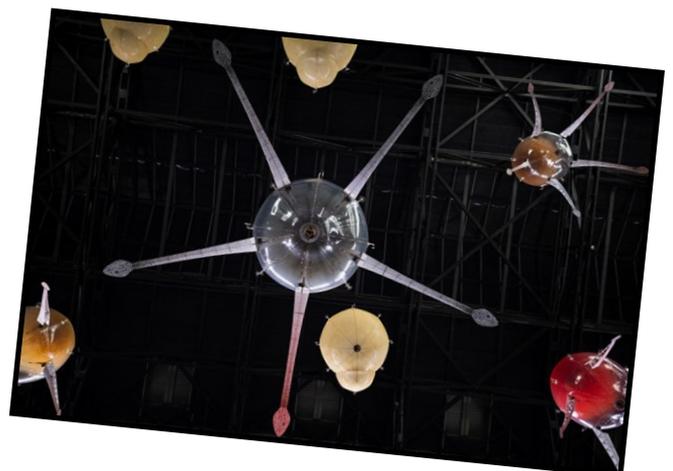
Following our time at Tate Britain we walked along the Southbank taking in the architectural scenery past the Houses of Parliament and the London Eye and on to Tate Modern.

At Tate Modern we saw Anicka Yi's newly installed Hyundai commission for the Turbine Hall called *In Love with the World*. Anicka Yi has populated the



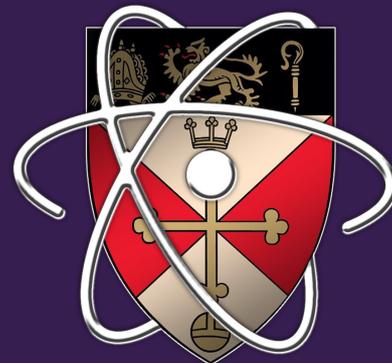
Turbine Hall with aerobes, based on ocean lifeforms and mushrooms they float through the space powered by technology and artificial intelligence bringing together art, technology and biology. The aerobes are fascinating, they re-imagine artificial intelligence, and encourage us to think about new ways machines might inhabit the world. Students also explored the extensive collection at Tate Modern and were inspired by the variety of striking contemporary Art.

When we returned to school the students took inspiration from the day to support their current coursework. It was a brilliant day and so refreshing to be out and about with our students again, we are now planning to take year 10 to London in May.





# Year 9 Chemistry Lecture



On September 30<sup>th</sup> Year 9 students were treated to a lecture demonstration from Dr Jonny Furze from the University of Bristol chemistry department.

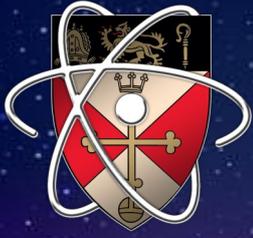
The students were given a 60-minute show about the major constituent gases found in our atmosphere and some of the ways they react.

The students were shown liquid nitrogen and its freezing effect on everyday objects,

hydrogen gas and its explosive nature with the deep boom of the explosion heard echoing through the corridors of the school, the solid carbon dioxide (dry ice) and the effect it is having on our oceans via the use of regular tap water and universal indicator solution, and the combusting 'whoosh' of burning alcohol and oxygen as well as the ever popular 'elephant's toothpaste' demonstration.

It was fantastic to have the visiting chemistry show return to Malmesbury School after the disruption of the previous years from Covid-19 and the students were enthralled and engaged asking and answering a variety of questions to help further their understanding. The show will help add further context to the materials covered in class by our students and has hopefully inspired them to consider studying chemistry beyond GCSE as well as thinking more about the future of our atmosphere on Earth.





# SPACE: MEET THE STARS

Science had an explosive start this term with 'Space: meet the Stars!', an exclusive event for all the students across the Athelstan Trust, with space experts from the UK and the US invited to speak to our students live and share their extraordinary experiences. The online event was presented by the sparkling BBC presenter LJ Rich and the stellar crew included TJ Creamer (NASA Flight Director and Astronaut), Sophie Harker (award winning engineer), Jonathan Fernandez (writer of Star Trek Enterprise), Jaisha Wray (space security expert) and Moogega Cooper (NASA Mars mission astronomer).....it truly was out of this world!

The speakers beautifully answered the brilliant questions posed by our very own superstar students.

A big thank you to all the students and families who tuned in on the night, for the live comments and questions.

