

## Headteacher's Welcome

We hope you enjoyed our slightly different version of the newsletter last week, which was written and created by our students; we think they did an excellent job.

Last week was a busy one for visitors, and I am incredibly proud of the feedback we received. Those touring the school commented specifically on the **calm and focused atmosphere** in our classrooms. They saw students who were deeply engaged in their learning, demonstrating the high standards and purposeful habits we strive for every day.

This calm environment is the result of the hard work our students put in and the consistent routines our staff follow—from the warm welcome students receive at the classroom door to the "independent practice" time they are given to master new skills.

We continue to work to ensure your children receive the very best education. This includes strategies to develop retention and retrieval of key knowledge, using the **Science of Learning** to help students move knowledge into their long-term memory. It is wonderful to see these strategies becoming part of our students' daily school life.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for ensuring your children arrive at school ready to learn and achieve their best.

I wish you and your families a positive week ahead.

Mrs Romney

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

### Term 4 Enrichment Reminder

Here is a reminder of our enrichment offering, see the **timetable** here:

Our enrichment programme is designed to help students discover new passions and develop new lasting friendships outside the traditional classroom. We offer a **wide variety of lunchtime and after-school clubs**, ranging from competitive sports to creative arts.

To ensure students get the most out of their sessions, those attending lunchtime clubs can collect an **"Queue Jump Pass"** from their club lead. This allows them to bypass the canteen queue and head straight to their activity.

The **Enrichment Programme poster** is on display around the school for our students to see what's on offer.

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
Year 10 Science Higher Revision	Lunchtime	Science 4	Mrs Eaton
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
Boxing Club	Lunchtime	Sports Hall*	Mr Smith
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
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 Davis 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

### **Key Messages**

#### **Online Safety - Mrs Clements, Assistant Headteacher; Designated Safeguarding Leader**

We would like to bring to your attention a concerning social media trend currently circulating on TikTok and Snapchat titled "Red vs Blue." This trend encourages students from different schools and postcodes to organise large-scale confrontations at specific locations. At present we have no evidence or intelligence suggesting that Meopham School students are involved. However, we believe proactive communication is the best way to keep our community safe.

Please remain vigilant regarding your child's social media activity. If you hear of any plans regarding such events, or see mention of this trend within local groups, please notify the school immediately.

We have also had reports that students have been accessing other students' Google Classroom accounts.

To keep accounts secure, enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) where possible and avoid using the same password across different platforms.

Most importantly, remember that online well-being matters; if something your child encounters makes them feel uncomfortable or pressured, don't keep it to yourself. Reach out to a member of staff or encourage your child to report to a teacher or use the school's safetext or online reporting form. Further information regarding online safety can be found on the school website. [Meopham School - Online Safety Information](#)

Let's work together to keep our community's digital space respectful and secure.

#### **Easter Holiday dates**

We wanted to draw parents' attention to the fact that our Easter holiday dates, as set by Swale Academies Trust, are slightly out of sync with other schools in the area. The dates are set by the Trust Executive board, and we have no control over these. We would ask you to please check these dates, and ensure you are aware of any implications for your family.

