

**Headteacher's Welcome**

Welcome once more to another week at Meopham School. We've had a fantastic start to the beginning of the new term with plenty going on and plenty to celebrate!

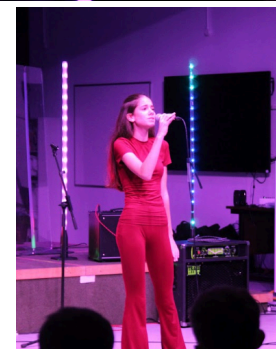
**Cultural Capital** *a message from Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)*

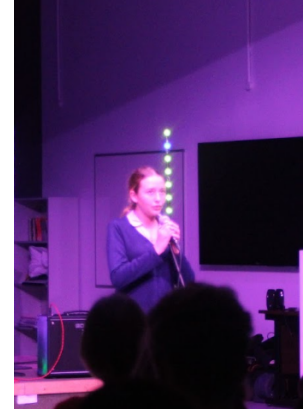
Student Excellence in the Community

A huge well done to **Alfie C** in Year 7 who - with the help of his brother **Charlie C** in Year 10 - raised £120 for Medway Maritime Hospital and Snapdragons, both of whom helped Alfie when he broke his collar bone. Alfie raised the money by running a snack stall at the Christmas light event at his grandad's house. An incredible example of community spirit - well done Alfie!

Christmas Cracker 2025 - Our Student Performers

Congratulations again to all of our incredible **student performers**. The tenacity and talent showcased during this year's **Christmas Cracker** was beyond impressive!





Food Bank Donations - Student Leaders

After Term 2's **Food Bank Donation Inter-House Competition**, three of our student leaders delivered the donated items to **Gravesham Foodbank**.

Thank you to **David** (Year 7 Student Voice), **Japjeet** (Year 7 Student Voice) and **Dilpreet** (Year 10 Future Leader) for your efforts.



Change to the Norm - Mr Wood (Assistant Headteacher)





## Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 12.01.26

As a change from the normal Sport lesson for Year 12, Mr Wood designed a lesson with Mrs Waterson to allow the students to design their own healthy lunch as part of their Unit 2 - Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing. Students considered the components of a balanced and healthy diet and with a budget had to design their own lunch, covering as many aspects of the eatwell plate as possible and putting as many different colours on the plate as possible. Well done to the whole class who designed some amazing meals and fun had by all!

### **Key Messages**

#### **Year 9 Options - Mrs Romney (Deputy Headteacher - Quality of Education)**

We hope that Year 9 parents and carers found the online information evening last week helpful and informative. For anyone who wasn't able to attend, or who wants to watch back, the presentation and a recording of the meeting can be found on our website under 'Curriculum' and 'Year 9 Options', or by following [this link](#).

The next part of the process is the **Year 9 Parent/Carer Consultation Evening** which takes place this **Wednesday** from **4.15pm until 6.45pm**. Please use the link sent out by Ms Bland to book your appointments. This will be a vital evening to not only find out how your child is doing in each of their subjects, but also to consider the suitability of continuing certain subjects at GCSE level. The full options booklet will also be available for parents/carers on the evening.

Thank you to those parents who have already completed the Options Preferences Form. Remember this is not a decision to choose your child's final subjects, but to indicate preferences to us so that we can build the option blocks around the courses they want to study. The link to the form is [here](#), and the deadline for completion is this Friday (16th January).

If you have any questions at this stage, please direct them to Ms Bland via the [Academic Enquiry Form](#) on the school website.

#### **Sixth Form Applications - Mrs Romney (Deputy Headteacher - Quality of Education)**

We are very pleased to have already received around 90 applications for our Sixth Form from current and prospective students. The application process remains open, and should be completed via the Kent Choices website. If students need support with submitting applications via Kent Choices, please direct them to speak to Mrs Romney. We have started to interview students who have applied for Meopham Sixth Form, and these will be ongoing over the next few months. Students should regularly check Kent Choices for more information.

We also know that not all students will want to stay on into the Sixth Form, so all Year 11 students will take part in a meeting with a member of staff to help consider their next steps, and ensure they have a plan in place for next year.



# Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 12.01.26

## SSP Update - Mrs Davies-Lane (Assistant Headteacher - KS4 Conduct and Welfare)

As we continue raising our standards of conduct across the school this is just a reminder of our new SSP rule. Any student that is placed in our SSP will need to stay until the **extended time of 4:15pm** and this was previously communicated to you at the end of last term. This includes students who do not attend their detentions after escalations. Mrs Parrott will send communication through if your child is due in SSP due to missed detentions.

