



Meet the Senior Pastoral Leaders



Rowena Wood

Senior Pastoral Leader – Transition and
Year 7



Jacob Byrne

Senior Pastoral Leader – Years 8 and 9



I joined the school in 2001 and was previously an SPL from 2005 to 2010. I have been Acting SPL since Easter 2019. I enjoy working with students and staff across the school to help make sure that the young people in our care are in the best place to achieve their full potential. I also really enjoy visiting the Primary Schools and meeting our prospective students, as it is great to see their excitement and enthusiasm about joining us.

My highlights to date are always the moments when I feel that I've helped a young person to overcome a barrier so that they feel happier and are able to make a success of school.

As SPL for Year 7 and Transition, it is my job to ensure that students make a good start to secondary school. I oversee the transition process, liaising with Year 6 teachers and meeting prospective students to find out about them as individuals and understand their specific needs. I am then responsible for their pastoral care in their first year at Malmesbury, working with students, tutors and teachers to make sure that Year 7 is an exciting and positive experience.

I joined the school in January 2022 as SPL for Years 8 and 9 having spent the last five years working at a school in Cheltenham. What I find most rewarding about the role is being able to support pupils, challenge them to achieve their absolute best, and working in such a large and collaborative team. The role is fast-paced and no two days are ever the same; working in a pastoral role means there's never a dull moment! A particular strength of the pastoral system at the school is the extensive programme of personalised courses we offer to help support pupils' individual needs and is one of the many reasons why I am very proud to have joined the team at Malmesbury School.

I have completed a Masters in Learning and Teaching at The University of Oxford and conducted my own action research into developing behaviour systems which support *all* pupils and how peer mentoring can be deployed to improve engagement at school. It has given me a much better understanding of just how important outstanding pastoral care is for developing the child as a whole and achieving the best outcomes for our pupils.

Rachael Allaway

Senior Pastoral Leader – Years 10 and 11



I joined the school in 1998. The role has changed a lot since I started the role moving from Heads of Year to Heads of Key Stage. I started doing the Key Stage 4 role in 2005 and have loved most minutes of my time in the job! The best part is meeting so many amazing students and seeing them leave school ready to accept the challenge of higher education, further education and the working world. It is always wonderful seeing students in later life when they are still grateful for the time and guidance that they were given.

My role is to make sure that students can fully engage in their chosen subjects at KS4; working with students and their parents to overcome any barriers, whether pastoral or academic, to help them achieve the best outcomes that they can.

Part of my role is to facilitate the transition from KS4 to KS5 educational provision, whether that is at Malmesbury or elsewhere and organise up to date references for students that require them.

The nicest part of the job is working with the Prom committee to organise the annual celebration once the GCSE exams are over.

Andy Backwell

Senior Pastoral Leader – Sixth Form



I joined the school in 1988 and have been Head of Sixth Form for the last 15 years. I get the most enjoyment in my job from seeing students develop a range of skills and experiences that put them in the 'box seat' when it comes to deciding what they want to do when they leave school.

There are many highlights that range from phenomenal exam results, 'Outstanding' OFSTED inspections but I guess that the standout moment was when the 6th Form was rated in the Top 20 Sixth forms (11th) in the whole of the UK.

My role involves the day to day running of the 6th form and working with the wider sixth form team to develop a long-term strategic vision for curriculum provision including the Excellence Programme. Day to day activities involve providing pastoral support to students, supporting students with their UCAS applications, supporting recruitment and the sixth form options process but also making sure that students keep the Common Room, and work rooms, tidy!

Paul Loveday

Senior Pastoral Leader – Wellbeing, Attendance, Deputy Designated Lead



I joined Malmesbury School in 2014 and became the Senior Pastoral Leader for Year 8 and 9 in 2018. The thing I find most rewarding about my role is the opportunity to be there to support and guide students through the challenges they face. I particularly enjoy the fact that I never know what each day will bring. My highlight of the role is each year seeing students flourish as they progress into Key Stage 4, particularly those that have moved on from their behaviour patterns at Key Stage 3!

As SPL for Year 8 and 9 I am responsible for students' pastoral care as they continue their educational journey through the latter years of Key Stage 3 at Malmesbury School. I work with students, tutors, and teachers to make sure that Years 8 and 9 are as an exciting and rewarding experience as possible, supporting them through the challenges that they face as the progress towards their options and KS4.

HAPPY

CARING

EXCELLENT

