

**Headteacher's Welcome**

I hope everyone has had a great weekend. I can't believe we are at the end of another term already! It has really flown by, but there has been lots to celebrate with some truly excellent achievements from our students. Plenty more to come this week - and some Christmas fun as well - but of course we will be continuing to work hard with our young people right up until the last day of term!

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

Supporting Gravesham Foodbank

We would like to say a huge thank you to the parents/carers who have donated to the **Gravesham Foodbank**, a very important organisation that provides **emergency food and support to local people in crisis.**

We will be **collecting donations until the end of this week** to ensure that every family in our community can enjoy a special meal this December.

This is an **inter-House competition** for our students in school, with the winning House being the one with the **most donations.** Here are the totals so far:

**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!**



**10 donations**



**2 donations**



**6 donations**



**9 donations**

Student Leadership Opportunity: Deputy House Captain

Applications are open for Year 7-11 students to apply To be a **Deputy House Captain.**

If your child is interested in this role and would like to join our Sixth Form House Captains in **organising championing House events and competitions**, they can fill out the **application form** on their year group's **Google Classroom.**



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## The Christmas Cracker - tomorrow!

A reminder that this year's Christmas Cracker show will be taking place **tomorrow evening**. 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.



## Supporting the Poppy Appeal 2025

We would like to say thank you to all Meopham School parents/carers and students who contributed to this year's **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**.

We are proud of the support shown by **our community** and would like to announce that this year, we collectively **raised an incredible £269.06!**

This total is a powerful demonstration of our school's commitment to remembering those who have served and sacrificed. Every contribution, no matter the size, goes directly towards supporting our veterans and their families. **Thank you for helping us instill the importance of respect and remembrance.**



## House Assemblies

Last week, we held the first of our termly **House assemblies**.

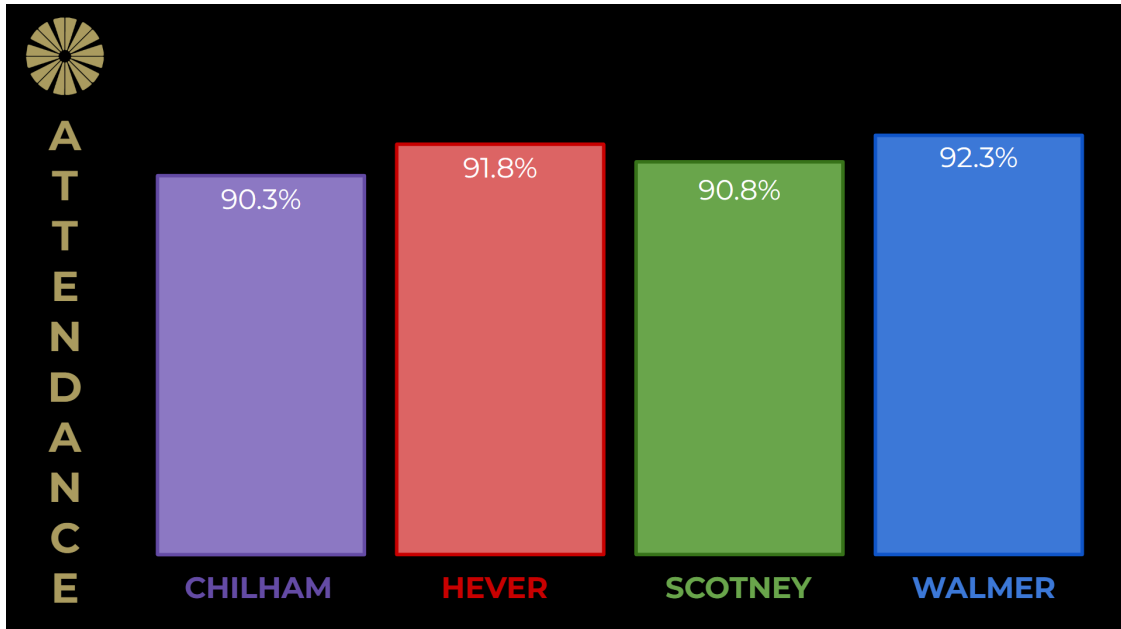
It was inspiring to see students and staff across all years gather together, fostering a **sense of community and house identity**.

