

Headteacher's Welcome

I hope everyone has had a lovely weekend - welcome back to another week at Meopham School! As we approach the end of another busy term, there is lots to reflect upon and celebrate - and plenty more still going on this week!

Fire Alarms

As you may know, on Friday the fire alarm sounded twice in the afternoon. This was due to a faulty sensor in one of the boys' toilets in the Killick building. The sensor is being fixed today. Our apologies for any inconvenience caused and thank you to everyone in our school community for following all safety procedures correctly.

Car Park

A reminder that we have an expansive drop-off zone around the perimeter of our parent/carer car park behind the library, which we would ask that all parents/carers use when dropping off students. **Please do not stop on the roundabout to drop off your children. This poses a significant safety risk as students are getting out of cars and walking into a bus lane, which has led to some near-misses. Moreover, cars are stopping very abruptly to avoid hitting students leaving other cars who have decided to stop mid-roundabout.**

Furthermore, **those stopping on the roundabout are causing congestion.** If everyone utilises the drop-off areas in the car park, there is plenty of space, you can drop children off safely and then be out of the car park in less than a minute. It is when drivers stop on the bottleneck of the roundabout that things are slowed down for everyone. **Thank you to the large majority of parents/carers who are following this process correctly.**

Please do bear in mind that all staff are trying to do with this process is keep our students safe. Unfortunately we have had quite a few instances this term where some parents/carers have been shouting at staff, been verbally abusive and even purposely driven into staff whilst they are supervising students safely across the road, on the pretence they are in a rush. As I am sure you will agree, this sort of behaviour isn't acceptable.

Of course, the overwhelming majority of our parents/carers are courteous and supportive, and we are so grateful for your patience and understanding with our processes at the start and end of the day. If you would like to share views about the school or discuss any concerns you have, parents/carers are always welcome to get in touch via the School Feedback Form on our Communication Portal. Nonetheless, to clarify: **abuse against staff is not acceptable.**

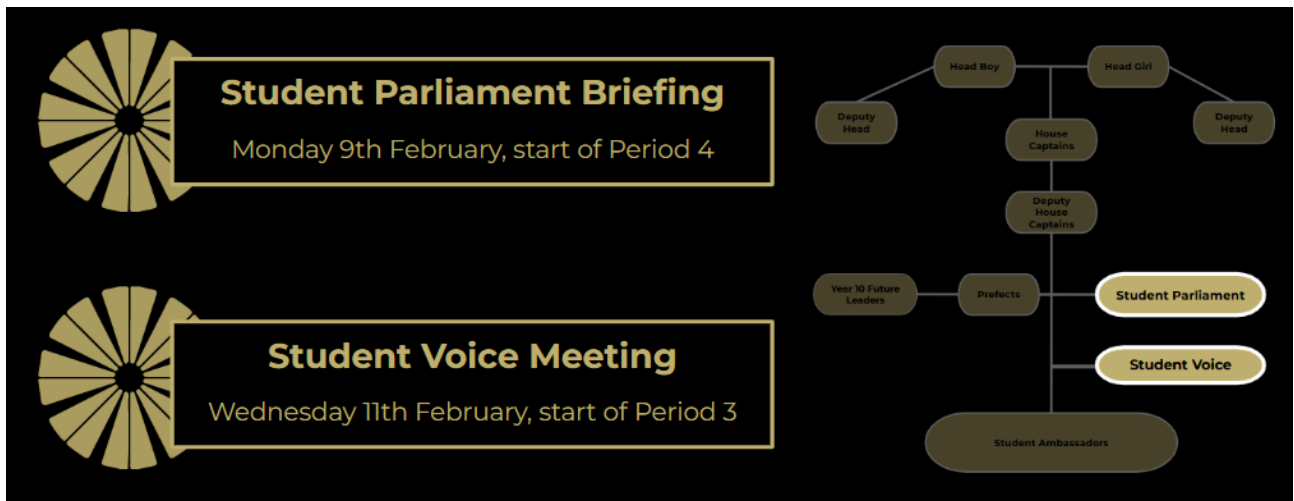
Thank you very much for everyone's support with keeping our students safe.

