

Headteacher's Welcome

I hope everyone had a lovely weekend. It's been a busy start to the term and I hope your children have been enjoying their lessons, as well as the range of new opportunities that have been launched this term. We are really excited to be rolling out more of these opportunities each week, and there is plenty below to update you on!

We are also aware of the disruption that has been caused by the recent road closures for students who travel to and from school by bus. Whilst we have no direct oversight of how these services run, we have been reassured that normal service has now resumed and we will of course be speaking to our bus companies to pass on some of the concerns raised by parents and carers.

Cultural Capital

Student Leadership - Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)

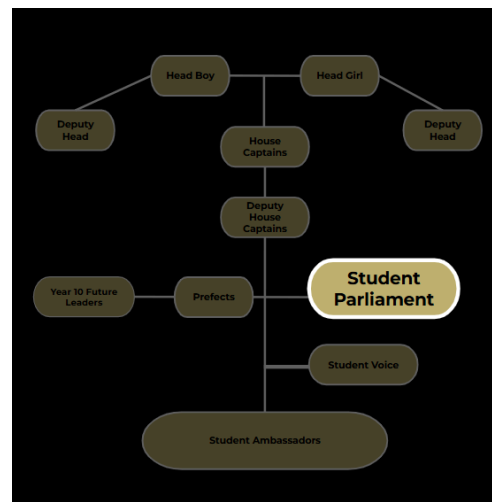
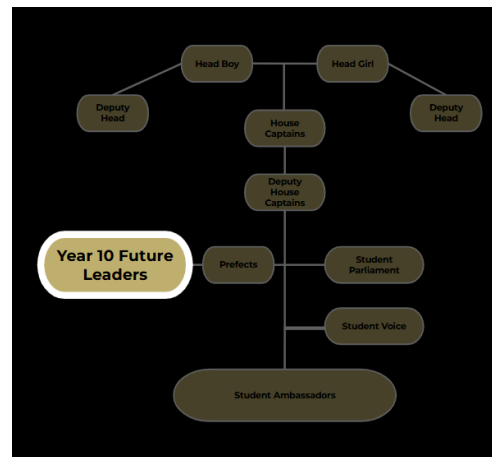
Year 10 Future Leaders

Last week, students in Year 10 had the opportunity to apply to be a **Year 10 Future Leader** at Meopham School, a key part of our wider **Student Leadership Program**.

The role encourages students to not only demonstrate leadership, but to act as positive role models and support both students and staff at Meopham. Our Year 10 Future Leaders will actively contribute to our school's positive and respectful culture, consistently demonstrating our TRUE values. I have been proud to see how many students want to be involved in making a difference and look forward to working with them this year and seeing the impact they will have on our school community.

Student Parliament

This week, students from Year 7 - 11 will be introduced to the role of a **Student MP** and have the opportunity to express their interest in the role during tutor times. Our **Student Parliament** will represent the student body at Meopham School and will be involved in discussions and debates relating to new initiatives. Student MPs will work with both students and staff members to enforce



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new ideas and have valuable input across the school.

Student Voice

Assemblies for Year 7-13 this week will include information about how students can sign up to be part of our **Student Voice**. This role is a vital part of our Student Leadership program as it provides students with the opportunity for their voices to be heard. Any students signed up to Student Voice will have the chance to **partake in interviews, surveys and meetings**.

If your child would like to sign up to be part of Student Voice, they will need to fill in the form on their year group's Google Classroom. Alternatively, they can sign up by following this link:

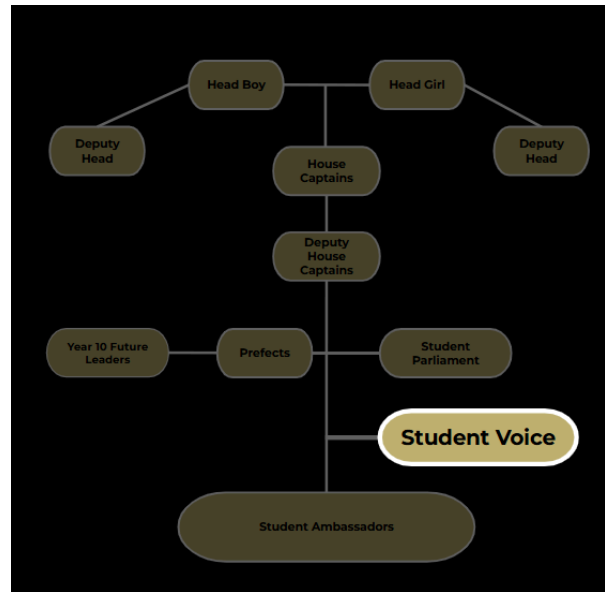
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Students will be rewarded for their engagement with Student Leadership by earning **House Point salaries**. All students will be given a **badge** to identify their leadership role.

