

Headteacher's Welcome

Hello to you all from Meopham School! We hope you have had a lovely weekend. We had a fantastic time celebrating with our four houses in our House Assemblies last week, as well as meeting with the parents and carers of our Sixth Form students. Lots more going on this week too!

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

Term 3 House Assemblies

Last week, all students and staff paused again to reflect on the **achievements and successes** of our students. Each House had a separate assembly led by the **Head of House, House Champion** and **Sixth Form House Captains**.

This term, we also focused on **Student Leadership** and the **upcoming opportunities for all students**.



Deputy House Captains have been announced!

Our Sixth Form **House Captains** announced their choices of **Deputy House Captains** from Years 7-11 last week. **Applications remain open for Chilham and Hever students** until the end of term. All newly appointed House captains are excited to get stuck into the championing and organising of **Inter-House competitions and events!**



Theo H
Year 11
Theo is extremely committed to Meopham School, with 100% attendance and 0 behaviour points. Theo's application was very impressive and he would like to help organise a Charity Colour Run.



James C
Year 10
James has 100% attendance and feels that Excellence is the most important of the TRUE values at Meopham School.

Khadijat A
Year 9
Khadijat has 100% attendance and values Unity and Respect. She would like to help organise a Culture Day at Meopham School.



<p>Katie F Year 7</p> <p>Katie has 100% attendance and 0 negative points. She would like to support other students in believing anything is possible.</p>	<p>Will E Year 9</p> <p>Will believes that Tenacity is the most important of our TRUE values and would like to help organise more school trips.</p>	<p>Dilpreet D Year 10</p> <p>Dilpreet is truly committed to supporting the students at Meopham School and feels Unity is incredibly important.</p>	<p>Nshira A Year 10</p> <p>Nshira is committed to striving for greatness and believes demonstrating Unity is the way to achieve this.</p>
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<p>Israel O Year 7</p> <p>Israel believes that Respect is the most important of our TRUE values and wants to encourage this.</p>	<p>Joseph F Year 7</p> <p>Joseph has 100% attendance and believes that Unity and listening to others is important.</p>	<p>Marley L Year 10</p> <p>Marley is an incredibly polite and committed student and believes that our TRUE values are equally valid.</p>	<p>Amelia R Year 10</p> <p>Amelia feels that Respect is the most important TRUE value, this is reflected in her having 0 negative behaviour points.</p>	<p>Jack H Year 10</p> <p>Jack has 100% attendance and 0 behaviour points and is keen to champion Walmer to glory!</p>
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Student Helper Volunteers needed!

Throughout this year, there are a range of **after school events** coming up and we need will need some **Students Helpers** to support the smooth running of these.



All events, whether it be Open Evening, Parents/Carers Evening or school performances will require the **support** and **professionalism** of our students. . If your child would like to support any and all of these events, they can **sign up using the following form:** <https://forms.gle/x7JL7uLnQU2rsTkB6>. This can also be found on their Year Group Google Classroom.

Students will be rewarded with 20 Unity House Points for attending these events.

Key Messages

Year 9 Options - Mrs Romney - Deputy Headteacher

Year 9 students and parents/carers will have received their Options Choices form on Friday, but just in case, the link to the form is [here](#).

A copy of the accompanying letter is [here](#)

The deadline to complete this is **27th February 2026**.

More information about our Options process, including the course guide booklet can be found on the website [here](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, please direct these to Ms Bland, Raising Standards Lead, in the first instance via the [Academic Contact Form](#).

SSP finish time - Mr Wood - Assistant Headteacher

SSP is now a 4.15pm finish time instead of 3.10pm - please be aware this additional time needs to be completed fully.

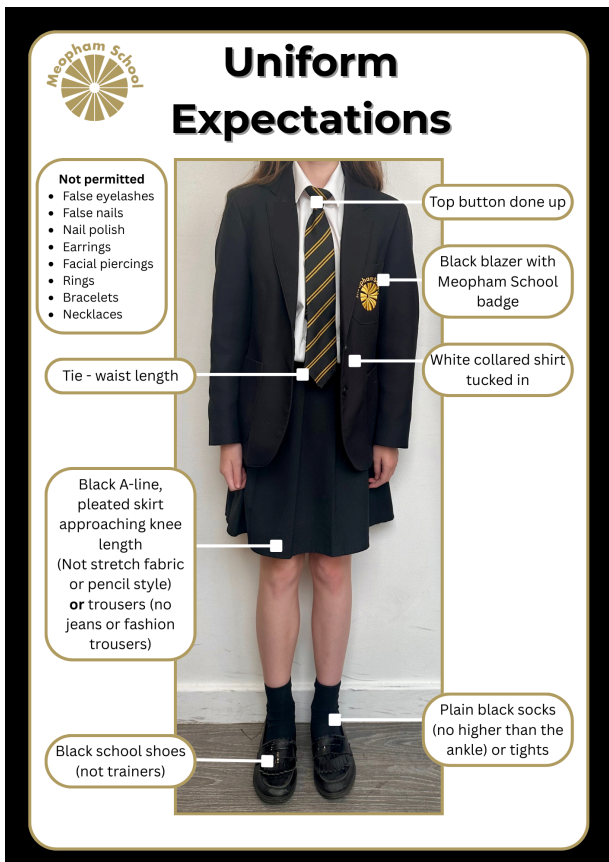
Minibus Driver Support - Mrs Romney - Deputy Headteacher

We are keen to continue to grow the number of trips and enrichment opportunities for students, and we need your support! We are looking for **minibus drivers** to assist with transporting students to and from events, on a zero-hour contract. You may already hold a minibus qualification, or if not, would be willing to complete the training provided. You would need to be available during term time, and we would complete a DBS check in advance of starting. It would be an excellent opportunity to get involved in the wider life of the school and we would love to have more people from our wider community involved in school events! If you are interested in helping please contact Mrs Romney on zara.romney@swale.at

Uniform Expectations - Mr Wood- Assistant Headteacher

Recently we have seen an increase in the number of students wearing jewellery and trainers in school. These are not permitted uniform items. Please can you support us to ensure the students abide by the school uniform expectations.