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

Student Leadership - Dates for the Diary

This week, students involved in **Student Parliament** and **Student Voice** will be involved in important discussions about our school community.

Student MPs will represent the voice of their tutor group, feeding back on the topics discussed in Monday's briefing. While students involved in **Student Voice** will consider **solutions to improve a variety of aspects of school life** for our students. We look forward to hearing the views of our valued Student Leadership body.



Student Parliament Briefing
Monday 9th February, start of Period 4

Student Voice Meeting
Wednesday 11th February, start of Period 3

Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head, Deputy Head, House Captains, Deputy House Captains, Year 10 Future Leaders, Prefects, Student Parliament, Student Voice, Student Ambassadors

End of Term House totals:

As we approach the end of Term 3 and mark the **halfway point of our academic year**, here are the **total House points** our students have worked hard to earn so far:



11,309



11,494



11,978



12,334

Key Messages

Year 9 Options - Mrs Romney - Deputy Headteacher

It has been a pleasure to host our Options assemblies with Year 9 students over the last week, and to talk to so many students asking sensible and important questions about their next steps and future courses. So far they have heard from History, Geography, Philosophy, Religion and Ethics, Triple Science, French, Sociology, Art and DT. These assemblies continue next week, with a focus on Business, Catering, Sport, Health and Social Care, Music, Drama, Computing and Digital IT.



Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 09.02.26

In addition, we have been really pleased with the number of students who have taken part in the taster sessions both in lessons and in their own time. These continue next week, with the following sessions on offer.

Monday 9th Feb - **Drama** - Killick Studio (3.15-3.45pm)

Tuesday 10th Feb - **DT** - DT1 (12.45-1.15pm)

Wednesday 11th Feb - **Catering** - Food (12.45-1.15pm)

Thursday 12th Feb - **Digital IT** - IT1 (12.45-1.15pm)

Friday 13th Feb - **Business*** - IT3 (12.45-1.15pm)

*This is an extra session due to the high demand experienced last week.

A reminder that the deadline to complete the options [form](#) is Friday 27th February, and all information regarding options can be found on our website [here](#).

Year 11 Destinations Interviews - Mrs Romney - Deputy Headteacher

We are very pleased to have had over **140 applications already to our Sixth Form** for September 2026, which includes a large number of our Year 11 students. If your child has submitted an application through Kent Choices but has not yet had their interview, please tell them not to worry. We are working our way through these, and everyone will have an interview with either Mrs Romney or Mrs Hartley. We put these on pause during the mock window to allow students to focus on their examinations, but they will begin again in earnest after half term.

In the meantime, if your child has any questions or wants to know more please remind them to speak to Mrs Romney or Mrs Hartley who will be more than happy to help.

If your child is not planning to attend Meopham Sixth Form, or is unsure of their next steps, we are still here to help. Mrs Hatch oversees our Careers provision at the school, and is working with students who are not looking to stay on with us to secure appropriate destinations for next year.

