

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

19th March 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to outline some of the changes we are making to support students to meet our expectations regarding conduct and behaviour.

Firstly, we have recruited a new Head of Year 8 Mr Goldsmith, who has a number of years experience in pastoral roles and will be able to confidently support students in this year group. Mr Goldsmith will start with us two weeks after the Easter break.

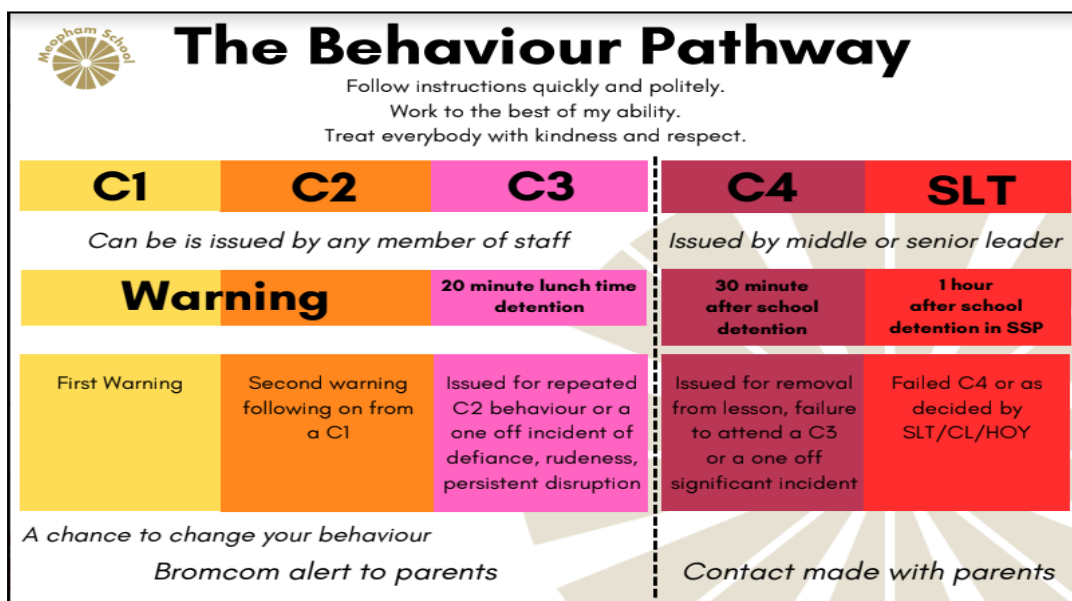
We have also employed a new Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Davies-Lane who will take responsibility for standards and behaviour in Years 7-9. This will allow Miss Buckles to focus on Years 10 and 11 and provide more capacity for us to support both students and families. Mrs Davies-Lane will start with us straight after the Easter break.

We have also employed a Pastoral Administrator Mrs Parrott, to give additional capacity in the Pastoral teams.

I would also like to outline some of the amendments we have made to our behaviour guidelines based on feedback from teaching colleagues, students and parents.

Changes to the Behaviour Pathway

We have tweaked the classification of the 'Consequences' system to remove any confusion about how these are used in a lesson. This can be seen in the infographic below:



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We firmly believe that positive reinforcement is the best way to ensure good behaviour in the classroom, but on the occasion where a detention is necessary, you can be assured that students will have been given more than one opportunity to rectify their behaviour.

Changes to the notification system for detentions

We are also making changes to the notifications that go home for detentions. These will outline the classroom teacher setting the detention, the subject the detention has been set in and also the reason for the detention. We would encourage parents to check the MCAS app which will allow them to monitor House Points, Consequences set and also punctuality and attendance to lessons.

Students may also receive a break or lunchtime detention for inappropriate behaviour during social times. These will show on the parent app as 'Social Isolation' and are intended to remove students from social times when their behaviour is deemed to be unsafe or disruptive to the good order of the school.

Detentions are a core part of the system we use to teach students that all actions have consequences, and we ask that parents support the school in ensuring that students attend these. We will always give twenty four hours notice for any after-school detention; however please note that the only acceptable reasons for a student not attending is a medical appointment or a family emergency.

The new building and half-day closing

Finally, I am pleased to report that the new school building is nearing completion and is set to open as planned after the Easter break. I will be writing to you after the holiday to invite parents into school to visit and see the new buildings.

I have included a picture of the new building below to give you a flavour of the excellent facilities we will have available.

In order to give teaching staff time to pack up their classrooms for the move ***we have agreed with the Trust that we will close for a half-day on Thursday 28th March.***

Students will be dismissed from 12:30pm and the bus companies have been advised of this change.

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The new building and a small number of teaching staff leaving us at Easter will necessitate changes to the rooms and teachers for some students, and so we will be re-issuing paper timetables and maps of the new building during an extended Period 1 tutor time on the first day back.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Prebble'.

Mr G Prebble
Headteacher