If you missed it, you are able to watch the recording <https://bit.ly/spacemeetthestarsagain>

and here are some student and parent reflections:

### Dan (year 8)

I enjoyed the opportunity to meet amazing scientists and an astronaut. TJ Creamer answered my question about returning from a microgravity environment and it was really interesting to hear him explain what happened when he came back to Earth and build on his answers. It was good learn these things in case I would like to do this when I'm older.

### Henry (year 8)

I thought it was a great opportunity for us to have a chance to have our questions answered by all the speakers, I learnt so much from all the questions, it was great for me to join. It got me more interest in space.

### Sam (year 9)

I thought it was good because not everyone gets to talk to an astronaut and space scientists and it's interesting how they build rockets and study space. I really enjoyed it because TJ Creamer is really interesting, and I loved hearing from him. I would like to study rockets and space and build rockets one day.

### Orlando (year 13)

Hearing from experts in the space industry was exciting, and in my opinion really important - so students like myself can understand the applications of our STEM subjects. I hope the Athelstan trust can offer some similar opportunities soon as it has definitely sparked my interest!

### Parents:

Thank you so much for putting on such a lovely Sunday night family activity - we really enjoyed it and felt so proud to be part of such a great school.

I just wanted to say thank you so much for the amazing event you organised for last Sunday evening about space. The engineer was particularly inspiring, and I think it has made my son think about the possibility of engineering. It was such a great opportunity for them all and made us even more pleased about his new school.





## 6th Form Master Chef

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September, a handful of sixth form students took part in Malmesbury MasterChef where they had the challenge of working in pairs to create a healthy meal with a £5 budget.

A range of dishes were created including macaroni cheese, chicken stir fry and

risotto. The winners were Maud Nicolas and Ellie Hendricks who created a homemade gnocchi, chorizo and mozzarella bake.

The judging panel consisted of Mr Backwell, Mr Brown and Beth Kirkham (6<sup>th</sup> form student) who scored the dishes based on their taste, appearance and nutritional value.

## Games Club

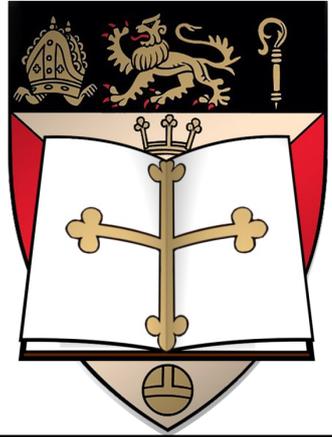


I love board games club, it gives me a chance to hang out with my friends and make new ones. board games are the best way to hang out with friends also to relax and have a laugh. board games club is run by Mrs Hernandez who had an amazing idea to start the club. Every week me and my friends never forget to come. Come and join the fun every friday lunch. see you there.

Molly Gardner 8ARC

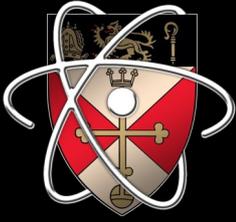


# Malmesbury Reads Day



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December we kicked off the season to be merry with a fantastic buzzing event to launch our renewed focus on reading, stories and books, books, books! The whole school took part in a series of activities ranging from 'guess the shelfie', an incredible Book-Off competition giving Prue and Paul a run for their money, a Comic Club run by Ms Morris, and a hugely popular book-swap in the main street organised by Mrs Sims at lunchtime. The Library rivalled any café to provide cocoa and bean-bags for students to cosy up with their chosen book. Local author Alex Evelyn and journalist Rupert Evelyn joined us for the day, running workshops on creative story-making and what it takes to produce a news report. It was an amazing day – World Book Day next on our reading calendar.. it's going to be a brilliant one!





# Rat Fest

To help to understand anatomy and the structure of mammalian bodies, twenty eight year 11 students interested in taking A-Level Biology conducted a full rat dissection over two evenings on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November.

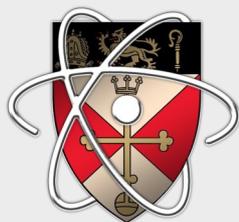
Students began by dissecting the abdomen and exploring the structure of the digestive system and the male and female reproductive systems. Students were able to explore the entire digestive system and see how the length of the small intestine helps with the digestion and absorption of food. Students also noted interesting differences between the rat and the human reproductive systems, adaptations that help rats to produce large litters of offspring. In particular, they were amazed by the large size of rat testicles in comparison to their body size.

