

Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome back everyone to another term at Meopham School! I hope you have all enjoyed the half-term break and are ready and raring to go for another couple of busy and exciting months. In particular, the very best of luck to our Year 11 and 13 students who undertake their mock exams over the next few weeks and a big well done to all of those dedicated students who were in school throughout the half-term as part of the Holiday Learning Programme. It was impressive to see so many students there and I am sure your tenacity and hard work will lead to some truly excellent results! Lots to update you on, of course, and lots more to celebrate too.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Ms Trueman** who has been promoted to the position of **Assistant Headteacher - Inclusion** following a successful interview process last term. Ms Trueman will continue to oversee the support of students with SEND across the school, but her remit will now also cover a range of other vital roles and responsibilities school-wide, including Young Carers, Pupil Premium, Looked After Children, Literacy/Oracy, English as an Additional Language and our Excellence Pathway. We are very confident she will be excellent in this new role.

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

Armistice Day - 11th November 2025

As we prepare to mark the annual **Armistice Day** at Meopham School next week, students will have the opportunity to show their respect and remembrance by wearing a poppy. **Sixth Form students** will be selling poppies throughout the school day and during break and lunch times for a **donation** over the course of the week.

All contributions go towards supporting the **Royal British Legion** and those affected by the conflict. We encourage **everyone to take part** and **wear a poppy to show respect**.



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Any students who are members of organisations such as **Cadets, Scouts, Guides or other service groups** are welcome to wear their **service uniform to school** on Tuesday 11th November.

There is an **additional opportunity** for students to mark this event by attending the **Armistice Day Parade and Service** hosted by Gravesham Borough Council in partnership with the Royal British Legion. The service will be held on **Tuesday, 11th November from 10.45am at the Community Square in Gravesend**. More information about this event and a sign-up form will be sent this week.

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:



Freya M (Year 8)- Contributing to the lesson and producing outstanding written work in French

James H (Year 8) - Demonstrating diligence in English

Kyle O (Year 8) - Demonstrating diligence in English

Aisya S (Year 8) - great adjustment to a new school and new class

Ollie B (Year 8)- An excellent piece of writing in French and consistently putting in maximum effort in class

Bella F (Year 7) - Amazing use of ambitious adjectives and other writing techniques in creative writing task

Chloe F (Year 7) - Amazing homework submitted each week. She has maintained such a high standard all throughout the term

Olivia Mc (Year 11) - Constant focus and engagement in learning. Great attitude to learning with continually high levels of effort displayed.

Leia S (Year 7) - Excellent engagement and questioning in Philosophy

Isabella N (Year 8) - Being an incredibly helpful Reception Helper

Harley A (Year 9)- Excellent map skills in Geography

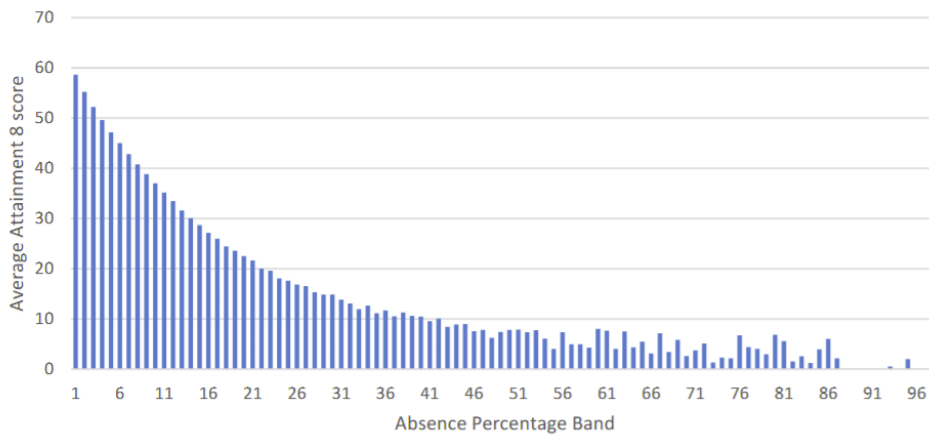
All students on this list will be invited to Headteacher Commendation on **Thursday at 12:30pm in Mr Roberts' office** for Domino's pizza and their certificates.

Attendance - a message from Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)

The graph below shows the **strong correlation between attendance and student outcomes**. Pupils with 99% attendance averaged +0.73 Progress 8, while even dropping to 90% attendance, reduced Progress 8 to -0.28 (Beynon, 2023).

This demonstrates that **higher attendance = better grades**. Students with 95-100% attendance in Year 11 are 1.9 times more likely to secure a grade 5+ in English and Maths than those at 90-95%; missing 10 extra days in Year 11 roughly halves the odds of a grade 5+ (Department for Education, 2025a).

Average Attainment 8 Score by Absence Percentage Band- Full Dataset



Key Messages

Academic Term Dates (Mrs Romney, Deputy Headteacher)

A reminder of the term dates for this academic year (2025-26):



