

MALMESBURY MATTERS

MAY 2025



From the Headteacher's Desk

As the school term full of wonderful long weekends comes to a close, so too does the year for our Year 11 and 13 students. The exams come round very quickly, and we wish all those sitting formal examinations all the very best for the next few weeks. Exams are often seen as an important moment for students academically, but I always believe they teach us much more about character, resilience and perseverance. They are

nerve wracking times for some, but the support all our staff offer makes the difference. Good luck!

Term 6 is a long and sunny period, with lots of great events to look forward to, not least the visit of our Chinese partner school, the brilliant M-Fest, our whole school production "Me And My Girl", Year 11 and Year 13 Proms and of course the exciting opportunity to meet our new Year 7s on our intake days in July.

Have a lovely rest over half term, with plenty of great weather (I hope)!

Click on the links below to learn more about what your child is learning or visit www.malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk > General Information > Curriculum

**YEAR
7**

**YEAR
8**

**YEAR
9**

**YEARS
10/11**

happy

caring

excellent

Dates for your diary

10th June

French Exchange to
Morlaix

12th June

Year 8 Parents Evening
8JC, 8NC, 8LA, 8LW, 8SG

19th June

Year 8 Parents Evening
8CPA, 8CT, 8HF, 8SB

20th -26th June

Year 12 Mock Exams

26th June

Yr 11 6th Form
Welcome Event

27th June

Athelstan Trust
Inset Day

Year 11 Prom

30th June

Inset Day

2nd & 3rd July

Challenge Cup Days

4th July

Year 13 Prom

9th & 10th July

New Intake Days

9th July

M Fest

16th-18th July

Me & My Girl

24th July

End of Term

VISIT FROM FORMER STUDENT GENERAL SIR GWYN JENKINS

Malmesbury School students were honoured to receive a visit from a former student, General Sir Gwyn Jenkins.

General Jenkins was a student at Malmesbury School in the 1980s and returned to unveil his new Alumni Board and also meet with students interested in a career in the armed forces. General Jenkins has recently been announced as the new 1st Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff, the first Royal Marine to ever do so.

After unveiling his alumni board, General Jenkins had a tour of the school with some sixth form students and then hosted a Q and A with 80 students, they hung off his every word and asked some great questions. What would your advice be for anyone interested in joining the forces? What was the best place you have visited? Were two examples.

General Jenkins reflected on his time at Malmesbury fondly and also explained how his time as an Air Cadet at the local Squadron had given him a flavour of life in the military.

Brett Jouny, Headteacher said:

"We were thrilled to be able to welcome back General Sir Gwyn Jenkins. Our students were delighted to meet him and hear of his inspirational journey to lead the Navy. He was pleased to become part of our "Alumni wall" and it was a special moment to have him unveil his poster. We are so grateful to him for giving up his valuable time and look forward to following his career and hopefully welcoming him back again to school in the near future."

Any other Malmesbury School Alumni who would like to get in touch, please email the school mailin@malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk

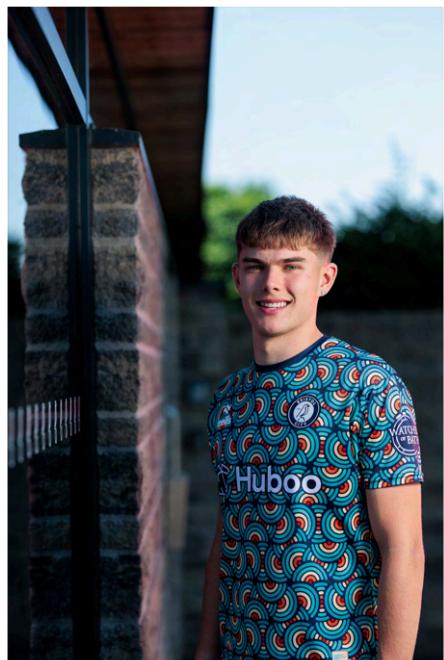


ALFIE SIGNS FOR SWINDON TOWN FC

Huge congratulations to Alfie P in Year 8 who has signed an academy contract with Swindon Town FC. It's a brilliant achievement we are all hugely proud! We wish him all the very best for the next season and beyond and look forward to following his football career.



MALMESBURY ALUMNI JACK SIGNS FOR BRISTOL CITY



Former student Jack Witchard has recently signed a professional football contract with Bristol City. He also played in the play off finals at Ashton Gate. They won making them national u18 champions for the Premier Development League. Jack has recently been on loan to Cribbs Mens Football and was awarded manager's, players' and supporters' player of the year.

Well done Jack! What a brilliant achievement. We are excited to see what the next season brings for you!

TRIATHLON CLUB

On Friday 16th of May ten triathletes took part in the last school triathlon event of the year. They swam 400m (16 lengths) cycled 10km and then ran 6 laps around the school. It was another lovely event with all ten completing the race. Congratulations to Georgia G, in Year 12, who won, and to all ten triathletes for contributing to such a great occasion. An impressive performance from all of them!

Thanks also to James and Chloe, from The Activity Zone, for helping to run things.



SWIM ENGLAND SOUTHWEST



Noah W, in Year 8, recently qualified for and competed at the Swim England South West Championships. Noah qualified for 50m butterfly and 50m backstroke. Noah swims alongside Sophie S, Niah R and Janelle B who also competed and did brilliantly this year in the senior events. Noah smashed his previous 50m butterfly by over 2 seconds which his coaches were delighted about. No medals in this, his first regionals, but an excellent performance following a successful County Championships earlier this year.



