

# 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](http://www.meophamschool.org.uk)

14th March 2025

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you have all had a pleasant week. My sincere apologies that I didn't get a chance to write to you last week, but as you know we have had several weeks of intensive interviews for a number of senior leadership positions in the school, which I'm very glad to be sharing with you today, however unfortunately it did mean I had little time to get last week's letter together!

Regardless, there's been a lot of activity at the school recently and lots to celebrate and share with you this week!

## **Kent Cup Champions**

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate our **Year 9 girls football team** who the Saturday before last were - after several years of almosts and near-misses - finally crowned champions in the Kent Cup. This is an incredible achievement and is a real testament to their tenacity and the excellent attitude demonstrated over a number of years both on and off the field. I met up with the girls for a rewards lunch last week and - as true champions always do - they were already discussing how to retain the cup in next year's competition. We are hugely proud of the team and all they have done to represent Meopham School!

## **Well Done**

Congratulations to the following students who have received Headteacher Commendations in the past two weeks:

**Casey B (Y7) - History** - whilst off ill, Casey made her own 'history book' and did some extra work on Henry VIII and his wives. Showed excellent initiative.

**Darcy C (Y10) - Geography** - highest score in her assessment for a topic on rivers.

**Teddi S-M (Y8) - Geography** - highest score in his assessment for a topic on Russia.

**Rhys M (Y9) - Geography** - highest score in his assessment for a topic on Resource Management.

**Kayden M (Y7) - Textiles** - excellent progress with hand stitching for his pencil case.

**Jessica W (Y7) - Textiles** - excellent work on her pencil case despite missing the previous lesson.

**Mia Colledge (Y9) - History** - outstanding work ethic in lessons.

**Dilpreet Dhesi (Y9) - History** - outstanding work ethic in lessons.

**Sheldon Nneji (Y8) - English** - excellent work as a student helper for reception.

**Jake Letchford (Y8) - English** - excellent work as a student helper for reception.

**Harry Finnegan (Y8) - English** - excellent work as a student helper for reception.

**Ethan Lancaster (Y7) - Computer Science** - produced excellent work on computer hardware.

**Henry Bishop (Y7) - English** - excellent effort in lessons and a huge improvement in his writing.

**Henry Asadi (Y7) - Music** - consistently working hard to develop musical skills in lesson.

# 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](http://www.meophamschool.org.uk)

**Sebastian Mitchell (Y7) - Music** - consistently working hard to develop musical skills in lesson.

**Brandon Martin (Y8) - Music** - fantastic work ethic and effort in Music. An exemplary student who also supported other students to overcome the challenges they were facing.

**Isabella Lee (Y8) - Music** - excellent independent working. Determination and tenacity demonstrated in huge quantities.

**Kaya Akyuz and Eliza Kumar (Y9) - Maths** - excellent effort in cover lessons this week.

**Charles Pearce (Y7) - Science** - excellent investigation skills and fantastic attitude to learning.

**Maisie Hawkes (Y7) - Science** - excellent investigatory skills and positive learning approach.

**Abbey Rich (Y10) - Philosophy** - showing tenacity and reflecting on her own work to improve

**Nshira Ansah (Y9) - Science** - Nshira has displayed tenacity and respect this week in science.

She is always asking challenging questions to help her learn. She is also respectful to me and her classmates. In addition to the core values, she is always helpful in class.

**Lucy Hodges (Y9) - Science** - fantastic work on isotopes and ions. She has worked so hard in Science and her efforts are really showing!

**Sebastian Bundock (Y9) - Science** - excellent care of his work in science, engagement and attention to detail. Working hard and shows in beautiful work in his book.

**Charlie Partridge (Y9) - Science** - produced fantastic work in a difficult topic, worked hard and challenged himself in the tasks undertaken.

A very special shout-out for **Daisy D (Y7) - Tutor** - achieving an outstanding 350 house points, 0 negative points and for generally being a positive example to other students. An excellent achievement - well done Daisy!

The following Year 7 students have been celebrated this week for their **Tenacity**:

**Lily C**

**Alex G**

**Daniel B**

**Ellisia G**

**Lola K**

**Ava K**

They enjoyed hot chocolate and biscuits with **Miss Tiller** during Tutor Time. Well done Year 7!

## **Cultural Capital**

It was **World Book Day** last week on 6th March and, as part of this, we sent a group of KS3 students with **Mrs Briscoe and Ms Courtney** to a brilliant event at Westlands School with the writer and rapper, Testament, who ran a session focusing on the power of story. Students were guided through the process of producing a spoken word piece on a moment in their life that resonates with them.

Students in KS3 also created an amazing **World Book Day corridor display** featuring their favourite books, as part of a competition run by the English department. Winners received books and sweets as prizes and were added to the Headteacher's commendations for next week!

# 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](http://www.meophamschool.org.uk)

Thank you also to **Ms Letocart, Mr Whitnell, Ms Orange, Ms Flavelle and Mr Huggens** for their support and organisation of the **MFL/Science Live trip to Paris**. Students had an absolutely fantastic time on the trip with some fantastic events promoting a love of Science - including of course the obligatory trip to Disneyland! We are always so grateful to our staff who go above and beyond to provide these opportunities for our students and we know a lot of fond, lifelong memories will have been made!

