

Meopham School

A Member of Swale Academies Trust

Headteacher: Mr E Roberts BA Hons. PGCE NPQH



Wrotham Road Meopham Kent DA13 0AH

Tel: 01474 814646

Website: www.meophamschool.org.uk

Dear parent/carer,

I hope this letter finds you well. A bit later than usual today as I was out of school today at a meeting with our trust (and I'm also sending this letter out on our school system myself, rather than relying on my much more talented PA – so hopefully it works!)

It was really lovely to meet more of you at our successful **Year 11 Parent/Carer Consultation Evening** this week. I hope people will agree that meeting face-to-face allowed for a more personalised approach and I saw lots of great discussions going on about how parents and carers can best support their children through this most crucial of years. A reminder that all Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings this year will be in-person.

It's been a great week at school with lots of the local community visiting the school as part of our **Open Morning tours**. Prospective parents and carers have been suitably impressed with the behaviour and focus of students in classes and the engaging lessons being delivered by teachers.

We were also very fortunate to have **Canterbury Christchurch University** in school this week, working with our Year 8 students and our Sixth Formers, focusing respectively on careers and writing personal statements for university. Whilst there are many fantastic career routes post-16 and post-18, we want to encourage as many of our students as possible to consider university as an option, and we hope students found the sessions interesting and useful.

It was also fantastic to invite the Police in this week to deliver talks to year groups as part of **Hate Crime Awareness Week**. An important message and it was great to see how maturely students responded to covering such a vital topic.

A selection of our Year 12 students were also out on a trip to the **Bank of England** to learn more about finance and the City. We're grateful to **Ms Ifeanyi** and other staff for organising this great opportunity. Thanks also to **Mr Huggens** and those who supported with the trip to watch the **London Lions basketball** team at the **Copperbox Arena** on Thursday evening.

It's great to see more trips and extracurricular activities taking place and we hope to offer a lot more over the course of the year!

Well Done

Well done to our **Year 9 girls football team** who **won 6-2** against Rainham Mark Grammar School. Commiserations to our Year 8 girls netball team who despite a valiant effort lost 6-5 against St. George's.

Congratulations on an incredible **10-0 victory** for our **Year 7 boys football team** against Thamesview. Also to our **Year 8 boys football team** who **won 5-0** against St. John Fisher. Commiserations to our Year 10 boys who lost 5-2 against The Malling School – you can't win them all!

Congratulations also to the following students, who all received Headteacher Commendations over the previous week:

Charlotte G - English / Textiles

Amelia R - English / Textiles

Dilpreet D - English / History

Fred S - English

Jenson O - English

Kaya A - Maths / English

Shanice J - English

Will C - Textiles

Laura S - Geography

Mason O - Geography

Fiola A - Geography

Nancy B - Geography

Preston M - Geography

Archie G - Geography

Charlie C – Geography

Unfortunately, when students are currently sent to my office to show me their work, some have struggled to find me as I am often walking the school site and having a look at what's going on in lessons! Obviously I want the chance to meet with our students who are doing excellent things in lessons, so next term we hope to have a new system where I meet students who receive Headteacher Commendations for a celebratory brunch each week.

You may remember that our Assistant Headteacher Miss Biscombe set up meophamgoodnews@swale.at for anyone in our school community to get in touch and let us know about anything – inside of school or out – which you think is worth shouting about! We haven't had much uptake yet, but please do let us know if you

have anything you'd like us to mention as we want to hear about all of the great things going on in the community.

Y11 Mock Exams

Many of you will be aware that some of our Year 11 students have been sitting assessments over the past few weeks as part of their vocational B-Tec courses. A reminder that from **Monday 11th November – Friday 22nd November** our Year 11 students will have their mock exams in school. This is an important process which both helps prepare them for the real exams in May and June next year, as well as providing teachers with invaluable information regarding what support students need over their remaining lesson time. It is also important for determining grades that may need to be used on Sixth Form and college applications. As such, we would strongly recommend Year 11 students are using the resources and guidance provided at Parent/Carer Consultation Evening and are revising hard in the run-up to the mock exam season.

Sixth Form Open Evening

A reminder that our **Sixth Form Open Evening** takes place on **Wednesday 6th November**.

We have already surveyed Year 11 students to discover the sorts of courses they are interested in pursuing Post-16.

As part of our Open Evening we will be showcasing all the new, exciting subjects we can potentially offer to our Year 11 students, should we generate enough interest. There will be a number of stalls available on the evening for students to visit and discuss courses with subject experts. Following that, after the mock exams we will also be delivering a range of **Sixth Form Option Assemblies** to our Year 11 students so they get a very clear idea of what all the different courses have to offer.

I'm personally looking forward to showcasing A-Level Philosophy and A-Level Religious Studies: my own subjects and ones that I have been proud to see many former students have success in and go on to illustrious university careers!

Our mission is to significantly increase the number of our Year 13 students progressing to top-third UK universities or higher-level apprenticeships. I look forward to sharing more plans at the Open Evening.

Car Park

We would like to thank our parents and carers for adhering to the new system in place at the start and end of the day to provide more safety for our students. We appreciate your understanding in this matter. If we could ask that the small number of cars that are dropping off and picking up students on our internal roundabout refrain from doing so, as there are drop-off points available in our parent/carers car park, and stopping on the roundabout does cause congestion for other parents and carers.

Moving Forward

Today, I have sent out **a survey to all students** so we can get their views on what they love about our school and what they want to improve moving forward. All students will have a chance to do this in TAC Tutor Time, but if they want to spend more time on this, I have emailed the survey directly to all of their student email accounts. Our students are the most important stakeholder in our school community and their voices deserve to be heard. Looking at the initial responses, I'm afraid I can't offer extra-large slushie drinks or Fridays off(!) – as some have requested – but we already have a large number of helpful suggestions, and we will provide feedback to students next term. The deadline for completing the survey is **Friday 25th October**.

As we approach half-term, I am very proud to look back on all of the excellent progress we have made as a school. The school environment is looking much better now all building works are removed, the community feel of the school is definitely present and students are visibly working hard in lessons. Is there more to do? Absolutely. Frankly, I'll never be satisfied, as we can always improve. But I'm glad you are all with us on this journey and I am confident we will continue to go from strength to strength.

Have a fantastic weekend,

Mr Roberts

Headteacher