YUGO WILTSHIRE SEND FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On Wednesday 19th of March we took 11 students to the Wiltshire FA headquarters in Devizes for a county SEND football event. Students from the other schools were much older than ours and physically much bigger. However, our students showed amazing resilience, kept going and not once complained. They worked brilliantly as a team and supported each other so well. We lost all our matches, but the students really enjoyed themselves and were a credit to the school. We had to wait until the last match to score our first goals with Frankie O, in Year 7, getting two. At the end of the event Frankie and Gracie V, also in Year Seven, did a recorded interview for the organisers.





WELL DONE MALMESBURY VICTORIA!

On Saturday the 10th of May a Malmesbury Victoria team made up of many students past and present, took on Highworth Town in the North Wiltshire League Cup Final at the County Ground.

In a close game with few clear chances Malmesbury were able to battle back from a 1-0 deficit to win the game 2-1 and lift the trophy. Congratulations to Alec, Louis, Ollie, Ruben, Sam, Will and all of their team mates on their achievement.

STEPHANIE MILLWARD SWIMMING GALA

On Wednesday 7th of May we took twelve Year 7 and Year 8 students to Trowbridge Swimming Pool for the Mid-Wiltshire Area Swimming Championships. The event involved students swimming individual and relay races in all four of the main strokes. There were eleven schools taking part in the event and Malmesbury came a very credible third. Thanks to Niah and Hannah in Year Ten for being such a great help with the organisation.

GOOD LUCK CHAPS IN THE CRUDWELL 24 HOUR BIKE RIDE!

Five Year 11 boys (Will D, Sam C, Troy M, Fred Gl and Noah Mc) are taking part in the Crudwell 24hr Bike Ride on 20th June. This is their fourth year of cycling their socks off for charity. They aim to cycle more laps than last year when they achieved 55, each lap being 7 miles long. That equates to 385 miles in 24 hours!

This year their chosen charity is **Head for Change**, which focuses on mental health and brain rehabilitation for those involved in sport. Over the last three years they have consistently raised the most sponsorship money, so would be grateful for any support in helping them maintain that record

You can sponsor them by [clicking here](#).

RACE REPORT – ROUND 2, LIGIER EUROPEAN SERIES – CAR 27

(JUDE PETERS & VIC STEVENS)

By Jude Peters

Paul Ricard Circuit, France

The second round of the Ligier European Series took us to the iconic Paul Ricard Circuit in the south of France, a fast, technical track where sim prep proved invaluable. Despite limited testing, I arrived ready, thanks to countless hours in the sim, and it paid off.

Free Practice

FP1 showed strong early pace, finishing P5. A spin in FP2 left us with flat-spotted tyres, but even then, we finished P7 surprising the team with competitive lap times on damaged rubber.

Qualifying

We lined up P2 for Race 1 and P5 for Race 2 in a fiercely competitive field great starting positions and a testament to the preparation.

Race 1 - First Podium!

Starting from the front row, my co-driver Vic Stevens got a lightning start and wisely settled into P2. We maintained a strong gap until a safety car erased the advantage and bunched the field. A hectic pit stop dropped us to P5, but I kept calm, focused, and pushed back up to P3 my first prototype endurance podium and a proud moment for the whole team.

Race 2 - Double Podium

Race 2 delivered drama. Unexpected rain soaked the track pre-race with no wet testing, it was a tense moment. Fortunately, drying conditions brought the track back to us. After a tough start from P4, I fought through a competitive field with close, clean racing that earned great coverage. Vic took over, made up ground, and pushed for P2 in the final laps. A small slide near the finish meant we crossed the line in P3 two podiums from two races!

Next stop: Le Mans. With minimal track time, sim prep will once again be key. I'll be ready.



6TH FORM TRIP TO ICELAND

By Mrs Hall

This year Malmesbury Sixth formers were lucky to have the opportunity to go to Iceland in February half term to see the unique tectonic landforms and landscape of this wonderful country.

21 students and 2 staff set off on the Tuesday at what was actually a very reasonable time to fly over to Reykjavík. We arrived to our rather unique hotel (windows to internal corridors was an interesting selling point) but this was met with much good humour. Luckily, the accommodation was actually entirely serviceable, but we spent almost no time there anyway as there was simply so much to see. Over the course of the three days we visited waterfalls, saw volcanoes, went to the LAVA centre, swam in hot springs and swimming pools where we witnessed first-hand the scrupulous rules relating to personal hygiene that are followed there. We saw glaciers, petted Icelandic horses, heard stories about the very necessary dating apps utilised by a population with a small original genetic pool and walked along the black sandy beaches of Vik. In the evenings we had lots of fun with silly challenges and quizzes producing some of the funniest pictures of the entire trip, along with some great food.

To add a 'cherry' to the top of the already considerable cake that we were lucky enough to experience in Iceland - on the last night one of our fantastic students pointed out that the chances of witnessing the Northern lights were at their highest at the bay in Reykjavik that night. We were all exhausted from a very active three days, but it was testament to the incredible bunch that we took that every single student donned their coats over their pyjamas and traipsed down to the bay to see what we could see at midnight. Low and behold, what was initially a slither became a flow blown display. We were all so thankful that we went and it was a moment that I personally will never forget. That and the great company that we took will be a memory that stands out from my career as a teacher and I would really like to thank Miss Brownlee for organising such an amazing trip.



