

**Headteacher's Welcome**

I hope everyone has had a great weekend, which I'm sure for many will have involved dusting off the Christmas decorations and getting the tree sorted! With Christmas now around the corner, there's plenty of exciting stuff happening at the school that we are looking forward to getting students involved in!

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

**Local Community Group - Christmas Concert**

As a school, we work closely with **local community groups**. One of these includes the **Gravesham with Ebbsfleet Rotary Club**, who have supported us with enrichment opportunities such as celebrating events and practicing job interviews with our students.

This year, their **Christmas Concert** will be taking place at **St George's Church in Gravesend on Saturday 6th December**. Ticket prices are included on the poster with all proceeds going towards **Salvation Army**, a very important cause. Tickets can be purchased online at [jumblebee.co.uk/rotarychristmasconcert](http://jumblebee.co.uk/rotarychristmasconcert) or via the QR code attached.



**House Assemblies - Tuesday 9th December**



**567**



**548**



**576**



**623**

We are excited to announce that we will be starting our **termly House Assemblies** on **Tuesday 9th December**. House assemblies will take place at the end of each term and this dedicated time will bring together **all students and staff within their respective Houses** for a focused and celebratory end to the term.

We're looking forward to celebrating the **successes of our students** and **enhancing our House identities** as a school!

**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:

**DG Kneif** (Year 8) - Always actively involved in interventions and making positive progress; all of his teachers state that he is a pleasure to teach.

**Harrison L & Thomas J** (Year 11) - For an excellent performance in their recent English Language Mock Exam

**Jerome N** (Year 8) - Producing an excellent descriptive piece with great vocabulary

**Kayden M** (Year 8) - Creating a lovely piece of English poetry, using techniques used from 19th century poems

**Maisey Mc & Lucy N** (Year 9) - Excellent collaborative work when planning a film trailer composition in Music

**Joey B** (Year 8) - A notable effort made in English

**Neneh J** (Year 8) - Tenacity in English

**Archie W & Charlie C** (Year 10) - Excellent participation and work in English

**PoppyW & Erin B-L** (Year 9) - Excellent demonstration of teamwork in English

**Akshara T** (Year 12) - Planning and teaching an amazing lesson to her peers in Health & Social Care, including a starter and plenary activity!

**Kira W** (Year 10) - Positive engagement, focus and participation in Maths

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)**

**House points for 100% weekly attendance** continue to be given to all students who have been in school for a full week. Any students who have achieved **100% for Term 1 & 2** will receive their **bronze 100% badge** during next week's House assemblies. Well done to all students receiving these awards for their **commitment to excellent school attendance.**



**Sporting Results**

**Year 7 Netball vs St John's**

Despite being a player down, the Year 7 team showed incredible tenacity and are growing stronger together. They fought hard in defense but ultimately lost. Player of the Match: Mercedes P for her constant improvement and support across the court. *(Next up: focusing on attack and shooting!)*

**Year 9 Netball vs St John's**

A determined effort in their first league game! The team's strong defensive start battled against a powerful attacking side, but they fell short, losing 8-3. They showed great fighting spirit throughout. Player of the Match: Nethra (team nominated).

### **Year 9 vs St George's: An Eight-Goal Battle!**

Our Year 9 team faced a tough St George's side and delivered a gripping game. We were up 3-1 at halftime, but St George's clawed it back to 3-3. A quick response put us back ahead at 4-3, only for the opponents to equalize with the very last kick, finishing a thrilling 4-4 draw! Goal Scorers: Sheldon N, Stanley S, Alfie M, and Bobby F. Player of the Match: Billy M for his superb performance and tenacity.

### **Year 8: Two Huge Wins to Start the Season!**

Tuesday vs Northfleet Technology College: a **6-1 WIN!** What a start! The Year 8s kicked off their season with a dominant 6-1 victory over NTC.

Goal Scorers: Zion D, Raymond O, Harley M (Yr 7), and Stanley S. Player of the Match: Zion D for his stunning hat-trick!

THURSDAY vs Orchards Academy: a **4-2 WIN!** The winning streak continues! The boys secured another great result.. Goal Scorers: Raymond O, Zion D, Ovidiu D, and Jared C.

