

Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome back to another week at Meopham School! It was an incredibly busy first week back - with Year 11 mocks in full-swing and a number of important events happening across the school - but it was lovely to see all of our students after an extended break, and we were very impressed with how quickly they settled into the new term, working hard and learning from the get-go. Plenty to update you on, and a few more words from me at the end of this newsletter!

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

Monday 10th November - Odd Socks Day

We are once again taking part in **Odd Socks Day** this Monday to mark **Anti-Bullying week** and celebrate what makes us all unique. It's a fun and positive way for children and adults to express themselves and to remind everyone that we are all different – and that's something to be proud of!

We are also raising money for the **Anti-Bullying Alliance**. Every penny raised helps them continue their vital work with children and young people.



Tuesday 11th November - Armistice Day

This Tuesday, we will be marking **Armistice Day** with an **assembly** for Year 7 students. The assembly will include the commemorative period of silence, a reading of **Flander's Field** from our **Head Students** and a rendition of **The Last Post** from **Mr Goldsmith**.

We are grateful to see so many students keen to donate to support this year's **Poppy Appeal**. Lots of students purchased poppies in school last week and have worn their poppies with pride.

Year 7 students have also worked hard this week to create their own **poppies for displays** in our school Dining Hall. We look forward to marking this year's Armistice Day on Tuesday.





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KYCC Elections - 10th - 21st November

We are very excited to announce that two of our students at Meopham School will have their names included on ballot papers for this year's **Kent Youth County Council Elections**.

All students will have the **opportunity to experience voting in an election** in school and will also have the choice to vote online: www.kent.gov.uk/kyccelections

We wish both **Sienna** (Year 8) and **Jack** (Year 10) the best of luck in the elections and would like to praise their initiative in putting themselves forward.



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:

Tom T & Henri L (Year 8) - Excellent focus in English

Evander K (Year 10) - Excellent Geography work when answering GCSE exam questions

Sienna S (Year 8) - Fantastic reception helper of the week

Aedan C & Sabegh C (Year 13) - Outstanding interpretation of the end of King John's reign in a History lesson

Oliver W & Ethan R (Year 9) - Exemplary work in DT

Isabelle W (Year 9) - Excellent effort in writing in French lessons

Ethan T, Mollie Q, Skye I & Reggie C (Year 7) - Diligence in English

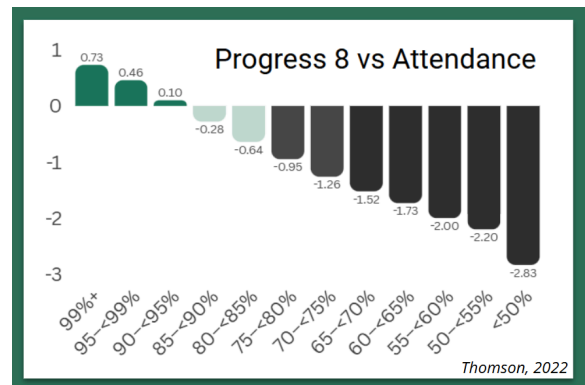
Jagsirat K (Year 8) - Consistently high standards in French lessons

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)

Nationally, students with 99% attendance achieve **over a grade better in GCSEs** than those at 90% (Beynon, 2023).

In Year 11, students with over 95% attendance are nearly **twice as likely to pass English and Maths** at grade 5+ compared with those at 90-95% (DfE, 2025a).