Open Evening - Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher - Cultural Capital and Attendance)

With our Open Evening fast approaching, **we would like to invite Meopham Students to sign up to take part in the evening**. This is a key event in our school calendar that showcases the best of our students, staff and community. Students who participate in this event have the opportunity to develop their confidence and social skills, reinforcing their sense of belonging in our school community. Students who help on the evening must be **on site from 4pm until 8pm**, and should be in perfect uniform.

Please complete this form to give permission for your child's attendance to Open Evening: <https://forms.gle/wLGTpSfo5mjVYGx5A>



Open Evening 25th September 2025

Tour guide sign up now open!

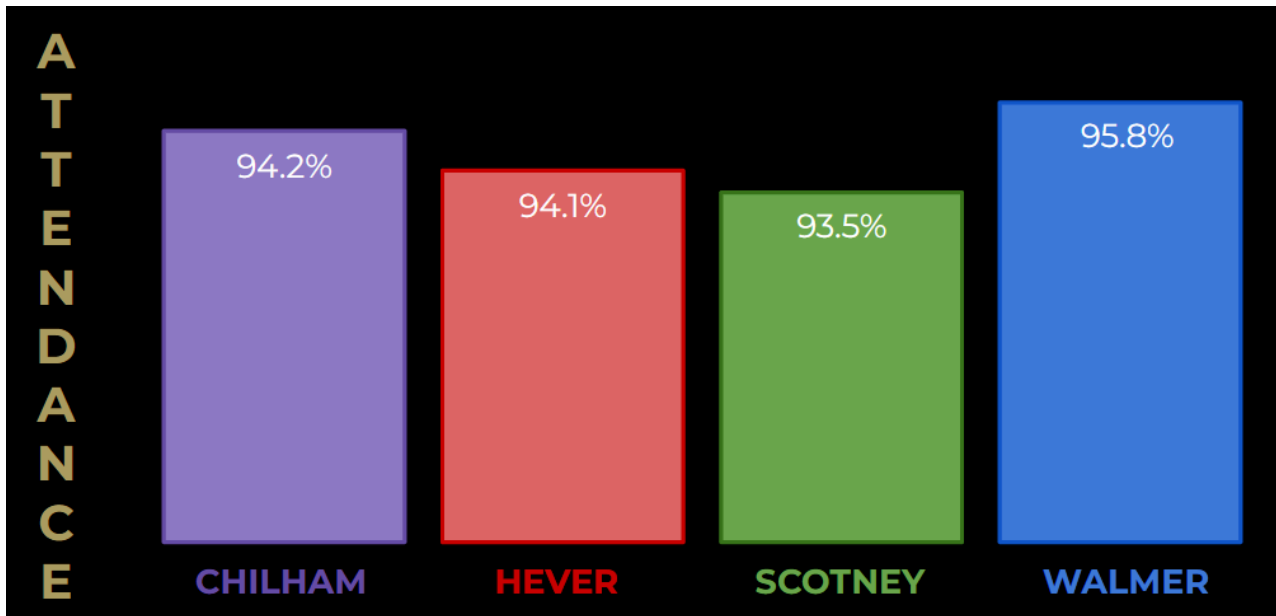
- ★ Student leadership experience for job roles
- ★ Earn **20** Unity house points for engagement
- ★ Build confidence and take pride in your community



Permission forms have been emailed to all parents/carers

Attendance - a message from Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)

At Meopham School, we place great value on attendance and are pleased to have made a strong start to the academic year. **Last week, 761 students were awarded 100% Attendance House Points** for attending school every day, demonstrating that they too recognise the importance of good school attendance. Students in **Walmer House** were celebrated for achieving **95.8% attendance** this academic year.



