

Meopham School

A Member of Swale Academies Trust

Headteacher: Mr G Prebble BEd Joint Honours NPQH
Executive Headteacher: Mr S Cox MA



Wrotham Road Meopham Kent DA13 0AH

Tel: 01474 814646

Website: www.meophamschool.org.uk

10th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to share with you and celebrate so much of what is taking place at the School. Many students have been receiving certificates for the 'Excellent workbook' and we have posted many pictures of our students on facebook to celebrate this. The pride the students show in their work when they arrive at my office to be acknowledged shows us how much they enjoy and achieve in their subjects. Of particular note this term are the students who have shown such creativity in their Food Technology lessons supported by Mrs Vince. Well done to them all as I have seen (and tasted!) some amazing dishes this term.

Student Leadership

Our student leadership team continues to grow and we are proud to have recruited over 130 student leaders to drive positive change at our school. This team of trusted volunteers continually work on school improvement projects and community initiatives. Just this term, our student leaders have taken part in EcoAfternoons, the RSPB Big Garden BirdWatch and the Gravesham Food Bank charity drive. Student leaders have also supported staff and welcomed families at the Year 8 information evening. Six student leaders earned their bronze star badge this term, in recognition of their volunteering. Any students that would like to join our leadership team and take part in some of these opportunities, should inform Miss Biscombe.

Uniform and standards

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that false eyelashes and false nails are not permitted for any student, this is the same as jewellery. Girls skirts should be just above the knee and blazers are essential for all students. We are currently holding a consultation regarding the uniform policy and have met with students this term. We will be sending a parent consultation form out at the start of Term 4 and the outcome will be shared with parents and carers at the end of Term 4.

There are 3 updates for Term 4 that we would like to make you aware of:

- The school gate will open at 8am from the start of Term 4, this is when staff duties begin.
- If a mobile phone is confiscated it will be held in reception for a parent or carer to collect. Students can continue to use their mobile phone during break and lunch time in the designated areas but we continue to be a no phone school for lesson time and between lessons.
- Exit passes have been reviewed for Term 4. SEN/Windmill, safeguarding and toilet passes will be re-issued.

At Meopham we have high expectations of our students, including attendance with a target for all students is to be above 96%. Whilst a hypothetical attendance of 90% may sound good in reality it equates to 20 missed days and 120 missed hours of learning.

Meopham School

A Member of Swale Academies Trust

Headteacher: Mr G Prebble BEd Joint Honours NPQH

Executive Headteacher: Mr S Cox MA



Wrotham Road Meopham Kent DA13 0AH

Tel: 01474 814646

Website: www.meophamschool.org.uk

Research shows that attendance at school is one of the most important factors in ensuring that students are successful learners. It is also vital that they pick up good habits ready for when they leave and go into employment. This includes punctuality and where students arrive after 9am when the registers close they are marked as an unauthorised absence and any students arriving between 8:40 am and 9am are marked as late in line with DfE guidelines.

If students have medical appointments during the school day then medical evidence needs to be sent to the attendance team in advance. Students who are unwell during the school day must report to the medical room for assessment and a parent/carer will be called should this be necessary. Any student who goes home, who has not been assessed by the medical team will be marked as unauthorised.

Please can parents/carers make themselves familiar with the attendance policy on the school website so they know the processes and what is classed as authorised and unauthorised absence.

Options evening

Students in Year 9 are now starting their options journey. This will involve careers and subject assemblies where they will be able to hear about the wide range of options available to them. The options process culminates in an Options evening on Tuesday the 14th March, which will allow students and parents/carers to speak to Curriculum Leaders and subject teachers about the courses on offer. We are confident that our Year 9 students will rise to the challenge, and choose the subjects where they will excel and achieve their true potential.

Homework

Throughout the course of the year, we have been looking at ways in which we can improve homework. This term there was a Year 9 Student Voice meeting in regards to homework and we are using the students' views to help us in moving forward. Having looked at the student feedback, all students in Key Stage 3 and 4 will have their homework set via a homework timetable as they said they would like to know what subjects they will be receiving on specific days. This will be sent via email to all parents and will be placed on the school website by the end of the week. All homework will continue to be set using Google Classroom. If you have any questions or queries in regards to homework, please contact your child's subject teacher in the first instance.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Prebble'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Mr G Prebble
Headteacher