

Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome back to another week at Meopham School. It's been a very busy start to this term and there has been a great going on across the school community over the past week! Whether it be the high turnout for our local youth elections, the dedication and discipline our Year 11s have shown throughout their mock examinations or the excellent way our students conducted themselves during our remembrance day commemorations, our students have given us a lot of reasons to be very proud indeed. Lots more going on soon, so lots on which to update you as usual!

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

Commemorating Armistice Day - 11th November

Meopham School marked Armistice Day this year in a variety of ways. Year 7 students began by creating some **handmade poppies** for a remembrance display in the center of our school.



On Armistice Day itself, Year 7 students attended an assembly which was streamed live to the rest of the school. The assembly included a reading of ***In Flander's Field*** by Sabegh, our Head Boy and a rendition of ***The Last Post*** played by Mr Goldsmith as well as the two minutes silence of reflection.



Beyond school, **16 students** represented Meopham at the **Armistice Day Parade and Service in Gravesend**, proudly wearing their school uniform or the uniform of the organisations they serve outside of school. All students did well to demonstrate both **pride and respect** throughout these events.





Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 17.11.25

KYCC Elections 10th - 21st November

We are one week into our **KYCC elections** and are proud to see so many students deciding to vote for who they feel would best represent young people in Gravesham.

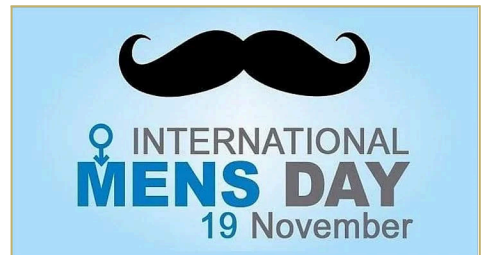
Students are encouraged to vote for the **candidate and campaign** they feel will have a positive impact on the lives of young people. Our **Polling Station** is set up in the school's Dining Hall and is open for voting **every lunchtime**. If your child has not yet voted, please encourage them to do so.

I would like to again take this opportunity to congratulate **Sienna** (Year 8) and **Jack** (Year 10) for putting themselves forward as Gravesham candidates for KYCC.

The last day for voting in school will be **Friday 21st November** and online voting closes on **Sunday 23rd November**. Election results will be available from noon on **Friday 5th December**.

International Men's Day - 19th November

This week, we will be marking **International Men's Day** and students will be encouraged to talk openly about men's **mental health**. Students will also have the opportunity to write a **postcard of thanks** to their choice of family member, friend or teacher.



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:



Isabella N & Jessie R (Year 8) - Achieving 100% on their Philosophy assessments.

Dilpreet D & Toni D (Year 10) - Demonstrating professionalism when volunteering to support the Sixth Form Open Evening as Year 10 Future Leaders.

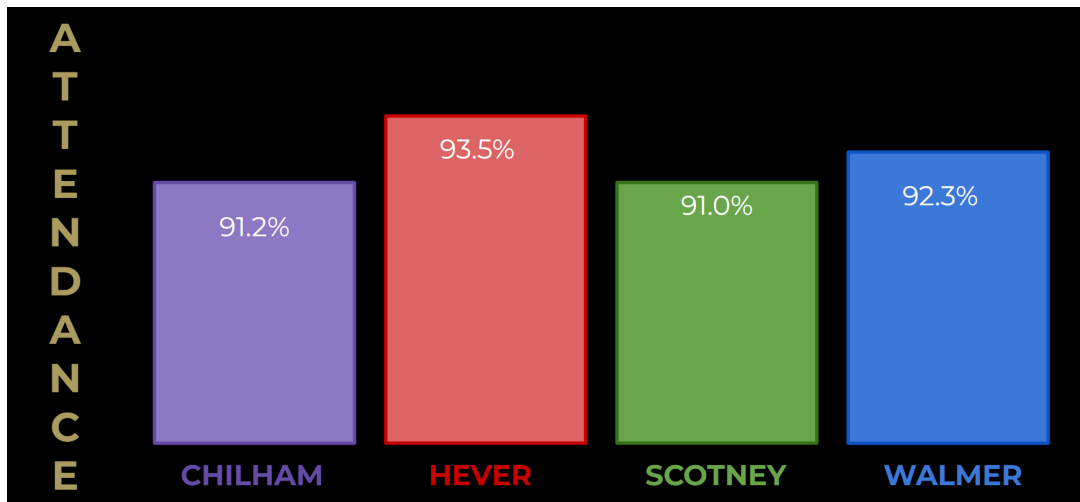
Harry P (Year 9) - Excellent work in Geography and motivation to excel in the subject.