Key Messages

Period 7 - a message from Mrs Hartley, Senior Assistant Headteacher - Raising Standards and Sixth Form

As part of the Year 11 programme that we outlined in the summer, next week sees the launch of our **Period 7 intervention programme**.

This will take place for students after the end of the main school day on a fortnightly timetable (although Maths and English will run weekly). We are able to run this programme because teachers have very kindly committed to provide additional intervention for our Year 11 students, honing in on key topics and skills that students will need during their exams. These sessions are vital for ensuring students are adequately prepared for their exams.

These Period 7 sessions will be open to all students, but **in some cases students will be directed to attend for certain subjects**, as their data suggests they require the additional support to achieve their target grade. In this situation, attendance to Period 7 will be *compulsory*. Failure to attend will result in a C5 after school detention for one hour. **Period 7 intervention sessions start at 3.15pm and end 4.05pm.**

Information on Detentions - Mrs Davies Lane (Assistant Headteacher - KS4 Conduct and Welfare)

We have started off really positively and I want to say a huge well done to our students for the way they have conducted themselves over the first few weeks. However, I would like to remind you of our expectation regarding detentions. If your child has unfortunately received a detention then you will be able to see this on your **MCAS** (My Child At School) **app**. This will tell you if it's a **C3 lunchtime detention** which is **15 minutes** or a **C4 after school detention** which is **30 minutes** (3:15-3:45). Depending on the severity of the incident students can be issued a **C5** which is **1 hour after school** (3:15-4:15). You can see on your MCAS app if your child has attended their detention.

In the unlikely event that your child does not attend their detention then unfortunately this will escalate to a **C6** and a sanction of **1 day in SSP** (Student Support Provision) will be communicated home. After the day in SSP, students will still be required to complete the **1 hour after school detention** at the end of the day.

If you have any questions on your child's detention please contact Mrs Parrott.

Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening - Mrs Romney (Deputy Headteacher - Quality of Education) / Mr Wood (Assistant Headteacher - KS3 Conduct and Welfare)

We are looking forward to meeting our new Year 7 parents for our **Meet the Tutor Evening** on **Wednesday 17th September (4.15pm - 7pm)**. This is an opportunity to meet staff, ask questions, and discuss how we can work together to support our students.

Information was sent to all Year 7 parents/carers this week about how to make appointments via our online booking system (School Cloud). If you are having any issues using the system, or need any help, please contact **Mr Wood**.

Open Evening - Thursday 25th September - Mrs Romney (Deputy Headteacher)

We would like to remind all parents that our annual **Open Evening** takes place on **Thursday 25th September**. The **school will close** to students on this day at the end of period 4 (**12.40pm**). Bus companies have been contacted to ensure students are able to get home at this time.

Staff Development Day - Friday 26th September - Mrs Romney (Deputy Headteacher)

A reminder that we have a **Staff Development Day** on **Friday 26th September**, following our Open Evening. The **school will be closed to students** on this date.

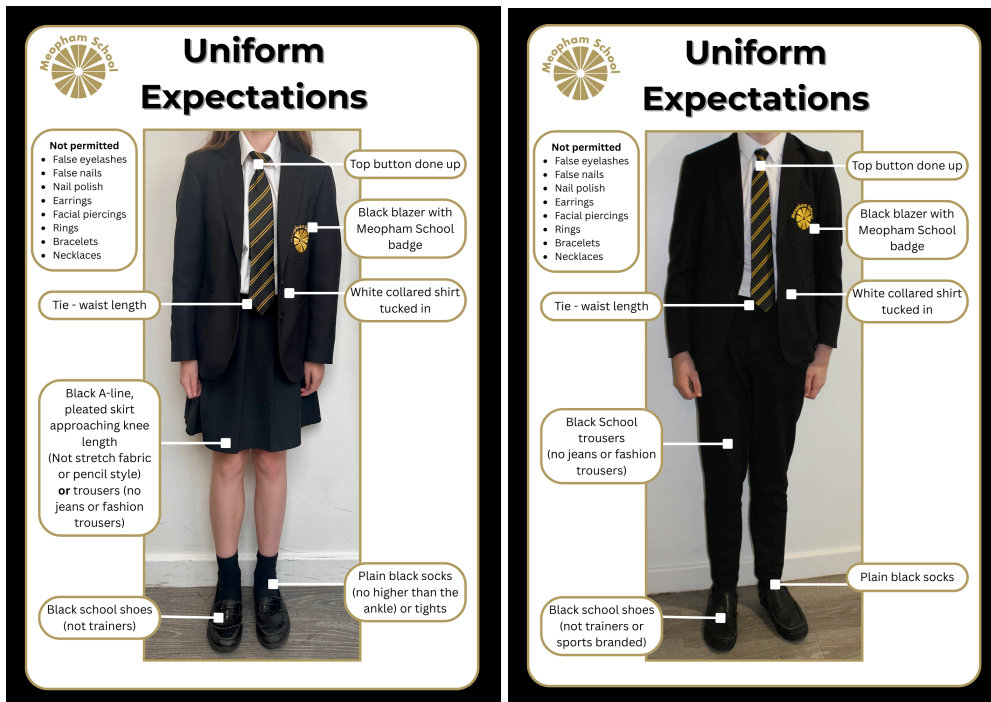
Thresholds - a message from Andrew Wood, Assistant Headteacher - KS3 Conduct and Welfare

