

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

19th May 2025

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you've had a great weekend. Not long until our students and staff enjoy a well-deserved rest over the half-term break but there's still plenty going on at school before then!

Well Done

Congratulations to the following students who received Headteacher Commendations during our Pizza Lunch last Friday:

Lewis P (Y8) - English - For completing independent research on William Shakespeare and presenting the work beautifully.

Charlotte B (Y10) - English - For excellent progress in essay writing and analysis of 'Macbeth.'

Brody S (Y10) - English - For excellent progress in essay writing and analysis of 'Macbeth.'

Daisy D (Y7) - Geography - Excellent case study on Fair Trade and beautifully presented work.

Jessie R (Y7) - Computing - Excellent skills in coding

Reuben M (Y 7) - Computing - Excellent skills in coding

Rosie J (Y9) - Philosophy - Excellent work creating their own charter of human rights

Sophia S (Y9) - Philosophy - Excellent work creating their own charter of human rights

James F-B (Y9) - Philosophy - Excellent work creating their own charter of human rights

Joseph R-W (Y9) - Philosophy - Excellent work creating their own charter of human rights

Isabella A (Y9) - Philosophy - Excellent work creating their own charter of human rights

Perla A (Y9) - Philosophy - Excellent work creating their own charter of human rights

Amelia M (Y10) - English - Contributing positively to the school community by writing an article for the Meopham Monthly magazine.

Darcy C (Y10) - English - Contributing positively to the school community by writing an article for the Meopham Monthly magazine.

Cultural Capital

Thank you to **Mr Huggens** and other staff for taking our Year 10 students to **Thorpe Park** last Thursday - a great way to reward some of our students for some excellent work this year, and I'm sure the students (and let's be honest, the staff too) had a fantastic time!

The **cricket season** has also begun at Meopham School, with our first fixture for our Year 8 and 9 boys against the Howard School resulting in a defeat by 41 runs. Unfortunate this time round, but good to have students active in the summer fixtures, and we are sure victories lay ahead of us!

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Meopham Monthly

The May edition of our monthly newspaper, the Meopham Monthly, is now available! You can access the online version here: [The Meopham Monthly - May 2025](#). It is always a great read, with lots of contributions from our students and our staff - our thanks to **Mrs Williamson** and the student team for putting this month's edition together!

Year 10 Spoken Language Exams - a message from Head of English, Mrs Williamson

Well done to our Year 10 students who have been preparing and delivering their GCSE English Language speeches this term. We had topics ranging from hooliganism in football and developments in AI to the music of the Beatles and a critical cats vs dogs debate! It was a pleasure to listen to these and thank you too to the English team for facilitating this important part of the GCSE course.

Uniform Expectations

A reminder that - even in the warmer weather - our high expectations for uniform remain the same. All students should arrive at school with a blazer, although if the warm weather persists in Term 6 we will advise parents/carers if we transition to a summer uniform with a blazer.

A small number of students do need to ensure they adhere to our high standards for uniform. Our young people are ambassadors for our school community and we want everyone looking smart throughout the school day, from the moment they leave home to the moment they get in from school.

This is why we are open about the fact that we do set C3 detentions when students are not meeting the high standards of uniform we expect in our school, in particular:

- Rolled skirts (i.e. not to the knee)
- Jewellery
- Zip Tops and Hoodies

Some people do query why we have such a focus on uniform, and ask, 'should it really be a priority? Isn't it just to make the school look good?'

To which we reply - yes, of course it is.

We want our school to have an excellent reputation in the local community, both in terms of the smartness of our students and their manners and behaviour. This is for our students' benefit more than anyone.

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When they go out into the wider world, we want our students to benefit from having on their CV that they went to Meopham School, because Meopham School is associated with excellence.

We want the young adults that graduate from Meopham School to be assumed to be talented, well-mannered, impressive young people. We want the local reputation to be: students from Meopham School have really high standards, and are going to go on to really great things.

Now it takes a lot to develop young people to these high standards, and there's a lot more to do besides, but it starts with two things: excellent manners and smartness of appearance. First impressions count. That's why we take uniform so seriously.

New Appointments

I am delighted to announce that we have made some excellent appointments to the school in recent weeks. **Mr Hicks**, our new **Head of Maths**, will be joining us in September, an excellent addition to the Maths team, with many years experience within leadership of Maths in successful schools but also a wide range of experience outside of education, which I always think provides an additional edge when making maths relevant to the real world.

