



MALMESBURY MATTERS

OCTOBER 2026

From the Headteacher's Desk



It has been an absolute joy to witness such a positive and vibrant start to the academic year. Our students have returned with enthusiasm, ambition and a clear determination to make the most of every day. They look fantastic in their uniforms and have immersed themselves in school life with characteristic energy and good humour. I felt enormously proud at our recent Open Evening when such a large number of students gave up their time to volunteer as helpers. They were simply exceptional:

welcoming, thoughtful, articulate and kind. They showcased everything that is best about Malmesbury and reminded me why our school community is so special. In every interaction, they demonstrated our values of being Happy, Caring and Excellent, and they left a lasting impression on everyone who visited.

We are once again so proud of the summer results, placing Malmesbury School yet again as one of the highest performing comprehensive schools in the region.

The students and staff have earned their break and I hope that everyone in our school community has the opportunity to rest and recharge ready for the brilliant Christmas term ahead!

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

2nd November

Start of Term
Year 11 mocks start

5th November

Year 7 Tutor Evening

12th November

Year 12/13 Tutor
Evening (online)
Governors Meeting

17th November

GCSE Prize Giving

25th November

Gold DofE meeting

27th November

INSET Day
(school closed to
students)

30th November

MAT Day
(school closed to
students)

2nd-4th December

Christmas Concerts

10th December

Y11 Parents Evening

16th December

Abbey Carol Service

18th December

End of term
12:35pm finish

happy

caring

excellent

ARTS MARK GOLD

"Malmesbury School offers a rich and engaging arts education that supports your school values of happy, caring and excellent."

We are delighted to announce that Malmesbury School has been awarded Artsmark Gold. We strive to be a Happy, Caring and Excellent school and this is the keystone of all we do. Through the Artsmark journey we have reflected deeply on our school values and they have evolved into our strategy for unity, growth and ambition. Malmesbury students have flourished through our Artsmark journey as we provided a wealth of enriching experiences built around our school values so that happy promotes unity, caring allows growth and excellent is our ambition. The range of events, trips, visits and extracurricular opportunities for students at Malmesbury School is exceptional, all our students have an enriching cultural education on offer across all subject areas, and the Artsmark focus has built on and maximised this strong culture of inclusion and engagement. The arts have helped to build a powerful culture where all students feel connected to their school community and are able to thrive. We are excited to keep building on this great work.



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



EQUALITIES AWARD

For the last 18 months, we have been working towards the Silver Equalities Award. We have reviewed our policies, explored our curriculum to ensure it reflects the diversity of society, checked that our behaviour systems are fair and inclusive, and strengthened our personal development programme to prepare students for life in the real world. We are proud of the progress made and our ongoing commitment to making our school a place where everyone feels represented, valued, and supported.



ADVICE FROM SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN THERE AND DONE THAT

To my younger self, and anyone going through GCSEs soon,

I know GCSEs can be stressful, and it's hard to handle lotssss of subjects (some of you in your second language) on top of heavy courseworks (if you took a subject that includes coursework). I completely get it. GCSEs are important, but they do NOT define you at all. Just do your best, and don't force yourself to be perfect. Don't compare yourself to anyone else—everyone works at their own pace and has different paths ahead of them, so focus on yourself and your own progress.

I'm a very academically competitive person too, so I know how hard it can be not to compare yourself to your classmates. But the truth is, your enemy isn't the classmate you're comparing yourself to—it's the exam paper itself. Don't waste all your energy trying to be "better" than someone else. Put that energy into becoming better than you were yesterday.

Other people might see me as a "straight-A student" or just naturally smart, and maybe think that I always get good grades effortlessly. But honestly, that's not how it felt from my side. What people don't always see is how much I constantly worried about whether I was doing enough, compared myself to other students, felt guilty whenever I rested, worried that I wasn't smart enough, and put an enormous amount of pressure on myself. So when I say "don't compare yourself to others" or "don't feel guilty for resting", I'm not saying that, as someone who has somehow mastered it all—I struggled with those things too, and I'm still learning.

