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Foreword by Mr Barrett - Headteacher

Welcome to the first edition of ‘Malmesbury Matters’ which replaces the traditional Head’s newsletter. Malmesbury School is a thriving community which provides endless opportunities for students to excel academically as well as through sport, music, the arts and a plethora of extra-curricular activities including the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. The new style newsletter is intended to recognise and celebrate the full range of activities involving our students both in and out of school. It also provides a window for students and parents to see the range of what is on offer and to encourage the widest possible participation. Whilst the tone of the newsletter will be upbeat, positive and celebratory, inevitably as teachers there will be occasional moans and reminders! If your child has achieved something of note in school or out of school which we are unaware of please contact our editor, Dan Baker. I am sure Dan would also welcome any feedback.

John Barrett starts his new role as Associate Headteacher at Malmesbury School.

The Chair of the Trust wishes John well in his new role: “At the start of the new term, John Barrett takes on most of Tim Gilson’s responsibilities as the Associate Headteacher at Malmesbury School.

I would like to wish John every success in his important new role.

This is also an opportunity to thank Tim for the outstanding job he has done at Malmesbury since he became Headteacher in 2008 and for the 7 years before that when he was Assistant Headteacher.

Tim continues his role as CEO and becomes Executive Headteacher”
The annual RICE CHALLENGE is on for Year 7 and 8. Each tutor group has been given a share of 90kg of rice and their task will be to work in small groups to come up with creative ways of selling rice, and maximise their profit. Each group will be given one bag of rice and they must try and sell it for a minimum of £3. The tutor group that makes the most profit will be awarded house points and a prize. All money raised goes to helping fund education for disadvantaged children in Malawi.

Japanese students from Reitaku Junior High School spent a day at Malmesbury School in February as part of an integration programme organised by Inlingua, a Language school in Cheltenham.

The “buddy” programme involves a family homestay and visits to local tourist attractions. Students spent a day at Malmesbury School paired with year 10 students. They went to lessons and taught students a variety of games before performing a cultural dance display.

Textiles Club for year 7 & 8

Tuesday Lunchtimes from Tuesday 4th June for 6 weeks. Spaces limited to 12

Students will be making a decorated pencil case using the sewing machines

Please see Mrs Razazan you would like to join.

Year 11 students from Bradon Forest visited Malmesbury School for a taste of life in the sixth form. They were buddied up with a Year 12 student for the day and attended lessons including EPQ, Food Tech, Art, Financial Capability, Further Maths, RS, Chemistry, English Language and Psychology. A joint Malmesbury and Bradon Forest sixth form will be offered from September 2019. Bradon Forest students will spend one day a week having lessons and a tutorial at Bradon Forest and four days being taught at Malmesbury. Students said they liked the quiet study rooms, the lively common room and the fact that the sixth formers are separate from the younger students. They also liked the feeling of freedom but also the firm structure. Students said they were made to feel welcome in all the lessons they joined.

Brendan Palmer, Assistant Head of KS4 at Bradon Forest, was impressed by the maturity of the Malmesbury Year 12 students who were very friendly and sociable.

Students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh’s Bronze Award expedition have recently taken part in a training day at the school. 140 students from Years 9 and 10 learnt how to cook on camping stoves and plan their meals for the expedition. Students also learnt how to navigate and pitch their tents correctly, they were taught about basic first aid and about essential equipment for their expedition. A-Z Expeditions ran the training day, which went very smoothly with all students enjoying themselves and having a valuable experience with comprehensive training. All students completed their practice expedition on 18 and 19 May and are preparing for their qualifying expedition on 29 and 30 June.
Gym Star George gets gold!

George in Yr 7 has been making big leaps in the world of acro-gymnastics. George is the “top” of a male pair which essentially means he spends most of the routines flying through the air and performing incredible balances. This year George and his partner have already won gold in the Las Vegas Acro cup, an international competition that attracts the top acro gymnasts from all over the world. The pair also recently won gold at the English national championships which now means they will trial to be part of the GB team.