Thanks to **Ms Eaton** who has undertaken a number of local primary school outreach sessions for the Science department. Students were asked to work out which liquids were most dense and which were least dense, creating a wonderful colour layer combination. As a secondary school, this outreach work is so important for supporting our local primary schools and promoting a love of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) across the local area and we hope to be doing a lot more engagement with our primary schools in the years to come.

## **Staff Training Days**

We have been made aware of some incorrect information regarding staff training days which may be on the school website and MCAS app. Apologies for any confusion caused.

To confirm, **Monday 30th June is NOT a staff training day**, and students should be in school on that date.

**Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July are staff training days**, and students should not be in school. **The summer term therefore ends for students on Friday 18th July.**

## **Introduction Courses to the Equine Industry**

Youth Unity CIC have a partnership with the **British Racing School in Newmarket** and are running a number of introduction courses to the equine industry courses in 2025 at **no cost**.

[Racing to School Collaborating with Youth Unity #horseracing - Youth Unity](#)

They have upcoming sessions scheduled for:

13th to 19th April

17th to 21st June,

and 7th to 11th October.

**Limited spaces** are available, so interested individuals should promptly complete our expression of interest form to secure their spot.

Meals, including breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks, will be provided throughout your stay, eliminating the need for any additional expenses.

Don't worry if you lack riding gear, as this will be provided.

**Form:** <https://forms.office.com/e/HSfvmbzGyT>

# 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](http://www.meophamschool.org.uk)

## **Year 11/13 Mock Exams**

A huge **well done** to all of our **Year 11s** for completing their second round of mock exams. This final set of mocks is vital for ensuring that we provide students with the best support possible in the run-up to the exams, and we are very proud of how seriously and maturely our Year 11s approached the whole process. Our **Year 13s** are still in the midst of this process, but we know they are working hard to ensure they are as prepared as possible!

Teachers are regularly providing additional support in **Period 7 sessions** for those Y11 students identified as requiring support in order to achieve the best grades possible. A reminder that these sessions are compulsory, and truancy will result in sanctions. As you would expect, we want to do all we can to put our students in the best possible position to thrive in the exams this summer, so it is important students do their bit too and approach each intervention session with an attitude of hard work and tenacity.

Furthermore, some staff have volunteered to come into school during the first week of the **Easter holidays** in order to provide Year 11s and Year 13s with further support in the run-up to the exams in May. We strongly urge all students to take advantage of this additional opportunity that teachers are providing in their own time. More information regarding these opportunities will be provided soon.

## **My Child At School App**

We would like to encourage parents and carers to ensure they have the My Child at School App.

This is a crucial tool for communication with parents/carers, but also enables parents/carers and students to have access to timetables, attendance information, reports and behaviour information. **It is vital that all parents/carers have access to this app to receive key information from school.**

If you do not yet have this app please contact Mrs Warren ([samantha.warren@swale.at](mailto:samantha.warren@swale.at)) who can support you with creating a log in.

## **Now Recruiting - Receptionist Opportunity Available**

In order to add further capacity to our Reception team, we currently have a new opportunity for someone to join our staff in a full-time receptionist role. Should you or a friend/family member be interested, more details can be found on the Kent Teach website:  
<https://www.kent-teach.com/>

## **Moving Forward - New Appointments**

As I mentioned at the start of this letter, we have had a busy few weeks in terms of recruitment, as we have looked to expand our Senior Leadership Team. These high-profile positions are

# 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](http://www.meophamschool.org.uk)

absolutely vital within a school, often providing the strategic direction and drive to move a school from strength to strength. After a very rigorous interview process, with over 75 candidates, we are pleased to announce we have made the following excellent appointments:

**Mr Wood** will be joining us in June as **Assistant Headteacher - Behaviour and Welfare**. Mr Wood will be working alongside our other Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour and Welfare - Mrs Davies-Lane - to ensure all of our students receive the excellent pastoral care they deserve. Mr Wood has a wealth of pastoral experience and also experience within the Sixth Form. He will be joining us after May half-term.

**Mrs Hartley** will also be joining us as **Senior Assistant Headteacher - Raising Standards and Sixth Form**. Her role will focus on overseeing and driving further improvement in the academic progress of our students, as well as overseeing our ambitious plans to further develop our Sixth Form provision. Mrs Hartley has a number of years of senior leadership experience in local schools and we are confident she is going to have a very positive impact on the school from September onwards.

We are also pleased to announce that **Miss Hodd**, who currently works at Meopham School, has been appointed as **Assistant Headteacher - Personal Development and Attendance** from September. Miss Hodd will have responsibility for developing all of the elements within school that engender a sense of belonging and make young people's time at school truly memorable. She already has ambitious plans for a new House system, rewards programme, Student Leadership opportunities and hugely increasing the wealth of enrichment opportunities available to students too. Miss Hodd has been on a secondment to SLT this year as the acting Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school and has done an excellent job, and we are looking forward to welcoming her into this new role in SLT on a permanent basis.

We have so many exciting, ambitious plans to move Meopham School forward but - as you will know - to execute any plan, you need the right people. I am wholly convinced that some of the talent we have joining the school - in senior leadership positions but also elsewhere - are going to have a huge impact on our school's journey to excellence and I'm really happy they are joining us to provide your children with a truly superb education.

Have a great weekend,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E Roberts', written over a thin horizontal line.

Mr Roberts  
Headteacher