Last day of Term 4 - Friday 27th March

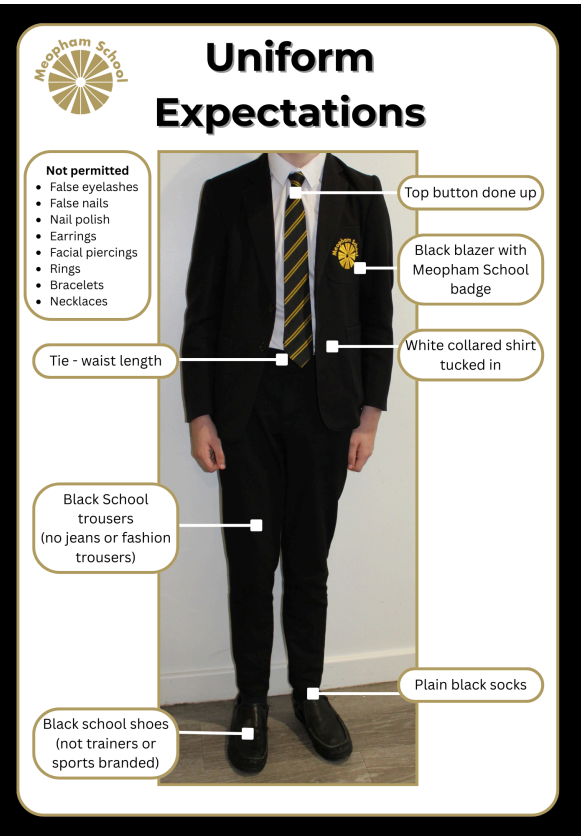
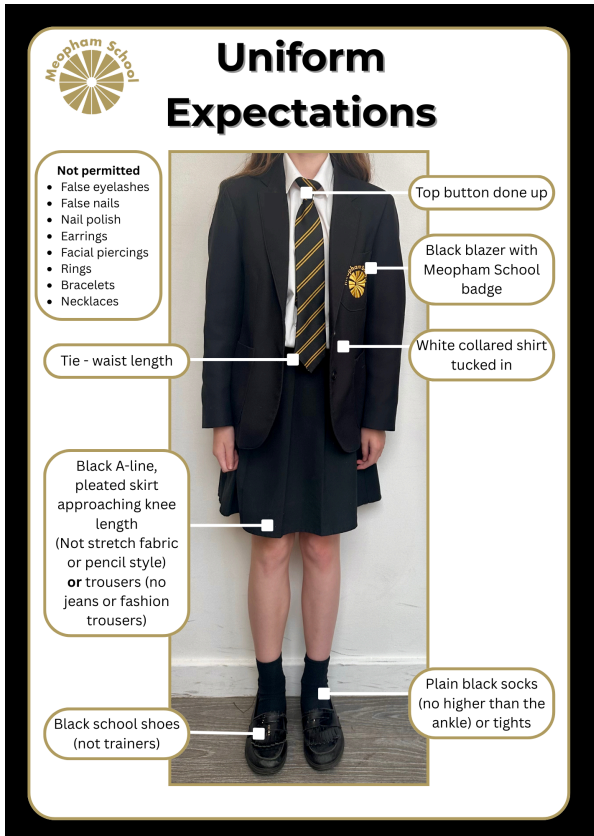
First day of Term 5 - Monday 13th April

#### **Parents' Evenings in Term 4 - Mrs Romney, Deputy Headteacher**

As we build towards the examination season we have two key Parents' Evenings taking place this term; Year 11 on Wednesday 11th March, and Year 13 on Wednesday 25th March. Teachers will be able to provide key feedback from the recent mock examinations, and final next steps when preparing for the summer. More information will be sent out for each event nearer the time.

#### **Uniform Expectations - Mr Wood- Assistant Headteacher**

Thank you for all your hard work and support to prepare your children for tomorrow's return to school. We look forward to seeing the students this week in full uniform meeting the school standards, otherwise we will have to issue sanctions accordingly. Students will be expected to meet the standards of the school uniform.



**Mr A Wood- Assistant Headteacher- KS3 conduct**

My duty point, as you may see in the mornings, is to supervise the roundabout at the front of the school. I occasionally receive complaints from parents regarding the one way system. The roundabout has been designed to support with the flow of traffic and it is a very serious hazard to stop on this roundabout. Therefore there is a drop off point behind the doctor's surgery which should be used by parents. Our primary aim is to ensure the safety of students and users of our site. Please support us to make this area safer by using the areas provided, and following the signage in place.

**Mr A Wood- Assistant headteacher- KS3 conduct**

Please can you support us by explaining to your children that the school has a HANDS OFF policy. We as a school want to ensure these “small” contacts are not raising to bigger ones and leading to conduct issues. Thank you for your support with this.