Some of you may be already be aware of George and his gymnastics abilities as he features in the CBBC series “Gym Stars”. This follows the progress of a number of highly talented gymnasts as they train and compete in national and international competitions.

This term, as part of George’s gym stars story, the film crew came to school to film George with his tutor group. George was asked to make a presentation to the class about acro gymnastics and students were then invited to pose him some questions. The film crew spent half a day in school and loved working with the students here.

As a school we are incredibly proud of George’s achievements to date and we wish him and his acro partner all the very best in their GB trial.
Students in the spotlight - Charlotte Yr11

Magical moment for Charlotte as she performs on stage for idol

When Charlotte took the brave step of entering “West End calling” (a national competition to find the next big thing in musical theatre) little did she know that in a matter of weeks she would be performing on a London stage in front of her musical idol.

Charlotte has performed in many school productions and she regularly attends a local stage school. Charlotte was encouraged to enter the competition by her Mum, and jumped at the chance to show her talent to a range of industry experts. The competition involved regional heats much like the X-factor and the top performers were selected to go through to the final and perform on stage in London’s west end.

The panel of judges for the final included Sophie Isaacs, and Matt Croke. Performing on the stage in front of them at “The Other Palace” was a daunting prospect, especially with a full band backing her. Charlotte sang her heart out to “Dyin’ ain’t so bad” from the musical Bonnie and Clyde and was overwhelmed when it was announced that she came 3rd overall in the 11-15 category.

“It was an incredible experience, I just couldn’t believe I was on stage singing in front of Sophie Isaacs she is amazing. I really love her work, I was completely star struck”.

Well done Charlotte, we wish you all the best in your pursuit of a career in musical theatre.
Congratulations to Katie Butcher on winning a gold medal at the Welsh Long Course Spring National Championships at Swansea in the 50-metre backstroke.

Katie pictured receiving her medal from Commonwealth Games medallist Chloe Tutton.

England calling for Ben

Yr 11 Ben Lemos who is a Bath Rugby Academy player, received an amazing e-mail whilst revising for his exams.

The e-mail informed him that he would be a member of the England Rugby Academy Programme for 2019-20. This will involve him still training for Bath but also training with England every few weeks. According to the Bath rugby website an EAP is “the designation given to the players currently demonstrating the greatest potential in the Regional Academy”.

Ben was absolutely over the moon with the news and can’t wait for the new season to get started. We wish Ben every success with the England Academy Programme.

Sixth Form Rugby – 1st May

On 1st of May, Mr Tomlinson took a 12 man squad of sixth form rugby players to the Mad Dog sevens rugby festival held at RWB RFC. This is the first year of this tournament and included the mad dog rugby academies from RWBA and Melksham schools along with Corsham School and a 1st and 2nd team from Bishop Wordsworth’s Salisbury.

The team won all their qualifying games comfortably and made it through to the final against a very strong Bishop Wordsworth’s first team. Despite a spirited performance, the boys unfortunately narrowly lost and therefore came runners up.

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Congratulations to all that were selected to take part in the Area Athletics Trials at Bath University on Tuesday 16th May. All Malmesbury students performed excellently with the following being selected to represent North Wilts at the county championships on 8th June in Swindon.