### Community Events and Opportunities

There is a **local football match** that is being arranged for young people aged 14 - 18. It has been arranged with New Ash Green Parish council, in line with the start of a new youth provision coming to the area. It's for 14-24 year olds and there will be mixed teams of young people and officers, free refreshments, bike marking and engagement stalls there.

**Force Community Football Event**

**Saturday 17 January 2026, 1pm-3pm. Milestone Academy, Ash Road, New Ash Green, DA3 8JZ**

If you are 14-25 years old. Come and join us for:

- A football match, either watch or join in
- Free bike marking
- Chats with local agencies
- Refreshments

Limited numbers, bookings are essential!

Scan the QR code to book.



Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)  
Talk to us on LiveChat - available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)  
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call 999  
If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our telephone service 18000.  
Or text us on 999 if you're overwhelmed with the emergency SMS service.  
[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)   

The **Kent and Medway Emotional Wellbeing Teams** are offering a series of **free online workshops** this term designed to **support the mental health and wellbeing of secondary school students** and their families. These interactive sessions cover a range of vital topics, including navigating the teenage brain, managing exam stress, understanding sleep and autism, and raising awareness about eating disorders.



**Online Parent Workshops**

Aimed at parents of children in Secondary School



**Understanding the Amazing Teenage Brain**  
27/01/2026 18.00 – 20.00pm

[Understanding the Amazing Teenage Brain | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

**The Mind, Body and You – Eating Disorder Prevention 1** 11/02/2026 17.30 -19.00pm

[The Mind, Body and You - Eating Disorder Prevention | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

**Less Stress Guide to Exams**

04/03/2026 17.00 – 18.00pm

[Less Stress Guide to Exams | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

**Autism and Sleep**

09/03/2026 12:30 – 13:30pm

[Autism and Sleep | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

**The Mind, Body and You – Eating Disorder Prevention 2** 31/03/2026 17.30 – 19.00pm

[The Mind, Body and You - Eating Disorder Prevention | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)



**Gravesham Family Hubs** offer a wide range of **free**, supportive services for families, including interactive sessions like "Cooking on a Budget" and **specialized workshops** such as "Supporting Your Teen with their Mental Health". From baby groups and child health clinics to dedicated sessions for online safety and LGBT+ youth, the hubs provide a welcoming space for parents, carers, and young people to connect and access vital resources.



**Gravesham Family Hubs**  
**Timetable**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

**Our Family Hubs:**

<b>Riverside</b> 03000 422342 Dickens Road, Gravesend, DA12 2JY <a href="mailto:riverside@kent.gov.uk">riverside@kent.gov.uk</a>	<b>Chantry</b> 03000 420007 Ordinance Road, Gravesend, DA12 2RL <a href="mailto:chantry@kent.gov.uk">chantry@kent.gov.uk</a>	<b>Kings Farm</b> 03000 413838 Cedar Avenue, Gravesend, DA12 5JT <a href="mailto:kingsfarm@kent.gov.uk">kingsfarm@kent.gov.uk</a>	<b>Northfleet</b> 01474 351451 Hall Road, Northfleet, DA11 8AJ <a href="mailto:northfleet@kent.gov.uk">northfleet@kent.gov.uk</a>	<b>Shears Green</b> 03000 420895 Pack Lane Road, Northfleet, DA11 7JF <a href="mailto:shearsgreen@kent.gov.uk">shearsgreen@kent.gov.uk</a>	<b>Lawn</b> 03000 421125 Lawn Road, Northfleet, DA11 9NB <a href="mailto:lawn@kent.gov.uk">lawn@kent.gov.uk</a>
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All of our groups and services are free to attend.

