

### Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to another week at Meopham School! I hope you have all had an enjoyable weekend. There's lots going on at school as we approach the Christmas holidays, and we've had some amazing achievements from our students over the past week that we are proud to share with you all.

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

#### Supporting Gravesham Foodbank

This Christmas, Meopham School is collecting donations to support the **Gravesham Foodbank**, an incredible and important organisation that provides **emergency food and support to local people in crisis**.

While Christmas is a time of joy for many, it can also be a period of significant financial stress for others. We are **inviting students and staff to contribute non-perishable food items and toiletries** to ensure that every family in our community can enjoy a special meal this December. Please see their **shopping list** for appropriate donations.

To add a bit of festive spirit and friendly rivalry, this year's collection will be an **inter-House competition** with the winning House being the one with the **most donations!**



#### **Our Shopping List**

- Tins of Custard
- Tins of Hot meat/Cold Meat/Hot Dogs/Meat Pies
- Crackers/Savoury Biscuits/Cereal Bars
- Tins of Ravioli/Spaghetti Bolognaise
- Small Bags of Rice (500g, 1kg, 2kg)
- Tins of Vegetables (Carrots, Peas, Green Beans, Broad Beans, Sweetcorn)
- Cous Cous
- Tins of Macaroni Cheese
- Small jars of instant coffee
- Tins of Salmon/Pilchards
- Evaporated Milk
- Small packets of Instant Mash
- Mayonnaise
- Longlife Milk - Green or Blue
- Instant Noodles

**PLEASE WE ALSO NEED THE FOLLOWING HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AND TOILETRIES;**

- Shampoo & Conditioner
  - Washing up liquid
  - Ladies Deodorant
  - Non-Bio and Bio Laundry Tablets
- THANK YOU!**



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House Assemblies - Tuesday 9th December



**759**



**908**



**946**



**818**

This week, we will be holding our first school **House Assemblies**. These 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.

## Kent Youth County Council Election Results 2025

KYCC Election results came in last week and we are pleased to announce that **Jack H (Year 10)** has been elected as a **Deputy Member for Gravesham**. Jack will be part of the group who will represent and act upon the **views, issues and opinions of the young people in Kent**.

A huge well done to **Sienna S (Year 8)** who also bravely put herself forward for this year's competitive election. We are very proud of you!



**Name: Jack**

**Vote for me because:**

I am passionate about creating positive change for Kent. I hope to work to protect youth groups from rising costs and repair the distrust between young people and the police.

**I want to campaign on:**

1. Transport Connections For Kent Villages
2. Police Presence and Trust
3. Protection of Youth Groups

## Christmas Cracker - Tuesday 16th December 2025

A reminder that this year's Christmas Cracker show will be taking place next **Tuesday**. The event will give students (and staff!) the chance to **showcase their talent** in the lead up to Christmas.

**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.



We will also be collecting **donations** for **Gravesham Foodbank** during this evening.



**Attendance - a message from Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)**

All students who have achieved **100% for Term 1 & 2** will receive their **bronze 100% badge** this week. Well done in advance to all of the students receiving these and highlighting **their commitment to excellent school attendance.**



**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:



**Aston H & Archie S (Year 10)** - Tenacity in English.

**Jayden M (Year 10)** - Excellent effort in English.

**Leo R (Year 7)** - Fabulous homework championing Harold Godwinson to be the next king of England in 1066!

**Lily D (Year 10)** - A convincingly critical exploration of a theme in the novella *A Christmas Carol*.

**Dilpreet D (Year 10)** - A thoughtful and detailed mid-term assessment essay on *A Christmas Carol*. Fluently expressed.

**Timmy C (Year 11)** - Amazing descriptive writing task in exam conditions.

**Rhys M (Year 10)** - Tenacity in English.

**Ryan R, Gracie L, Riley H & Louis S (Year 11)** - Completed a phenomenal amount of History work during an independent study session including all of the extension material.

**Khadijah M (Year 10)** - Excellent knowledge organiser homework in English.

**Femi I & Harry Parker (Year 9)** - Excellent work in Geography, always striving to do their best in the subject.

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

**Key Messages**

Mr A Wood- Assistant Headteacher- Uniform Sweep

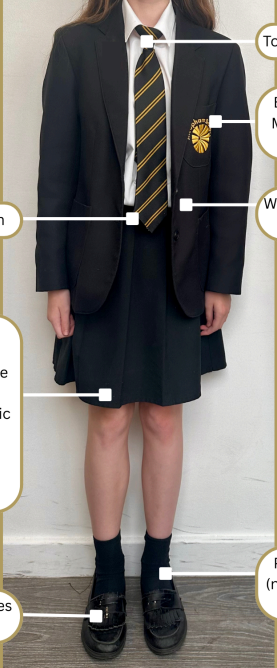
This is a friendly reminder of our schools uniform expectations. On Thursday 11th and Tuesday 16th December we are going to leave SSP completely free for any students that do not meet our uniform expectations and refuse to correct these standards.

