



MALMESBURY

MATTERS



From the Headteacher's desk...



Welcome to our first issue of 2023! I hope that all those in our school community had a lovely and restful Christmas break, even though this feels like a lifetime ago already. As we enter the New Year we are excited about the many opportunities available for us as a school, but also to navigate the challenges and disruption of industrial action. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those affected for their support, we will keep all parents and students updated with our plans for the next three days of action and the implications of these.

This term has been an exciting one for our Year 9s and Year 11s as they finalise plans for next year and decide which subjects they will opt to take for GCSE and A-level. It was wonderful to talk to so many students and parents about the range of options available and it is a first significant step for Year 9, who start to take control of their futures.

An absolute highlight of the term were the three brilliant Bussy Malone performances. The talent on show was incredible and seeing so many students from a variety of years groups, Year 7 all the way to Year 13 putting in such professional performances was a real treat. It was hilariously funny (and messy) and would not have been possible without the expert direction of our staff, who worked tirelessly to make the production the success it was, thank you to all of them. They truly embody our school focus of being Happy, Caring and Excellent ambassadors for Malmesbury School.

As the mornings get lighter and weather gets drier (here's hoping) school life comes alive as more of the fields and outside areas become accessible. I wish all our staff, parents and students a wonderful spring break.

Dates for your diary



Whole School Return- Monday 20th February

Fairtrade Fortnight- Monday 20th Feb- Friday 3rd March

National Farmers Union RS talk- Friday 24th February

Noughts & Crosses theatre trip - Thursday 2nd March

Year 7 Progress Evenings - Thursday 9th March & Monday 13th March

Chamber Concert - Wednesday 15th March

House Fashion Show - Friday 17th March

PTA Quiz- Friday 24th March

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Featuring: *Bussy Malone, Spelling Bee Competition, Careers and Art!*

News and Events

Bugsy Malone



After 3 years without school productions due to the pandemic, the cast and crew put on a performance of a lifetime to make up for it! It was this editor's first Malmesbury School production and the bar has been set so very high for future performances!

A special thanks to all the staff who contributed their time and expertise: Ms Edwards and Ms Calland for running the show, the wonderful Music department for their audio contributions, the Art department for their stunning stage additions and to Mr Brunsdon for his excellent stage management and training of the student led stage crew.

The atmosphere, the acting, the staging, the dancing... all made for the most splurgtastic evening!



8TC do Bugsy...!

"Doing the Bugsy Malone production was a great and fun experience! The production would not be possible without the help of our drama teachers, they stayed loads of late nights making a great show. The most enjoyable thing was probably the cast, as we made tons of new friends and had lots of fun during the shows. Not to mention the small party we all had together after the finale on Friday! It will be sad not to see some of the Sixth Formers next year but we definitely hope to be part of the next production is, because in our opinion it is a great opportunity!!"

Written by the wonderful cast members from 8TC



News and Events

Year 9 Art Day

Mr Gustard - Art tribute

The Year 9 Art day was a great success again. Our students loved working together to make huge paintings inspired by their heroes and icons.

The year 9s made fantastic work which is up around the school Well done Year 9!



At the very end of the Autumn term the Art department ran a special workshop in memory of Barry Gustard, our beloved teacher and colleague. A Level students made paintings inspired by Barry's colourful paintings on the theme of autumn colours. We spent the first part of the day at Westonbirt Arboretum where we sketched and recorded colour before returning to the art room and making beautiful paintings while listening to a selection of Barry's favourite music. The artwork can be found on the wall of the Upper Street at school.



News and Events

Holocaust Memorial Art Day with Sally de Courcy

The Art department at Malmesbury School organised a specialist Art workshop to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 and to explore the theme this year which is "Ordinary People". Students from Year 9 to Year 12 worked in small groups to explore and discuss the work of the artist Sally de Courcy looking specifically at her piece "The Colour of Mourning". Sally de Courcy generously loaned the school a set of work and joined via Zoom through the day to support us as we worked collectively to make installation type pieces in response to her work. This was a really exciting opportunity for our students to work alongside a fascinating artist and to make work around a deeply thought provoking and sensitive theme.



The day of working with the artist was a real privilege, our Art students were amazing throughout the workshop and they responded to the sensitive theme with stunning and deeply meaningful work. They commented on what a great day it was saying how they enjoyed the freedom to explore new materials and they loved seeing all the very different responses that came from the same work saying it "... expands students' horizons and perceptions of art." When reflecting on the workshop they said;

"... it was a great experience."

