

MALMESBURY MATTERS

MAY 2026

From the Headteacher's Desk



The start of the long summer terms are always coupled with longer days and plenty of sunshine. The students having access to all the green spaces like the mounds and fields means lunchtimes are full of joy and play! It is also tinged with sadness and excitement with Year 11 and Year 13 starting their external examinations. They are ready and this is the culmination of many years of work, the moment they have been waiting for and we wish them the very best of luck.

The Year 13 art exhibition, where our most senior students showed their final exam pieces was glorious and it was lovely to see their incredible talent.

The sunnier weather also means sports fixtures galore, and also lots of foreign visits. After half term we welcome our German partner school from Niebüll and our annual visit from our Chinese partner school in Suzhou. Thank you to all those hosting our guests. We also look forward to M-Fest, which is always a musical highlight of the final term, as well as our brilliant Challenge Cup days.

I wish all of our community a restful and hopefully warm half-term break.

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

Dates for your diary

1st June

Start of Term

2nd June

German Exchange in Malmesbury

4th June

Race for Life

11th June

Y8 Progress Evening
8EJH, 8RG, 8SC, 8IH

12th June

Year 11 Leavers Day

18th June

Y8 Progress Evening
8MMB, 8KM, 8THO, 8CS

26th June

Trust TD Day

Year 11 Prom

29th June

TD Day

29th June - 3rd July

Year 12 WEX

1-2 July

Challenge Cup Days

3rd July

Year 13 Prom

7th July

KS3 Prize-Giving

8th-9th July

Year 6 Taster Days

15th July

M Fest

22nd July

End of Term

happy

caring

excellent

FINAL GOODBYES TO THE CLASS OF 2026

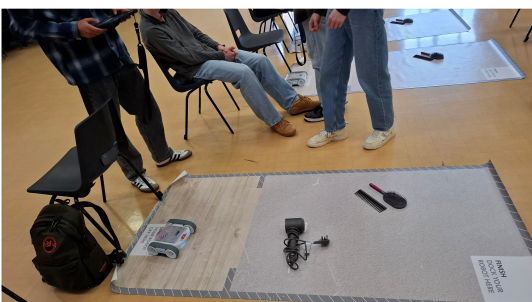
The week commencing May 4th was the last week of school for our Year 13 students in the class of 2026! The students celebrated the week in a way befitting of them with the whole year getting involved in a wide range of activities. Tuesday saw the year group rock up to school in their pyjamas; Wednesday demonstrated their creativity as they wore terrible shirts and adopted the 'anything but a bag' tagline for the day; and Thursday saw them take it all the way back to lower school as they donned their school uniforms for one last time. Then on Friday they marked their last day of school with social activities in the morning before a leavers assembly and prizegiving.

The class of 2026 has been a privilege to work with throughout their time at the school, and their contribution to the school community has been immeasurable. We know just how hard they have worked over the last 2 years and wish them all the best for their exams this summer and for their futures in general.



COMPUTER SCIENCE VISIT BY THE JAMES DYSON FOUNDATION

Year 10 and year 12 Computer Science students had their engineering and computing skills put to the test last month, with a visit by The James Dyson Foundation. Stephanie Ball from the foundation delivered a series of increasingly vexing tasks and trials to complete using some excellent programmable robots. We were then completely delighted to accept a donation of some amazing sets of Lego Robotics equipment - a huge boost for our Robotics and Programming after school club!



A TRIP TO CHINA FOR MR SQUIRES

Over the Easter holidays, Mr Squires travelled to China to visit our partner school, Suzhou Science and Foreign Language School, strengthening the relationship between our schools after several years of working together on the China programme. During the visit, he met students and staff, explored the impressive primary and secondary campuses, and even saw

the school's farm animals. The trip also included visits to Shanghai and some of China's most famous landmarks, including the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City and the Terracotta Army. Mr Squires described China as an amazing country and is looking forward to welcoming Chinese students to our school this June as the partnership continues to grow!



LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS 2026

This year, 34 enthusiastic Year 9 students took part in the Language Ambassador Programme, meeting weekly for three months to learn how to teach languages in fun and engaging ways. Their commitment, teamwork, and passion have been outstanding.