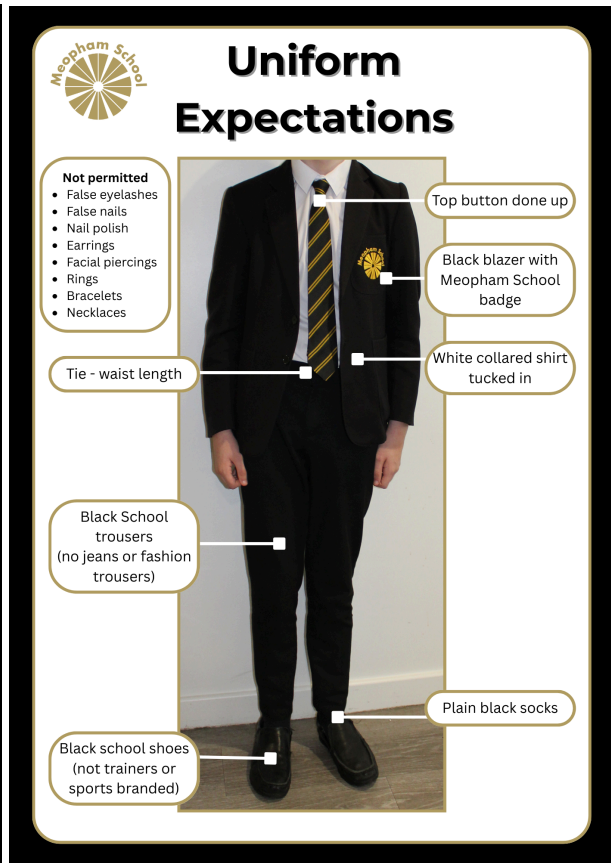
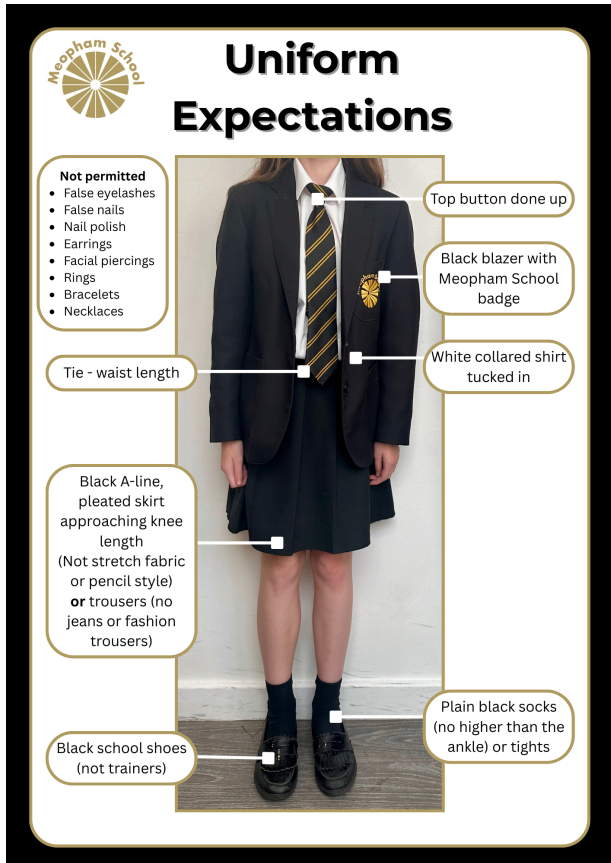
A reminder that whatever the planned next steps, all students should make their applications through the [Kent Choices](#) website. If they are unsure on how to use this, or need their log in details, please direct them to speak to either Mrs Romney or Mrs Hatch.

Uniform Expectations - Mr Wood- Assistant Headteacher

Overall around the school, uniform has been excellent; we have been really impressed as staff with the students' uniform.

However, the biggest area for improvements are not the uniform but the extra additions to the uniform, jewellery, trainers etc. Trainers are not permitted as part of the uniform and jewellery too is not part of the school uniform and therefore not permitted.

Please can you support your children to not collect sanctions unnecessarily.



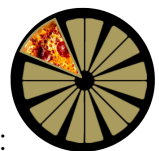
Phones in school - Mr A Wood - Assistant Headteacher KS3 Conduct

Recently some students have been sanctioned for using their phones inappropriately in school. **A reminder that we operate a not seen, not heard, not taken policy on mobile phones. Students are *always* permitted to contact home should they need, if they ask permission from a member of staff first.**

Can we please seek your support to monitor your children's conduct on their phones. Thank you.

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:



Teleola M (Year 8) - Excellent work in Geography on the topic of Russia.

Daisy D (Year 8) - For completing extended work covering the physical and human geography of Russia.

James R (Year 9) - Showing respect by looking out for a new student in English.

Romel A (Year 9) - Demonstrating tenacity in English.

Isabella N (Year 8) - For continuous excellent work in Geography.

Jagsirat K (Year 8) - Star reception helper last week.

Micah Y (Year 7) - Excellent paragraph in French, focussing on his hobbies.

Amelia Mc (Year 7) - Including her opinions, reasons, connections and intensifiers in a written paragraph in French.



Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 09.02.26

George S (Year 10) - For creating an excellent puff pastry in Catering.

Layla H (Year 11) - Demonstrating tenacity and excellence in Business classes.