Inter Team (Years 10 & 11)

Willa Gibb (80m hurdles & 100m)
Jess Chandler (Shot Putt)
Max Ashton (400m)
Henry Watling (800m)
Ollie Campbell (3,000m)
Max Savage (Long Jump)

Year 7 Team (Minors)

Savannah Makepeace (100m)
Yasmin Keen (1500m & High Jump)
Mac Sujeewon (70m hurdles)
Louis Portlock (100m)
Freddie Allman (800m)
Scott Lippiatt (1500m)
Jamie Hull (High Jump)
Finn Tucker (Javelin)

Year 8 & 9 Team

Naryani Costa – Jafrate (1500m)
Grace Purnell (Long Jump)
Emma Smith (Shot Putt)
Rory Watkins (80m hurdles)
Josh Wilson (Discus)

Junior Team (Years 8 & 9)

Rory Watkins (80m hurdles)
Josh Wilson (Discus)

George Holmes (Year 9) has been awarded the honour of representing the South West trampolining team at the countries regional finals in Birmingham. The event is run by British Gymnastics. George will attend a warm up day on Friday June 8th, and the competition will take place on Saturday the 9th. We wish George all the best in the competition.

Imogen Eagles (Yr 9) was selected to umpire at the National Schools Badminton Championships in Milton Keynes. Imogen plays a high level of badminton herself and umpiring at such a prestigious competition is an amazing opportunity.

Well done Imogen.
Up-coming Athletics fixtures

- Wednesday 12th June - Area Athletics Champs @ Bath Uni.
- Monday 17th June - Year 9 Interform Athletics (Afternoon)
- Tuesday 18th June - Year 7 Interform Athletics (Afternoon)
- Wednesday 19th June - Year 8 Interform Athletics (Afternoon)

Congratulations to Louis Nicholls (Yr 9) for his performance at the Swim England Southwest Regional championships. He had a great championship with some brilliant results. Louis came 3rd in the 1500m freestyle, and this wonderful performance saw him on the podium to collect the bronze medal.

On the 24th April Mrs Schofield took 3 Gymnastics teams to the finals of the Wiltshire school games competition. Each team put in an excellent floor and vault performance and as a school we came away with over 3rd position in the county which is fantastic. The beginner team collected bronze medals and Tilly Ashton got a silver medal to finish 2nd highest individual in the beginner category. Well done to - Ellie Jacques, Amalie Gray, Tilly Ashton, Emily Sladdon, Maggie Lenger, Eleanor Goodey, Nicole Newman, Grace Fielding, Amy Sillars, Jada Anderson, Rosie Coode, Cate Eagles, Phoebe Makinson, Beth Hughes and Livia Barrett.

SPORTS CLUBS
SUMMER 2019

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<tr>
<th>MONDAYS</th>
<th>TUESDAYS</th>
<th>WEDNESDAYS</th>
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<td>Archery Club (existing members only)</td>
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EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

The only requirements are that you attend regularly with energy and enthusiasm.
PRIDE and HUMILITY

“Looking after each other and the school” by Dan Baker (Assistant Head)

I have now had the pleasure of working at Malmesbury for 17 years. I started age 22 as an NQT and walked into what was then a brand new school building. Since that day I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the students and staff that have been and gone over the years and I am genuinely proud to work at the school and will quite happily tell anyone who will listen what a good school it is. The thing that, without doubt, I am most proud of is the students. On a daily basis they are polite, chatty, funny and talented. The students here are incredibly accepting of peoples differences and show a great deal of care and empathy to their peers. Although, of course, there are times when students are unpleasant or say and do unkind things, I really do feel this is few and far between and the overwhelming majority of students are incredibly respectful of others. I also see all staff daily working with students in the most caring and professional way ensuring that students feel supported and valued throughout their time at Malmesbury.

As with any organisation there are always things to work on and things we could do better. A recent focus for us in the school is showing pride in the school and the achievements of students here and ensuring we are showing humility towards others. This involves many different areas including the language we use to speak to each other and the way we respect the school environment. A main focus for this is a drive to ensure that litter around the school and the local community is to a minimum and that all of our excellent facilities are respected and looked after.