Key Messages

Uniform Mr A Wood (Assistant Headteacher)

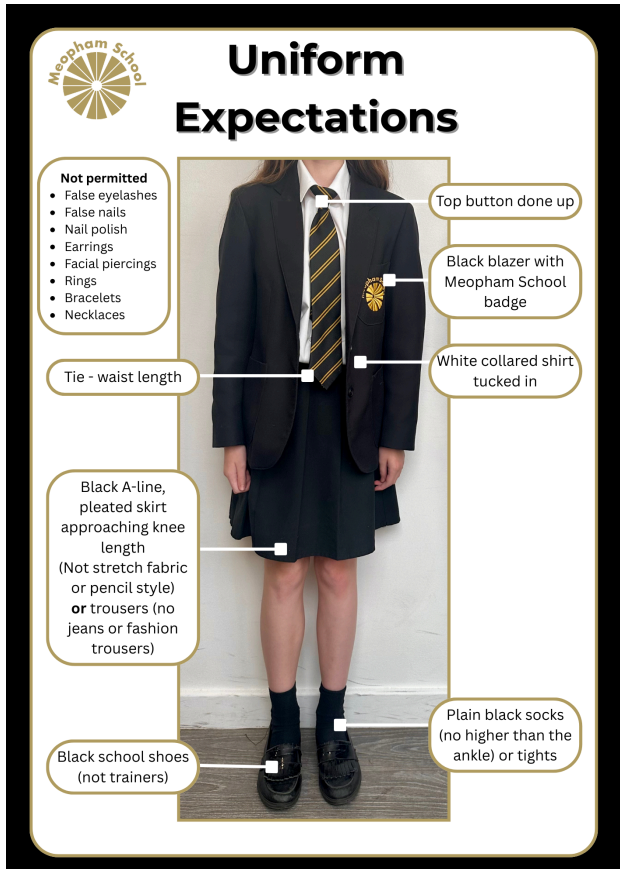
Returning to school after two weeks of half term, we are reminding students of the expectations of the school uniform and school conduct standards.

As ever, we will continue to monitor and ensure the standards are consistently met and unfortunately there are sanctions when uniform standards are not being met.

This is a timely reminder to remember prohibited items such as false nails, fake eyelashes, earrings, trainers must not be worn in school.

Students will be reminded of the expectations, not only on the gate as they arrive but consistently throughout the school day and most importantly on the thresholds of their classrooms

Thank you for your support to ensure our students are as smart as they can be and as prepared for later life as they can be.



Meopham School

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

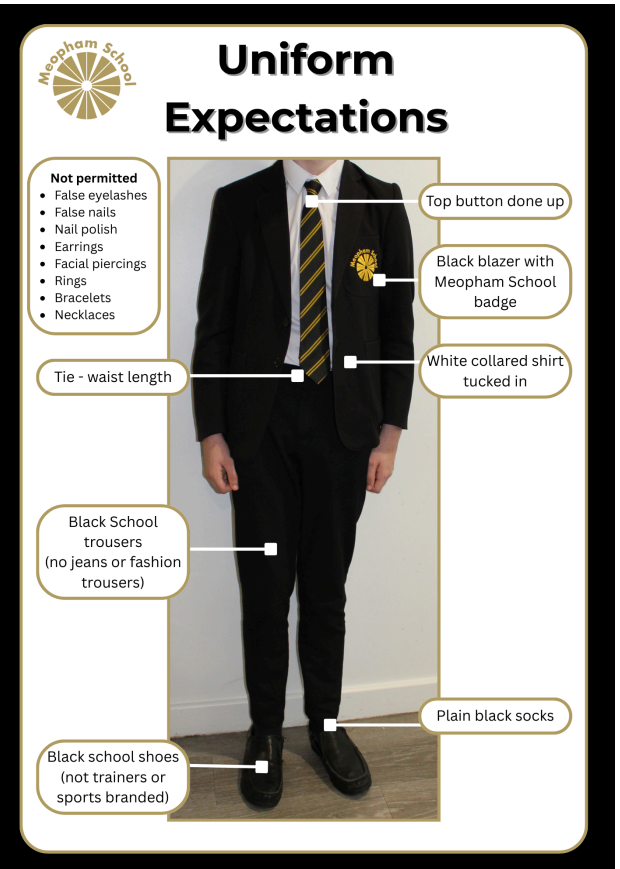
White collared shirt tucked in

Tie - waist length

Black 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)



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- 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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Punctuality- Mrs Davies -Lane (Assistant Headteacher)

As a school we have had a major drive on punctuality as we understand the importance of not missing any vital learning time. In Term 1 we introduced the 5 minute travel time for students in between lessons so that students had plenty of time to get from one lesson to another in adequate time. We have noticed a huge improvement in the number of students that are being punctual to their lessons but unfortunately a small number of students are still arriving late and receiving detentions.