CAREERS WEEK 2025

Careers Fair

On Thursday 27th March, Malmesbury School hosted thirty-four external visitors from local companies and providers, colleges and Universities to talk to students about their career choices. All year groups were given thirty minutes to take the opportunity to speak to the visitors about their career options including university courses, college courses, volunteering, apprenticeships, summer jobs, C.V's and interviews, work life and the current labour market. The students had a fantastic time exploring options for their future and we received wonderful feedback on how polite and engaging our students were.

KS3 Career Days

On Monday 31st March to Wednesday 2nd April, Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in a Careers Day. The days are designed to develop the students' work skills including communication, problem solving, teamwork, literacy, numeracy, listening, and empathy skills.

On Monday Year 9 took part in a variety of lessons to develop their numeracy skills for the future. Lessons included information on understanding payslips, how to budget effectively, avoiding debt, banks, savings and ethical finance decisions. We were also very grateful to James Britton, a local financial advisor who came in to speak to Year 9 during assembly on the importance of knowing how to look after your money.

On Tuesday, Year 7 had their Careers Day where tutor groups were tasked to design and plan a new wildlife park. Tutor groups had the day to plan the running of the park and how they would finance the business, developing the students' numeracy, team working, problem solving and communication skills. At the end of the day, each tutor group presented their proposal to Mr Jouny and Mrs Green who had the difficult decision of deciding the winner. After much discussion, they announced 7IH as the winners. Congratulations to 7IH and well done to all Year 7 for all their hard work.

On Wednesday, Year 8 had their Careers Day where they took part in a variety of workshops to develop their skills to enter the world of work. These sessions included team building activities, conducting interviews, and presenting presentations to develop the students' communication, problem solving, teamwork, literacy, numeracy, listening, and empathy skills.

Year 10 Work Experience

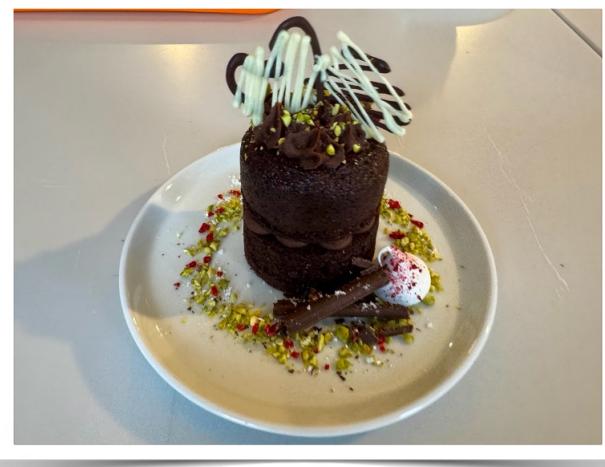
Year 10 students were out on work experience during the week on the placements that they had secured. This provided the students with a great opportunity to explore their future work options, and we received some wonderful feedback from providers of how well the students had enjoyed and performed during the week.

HOBBS HOUSE BAKERY VISIT

Our Year 12 Food and Nutrition group were lucky enough to attend a trip hosted by Hobbs House Bakery. The students were given a very informative tour, by Anna one of the owners, around the bakery where they were able to see how baked goods are manufactured and how hygiene and safety standards are maintained in this environment. The students were able to see how Hobbs House aim to be as environmentally friendly as possible and the lengths they go to achieve this. We were all very intrigued to see their 60 year old sour dough starter!

After this they spent the rest of the day with Jane who runs the Hobbs House Cookery School. The aim of the session was to help the students gain a better understanding of food styling. Jane had gone to a lot of effort to prepare lots of components so the students could have a masterclass in bagel making and food styling. The students explored how to present the fillings on their bagels, which we then ate for lunch. Afterwards they looked at chocolate work and how to style a chocolate cake dessert.

We are so grateful to Hobbs House for this very generous trip. Everyone was very encouraging and supportive. The students learnt so much and they have been able to (brilliantly) implement the skills they learnt in their recent assessment practical. We look forward to sharing the photos of this practical once the Exam Board restriction passes so watch this space!



PRIDE CUP CAKES RECIPE

Ingredients

110g unsalted butter (softened)
½ tsp vanilla extract
100g caster sugar
2 eggs
100g self-raising flour
Red, blue and yellow gel food colouring (you can use any colours you like)

Method

Step 1 - Heat 180C/gas mark 4

Step 2 - Beat the butter, vanilla and caster sugar together until they are pale and fluffy. Using one egg at a time mix in your eggs.

Step 3 - Fold in the flour. Using 5 bowls (cereal bowls work well) split your mixture between the bowls and then add a couple of drops of food colouring to each and mix in. You can mix the colours so you could make red, yellow, green, blue and purple, but any colours will work well.

Step 4 - Starting with the end of the rainbow put at least one tsp of the mixture into the cupcake cases at a time, you can smooth this out to make a layer then add the next colour on top. Keep going until the cupcake cases are full.

Step 5 - Bake in the oven for about 15 minutes. To check you can poke them with a butter knife and if it comes out clean then they are cooked.

Once they have cooled down decorate them anyway you like, get creative, or eat them as they are. If you would like to make your own butter cream then mix together 150g butter, 300g icing sugar and 3 tbsp milk.

Please do show photos of your bakes to Mrs Dodd or Ms Parsons, we'd love to see them.



Have you got a recipe you would like to share? If you do, please chat to Ms Parsons!