Bins are plentiful around the school and on break and lunch duties staff and students are making a great effort to keep the school clean and tidy. We are however aware that some of the areas where students socialise out of school have had large amounts of litter left there. One particular spot is Daniel’s Well and we have been asking students to ensure they tidy up after themselves not only in school but in the local community as well. The overall aim is to work with the eco-group in school and ensure that not only do we keep the environment clean and tidy but that we ensure we recycle as much as possible. The impact that plastic especially is having on the planet cannot go unnoticed and we know that a lot of students in the school are concerned about this and are keen to help us become a more eco friendly school.

I have been doing assemblies for each year group on pride and humility. The aim of these assemblies is to ensure all students understand the impact that negative behaviours can have. Not only with litter and the respect for facilities in the school but also the way we speak to each other socially face to face and online. Although social media can be a very positive medium for students to communicate with each other, as I am sure you are all aware on occasions it can be abused and students can be on the receiving end of some very unpleasant conversations and remarks. We want students to think carefully about how they can be perceived by the language they use to others and how they present themselves both online and face to face with people.

Our drive is for all students to understand what a wonderful school they are at and that the school is theirs and therefore they need to look after it and each other. All students need to continue to take pride in theirs and others achievements and enjoy being part of an exciting and diverse community. The staff and students together continue to make Malmesbury a wonderful, vibrant and happy place to work and study and I would like to thank the whole school community for fully getting behind our drive for an increase in pride and humility at Malmesbury School.
On Friday 3 May, the music department took 50 exam students from years 10-13 on a trip to an evening concert at St. George’s concert hall, Bristol by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (usually based at the currently under-renovation Colston Hall).

This is our first trip of this nature since the Royal Opera 2 years ago and tickets were snapped up almost instantly which was very rewarding as, despite a large number of orchestra players on the coach, the programme was not exactly what the students are used to.

It consisted of the ‘Holberg’ suite by Grieg (of ‘Morning’ and ‘Hall of the mountain king’ fame), a recently discovered cello concerto by Haydn (composer of the GCSE set study work); a modern piece played by a superb cello soloist called Johannes Moser and the evening was supremely rounded off by Mozart’s 29th symphony.

On Monday 13th May, a group of Year 13 A-Level Biologists benefited from a day long workshop at We The Curious in Bristol. The workshop is titled “A Question of Taste”. At the start of the workshop, students test one of their characteristics, whether they are able to taste a bitter chemical called PTC or not. This chemical is typically found in cabbage and closely related plants like Brussel sprouts. Not all humans have the version of a taste receptor gene (allele) that enables them to taste this chemical. Students then conducted a series of typical laboratory molecular biology techniques to find out if their tasting characteristic matched up to their genetics. First students extracted their own DNA from their cheek cells and then amplified this DNA using a technique called PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction). Students then added an enzyme that chops DNA called a restriction endonuclease enzyme. This enzyme cuts the DNA differently depending on the DNA sequence and allows students to see if they have two versions of the tasting allele (super taster), two versions of the non-tasting allele (non-taster) or one of each version of the gene which means they can taste PTC but it is not very bitter. To visualise their DNA and to look for differences in the DNA, students then carried out gel electrophoresis. We discovered that one of the group was a genetic super taster however unusually she really enjoyed foods that contain PTC. This is an excellent workshop that enables students to get plenty of hands on experience in conducting some key molecular biology techniques that we cannot perform in school and also using key molecular biology equipment such as micropipettes. The trip therefore both reinforced the theory that students have been taught in lessons and made students familiar with techniques which they may well encounter at university.

