

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

9th June 2025

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you've had a great weekend. Another term at Meopham is well under way and there is lots to update you on!

Well Done

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

Georgia C (Y10) - Business - Tenacity and consistency in improving her Business assessment.

Jenson B (Y10) - Business - Tenacity and consistency in improving his Business coursework

Dilpreet D, Amelia R & Fred S (Y9) - English - Memorising the Prologue of *Romeo & Juliet* and reciting it to the class - amazing!

Teleola M (Y7) - Personal Development - Always working his hardest in lessons & excellent presentation of work.

Daniel O (Y7) - Personal Development - Always trying his best in lessons & showing promising progress.

Hally L (Y7) - Tutor Time - supporting a new student who joined the school and making them feel welcome.

Maciej J (Y7) - Tutor Time - Always doing the right thing and following the Meopham Fundamentals.

Liam H (Y8) - English - A fantastic diary entry from the perspective of a character from *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Jessie R (Y7) - English - For writing a well-crafted poem about *Frankenstein* as additional home learning.

Barnaby S (Y8) - English - An excellent start in his new English class, showing lots of focus and hard work.

Isabella L (Y8) - English - Excellent participation in lessons.

Fraser W (Y8) - English - Excellent participation in lessons.

Miley B (Y9) - Geography - Consistently excellent classwork in every lesson.

Cultural Capital

Thanks to **Mrs Huggens** for arranging our Year 12s to attend the **UCAS Fair** in Maidstone last week. This was an excellent opportunity for our Sixth Formers to learn about university life and begin to consider the routes they may wish to take post-18. There are lots of fantastic opportunities available to students once they graduate for Meopham and for those considering university, there will be a range of support throughout the application process, which begins early in Year 13.

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Thanks also to **Ms Tiller, Ms Rajkumar and Ms Courtney** for organising the **Year 7 trip to the Marlowe Theatre** to watch a production of *Pig Heart Boy*, an excellent adaptation of the novel by Malorie Blackman. It's so important to provide students with opportunities to engage with the arts and we're sure students enjoyed the experience of local theatre!

Sixth Form Student Leaders

We are very excited to announce our newly appointed Sixth Form Student Leaders, who will be taking on the challenge of developing student leadership opportunities across a variety of key areas and the range of year groups across the school.

Megan J and **Sabegh C** have been appointed as our **Head Students**, with a specific focus on community and charity, student leadership, and the revival of the Student Council.

Milly D has been appointed as our **Environment Deputy**, focusing on ways to develop and improve the school surroundings.

Ava K will be leading on **Culture and Enrichment**, helping to continue to grow the opportunities available to students within our school.

We would like to congratulate them all, and wish them the best of luck in their new roles. This is just the first step in developing an extensive student leadership team throughout the school, and we are very excited about our plans to develop our student leadership team over the next academic year, ensuring all students can engage in leadership opportunities and take an active part in the running of the school.

Updated Detention System - a message from Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Davies-Lane

Following feedback from parents/carers, we have improved our communication system for sanctions to ensure you can quickly and easily view when your child has a detention scheduled.

Of course, we want our students to avoid getting detentions wherever possible, but we all make mistakes sometimes, and when this does happen for our young people, it is important they learn from that mistake, get the detention completed as soon as possible and then they can move forward with a fresh start.

Detentions will now be scheduled in the **MCAS App** and will be placed into students' timetables and calendars with details of when they are due to take place.

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If you click on the, 'Detention,' tab, it will show what type of detention your child has and when it is scheduled. If you click on the, 'Timetable,' tab, any detentions will also appear on your child's timetable: in between lesson 4 and 5 for a C3 Lunchtime Detention or after lesson 6 for a C4/SLT Detention.

Attached is a 'How to Guide' of how to access this. Please read through this information carefully so you know how to check if your child has a detention scheduled.

If a student has more than one of the same detention type (e.g. C3 Lunchtime Detention) outstanding, a detention will now schedule to the next available date. This means that not all detentions set will necessarily be due the following day.

For example, if two C3s are given on Monday, the system will add the detentions into the student's timetable/calendar to sit one on Tuesday and one on Wednesday.

A notice board in the canteen is still updated daily and can be viewed by students from 8.00am. Students are reminded by Tutors along with another reminder from Teachers in P4 (before lunch) and P6 (last lesson) every day.