YEAR 10 GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES TALK

On Wednesday 7th May, Year 10 GCSE Religious Studies students received a talk and workshop by Narda Das and Neera on the ISKCON - Hare Krishna Movement in Hinduism. The pupils learned about the denomination's history, key beliefs and practices, where they also experienced and took part in the Hare Krishna aarati, one form of Hindu worship, which forms the most important part of their daily lives. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the talk and workshop, where there was an opportunity at the end of the session to ask questions to extend the pupils current understanding on the Hindu religion.



HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS PODCASTS – PUBLIC VOTE

In October 2024, Malmesbury School welcomed an external company from Wiltshire Council to deliver an assembly to Year 11 on unhealthy relationships as part of their Personal Development programme. The company also worked with the Year 10 GCSE drama group in the morning to produce podcasts on the topic of unhealthy relationships.

One of the podcasts made was selected as a finalist and put forward for the public vote. Congratulations to Nathan S, Noah D, Bella H, Mia B, Sofia W-C and Trinity B for the excellent podcast made and being selected for the final. The podcast will now be used in Personal Development lessons at Malmesbury School.

HOBBES FESTIVAL WEEKEND

As Malmesbury town celebrated the Hobbes festival weekend we were lucky enough to have Dr Vittorio Bufacchi a philosophy lecturer from the University of Cork speaking to our Year 12 Politics/ RS/ History / Law and English students.

Another group of students were busy at the United Reform Church digging for Hobbes House. Thank you to Cotswold Archaeology for facilitating this.



MID-SOMERSET FESTIVAL TRIUMPH FOR DAISY

Back in March, Daisy H (Y8) competed in the Mid Somerset Festival in Bath. She won both her classes (Solo Mime & Solo Shakespeare). This was against very strong competition, so it is a fantastic achievement for Daisy!

Well done! We are all very proud of you!



VISIT BY FORMER STUDENT SYD TO THE LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT



This term, we had the pleasure of welcoming Syd Barber, an ex-student, who shared invaluable insights on effectively revising and preparing for the upcoming A-level exams in Modern Languages. Syd recounted her personal experiences, challenges she faced, and the strategies she employed to succeed. Her expertise and practical advice have undoubtedly inspired and motivated our linguists to approach their studies with renewed determination and confidence. We are incredibly grateful for her time and support.

'We had an ex-Malmesbury student visit our Spanish lesson to share her experience during Spanish A-levels, providing us with some of her favourite resources and advice on revision techniques to achieve the best possible grades. It was incredibly helpful and motivating to hear directly from someone who had experienced it so recently. Syd also spoke about how she used Spanish during her gap year and the opportunities it has given her. For example, she is about to move to Barcelona for three months to fully immerse herself in the language through a native fashion internship and navigating life in Spain.' Imi (year 13)

'As a current Malmesbury student studying A-level Spanish, having someone come in to talk to us was so inspiring, especially since Syd shared her perspective as a former student of the course. She spoke about her preferred revision techniques and the focal points that were beneficial to her, which was very motivating! Syd also mentioned her future plans to utilise her Spanish skills and how the A-level had given her a significant head start in understanding the language as well as the cultural norms and differences within the Spanish-speaking world.' Bea (year 13)

The Spanish Civil War: A Memory

By Inés Soto (Year 8) and Mrs. Hernandez

As a Spaniard who grew up hearing my Dad's stories about the Spanish Civil War, it was surprising to find a student at Malmesbury with a similar background. And now I teach about it to A-level Spanish students. The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) was a significant event in Spain's history. It was a conflict between the Republicans, who were loyal to the democratic Spanish Republic, and the Nationalists, led by General Francisco Franco. The war resulted in Franco's dictatorship, which lasted until his death in 1975. Many people, including Inés' grandfather, had to flee the country to escape the violence and political persecution. Here Inés, recounts her Abuelo's story:



"When my grandfather (my Abuelo) was a child, the Civil War broke out in Spain. His father was a left wing journalist and had a death sentence imposed on him by Franco's administration. Therefore, my great grandfather escaped to Italy leaving my grandfather, his mother and his two brothers. Along with many other people they tried to leave Spain. His two older brothers were conscripted into Franco's (the dictator of Spain at the time) army. My Abuelo and his mother got to The Pyrenees where he and his mother were separated by a heard of livestock.

He was taken with other children in Russian (communist) trucks to France where he is taken into the care of French monasteries. The monks and the French children were very cruel. He and two other children escaped where they had to live feral in the woods, eating and drinking whatever they could find.

Around this time World War II broke out. Nearby to where he and his friends were surviving, there was a camp of Nazi soldiers who found them. The German soldiers felt bad for them and shared their rations with the children. The excess use of rations forced the German troop to move camps. My grandfather was then rescued by a Canadian Mormon rescue charity.

My Abuelo's brothers, who had fled the army following their father's death sentence, somehow found him in occupied France and brought him back to Spain. They took him to a barber as his hair was mangled and full of lice. My Abuelo refused to have his head shaved and ran from the barber. From that point he always cut his hair himself and never went to a barber again.

His father was now in England still working as a journalist. He slowly relocated his family from Spain to London. He and his 2 brothers started a family business giving tours around Britain to people from Spain and South America who didn't speak English.

All three brothers married, had families and remained in the UK"



THE BENEFITS OF SCHOOL EXCHANGES: A VALENCIA EXPERIENCE

I want to start with the words of one student that really sums up what that week meant: "I don't think I'll have a week which will ever teach me so much about life as this has, thanks miss"

School exchanges offer students a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in a new culture, develop language skills, and create lasting memories. A recent exchange visit to Valencia, Spain, for Year 10 and Year 12 students from January 31st to February 6th highlighted these benefits through a range of enriching experiences.

