



February 2020



# MALMESBURY MATTERS

Leaping into an exciting  
New Year!



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**Head's Foreword**

**Mr John Barrett**

Welcome to the February edition of Malmesbury Matters. In December we had a fantastic Christmas concert over three nights followed a week later by the carol service in the Abbey. One of the great things about Malmesbury School is the quality of our musical and theatrical performances and the breadth of talent we can draw upon. As I write I am looking forward to our 6<sup>th</sup> form play 'Enron' this evening and in March the chamber Concert.

Year 11 and 13 students are now beginning the arduous process of preparing for examinations in May/June. As I spoke to year 11 students in assembly this morning, it is important to recognise that the burden of success does not fall on students alone. Teaching staff have a responsibility to teach them well and provide ongoing support. Parents need to encourage and nurture in what can be an anxious time.

Students should also think about studying together, sharing resources, testing each other and providing moral support. We all need to encourage students to have a sense of balance and make time for family and friends. In the meantime, I wish them all well.

We are now busy recruiting new staff for September and as you are aware we have appointed **Rupert Moreton** as the new Headteacher. Rupert is a serving Headteacher already and will be a fresh pair of eyes on our quest for continuous improvement. We had a very strong field of applicants and those selected for interview were subjected to 2 days of gruelling scrutiny from staff, students and governors. I am confident the process has secured an exceptional school leader.

Finally, I wish all our students a happy half-term break and hope you all have some quality family time.

# INCREDIBLE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Malmesbury School's 2019 annual Christmas concert continued in the fashion of previous years to prove astonishing in both performance and organisation, averaging at around twenty-five numbers a night!

Some highlights of the festivities included a full company rendition of the 9 minute long, progressive rock masterpiece "Firth of Fifth" to introduce the second interval.

Chamber choir, chamber orchestra, sixth form band and big band performed brilliantly along side the main choir and orchestra.

The main hall heard new voices in budding soloists as young as year 8. Every night, of course, the concert was finished with the full company playing the iconic "last Christmas" to set a festive tone for the month to come.

By Lola Porter







# Shhhhhh.....

## It's the Silent Disco

By Ellis Sinclair, Year 9

### What is a silent disco?

A silent disco is when you enter a dark room with disco lights but no music!! You get handed a set of headphones and glowsticks. Headphones are the key to the silent disco. When you put the headphones on, the music will come blasting into your ears.

The amazing thing about a silent disco is that there are 3 channels of music operated by 3 DJs. The Headphones link to channels 1,2 and 3. At the silent disco that Malmesbury School ran we put the colours on the headphones so channel 1 was Blue, Green 2 and Red channel 3. The silent disco lasted over a lunch time so there was enough time to listen and dance to a wide range of music from the 3 different DJs.

### What played?

At the silent discos we played a variety of songs. for instance I played pop songs and Will a 6<sup>th</sup> former was a true DJ playing dancefloor hits. Ellie in year 9 played classic party tunes, but the music changed from disco to disco. The people that were DJs were Ellis Sinclair, Ellie Kinch, Theo Butler, Esme Hobbs, Niamh McCarthy, Ella Bridgeman, Will Hulme, Dom Tucker, Alex Hoque, Joe Corscadden, Bel Edwards, Harry Russell.

### Who took part in the disco's?

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December the 6<sup>th</sup> form kicked it off in their own common room as it was turned into a club venue for the lunchtime. On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> years 7 & 8 had their disco in the hall, on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> years 9 to 11 had a disco also in the hall. Students paid £1 to hire the headphones for the lunchtime.

It was great fun and a real success, and we can't wait to do it again.



# Alumni Reflections

By Kyle Stevens

*What do I do now?*

I currently study film and tv at Chippenham College. As well as this I am hired as a freelance photographer.

*What do I miss about school?*

I miss the staff and the support I got whilst I was there. Everyone knew me and who I was and it made life so much easier since people knew how to approach me.

*What are my plans for the future?*

I intend to go on and start my own production company in which I want to create films, make promotional videos for companies and make small comedy sketches online. Along side this I want to also work with photography, specifically portraiture. Not the style with a white sheet behind them and "smile" but where we go into the woods or into the streets of New York. I want to add personality and creativity to the photos I take.

*What was my experience moving onto college?*

At first it was difficult. I didn't know what to expect. A complete change of environment, completely new people and a whole new dynamic to learning. It was driving me crazy. But then, after my first week or so, things felt right. I knew I was in the right place surrounded by like minded people. At first, I had taken on the games development course, but I lost interest pretty quickly in which, within the first 5 weeks, I had a full transfer onto the film and tv course. The support at college has been amazing.

*What's the next step?*

Well I have two options, option A: go to university for 3+ years and gain a qualification to work for a mainstream industry or option B: begin making a name for myself in college, develop my style and try to get noticed as a freelancer by larger companies who like my style, open up my own production company and have full creative control over my work. I'm sure it's a high risk route, but option B just sounds more fun. And that's what life's all about, having fun.