"I felt honoured to take part."

"I loved the experience and actually talking to the artist."

Sally de Courcy loved working with our students, she was so impressed by their comments and by the variety and high quality of their artistic responses. We are very excited that we have another workshop with her booked in for the end of June, this time she will be joining us in person to work with our wonderful year 10 artists and make an installation in a public space around Malmesbury.



News and Events

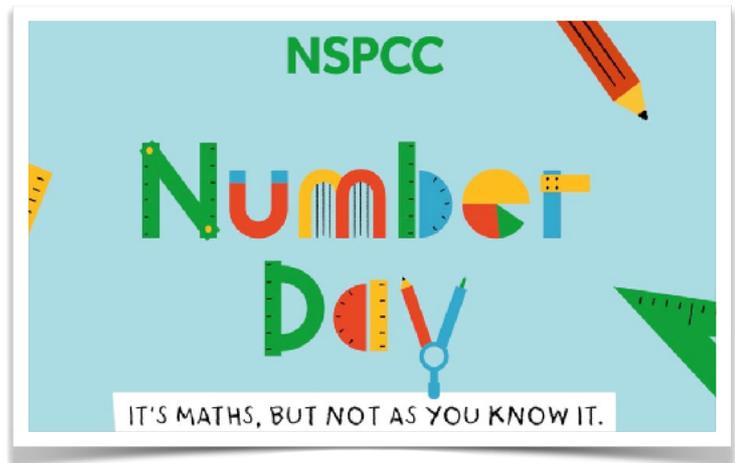
Maths update

On Thursday 2nd February Maths was busy hosting the **Intermediate UKMT Maths challenge** at school for Year 9 and 10. This is a challenging, multiple-choice paper with some interesting and tricky problems to be solved, like this....

What is the value of $1 - (2 - (3 - 4 - (5 - 6)))$?

A -2 B -1 C 0 D 1 E 2

That same day 12 Year 8 students represented Malmesbury at the **MAT Maths Challenge** held at The Dean Academy. Our students competed in teams of four and as a school in several rounds including a relay round complete with star jumps! Malmesbury did us proud, coming second in both the School and Team events, losing out on 1st place by only 7 points! Well done everyone involved!



NSPCC Number Day was held on Friday 3rd February and gave us the chance to Dress for Digits raising £284 for the NSPCC. Students also had the chance to play in the 24 Game during registration, competing to make 24 with just four given numbers. The Champions will go onto play in our Grand Final 24 Game next term, so watch this space!

Students all over the school showcased their creative mathematical sides making fantastic Number Day bunting too...



News and Events

An Insight Into... Telemarking

Max in Year 9 takes us through his experience:

In January 2023, I competed in the National Telemark Championships in Pralognan-la-Vanoise, France.

Telemark skiing is fun, but the ten days were extremely hard work. The first five days were about build up training and development, the days were long, and the training was hard. Every day I would wake up and be on the mountain for around 8am. I would meet my group and instructor and with them, I would ski the whole mountain side, working on my technique and the basics of telemarking. I would then head back to dinner, homework an evening lesson on racing, equipment preparation or fitting and finally bed.

As well as meeting a whole range of new people from all different backgrounds and professions. I competed in three races: The classic, the Sprint and the Mountain Race over the course of 3 days.

For the two weeks, it wasn't just an experience learning about telemarking, it was life-changing, from the spectacles of the surrounding wilderness to the many stories laid out by my peers and what I learned about the Armed Forces, the roles they complete and the different people which make it up. It was an eye opener to the many wonders of the world.



Virtual Reality in Careers

This term, during an iLearn lesson, a group of year 11 students tested out VR headsets for use in their careers curriculum.

The students were able to complete a personality quiz in virtual reality via the Launch My Career platform. The quiz helped the students to think about their strengths and weaknesses as well as look into career ideas.



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Curriculum Updates

The Athlestan Trust has developed a new Collaborative Curriculum Tool that allows staff across the network to collaborate to enrich the curriculum we deliver. These new resources have greater inclusion of the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) themes. This improves relevance and engagement in the curriculum and prepares our students to become Global Citizens.

Students have really enjoyed looking at these new resources which incorporates themes around Race and Culture, LGBTQ+, Gender and SEND. Our teachers enjoy shaping our curriculum to ensure it is representative of our diverse student population.



Curriculum Spotlight: Black Tudors

A little-known fact is that Black people and people of colour were living as 'free people' in England during the Tudor times, and Queen Elizabeth I ensured all people of colour were 'free' on England's soil, despite England being involved in the Transatlantic slave trade elsewhere.

