

**Headteacher's Welcome**

I hope everyone managed to enjoy some of the (potentially) last summer sunshine this weekend! As the school term reaches its stride, there is still plenty to update you on, and in particular we are excited to be launching even more student leadership opportunities this week and our greatly extended Enrichment programme. It's important that - as a school - we are a place of learning, but we also want to be so much more than that, and it's great to hear about the growing number of opportunities we have available for our students!

**Cultural Capital** - Miss Hodd (*Assistant Headteacher - Cultural Capital and Attendance*)

Student Leadership

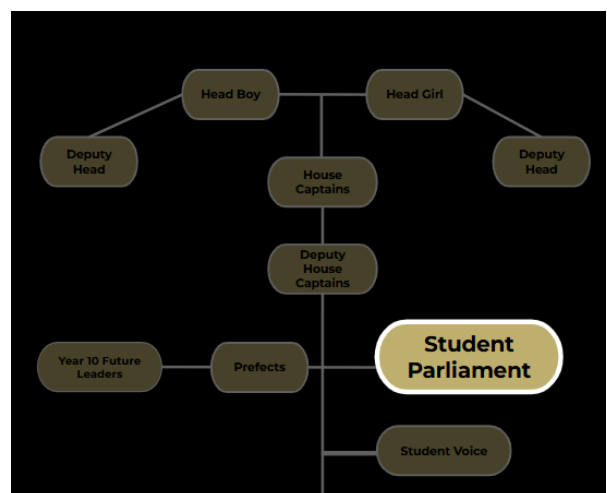
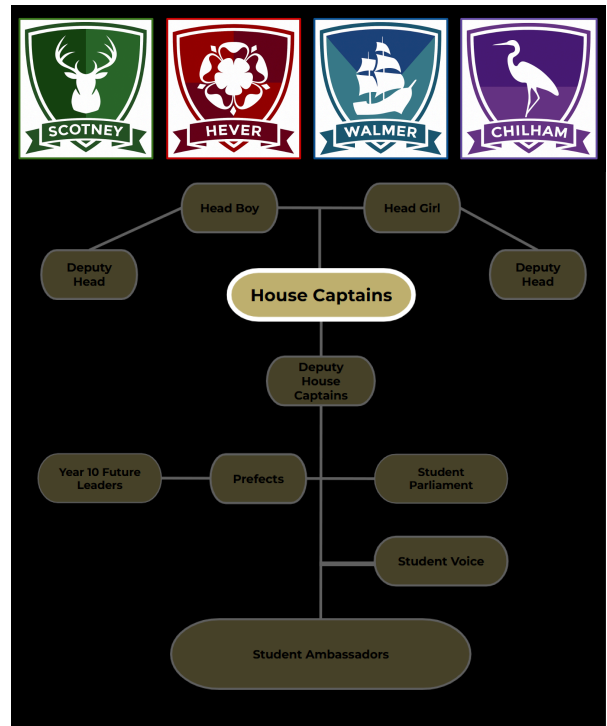
Last week, Year 12 students were introduced to the role of a **House Captain**, an exciting leadership opportunity that makes up part of our wider Student Leadership Structure at Meopham School. The position offers students the chance to represent their House, **celebrating and championing its achievements**, promoting team spirit and healthy competition.

House Captains will be involved in organising and supporting **inter-House events** and competitions, encouraging participation across all year groups. House Captains will work closely with staff and students, giving them a taste of leadership in the real world.

**Applications are now open** and we encourage all interested Year 12s to step forward and join the leadership team.

Student Parliament

**Student Parliament** remains our Student Leadership focus this week with **elections taking place for Year 7 - 11 students this week and next**. All students interested in becoming a Student MP are encouraged to express their interest during tutor times.





# Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 22.09.25

I have spoken with many **enthusiastic students** about this role and look forward to finding out which Student MPs have been **elected** by those in their tutor group.

## Enrichment Programme for Term 1 & 2

I am excited to share with all parents/carers our finalised **Enrichment programme** for **Term 1 & 2**. Students can attend clubs during **lunchtimes** or **after school** and will be **rewarded for their engagement**. Students who attend clubs at lunchtime will be given an **Enrichment Queue Jump Pass** to ensure they can get their lunch promptly before heading to their chosen activity.



## ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME TERM 1 & 2

Monday			
Pride Club	Lunchtime	Hums 7	Miss Williams
Debating Society	Lunchtime	English 8	Mr Roberts
Football Club (Yr 10&11)	Lunchtime	Leisure Centre*	Mrs Davis Lane & Mr Whittle
Football Club	Afterschool	Field*	Mr Whittle & Mr Smith
Tuesday			
History Club	Lunchtime	Hums 7	Miss Williams
English Club	Lunchtime	English 6	Mrs Porter-Clarke & Ms Rajkumar
MFL Club	Lunchtime	Languages 2	Mrs Lajnef
Macramé Club	Lunchtime	Art 2	Miss Jarvis & Miss Kesby
Football Club (Year 8)	Lunchtime	Leisure Centre*	Mr Payne
Netball Club	Afterschool	Playground*	Mrs Huggens & Miss Broad
Photography Club	Afterschool	IT2	Miss Kerr
Games Club Board Games, Table Tops Games & Trading Card Games	Afterschool	Hums 4	Mr Obbard
Wednesday			
Doodle Club	Lunchtime	Art 3	Mrs Nicolaou
School Choir	Lunchtime	Music 1	Mr Knight & Mrs Smith
Thursday			
School Magazine Club	Lunchtime	English 4	Mrs Williamson
Guitar Club	Lunchtime	Music 1	Mr Bakiev
Football Club (Year 9)	Lunchtime	Leisure Centre*	Mr Goldsmith
Rugby Club	Afterschool	Field*	Mr Goldsmith
Touch Rugby - KS3 Girls	Afterschool	Field*	Mrs Haydon
Dance Club	Afterschool	PA Room (Killick)	Mrs Greenwood
Friday			
Biomimicry Club	Lunchtime	Sport 2	Mrs Hatch
Mindfulness Art	Lunchtime	Art 2	Miss Hodd
Equation Invasion	Lunchtime	Maths 8	Mr Hicks
Reading Club	Lunchtime	English 1	Mrs Hartley
Football Club (Year 7)	Lunchtime	Leisure Centre*	Mr Wood

**\*meet at the main changing rooms for PE clubs**

# Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 22.09.25

## Open Evening

As we are only a few days away, **we would like to invite Meopham Students to sign up to take part in the evening** taking place **Thursday 25th September**. 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 - Cultural Capital and Attendance)

I would like to congratulate all students who have achieved **100% attendance** so far this term, their commitment has not gone unnoticed and they have earned **House points** for their efforts. Any students who achieve 100% per week will be rewarded, as will the **tutor group with the highest weekly attendance.**

## Home Visits

A reminder that if we are concerned about a student's attendance to school, home visits may take place. These visits are supportive and give staff the opportunity to identify any barriers to attendance your child may be experiencing. We hope these visits are received in the positive nature in which they are intended.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this process, please feel free to contact the Attendance Team via email [mss-attendanceofficer@swale.at](mailto:mss-attendanceofficer@swale.at)

### Medical Appointments

We ask that medical appointments, where possible, are arranged outside of the school day. Even short absences for appointments can result in missed learning and disrupted routines, both of which can have a big impact on a child's progress. We understand that this isn't always avoidable and - in such cases - appreciate ongoing communication from parents and carers who keep us informed.

### Key Messages

#### Open Evening - early closure reminder - Mr McQuillan (Deputy Headteacher)

A reminder to parents / carers that the **school will be closing at 12:40pm on Thursday 25th September** to allow for the Open Evening preparations; the school buses have been informed that students will be leaving earlier on this day.

A further reminder that the day after the Open Evening (**Friday 26th September**) is our second **staff training day** this academic year and students will not be required to attend school on this day.

#### Punctuality - Mrs Davies-Lane (Assistant Headteacher)

This week we have had a real focus on punctuality to lessons now that we have introduced the **5 minute transition time**. This should give students plenty of time to arrive at their lesson. Teachers are **recording the number of minutes students are late to lessons** which are then added up each week. You will receive a communication home if your child has unfortunately received a C4 or C5 detention due to punctuality.

#### Year 10 and 12 Skills for Success Evening: Wednesday 8th October - Mrs Romney (Deputy Headteacher)

It was fantastic to meet our new Year 7 parents for our **Meet the Tutor Evening** last week, and hear how well they have settled in at Meopham. We are now looking forward to meet the parents and carers of Year 10 and 12 students for our **Skills for Success Evening on 8th October**. This is an opportunity to outline key information as these students embark on the next stage of their studies for both Key Stage Four and Key Stage Five. More information will be sent out over the next few weeks.

#### Homework - Mrs Hatch (Assistant Headteacher)

Students should now start receiving regular homework from their teachers. Some subjects set weekly homework, and some biweekly. Information about homework can be found on the website under 'learning' and then 'homework'.

<https://www.meophamschool.org.uk/page/?title=Homework&pid=270>

Please contact me if you have any queries relating to homework by email

[jill.hatch@swale.at](mailto:jill.hatch@swale.at).

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

"Just because you know something once, doesn't mean you will always remember it." (Agarwal and Bain, 2019).

Have you ever noticed that you can remember your phone number or post code from twenty years ago, but can't remember what you did last week? That's because that information both meant something special to you, and you were also required to remember it over and over again. The same is true of key learning in lessons; it is only by **actively remembering** important information that it is truly retained in the **long term memory**.

This is why all of our lessons start with a **memory retrieval activity**: asking students to deliberately recall key information from last week, last month, or even last year. We believe these activities should be:

- specific** - the teacher identifies the crucial information to be recalled;
- effortful** - creating 'desirable difficulties' helps the remembering process;
- spaced** - recalling information over time reduces the opportunity to forget.

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

We're now a few weeks into term, and our Sixth Form students are beginning to experience the real demands of Level 3 courses. These courses go beyond the classroom and require students to **take ownership of their learning**, prioritising their time to review lesson notes, complete wider reading, and prepare for assessments. As parents and carers, your support can make a huge difference.