On Mountain 20th and Tuesday 21st May, our A-Level Geography group travelled down to Isle of Purbeck, Dorset to complete their coastal fieldwork to complement their coastal landscapes and processes topic studied earlier this year. On Monday morning, the students carried out fieldwork looking at how the sand dunes at Studland bay differ between the visitor site and un-managed natural habitat further around the coast. The students then went onto look at coastal defences both at Studland where they have failed and the more successful management in Swanage Bay. Here they undertook fieldwork to assess the success of these coastal defences as well as looking into the perception of coastal management by local people, visitors and shop owners. On Tuesday, the students travelled across to Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door to investigate the processes and characteristics that contribute to this coastline. Throughout the two days, the students worked extremely hard coming away successful in both developing their knowledge of this coastline (a case study for their exam), and knowledge of how to conduct geographical fieldwork which will be essential as they start to write their coursework. Each student really was a credit to the school.
SPANISH EXCHANGE – In early May, 19 year 9 and 10 students participated in the third annual Spanish exchange with our partner school in the small rural village of Cabanes in Valencia. The exchange was a fantastic cultural experience and linguistic emersion and the students have returned with an impressive range of colloquial vocabulary which will be enormously beneficial to them in their GCSE speaking exams.

During the trip, the students visited a local market in Castellón where they were able to taste local fare such as octopus and rabbit. The jury was out on whether they would recreate some of these recipes at home. They also visited a medieval castle where Game of Thrones was filmed and enjoyed teaching their Spanish partners how to play rounders on the beach.

With their host families many students attended the village festival celebrating the Virgin Mary and participated in a procession through the village by candle light followed by large community dinners of the local speciality paella and some even learned some local songs and dances.

An amazing piece of homework from Charlotte Thompson in 7CP – the homework was to create a symbol which represents multicultural Britain. It is so stunning and thoughtfully created—Miss Luker

YSM continue to be an enthusiastic and vibrant group in their quest as budding historians. This year we have seen the best crop of castles and explanations since I have been at this school. The presentations showed great knowledge and understanding of the role of the castle in Norman Britain, as well as the features of the castles across the ages.—Mrs Deans

Yr 8 Students were tasked to create a learning map that answered the question ‘What do Buddhists believe about suffering?’. There were eight questions to respond to and one challenge question. Pupils could choose how they presented the answers to these questions on the A3 page. Great work—Mrs Jones
Throughout the Easter period we were each given the chance to exhibit a piece of work at Malmesbury Abbey, developed from the theme of The Stations of the Cross – the biblical depictions of Jesus on his way to the crucifixion. We began the project in January and incorporated both the biblical story and the unique space offered by the Abbey.

We each created our own original response stemming from our impression of the station. The work also needed to fit onto the space within the Abbey as an installation piece; using the architecture to help compliment our work and add to the unique atmosphere of the church. By Katie Gilbert, Tash Lecomber, Christine Loft, Beth Pike.

Hare today!!!

This year we are going to make 30 Malmesbury Hares that will go on permanent display around Malmesbury School. The theme will be celebrating our school. All students in Key Stage 3 will design a Hare that celebrates one of the many things that make us all proud of Malmesbury School. It may be about achievements, sport, the arts, individual subjects, a fantastic teacher, the canteen, an inspirational student, the library, friendships, clubs or anything that you think needs to be recognised and celebrated.

We will select 30 hares to display and then these will be painted during a full day Art workshop on Monday 1st July. - See Mrs Gibbons for more details.

A winning Hare from last years competition – "Rosie" By Abbie Cox

Congratulations to the two winning teams in the KS3 Maths Puzzle Competition!

**Winning Team A**
- Archie Cole 7HH
- Chris Crago 7HH
- Sam Martin 7HH
- Sam Jaiyesimi-Olokun 7HH

**Winning Team B**
- Cameron Hussey 8HS
- James English 7RM
- Joseph Howard 8HS

Maths/Puzzle club!

There will be a weekly Maths and Puzzle club on Thursday lunchtimes in Mi1. The sessions are for students looking for a challenge/fun with maths, and also for anyone needing extra support with maths homework/topics outside of lessons.
Proceeds from this event are shared between the 3 schools in Malmesbury.

Volunteers are needed to help run the event—please contact Ray Sanderson (07710082085) if you can help.

Please support this wonderful event that benefits schools in the local community.

Tickets are priced at £8 (tokens for 1 pint are included in this) and are available from - The Whole Hog, Town Hall, School Reception.