

Headteacher's Welcome

Dear all,

I hope you've had a great weekend, even if the weather is starting to turn decidedly more autumnal! Plenty to update you on this week and still lots of exciting developments within our Student Leadership structure!

Cultural Capital - a message from Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)

Headteacher Commendations

Congratulations to the following students, who were nominated for **Headteacher Commendation** this week:

Jack H (Year 10) - Philosophy - Writing an excellent response in his first 12 mark assessment

Chloe M (Year 11) - Philosophy - An unrelenting desire for Excellence

Elkida B (Year 7) - Thought provoking response in Philosophy

Aston H (Year 10), **Archie S** (Year 10), **Sam B** (Year 8), **Robin S** (Year 8), **Ethan L** (Year 8),

Owen L (Year 8), **Autumn P** (Year 8) & **Lily Chable** (Year 8) - Diligence in English

Flo M (Year 10) - Great participation in English

Israel O (Year 7) - Amazing feedback from an external visitor during Open Evening

Mia C (Year 10) - Consistently amazing homework in English

Charlie D (Year 8) - Great contribution to the School Magazine

Isla E (Year 8) & **Molly T** (Year 8) - Excellent English Homework

Alex P (Year 7) - Great sentences in English

Ruby J (Year 7) - Writing an excellent first piece of assessed work in Spanish

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

Student Voice

This week, students who put themselves forward to be part of **Student Voice** - an important part of our Student Leadership Structure - will attend their first meeting. By engaging with Student Voice, students will have the opportunity to **express their views** and **support school improvements** moving forward.



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House Captains

Our Year 12 students have recently had the opportunity to put themselves forward for the role of **House Captain** - a prestigious leadership position within our school community.

The selected House Captains will be **revealed this week** and students will begin their vital role in championing their House across all year groups. We look forward to seeing the energy, ideas and enthusiasm they will bring to their new roles.



KYCC Opportunity - A reminder

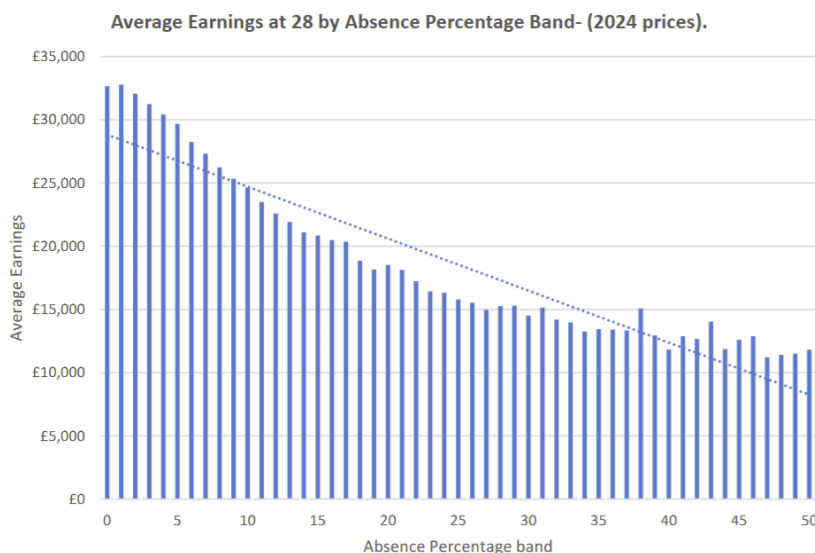
This year, Meopham School has signed up to Support the Kent Youth County Council (KYCC) elections and we will be encouraging our students to register as candidates or vote for someone else in this year's KYCC election.

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**.

Attendance - a message from Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)





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Above is a graph that demonstrates the importance of regular attendance to school. As you can see, there is a direct link between increased absence and lower average earnings by the time a student is 28. The statistics are quite shocking, but emphasise how important it is to ensure your child attends school as regularly as possible.

Earnings and employment. Each day missed in secondary is linked to about **£750** lower lifetime earnings and **every day missed in Years 10-11** is linked to **0.8% lower earnings** at age 28 (Department for Education, 2025b).

