

Headteacher's Welcome

Dear all,

I hope you've had a lovely weekend.

The school year is now well and truly in full swing and it has been so exciting introducing all our new initiatives over the past few weeks. Whether it has been our new House system, the wide array of Enrichment activities now available or the wide range of student leadership positions that students have been applying to, it has been wonderful to see so many more students engaging in the wider life of the school. There is still plenty more to come this year, and plenty to update you on for this week.

Cultural Capital - messages from Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)

Headteacher Commendations:

Congratulations to the students nominated for **Headteacher Commendations** this week:

Elissia G (Year 8) - For being an extremely helpful Reception helper last week.

Autumn P (Year 8) - Demonstrating exceptional help and manners in Reception.

Maisy J (Year 11) - Incredibly engaged in every Geography lesson so far, showing tenacity by attempting all challenging questions.

Bebe S (Year 11) - Beautifully presented bookwork and engaged in all Geography lessons so far this year.

Georgia C (Year 11) - Great at working with others, demonstrating engagement in all Geography lessons this year.

Freya L (Year 9) - Demonstrating Tenacity and Excellence in French lessons.

Zach O, Jamie D, Lily C, Ethan L and Leticia S (Year 8) - Standing out as being confident and polite during their roles as Reception Helpers over the last couple of weeks.

All students on this list will be invited to Headteacher Commendation every **Thursday at 12:30pm in Mr Roberts' office** for Dominoes pizza and their certificates.

KYCC Opportunity

This year, Meopham School has signed up to Support the Kent Youth County Council (KYCC) elections and we will be encouraging our students to register as candidates or vote for someone else in this year's KYCC election.



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KYCC is open to all young people aged 11 to 18. Sixty young people from across the country will be elected to represent the views and issues of young people in Kent and campaign on the top three issues for young people today.

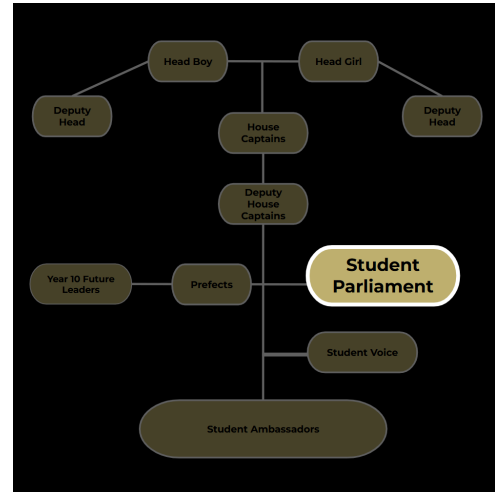
If your child is interested in signing up to be a candidate, they have until midnight **12th October** to register. Elections for 2025 will take place **between 10th - 25th November**.

Student Parliament: Update

This week, we will be holding our own **elections** for Meopham School's Student Parliament - an important part of our **Student Leadership Structure**.

For the past few weeks, students have been learning about the role of a **Student MP** and will this week have the opportunity to put themselves forward as Student MP for their tutor group.

Good luck to all those involved!



Student Helpers - Open Evening 2025

I would like to celebrate the contributions of all students who volunteered as helpers during this year's Open Evening.

A big part of the success of the evening was down to each student's professionalism and enthusiasm. Whether they were touring families around the school or supporting departments, visiting parents and carers were quick to praise the commitment from our students. A huge **well done** to everyone involved.



All students have been awarded with **20 Unity House Points** for their attendance and positive contributions to the evening.

Attendance - Ongoing reminders from Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)

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



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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

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

Punctuality - Mrs Davies -Lane (Assistant Headteacher)

Students have made an excellent start to term with the vast majority arriving to lessons on time and really utilising the 5 minute travel time. Each week we run a late report which adds up the minutes a student is late to lessons over a 1 week period. If your child has a query regarding their punctuality detention then they can come and speak to Mrs Parrott who can explain in more detail.

Jackets and Skirts - 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 jackets** instead of their school blazers, or rolling their skirts to purposely avoid wearing their skirt **approaching the knee**. Students will be reminded this week: 'what's the rule?'

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.

Images of our uniform expectations can be found at the end of this newsletter.

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>

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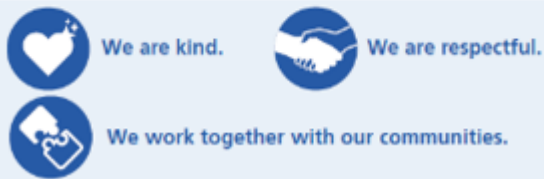
Message from the NHS Emotional Wellbeing Team

"We are the Emotional Wellbeing Team (known nationally as the Mental Health Support Team). We are specially trained to help children at school with their emotional wellbeing and mental health by offering 1:1 and small group sessions for young people with difficulties such as anxiety, exam stress, problems with sleep, and low mood. We also offer whole school activities and workshops to promote emotional wellbeing and increase understanding of how to take care of mental health.