	Morning				Afternoon		
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Chantry</b> Talking Walk in (NCHFT) 9.30am-11.30am	<b>Lawn</b> Baby Group 9.30am-10.30am	<b>Lawn</b> Child Health Clinic (NCHFT) 9.30am-11.30am	<b>Shears Green</b> Bookworms 10.00am-11.00am 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan - 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Chantry</b> Stay & Play 1.00pm-2.30pm	<b>Riverside</b> Baby Massage 1.30pm-2.30pm 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan - 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Northfleet</b> Parenting Support Advice Drop-in 5pm-6pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Kings Farm</b> Baby Group 9.30am-10.30am	<b>Lawn</b> Stay & Play 9.30am-11.00am	<b>Kings Farm</b> Child Health Clinic (NCHFT) 9.30am-11.30am	<b>Kings Farm</b> NCT Infant Feeding Peer Support 10.00am-12noon 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan - 10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>Northfleet</b> Bayou (LGBT+) 4.30pm-6.00pm	<b>Northfleet</b> Compass 12 - 16 years 4.30pm-6.00pm	<b>Northfleet</b> Gravesend Street Cricket 5pm-6pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Riverside</b> Baby Group 9.30am-10.30am	<b>Shears Green</b> Stay & Play 9.30am-11.00am			<b>Chantry</b> Bookworms 1.30pm-2.30pm 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan - 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan		
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Riverside</b> Child Health Clinic (NCHFT) 9.30am-12noon	<b>Riverside</b> Childminders Session 9.00am-11.00am	<b>Chantry</b> Baby Group 9.30am-10.30am		<b>Riverside</b> Stay & Play 1.00pm-2.30pm	<b>Riverside</b> NCT Infant Feeding Peer Support 1.15pm-3.15pm	<b>Northfleet</b> Snuggling 8-11 years 4.00pm-6.00pm
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Kings Farm</b> Stay & Play 9.30am-11.00am	<b>Lawn</b> NCT Infant Feeding Peer Support 9.30am-11.30am	<b>Lawn</b> Baby Massage 9.30am-10.30am 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan - 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Riverside</b> Little Talkers 10.30am-11.30am 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan - 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Riverside</b> Stay & Play (SEND) 1.00pm-2.00pm	<b>Shears Green</b> Baby Group 1.30pm-2.30pm	

Please Note: Signing in will not be available until 10 minutes before the session starts.

[www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub](http://www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub)

Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council



## Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 12.01.26

### Roundabout Road Safety (Mr Wood, Assistant Headteacher- KS3 Conduct and Welfare)



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 unfortunately still some issues last week and these were exacerbated due to the poor weather conditions. We managed to prevent some serious accidents last week but some people were still stopping on the roadabout so please can you ensure you follow these important rules and use the designated drop off point behind the doctors surgery.

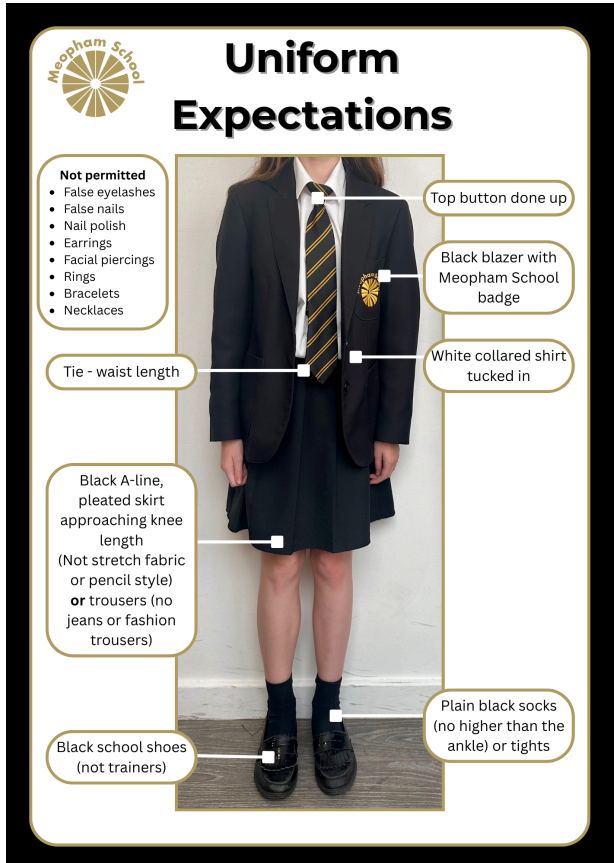
### Meopham Mentoring (Mr Wood, Assistant Headteacher- KS3 Conduct and Welfare)



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 expectations (Mr Wood, Assistant Headteacher- KS3 Conduct and Welfare)**

Being our first full week back for 2026, can you please support our students to look as smart as possible. Why? Because it will help prepare them for later life, where professional presentation and high standards will be key. Thanks for your support with this.