Family life and school

In Valencia, students stayed with local families, experiencing daily life in Spain firsthand. This immersion helped them improve their Spanish language skills and understand Spanish culture better. Students attended classes at local schools, observing and participating in the Spanish education system. Year 10 students also had the opportunity to showcase their own culture through presentations and activities, promoting mutual understanding and respect.

Excursions to Historical Sites

We visited Peñíscola, exploring the 13th-century castle and enjoying stunning views of the Mediterranean Sea. The town's narrow streets and white-washed houses offered a glimpse into traditional Spanish coastal life. In Culla, we toured the Mina Esperanza and learned about historical mining techniques. They also explored the village's medieval architecture and beautiful natural surroundings. One student said "Visiting Peñíscola was like stepping back in time. The castle and sea views were breathtaking." Another said that "The trip to Culla was eye-opening. Learning about the miners' lives made me appreciate their hard work."

Local Cuisine

Year 12 students prepared a traditional paella with their partners, using fresh, local ingredients. This activity was both educational and delicious. Everyone agreed that "cooking paella was fun and a great team experience."

Participating in a school exchange is fun and will help you navigate unfamiliar situations, develop problem-solving skills, and become more self-reliant.

Y9 LANGUAGES' AMBASSADORS

The Y9 Languages' Ambassadors program has returned for its fourth year, building on its growing popularity and continued success. This year, 36 dedicated Year 9 students have come together to share their passion for German, French, and Spanish with younger learners. Through their efforts, they have designed and delivered engaging lessons at Malmesbury Primary School, sparking an enthusiasm for languages and cultural understanding among the pupils.

During the spring term, through weekly planning and training meetings, the Ambassadors have developed strong leadership, communication, and presentation skills. These sessions not only ensured their activities were fun and educational but also instilled a sense of confidence and self-esteem in the team. Their reliability, positivity, and enthusiasm have left a lasting impression, both on their peers and the primary school pupils.

The students themselves spoke highly of the experience, sharing their thoughts on the program's impact:

"Visiting Malmesbury Primary was such a rewarding experience. Seeing how engaged and curious the children were, reminded me why I love languages so much,"

"This program has really helped me build confidence. I wasn't sure about teaching at first, but now I enjoy it,"

The primary school pupils were equally enthusiastic, with one commenting, "Learning about different languages was so fun—I want to keep learning!" Another pupil shared, "The Ambassadors were so friendly and cool. I hope I get to be one when I'm in Year 9!"

With each passing year, the Y9 Languages' Ambassadors continue to inspire a love for languages. Additionally, we hope these visits will support Year 6 pupils in their transition to Malmesbury Secondary school.





UPDATE FROM FORMER STUDENT JAMES HUGHES

I am a third-year undergraduate at Robinson College, University of Cambridge, studying Modern and Medieval Languages (Spanish and German). I am currently spending my year abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where I have been interning at ZBV Abogados—the country's leading law firm in the field of Real Estate.

Over the coming month, I will continue to strengthen my connections with law firms across Latin America through my current collaboration with the Business Development team at First Law International, a Brussels-based registered law firm and global legal network operating across more than 100 jurisdictions. I will be working on projects that are based in various Spanish-speaking jurisdictions. I am really enjoying working projects that are testing my Spanish skills in all areas: speaking, writing, and researching.

In addition, I recently began an internship at BAIS Argentina, a non-profit organisation that promotes cultural exchange among international students in Buenos Aires. Here, I have been leading development efforts within the Solidarity area and connecting and collaborating with local NGOs such as Proyecto 7, Madero Solidario, and Fundación Sí to expand the organisation's participation in solidarity events.

My year abroad has not only limited itself to Argentina. I have also been lucky enough to travel the continent. This year I have visited Costa Rica, Mexico City, Chile, Peru and most recently Brazil, where I participated in an intense Portuguese course with the intention of picking up Portuguese in my final year of studies.

Languages have been central to my experience on my year abroad, allowing me to engage meaningfully in both professional and community contexts and build relationships with people from across the region. I am so grateful to have made friends from across the globe, many of whom I look forward to visiting when back in Europe. In the remaining months of my year abroad, I look forward to further improving my Spanish in both social and corporate environments, while continuing to contribute to the communities that I have become a part of. I look forward to sharing these experiences with old friends back in Malmesbury where my language-learning journey began.

HAUSER & WIRTH VISIT

Our A' Level artists had a brilliant time today visiting Hauser and Wirth to see the new "Uncommon Thread" exhibition. Thank you so much to Eleanor Gustard, a former student and now the Learning Co-ordinator, for her warm welcome and inspiring talk.



SPECTACULAR SCIENCE WEEK

With a TV star and leading scientist guest speaker, three explosive rocket shows and a trip to the UK's largest particle accelerator, Malmesbury School celebrated British Science Week in style!

Star Scientist Dr George McGavin returns to Malmesbury School!

We were incredibly privileged to welcome back leading entomologist and TV science presenter Dr George McGavin to Malmesbury School. Dr George McGavin has spent his career studying insects across the globe and sharing his knowledge and passion for conservation through many inspiring BBC documentaries.

Dr George McGavin presented to a hall full of 300 students. His talk was fascinating; he shared stories of his study and career journey and insights from his travels across the world studying the worlds' insects and their vital importance for our precious planet Earth. At the end of his talk, he invited student questions and hands shot up. There wasn't time to answer all the questions, so he offered students the chance to send their questions to him, and he answered all the brilliant questions.