Charlotte G & Lola G (Year 10) - Outstanding work in a Personal Development lesson when learning about healthy relationships.

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)

As Swale Academies Trust schools mark **Attendance Awareness Month**, I wanted to share the cumulative attendance percentage data for each of our four Houses. **A huge well done to Hever** who have recently overtaken Walmer and are in the lead by **1.2%**! All of our students have an opportunity to see how this data changes on a weekly basis and school attendance is regularly rewarded.



Key Messages

Year 11 Parent/Carer Consultation Evening (a message from Deputy Headteacher Mrs Romney and Raising Standards Leader Miss Bland)

It was great to see so many Year 11 students and parents at our Sixth Form Open Evening last week, and we have also been very impressed with their behaviour and attitude throughout their mock examinations. We know this is a busy term, and so want to draw attention to our Year 11 Parent and Carers Consultation Evening, which takes place on **Wednesday 10th December**. We will be sending out more information and details on how to book appointments nearer the time, but please add this date to your diary.

Year 11 Mock Exams (a message from Head of Year 11, Mr Whittle)

The Year 11 Culture and Ethos Team wants to say a huge well done to all Year 11 students for their incredible performance over the past two weeks! I want to personally congratulate you all on the hard work you have put in, but also on the manner in which you approached this crucial period.

We are incredibly proud of the exemplary conduct and effort displayed by all Year 11 students during the mock exam period. Their maturity, focus, and adherence to formal procedures were outstanding, demonstrating the discipline essential for their summer GCSEs. While we celebrate this success, the most critical work begins now: students must engage fully with their mock results as a detailed roadmap. They now need to analyse their feedback over the coming weeks to identify areas of improvement and strategically adjust their revision plans to close specific gaps in learning and misconceptions.



Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 17.11.25

This continued effort and dedication in the coming weeks will support your success in the final examinations. Keep up this magnificent effort!

Site improvements (a message from Deputy Headteacher, Mr McQuillan)

Our site improvements continue and you may have seen that there are now new knee-rails at the front of school, and we have improved the student safety in the car park area with temporary barriers - these will be replaced with permanent barriers in due course.

We have also re-painted the double-yellow lines and some road markings to reduce parking in unsafe areas - can we please re-iterate that parking in these areas makes it unsafe for our students. We would ask parents / carers to use the designated bays and drop-off areas when picking-up and drop-off.

In response to parent/carer requests, we have now coned off six visitor-bays at the front of school for parents/carers to use when visiting reception/coming into school for meetings.

New cleaning contractors (a message from Deputy Headteacher, Mr McQuillan)

As part of our drive to improve the appearance and cleanliness of the school site, the trust has engaged the services of Cleantec, an employee owned and operated cleaning company to take over the running of the school's cleaning function. Cleantec will be providing training for our cleaners and will be employing a number of new cleaners - all of which should continue to improve the overall cleanliness for both colleagues and students.

Punctuality (a message from Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Davies-Lane)

Since the start of term we have seen a huge improvement in the punctuality of students to lessons. Many more hours of learning time have been secured due to our built in 5 minute change over time. Our tannoy system allows students to clearly hear a count down so that they arrive at their lessons on time. We will continue this drive on punctuality by issuing detentions for those students that are still not meeting our high standards on this. **Please remember that you can see lates on your child's timetable using the My Child At School (MCAS) app and this will be highlighted in pink.**

School Photos (a message from Assistant Headteacher, Mr Wood)

All photos that have been ordered will be distributed to the students on Monday 17th November during tutor time. If any students do not collect their photos for any reason they will be available for collection from their Head of Year's Offices.