**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

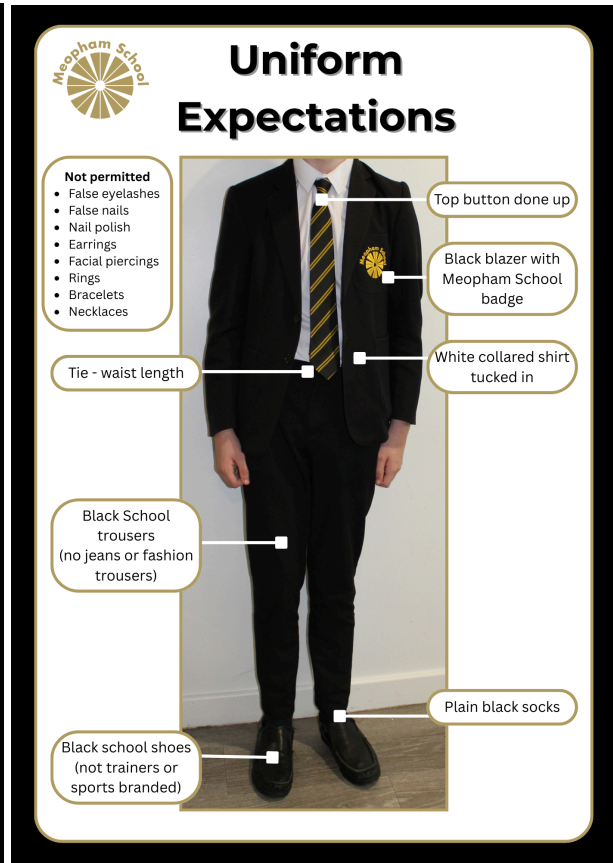
White collared shirt tucked in

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)



**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 School trousers (no jeans or fashion trousers)

Plain black socks

Black school shoes (not trainers or sports branded)

**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:

**Lucille B (Year 11)** - Incredible progress made in Health & Social coursework.

**Charlie C (Year 10)** - Nominated by the pastoral team for supporting and encouraging his younger brother on his mission to raise money this Christmas.

**Brandon M (Year 9)** - Performing a solo dance in front of his whole class.

**Charlotte W (Year 7)** - Excellent extended assessment answers in Personal Development.

**Rhys M & Archie W (Year 10)** - Demonstrating tenacity in English lessons.

**Zach A, Scarlett M & Jenson B (Year 9)** - For creating a beautifully crafted pencil pot in recent DT lessons.

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**

'ABC questioning' is a classroom strategy for encouraging deeper discussion and critical thinking, where students respond to a question by stating if they Agree with, Build upon, or Challenge the previous answer. This helps foster respectful debate and collaborative learning, and shifts the focus from teacher-led Q&A to student-to-student interaction, promoting active listening and idea development.

The teacher would first pose a Question: The teacher asks an open-ended question for everyone to consider.

Student A Responds: A student offers an initial answer or idea.

Student B Responds (Build): Another student is asked to build on A's point, adding more information or a related idea.

Student C Responds (Challenge): A third student challenges a point or perspective from B's response, explaining their reasoning constructively.

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

*As we begin a vital new term, we would like to share several key updates regarding the support and examination schedule for our Year 11 students.*

Period 7 Revision Sessions officially begin this **Monday, 12th January**. These sessions are designed to provide extra academic support and build student confidence. We look forward to welcoming all students to these sessions as they begin their final push toward the summer exams.

**Y11 Skills for Success Evening** - We warmly invite Y11 students and their families to attend our Skills for Success Evening on **Wednesday, 21st January**. This event is designed to provide a comprehensive roadmap for the months ahead. Our Curriculum Leaders for English, Maths, and Science will share targeted subject strategies, and we will also provide essential information regarding revision techniques and student well-being. Additionally, our SENCo and Head of Year will be available throughout the evening to answer any specific questions you may have.

**Mock Examinations: Round Two.** The second round of mock examinations is scheduled to take place from **Monday, 2nd February** through to **Friday, 14th February**. These assessments are a crucial opportunity for students to practice under formal conditions. To help with planning, individual **exam timetables** will be released to both parents and students by **Friday, 16th January**.

We appreciate your continued partnership and support in encouraging your child during this important period.

### **Moving Forward**

As you can see, the term has got off to a flying start with lots already going on and lots in store for the rest of the term - we will definitely be keeping students busy!

I began the term by delivering assemblies to each year group on **tenacity** - one of our four school TRUE values - which we believe are essential to instill in each and every member of our community. Even when things get tough in life - and we may get knocked down - it's important that our young people know they can pick themselves up, dust themselves off and try again. We will always be here to support our students so that - at the moments when they are finding something challenging or difficult - they are confident they have the tools and support they need to succeed and overcome their challenges. We love to see our students demonstrating tenacity each and every day - it is incredibly inspiring, and will be a lifelong skill they can carry with them.

Have a lovely week,

Mr Roberts  
Headteacher