Year 7 students were invited to make an insect mask in celebration of his visit; he chose his favourites and awarded signed copies of his books to the winners! He then stayed at lunch time to sign the masks and take selfies with the students.

Additionally, he delivered a brilliant interactive workshop with our year 10 scientists and geographers where he discussed different artefacts.

We kept the theme of insects all week and all our year 7, 8 and 9 students had special science week lessons exploring insects, observing them under the microscopes and students designed and crafted their own insects.

Science club students made 'insect hotels' in the DT labs, sawing and drilling bamboo to construct insect homes. We are looking forward to investigating our insect homes to identify the insects and we shall share our results and findings with Dr George McGavin!

Thank you Dr George McGavin and to all our enthusiastic, inquisitive and curious young scientists.

Wonderstruck Rocket Shows

We invited Wonderstruck to Malmesbury School during science week to deliver 3 rocket shows and all our year 9 and year 10 students enjoyed an exciting and explosive show! Students saw the physics and chemistry concepts that they study in class in impressive action, with demonstration after noisy demonstration, it was a super fun and interactive show, and we look forward to welcoming them back next year!



Year 12 physicists visit Diamond Light for a Particle Physics Masterclass



During Science Week the whole cohort of 37 year 12 physicists visited the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory at the Harwell Innovation Campus for a Particle Physics Masterclass. Students listened to talks by leading particle physicists, competed in a quiz, completed an interactive computer workshop to identify particle collisions to hunt for the Higgs Boson and had a guided tour of the UK's largest particle accelerator.

Year 12 Tristan Swift reflects on the experience:

"Visiting the Diamond Light Source particle accelerator was a fascinating experience, showcasing cutting-edge

scientific research in action. I observed how beams of synchrotron light are used to produce intense beams of x-rays, infrared rays and ultraviolet light to study materials at the atomic level. The scale and precision of the facility was hugely impressive, from the storage ring to the advanced experimental stations. Scientists explained how their work supports breakthroughs in medicine, energy, and materials science. Overall, the visit offered a unique insight into the role of how physics is useful in solving real-world problems."

SCIENCE LIVE

On Tuesday 11th February a group of key stage 4 students and teachers had the amazing opportunity to hear some of the most inspirational scientists working in the UK speak, at GCSE Science Live! Talks ranged from "Is time travel possible?" by Professor Jim Al-Khalili to "The science of laughter" by Professor Sophie Scott. Students really enjoyed Alice Roberts demonstrating how science and history come together in archaeology with the story of the Amesbury Archer, and hearing about the development of computing and AI with the very enthusiastic, Professor Dave Cliff. However, nearly everyone agreed that the highlight of the day was listening to the extraordinary Professor Robert Winston. The pioneer of IVF treatment showed the audience the very beginning of life with truly amazing film and photographs which everyone will remember for a very long time.



THE DYSON INSTITUTE PATHWAY PROJECT

Malmesbury School are delighted to be part of a project with The Dyson Institute. Our year 12 students have the valuable opportunity to complete The Dyson Institute Pathway Project.

Students are eligible to apply for this project if they study Maths and one other STEM (biology, chemistry, computer science, physics, product design) A-level subject. This year 18 students were successful and selected by The Dyson Institute to be our second cohort of students to take part in this project.

Students worked in small teams to complete a brief over 6 months with the guidance of a Dyson engineer. The teams had tasks to complete which were designed by their engineer and focused on their specialist areas of aerodynamics and product usability. Once the students completed their challenging tasks, they then decided to put their new knowledge, research and skills into action by creating a product. The aerodynamics teams both made a hovercraft and the product teams each designed a product focused on accessibility.

We are incredibly impressed by the creativity, skills, diligence and independence of the students. Each team showed significant progress throughout the project. Some students demonstrated their impressive programming skills, others developed programming skills from scratch and all students developed their teamwork, oracy and presenting skills. The project culminated with two events; one event at The Dyson Institute campus and one on the main Dyson campus and involved the students presenting to engineers and responding to questions. The students were calm, confident and answered the questions thoughtfully, reflecting on and demonstrating what they'd learnt through the process.

We would like to thank The Dyson Institute and to congratulate all the students for their hard work and commitment and for excelling on this project!

Here is one student reflecting on their experience of the project:

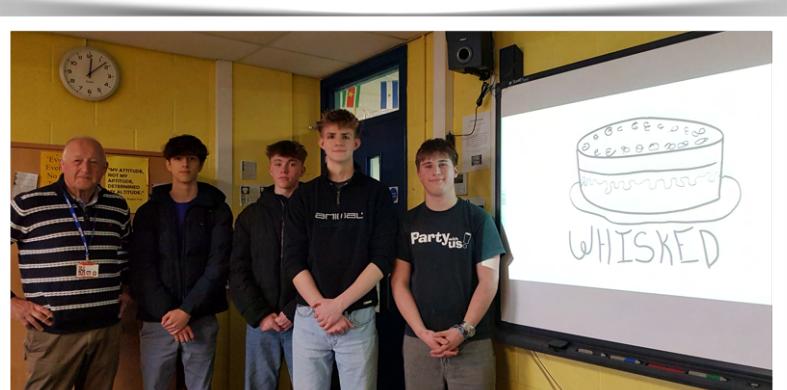
"I am very grateful to The Dyson Institute and Malmesbury School sixth form for providing the opportunity to take part in a 6-month project with The Dyson Institute. Through this project myself, 4 fellow students and a Dyson engineer worked together to build a hovercraft. Before this project I had no idea what I wanted to do for my future. At one point my A-levels were becoming difficult, and I even started to question my decisions on doing A-levels. While working on the hovercraft, I discovered I find great satisfaction in implementing content I have learnt in my Maths and Physics lessons to tangible applications, and the process of building, designing and installing our hovercraft exciting and rewarding. Working with Dyson inspired me to pursue engineering as a future career. Furthermore, discovering a direction for my future reactivated my interest in physics and mathematics. I am motivated again to work hard for my A-levels, and I look forward to studying an engineering degree at university!" - CC

SMALL BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Six teams of budding young entrepreneurs studying economics in Year 12 at Malmesbury School recently competed against each other in a Dragons' Den style Small Business Challenge.