Good luck with every challenge ahead. I'm sure you'll get through them, and hopefully, by the end of it all, you'll realise that you're much stronger and smarter than you thought you were.

From Penae (Y12)

HIDDEN WOODS WITH YEAR 7

Earlier on this term, Year 7 took part in our annual team building trip to Hidden Woods near Bath. Here is what a few of our wonderful Year 7 students had to say about it:

"In Hidden Woods, it was really fun! We did a group activity first, where we had to turn over the tarpaulin whilst we were on it without touching the ground! My favourite bit was making s'mores. We got to put our marshmallows over the fire and put them between chocolate biscuits. It was so yummy! We did lots of other activities like blindfold walk, weaving and many more. I loved it!"

Ottie

"I was so excited to go home on the Hidden Woods trip. When we got there we had a small introduction and then began going round the activities. There was weaving, fire-lighting and marshmallows. It was so much fun making s'mores!"

Lyra

"We arrived at Hidden Woods and shortly made our way to base camp. After we were told about the schedule we moved onto our first activity, which was very hard! We created fire, crossed a 'river', ate s'mores and did something with bottles. The day was amazing and I thank Malmesbury school for arranging it."

Jack D



MR BRADSHAW REPORTS FROM THE BRISTOL BEACON

I am delighted to report that 37 Year 10-12 students and 5 staff went to the Bristol Beacon to watch the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra as part of a 'Road to Joy' bicentennial celebration of Beethoven's life and work, as 2027 will be the 200th anniversary of the composer's death.

The Coach dropped us off 15 minutes before we all attended a pre-concert talk in the smaller Lantern Hall, where the conductor Mark Wigglesworth discussed the 'Road to Joy' and, also, a background to the two pieces we were due to hear in the concert.

The Concert proper began at 7:00pm (we had good seats in the upper third tier so the students could see all the instrumentalists) and started with a first half performance of Beethoven's 1st Symphony, the first movement of which is a set study work for GCSE and largely the reason the trip was arranged. There is nothing quite like seeing a set work live and the experience for the students was both essential and unprecedented for most of them musically. Also, at 30 minutes long the symphony was quite accessible as it was shorter than the average album.

The second half was a much more challenging affair - the (considerably enhanced) Orchestra performed a Symphonic suite lasting around 70 minutes (the equivalent of a double album) of the main themes from Richard Wagner's 'Ring Cycle' of four operas. The main attraction for most of the students was the famous 'Ride of the Valkyries' and the overall piece sounded like the equivalent of a film soundtrack BEFORE film was invented. There were moments of considerable contrast and drama in the music and the boys sitting near me were pretending to crash cymbals along with the percussionist at the moments of extreme climax.

All the students seemed very pleased with the experience and have expressed a willingness for another one at some point. Also a member of the public asked which school we were from as he felt the students were very well behaved - and to say they were going through 70 minutes of Wagner I would heartily agree with him. A very successful venture - and a 'shot in the arm' for me I feel.....



SOUTH AFRICA SPORTS TOUR BY GABY PALMER

In July of this year, a group of netball and rugby players and myself travelled to South Africa. Whilst there, we took part in 2 fixtures for each sport against the local teams and schools. Even though that was one of the main reasons for the trip, we also went sightseeing at Table Mountain, toured around a township and learnt how different cultures in South Africa live.

My personal favourite part of the trip was when we went to volunteer at a charity that helps children who aren't as privileged and teaches them life skills. We talked to the founder of the charity group who told us all about her aim to help these children have brighter futures and what her aspirations are for the future. The charity organisation is hoping to build a school and an environment where the students (and mums) can go to feel safe and learn new skills or get help with schoolwork etc. We helped out with painting, building plant pots and other manual jobs with the help of the children who were also working with us. Afterwards we all ate together and played games with all the children.