George C (Year 10) - George has worked hard to overcome some difficulties in Business studies. He has been tenacious in his new approach to the work and has shown an improvement.

Hannah S (Year 8) - Demonstrating all of the TRUE values consistently in French lessons, especially Unity when helping other students.

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

You may have heard your child talk about 'Pose, Pause, Pounce, Bounce'. This is a formative assessment questioning technique designed by Dylan Wiliam to increase student engagement and deepen thinking. It replaces the traditional models with a more interactive, "basketball-style" approach, requiring teachers to ask open-ended questions, allow thinking time, and have students build upon each other's answers.

The process works in the following way:

Pose: The teacher poses a high-quality, open-ended question to the entire class.

Pause: The teacher waits (often 10+ seconds) to allow students to think, rather than taking the first hand that goes up.

Pounce: The teacher calls on a specific student (often without hands raised) to provide an initial answer.

Bounce: The teacher takes the answer from the first student and "bounces" it to another student to evaluate, expand, or add to.

This process works well with our ABC questioning methodology, and is a simple but effective way of supporting our retrieval starters and assessment for learning plenaries.

So why did we pick this approach?

Increases Participation: By not taking hands-up, it encourages all students to think, as anyone might be called upon.

Improves Depth: Pausing reduces the tendency to "blurt" out answers and encourages deeper reflection.

Formative Assessment: Bouncing the question allows teachers to gauge understanding across the room without needing to evaluate every answer themselves.

Best Practice: It is considered a "no hands up" technique that keeps students alert and engaged.

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

Year 11

Our Year 11 students have made an absolutely excellent start to their mock exams this week. Beyond just the academic effort, what has really stood out to the staff is their



Meopham School - Headteacher's Newsletter 09.02.26

remarkable maturity and tenacity.

The quiet focus in the exam hall and the way they are supporting one another during revision breaks has been brilliant to see. They aren't just sitting tests; they are proving they have the tenacity and stamina needed for the final stretch in the summer. Keep up the great work!

Year 12

We want to wish the very best of luck to our Year 12 students as they head out on Work Experience this week. This is a vital part of their development, giving them a chance to take their classroom learning and apply it in 'real world' environments. Whether they are in hospitals, offices, schools, or local businesses, we know they will be fantastic ambassadors for our Sixth Form. We look forward to hearing all about their placements and how this week has helped shape their future career goals and aspirations when they return.

Sixth Form

After the half-term break, we are excited to introduce a new digital signing-in app for our Sixth Formers. This transition to a mobile-based system is designed to give students more autonomy while ensuring our attendance and safeguarding records remain 100% accurate. This modern approach mirrors the flexible working environments many students will encounter in their future careers, allowing for a smoother flow during study periods and when leaving the site.

Business Dress

A quick reminder regarding our Sixth Form Business Dress policy. We take great pride in the professional atmosphere of our Sixth Form, and our dress code is a key part of that identity. To maintain these high standards, please ensure that trainers, Ugg-style boots, and hoodies are kept for the weekend. We want our students to look the part and feel ready for work; students who arrive in casual footwear or hoodies will be asked to change into the appropriate professional attire provided by the school for the day. We appreciate your support in helping our students 'dress for success'.

Healthy Habits

With the intensity of Year 13 increasing as we approach the summer, we want to ensure our students have the best possible environment for focus. As a reminder, take-away food deliveries are not permitted on the school site. We encourage students to make use of our on-site catering or bring in their own lunches to ensure they are fueled properly for their afternoon lessons. By keeping the site a 'take-away free zone,' we also maintain a clean and professional study environment for everyone. Again, thank you for your support.

Thanks,

Raising Standards Team

Moving Forward

A big thank you to all of our wonderful staff this term for their hard work and dedication to our students, and a huge well done to all of our students on another successful term, where they have continued to learn, grow and make us all proud.

Thank you also to all of you - the families of our school community - for the support you provide the school each and every day. Our partnership is so important in achieving our shared goal, which is an excellent education for each and every child.

Please look out for the next couple of newsletters, which will be **student editions**, and I wish everyone a relaxing and well-deserved half-term break.

Have a lovely week,

Mr Roberts
Headteacher