

**Headteacher's Welcome**

Welcome back to another week at Meopham School! I trust you all had a restful and enjoyable weekend and are raring to go for everything we have in store at school.

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

Enrichment Programme Term 3 & 4

Our **Enrichment Programme Schedule** for **Term 3 & 4** is now finalised and will start this week.

As always, this features a diverse range of lunchtime and after-school clubs. Whether your child is an **aspiring athlete, a budding artist, or has an interest in debating**, all students are welcome to join.

For the next two terms, **Year 11 students** are also invited to attend **weekly revision sessions** at Lunchtime in preparation for upcoming exams.

**Posters** of our Enrichment Programme will be placed **around the school** for students' reference.

Doodle Club - Community Project

Students in Mrs Nicolaou's **Doodle Club** have enjoyed **creating this large scale mixed-media artwork** during Wednesday lunchtimes. This is a **Community Project** which will be displayed in the **Meopham Doctors Surgery** soon. The piece depicts the scenic view from Mrs Nicolaou's Art classroom. Well done to all involved!

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME TERM 3 & 4			
<b>Monday</b>			
Pride Club	Lunchtime	Hums 7	Miss Williams
Debating Society	Lunchtime	English 8	Mr Roberts
Football Club (Year 7)	Lunchtime	Leisure Centre*	Mr Wood
Mindfulness Art	Lunchtime	Art 2	Miss Hodd
Year 11 Revision	Lunchtime	English 9	Mrs Williamson
Homework Club	Lunchtime	Oasis	Oasis Staff
Basketball Club	Afterschool	Leisure Centre*	Mr Goldsmith & Mr Smith
<b>Tuesday</b>			
English Club	Lunchtime	English 6	Mrs Porter-Clarke & Ms Rajkumar
MFL Club	Lunchtime	Languages 2	Mrs Lajnef
Macramé Club	Lunchtime	Art 2	Miss Jarvis & Miss Kesby
Football Club (Year 8)	Lunchtime	Leisure Centre*	Mr Payne
Year 11 Revision	Lunchtime	English 9	Mrs Williamson
Homework Club	Lunchtime	Oasis	Oasis Staff
Fitness	Afterschool	Sports Hall*	Mrs Huggens & Miss Broad
Cooking & Culture Club	Afterschool	Catering Room	Miss Kerr
Games Club Board Games, Table Tops Games & Trading Card Games	Afterschool	Hums 4	Mr Obbard
History Club	Afterschool	Hums 7	Miss Williams
<b>Wednesday</b>			
Doodle Club	Lunchtime	Art 3	Mrs Nicolaou
Year 11 Revision	Lunchtime	English 9	Mrs Williamson
Homework Club	Lunchtime	Oasis	Oasis Staff
<b>Thursday</b>			
School Magazine Club	Lunchtime	English 4	Mrs Williamson
Football Club (Year 9)	Lunchtime	Leisure Centre*	Mr Goldsmith
School Choir	Lunchtime	Music 1	Mr Knight & Mrs Hill
Year 11 Revision	Lunchtime	English 9	Mrs Bland
Homework Club	Lunchtime	Oasis	Oasis Staff
Rugby Club	Afterschool	Field*	Mr Goldsmith
Badminton	Afterschool	Sports Hall*	Mr Whittle
Dance Club	Afterschool	PA Room (Dodmore)	Mrs Greenwood
<b>Friday</b>			
Equation Invasion	Lunchtime	Maths 8	Mr Hicks
Football Club (Year 10 & 11)	Lunchtime	Leisure Centre*	Mrs Davies-Lane & Mr Whittle
Year 11 Revision	Lunchtime	English 9	Mrs Williamson
Homework Club	Lunchtime	Oasis	Oasis Staff

\*meet at the main changing rooms for PE clubs

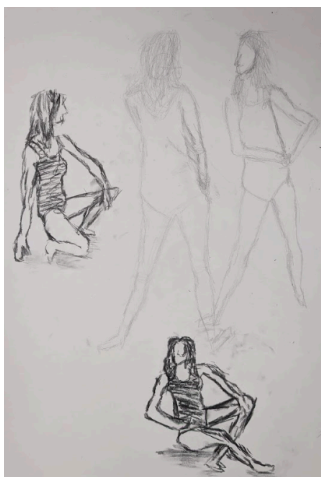
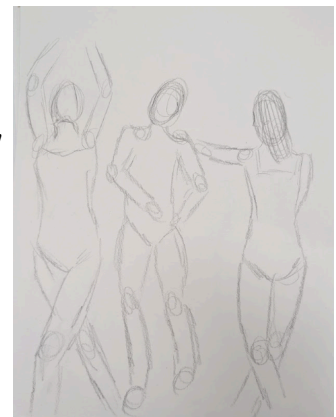