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

This term we have been speaking to students about the importance of excellence in their exercise books. Good presentation in exercise books is vital, not only because it indicates student pride and care, but also aids in easier marking and revision, and helps develop essential skills like organization and attention to detail. It reflects a student's perception of the work's importance and can make it easier for them to understand

their own learning journey, as well as helping teachers identify and address misconceptions.

Our expectations of work in exercise books are that:

- Titles and dates are underlined;
- Classwork is written in blue or black pen, or green pen in response to teacher marking;
- Pages should not be ripped, and doodles are not acceptable;
- Diagrams should be drawn in pencil.

Whilst we will always take into account that some students struggle with their handwriting, everyone can ensure their work and books are well presented as per the expectations above and demonstrate excellence in learning.

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

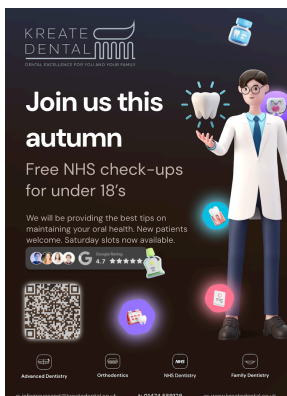
Year 13 begin their mock exams next week, and we are proud of the commitment they have shown so far this year. These exams are an important opportunity to practise exam skills and identify next steps. With steady preparation and support at home and school, we are confident our students will approach the week with focus and determination. The best of luck Year 13.

A big well done to Year 11 for their hard work during the mocks. We now look forward to using the feedback to guide you through your next steps, strengthen learning, and prepare confidently for the summer exams.

Community Messages

Message from Kreate Dental :

We currently have NHS dental spaces available for children and young people under the age of 18. Registration is quick and easy, parents/carers can call us on 01474 567167 or email info@gravesend@kreatedental.co.uk . Alternatively, they are welcome to visit our practice at Kreate Dental, Gravesend, Northfleet, DA11 8JT during opening hours.



Moving Forward

Moving through the school each day last week, it was evident there was so much to be proud of at Meopham School. A highlight for me was chairing our Debating Society's inaugural debate, with two Sixth Form teams debating the motion: *this House believes capital punishment should be legalised in the United Kingdom* (on this occasion, the opposition were successful in the students' final vote). Just one example this week of our students striving for excellence and engaging in the wider life of the school.

We've also had many visitors to the school recently who have commented on the excellent conduct of our students around the school. Many have passed on comments directly to me about our students' smart presentation and manners across the school. Of course, no one is perfect and - working with teenagers - youngsters will sometimes make mistakes, but overall we are really proud of how well our students now conduct themselves.

Last year, I emphasised that improving conduct across the school was a focus and that this year our focus would turn to our students' attendance and punctuality. This is so vital, because the improvements we continually wish to make to our school only matter if students are regularly here and benefitting from them: learning from their teachers; enjoying time with their friends and grasping all of the opportunities the school offers.

Improving attendance is not about school league tables or figures; it's about improving life chances. This is the only reason it matters to us. A wide range of studies show that students with higher attendance have improved life chances, in terms of exam success, onward destinations and future life earnings. We come to school every day to improve our students' lives, both now and in the future. It is what drives us. Consequently, we are committed to improving their attendance. We appreciate - especially in the modern world - there are challenges our young people face that can make this difficult. But we are here to support those students who struggle. We work very closely with Kent County Council on a bespoke programme to support individual families, and we recently hired a dedicated Attendance Advisory Officer to offer further guidance and help. If your family ever needs help with improving your child's attendance at all, we are here for you. Together, as a team, we will provide our young people with the very best possible start to adult life.

I hope you all have a wonderful week, and we will speak to you again next Monday.

Regards,

Mr Roberts
Headteacher