John Blanke was an African musician who performed at Henry VIII's coronation in 1509, and in 1511 at the Westminster Tournament, a huge celebration organised in honour of the new Prince Henry. This child was born to Katherine of Aragon on 1st January 1511 but sadly died only ten days after the Tournament in February. To the left, is an image from the 60 ft long Tournament Roll. This is a piece that was created to mark the procession of people involved in the jousting event. John Blanke features in this twice. Due to his role in promoting the event, John Blanke petitioned the King for a wage rise and the Royal Exchequer accounts show that the King granted his request and Blanke was paid ten times his usual wage for the Tournament, so he had cause for celebration too! The following year, he had a personal celebration, as he married in 1512 and Henry VIII gave him a wedding present.



The View from Year 7

We are officially half-way through the year and what a brilliant year it has been so far! We have had another great term in Year 7, and they continue to throw themselves fully into school life. Seeing so many Year 7 taking part in the performance of Buggy Malone has been a real highlight for me. What a talented bunch Year 7 are! Likewise, Year 7 were very well represented in the Spelling Bee. Huge congratulations to Gabby, Elio, Harry, Florence, Samantha, Reuban, Sophie, Martha and Bella who made it through to the final stages. Also, congratulations to Darius who impressively took the crown in the Chess Competition this term. It has been great to hear about so many extra-curricular successes outside school as well.

We have finally said goodbye to what has felt like a very long and cold January, and I am looking forward to seeing Year 7 in the new term, full of the joys of spring!

Mrs Morris

Buggy Malone by Eloise Conway

The musical we did this year was Buggy Malone. Year 7 took on many parts from main roles to ensemble. This would never have come together without our amazing teachers and the commitment of all the cast members. One of my favourite parts was at the end when we got to spray silly string and shaving cream everywhere! Overall it was a



brilliant experience to be a part of and really enjoyable.

A spotlight on Super Swimmer Sophie Steele by Felicity Conway

Sophie swims three times a week and competes in races. Exercise is always great for your health and body and swimming is such a good way to do that! Sophie is getting great exercise with fun mixed in. She also does strength land-based training at Southern Academy of Sport to develop her power and fitness. Sophie trains with lots of people and describes it as "fun and very hard work". Sophie loves swimming so much, explaining that water is "like a force, fun to use it and magical."

Sophie competes in galas, races and even for the country. It is such a great achievement to have made it as a top swimmer in the county. Sophie has been swimming her whole life and thoroughly enjoying it! Like any one of us would, she is nervous for any race, but she still gets those medals and trophies! There is a lot of hard work and commitment. Sophie has won many awards, but this season she has picked up 14 medals and 4 trophies including 6 bronze, 2 silver and 4 gold! Spectacular!

Keep on swimming Sophie!

Darius the Chess Winner by Rosa Clough

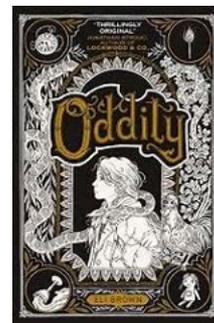
Darius in 7TL was the winner of the Malmesbury School chess competition run by our trustworthy tutor Mr Lay. This competition was very exciting and competitive and took lots of courage, cooperation and thought. I asked Darius how he was feeling about his win and he said "I am happy and I don't quite believe it is true". He said his parents were very happy with his win and he hasn't quite decided how he is going to use his prize. Well done Darius! 7TL are very proud of you!

The View from Year 7

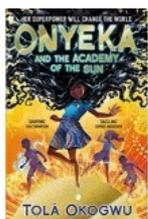
Favourite Reads by Year 7

Oddity by **Eli Brown** *Reviewed by Seth Kilburn-Bond*

This is an incredibly unusual book, unlike anything I've read before, yet mind bogglingly brilliant! In a wonderful, fantastic fantasy adventure story, Eli Brown writes of thirteen-year-old Clover Elkin and the mysterious oddities, ordinary objects with extraordinary powers, some of which are strong enough to change history itself. For example, a box of matches which when struck can stop time. This tantalising tale is perfect for fans of Neil Gaiman and Phillip Pullman because it is dark and eerie with strong characters. Those of you who are passionate about page turners, devoted to the different and dazzling, this could be your next book! Happy reading!



