

Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome back to another week at Meopham School! There are lots of exciting updates to provide you all below, with many of our students achieving some truly excellent feats in the past few weeks. We are exceptionally proud of our students this term and I can't wait for you to read on so we can show off just how amazing our young people are!

Cultural Capital - messages from Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)

Black History Month - Inter-House Art Competition

This year, students and staff have been invited to take part in our Inter-House Art Competition to mark **Black History Month**.

All contributions will be part of a **permanent display of artworks** celebrating Black culture and history.

The **deadline** is this **Friday!**



BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Inter-House Art Competition

Students who participate will receive 10 Respect House Points

To mark Black History Month, we invite all students to participate in our **Inter-House Art Competition** celebrating creativity, resilience and the influence of Black culture and history.

Artistic outcomes could be inspired by:

- ◆ **Hidden Figures** - unsung heroes and trailblazers
- ◆ **Rich Black Culture** - celebrating traditions, fashion, food
- ◆ **Influential Figures** - civil rights leaders, artists, inventors
- ◆ **Black Musical Legacy** - jazz, blues, gospel, afrobeat, soul

Submissions must be handed in to Miss Hodd by **Friday 17th October** and all artworks will be displayed next term.



EcoFest 2025 - Winners!

Last week, four of our Year 9 students took part in **Ecofest** at **Peacehaven Community School**. The day focussed on sustainability and the impact the modern world is having in our environment. Students engaged in many activities throughout the day and were tasked with designing and building a 3D model that demonstrated the damage that the carefree lifestyle of humans has on the environment.

Freddie, Brian, Maiya and Ruby created a sculpture that represents planet Earth and the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (GPGP) with **birds made from drink cans and milk bottles and a turtle made from discarded towels about to eat some plastic**. The milk bottle birds were based on albatross who had their stomachs filled with plastic rubbish.

All students enjoyed their day and were commended for working so well as a team and were selected as the overall **winners** for the day! Well done to all involved.





Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 13.10.25

Student Parliament

Our Student Parliament is nearly full and most tutor groups have elected a **Student MP** as representatives.

Poppy H in Year 7 won the most votes for 7C and was elected as the Student MP to represent her tutor group. The Student MP role means a lot to Poppy and she took the time to write the following speech expressing her interest in the role:

"Hello, if you don't already know me, I am Poppy and I am standing here today as I would like to be the Student MP of 7C at Meopham School.

I started here at Meopham the same as everybody in Year 7 - worried, nervous and scared, but in our first assembly here one of the things on the screen that caught my eye was the Student MP role that Year 7s could apply for. So, for a long time now, I have wanted to apply for the role.

Why would I like this role? Well, I have a positive attitude to life which I think is very important for a Student MP and I will always show the values even when times are tough and when things are hard. I am trustworthy and kind and make sure others are too. I like working as a team and working together to make something amazing happen. I can also be a leader and an example of what the TRUE values look like and give off. If I were a student MP, I would like to be the person to cheer others up when they are down and make them smile and laugh. If there was a situation, I'll advise them on what is best to do. I think being a Student MP is being someone that others look up to as they are role models. I would feel very proud to be a Student MP of 7C and Year 7. I would like to listen to other MPs' views and acknowledge them all to make an idea even better for the students, and of course the school.

If I were elected for the role there would be some goals I would like to achieve. I would want to help organise fun and exciting events for the school. I want to make sure everyone feels included and that school is a place we all enjoy."

Well done to Poppy and all students who have been elected for Student MPs so far.

Headteacher Commendations - Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)

Students who have demonstrated exceptional examples of our **TRUE values** and have nominated for **Headteacher Commendations** this week are:



Isla E & Molly T (Year 8) - Consistently excellent English homework

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

Elkida B (Year 7) - Providing thoughtful insights into discussions surrounding the nature of reality

Owen L (Year 8) - Excellent Geography work throughout this term

Poppy H (Year 7) - Poppy put herself forward to be the Student MP for her form 7C and wrote an incredibly sophisticated and thoughtful speech detailing why she would like to be considered to be the student MP- she delivered this in front of her form with confidence and eloquence

Henry S (Year 8) - Excellent presentation in Geography book

Nathan P & Amelia S (Year 9) - Detailed news article writing in English

Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 13.10.25

Josh W (Year 10) - Outstanding *An Inspector Calls* end of term assessment

Xakani W (Year 8) - Absolutely fantastic level of detail in his Freedom Writers article

Finley W (Year 10) - Fantastic work in his book and for English homework all term. Impressive!