Other activities we did in South Africa include going surfing on one of the days, although it was raining the entire time and it was the middle of winter in South Africa everyone still had an amazing time. We also went to a really nice safari hotel which included going on 2 safaris, one in the evening during sunset and one in the morning when the sun was rising. It was SO cold during the morning safari but we got to see a lot more animals like cheetahs, buffalo, lions and elephants. I have been on a couple of trips with the school before but honestly this is definitely my favourite, it was the most eventful and I got to go with some of my closest friends and I definitely made more along the way.



GLOBAL ACTION TRIP TO NEPAL SUMMER 2026

This summer 2 groups of students set off on an adventure to Nepal. Miss Dove and Mr Shaw led the first group up into the mountains, closely followed by Miss Hayward and Ms Parsons. Here Ms Parsons gives us an insight into her incredible trip:

Miss Hayward, Ed (our Global Action Leader), and I were fortunate enough to accompany 20 exceptional Year 11, 12 and 13 students on a two-and-a-half-week trip to Nepal this summer. Our journey began in Kathmandu, where we spent several days exploring temples and visiting local NGO projects. One particular highlight for many of the students was our visit to Sungabha Crafts. Here, we learned about their work supporting marginalised women with disabilities and enjoyed a hands-on craft workshop.

We then travelled to Pokhara along the famously winding mountain roads. Thankfully, we did not encounter any landslides during our journey, something we appreciated even more upon our return following the severe flooding and landslides that affected parts of Nepal shortly afterwards. Throughout our travels, we were extremely well looked after by the Royal Trekking Company, whose guides quickly became favourites among the students.

Upon arriving in Pokhara, we were warmly welcomed by the Tibetan refugee community at the Tashi Ling project. A wonderful group of women cared for us during our stay, not only preparing delicious meals but also teaching students practical skills, including how to hand-wash their clothes.

During our time at Tashi Ling, we worked alongside a local school community, helping to dig a pit for a new water tank that will improve access to water for students and staff. The young people at the school were of a similar age to our students, and it was a pleasure to watch them exchange stories and learn about one another's lives and cultures. Evenings were spent enjoying peach tea at a local café, taking part in cooking lessons with our hosts, and, on one memorable occasion, joining in with traditional Tibetan dancing.

After completing our project work, we rejoined the Royal Trekking Company and set off on a five-day trek towards Poon Hill. The students demonstrated remarkable resilience throughout this challenging experience. Climbing thousands of steep steps, enduring leech bites, and facing 4.30am starts never diminished their positivity or gratitude towards those supporting them along the way. One unforgettable moment



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came when the clouds cleared before dawn, revealing the spectacular Fishtail Mountain silhouetted against the sunrise.

Following the trek, we returned to Kathmandu, where we had time to further explore the city, visit the much-anticipated Monkey Temple, and learn about a local eco-project.

The trip was a truly memorable experience, expertly organised by Global Action and enriched by the many inspiring people we met along the way. Our students represented Malmesbury School exceptionally well. Their kindness, enthusiasm and maturity were consistently praised throughout the trip, and they were a real credit to the school.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Malmesbury School celebrated Black History Month in October with an assembly run by the History Department to all year groups, tutor activities tailored around the theme of 'honouring our communities', faculties celebrating inspirational individuals on their doors and in lessons, listening to the 'Great Big Live Assembly' by Sanctuary Foundation and a whole school collage project celebrating those who have inspired us.



ATHELSTAN TRUST MATHS DAY

Year 11s across the Trust came together at Abbeyfield School to challenge themselves in maths. The questions were hard and the competition harder. We are proud to say that Malmesbury Team 3, made up of Charlotte, Elio and Jayden, took First Place and therefore the Gold Award for most points out of the 15 teams present! They all showed some excellent out of the box thinking.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES BAKE OFF

What a fantastic response to our European Day of Languages House Bake Off! We had over 40 students take part, producing an incredible range of creative and delicious-looking bakes. From traditional European recipes to spectacular cakes inspired by languages, flags, landmarks, cultures and traditions, there was so much to admire. It was clear that our students had put a huge amount of time, care and creativity into their creations. The standard was exceptionally high, and our judges certainly had a difficult job choosing between so many wonderful entries!