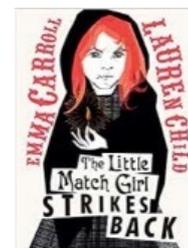
Onyeka and the Academy of The Sun by **Tolá Okogwu** *Reviewed by Seren Hall*



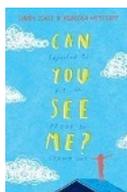
This book is very good because, for me, it has the perfect amount of suspense, thrill, and is great for readers who don't like too much of a scare, but a good read. It has a strong female heroine, Onyeka, who goes to a school for Solari, children with superpowers, and it all seems great for a while, with all the great food in the canteen, but mysterious people are attacking the Academy. Why? And could it be related to her Dad's disappearance all those years ago? Onyeka must find out, with new friends, before its too late...

The Little Match Girl Strikes Back by **Emma Carroll** *Reviewed by Florence Hayman*

This book is amazing. It is based on the classic Hans Christian Anderson Story, but it has a much happier ending! Set in the Victorian era, the book's main character is Bridey, a match girl working for the Bryant & May factory. Her job is terrible: selling matches on the freezing streets of London. However, after several magical occurrences she realises that she can change her life for the better. I would recommend this book to people who love history, magic and a wonderfully wintery story! The book is also illustrated beautifully by Lauren Child.



Can You See Me? By **Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott** *Reviewed by Lottie Landon*



This is an outstanding novel that I think everyone should read. It changes your perspective on the world and teaches you a lot about autism. It is about an autistic girl called Tally and the tough times she faces in her new secondary school. It provokes many emotions, including happiness, sadness, anger and it teaches you to empathise with others who are in a different situation to yourself. It should be a mandatory read for all school pupils.

Mum Made Us Write This In The Summer by **Ali Maier** *Reviewed by Eloise Conway*

I enjoyed this book because it shows two points of view on the same story. The main characters are twins, and I am a twin, so I find it funny, accurate, and easy to compare with. I understand how they are feeling so it makes the book even more interesting and relatable.



Around the School

Sixth Formers in charge - Laura Deaville, Suzu Clemo and Lily Philips take over the editorial suite!

German Translation Workshop

Malmesbury School had the pleasure of attending a German translation workshop at Marlborough College in October. The workshop was led by Ruth Martin, a professional translator who most recently translated 'The Coral Merchant: essential stories' by Joseph Roth and provided excellent advice on how to navigate tricky translating for the students here at Malmesbury. Set in the Garnett room, the workshop focused on poetry translation, but alongside that, students were given the chance to translate fish jokes (or attempt to!) Malmesbury students were enthusiastic, tackling any questions with readiness and gusto. The workshop provided an excellent opportunity for A-level and Year 11 to receive useful tips on translating ahead of GCSE and A-level exams as well as receiving first-hand intel on what its like working in the translation industry. Sophie a Year 12 German student, summed up her experience of the trip as a 'memorable lecture, she gave great advice and made the whole evening fun!'

Humanist Speaker

During extended registration on a Friday, the sixth form common room welcomed Ms Garton, a humanist speaker. Ms Garton delivered a thought provoking talk to Year 12 about her view on religion. As she is a humanist, she believes that there is no God and that you should do good actions for yourself and the community. She made her point of view clear to us by giving strong examples of how you can lead a positive life without having to follow a set holy book, scriptures or rules. In doing so, it left all of Year 12 reflecting on their own beliefs and sparking conversations which crossed over to other subjects such as politics. This really widened my personal knowledge as an A-level RS student; as well as how privileged we are to live in a country where freedom of religion is respected.



2023 Spelling Bee House Competition

During the week of the 9th January the annual Malmesbury Spelling Bee was enjoyed by over 80 participants. The crowds had a fantastic time each day witnessing the highly competitive and at times brutal nature of the competition. By Friday we had 20 finalists ready to battle it out in front of a full crowd of spectators. After some truly astounding spelling by Year 7 and Year 8 Elio Guarino and Rebecca Lowthian ended up winners of Year 7 and Year 8 respectively. We then had a mixed heat of Year 9, 10 and 11 where Jack Andrews came out on top. The final was turbo charged with nerves and emotions and after some skill and good fortune combined, Jack Andrews was crowned top speller for 2023. He was the deserved recipient of a £15 Amazon voucher, a big bar of chocolate and a resplendent 2023 Spelling Bee trophy. A fabulous competition with some very sportsperson like conduct. This event was a pleasure to run. Thank you to all involved.