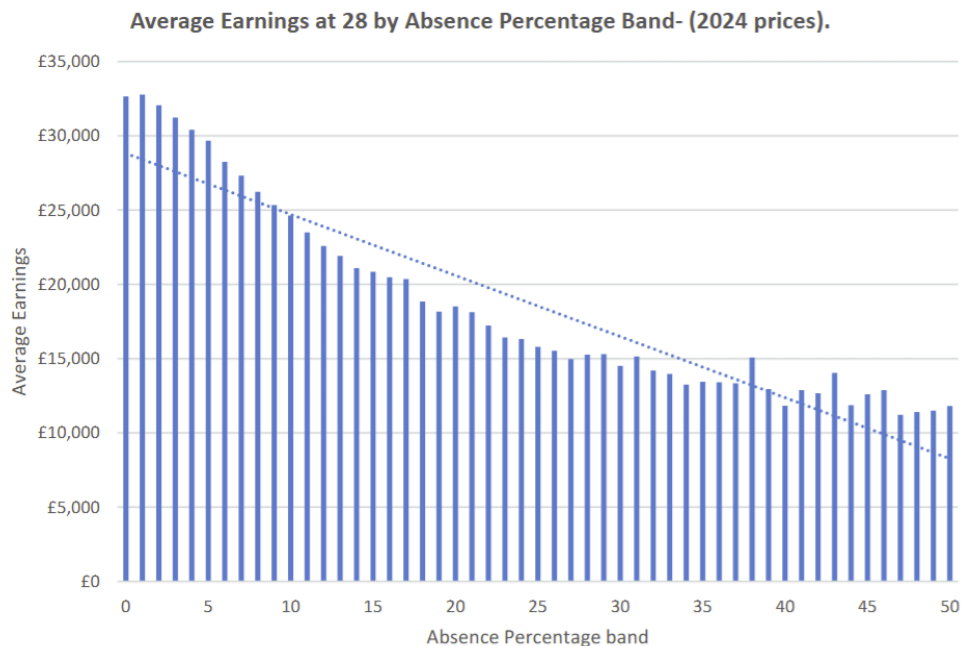
Freya L (Year 8) - Consistently outstanding homework

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

Attendance - a message from Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)

Below, we've provided some interesting data that highlights the impact **school attendance** can have on a person's **future earnings** and **employment**.

Each day missed in secondary school 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. Persistent absence from school (when a student has below 90% attendance) is associated with **lower chances of stable employment** by age 28 (*Department for Education, 2025b*).



Key Messages

Free School Meal Vouchers for October Half term - a message from Mr A Wood - Assistant Headteacher

This is a message for any parents/carers of any students that are entitled to Free School Meals.

Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 13.10.25

The vouchers have been assigned and sent to you on Wednesday, 8th October, 2025. Please can you check and ensure you have received your vouchers worth £10 for the October half term period.

KCC have allocated £10 worth of vouchers as this is considered to be a one week half term allocation. If any families require further support over the half-term break, please do not hesitate to contact me at andrew.wood@swale.at

KCC Road Sense workshops - 16th October - a message from Mr A Wood - Assistant Headteacher

On Thursday, 16th October during the morning, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be having an assembly delivered by Kent County Council - Road Sense about the importance of road safety. Times for each assembly will be sent out. Thank you for your support

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

YR 9 will have their workshop during P1

YR 7 will have their workshop during P2

YR 8 will have their workshop after break during P3

Pumpkin Carving Reward Workshop - a message from Mr A Wood - Assistant Headteacher

On Thursday, 16th October - during Periods 5 and 6 - the students with the top 10 highest achieving House points in Years 7-10 will be invited to participate in a pumpkin carving workshop delivered by Mr A Wood.

Congratulations to those successful students who have achieved so highly this term under our new House system.

If you are selected for this reward then you will need to bring your own pumpkin of choice, medium size, and Meopham School will provide everything else.



Message to all Sixth Formers! Sixth Form intervention opportunities - a message from Mr A Wood - Assistant Headteacher



Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 13.10.25

I met with Sixth Formers last week to invite them to support school interventions, namely Inclusion Mentoring and Reading Buddies. Sixth Formers were asked to complete the below form if they would like to expand their UCAS and CV for the future by learning new skills and taking on this exciting role for themselves and the school. These internal interventions will be coming to Meopham School later in the school year and more details will follow

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfpMKkeq7Wo4TtIKYKLIVhyVtxBSQLKzAtqH9yb4JlkiCL9Mw/viewform?usp=header>

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

We believe it is important for all students to make progress in line with their ability. This is why we ask staff to include '**stretch and challenge**' in all lessons. This encourages students to think at a deeper level, fostering a growth mindset as well as improving academic performance. In our classrooms we create a culture where 'desirable difficulties' are utilised to encourage students to push themselves and think hard. This can be achieved through increasingly complex questioning, higher order tasks, or additional activities which extend the original learning.

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

Welcome to Our Sixth Form Update!

We're almost at the end of our first term and I want to share some exciting news, key dates, and essential preparation advice for all our students and parents/carers.

Important Notice: Year 13 Mock Examinations

Year 13 students must now prioritize revision as their Mock Examinations are rapidly approaching. These high-stakes exams are vital for two reasons: they provide us with the final evidence for **predicted grades** (crucial for UCAS) and offer students an essential trial run for the summer final exams. The mocks start on **Monday 17th November - Friday 21st November**.

