

**Headteacher's Welcome**

A warm welcome back to Meopham School! I hope everyone has enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break and is raring to go for a new term. There's plenty more in store...

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

Foodbank Donations - December 2025

A huge **thank you to everyone** who donated to Gravesham Foodbank as part of this year's food drive.



Three of our student leaders delivered these donations on the last day of term, **David** (Year 7 Student Voice), **Japjeet** (Year 7 Student Voice) and **Dilpreet** (Year 10 Future Leader).

We are incredibly proud to announce that **Meopham School** donated a total of **229 items to Gravesham Foodbank**. It is great to see how caring our school community is, donating important items to those who need it. Thank you once again and a big well done to **Chilham and Hever** who were joint winners with 70 donations each in the **Inter-House Competition**.



70 donations



70 donations



27 donations



62 donations

Christmas Cracker 2025

We are immensely proud of every student who took part in this year's **Christmas Cracker** show, It takes a huge amount of **tenacity** to perform in front of an audience, and the quality of the acts were a testament to the talent we have here at Meopham School.

Whether they were **a lead vocalist, a member of a choir or dance group, or part of the vital technical crew backstage**, students' hard work created fantastic experience for everyone in attendance. **Thank you also to Mr Knight** for making the vision come to life!



**Christmas House Quiz Results - Mr Roberts (Headteacher) and Mr McQuillan (Deputy Headteacher)**

Mr McQuillan and I had an excellent time on the penultimate day of term hosting our first annual House Quiz with Year 7 students! It was a fantastic event, with the four Houses battling out on the buzzers over a number of quiz rounds, as well as audience participation in the form of snowball races, singing competitions and the shouting challenge! It was a great festive way to end the term, and a big congratulations to **Hever** who took the crown on the day!

**Hever Quiz Team: Japjeet D, Thomas P, Nicole G-M and Hadiyah A** (all Year 7).



**Key Messages**

**Parent and Carer Events: Term 3 - Mrs Romney (Deputy Headteacher)**

**Year 9** - The options process begins in earnest for our Year 9 students this term, with two important events. The Virtual Options Evening takes place on **Wed 7th January**, followed by their **Parent and Carers Information Evening** on **Wed 14th January**.

**Year 11** - Our **Skills for Success Evening** takes place on **Wed 21st January**. This is to support the final push for the second mock window and beyond, in the run up to the summer examinations.

**Sixth Form** - The Parent and Carers Information evening for both Year 12 and 13 takes place on **Wed 28th January**.

**Year 10** - The **Parent and Carers Information Evening** takes place on **Wed 4th Feb**, and helps to identify progress on Key Stage 4 courses, as well as identifying targets for improvement.

**School Site Update - Mr McQuillan (Deputy Headteacher)**

The very cold weather is forecast to continue into the first half of the week. Our site team will have gritted the key areas, but students and parents / carers should take extra care when moving around the site.

**Thank you to those parents / carers now using the designated drop-off point in the school car-park.** We will continue to challenge drivers who drop off in inappropriate places - this is following advice from Kent County Council, and recent near misses involving our students and the school-buses. We hope you will appreciate that we must prioritise the safety of students.

Should there be an occasion where poor weather conditions means we are unable to open the school, we will communicate this to parents/carers via a Brommail and we will also update our website regarding any school closure.

### **Transport update - Mr McQuillan (Deputy Headteacher)**

#### **The closure of Halfpence Lane and the 311 and 416 bus routes**

As result of extended works by Southern Water to replace a water main in Halfpence Lane, Cobham starting on 5 January 2026, we have been advised that this road will be closed to through traffic including school buses for up to 3 months, throughout the spring term until Easter.

The latest information is that bus 311 will be diverting via Henhurst Road and Jeskyns Road to reach Cobham, continuing via the normal route through Sole Street to Meopham.

Details of any alterations to the timetable or route for service 416 by RedRoute Buses had yet to be confirmed with Kent County Council's Public Transport Team before the Christmas break. We will follow this up on Monday 5th January and share any response with parents / carers.

Parents requiring updated information about a specific stopping point, or route amendment are advised to contact the relevant bus company directly. whose details are as follows:

Brian Jones Coaches (service 311 – [info@brianjonescoaches.com](mailto:info@brianjonescoaches.com) ; 01474 329686

RedRoute Buses (service 416) [info@redroutebuses.co.uk](mailto:info@redroutebuses.co.uk); 01474 353896