The highlight of the programme was the visit to the primary school, where our Language ambassadors introduced students to Chinese, French, German, Polish, and Spanish. Both the Malmesbury students and the primary children in year 5 and 6 enjoyed every moment, leaving them inspired and excited about languages.

Many ambassadors demonstrated impressive leadership skills, with some using the programme for their Duke of Edinburgh skills section. To celebrate their achievements, Mr Jouny awarded each student a certificate and a badge, reminding them of the value of going beyond expectations and the importance of languages for the future.



YEAR 8 SPANISH STUDENTS CONNECT WITH POLAR SCIENTISTS IN CHILE



UK POLAR NETWORK

We are delighted to share that, for the first time this year, our school is collaborating with teams of polar scientists from Chile through the organisation Polar Network, which connects schools with Spanish-speaking researchers working in Antarctica. As part of this exciting initiative, each Year 8 Spanish class (8KM, 8THO, 8MMB and 8CS) has recently written their first emails to their assigned Chilean scientists.

The IBL and Geography departments worked together to help students learn more about Antarctica and the important scientific research taking place there. As a group, in their Geography lessons, each class developed a series of thoughtful questions to ask their scientist pen pals. During their Spanish lessons, students then translated their questions into Spanish and introduced themselves, as well as sharing a brief description of their town.

Some of the students' questions included:

- How many layers of clothing do you wear while conducting research?
- What plant life can be found in Antarctica?
- What is the most unusual creature you have seen in Antarctica?
- What is the most exciting scientific discovery you have made?
- Has a penguin ever climbed into your tent or home?

An extract from one of the emails sent last week is shown below and are now eagerly awaiting replies from Chile and look forward to learning more about the four young scientists who will become our international pen pals!

Hola, nos llamamos "8KM!"

Nos gustan mucho hacer deporte, comer comida, escuchar música y bailar.

Nuestro instituto está en Malmesbury, un pueblo en Inglaterra.

En Malmesbury hay unas tiendas, una iglesia, muchos supermercados, una piscina, una zapatería, una panadería y el parque.

Pensamos que Malmesbury es tranquilo, histórico y bueno.

¿Y tú? ¿Dónde vives en Chile?

Tenemos preguntas sobre la Antártida...

A LEVEL BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP

A-Level Biologists had a wonderful field trip to Nettlecombe Court, a Field Studies Council centre in Exmoor. The students completed a wide range of field work each day. On our arrival day, students spent the afternoon studying local grassland ecology and then set small humane mammal traps using straw and food to make sure the mammals had a safe place to remain overnight. In the morning we were excited to discover that we had trapped two small mice, these mice were weighed and their health checked as part of Nettlecombe's continuous surveying of their local small mammals.

The second day was spent collecting data on the effect of controlled burning on moorland flora in the beautiful Quantock Hills before moving to the rocky shore at Helwell Bay. There, students explored how plants and animals are distributed on the shore based on their adaptations to surviving in a challenging environment with a huge tidal range.

The final morning was spent exploring freshwater ecology in a local stream. Students compared deep and shallow water areas of the stream by measuring abiotic factors and then using kick sampling to collect and identify the species found at each site to see how they differed. Students had a fabulous time identifying a variety of species such as freshwater shrimp and various insect larvae.

The students had an amazing time learning lots about ecology and fieldwork techniques in some beautiful environments and this was a super experience for them all.



MALMESBURY SCHOOL CAREERS WEEK 2026

Careers Fair

On Thursday 19th March, Malmesbury School hosted 58 external visitors from 34 companies, colleges, and universities. All year groups were given thirty minutes to speak with the visitors about their career options including university courses, college courses, work experience, volunteering, apprenticeships, C.Vs, interviews, work life, and the current labour market. The students had a fantastic time exploring options for their future and we received excellent feedback on how polite and engaging our students were. We were also very lucky to have so many alumni attending the careers fair today. Companies represented included Clark & Maslin, First Agency, Gooseberry Bush Nursery, Mander Duffill, Siemens Mobility, St James's Place, and Sweetnam & Bradley. It's always fantastic to hear where our students have ended up and wonderful to have them back to inspire the next generation!