Harms employment stability. Persistent absence (>10%) is associated with lower chances of stable employment by age 28 (Department for Education, 2025b).

If you require further support from the school in helping your child to attend regularly, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Key Messages

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 an extended adjustment period so students could get used to the uniform expectations, 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>

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.

YR9 will have their workshop during P1

YR7 will have their workshop during P2

YR8 will have their workshop after break during P3

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

As teachers, part of our role involves assessment *OF* the learning our students have completed, and evaluating the progress they have made. This typically takes place at the end of a unit or piece of work.

However, a key task is also to support assessment *FOR* learning: identifying strengths and areas for development along the way, and supporting students in addressing these 'in the moment' and before they reach the final assessment. This is useful for both the teacher and the student, as it identifies gaps in the learning, and allows for a plan to address these as quickly as possible.

If your child has described using mini whiteboards for example, this is a strategy used to quickly gain an understanding of the level of understanding or competence for a class or an individual, and then responding to this either immediately in the lesson, or over the coming weeks. In this way, students and teachers are working together to support progress and improved understanding.

Skills for Success Evening - Wednesday 8th October

We are pleased to invite all Year 10 & Year 12 parents and carers to our **Skills for Success Evening on Wednesday 8th October.**

Year 10: 5.30pm - 6.30pm and Year 12: 6.45pm - 7.30pm.

This evening will provide valuable information to help you support your child through the next two years, including:

- Subject information;
- Assessment processes;
- Revision Strategies and effective study habits;
- An introduction to post-18 options (for our Y12 students).

We strongly encourage all parents/carers to attend this important event as it will set the foundations for a successful start to Year 10 and Sixth Form and beyond.

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

Sixth Form Open Evening - Wednesday 12th November 4.30pm - 7.30pm



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We are looking forward to welcoming Year 11 students from Meopham and the local area to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 12th November, from 4.30pm - 7.30pm.

Our Sixth Form has grown significantly in recent times, and with it the number of courses we are able to offer. We are delighted to be able to continue this for September 2026, with a range of both traditional academic A Level courses and more vocational B-Tec qualifications.

Alongside talks by the Sixth Form team at either **5.30pm** or **6.30pm**, there will be the opportunity to talk to staff and students from every course to find out more about what they involve, and the next steps they can lead to. We look forward to seeing as many of our Year 11 students and families as possible.

Moving Forward

It's been wonderful showing lots of families around school over the last week and seeing all the fantastic things that students have been engaged in across the school.

A particular highlight for me was watching our Year 9 Geography students constructing their earthquake-resistant buildings and then attempting to topple them with simulated "earthquakes" on their desks. It was fantastic to see students so enthused by their learning and the constructions they produced were impressively sturdy (despite multiple attempts, I couldn't get them to topple!)! It's always great to see our teachers planning interesting and engaging new ways to get our students learning, and I've been really impressed with the hard work students are putting in throughout this term.

Of course, in a few weeks time we have our first extended two-week October half-term, which will hopefully give everyone a bit of time to rest and relax, but until then - there is plenty more to be learning each and every day!