**Meopham School
Term Dates 2025-2026 Academic Year**

| | |
|---|---|
| Staff Development Day | Monday 1st September 2025 |
| Term 1 Term 1 starts Term 1 ends | Tuesday 2nd September 2025 - Years 7 and 12 in school Wednesday 3rd September 2025 - All years in school Friday 17th October 2025 |
| Staff Development Day | Friday 26th September 2025 |
| Autumn Break | Monday 20th October 2025 to Friday 31st October 2025 |
| Term 2 Term 2 starts Term 2 ends | Monday 3rd November 2025 Friday 19th December 2025 |
| Christmas Break | Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026 |
| Christmas Bank Holiday New Years Day | Thursday 25th and Friday 26th December 2025 Thursday 1st January 2026 |
| Staff Development Day | Monday 5th January 2026 |
| Term 3 Term 3 starts Term 3 ends | Tuesday 6th January 2026 Friday 13th February 2026 |
| Winter Break | Monday 16th February 2026 to Friday 20th February 2026 |
| Term 4 Term 4 starts Term 4 ends | Monday 23rd February 2026 Friday 27th March 2026 |
| Good Friday Easter Monday | Friday 3rd April 2026 Monday 6th April 2026 |
| Easter break | Monday 30th March 2026 to Friday 10th April 2026 |
| Term 5 Term 5 starts Term 5 ends | Monday 13th April 2026 Friday 22nd May 2026 |
| Whitsun break | Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026 |
| Early May Bank Holiday Spring Bank Holiday | Monday 4th May 2026 Monday 25th May 2026 |
| Term 6 Term 6 starts: Term 6 ends: | Monday 1st June 2026 Friday 24th July 2026 |
| Staff Development Days | Wednesday 24th June 2026 Monday 27th July 2026 |
| Summer Bank Holiday | Monday 31st August 2026 |

In addition, the term dates for 2026-27 have now been confirmed and can be seen below.



Meopham School Term Dates 2026-2027 Academic Year

| | |
|---|--|
| Staff Development Day | Tuesday 1st September 2026 |
| Term 1 Term 1 starts | Wednesday 2nd September 2026 - Years 7 and 12 in school Thursday 3rd September 2026 - All years in school |
| Term 1 ends | Tuesday 20th October 2026 |
| Autumn Break | Wednesday 21st October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026 |
| Term 2 Term 2 starts | Monday 2nd November 2026 |
| Term 2 ends | Friday 18th December 2026 |
| Christmas Break | Monday 21st December 2026 to Friday 1st January 2027 |
| Christmas Bank Holiday New Years Day | Friday 25th and Monday 28th December 2026 Friday 1st January 2027 |
| Term 3 Term 3 starts | Monday 4th January 2027 |
| Term 3 ends | Friday 12th February 2027 |
| Winter Break | Monday 15th February 2027 to Friday 19th February 2027 |
| Term 4 Term 4 starts | Monday 22nd February 2027 |
| Term 4 ends | Thursday 25th March 2027 |
| Good Friday Easter Monday | Friday 26th March 2027 Monday 29th March 2027 |
| Easter break | Friday 26th March 2027 to Friday 9th April 2027 |
| Term 5 Term 5 starts | Monday 12th April 2027 |
| Term 5 ends | Friday 28th May 2027 |
| Whitsun break | Monday 31st May 2027 to Friday 4th June 2027 |
| Early May Bank Holiday Spring Bank Holiday | Monday 3rd May 2027 Monday 31st May 2027 |
| Term 6 Term 6 starts: | Monday 7th June 2027 |
| Term 6 ends: | Friday 23rd July 2027 |
| Staff Development Days | Monday 26th July 2027 |
| Summer Bank Holiday | Monday 30th August 2027 |

3 other Staff Development Days to be confirmed

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

This week we revisit **assessment for learning** (AfL), as this is such an important part of everything we do in our classrooms. Also known as formative assessment, AfL is a teaching and learning approach that uses feedback to improve student performance. It involves gathering information about a student's current understanding and using it to guide both teaching and learning strategies, with the ultimate goal of closing the gap between where the student is and where they need to be.

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How it works:

AfL provides continuous feedback along the way, rather than just at the end of a unit of work. It is as useful to the teacher as the student, as it allows for adjustments to planning and teaching, providing additional support or addressing misconceptions. It also empowers students to become more active in their learning, understanding their targets for development. Finally, it focuses on progress and growth, rather than just final outcomes. This allows for the focus to be on the accumulation of skills and understanding, rather than solely addressing one particular task.

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

A gentle reminder for Year 13 parents/carers that we have Canterbury Christ Church University visiting on **Thursday 6th November, 5pm - 6pm** to deliver a **UCAS and Student Finance Information Evening**. This will be held in the School Library. Please arrive at Reception by 4.45pm.

Year 11 Mock Exams start on Tuesday 4th November and go on until Thursday 13th November. Please ensure your child is in school for 8.30am for the pre-exam line up and has the correct equipment for their exams.

All students have been sent a personalised exam timetable.

A huge wave of good luck goes out to all our Year 11 students taking their mock exams. Remember this is your chance to **practise under pressure**. Approach the papers calmly, stay tenacious, and show us how far you've come. We are rooting for you!

Upcoming notice

Year 13 Mock Exams will run from Tuesday 17th November to Friday 21st November. All Year 13 students have been given their mock timetable and revision materials will be placed on Google Classroom in the subject areas.

House System Update (Miss Hodd, Assistant Headteacher - Cultural Capital and Attendance)

Congratulations to all those in **WALMER** House, our **Term 1 winners!** House Point totals will be announced at the end of every term, here are last term's totals:

Chilham - 7,862

Hever - 7,844

Scotney - 8,035

Walmer - 8,415



Moving Forward

As we embark upon another term, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind families of the importance of regular attendance to school. November is our **Attendance Awareness Month**, where we will provide daily posts on our social media channels relating to attendance and the important role it plays in improving young people's future prospects. As the mornings get darker and colder, we all know it feels like more of a struggle to get up in the morning (one reason I take the controversial step of having an advent calendar throughout November as well as December - a find the chocolate acts as an effective incentive!) However, it is important our students remain tenacious and - wherever possible - ensure they are in school on time and ready to learn. We don't want any of our students to miss out on the excellent opportunities that await them this term: there is lots to learn, lots to do and lots to enjoy!

Have a wonderful week,

Mr Roberts