We celebrated **numerous achievements**, recognised **attendance stars**, and shared **exciting plans** for the coming weeks and terms.



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

Last week, all parents/carers received a breakdown of their child's **attendance record** detailing percentages of **attendance, absences and lates** to date. We encourage you to look through this to ensure you are aware of your child's attendance percentage. Here is the breakdown for each of our Houses:



**Key Messages**

**Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day (Mr McQuillan - Deputy Headteacher)**

This year's Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper day will take place on **Thursday 18th December**. Students who wish to have the traditional turkey (or vegetarian alternative) with all of the trimmings and a seasonal pudding need to ensure they have enough funds (**£3**) on their Parent Pay account. Christmas jumpers may be worn on this day (only jumpers appropriate to a school setting please) in addition to the normal school uniform. Donations can be made to the Gravesham Food Bank appeal by bringing in a small food item.

**Last Day Arrangements**

Friday 19th December will be our usual half-day closing. **Students will be dismissed at the end of Period 4 - 12:40pm**. The school buses have been asked to arrive from 12:30pm; the trains towards London leave at 13:16pm - so students will have plenty of time to get to the station. For the very small number of students who take the **train towards Rochester**, this will leave at 12:43pm - **should you require a pass to allow your child to leave school earlier to enable them to catch this train, please contact the relevant Head of Year via the school's communication portal, before Wednesday 17th December**. We regret that we cannot allow students to leave earlier to catch this train without parent/carer permission.

### **Start of Term Arrangements - Term 3 (Mrs Romney - Deputy Headteacher)**

A reminder that **Monday 5th January will be a staff training day**, so the school is closed to students. Students should return to school on Tuesday 6th January. The day will start with an extended tutor period, so all students should make their way to their tutor room at the start of the day.

### **Year 9 Options (Mrs Romney)**

January sees the start of an exciting process for Year 9 students as they begin to choose their options for their GCSE courses. More information will be sent out about the process in January, but please put the following dates in your calendar:

**Wed 7th January** - Virtual Options Evening - online information event for Year 9 parents/carers and students.

**Wed 14th January** - face-to-face Year 9 Parent and Carers Information Evening - a chance to speak with teachers about progress so far, and discuss suitability for studying subjects at GCSE.

### **Knee Length and White Sports Socks (Mr McQuillan)**

An increasing number of students are wearing knee length or white sports socks to school. Can we remind parents / carers that these are not part of school uniform and only plain black short socks are permitted. The school has purchased a stock of plain black short socks for students to change into should they need to. This will help to reduce negative interactions with teaching staff during the school day relating to incorrect uniform.

### **Uniform Thank You (Mr McQuillan)**

A huge thank you to all of the parents/carers that have dropped off unwanted new and used uniform items into our donation-box in Reception. These items have been laundered and either passed onto families who requested support with uniform costs - or have been used to support students who have come into school needing a specific item.

### **SSP Update (Mrs Davies-Lane)**

As of the 6th January (after christmas), when we return for Term 3, if students are placed in our Student Support Provision (SSP) for any reason, their day will be extended. Please see below the new timings:

***SSP day will be from 8.55am-4.15pm.***

The reason for this is to ensure students have a more reflective, supportive experience to learn from their conduct mistakes. This will include students that are in SSP for the day due to not attending their detentions, and this is also communicated by Mrs Parrott.

**Roundabout Road Safety- Mr A Wood- Assistant Headteacher- Conduct**



Thank you very much for your support this week with your conduct towards driving around the school site. I personally have noticed an improvement in the amount of cars using the designated drop off point behind the doctor's surgery. This has made for a much safer and pleasant start to the school day. There were some issues with students being let out of their cars on the roundabout and this was causing some safety concerns, as well as causing congestion, but this has been significantly reduced. Thank you for your continued support