Getting the right support early can prevent problems from getting bigger, so that children can enjoy school, home, time with family & friends, and other activities."



Who we are and what we do *Striving to provide the best care by the best people*



Kent County Council Road Sense workshops - Thursday 16th October

On Thursday, 16th October during the morning, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be having an assembly delivered by KCC - Road Sense about the importance of road safety. As a school, we are conscious that this is a vital message for our students, and these workshops will be a great chance to receive educational expertise on road safety. Thank you for your support.

<https://kentroadsafety.info/what-we-do/road-sense-road-safety-sessions-for-yrs-7-9-11/>

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

Cold Calling:

We strive to ensure our lessons are inclusive and engaging for all students, and to support this we utilise a strategy called 'cold calling'. Put simply, this means the teacher chooses a specific student to answer a question, instead of waiting for a volunteer. This technique, first introduced by Doug Lemov, promotes equality in the classroom by ensuring that **all** students actively engage with the material and think about an answer



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to a question, also preventing classroom discussions from being dominated by only the most confident students.

This can be taken further using a strategy called 'Pose, Pause, Pounce, Bounce.' Staff will pose a question to the whole class, and then provide a pause in which everyone has time to think of an answer. The teacher then 'pounces' on a specific student to provide an answer, before then 'bouncing' the response to someone else to see if they can add to, improve or challenge the answer given.

We believe this approach helps provide important thinking time for all, whilst ensuring every student knows they may be called upon to answer, encouraging active participation in their learning.

Congratulations to Year 7 - a message from Senior Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Hartley

Celebrating Success: Outstanding Effort in the Year 7 CATs Tests

We are delighted to share the fantastic news regarding our Year 7 students and their performance in the recent Cognitive Abilities Tests (CATs).

Last week, our newest students undertook these important assessments, and we are incredibly **proud of their attitude and effort**. Despite the unfamiliar environment and the challenge of taking a formal test, every student displayed remarkable maturity and focus. They entered the exam hall and settled quickly, demonstrating a calm and dedicated approach that impressed the invigilators.

The CAT4 results give us a valuable insight into each student's potential and learning profile, which we will use to tailor teaching and support throughout their time here. However, what is equally important is the way the Year 7 cohort handled this experience.

By approaching the tests with such **determination and tenacity**, they have shown they are already building the crucial skills needed for future public examinations.

A massive well done to all of Year 7! Your hard work and commitment are a source of great pride to the entire school community. Keep up the excellent work.

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

A huge **thank you** to all the Sixth Form students who volunteered their time to make our Open Day such a success last week. We received fantastic feedback from prospective families about your maturity and enthusiasm. A special shout-out is due to the team who managed the car parking — your excellent organisation and helpfulness created a brilliant first impression! Your commitment is a credit to the school.



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Key Event: Post-16 Trust Conference

All **Year 12 students** will be attending the **Post-16 Trust Conference** on **Monday, October 13th** hosted by Meopham School. This is a compulsory event designed to support their academic transition. This conference is a superb opportunity to gain professional insight into effective learning strategies that will benefit students for the next two years and beyond. Please ensure Year 12 students attend the conference prepared to take notes and engage fully.

Moving Forward

It was a huge source of pride last Thursday to invite over 800 people into our school and show them all that Meopham has to offer as part of our Open Evening. To say that our students shone is an understatement. Quite simply, all of our student volunteers were superb. I was stopped time and time again by prospective parents and carers, keen to relay to me how helpful their guides had been, how mature the students were in the classroom and how welcoming and friendly our young people had been, to ensure our (understandably nervous) Year 6 guests felt reassured about the move to secondary school, and excited for a future at Meopham.

The fact that we had about 170 students volunteer to support our Open Evening is testament to what an excellent school community we have that will come together to celebrate all we have achieved. Our students modelled our values of respect and tenacity meticulously over a long and busy evening, fielding questions from families throughout and always ready to help and support with a smile.

I am so proud of all of our young people and the excellent things they are achieving at Meopham School, and I am sure there are many more proud moments ahead, and a great many things our students will learn and do throughout this year.