From Monday 15th September a key school focus will be staff ensuring they meet and

greet students at the threshold of each classroom.

This will help to ensure a safe and purposeful start to each lesson. This will also give students and staff members the opportunity to guarantee uniform standards are being met and conduct is positive.

Our key uniform reminders this week will focus on students ensuring they are **not wearing coats in corridors** and all **skirts approaching the knee**.



Teaching and Learning Tips - a message from Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Romney

Good quality feedback is crucial in helping staff and students to understand where students are at with their learning, and what they need to do to make progress. We give feedback to students in a variety of different ways, including 1:1 conversations, whole class feedback, and written marking.

Teacher written feedback is vital because it provides timely, specific, and actionable guidance that helps students improve performance, identify misconceptions, and track their progress over time. It offers a permanent record for future reference, promotes deeper reflection, and can increase student motivation by showing them what they did well and why.

At Meopham we use a simple system to support this:

What Went Well (WWW) - something the student has done which meets the planned learning objective and success criteria;

Even Better If (EBI) - something that would have made the piece of work even better;

Now Try This (NTT) - a practical task to show the student has understood the feedback, and can apply it in their learning. This task is completed in green pen so that the teacher can see the improvement and progress shown by the student.

Sixth Form Update - a message from Mrs Hartley, Senior Assistant Headteacher - Raising Standards and Sixth Form

We are delighted to share that our **Sixth Form has grown again this year**, with an increase in numbers in Year 12. We warmly welcome all our new Sixth Form students and are excited to see the enthusiasm, commitment, and ambition they are already showing. This year we have also expanded our curriculum, introducing **new A level courses (Geography; Philosophy and Ethics; English Language and Literature; Government and Politics and Law)** which have proved popular with our students, further broadening their choices and opportunities.

Year 13

Last week we launched the **UCAS journey** to our Year 13 students, marking the start of an important stage as they prepare applications for university, apprenticeships, and employment. Students are receiving dedicated support from their Form Tutor and the Sixth Form Team with personal statements, course choices, and pathways beyond school.

Year 12

Our new Year 12 cohort have made an excellent start, quickly settling into their chosen courses and demonstrating a positive approach to Sixth Form life.

A significant number of students have opted to undertake the **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)**, which begins this week. This exciting opportunity allows them to pursue a topic of personal interest while building valuable research, writing and presentation skills

A Final Thought

Independent study is key to success in the Sixth Form. By showing respect for their studies, tenacity when faced with challenges, and unity in supporting one another, students develop the habits that lead to excellence. **Parents and carers can help by encouraging regular routines, showing interest in learning, and celebrating effort as well as achievement.**

"Independent study builds tenacity, respect, unity and excellence - the foundations of lifelong success."

Moving Forward

Over the past few weeks, it has been great to finally launch our new House system and share with students all the plans we have in place to solidify that sense of school identity and make their time at Meopham exciting, varied and fun! There is plenty more still to come, but I hope over the next few weeks that plenty of you will receive notification on the MCAS app of all the House Points your children are achieving for demonstrating our TRUE values.

It has been an excellent start of the year, with a very purposeful and positive atmosphere around the school. Your young people have been a credit to you all, and long may it continue!

Still plenty to do of course, but we are looking forward to another great year at Meopham School.

Have a lovely week,

Mr Roberts
Headteacher