Students also identified and dissected the rat kidneys, which really do look like and are exactly the same size as a kidney bean. Students then moved on to dissect the thorax and in particular the lungs and heart. Students were able to carefully dissect the tiny rat hearts and identify the four main chambers of the mammalian heart. All of these elements led to excellent and informative discussion with students that reinforced and extended the content that they have learnt for GCSE Science.

The more intrepid dissectors even managed to extract and dissect the brain of the rat and examined how the rat brain differs to the human brain. The students were fabulous, they conducted their first ever dissection with care and precision, they showed amazing skill to complete their dissections. The A-Level Biology teaching team were delighted with how engaged and interested our students were and indeed how much they enjoyed this experience.



## Forensics week



In November, Year 7 did a fantastic job of analysing the evidence to solve the mystery of who committed the crime.

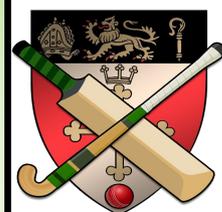
The culprit was heard saying as he was arrested: "I would have gotten away with it too, if it weren't for those meddling kids!"



## When Science and art combine!



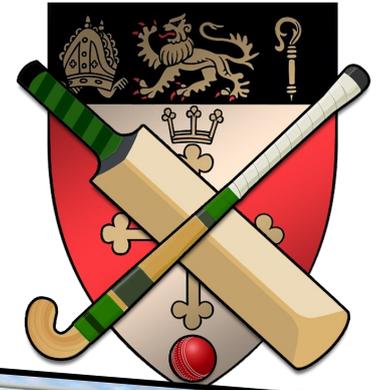
## NSEA Championships



During half term a team of riders from Malmesbury School travelled to Keysoe International in Bedfordshire for the NSEA National Championships. Having qualified earlier in the year at Hickstead the team competed in both the 80cm and 70cm show jumping classes. The classes were made up of schools from across the country, mainly private schools, and with a few faults in the 80cm class Malmesbury finished a very respectable 30th, out of nearly 50 teams. In the 70cm class the team finished on zero faults and were in the Top 8 which put them through to the big final jump off. Again the team finished on zero faults and they moved up the leaderboard from 8th to 3th position. The team members were Emily Alban-Jones, Georgia Grierson, Amelie Lucas and Holly Richards (see photo attached). Joe Collings who qualified for the team originally was unable to compete sadly due to injury.

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# Rugby Success



Congratulations to our rugby teams this year who had a fantastic season. It was great to get back into competitive fixtures and our teams really impressed on the pitch. Well done to all involved.

Listed below are the highlights-

**Year 7** – 2<sup>nd</sup> in Wiltshire Cup. George Smith Captain.

**Year 8** – Joint 1<sup>st</sup> Wilts cup. Digby Rose Captain.

**Year 9** – Joint 1<sup>st</sup> Wilts Cup. Ethan Bartlett Captain.

**Year 10** – County Cup finalists. Schools Cup Plate Regional final, last 32 in the country (to be played 2022). Ollie Vater & George Aston asked to trial for Bath DPP. Hayden Margetts Captain

**Year 11** – Rory Watkins Captain. Zach Hitchcock Smith asked to trial for Bath DPP.

**6<sup>th</sup> Form** - Cian Phoenix Captain. Got to Round 2 of the Schools Cup.



## Christmas Foodbank collection

The final house activity of the year was the Food bank collection. We have run this for many years but this year the task felt even more important. With 31% of children living in a house that is poverty stricken and 75% of those including one working adult, it is clear that the problem is getting worse not better. Out of 22 countries assessed on child poverty we lie 18<sup>th</sup> – quite a statistic for a relatively well-off nation. We decided to send our donation to Swindon food bank as they have faced unprecedented demand this year. They regularly feed up to 6000 people a year through their 7 distribution centres. Our aim this year was to equal the fantastic donation that we managed to collect last year and we absolutely achieved that aim.

Each house was responsible for covering the floor around their Christmas Tree and it is fair to say that there was a sea of food ready to be sent off this morning. See picture. This is just a huge well done to all of the students and their families who supported the foodbank so admirably this year – and a timely reminder that giving is better than receiving.

Merry Christmas everyone!