If students are absent on the day the detention is due, the detention will be rescheduled and will update in the MCAS app for the next available date.

PLEASE NOTE: Going forward, **students have one chance to attend a detention.** Failure to do so will result in an escalation to a higher sanction. This includes SLT detentions. A letter will no longer be sent stating that outstanding detentions need clearing. The MCAS App will clearly outline when students are expected to attend, so **it is vital all parents/carers regularly access the MCAS app.**

Students will now be placed into SSP at the earliest date available after missing a SLT detention rather than having a time frame to complete any outstanding detentions. Parents/carers will receive a message - via the MCAS app - the evening before if their child is being placed in SSP due to missed detentions.

If a student is absent on the day scheduled, they will be expected to complete their SSP time when they return.

Students and parents should check the MCAS App to see when detentions are due. It is important to check the app regularly as this is where important messages will be relayed to parents/carers.

All students are advised to also download the MCAS app and check their devices before arriving to school so they are aware of when they are required to attend their detentions.

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We are hoping this will make the detention system at Meopham a lot easier to follow for parents/carers and students. We have listened to feedback and hope this change will be a positive one.

If you do not currently have login details for the MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) App, we kindly ask you to email Charlotte Parrott (mss_pastoral@swale.at). She will be more than happy to assist you in obtaining the necessary information to gain access.

Summer Sizzler - 10th July - a message from Mr Knight

Our Summer Sizzler performing arts event will take place on 10th July. More details on tickets and timings will be provided soon. Open auditions are being held every Lunchtime by Mr Knight in Music 2. If anyone is interested in getting involved, pop in to see him!



National Thank a Teacher Day - a message from Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Romney

On the 18th June it is national 'Thank a Teacher Day'. We will be working with students to help acknowledge the fantastic work which our staff do to support them, but we wanted to give you as parents/carers an opportunity to 'thank a teacher' if you would like to.

If there is someone you would like to say thank you to, please complete this form, and we will pass your messages on to them.

[Thank a Teacher Day 2025](#)

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Access Arrangements - a message from Associate Assistant Headteacher for SEND, Ms Trueman

We have received a lot of questions about access arrangements for the KS3 Trust Assessments.

All schools must follow the JCQ guidance with regards to providing access arrangements for students. Students must be tested for extra time, scribes or readers. There are only a few exceptions when this is not required, such as if a student has an EHCP, or certain medical conditions (such as autism or ADHD).

We are aware that sometimes, dyslexia reports will make recommendations such as extra time, however **JCQ states that a dyslexia report** (even with that recommendation) **is not sufficient evidence for extra time** and that a student still needs to be tested for extra time.

In every school, class teachers will liaise with the SENDCo and the Exams Officer to determine if a child needs to be assessed for additional access arrangements for exams, and this must be in accordance with the child's normal way of working in school.

Moving Forward

Recently, I have written to you about the importance of ensuring that students' time at Meopham School is a rewarding and memorable experience. Of course, an important part of this is their academic study, but beyond this, we want to ensure we provide those additional experiences that make school life special and provide that sense of belonging within the Meopham community.

As part of this, last week, we began formulating our exciting plans for our **new House system**.

From next academic year, all students will be sorted into one of four Houses and will be rewarded House Points as part of our new rewards programme. Every term, we will update our league table until at the end of the academic year, one House is crowned champion! Each term, students across year groups will attend a House assembly and there will be a growing range of sporting, academic and creative House competitions implemented into school life.

Our students are currently voting on two options for the names of the Houses, and we will share the results of this vote soon!

We hope to make our House system an integral part of student life at Meopham School, providing a range of opportunities for students to mix with other year groups, participate in some healthy competition and engage in a range of exciting enrichment events beyond the normal confines of the classroom!

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I would also like to thank those parents and carers who have taken time out of their schedules recently to discuss with me their hopes and aspirations for the future of our school. This feedback has been invaluable, and will be taken on board as we develop our School Improvement Plan for the next academic year.

In the next few weeks, I will send out a feedback survey to all parents/carers so that all can give their views on the current progress of the school in a quick and easy format.

I hope you all have a lovely week.

All the best,

Yours faithfully

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

Ethan Roberts
Headteacher