

Headteacher's Welcome

A warm welcome back to our parents and carers to another academic year at Meopham School! We hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer and are refreshed and ready for the new year. Up at the school, we are absolutely raring to go and looking forward to all the exciting things in store for our students this year.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our previous Year 11 and Year 13 students who received their GCSE, A-Level and other vocational qualifications this summer. It was another year of impressive achievements by our students, and a culmination of a lot of hard work and tenacity.

Below we've provided a snapshot of the fantastic achievements from this summer:

Sixth Form

-**100%** of Sixth Form students who applied to university enrolled at their **first-choice placement**;

-Sixth Form results **improved across all performance measures**, achieving the **best results** for the Sixth Form in **six years**.

Outstanding Individual Achievements:

-**Poppy P**, who achieved an **A*** in Sociology, an **A** in Art and a **B** in Psychology and has secured her place to study **Psychology** at **Royal Holloway University**.

-**Belle W**, who achieved a **Distinction*** in double Health and Social Care and a **Distinction** in Sport and will go on to study **Diagnostic Radiotherapy** at **Canterbury Christ Church University**.

-**Ruby F**, who achieved a **Distinction*** in Sport, a **B** in Sociology and a **C** in English and will go on to study **Law** at the **University of Exeter**.

-**Katie S**, who achieved a **Distinction** in Health and Social Care, a **B** in Sociology and a **C** in English Literature and is going on to study **Politics and International Relations** at the **University of York**.



Year 11

-Our Year 11 students **ranked first out of the nine secondary schools** within our trust for both English and Maths GCSEs;

-Year 11 students made the **best progress** of any year group in **six years**.

Outstanding Individual Achievements:

-**Hayden B**, who achieved **three 9s, three 8s, two 7s and one 6**.

-**Kian P**, who achieved **one 9, four 8s, one 7 and two 6s**.

-**Ellia M**, who achieved **one 9, three 8s, four 7s and one 5**.

-**Poppy R**, who achieved **one 9, three 8s, three 7s and two 5s**.

-**Logan F**, who achieved **three 8s, two 7s and four 6s**.

We are also delighted to have **doubled our intake of Sixth Form students** for 2025-2027, with lots of our students choosing to continue their academic studies at Meopham for another two years!

We are incredibly proud of the achievements of all of our students and wish them the very best in their next steps. Of course, the work has already begun with our new cohort of Year 11 and 13 students, and plans are well underway to ensure they too can achieve an amazing set of results!

Headteacher Commendations will be reported again from next week.

Cultural Capital - House System

We were very excited to officially launch our new school House system from last week



Every student and member of staff has been sorted into one of our four Houses, named after four historic castles across Kent.

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Students will receive **House Points** for demonstrating our TRUE values, as well as for 100% attendance and Headteacher Commendations. When students achieve a certain amount of points for each of our TRUE values (Tenacity, Respect, Unity and Excellence), they will be awarded with **bronze, silver or gold badges**. Once a student achieves a metal in all four of the TRUE values, they will be invited to the **TRUE Awards Evening**.

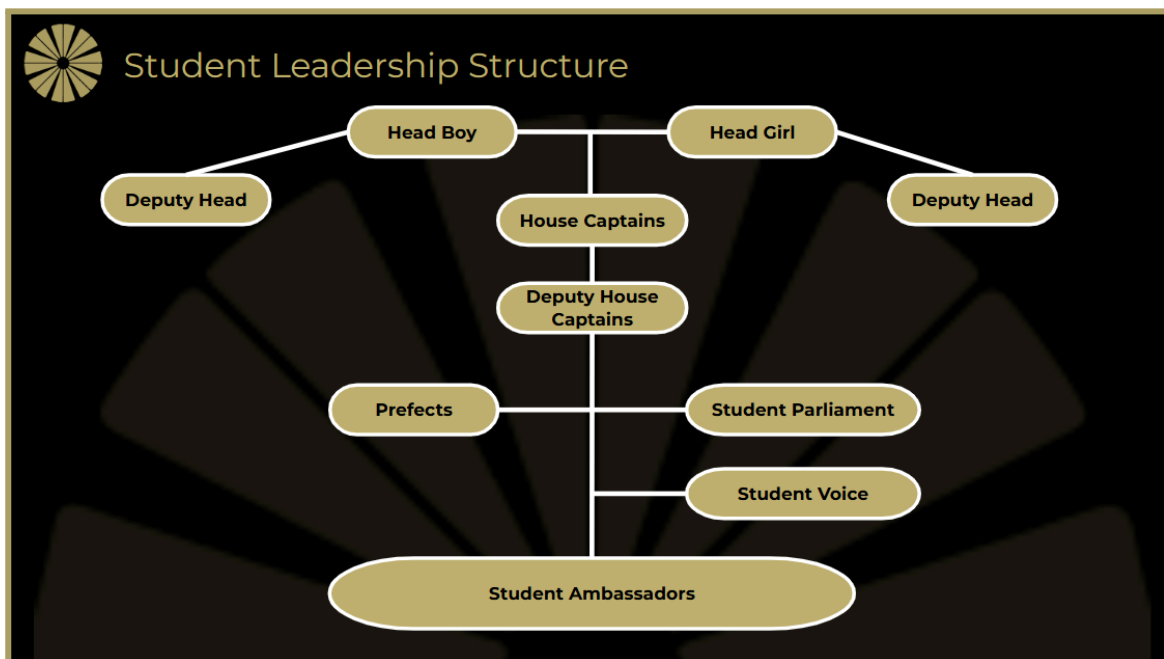
As well as this, students will partake in a range of **inter-House competitions and events** that will take place across the year. Whatever your child is interested in, there will be something to get involved in!