Have a lovely week,

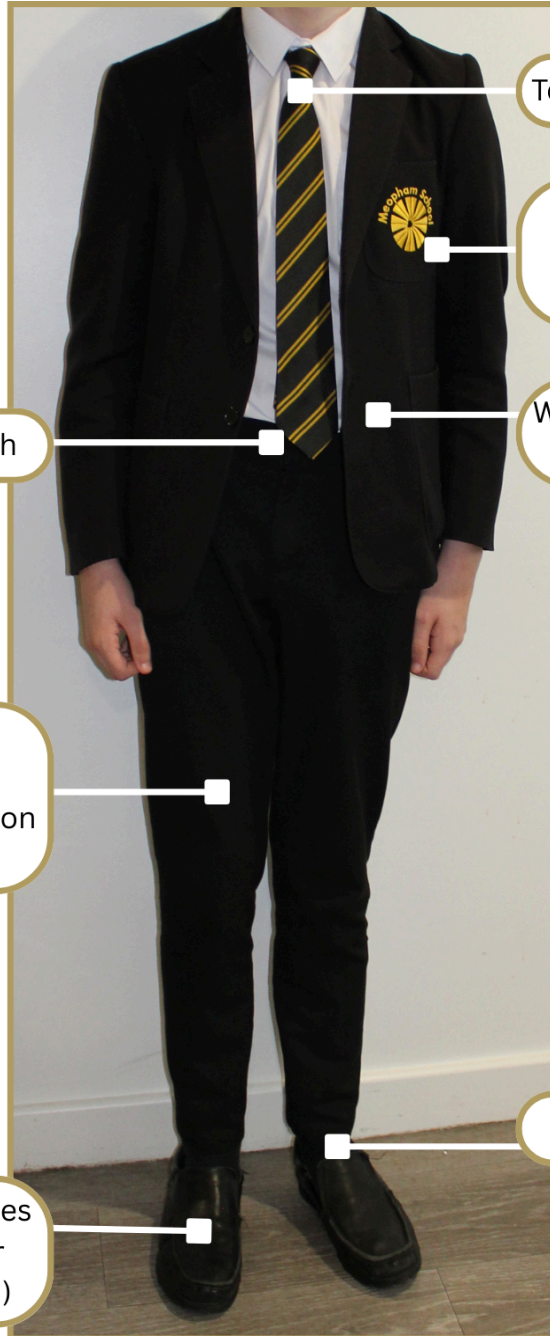
Mr Roberts



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

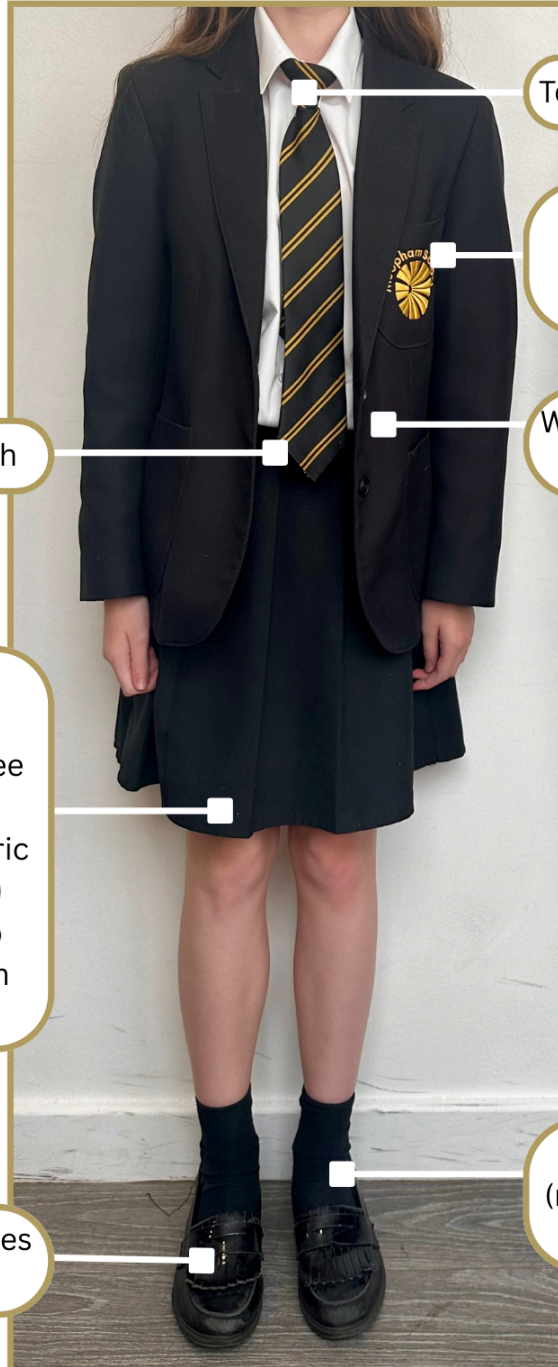
Black school shoes (not trainers or sports branded)



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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)