Top Revision Tips for Success

To maximize their performance, we encourage students to adopt the following strategies:

1. **Active Recall over Passive Reading:** Instead of simply re-reading notes, use flashcards, mind maps, and quiz yourself or a study partner. Test yourself on what you *know*, not what you are currently *looking at*.

2. **Practice Past Papers:** The best way to prepare is to practice under timed conditions. This improves exam technique, highlights knowledge gaps, and manages stress.

3. **Use Subject Guides and Specifications:** Ensure you are familiar with the content outlined in each of your subject's specifications. If you don't know what you need to know, you can't revise it effectively.

4. **Balance and Breaks:** Plan short, focused study sessions (e.g. 30 minutes of work, 10 minutes of rest). Consistent, manageable revision is always better than last-minute cramming.

UCAS and University Application Progress

We are incredibly proud of our Year 13 students who have successfully submitted their **first draft of personal statements**. This is a major achievement, and we are working hard to finalize these documents for submission alongside references.

We look forward to welcoming Year 13 parents and carers to our essential **UCAS Information Evening on Thursday 6th November**. A representative from **Canterbury Christ Church University** will deliver a comprehensive presentation on the entire UCAS process, including guidance on writing effective personal statements, navigating the Clearing process, and critical information regarding Student Finance. This will be held in school on **Thursday 6th November 5.00 PM - 6.00 PM**.

Sixth Form Community Highlights

Thank You Year 12 parents/carers!

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the **Year 12 Skills for Success Evening** last week. The event was well-attended, and the feedback received has been very positive. We value your commitment to supporting your child's academic journey in the Sixth Form.

Student Contribution Recognition We also want to extend our gratitude to several Year 12 students who have been instrumental in contributing positively to the Sixth Form community this term through various volunteering and leadership roles. Your positive influence does not go unnoticed!

Sixth Form Open Evening

We are looking for enthusiastic **Sixth Form Helpers** to assist with the upcoming **Sixth Form Open Evening (Wednesday 12th November 4.30 PM - 7.30 PM)** for prospective students. This is a great opportunity to showcase our vibrant Sixth Form and demonstrate leadership skills. Any Year 12 or Year 13 students interested in volunteering should sign up via Bromcom (a letter has been sent home).



Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 13.10.25

Raising Standards- a message from Mrs Hartley, Senior Assistant Headteacher

Thank You: Year 10 Skills for Success Evening.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all parents and carers who attended the Year 10 Skills for Success Evening last week. The evening was exceptionally well-attended, and we have received very positive feedback regarding the content. We were delighted to share important information on a range of crucial topics, including:

- Effective revision techniques for the GCSE transition.
- Detailed information regarding GCSE course content.
- Essential guidance on wellbeing and exam support as students manage their academic workload.

Your engagement and commitment to supporting your child's GCSE journey are invaluable, and we are confident that the information shared will significantly aid their preparation over the coming year.

Thank you once again for your enthusiastic participation.

Sporting Results

Yr 11 Football - (Meopham (2-3) Thamesview)

We had a strong start with a 2-0 lead by half time. We held a strong defence and communicated well across the pitch. However, in the second half we let frustration get the better of us and conceded 3 goals. Our goal scorers were **Jake O & Frankie M.** Player of the match goes to **Lewis M-W.**

Yr 9 Netball (festival against St Johns and St Georges)

Our first netball festival provided the team with essential pre-season experience. We started the day losing our first game, a result of early nervousness, lack of focus on passing, and lapses in defensive positioning. However, the true measure of the team was their ability to respond. By rotating players and testing different configurations on the court, they showed incredible tenacity and a determination to learn. This focus on improvement led to a strong finish, securing a decisive **6-0 victory** in the final game against St John's B-team. Our player of the match goes to **Sophie W.**

Year 7 Football (Meopham 3 - 3 Alkeden)

The Year 7 boys launched their Meopham football career with an unforgettable match against Alkeden. The team shot out to a commanding **2-0 lead**, but quickly found themselves battling back from a **3-2 deficit**. Showing incredible fighting spirit, they pushed hard and managed to equalize in the final four minutes, securing a sensational **3-3 draw** on their debut! What an exciting start to the season!

Moving Forward

As we approach the end of term - a term full of lots of hard work, tenacity and excellent achievements - I am sure all of our staff and young people are looking forward to a very well-deserved break. As you know, for the first time, we have an extended two-week October half-term so our young people have an extra week to relax and enjoy time with friends and family.

Reflecting on the past term, it has been wonderful to see all the excellent new initiatives that staff and students alike have been launching and embedding into the fabric of school life - from our excellent new Student Leadership team, to the expanding range of Enrichment opportunities available, to our exciting new House system - which has developed a lovely community feel within the school, and provides staff with lots of opportunities to celebrate our fantastic students wherever they are demonstrating our TRUE values: Tenacity, Respect, Unity and Excellence.

Of course, when our young people return from the holidays, refreshed and recuperated, there will be plenty more to get on with next term and plenty of exciting things on the horizon. We cannot wait.

In the meantime, I wish you all a restful break and look forward to seeing you next term!

Have a lovely week,

Mr Roberts