Please see our below expectations for our uniform when students are within the school environment.

This also includes not wearing jackets within the school buildings and skirts approaching the knee.

**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

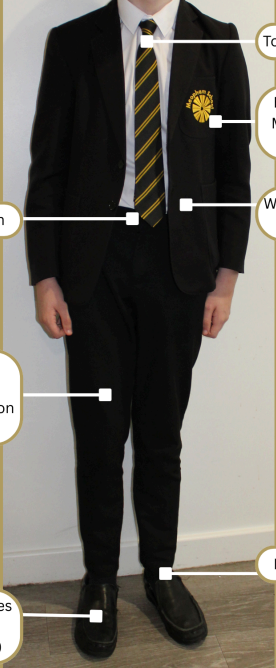
Black A-line, pleated skirt approaching knee length (Not stretch fabric or pencil style) or trousers (no jeans or fashion trousers)

Plain black socks (no higher than the ankle) or tights

Black school shoes (not trainers)

**Meopham School**

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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)

**Mr A Wood (Assistant Headteacher) - Drop off areas for children in the morning**

Please be advised: all parents/carers and other members of our local community that **the roundabout in front of the doctor's surgery is not a drop off point. The drop off point for students is behind the doctor's surgery.** There is an entire lane around the circumference of this car park, where parents/carers can quickly drop their children off simultaneously, which is **safer and leads to less congestion.** This system only breaks down when some drivers decide to drop-off on the roundabout and impede other drivers from entering our additional car park.

The roundabout is a school owned road but it is also used by members of the public for access to the leisure centre, the library, Busy Bee's nursery etc. Stopping on this road, could cause a car to crash into the back of you, but also **stopping in the middle of the road and letting your children out is highly dangerous,** especially with buses using other lanes.

We have also been disappointed by some of the **verbal abuse our staff have received** recently when they have politely asked that all drivers follow the same rules. I hope our school community agree this is unwarranted and a very poor example to our young people.



Please ensure you use the appropriate drop off area behind the doctor's surgery to ensure no children are harmed and traffic can move more steadily. Thank you.

**Meopham Mentoring Programmes - Mr A Wood and Mrs L Evans**



**Young Lives Foundation Mentoring Programme**

At Meopham School, we will do all we can to ensure your child has the support they need to grow into the excellent young adults they are capable of becoming. As a school we have been given the fantastic opportunity to work alongside the



Young Lives Foundation. This is going to provide selected students with the chance to work with a mentor from the foundation for ten weeks. These sessions will be an opportunity for students to investigate, with the support of a mentor, some barriers to the student's learning and social development. This will involve students doing different activities and communication skills to support their needs.

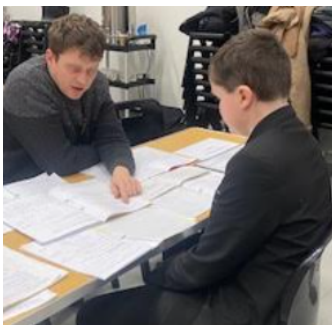
**Talking Learning Event - Wednesday 3rd December (Mrs Romney - Deputy Head)**

On Wednesday 3rd December we were excited to host our second 'Talking Learning' event. It was so inspiring to see over 30 students, and the whole teaching staff, sitting together to have constructive conversations about what happens in the classroom - over a nice slice of cake!

The aims of the event were to:

- Review exercise books and celebrate progress;
- Discuss which teaching methods help students learn best;
- Share ideas on how to make lessons even better.

The students involved were superb! They demonstrated such a mature approach, providing insightful comments and thoughtful suggestions. When we listen to our students, we learn together. A huge well-done to everyone involved!



**Sixth Form Taster Day - Friday 12th December (Mrs Romney - Deputy Head)**

A reminder that we have our Sixth Form Taster Day on Friday this week. The normal



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timetable for Year 11 students will be suspended, and they have the opportunity to spend a day in the life of a Sixth Form student. They will be trialing lessons in their chosen subjects, in readiness for making applications for their post-GCSE destinations.

**Students should arrive at 9am, and will be dismissed at 2.45pm**

**Year 12 and 13 students will not be in school on this date**, and instead should be completing work set for them by their teachers, from home.

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

At Meopham we use a three-step model for written teacher feedback. Staff will identify **“What Went Well”** in the piece of work, as well as something which would be **“Even Better If...”** This is supplemented by a **“Now Try This”** task.

"Now Try This" feedback encourages students to take immediate, specific action to improve their work and build self-regulation. This approach moves beyond simply identifying errors to providing actionable steps for progress.

Principles of "Now Try This" Feedback:

**Actionable:** should provide an immediate and specific action for students to demonstrate they have understood their feedback.