KS3 Careers Days



On Monday 23rd March to Wednesday 25th March, Years 7, 8 & 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 for Victoria Kleinsorge for speaking to Year 9 about her experience in the finance industry, before qualifying as a Maths teacher.

On Tuesday, 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. We were very grateful to Tom Paget and Mandy Simpson, who came to speak to Year 8 about their local businesses and how rewarding it is, but also what challenges they had to overcome in setting up and running a business.



On Wednesday, Year 7 had their Careers Day where tutor groups were tasked to design and plan a new wildlife park following an assembly by Noah's Ark Zoo. 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 Shadrick, Mrs Griffin and Mr Mitchell who had a difficult job to decide the winner. After much discussion, they announced 7EMD as the winners. Congratulations to 7EMD and well done to all Year 7 for all their hard work today.

Year 10 Work Experience

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

THE START OF SOMETHING NEW!

By Hannah Jenner

Golden buds had their wonder,
As the skies lighten with an intense heat
An energetic rush sweeps through all, lighting
every spirit.

Joy untold surges across the land
New life burst in every forms. Blazing colours
In every leaf that happens to cross your
Gaze, an aureate sun bursts through the clouds
Showing the world what it could be.

Packets unfold for a new taste: icy, creamy galore.
Fruitful flavours make their way, sweet, fresh
And true: ice-creams colourful and bright in every
Hue. What a wonderful thing to view;
This could be the start of something new!

MALMESBURY CIVIC AWARDS

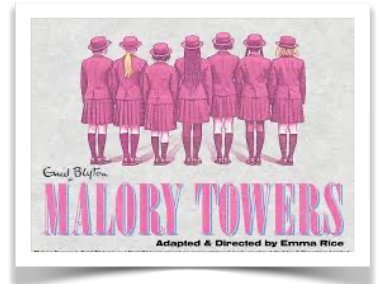


Congratulations to 2 of our brilliant students who received awards at the Malmesbury Town Council Civic Awards in April. Jude P won Sports Person of the Year. Henry P won Young Citizen of Year (15-19 Year Olds). These are exceptional achievements by both whilst studying for A-levels and they have proven to be excellent role models in both school and community. Well done chaps!

MALORY TOWERS AT THE THEATRE ROYAL

By Florence Hayman Y10

On the 7th of May, a group of students from years 7-11 went on a trip to see Emma Rice's 'Malory Towers' at the Theatre Royal Bath. The play is about a girls' boarding school in 1940's Cornwall, and their adventures, drama and friendship across the school year.



The play has been widely praised for its use of different styles of theatre, including puppetry, projections and animation, as well as a number of original and catchy musical numbers. Students particularly enjoyed instances of comedy and fourth-wall breaking, with actors interacting and at one point even going into the audience. There was much to be admired about the set as well, which was cleverly adapted to be a dormitory, classroom, swimming pool, rehearsal room, and clifftop.

The play was exciting and suspenseful, with the first act ending in a literal cliffhanger, and the enthusiasm and energy of the cast meant that each character felt well-rounded and lovable. There was even redemption for spiteful Gwendoline, in a plot twist that left some students visibly shocked. Music was used throughout the play, and as well as the piano and drum kit on stage, the actors often brought out guitars for songs. There was also a wonderful violinist, who judging by the applause was a favourite of the audience.

Students had an excellent time, and are eager to go on more trips in the future!

DRAMA CLUB PERFORMANCE – SAVE THE DATE

Drama Club will be performing Pink Blood written by Noah Cuthbert on June 24th at 5:30pm in CA7. If you would like to watch please let the Drama Department know by email.

I CAN & I AM BUS

Earlier this term, Year 12 participated in a mental health workshop on the I Can & I Am Bus. There were lots of reflective conversations on board about mental health, self-belief and resilience. The I Can & I Am team were very complimentary about how engaged and reflective Year 12 were writing to Mrs Hall to say "we loved meeting your students who were a real credit to the school." In their feedback Year 12 showed that they had clearly taken a lot from the experience, and had taken on board the key message that it is good to talk, and that it is important to believe in yourself. Keep those balloons of self belief inflated everyone!