Artfest- Life Drawing at The Sittingbourne School

Last week, Artfest provided a unique opportunity for some of our Year 10 artists to sharpen their observational skills at **The Sittingbourne School**. Engaging in the discipline of **life drawing**, students explored various media and methods, from gestural sketches to detailed tonal studies.

This Trust event not only allowed them to refine their technical abilities but also gave them a taste of what it is like to draw professionally. Students created a large body of work from this event; here are just some of the examples from the day.



## Key Messages

### Positive start - Mrs Davies -Lane (Assistant Headteacher)

We have started off the term strongly with so many students making the right choices and gaining many House Points. We currently have **38% of our school with 0 behaviour points**. This means that they have not received a detention from September and instead gained House points by going above and beyond. This is fantastic and just shows what excellent students we have in this school that want to learn and follow our TRUE values day in and day out. Thank you again for the support at home which makes all the difference.

### Careers at Meopham - Mrs Hatch (Assistant Headteacher)

We have introduced a new careers platform at Meopham called Unifrog. Every student at the school has access to it, and as parents you should have received a letter telling you a little about it. We have rolled it out initially with year 10 and 12 so that they can apply for work experience through Unifrog, however, there is information, guidance and activities for all year groups on this platform that can be accessed at any point.

There's lots to do on Unifrog including:

- look up the courses that every college, sixth form and university offer across the UK and around the world
- complete an interest profile, personality profile, skills profile and others to find out your strengths
- Search apprenticeships that can be applied for

Why not sit down with your child and start having conversations about their next steps!

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

Unfortunately, there are still some cars that are choosing to stop on the one way roundabout outside the doctors surgery. **This is becoming an extremely dangerous situation for our children.** Can you please use the drop off area behind the doctor's surgery. Thank you.



# Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 19.01.26


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

Meopham mentoring received some excellent feedback from Canterbury Christchurch University this week. After a visit from lecturers, our students and our staff were praised for their TRUE values and the way these were embedded around the school. Mentoring has been introduced to the school to support students with a range of considerations,

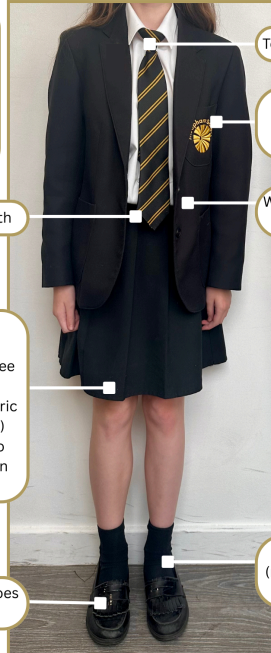


## Uniform expectations (Mr Wood, Assistant Headteacher- KS3 Conduct and Welfare)


Please can you support our students to wear the uniform in our school to meet all the uniform standards as shown below. Uniform sweeps have shown a huge improvement in the standards so we thank you all for your unity with us. The main focus this week is **jewellery and jackets being off indoors.**



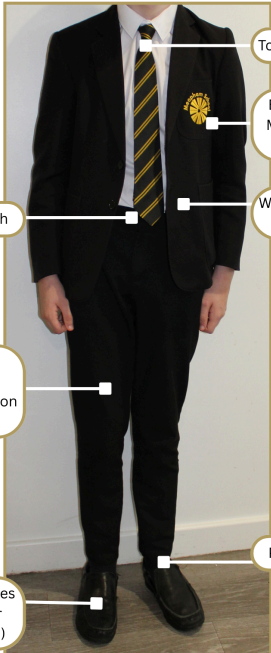
### Uniform Expectations



- 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)



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- 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:

**Violet N (Year 8)** - For making an excellent start in a new Geography set, was awarded Top Geographer in map skills and note taking.