Each week a late report is run which calculates the number of minutes late students are throughout the week. At this point students are sanctioned for their lateness.

You can now use your MCAS APP to look at your child's timetable day to day to see if they have been late to any lessons and this will be highlighted in PINK.

Young Carers - Ms Trueman (Assistant Headteacher - Inclusion)

Please find this month's Young Carer's Newsletter from Kent County Council via this [link](#).

If you would like any advice or further information about anything that is contained within the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me through the communication portal.

Sixth Form Open Evening - Wednesday 12th November 4.30pm - 7pm (Mrs Romney - Deputy Headteacher)

A reminder to all Year 11 students and parents/carers of our Sixth Form Open Evening this week. This will not only be a chance to speak to staff and students about the courses we offer, but will also provide key information regarding the application process for all Year 11 students, no matter what they are planning for next year.

All Year 11 students should have received log in details for Kent Choices: www.kentprospectus.co.uk. This is where students can search, and apply for sixth forms, colleges, training providers and apprenticeships. We will be supporting students in navigating this through their Personal Development lessons this term.

To support Year 11 students in making informed choices about their plans for next year, we also have our **Sixth Form Taster Day on Friday 12th December**. Students will not follow their usual timetable on this day, but will instead have the opportunity to trial a range of lessons from subjects they are interested in studying next year. More details will be shared regarding this nearer the time.

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

Diagnostic marking is a type of formative assessment in education that involves providing specific feedback to identify a student's misconceptions, strengths,



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and weaknesses, enabling teachers to adjust their lessons and provide targeted support. It differs from traditional marking by focusing on the why behind errors to inform future teaching, rather than just assigning a score. This can be achieved through written comments in student work, one-on-one dialogue, or through standardized diagnostic questions and tests.

Key principles and methods:

Focus on misconceptions not mistakes: uncover the root of the student's error, not just identify that an error has been made;

Inform future teaching: use this feedback to plan future lessons, adjust content, reteach concepts or provide targeted support;

Dialogue and discussion: creates dialogue between the teacher and student, to help move learning forward. This is responded to in green pen so that the teacher can see the progress and improved understanding.

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



We were delighted to host a successful and highly informative university application evening for our Year 13 students and their parents/guardians, featuring a fantastic presentation from **Canterbury Christ Church University**. The evening provided essential, in-depth guidance on applying for university and understanding Student Finance.

We received excellent feedback from the families who attended, noting how very useful and comprehensive the information was. We extend our sincere thanks to Canterbury Christ Church University for their support in preparing our students for their next significant step into higher education.

Year 11

A huge **well done** to our Year 11 students for their tenacious and mature approach to their current mock exams. We are incredibly proud of the effort and focus you have demonstrated so far. There is one week to go, which can often be the hardest. Remember to keep focused, revise and get plenty of rest. Keep pushing right until the very last exam!

To further support Year 11, we are pleased to announce the opening of a **quiet revision room available for Year 11 students during lunchtime**. This space is dedicated solely to private study and revision. We trust you will use this valuable resource sensibly and responsibly to maximise your learning and get a lot out of it.



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Year 13

On **Monday, November 17th**, our Year 13 students will begin their final set of mock examinations. These are a vital opportunity to hone your exam technique, identify areas for final revision, and prepare for the intensity of the summer.