A huge well done to everyone who took part. Whether you baked a traditional European recipe or created an elaborate Languages Showstopper, your enthusiasm and creativity helped make the event a fantastic celebration of languages, culture and our school community.

And, of course, a big thank you to everyone who helped with the baking, judging and organisation!





STEPHEN DALDRY VISITS MALMESBURY SCHOOL

On September 14th Stephen Daldry, director of Billy Elliot (stage and screen), The Crown, Stranger Things (stage and new Netflix series), An Audience, The Jungle (both stage) visited us. He spent time talking to Year 11 about their set text An Inspector Calls by JB Priestly. He was able to give them insights into characterisation and then staging of the play as his production has been touring the country since it first debuted at The National Theatre in 1992 and then transferred to Broadway, New York.

He also worked with our A-level Theatre Studies students on Machinal by Sophie Treadwell, another set text that he directed at The National with Fiona Shaw in the lead role. He showed the students how the naturalism of the dialogue shines through despite the play's expressionistic style which he explored through the development of soundscapes.

After lunch Stephen Daldry put GCSE Drama students through their paces in a rehearsal problem solving session on how to show the passage of time on stage, highlighting the importance of physicality, control, slow motion and rewind. The students learned that the minutiae really matter when you are communicating en masse.

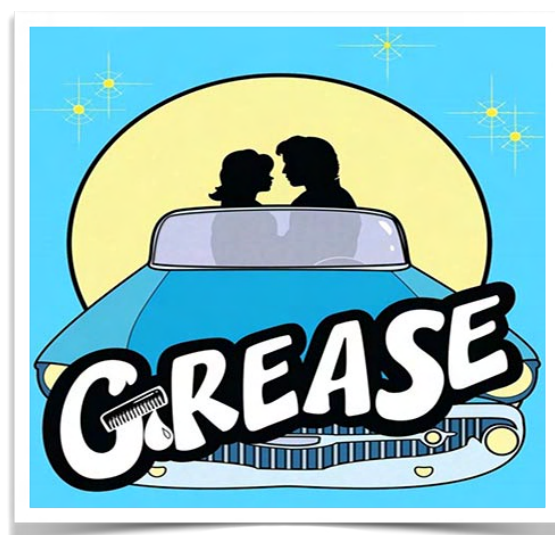
We are very grateful to Mr Daldry for being so generous with his time, it was a fantastic experience for our students.

SCHOOL PRODUCTION: GREASE

Over 150 students auditioned for this year's school musical....and the cast has been selected. Rehearsals are now under way as "Summer Nights" fade so we will be ready to "Go Together" for our production on 3rd - 5th February. Get excited people, because the following cast + ensemble were "Born to Hand Jive" ...

Miss Lynch
Patty Simcox
Eugene Florczyk
Jan
Marty
Rizzo
Doody
Roger
Kenickie
Sonny Latieri
Frenchie
Sandy Dubrowski
Danny Zuko
Vince Fontaine
Johnny Casino
Cha-Cha Digregorio
Teen Angel

GINA WILLETT
CONNIE EARDLEY
NOAH DAVIS
RUBY DOLMAN
GRACE HALL
LILY HUNTER
WILL JONES
TOM KERSLAKE
SONNY BUXTON
SEB GOWDA
ROBYN EDEN
ROMEY SMOGUR
NATHAN SELWOOD
FREDDIE HAMILTON
NOAH CUTHBERT
AMY ROWLES
JACK RANGER-WALSH





LIBRARY NEWS

There's lots going on in the library this term! We've been making the most of our lovely, comfy reading space, with its sofas, armchairs and cosy corners, perfect for curling up with a good book from our growing selection of young adult fiction and non-fiction.