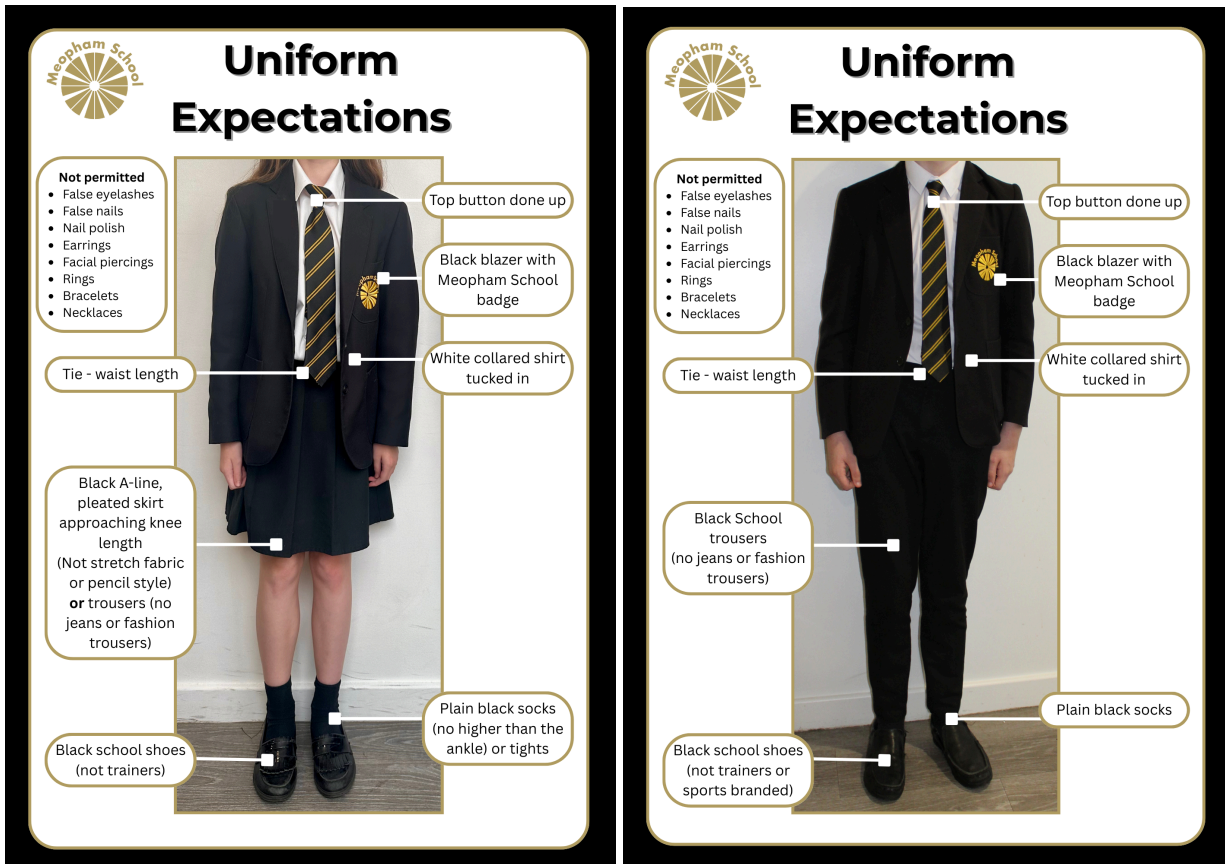
**Meopham Mentoring- Mr A Wood- Assistant Headteacher- Conduct**



Selected students will continue to receive mentoring support this week from PSMs, 6th Form Mentors, and staff from the Young Lives Foundation. This provision to support our young people has been getting off to a great start as the students are meeting their mentors and discussing the progress they want to make, both on a daily basis but also goals for their term and their year. Again, this is not just an educational support, but an opportunity to support socially as well. Students thus far have been a credit to the school with their engagement and enthusiasm. Well done!

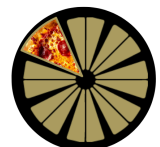
**Uniform Sweep- Mr A Wood- Assistant Headteacher- Conduct**

Last week, staff members completed unannounced uniform sweeps around the school and the reflection and reaction to this has been really impressive. I personally have been very proud of students, staff, parents and carers for this as during this week's sweep only seven infringements in the whole school were found and corrected instantly. Therefore leaving the school looking smart, ready for learning and overall a nicer place to be. More sweeps will be performed this week so please do continue to maintain these excellent standards:



Uniform sweeps in class are being used instead of line-ups during the winter months to ensure the amount of time out in colder weather is minimised.