Mr Hicks will be supported in his new role by **Ms Sreedharan**, who has been appointed as the **Deputy Head of Maths** following a competitive interview process. Ms Sreedharan has over twenty years experience in teaching, both in schools across London but most recently holding a senior position for the last ten years in a successful independent school. She will be a real asset to the Maths department, bringing a wealth of knowledge and expertise, and we look forward to her joining us in September.

We also welcome **Mr Wood**, who starts as **Assistant Headteacher - Behaviour and Welfare** after the half-term break, an additional senior leader we are adding to our Culture and Ethos senior leadership team, which currently includes Mrs Davies-Lane (Assistant Headteacher) and Mr McQuillan (Deputy Headteacher). Mr Wood has many years of pastoral experience in various roles and we are really looking forward to him starting in a couple of weeks time, and all the ambitious plans he has for the school.

We have a number of other new appointments to the school, the full list of which I will share with you after the half-term break, and a few more interviews this week with some very impressive candidates indeed. It has been encouraging to see the range of talent that are keen to join the school on its journey and help shape the ambitious future we have for our community.

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Parking

Unfortunately we do have to highlight some concerns we have with the manner in which some parents/carers are dropping off and collecting students at the start and end of the day. Despite numerous polite reminders, we still have a large number of parents/carers parking up in unsuitable areas, which are making the end of the school day unsafe.

In all honesty, I do think the way the council have marked out the roads around the school site does not help, and I will be badgering them to put in some appropriate zebra crossings, but in the meantime, we need to do what we can to make it safe for our children.

To clarify, parents/carers should not be parking up on Wrotham Road, nor should they be blocking the entrance and exit to the school parking areas by parking up on verges etc. Not only does this cause congestion (particularly with the number of school buses trying to exit the site at the end of the school day) but it also makes visibility difficult when students leave the school site, and makes it much more difficult for staff to manage students in following safe procedures as they leave school.

Parents/carers should also avoid driving around the roundabout and dropping students off mid-way round. This is not a safe practice. It holds other drivers up and means students are exiting cars on the roundabout, where other vehicles - including buses - are in motion.

We have a very large additional car park for our families, which includes a drop-off point. If all families utilise this area correctly, it works perfectly well as a system, and can mean everyone can exit the site within a matter of minutes, safely. Parking incorrectly may save that driver a small amount of time, but in doing so it creates congestion for others and makes our children less safe. Without wanting to sound too much like a lecture, it is fair to say that we cannot expect our students to follow the rules we set out if they see us on a daily basis flouting the rules when it is convenient for us.

If we could politely ask once more that families pick up and drop off students using the correct system. Thank you for your support with this.

Y10 Work Experience

Best of luck to our Year 10 students this week as they are out on their Work Experience placements! This is an exciting opportunity for our young people to learn all about the world of work and - although I am sure there will be some nerves today - it will be a rewarding and important experience to prepare them for adult life. We will provide some highlights and snapshots after the half-term break!

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Year 11 and Year 13 - Saturday and Half-Term Revision Support

A reminder that - as per our letter last week - some of our teachers are very kindly offering additional revision support to our Year 11 and 13 students on Saturdays and during the half-term break.

If you would like your child to benefit from these sessions, please complete the form below, selecting all of the revision sessions you intend for your child to attend:

<https://forms.gle/vBfncK9Ka7LofUMG7>

As these sessions are outside of normal school time, please ensure your child has a plan for their travel to and from school on these days.

We are very grateful to all those staff who are going above and beyond to provide this additional support in their own time - this really does emphasise just how committed our teachers are to ensuring students get the very best support available.

Moving Forward

This term - which in fairness has been a short one - seems to have absolutely flown by, but a lot has been achieved within it. In particular, a big well done to all those students who have had exams over the past few weeks. There's still a way to go with this, but it will be worth it in the end and we have lots of fun and exciting things in store next term to celebrate the end of the school year and all of our students' excellent achievements.

A reminder that, should you wish to book a meeting with me to discuss the future of the school and our plans for next year, you are more than welcome to do so. You can use the link below:

[Headteacher Meeting Request Form](#)

In the meantime, I hope everyone gets an opportunity to enjoy some time with family and friends over the break, and I look forward to seeing you all when we return!

Yours faithfully

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

Mr Roberts
Headteacher