Our manga collection is growing all the time, with a wide range of titles and lots of exciting new arrivals. Whether you're already a manga fanatic or you're looking for somewhere to start, there's plenty to explore. Our comics and magazines are growing too, so there's something for everyone, whether you fancy a quick read or getting lost in a whole new world.

Daisy, our much-loved school dog, has been enjoying the library as well. She's always happy to lend a paw (or a nose!) to our reading adventures, and she seems to approve of our book choices (no treats have been harmed in the taking of the photo!)

We've also been getting into the spirit of the season with our Black History Month and Halloween displays. For Black History Month, we're celebrating brilliant writers including Benjamin Zephaniah, whose powerful poetry and novels explore identity, racism and social justice, and Bernardine Evaristo, whose award-winning novel *Girl, Woman, Other* tells the interconnected stories of twelve Black British women. We've also been showcasing writers such as James Baldwin, whose fiction and essays explore race, identity and belonging, and Maya Angelou, whose writing reflects on resilience, history and the Black experience.

For Halloween, we've gone a little darker! Our spooky displays feature writers such as Darren Shan, whose *Cirque du Freak* and *Demonata* series have kept generations of young readers hooked on horror and the supernatural, alongside Susan Hill, whose chilling ghost story *The Woman in Black* is a classic of the genre and a staple on our Good vs Evil year 9 curriculum. There are plenty of eerie reads to discover, just ask one of the librarians (including the one with the sheet on its head).

Coming soon: the best manga and comics library in Wiltshire! Watch this space...

SELF-MADE PATH

By Poet Laureate Belle (Year 9)

Belle wrote this poem inspired by Mental Health week at school

Seasons change,

Ever still you,

Ever wonderful,

Youth, if departs:

of fear, jeer, leer,

Upon a heart of gold,

Reveals such arts,

Still ever you,

Ever wonderful,

Lend us a breath:

Faring your path.

PAWS FOR THOUGHT WITH DAISY



The holidays are finally here, and as Malmesbury's Chief Happiness Officer, I thought I'd share some important advice.

Firstly, make sure you get plenty of exercise. This doesn't necessarily mean chasing squirrels (although I highly recommend it). Go for walks, ride your bike, kick a football around, or simply enjoy some fresh air. Trust me, a waggy tail and a happy mind go hand in hand.

Secondly, don't forget to rest. Even I, a highly trained professional napper, know that holidays are for recharging your batteries. Sleep in a little, curl up with a good book, or find a sunny spot and do absolutely nothing. It works wonders.

Thirdly, spend time with your favourites. Whether that's family, friends, grandparents or even your pets, make some brilliant memories together.

Most importantly, have fun, laugh lots, try something new and enjoy every moment of your break. Before you know it, you'll be back at school with lots of stories to tell and I will be waiting patiently to hear them all, preferably whilst receiving ear scratches.

HAVE A PAWSOME HOLIDAY EVERYONE!

I CAN & I AM

We had a visit from the I Can & I Am bus this term. All of Year 8 got to go aboard, make some delicious pizza and talk about their mental health. They left with a spring in their step and food in their tummies. We are really grateful to the I Can & I Am team for being regular visitors and the vital role they play in supporting the mental health and well-being of our students. Well done Year 8, you were brilliant.



MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Malmesbury School celebrated Mental Health Week on the 12th - 16th October by wearing yellow ribbons to show support and appreciation that no one is alone with their mental health. Mrs Parsons also delivered an assembly to all year groups, discussing what mental wellbeing and mental health is, and strategies to help us to control our senses and feel safe when it all gets too much.

COUNSELLING AT MALMESBURY SCHOOL

Starting a new term can bring excitement, but it can also feel challenging at times. We want you to know that the Counselling Service is available to support you whenever you need it.

No problem is too big or too small. If you would like to talk, we are here to listen in a safe, supportive, and confidential space. We wish you a happy and successful year ahead.