Jewellery or trainers being worn and not corrected will result in students using our student support provision.



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

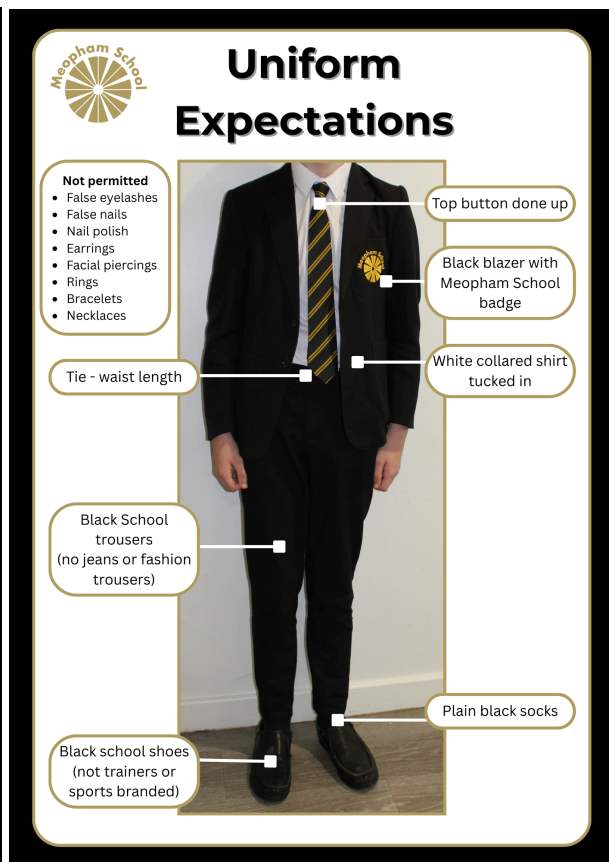
White collared shirt tucked in

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)



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- 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:

Farron W (Year 8) - For going out of his way to tune the ukuleles during lunch time so they are tuned ready for Music lessons.

Henry R (Year 7) - Excellent work in Textiles, using embroidery techniques to create an artist-inspired outcome.

Jack Mc (Year 11) - Demonstrating excellence and tenacity in History, completing the most work in his class.

Maria K-P (Year 11) - Maria has found innovative ways to develop her revision of *Macbeth* to help her retrieve and understand the content.

Noah J (Year 9) - Writing an excellent PEEL paragraph response about the Original Sin and Free Will in Christianity.

Theo F (Year 9) - For demonstrating tenacity in his English 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

Cold calling is an inclusive, "no-hands-up" classroom technique where teachers call on students regardless of whether they volunteered, promoting high engagement, active thinking, and accountability for all. Popularized by Doug Lemov, it ensures a more balanced, and equitable classroom discussion compared to relying on the same few confident students who always volunteer answers.

Rather than asking for a volunteer, the teacher poses a question, pauses (allowing all students to think and answer in their heads) and then calls on a particular student to respond. The benefits of this technique include:

- increased thinking and participation in learning;
- improved momentum and pace;
- more strategic checking of mastery;
- and greater inclusion.

Cold calling can sometimes be misunderstood as 'catching students out'. In reality however, it is a tool for inclusivity and higher engagement in lessons.

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

To our Year 11 students, we want to wish you the very best of luck as you head into your mock exams. This is a significant milestone, and while it's natural to feel a bit of pressure, remember that these assessments are simply a tool to help you find your feet and identify where to focus your energy next. Deep breaths, stay focused, and show us what you've been working so hard on—you've got this! Good luck Year 11.

Mrs Hartley, Ms Bland & Mr Whittle.



For our Year 12s, the countdown is on for work experience week, running from **Monday 9th February to Friday 13th February**. This is a fantastic opportunity to step outside the classroom and get a real feel for the professional world. Please make sure that every single detail of your placement is fully logged on the Unifrog app before you head out. If you're running into any last-minute hurdles or have questions about your transition to the workplace, please go and see Mrs Hatch as soon as possible so we can get you sorted.

Moving Forward

It was wonderful catching up with the families of our Sixth Form students last week and hearing all about their fantastic progress. We have been really impressed with the tenacity and maturity with which our Sixth Formers have approached their Key Stage Five study and - as our Sixth Form continues to grow rapidly - it is clear that our Sixth Form students are a real source of pride for the school.

We are really looking forward to seeing the families of Year 10 students at our **Year 10 Parents/Carers Evening** this Wednesday. We hope to see as many of you as possible there so we can celebrate our students' success, talk about their progress and discuss how we can support them moving forward.

Furthermore, we want to wish our Year 11s the very best during their **mock exams** over the next two weeks. We know how hard they have been working in the run-up to their GCSEs and appreciate this can be a stressful time, but it is important to remember that these mocks are there to support students get ready for the real thing and are nothing to be worried about. These mocks are for teachers, so we can get all the best possible information on how our students are doing and how they can be best supported in these final few months.



Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 02.02.26

If, however, any students are feeling concerned or anxious at all, our Culture and Ethos team are always on hand to listen and ensure students feel confident and supported. All anyone can ever ask of a student is that they try their best. If they do that, they can hold their heads high. I am sure they will do us proud!

Have a lovely week,

Mr Roberts
Headteacher