Over a number of weeks they worked in teams to produce business plans for their business ideas, which ranged from selling baked goods to games/sports events to raffles and a chess competition. Up for grabs was £300 start-up capital from local philanthropic finance professional Mr Stuart Bernau. The teams pitched their plans to Stuart and Mrs Nield de Crespo in the Dragons' Den. All teams pitched confidently, embracing the challenge to justify their proposals, focussing on market research, marketing, finance and logistics. The winning team, 'Whisked' are planning to sell their home-baked cakes and bread in a 'pop-up' event in the Malmesbury area in the summer. Jude, Felix, Rhys, Marcus and Ollie are looking forward to organising this event and hope to make a tidy profit. The runners up, 'Staff Showdown', consisting of Madeline, Emily, Amelia, Shannon and Annabelle also greatly impressed Stuart with their plans for an outdoor games event.

Well done to all the students and many thanks to Mr Stuart Bernau for his continuing support.



BARONESS BENNETT VIST

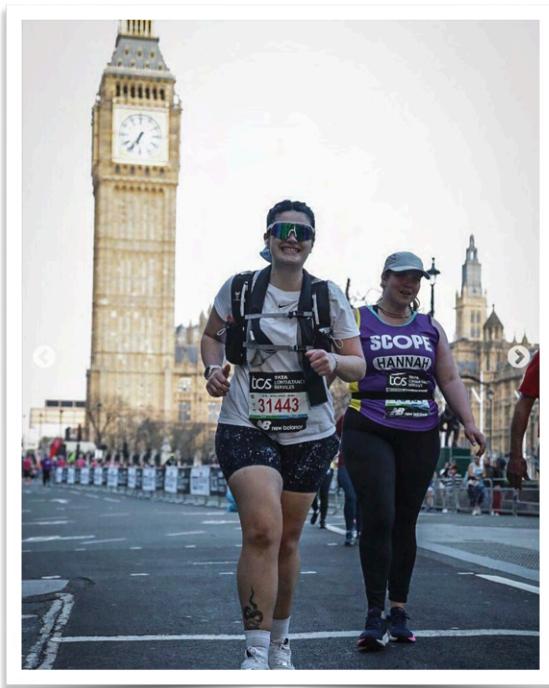
In February we were fortunate to have a visit from Baroness Bennett. She is a member of the House of Lords, journalist and former leader of the Green Party. She came to talk to 6th Formers about the work of the House of Lords and fielded lots of brilliant questions from the students on subjects ranging from the environment, the current situation in Ukraine and even House of Lords reform. It was a fascinating insight into life in the Lords and it was great to see our 6th Formers curious about the political world around them.

THE LONDON MARATHON 2025

This year, 2 very impressive members of staff **Ms Fry** and **Miss Dove** ran the London Marathon. It was Miss Fry's second time completing it and she raised an impressive £865 for Wiltshire Wildlife Trust in the process. Huge congratulations from everyone at Malmesbury School!



Below Miss Dove gives her account of a London Marathon first timer:



In 2024, I entered the ballot for the London Marathon, inspired by the videos and images that flooded my social media. Along with a couple of friends, I awaited the result! The furthest I had run before was the Llanelli 10km Race for Life. While on our school trip to Borneo, my confidence grew. The trek through the rainforest was the cherry on top, proving to me that I could do hard things. A big thanks to Mr. Shaw for giving me the final push to secure my place!

Then the hard work began. Throughout the summer holidays, I did a few runs, but the serious training started in November. It was tough! The mornings and evenings were dark, and I struggled to adjust to the increased mileage while still working. As Christmas approached, I began to increase my mileage and become more in sync with my pace. As the months rolled by, my training intensified. Balancing it with my life and school was challenging, but each week I showed up and got it done. My body was adjusting, and I was proving to myself every week that I could do it!

life and school was challenging, but each week I showed up and got it done. My body was adjusting, and I was proving to myself every week that I could do it!

Race day finally arrived! I travelled to London on Friday evening and went to the expo on Saturday morning to collect my badge and pick up any goodies they were giving away.

On race day, we were up early to get to my starting point on time. After a quick loo stop, I was off!

Miles 1-6: The buzz was incredible! Seeing all the different costumes and charities people were supporting was fantastic. I found my pace and tried not to set off too quickly. Around 10km (6 miles), I fell at Cutty Sark, overwhelmed by the supporters cheering everyone on.

Miles 7-13: The weather started to warm up significantly. Thankfully, there were regular hosepipes to cool us down, which were lifesavers! I was feeling great, making good time, and had seen my supporters twice. Tower Bridge at mile 13 was unbelievable, with an immense crowd cheering us on.