A PERFORMANCE BY 'THE MERCIANS'

In April, Years 9 & 10 enjoyed a performance by The Mercians who have recently reached number 1 in the Alt Charts and are about to release their debut album. Members of the band delivered a powerful message about mental health and taking the time to talk and look out for each other. It was another great gig at Malmesbury School!



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

During our Personal Development lesson on Thursday 23rd April, Tracey and Sean from Alcoholics Anonymous came to speak to Year 11 about their personal experiences and struggles with alcohol. The staff and speakers were very impressed with all the students' engagement and sensitive questions asked at the end of the session.

YEAR 12 FIRST AID COURSE

On the 20th March, 24 Year 12 students undertook a First Aid At Work qualification. This was arranged as an opportunity for those interested in a medical pathway to gain valuable experience and training, but also as an opportunity for others to learn some incredibly valuable and potentially life-saving skills. The course teaches core skills such as the management of unconscious casualties, CPR (adult and child), and AED usage. It deals with emergency response procedures such as treatment for choking, bleeding, shock, and seizures, alongside specific incident handling relating to medical conditions such as epilepsy. The trainers (from Cotswold First Aid) are excellent and are also responsible for training our staff members, so we knew that they were in for a good day. The training is intermixed with much anecdotal evidence to ensure students could see the value of what they were learning, and physical implementation of the skills learnt. The trainers were extremely impressed with the approach of our students stating "it was a pleasure to deliver the course to your students today. They were all really engaged, wanting to "have-a-go" and asking lots of questions. They were punctual and polite and a credit to the school. Please pass on our thanks to them. And they all passed!". Not only was the course a great experience but it also secures a whopping 8 UCAS points towards any tariff based universities. Well done to all involved!



SMALL BUSINESS CHALLENGE: STAFF KARAOKE BATTLE

Massive congratulations to Velvet, Alyce, George, Will and Ollie, our champion Small Business Challenge 2026 winning team. They successfully pitched their Staff Karaoke/ Lip Sync Battle business plan to our philanthropic finance 'Dragon' Mr Stuart Bernau in February 2026. On 22nd April they executed their plan perfectly with magnificent results. The Staff Karaoke/ Lip Sync Battle was a stunning success! They turned a £95 loan from Stuart into a profit of £328 in a 1- hour event. With a kind extra donation of £100, their total donation to Cancer Research is a whopping £428. Many thanks too to the brilliant team of Year 9,10,11 boys responsible for sound and lighting and all the staff involved. This was truly a Happy, Caring and Excellent experience for everyone.



happy

caring

excellent

BIG DESIGNS WORKSHOP

We are in the process of completing our Artsmark application and as part of this the Art department organised a Big Designs workshop with Abi Meats from [RUDE](#) an exciting graphic design agency in London. Abi Meats is a strong advocate for children's creativity and the Arts and is working to connect education and the creative industries to inspire the young artists and designers of the future through her brilliant [I AM CREATIVE](#) campaign and her book *CREATE- How to unleash your creative superpowers*. We selected a group of super-creative and committed Art students from years 7,8,9 and 10 to take part in the workshop and we had an amazing time making graphic art with vibrant coloured vinyls. Abi Meats zoomed into the art room to talk about her work, set the brief for the day, then came back to review the awesome artworks. She was very impressed with our Malmesbury artists and is helping us to plan more online workshops with an illustrator and a fashion designer.



YEAR 10 ARTISTS AT THE HOLBURNE MUSEUM IN BATH

A small number of Year 10 Art students took part in an A-Level style workshop at the Holburne Museum in Bath. The group visited the exhibition of fashion and print icon Zandra Rhodes, where they were able to see a selection of her dresses. Students also saw her preliminary drawings, and were inspired by her passion for sketching.

Students then attended an exciting drawing session, where the model wore one of Zandra Rhodes' dresses. As she danced around the room to music, the class were challenged to record her movements through expressive line and colour. All students represented our school brilliantly and really fit perfectly in to the role of potential A-Level students.



