

# Meopham School

A Member of Swale Academies Trust

Headteacher: Mr G Prebble BEd Joint Honours NPQH



Wrotham Road Meopham Kent DA13 0AH

Tel: 01474 814646

Website: [www.meophamschool.org.uk](http://www.meophamschool.org.uk)

5th July 2024

Dear parent/carer,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing to you today, for the first time, to introduce myself to you all. My name is Ethan Roberts and I am very proud to be the new Headteacher at Meopham School from September.

I know there is nothing more important to you than your child's welfare and their future. This is why, as a school, we will take this responsibility incredibly seriously, and do all we can to ensure your children go on to lead successful and happy lives. Pupils get one shot at education and we intend to get it right.

Over the past four days, I have been on school site to get to know my new colleagues, meet some of our pupils and learn more about the running of the school. It has been an absolute pleasure meeting some of your youngsters and I'm really looking forward to getting into their lessons, getting to know them better and helping out with their learning in September. The work that my predecessor Mr Prebble, along with the entire school staff, have done to continue providing our pupils with a consistent education during a turbulent time whilst our second building has been in construction has been excellent, and I'm grateful to all of them for their hard work. However, I am also aware that pupils, staff and parents/carers alike are keen for the school to improve further, and we are aware of some of the areas we want to address in order for the school to realise its full, excellent potential.

During the first two terms, along with our Senior Leadership Team and the entire staff body, we will be conducting an extensive self-evaluation of all aspects of school life, in order to develop a clear sense of the direction we need to take as a school to drive further improvement. I will share these plans with you all at the beginning of Term 3.

As part of this process, we are keen to hear from all our stakeholders, and I will be ensuring that you, your children and the local community have an opportunity to provide their views and help us in shaping the future vision for the school. I will also be arranging opportunities in Term 1 and Term 2 to meet with parents/carers more formally, and look forward to getting to know you all more than.

I am a keen believer that schools thrive when there are high standards and high expectations in every aspect of school life, whether that be the quality of the lessons, the professionalism of the staff or the conduct of the pupils. A school is a place that should deliver outstanding learning, but it is also much more than that. We are a community; the success of a young person depends on parents, carers, staff, governors and pupils all working together, as a team, because we all believe in the same cause: providing the excellent education that every child deserves.

Further to this, I am sure you will agree that every child deserves to learn in a calm, orderly and purposeful environment. Our role as educators is to show care and compassion to our pupils. Sometimes, this comes in the form of holding pupils to high standards and ensuring these standards are consistently met. Will our young people sometimes get it wrong? Of course they will; we are all human. However, the important thing

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when you get something wrong is that you learn from it, and your behaviour changes as a result. We will have no qualms about holding to these high standards – because your children are worth it.

Related to this, over the next two terms, I will be contacting you again regarding a proposal to phase out the use of mobile phones during the school day. This follows Department for Education guidance and we strongly believe will improve pupils' academic progress and their wellbeing. Pupils will still be able to bring phones on the journey to and from school as this is important for safety.

Ensuring long-term, sustainable change within a school takes time and effort, but I believe when you do something, you should do it right. As we take the time and care to prepare and plan this improvement prudently, I trust you will support us. Together, we can build an amazing future for your youngsters.

I look forward to working with you all over the coming years.

Have a lovely summer,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Roberts', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ethan Roberts  
Headteacher