## **Key Messages**

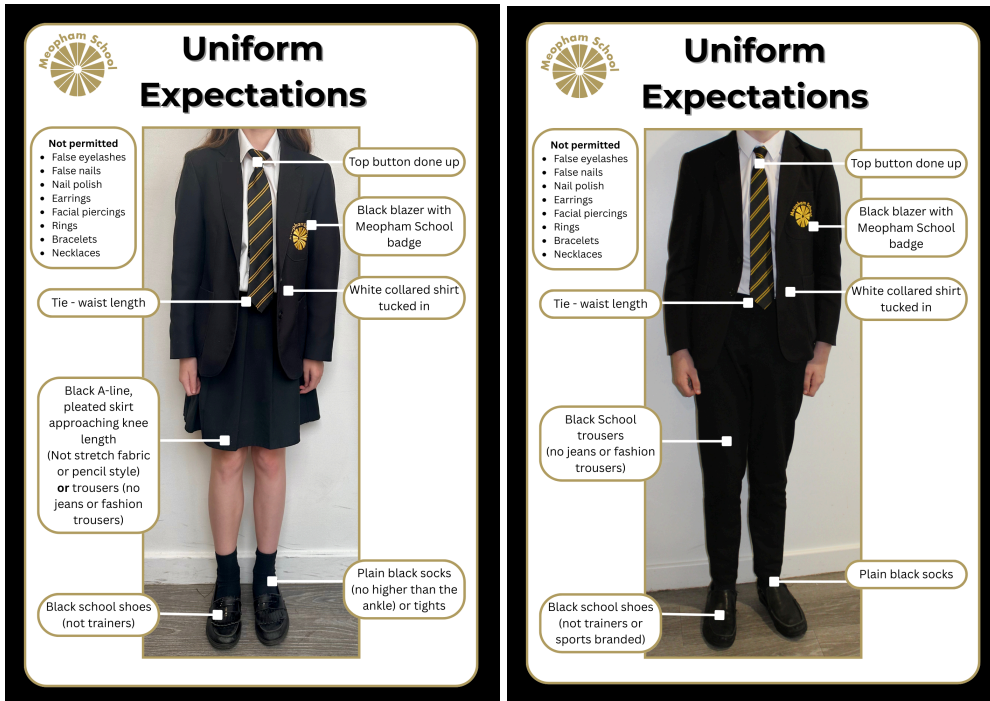
### **Punctuality - Mrs Davies-Lane (Assistant Headteacher)**

We are making huge progress with students' punctuality to lessons with the number of students arriving late on a steadily downward trend. Can we ask that you remind your child that the tannoy system is set to give them plenty of time to get to their lessons with a 5 minute window, supported by clear count downs from 3 minutes onwards. If a student does arrive late to their lesson then the teacher will mark this on their register with the minutes late recorded. **To see this at home you can access your My Child At School (MCAS) app; late marks will be indicated in pink.** Minutes late are added up throughout the week and a C4 or C5 sanction will be issued.

### **Uniform Expectations - Mr Wood (Assistant Headteacher)**

Just a reminder with three school weeks remaining until the end of term 2 that uniform expectations need to be met throughout the whole school day. Some students' uniform does start to slack as the day progresses. Sanctions can be given for poor uniform at any point during the day.

A uniform reminder this week will focus on students ensuring they are **not wearing coats in corridors** and all **skirts approaching the knee.**



**Year 11 Parent/Carer Consultation Evening (Wednesday 10th December) - Mrs Romney (Deputy Headteacher)**

We are looking forward to inviting Year 11 students and their families to our **Parent/Carer Consultation Evening on Wednesday 10th December**. The evening will run from **4.15pm until 6.45pm**. More information will be sent out later this week with information on how to book appointments, which go live on Wednesday 3rd December.

**Year 11 'Sixth Form Taster Day' (Friday 12th December) - Mrs Romney (Deputy Headteacher)**

Year 11 students are beginning to make their choices about their next steps beyond GCSE. To support this, they will be partaking in our annual Sixth Form 'Taster Day' on **Friday 12th December**. Here they will have the chance to experience a day in the life of a Sixth Form student. If they haven't already done so, they should complete the [Google Form](#) to identify their chosen courses. More information will be coming out later this week.

To help facilitate this day, **students in Year 12 and 13 will not be in school on Friday 12th December**, and instead will have an independent study day. More information on what this will involve will be sent out later this week.

**Vaccinations (Wednesday 3rd December) - Mrs Romney (Deputy Headteacher)**

A reminder that students who have signed up for their flu vaccination will receive this on **Wednesday 3rd December**. These will take place in the Killick Hall. A schedule of events will be shared with students in school.



# Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 01.12.25

## End of Term Arrangements - Mrs Romney (Deputy Headteacher)

**Our last day of term is Friday 19th December.** Students will be finishing at the end of Period 4 at **12.40pm**. We have been in contact with the bus companies so that they are aware of the early finishing time.

Term 2 starts for students on Tuesday 6th January 2026, as **Monday 5th January is a Staff Training Day.**

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

You may have heard your child talking about using 'mini whiteboards' in lessons. Mini whiteboards are highly effective in supporting teaching and learning because they serve as a powerful tool for instant, whole-class formative assessment. This also significantly boosts student engagement and allows for immediate, responsive teaching.