School Counselling Team

Counselling -

- **Speak to counsellor**
- Face to face
- Safe space
- Confidential (unless someone is at risk of harm)
- Non-judgemental

Where:
Interview room in school
Or Counselling room in Bungalow




Are you feeling?

sad	angry
anxious	confused
overwhelmed	stressed
grief	worried

How to get Counselling -

You can ask your tutor, MC12, or Student Services for a referral form.

- Complete a referral form and post in box by Student Services
- Or you can ask a member of staff to refer you
- Or complete online referral form on school website (use your school email and password to log in on the website)
- You'll be added to our waiting list
- One of the counsellors will be in touch with you by email.

www.malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk

HAPPY CARING EXCELLENT

SOUTHWEST SWIMMING TRIALS

By Niah R (Y12)

On 23rd of September, our school swim team was lucky enough to compete again at Millfield School in the Annual Southwest Swimming Relay Competition that welcomes lots of schools. The day's races consist of 2 events that take place, which are 4x50 IM relay and 4x50 Freestyle relay. There are 3 different age group categories: Junior, Intermediate and Senior. Each category takes up to 8 swimmers of boy and girls.

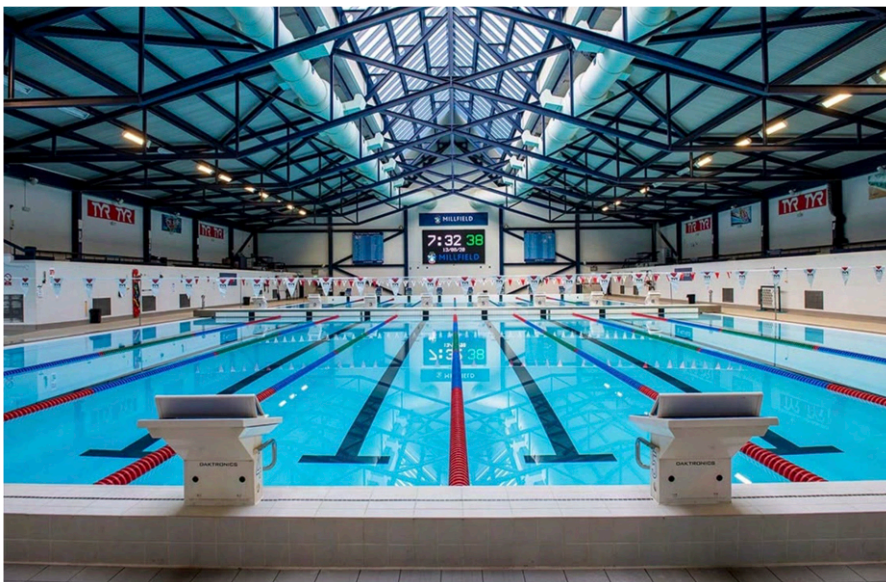
The school bus departed after tutor time and it took an hour and a half to get to Millfield. Much to many swimmer's joy, we got a little stop at the service station, which typically consists of a chocolate aisle raid! Once we arrived, the swimmers headed down to the warmup pool with their respective age groups and practised their strokes and dives in preparation for the races. There is a real sense of camaraderie within the team, which is a great feeling, especially since we have not raced a lot together before.

The younger swimmers often turn to the older, more experienced swimmers for help and advice if they're feeling nervous. It was so nice to see the older ages cheering and supporting the younger ages which gave them a boost in confidence and strengthened the bond in the team.

Even though we were one of the few state schools there, we tried our best and put in some amazing times (even when we were up against incredible schools such as Mount Kelly and Millfield). Millfield School has amazing sports and swimming facilities, and we are all so

extremely lucky to have the chance to swim in places we never would have been able to before.

Furthermore, we would love to say a massive thank you to Mr Marsh-Ballad and Miss Hayden-Smith, for taking us all together to the competition and to Mr Lambert for organising the Malmesbury teams and running the trials the previous week.



OUR AMAZING STUDENTS



Lily M (Y10) & Lottie H-P (Y7) Equestrian Vaulting

Both girls attended the English National Equestrian Vaulting Championships at Moreton Morrell College. Lily has become **National Para Champion** and Lottie came fourth in the Foundation A class (the largest class in the competition of 20 vaulters from around the country).