**Bradley N (Year 11)** - Being tenacious in his approach to difficult English lessons.

**Cameron M (Year 11)** - For always showing tenacity and working as hard as he can in his English lessons.

**Noah J (Year 9)** - Received the highest score in a Geography text, 49/50!

**Rory S (Year 8)** - Excellent work in Geography.

**Raiden N (Year 10)** - Demonstrating social and emotional literacy in Business Studies with both respect and confidence. Raiden also supports peers with key terminology.

**Harrison B (Year 11)** - Demonstrating tenacity in Business Studies by responding well to both verbal and written feedback to improve work.

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**

At Meopham, every lesson begins with a retrieval starter. These are crucial because they activate prior knowledge, strengthen long-term memory by forcing active recall, and help students identify learning gaps, making new learning easier to connect and retain.

By consistently bringing information out of memory, these short, powerful activities make learning more durable and set a positive tone for lessons.

Key benefits:

**Strengthens memory:** The effort of pulling information from memory makes it stick better than passive review.

**Fights the forgetting curve:** Repeated retrieval interrupts the natural process of forgetting, as shown by Ebbinghaus's work, ensuring knowledge lasts.

**Builds connections:** Activates existing knowledge, creating stronger schemas and making it easier to link new material.

**Reduces cognitive load:** Secure, accessible knowledge frees up working memory for more complex tasks.

**Identifies gaps:** Reveals what students don't know, allowing for targeted support.

Examples in practice:

Quick quizzes (e.g., 5 questions) on previous topics.

Answering questions from memory without notes (closed-book).

Concept mapping or summarizing past content.

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

**Year 13**

I am so proud to share that over 50% of the cohort have now officially submitted their UCAS applications! It has been incredible to see the offers starting to flood in—whether those invitations are coming from a campus just down the road or a city at the other end of the country, one thing is clear: you are officially on your way. To those of you already holding offers, a huge congratulations—it's a testament to your hard work.

**Year 12 Work Experience**

Year 12 students are currently preparing for their Work Experience week (**Monday 9th Feb – Friday 13th Feb**). This is a vital "test-drive" of their future career, providing them with the confidence and the competitive edge they need for university and apprenticeship applications. We kindly ask for your support in encouraging your child to be proactive in securing an appropriate placement that matches their aspirations. Once a placement is agreed, it must be logged on **Unifrog** to ensure all safeguarding and risk assessments are completed. If you or your child encounter any difficulties in finding a suitable opportunity, please do not hesitate to contact (Mrs Hatch, Assistant Headteacher for Careers).

**Year 11**

Our Year 11 students have settled incredibly well into their P7 intervention sessions, showing a real sense of purpose as they prepare for the next step on their journey. With the Mock Exams approaching (**Monday 2nd Feb – Friday 13th Feb**), it's fantastic to see them working so hard to sharpen their skills and find their focus.

To keep that momentum high, here are some short, sharp tips for active revision at home:

**Revision 'Sprints':** Encourage 25 minutes of deep focus followed by a 5-minute break to keep the mind fresh and energised.

**Active Recall:** Moving beyond just reading—use flashcards or 'blurting' (writing everything they know on a blank page) to truly lock in that knowledge.

**The Power of Practice:** Tackling past exam questions is the best way to 'test-drive' the real thing and build confidence.

**Purposeful Spaces:** A quiet, phone-free zone helps turn a vague study session into a focused hour of progress.

### **Moving Forward**

As we get into the heart of the term, it has been fantastic to see students demonstrating tenacity and excellence in each and every lesson, daring to take on new challenges and seizing all of the fantastic opportunities school affords them. In particular, our Year 11 and Year 13 students are showing a real dedication to their futures as they begin to prepare for their upcoming mock exams.

Of course, whilst exams are undoubtedly very important, there is also much, much more to an excellent education, and it is great to see so many students getting involved in the wider life of our school community. There are so many opportunities available! I encourage all students to look at the range of enrichment activities running this term and all the new student leadership positions available. We want each and every one of our students to see Meopham School not just as a place of learning, but a community that will support them in pursuing their interests, achieving their ambitions and - most importantly of all - creating memories they will cherish for a lifetime. That is what school is all about.

Have a lovely week,

Mr Roberts  
Headteacher