We have new **flags** representing each House in our Dining Hall and each term the **rankings** of each House will be updated. The House with the most points at the end of the school year will be awarded the **House Cup!**

Cultural Capital - Student Leadership

As well as our House system, last week also saw us launch our new Student Leadership programme! Overseen by our recently appointed Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputy Head Students, there will now be a range of Student Leadership opportunities for students across all year groups to get involved in! We want as many of our students as possible to take on a role, contribute to the life of the school and develop those all-important leadership skills!

What's more, students who take on leadership positions will earn a "salary" of House Points each term - so it is well worth getting involved! A formal application process will be in place for all roles, and more details will be shared with students soon.



Key Messages

Open Evening - a message from Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Romney

Our annual Open Evening takes place this year on **Thursday 25th September**. This is a very important event for the school, and a fantastic opportunity to show off all the wonderful things we have to offer.

The **school will close to students at 12.40pm on this day**, and students will not be in school for the afternoon. We will contact bus companies to ensure they are aware of the changes to travel arrangements.

The evening itself will run from **4.30pm to 8pm**.

We would love to have our students on site during the evening to help showcase our school and act as tour guides for our visitors.

More information will be coming out over the next few days about the arrangements for this, and how to sign up to support on the evening.

The day after Open Evening, **Friday 26th September**, will be a **staff training day**, and the **school will be closed to students**.

There will also be **Open Morning tours** from **Monday 29th September to Thursday 16th October**. There are two tours each day, one at **9am** and one at **11am**.

Please use this QR code to book a place on a tour:



If you have friends or family with children in Year 5 or 6, please spread the word about our transition events!

School Calendar, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027

Please find a reminder of our term dates for both this academic year, and 2026-27.

Term Dates for 2025-26

Term 1 - Mon 1/9/25 - Fri 17/10/25

Term 2 - Mon 3/11/25 - Fri 19/12/25

Term 3 - Mon 5/1/26 - Fri 13/2/26

Term 4 - Mon 23/2/26 - Fri 27/3/26

Term 5 - Mon 13/4/26 - Fri 22/5/26

Term 6 - Mon 1/6/26 - Fri 24/7/26

Staff Development Days

1/9/25 26/9/25 5/1/26 24/6/26 27/7/26

Term Dates for 2026-27

Term 1 - Tue 1/9/26 - Tue 20/10/26

Term 2 - Mon 2/11/26 - Fri 18/12/26

Term 3 - Mon 4/1/27 - Fri 12/2/27

Term 4 - Mon 22/2/27 - Thur 25/3/27

Term 5 - Mon 12/4/27 - Fri 28/5/27

Term 6 - Mon 7/6/27 - Mon 26/7/27

Staff Development dates will be confirmed nearer the time.

Parent/Carer Events in Term 1

We have a number of evenings this term to meet with some of our parents/carers starting new phases of their education.

Wednesday 17th September is our **Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening**. This provides a chance for parents to meet their child's Form Tutor, and discuss the start they have made to their time at Meopham School.

Wednesday 8th October is our **Skills for Success Evening** for both **Year 10 and Year 12** students. This aims to explain to parents some of the changes to studying in Key Stage 4 (Year 10-11) and Key Stage 5 (Year 12-13), and the ways in which you can support your child.

More information will be sent out over the next few weeks, but we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Local Buses

We are aware that last week there were significant delays to some students' journeys home, as well as a few issues with students accessing buses on journeys home. We were aware of some of the road closures which affected bus routes, however the school did not receive notification from bus companies in a reasonable timeframe. We appreciate this is frustrating; with the road closures ending this Monday, we hope this should be the end of the disruption. We will be contacting the bus companies to speak with them about these recent issues and what their plans are to resolve this moving forward.

Collection of Students at the Start and End of the School Day

A reminder that parents/carers should be using the **drop-off point in the additional car park**. There is ample space here and it ensures students can be dropped off and collected safely. This would hugely decrease the current congestion on the roundabout. **Parents/carers who are currently parking up on Wrotham Road or dropping children off on the roundabout are making the start and end of the day unsafe for our children.** Please be considerate of our students' safety.

Moving Forward

It was wonderful to welcome all of our new Year 7 and 12 students this week and I know they have all made a fantastic start to their time at Meopham. As well as this, it has been wonderful to catch up with returning students and see so many smiling faces on the school gate. The students have made a brilliant start to the year and it was great to walk around last week and see students enjoying their lessons and embarking upon another year at our school.

It is a huge privilege to be on this journey with you all; here's to another great year!

Have a lovely week,

Mr Roberts
Headteacher