Lottie has gone on to compete in the British Equestrian Vaulting Championships which brought vaulters from across the British Isles together. Having only started equestrian vaulting a year ago, Lottie came 13th with only 0.6 of a point separating her from 1st place.

Lily & Lottie... you are both brilliant!

William H-A (Y7) & Matthew H-A (Y11) Kick Boxing Champs

William in year 7 and Matthew in year 11 both competed in the WUMA kick boxing national championships recently. William won Gold in his section to become the <140cm National points champion. Matthew won bronze in the U18 +70kg points section. This was his first time competing in this section which is a big jump up, so he did remarkably well.

Well done chaps! What a fantastic achievement!



Isabella N (Y8) British Waterski Team

Over the Summer Isabella had an amazing time representing the British Water Ski Team at the Europe & Africa Youth Championships (U14 & U17) that took place at Stratos Lake in Agrinio, Greece. She achieved new PBs in trick and slalom.

Well done Isabella, what an exciting sport to be involved in! We look forward to seeing how you continue to flourish in it.



Josh J (Y11) selected for British Triathlon South West Academy programme

After time trials at Millfield and Bath in September, Josh has been given a place on the main South West Regional Academy programme with British Triathlon. Next year Josh will race in Youth B age category with the majority of his competitors in the year above him at school. We have loved hearing about Josh's journey to date and are looking forward to seeing him continue to progress. Well done!

Josh B's (Y10) next exciting step into motorsport

In September, Josh took an exciting step in his motorsport journey when he drove the new PM1 junior racing car in Cumbria at the M-Sport development track with Power Maxed Racing. Already competing in Junior Rotax karting, Josh had the opportunity to experience the transition from karting to car racing and learn more about the skills and dedication needed to progress in motorsport. He came away extremely happy from the experience and is now looking forward to further opportunities as he works towards his ambition of racing cars in 2027. Well done Josh, what a brilliant opportunity!



Adam S (Y10) GB Cycling Team National School of Racing Programme

Huge congratulations to Adam S in Year 10, who has been accepted onto the Great Britain Cycling Team National School of Racing Foundation Programme for road and track endurance. Adam has raced competitively for 10 years across road, track (velodrome), cyclo-cross and time-trialling, representing his cycling Club Cotswold Veldrijden at both regional and national level.

Adam successfully secured his place following a demanding selection process in which he exceeded all of the qualifying criteria on both the road and the track. His selection reflects not only his ability and potential as a young cyclist, but also the commitment, resilience and dedication he has demonstrated throughout the 10 years he has been training and competing.



The National School of Racing Foundation Programme forms part of

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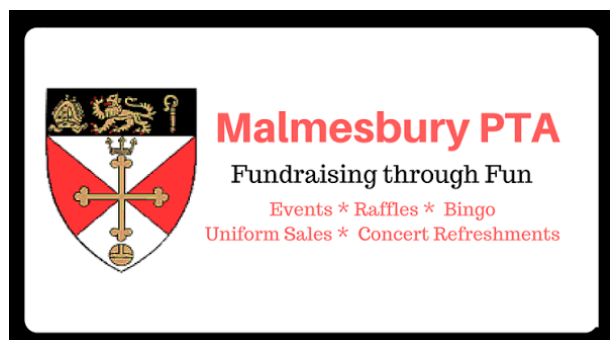
the British Cycling Talent Development Pathway. It is designed to identify, support and develop talented young riders, helping them build the skills, habits and physical foundations required to progress towards the Great Britain Cycling Team Academy and, potentially, a professional cycling career on the track and road.

Although the programme supports a range of cycling disciplines—including road and track endurance, track sprint, mountain bike cross-country, BMX racing, BMX freestyle park and paracycling—Adam has been selected specifically for the road and track endurance pathway. This is a significant and thoroughly deserved achievement, and we are extremely proud of Adam. We look forward to following his continued progress and wish him every success as he takes this exciting next step in his cycling journey.