*What advice would I give to someone looking to grow in the industry?*

Go out and create something. Anything.

These are your years where you can mess up. So go out and experiment. It doesn't matter what camera you have or how much lighting you have, go out and create and don't let anything hold you back. All that time waiting is wasted potential and time you could spend learning from your mistakes and growing as a creator.



# Students in the spotlight

## Lily Stevens Yr 11

Lily recently entered the “Stagecoach Performance School” international singing competition. This involved thousands of young hopefuls from stagecoach schools all over the world.

To get into the competition Lily sent a video of herself singing “she used to be mine” from the Waitress. This obviously impressed as she was asked to go to Reading to perform again– this was recorded professionally.

In June Lily received a phone call telling her they wanted her to attend a charity gala at the Shaftesbury theatre.

At the Gala her professionally recorded video was played on the big screen. After the video had finished it was announced that Lily was the overall winner in the outstanding singer age 13-18 category. Lily was presented the prestigious award by Miriam Teak-Lee who plays Juliet in the new musical “& Juliet” which is currently playing at the Shaftesbury Theatre.

Congratulations Lily. What an amazing achievement.





# Sensational Carol Service

By Meg Luddington



On Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019, Malmesbury School music department held its annual Christmas carol service in the prestigious venue of Malmesbury Abbey. Both Chamber choir and Chamber orchestra were involved, as was the staff choir, which performed a lovely rendition of 'The Holly and the Ivy'. The quartet of voices also did a captivating performance of 'What Child is This'. The Abbey is such an amazing setting for this very special event and we are so lucky to have it right on our doorstep. After a selection of carols, and some readings, everybody left feeling fully ready for the festive season!



# NEWS SHORTS

All the latest news, messages and goings on at Malmesbury School

Congratulations to **Tim Iliffe-Moon** (Yr 13) who has been selected for the South West Rugby U18 squad. This is an outstanding achievement. Tim has already made his debut for Chippenham RFC 1st XV and has captained Dorset and Wilts U18. We wish Tim all the best in the upcoming game against London and South East U18's.

## Spelling Bee 3rd-7th Feb.

We had 12 finalists come to compete on Friday 7th after they had battled through the qualification rounds on the previous days.

There were two heats - **James English** Yr8 and **Nimdeah Amankwa** Yr7 were our runners up with **Lizzie Marriage** Yr7 and **Leo Neve** Yr9 going head to head in the final.

Lizzie held her own but was eventually overcome by the spelling prowess of Mr Neve - well done sir. Lizzie and Leo both won £10 shopping vouchers, but Leo had the honour of taking home the incredible Spelling Bee trophy. Well done to all who took part.



Huge congratulations to **Jack Goodwin**, **Cormac Pritchett**, **Emilia Powell** and **Isla Thomson** who have all been selected to tour India with Wiltshire CCC this month. They have all put in a great deal of hard work and thoroughly deserve this amazing opportunity. They will play cricket at an international stadium, tour the grounds of the Rajasthan Royals and the Delhi Daredevils and even visit the Taj Mahal.

It will be an incredible trip and we wish them all the best.

Congratulations to **Katie Butcher**, year 11. She has improved her 50 back-stroke time so that she has now qualified for the Olympic Trials for Tokyo at the London Aquatic Centre in the 2012 Olympic Park in April.

She will of course be swimming with Team GB's elite swimmers and the experience will be something very special. Good luck Katie.



# CRACKING THE CODE

In November 2019 the A level & GCSE Computer Science students together with all year 9 students entered a Computational Thinking competition hosted by BEBRAS.

70 students came in the top 50% of their age group and have been awarded a Merit certificate.

69 students came in the top 25% of their age group and have been awarded a Distinction Certificate.

The top 3 students in year 9 were: Charlie Parker in 9BG, Cameron Hussey 9HS and Tilly Ashton 9SL.

The top 3 students in year 11 were: Jamie Fox, Archie Cross, Tobias Page.

The top 3 students in year 10 were: Sonny Hix, Sophie Sjoland and Grace Palmer. The top student in year 12 was Niall Carr.

A further 37 students were in the top 10% of their year group and have been invited to take part in tcsocc 2020 Computing competition run by Oxford university. Practice support sessions will run at lunchtime in February, prior to the competition taking place in school in March.

Come along and have a go !

A **Week of code** was run from 6-10<sup>th</sup> January 2020. All KS3 students coded in their lessons, and a range of activities were run at lunchtime including Microbit coding ( using the LED lights to display a range of messages) , Spero control ( navigating a robotic sphere through an obstacle course) and using Python to generate a school map.

The winner of the SCRATCH coding house competition was Phoebe Bareham 9GD ( Hobbs) with Ellis Sinclair 9SL ( Athelstan) a close second. Well done!

A team of 4 year 8 girls have entered the Cyberfirst girls competition run by National Cyber Security Centre. Good luck!

**Sue Dolton**  
**Head of Computing**



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