#### **Parent Tips for Supporting Independent Learning**

- Encourage your child to **explain a topic back to you** - teaching someone else is one of the best ways to learn.
- Support your child in setting aside **regular time for study** at home.
- Show interest in what your child learnt that day: "**tell me about what you learnt today**," can spark reflection and motivation.
- Remind them that **rest, exercise, and downtime** are all part of successful learning.

### **Thresholds - a message from Mr A Wood, Assistant Headteacher - KS3 Conduct and Welfare**

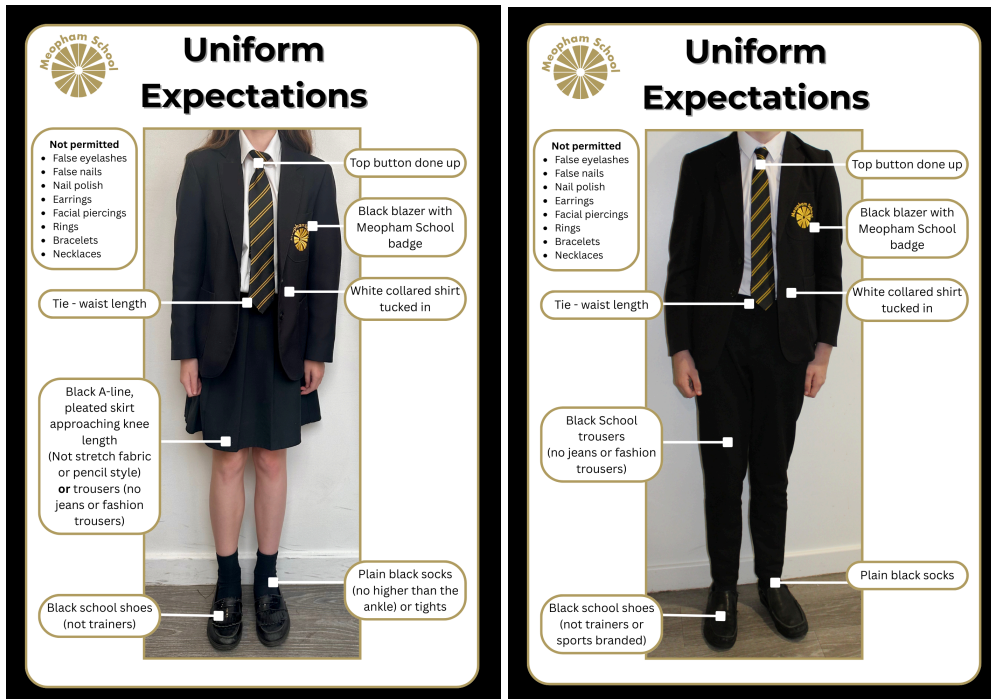
We want all students to wear their uniform smartly and with pride.

We have noticed that a small number of students are still choosing to wear outdoor

# Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 22.09.25

jackets instead of their school blazers, or rolling their skirts to purposely avoid wearing their skirt approaching the knee.

After repeated reminders for these students we feel that it is now appropriate to begin to issue **C3 lunchtime detentions** to any students that arrive at lessons wearing a jacket, or having rolled their skirts. We feel this is fair to the vast majority of our students who arrive at lessons wearing their uniform correctly, and are ready to learn.



## **Free School Meals**

If you feel you may be eligible/entitled to **free school meals**, please use the link below to contact Kent County Council. The link is very supportive and helps with any questions you may have:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

## **Cucina Information**

We are pleased to inform you that the **latest menu and tariff information** from Cucina can now be accessed on our school website. Please click the link below to view the information:

[Meopham School - Catering Information](#)

Kindly ensure that you have topped up your child's **ParentPay** account with sufficient funds to allow them to purchase items from the school dining hall.

## **School Photos**

Years 7 through to Year 10 will be having photos done during the school day on **Wednesday, 24th September**. The students will be informed on Monday and Tuesday about specific timings for their photos to be taken; this will cause some slight



## Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 22.09.25

disruption whilst students come down to the Dodmore Hall in their classes but photos per class should be no longer than 10 minutes. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Communication with Meopham School**

In order to ensure that messages go to the correct staff members within the school, can we please direct you to the **Communication Portal** using the link below. Within the portal, this will forward all communications to the correct staff members within the school. **Staff will aim to respond to requests within a 48 hour period.**

<https://sites.google.com/swale.at/msscoms/home>

### **Moving Forward**

It's a big week at school, with our annual Open Evening taking place this Thursday. This is always a fantastic event where prospective families visit the school to learn all about what life is like at Meopham. I know we have lots of our young people who have volunteered to support the evening, and I thank you in advance for your support in ensuring they can take part in the event. It's always a huge source of pride to walk around and see our dedicated young people, talking enthusiastically about their studies and helping younger and - understandably - nervous Year 6 students feel welcomed and excited for their own future at the school. I am certain our students will be a credit to us all and I am really looking forward to seeing all the great stuff they will be getting involved with on Thursday. In the meantime, there is plenty to be learning and enjoying throughout this week, and we're sure it's going to be another great one!

Have a lovely week,

Ethan Roberts  
Headteacher