CHAMBER CONCERT

In the penultimate week of last term the Music department started their 'Double header' week with a full on classically flavoured performance in the Abbey, known as the Chamber Concert.

The concert revolves around the A level extended performances and this year the centrepiece of the evening was an 8 minute piano recital by Year 13 student Lizzie Marriage - fresh from her recent grade 8 exam success around December - which was recorded during the concert. Lizzie appeared in copious other items including a lovely Klezma trio with her friends Libby Tyler and Jake Cox.

The concert opened with both Choirs and the Orchestra performing The Beatles' 'Eleanor Rigby' conducted by Year 13 student Warren Fox. It was then punctuated by the Orchestra playing the 'Blackadder' theme, Faure's famous Pavane, and a piece by Bach with a piano duet called 'Sheep may safely graze'.

Special mention must go to Miss Williams who played sax in orchestra and conducted two beautiful items by the Chamber Choir and Mrs Russell who played violin in Orchestra and oversaw the school choir singing songs from Wicked and Ukulele group performing a medley - their arrangements are getting ever more complex.

We also had some quality individual items such as a flute composition by Year 11 Niah Robinson, a musical theatre solo from year 11 Elvie Hart, a piano solo from year 7 newcomer Max Knight, a duet between Warren Fox and Year 11 Nathan Selwood ('Man or Muppet' is not the average title for a Chamber Concert item!).

It was a pleasure to present a nice varied programme to a packed Abbey and lay the groundwork for the Soul and Funkiness that ensued two days later...



SOUL NIGHT



On the last Friday before the Easter holidays the third Soul Night was held at the school. In its usual jazz club format, guests were greeted in the school hall by tables and chairs lit by candlelight, the PTA's wonderful bar setup at the back of the hall and the two-tiered stage which would soon host wonderful performances from all year groups in the school! The Soul Band did a wonderful job of leading the evening with a mix of soul classics and modern songs that filled the dance floor. The Excellence groups put on polished performances and the small groups and soloists did a fantastic job of showcasing their talents. It was the perfect way to finish off the term and let off some steam before the two-week break.

YEAR 7 DEBATE BOXING

On Friday 1st May, all of Year 7 came together in the hall to have a go at Debate Boxing. The students have an oracy lesson every two weeks and have been practising storytelling and debating in their tutor groups. The students were introduced to the topic and then worked in a pair with each student having a card which represented whether they agreed or disagreed with the idea. Some of the topics included 'Maths is better for your future than English' and 'Italian food is the healthiest in the world.' The main debate was about space travel and the students really engaged with the topic 'space travel is a waste of time; we need to focus on the problems on Earth.'



Well done to all the students who engaged with the debates and a reminder that debate club is in the library on a Wednesday lunchtime. We are preparing for an Athelstan Festival of Speech and Debate in July that we would encourage any KS3 student to get involved in!



KMAT GREAT DEBATE COMPETITION

On Monday 11th May, four Year 8 students and two Year 9 students, alongside Mrs Flynn and Mr Jouny, headed to Warwick University for the KMAT Great Debate event. The six students competed against a range of schools from the Midlands area. The students had seven rounds of debating with various topics given including

'The animal that man is most reliant upon, is the dog' and 'Fictional characters are better role models than real life celebrities.' They represented Malmesbury School so wonderfully and held their own! They were respectful, knowledgeable and worked excellently as a team. Thank you to the debate lunchtime group who worked hard when researching the topics and this helped greatly on the day. Thank you to Mr Jouny for driving the minibus and bringing his enthusiasm.

Well done to Lyra C, Robert M, Noah C, Esmee P, Violet H and Seren T.



FIRST PLACE IN THE STEPHANIE MILLWARD COUNTY SWIMMING GALA

By Sophia Hewitt in Y8



Congratulations to our Year 7 & 8 students who represented Malmesbury School at The Stephanie Millward County Swimming Gala in Trowbridge on Wednesday the 6th of May.

This year's competition saw 12 schools take part, with an exceptionally high standard of swimming throughout the event. Our students demonstrated excellent determination, teamwork and sportsmanship in every race.