Have a great week,

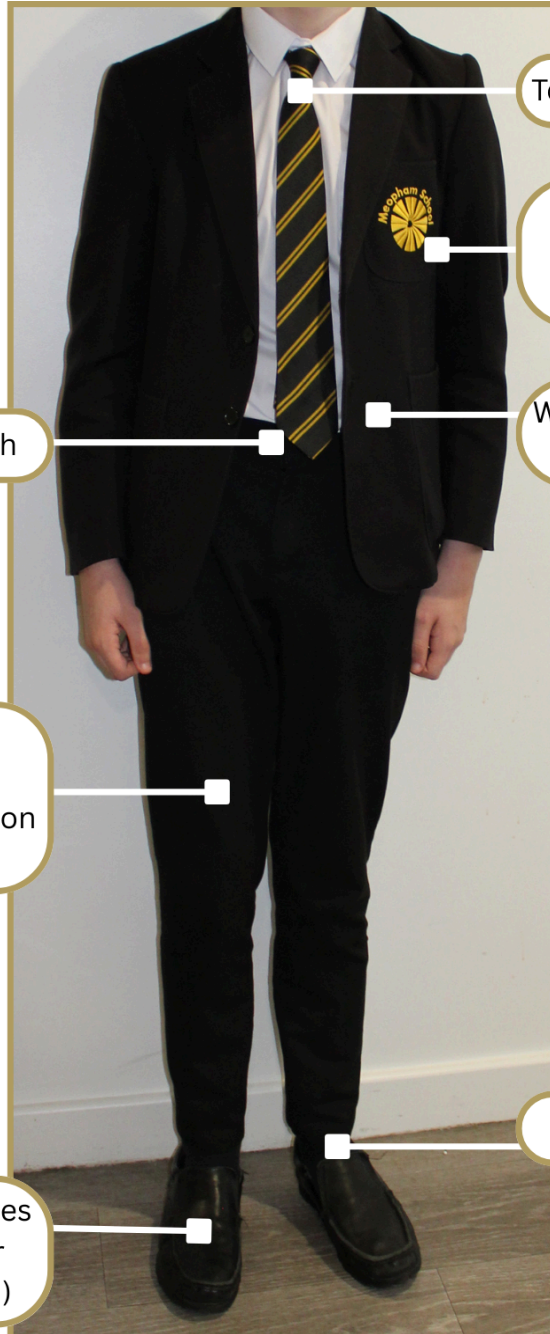
Mr Roberts



Uniform Expectations

Not permitted

- False eyelashes
- False nails
- Nail polish
- Earrings
- Facial piercings
- Rings
- Bracelets
- Necklaces



Top button done up

Black blazer with Meopham School badge

White collared shirt tucked in

Tie - waist length

Black School trousers (no jeans or fashion trousers)

Plain black socks

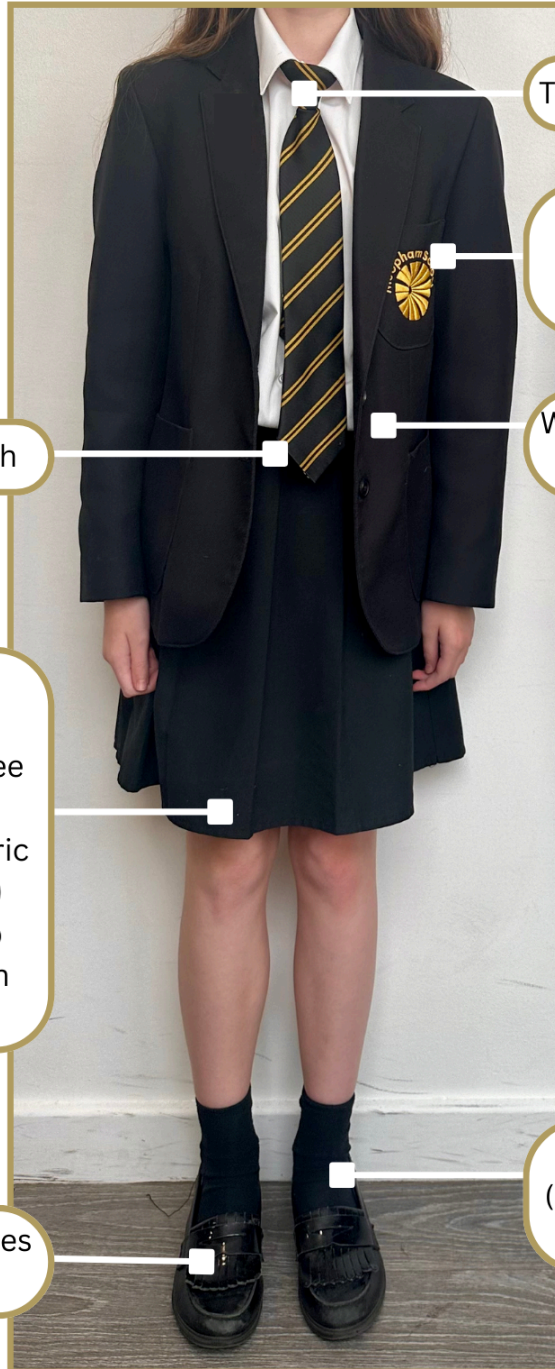
Black school shoes (not trainers or sports branded)



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- Bracelets
- Necklaces



Top button done up

Black blazer with Meopham School badge

White collared shirt tucked in

Tie - waist length

Black A-line, pleated skirt approaching knee length (Not stretch fabric or pencil style) **or** trousers (no jeans or fashion trousers)

Plain black socks (no higher than the ankle) or tights

Black school shoes (not trainers)