**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:

**Fletcher B (Year 10)** - Writing an outstanding letter to Elizabeth as if he was Sir Walter Raleigh colonising Virginia in a History lesson.

**Lee O (Year 11)** - Continued hard work and dedication to improve his Geography knowledge and answering a 9 mark question.

**Lochie W (Year 9)** - Demonstrating excellent progress in French.

**Alex S (Year 7)** - Great independent work in Maths.



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**Kai W (Year 7)** - Demonstrating engagement and patience when helping another student to complete work in Maths.

**Evie P (Year 10)** - Completing excellent work and always working hard in Maths lessons.

**Raymond O, Zion D, Reuben M, James H, Reinie L, Jessie R, Isla A & Louie A (Year 8)**

- Excellent work in Music and going above and beyond by performing a solo piece.

**Dom E (Year 10)** - Demonstrating tenacity and dedication to improve his musical skills by rehearsing every lunchtime. Comments from Dom's drum teacher also highlight his improvements and commitment to honing his craft.

**Evander K (Year 10)** - Excellent effort in Maths lessons.

**Raymond O (Year 11)** - Achieving a score of 185/200 in his Maths mock exam, this is a grade 9 and recognition for this exceptional result is well deserved!

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

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

Self and peer assessment are methods used to support students in evaluating their own work (self-assessment) or their classmates' work (peer assessment) against set criteria, transforming them from passive learners into active participants. This helps to deepen understanding, develop critical thinking, and boost autonomy, providing timely feedback for improvement. We therefore encourage students to complete self and peer assessment regularly in lessons.

#### Key Benefits:

- **Deeper Learning:** Shifts focus from just getting a grade to understanding *how* to achieve quality.
- **Skill Development:** Cultivates critical thinking, reflection, and constructive communication.
- **Active Engagement:** Turns assessment into a learning tool, not just an endpoint.

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

#### **Year 11 Sixth Form Taster Day**

We are delighted to report on the fantastic success of our Year 11 Taster Day, held last Friday. The event provided our students with an invaluable opportunity to step into the world of Sixth Form life and sample the variety of Post-16 courses on offer.



Attendance was excellent, and we were incredibly impressed with how smart and professional the students looked, reflecting the high standards expected in the Sixth Form. Feedback from staff has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting that students approached the taster sessions with a commendable level of maturity and seriousness. We were thrilled to give out a significant number of Excellent Participation Certificates on Friday afternoon to those who truly excelled and contributed fully to the learning environment.

We sincerely hope that the Taster Day offered every student a meaningful insight into the academic rigour and atmosphere of Meopham Sixth Form, providing them with a clearer idea of their desired Post-16 pathway. Please remember that students should now be finalising their applications through the Kent Choices platform.

**Meopham Sixth Form Interviews:** Interviews for those applying to join Meopham Sixth Form will commence in January. We look forward to meeting with students to discuss their ambitions and course choices.

### **Sixth Form - UCAS University Application Update**

We are pleased to confirm that a number of our Year 13 students have now **successfully submitted their UCAS applications!** Please be reminded that the **internal school deadline** for all remaining applications is **Wednesday, 10th January**.

The official **UCAS deadline** for equal consideration is **Sunday, 14th January**. It is crucial that applications are submitted on time, as any sent after the official deadline risk missing out on popular and highly competitive university courses and places

### **Moving Forward**

As we approach the Christmas break, we always take time to reflect on the term and all the great things that our young people have achieved. As a school, we have been really excited to launch our new House system, which it's been wonderful to see so many students engaging with! Last week, I visited all four **House Assemblies** and the passion and enthusiasm was palpable - it was great to have an opportunity to celebrate across all of the year groups and bring our community together. We have our final House competition of the year this Thursday with the **Year 7 Christmas House Quiz**, which Mr McQuillan and myself will be hosting - and there will be bonus points for the House with the best Christmas jumpers!

However you will be spending the break, we wish everyone in our community a relaxing and enjoyable holidays, and we look forward to seeing you all again in the new year.

Take care,

Mr Roberts  
Headteacher