We are delighted that Malmesbury School secured a fantastic first-place finish overall. This is a wonderful achievement, and we are incredibly proud of all the students who competed and represented the school so

brilliantly. Well done to all sixteen students who took part.

A special thank you also goes to Mr Lambert who gave extra time to train and support the team in preparation for the gala. Also thank you to Gayle Hewitt who came along to help officiate and to Bonnie R, in Year 8. Bonnie was unable to swim but did a fantastic job helping to organise the swimmers.

SCHOOL EQUESTRIAN TEAM

Our school equestrian team continues to go from strength to strength. In the recent National Schools Equestrian Association event at Westonbirt School the Malmesbury School team came first. The riders were Luke C, Rhea S and Rosie S. There were also some great individual achievements with Luke in first place, Rhea in second and Rosie in third. As ever, thank you so much to Jesse Collings and everyone else involved in running the team.



ROSSLYN PARK 7S

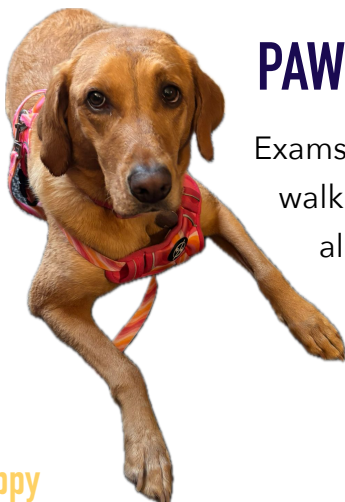
At the end of March the U16 girls' rugby team travelled to the world's largest schools' rugby tournament, Rosslyn Park 7s. Day 1 saw the girls start with a solid draw against a strong Haverfordwest team before continuing with two big wins against Caterham and Holyrood. Strong performances from the girls in these games created the opportunity for the girls to face a strong and organised Ashton Park School. Some battered bodies and tired legs may have led to a loss, but the girls were through to day 2 of Rosslyn Park - a first for Malmesbury School.

Just like day 1, day 2 started early and the girls headed back to Rosslyn Park as one of the last 16 teams in the tournament. The girls faced a strong and experienced Kingsbridge Community College, a previous opponent of Malmesbury School at Rosslyn Park in recent years. The morning started with a loss, but the girls didn't let this dampen their mood. Game 2 of the day against Wellington College showcased the free-flowing play that the girls love and know best and saw a strong win. With the win with them, the girls went on to play their final game against Queen Elizabeth High School, a win here would see the girls through to the final of the day on Pitch 1, a prestigious moment for any team participating at Rosslyn Park. The girls left everything on the pitch in the final game and just came short at the final whistle.



2 days of fantastic displays of skill, determination and hard work, exactly what the girls have been working so hard for in the weeks leading up to the tournament. As a school, we are extremely proud of the U16 girls' achievements on such a large stage, and we hope this will lead to the continued development of girls' rugby at Malmesbury School and at club level. Well done girls!

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PAWS FOR THOUGHT WITH DAISY

Exams can be stressful and nothing helps me with my stress more than a lovely walk (and chasing squirrels). As the weather gets nicer it's important that we all spend more time outside and enjoy our beautiful surroundings. If anyone ever wants to take me for a walk at lunch and break time just come and find me, bring treats or a tennis ball!



**A NEW
SKATEPARK
& PUMP TRACK**
IS COMING TO MALMESBURY COMMUNITY PARK

**& WE'D LIKE
YOUR INPUT**



WHERE ONLINE
maverickskateparks.co.uk/malmesbury

WHEN FROM NOW UNTIL 9TH JUNE 2026



ARE YOU FOLLOWING US ON SOCIAL MEDIA?



We use consent to process pupils' personal data in certain circumstances. This is detailed in our school consent form which is sent out at the start of each year. You can withdraw consent at any time. Please note there are certain activities where we do not use consent as the basis for processing personal data. These are described in our Privacy Notices which can be found on our website [Policies - The Athelstan Trust](#) and which are available in hard copy form from the School Office. If you have any queries or wish to withdraw consent, or to review your consent you can contact mail@malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk. If any details or information that you have previously provided to the school have changed, please notify the school so that our records can be kept up to date.