Miles 14-18: These miles were tough! Up until this point, I hadn't used my headphones. The atmosphere and the cheering crowds kept me going. Around Canary Wharf (miles 17-18), I struggled and had a little cry but kept plodding on. My mum had collected voice notes from friends and family, which she sent me at every mile. They were incredibly motivating and kept me moving forward.

Miles 19-25: I kept telling myself, "Only 6 miles to go! Only 10km." The crowds were amazing, providing the motivation to keep going. I was really digging deep at this point! During my training, I had only run up to 20 miles, so this was uncharted territory. The heat was intense, and I was struggling. One foot in front of the other... keep going!

Mile 26: As I ran up the South Bank towards the London Eye, I knew I was within reach of the finish line! I could see Big Ben! Just around the corner, and I would have done it! This last mile went by so quickly. I was a mix of emotions, unable to believe I had almost done it. Knowing that only 4.6% or 1 in 20 people get into the marathon through the ballot, I felt honoured to hold that place and reach the end. Crossing the finish line was an indescribable feeling! I was incredibly proud of myself, and the tears started rolling again.

The Aftermath: Overall, I cannot recommend the experience enough! It took every scrap of physical and emotional endurance I had. But I proved to myself that I can do hard things! I can commit to something and see the fruits of my hard work. I am incredibly thankful to those who supported me along the way and on the day! The support from everyone there was phenomenal. Only four people there knew me personally, but I had thousands of supporters cheering me on and keeping me going! It was truly fantastic I chose to support the Alzheimer's Society and thanks to my family, friends, and the wonderful staff at Malmesbury, I raised £727!



NEWS FROM MATHS

Y10 Athelstan Trust Day

Malmesbury School hosted the Year 10 Maths Day, with teams from Bradon Forest, The Dean Academy and Sir William Romney participating. Everyone had a great day with the Malmesbury students excelling to take the top three team spots, as well as overall school winners. Well done! Also, a big thank you to our sixth form helpers!

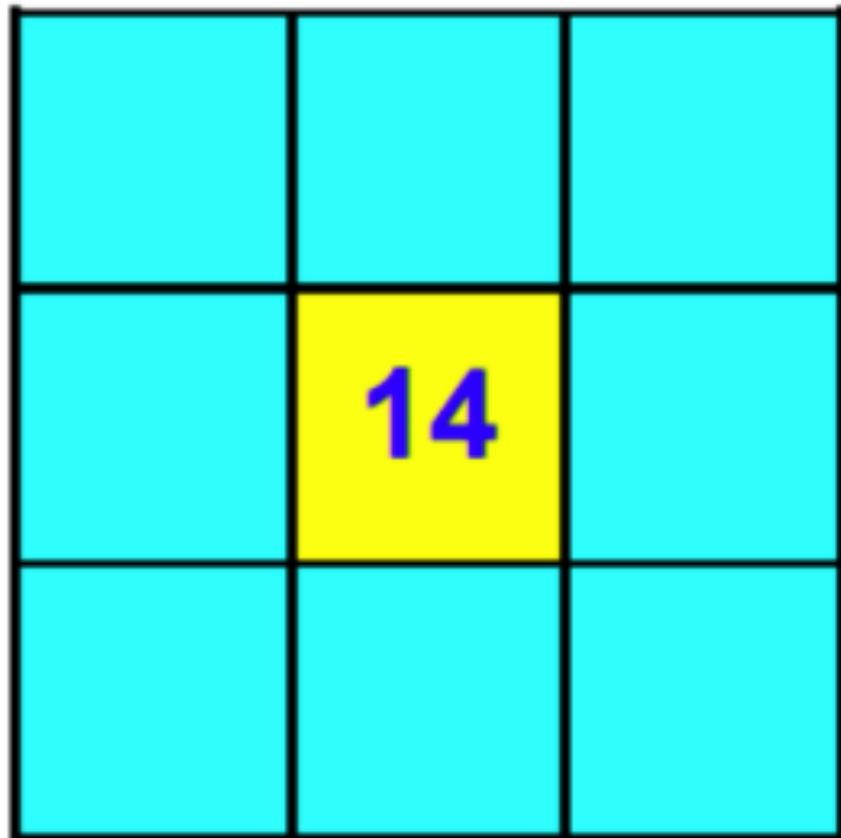


JMC

Well done to all of the year 7 and 8's who participated in the Junior Maths Challenge. The results were brilliant, with lots achieving bronze silver and gold certificates. A massive well done to George L, Noah D, Finely C, Noah C and Thomas O, whose results have qualified them to participate in the Junior maths kangaroo.

Maths Problem

Can you put the numbers 1 to 8 in each of the squares so that each side adds up to the middle number?





Books for Malmesbury School Library

Do you have any good quality books that you are looking to rehome? If so, please consider donating them to our library! We're looking for contemporary and classic fiction suitable for younger or older teenage reading audiences. Literary prize-winners (eg Carnegie or Booker) would be a bonus! Any donations welcome and can be left at Reception FAO The Library. We're also looking for a small number of reading chairs and comfy seating - if you have any unwanted tub/bucket chairs, small armchairs, or bean-bags in good clean condition, please contact Ms Bonduel.





WILTSHIRE 3 PEAKS CHALLENGE

SATURDAY 21ST JUNE 2025



**SUPPORT
VULNERABLE
YOUNG PEOPLE
LOCALLY**



Walk, jog or run a 10km or Half Marathon



Marshalled circular routes from Oare, near Marlborough



Medals and cake for all finishers!



Suitable for families - under 12's go free with an adult



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excellent