**Immediate Feedback and Assessment:** Teachers can quickly scan all students' responses to a question simultaneously to gauge overall class understanding, and spot common misconceptions in real-time. This allows for instant verbal feedback and targeted intervention without delay.

**Increased Engagement and Participation:** Every student is required to provide an answer, ensuring active participation from all, including quieter or less confident students who might not raise their hands. This holds all students accountable for their learning and ensures no one is left out.

**Low-Stakes Environment for Risk-Taking:** The erasable nature of whiteboards removes the fear of making a permanent mistake in an exercise book. Students are more willing to "have a go" and experiment with new ideas, spellings, or calculations because errors can be quickly wiped away.

**Versatility:** They can be used across all subjects and levels for a wide range of activities, including retrieval starters, drawing diagrams, solving math problems, vocabulary checks, and exit tickets.

**Technology-Free:** They do not rely on technology or internet access, meaning they can be used anywhere and do not add to screen time.

The simplicity and functionality of mini whiteboards provide a highly effective way for teachers to make their teaching truly responsive to the immediate needs of their students.

## Year 11 - a message from Mrs Hartley, Senior Assistant Headteacher - Raising Standards and Sixth Form

Please note that on Thursday 4th December, our Year 11 students will participate in a special **Mock Results Reveal Assembly** where they will receive their mock GCSE results in a formal ceremony designed to mirror the actual Results Day in August. We stage this event to provide a crucial rehearsal for the real experience, giving students an important reality check and a clear indication of the effort required for success. The

# Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 01.12.25

results are a vital roadmap, not a final judgement, allowing us to pinpoint specific areas for improvement so every student can focus their efforts and maximise their potential before the summer examinations. We wish all our Year 11 students the best.

## **The Christmas Cracker 2025**

This year's Christmas Cracker show will be taking place in the evening of **Tuesday 16th December**. The event will give students the chance to **showcase their talent** in the lead up to Christmas.

If your child would like to **audition** to take part in the show, Mr Knight will be hosting these during **lunch times in Music 2**.

**Tickets for The Christmas Cracker show can be purchased via parent pay**. There will also be a limited number of additional tickets available for purchase on the night.



## **Message from Kent Community Health, NHS Immunisation Service**

Flu cases among children are rising earlier than usual this year and health experts are warning that this season could be particularly severe. Latest UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) data shows flu activity is **three times higher than this time last year**, with a sharp increase among school-aged children.

Flu is not just a bad cold. It can make children very unwell and is more likely to lead to complications such as pneumonia, bronchitis and ear infections. In severe cases children may become so unwell they need to be admitted to hospital.

Children with long-term conditions like **asthma** or **diabetes** are at even higher risk. Flu can trigger asthma attacks and make diabetes harder to manage, increasing the risk of serious complications.

### **Why vaccination matters**

The nasal spray flu vaccine is quick, painless and the best protection against flu for children under 16.

Vaccinating your child not only protects them but also helps stop flu spreading to vulnerable family members, such as grandparents or babies.

If your child is unable to have the nasal flu due to medical or cultural reasons, they can have an alternative porcine free injectable option.

### **What to do if your child hasn't had the flu vaccine:**

- Consent for your child's school vaccination [online](#).
- Missed the school session? Book a catch-up appointment at a local [community clinic](#)
- Book a flu injection at a local [community clinic](#) if needed for cultural or medical reasons.
- Children aged two to three years can be vaccinated at our community clinics, at their GP surgery or participating pharmacy.



## Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 01.12.25

**We may be re-visiting school and will attempt to vaccinate all children who have a yes consent. If your child has been vaccinated at the GP please contact us immediately on 0300 123 5205 as we do not want to duplicate vaccines.**

Don't let flu ruin the festive season. Protect your child and your family.

For more information, visit [NHS flu vaccine advice for children](#) or contact [Kent Immunisation Service](#).

Vaccines are vital for protecting the population of Kent and Medway; vaccines are the best defence we have against viruses including flu, meningitis, and measles, mumps and rubella. Find more information at [Protecting you](#).

### **Moving Forward**

December is always a lovely time of year to work with young people as everyone gets excited for Christmas, and there's lots going on over the next few weeks to make this time of year special. We'd love to see lots of you at the Christmas Cracker on Tuesday 16th December. It means so much to our students to have a big audience there; it's always a lovely evening and really rewarding to see our young people shine.

During the run-up to Christmas, of course we have bits and pieces going on at school to celebrate, but rest assured in terms of lessons normal service continues right up to the last day of school. We are first and foremost a place of learning and we make sure every day counts educationally. There's still lots to learn this term as well as lots to look forward to, so we want all of our students to show that tenacity and excellence right up to the end of term. Father Christmas will be impressed!

Have a lovely week,

Mr Roberts