**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.

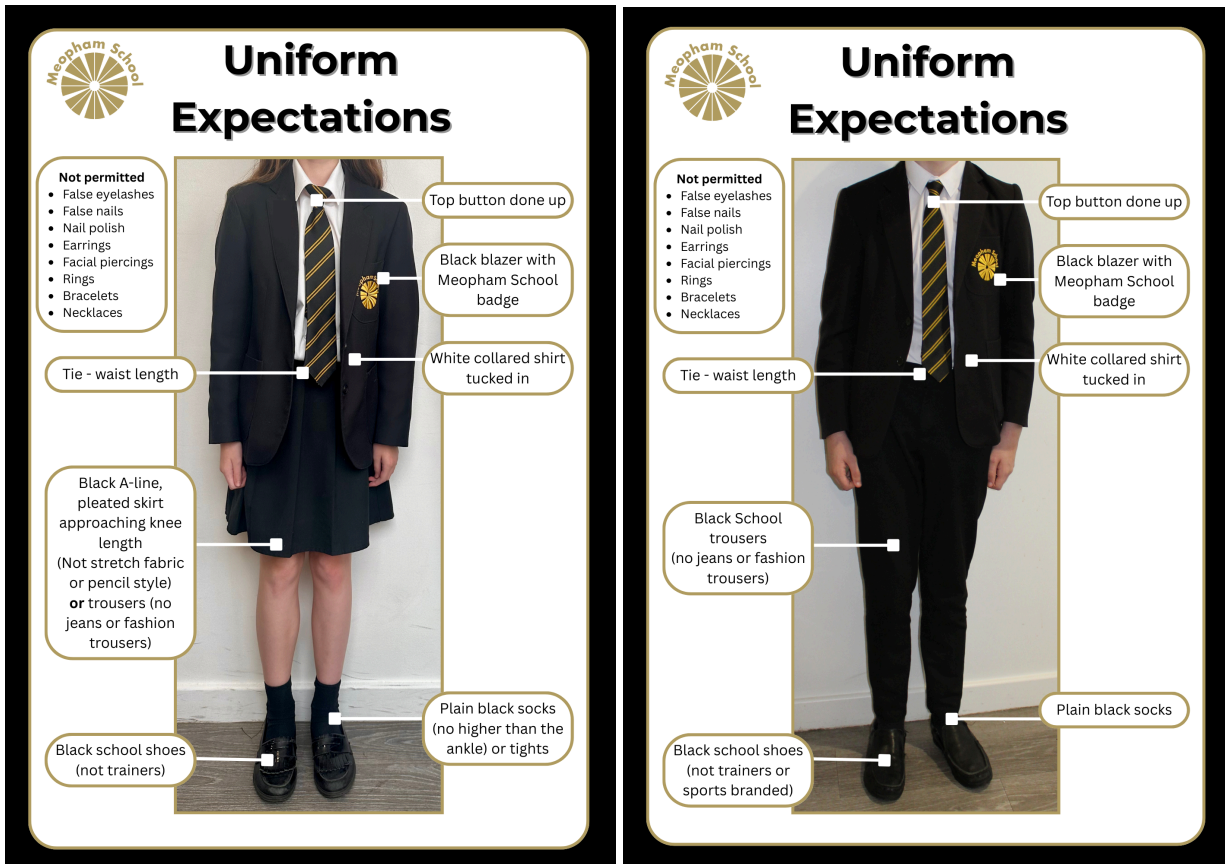
**Meopham Mentoring - Mr A Wood - Assistant Headteacher - Conduct**



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

In the last week of last term, 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 will be selected from a list of students who unfortunately missed their week last term (we didn't want them to miss out!) A brand new list of students who have received commendations will be available again next week.

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.

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

This term we are focusing on questioning as a specific strand of Assessment for Learning. 'ABC questioning' is a classroom strategy where students respond to a question or statement by stating whether they **Agree** with an answer given, can **Build** on it, or **Challenge** it by offering an alternative view. This fosters deeper discussion, collaborative learning, and critical thinking by encouraging students to justify their opinions and engage with peers' ideas constructively.

Instead of answers bouncing back to the teacher, students respond to each other using prompts like "I **agree** because...", "I'd like to **build** on that by adding...", or "I **challenge** that idea because...".

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

**Winter Wonderland: A Magical End to the Term!**

On Wednesday 17th December, our Year 11 and Sixth Form students headed to London for a festive visit to Winter Wonderland. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to relax and celebrate their hard work so far this year.

The trip was a resounding success, and we were incredibly proud of our students. They were impeccably behaved throughout the day, acting as brilliant ambassadors for the school.

A special mention must go to the students' impressive skills at the game stalls! Collectively, they managed to win approximately 20 giant stuffed animals. The sight of the coach on the journey home was certainly a strange one—it was so packed with oversized teddy bears and prizes that



there was barely room for the students themselves!

A huge thank you goes to the staff who worked so hard to organize the trip and to those who attended to ensure everything ran smoothly. It was a wonderful way to kick off the festive season and a well-deserved treat for our senior students.

### **Moving Forward**

After the Christmas break, in a cold and gloomy January, it's easy to feel deflated as the festive season is over. But not at Meopham School. We are so excited to invite our young people back tomorrow, and we have spent all of today discussing ideas for new lessons, initiatives for the new term and all the high ambitions we have for our students. Working with young people is such a privilege and - as educators - we truly love what we do: shaping young minds and helping them carve out their futures. It might be dark, it might be cold and Christmas might be a distant memory - but we are so looking forward to another term working with you all and cannot wait to get started. As I said to staff this morning, we have four key goals that drive us every day:

1. Make our students love coming to school.
2. Have tenaciously high expectations for them.
3. Provide them an excellent future.
4. Inspire them.

Take care,

Mr Roberts  
Headteacher