PTA Update

Thank you for all the hard work from our helpers who came out in force both for the Christmas Concert and Buggy Malone to help at the bar! The mince pies and mulled wine were a great treat before Christmas and due to your generosity at the events, we have been able to purchase more benches for the indoor street and books for the Science department.

We look forward to seeing you at the Quiz Night on the **March 24th** at the school. Tickets can be purchased from reception, Malmesbury PTA Facebook page or email at malmesburyacademypta@gmail.com. We also have a School Disco for grown ups planned on 20th May at the Town Hall. So get your brains in gear and get out your old school uniform- let's have fun raising funds!

Don't forget to sign up for Easygiving and raise funds whilst shopping! Please support Malmesbury School PTA - Wiltshire on #easyfundraising this year, you can raise FREE donations when you shop online with over 7,000 brands. It's simple and only takes 2 minutes to sign up! This will make a BIG difference to us. Sign up here: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/malmesburypta/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_source=social&utm_medium=facebook&utm_content=fdg23-f1

MALMESBURY SCHOOL PTA

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 24TH MARCH 7.30PM

SCHOOL HALL

£5 PER PERSON

TICKETS:

- SCHOOL RECEPTION - MALMESBURY PTA FB PAGE
- MALMESBURYACADEMYPTA@GMAIL.COM

TEAMS OF UP TO 8 (CAN BE ALLOCATED ON THE NIGHT)

Cash bar NIBBLES INCLUDED Cash bar

Community Pages

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT MALMESBURY

ADVICE - WARM SPACES - HEATING - CLOTHING -FOOD

The 'Cost of Living Crisis' means that many of us are finding it difficult to manage rising energy, food and other costs. Malmesbury Town Council, Wiltshire Council and local organisations have partnered together to provide a network of support and information.

HEALS

HEALS (Help, Empowerment And Local Support) is a local charity providing practical help for those facing financial hardship and other challenges. Contact HEALS at heals.malmesbury@gmail.com

COMMUNITY FRIDGE (HEALS Project)

Free food, which is available for anyone to take from the fridge, located next to the lift in the Town Hall. This food is approaching its 'use by date' and would otherwise go to landfill, but instead is collected daily by volunteers from the local Aldi and the Co-op.

COMMUNITY WARDROBE (HEALS Project)

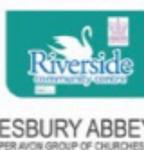
Free, donated, clean, warm clothing for adults and children is available on Tuesday mornings 9am to 11.30am at the Riverside Community Centre. To donate clothing, please take it bagged up to the Gloucester Road Co-op and the Town Hall.

MALMESBURY & DISTRICT FOODBANK

Need help with food? Then you will need a foodbank voucher from a local agency, such as HEALS, Citizens Advice, schools, churches, housing support officers, health visitors, social services. If you are in financial crisis, call the free helpline, Help through Hardship, on 0808 2082138 to talk confidentially with a trained Citizens Advice adviser. They can help address your crises and provide support. If needed, they'll issue you with a voucher so you can get an emergency food parcel. The foodbank is in the Old School Room, Town Hall (entrance off Market Lane) Tuesdays 10am-11:30am and Thursdays 1pm-2.30pm. Email: info@malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk or tel:01666 826982

ADVICE FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Tel: 0300 456 0100 or search their website www.wiltshire.gov.uk for Cost of Living Crisis. Also look under this section of the website to find other 'Warm Spaces' in Wiltshire.



The Malmesbury Cost of Living Support initiative includes these partners:

Community Pages



Jobs at Malmesbury School



Would you like to work for Malmesbury School?

We are currently looking to recruit Exam Invigilators on a casual basis.

We are also looking for Teaching Assistants and Cover Supervisors.

All positions are term time only, part-time, full-time, and flexible hours.

If you are interested, please visit our school website/About Us/Vacancies and complete an application form for Support Staff, and return it to Jan Hainsworth, Administration & HR Manager

<https://malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/vacancies/>

jhainsworth@malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk

Should your child feature in Malmesbury Matters?

We always want to hear about the wonderful accomplishments your child achieves - so tell us about them! Please email: mailin@malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk with pictures and a summary of the activity!

What is my child learning this term?

Year 7 - <https://malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Year-7-curriculum-booklet-Final-June.pdf>

Year 8 - <https://malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Year-8-curriculum-booklet-Final-June.pdf>

Year 9- <https://malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Year-9-curriculum-booklet-final-June.pdf>

Year 10 & 11 - <https://malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/KS4-curriculum-booklet.pdf>