To all our Year 13 students: **you are well-prepared, determined, and talented. Approach these mocks with confidence and treat them as the invaluable practice they are. Focus on the process, manage your time wisely and do your best. Good luck!**

Community Events

Message from Gravesham Borough Council:

The Gravesend Christmas Lights Switch-On promises to be a magical event for families, students and the whole community. This is a free event.



Event Highlights:

- * Spectacular light displays
- * Live entertainment
- * Family-friendly activities
- * A joyful countdown to the big switch-on!



Date: Saturday 15th November



Location: Gravesend Town Centre

Please see the link below to a dedicated page with all the details:

<https://gravesham.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/gravesham-christmas-lights>.

Message from D and S Swim School, please see the information below:

6 WEEK SWIMMING COURSE ** INTRODUCTORY OFFER **



WE ONLY CHARGE £33 A MONTH OVER 2 MONTHLY INSTALMENTS

WE HAVE SWIMMING LESSON 40 MINUTES EVERY WEEK WHICH IS FANTASTIC FOR CORE SWIMMING.

CLASS SIZES ARE REALLY SMALL MAX OF 4 CHILDREN AND YOU REALLY WILL NOTICE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN CONFIDENCE AND ABILITY, AS LOTS OF INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION WITH TEACHERS IN THE POOL UP TO THE LENGTH SWIMMERS

WE TEACH AT COBHAM HALL

MONDAY'S - FRIDAY'S FROM 4.50pm

SATURDAY'S BETWEEN 8.30-3.30PM

SUNDAYS BETWEEN 12-2PM

We also Teach & Help Children with Additional *needs*

Please email dandsswimschool@gmail.com

Sports Results

Year 8 Netball Festival

The Year 8s have started the netball season practising their skills at the local Netball festival. Meopham competed against, St Georges, Dartford Science & Technology College, St Johns and Northfleet School for Girls. Unfortunately, the team were disheartened as they lost their games, however, the team showed excellent tenacity throughout the tournament. Our player of the match goes to **Hally**, even when it was tough defending against the other team, she didn't give up and tried her best.

This week, we have three exciting netball fixtures lined up! We look forward to reporting on great performances and scores in the next update.

Moving Forward

The term is now in full swing and (as is always the case) it feels like we were never away! I started this week talking to students in assembly about the importance of having pride in your work and always presenting the very best of what you can do. As the school year progresses, you tend to find that presentation in books can start to slip, but it is so important to keep those high standards. We showed some examples in the assembly of some excellent books where you could really tell students were putting in their very best and had real pride in their accomplishments.

This is not about having the neatest handwriting (you'd only have to look at my marking to tell handwriting has never been one of my strengths!) but making sure all books and all work is a reflection of how seriously our students take their work and indeed themselves. As we went through in assembly, ensuring you always present your work to a high standard is an invaluable life skill, as those who go above and beyond to deliver their best will always be well-respected in their work.

We've also talked a lot about attendance, particularly as it is our trust's **Attendance Awareness Month**. We appreciate that we talk about this a lot but we make no apology for this - it is an incredibly important topic. Unfortunately, we still have a high proportion of students who are Persistently Absent and - whilst our attendance this year has seen a huge improvement - in the last two days of last term, a lot of students missed school. This is hugely disruptive, not just to their own learning but the learning of others, as upon their return to school teachers then have to spend time catching students up on missed work while other students are not getting teachers' focus and attention. We provided an extended half-term break to give our students more of an opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends but - during term time - every school day matters. Of course, there will sometimes be perfectly legitimate reasons why a student cannot be in school, but in general, it is vital students are in school as much as possible. It significantly improves their academic progress and future life chances.



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Ultimately, we care about our students' attendance as we care about their long-term wellbeing, which is best served by regular attendance to school. We are so proud of all of our students, who have faced real challenges during their childhood due to the pandemic, and are so grateful to our families for supporting us in ensuring our students get back on track - despite these challenges - and go on to lead happy, successful lives as adults.

Have a lovely week,

Mr Roberts