We love to hear about the amazing achievements of our students. If you have something you would like to share, please let tutors know or send a message to:

mailin@malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk



PTA CHAIR'S REPORT

By Rachel Copeland

As Chair of the Malmesbury School PTA, I am delighted to present my report for the past year.

Firstly, I would like to thank our committee members, volunteers, school staff and the wider parent community for their continued support throughout the

last year. The PTA is entirely run by volunteers, and every event we organise, every item of second-hand uniform sold and every hour volunteered contributes to making a real difference for our students.

Reflecting on the past year, I am incredibly proud of what we've achieved together. I don't want to steal the thunder from our Treasurer, but I know that the last 12 months have seen our total income far exceed that of any of the previous five years. I very much hope this growth will continue and that, as the school grows, so too will our volunteer base, event attendance and fundraising income.

Through our fundraising activities and the ongoing generosity of our school community, we have been able to provide valuable financial support to the school. Our most significant contribution this year was a collaboration with Malmesbury League of Friends. Together, we contributed £8,000 towards the installation of fixed outdoor tables and chairs, providing a lasting benefit for students to enjoy every day (hopefully they will arrive soon). This is exactly the kind of project that the PTA exists to support; something that benefits large numbers of students every day but would be difficult for the school to fund from its core budget alone.

Alongside this major investment, we have also supported a number of smaller initiatives and requests from departments and clubs, helping to enhance the educational experience and school environment for all our children.

Of course, fundraising is only one part of what the PTA does. We also aim to strengthen the connection between parents and the school and to create opportunities for the community to come together. In a secondary school setting, this can sometimes be a challenge. As our children become more independent, parents naturally become less involved in the day-to-day life of the school than they were in primary education. However, the need for parental support remains just as important, and by supporting school events and fundraising activities, we continue to make a meaningful difference within our community.

What continues to amaze me is how much can be achieved by such a small group of people. The scale of our fundraising success this year is a testament to the dedication and enthusiasm of everyone involved. We all have busy lives, jobs and family commitments, but by working together we have demonstrated that even a modest amount of time and effort can have a lasting impact on the school and its students.

I would also like to thank the Senior Leadership Team and school staff for their support throughout the year. Their willingness to work in partnership with us at events and submitting comprehensive bid requests ensures that funds are directed towards projects that will deliver the greatest benefit to students.

As we look ahead, our challenge remains the same: maintaining and growing our volunteer base. The reality is that many hands make light work. We are always keen to welcome new faces, fresh ideas and people who can offer as much or as little time as they are able. There are no special skills required, and not everyone needs to take on a formal role. Every contribution is valued.

I would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to Kay and Pete Sladden, whose contribution to the PTA over the years has been truly exceptional.

Throughout the entire time their children have attended Malmesbury School, Kay and Pete have been steadfast supporters of the PTA, generously giving their time and energy to help make our events and activities a success. They are the absolute masters of running a charity bar and have set the gold standard when it comes to going above and beyond expectations.

What makes their commitment even more remarkable is that, despite their youngest having now left the school, they have very kindly offered to continue helping at PTA events in the future. That level of dedication is rare and speaks volumes about their generosity and commitment to the school community. We are incredibly grateful for everything they have done and delighted that they will still be around to support us from time to time.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has supported the PTA over the past year. Whether you attended an event, bought a raffle ticket, made a donation, volunteered your time or simply helped spread the word, you have contributed to the success of our organisation and, most importantly, to enhancing opportunities for students at Malmesbury School.

I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together and look forward to building on this success in the coming year. Like most PTAs, we are powered by a small group of dedicated people and a remarkable quantity of optimism. We'd love a few more people to help keep supplies of both topped up.

If you would like to find out more about the BRILLIANT PTA, check out the website [here](#) or follow the PTA on Facebook by clicking [here](#).

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 mailin@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.