**Goal-Oriented:** should relate to the lesson objective, helping the student understand how the action closes the gap between their current performance and the desired outcome.

**Manageable:** should focus on one or two key areas for improvement at a time to avoid overwhelming the student.

**Promotes Self-Regulation:** the ultimate goal is to equip students with the skills to monitor and evaluate their own work.

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

### **Year 11: Keeping the Momentum Post-Results**

We had a successful **Reveal Assembly** on Friday for Year 11, where students received their recent mock examinations grades. We understand that not every student achieved the results they had hoped for, but we want to emphasise a message of positive action and tenacity.

These mock results are not final grades; they are a vital diagnostic tool. They have clearly identified the specific areas where your child can gain the most marks between now and the next set of mock exams. Our focus, and the focus we encourage you to share at home, is to view any disappointment as motivation.

We are looking forward to meeting many of you at the **Year 11 Parent/Carer**



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**Consultation Evening this Wednesday (10th December).** This event is the crucial next step in turning this data into a personalised and achievable intervention plan. Please ensure your appointments are booked via School Cloud.

## **Year 13: Study and Parking Reminders**

As Year 13 students continue their intense period of study, we have two important logistical reminders:

**Parking:** Students are not permitted to park their vehicles in the main Staff Car Park at any time. We ask that all students use the designated Additional Car Park instead. Please ensure this is adhered to strictly to maintain safety and space for staff and visitors.

**Independent Study:** A reminder that all Year 13 students must utilise their study periods for independent study within the school premises (e.g., the Sixth Form Common Room or Library). **Students are not permitted to leave the school site during their free periods.** Maintaining this dedicated study time is essential for success at A-Level.

## **Careers Fair 2025**

On Friday 5th December we hosted our annual Careers Fair for the whole school to visit. There were a range of career and further education establishments represented, including University of Kent, HCRG Care Group, BAE Systems, Canterbury Christ Church University, ER Productions, Kent Police, North Kent College and Hadlow, Stantons Solicitors, Pine Brae Beauty Salon and Charlton Athletic Community Trust. Many thanks to all those who set up their stalls to encourage our young people to think about their futures. The students really appreciated being able to talk to professionals who could describe their industry and what it was like to work within each sector.

## **A Christmas Carol**

Fifty Year 10 students visited the Woodville Theatre to see a production of *A Christmas Carol* on Thursday 20th November. The show was very clever as there were only two actors playing all of the parts, using different hats and props! Students had an excellent time and it was a great opportunity to see one of our set texts in action!

Thank you to Mrs Gappa, Mrs Porter-Clarke and Mrs Williamson for running this trip.

## **Sporting Success**

### **Year 7 Football: A Valiant Effort in the Rain**

Our Year 7 team, led by Mr Smith, faced a tough away challenge this Tuesday against Northfleet Technology College. Despite playing through difficult, rainy conditions in the first half, the team demonstrated excellent resolve and tenacity.



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Although we suffered a narrow 2-1 defeat, the highlight of the match was a brilliant goal scored by **Harley M.** Harley's superb performance was recognized by the opposition, earning him the well-deserved **Player of the Match** award.

The Year 7 squad is still in the early stages of establishing their formation and chemistry as a new team. We are incredibly proud of their spirit and look forward to seeing their progress in their next fixture against St. John's next week.

## **Year 9 Football: Commanding Performance at Home**

On Thursday, Mr Smith's Year 9 side delivered a commanding performance on home ground, also against Northfleet Technology College. The team played exceptionally well together, executing their strategy and securing a fantastic **4-0 victory!**

The scoring was led by **Sheldon**, who was in spectacular form and netted a brilliant hat trick. The final goal was sealed by an **excellent strike from Alfie M. Sheldon** was rightly named **Player of the Match** for his outstanding goal-scoring contribution. We congratulate the entire team on a well-earned win.

## **Moving Forward**

It was great to see so many young people representing the school in the past few weeks and doing us all proud - whether that be our **Year 9's superb 4-0 victory**; all of our students participating in the **Talking Learning Event** or even our very own **Jack H** being elected as **Deputy Member for Gravesham** in Kent's Youth County Council. It is so great to see so many of our young people getting involved in the wider life of the school and thriving.

But we want to celebrate all of our students for the hard work and tenacity they put in, day-in, day-out. We're really looking forward to catching up with families of Year 11 students at the **Parent/Carer Consultation Evening this Wednesday**, and I am sure we will see plenty of you at the **Christmas Cracker on the 16th December too!**

Furthermore, we are really excited to be launching our **House Assemblies** programme this week. This will be a wonderful opportunity to get young people from all different year groups together as a House and participating in the wider life of the school. We are a place of learning, but we are also much more than that. We are a community, and we want every member of our community to feel valued, respected and excited to be part of our excellent school!

Have a great week,

Mr Roberts