**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:



**Alfie C & Thomas P (Year 7)** - Excellent effort with English homework.

**Luke F (Year 11)** - Demonstrating Tenacity by working hard throughout the year, culminating in an excellent grade for his Literature English mock exams.

**Danny H (Year 11)** - Having a consistently positive attitude in English and an excellent effort in homework tasks recently.

**Joseph S (Year 9)** - Showing respect in lessons by participating and always being helpful.



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**Deji A (Year 8)** - Consistently early for his tutor lessons and demonstrating Unity by putting up a quote each day for the class.

**Oscar R & Hollie S (Year 13)** - Outstanding Sport coursework.

**Frankie M (Year 11)** - Providing the correct answers in Maths and helping other students to understand the topic.

**Marley L (Year 10)** - Working hard to understand the calculations of 2D shapes during Maths intervention sessions.

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 our focus is on providing opportunities for students to work independently through extended periods of deliberate practice.

"It is not just about 'doing'; it is about 'doing better.' Expert performance is the result of deliberate practice, not innate talent." (Anders Ericsson)

### Why is this important?

**Cognitive Load:** New information is fragile. Independent practice moves it from working memory to long-term memory.

**The Forgetting Curve:** Immediate practice is the first "interruption" to the forgetting process.

**Building Stamina:** In exams, students must work for 90+ minutes alone. We therefore need to begin to prepare them for these situations.

### What this might look like in the classroom:

**Modelling / Success Criteria:** The teacher models, the class practices together. Success criteria are established to support students in their work.

**Environment:** 10 minutes of **uninterrupted silence**. No "checking in" from the teacher for the first 3 minutes. This allows 'desirable difficulties' where students need to try to challenge themselves.

**The Task:** It must be **attainable but challenging**. The teacher will circulate the room to support those who need it, or provide extra challenge as required.

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

### **Year 13 - The Final Sprint**

With the mock exams now behind us, our Year 13 students have reached a pivotal milestone. Whether the results are exactly what they hoped for or a bit of a wake-up call, the message remains the same: keep the momentum. These results are a diagnostic tool, not a final verdict. Now is the time to refine revision strategies and deepen commitment as we head toward the summer series.

### **Coursework & Deadlines**

For our BTEC students, the pressure is particularly high. We have a significant volume of coursework to finalise to meet strict exam board moderation dates.

**Stay Proactive:** Missing these internal deadlines can jeopardize final grades.

**Consistency is Key:** A steady work rate now prevents a stressful "crunch" later in the term.

This is the final push. Let's make every session count!

### **Sixth Form Standards - Uniform Update**

We have been pleased to see a significant improvement in Sixth Form attire recently;



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the majority of students are looking professional and setting an excellent example for the rest of the school. However, we are still seeing a persistent minority of students wearing trainers or Ugg-style boots, which do not meet our uniform requirements. To maintain our high standards, please note the following:

**Gate Checks:** Uniform is now checked at the school gate every morning.

**Sanctions:** Any Sixth Form student entering the site in trainers or Uggs will be issued a C3 Whole School Detention.

We appreciate your support in ensuring our students arrive "business-ready" and focused on their studies.

## **Year 11 Parents/Carers**

An important letter was sent last Friday with key dates for the rest of the academic year. Please contact reception if you did not receive a copy.

## **Moving Forward**

Now that we have reached the start of meteorological spring we can begin to look towards lighter mornings and longer days. This change in season also signals that we are entering the "business end" of the academic year. For many of our students, particularly those in Years 11 and 13, the focus is now sharpening toward the upcoming exam season.

To ensure every student achieves their potential during this critical period, it is essential that we maintain high standards of **conduct, effort, and uniform**. These are not just rules; they are the foundations that allow high-quality learning to take place.

We ask that our students and staff to channel our **TRUE** values in everything they do over the coming weeks:

**Tenacity:** As the workload increases and exam preparation intensifies, we look for our students to show the grit and persistence needed to overcome challenges and stay focused on their goals.

**Respect:** This begins with self-respect—arriving to school in full uniform and being "ready to learn." It extends to the respect we show our environment and each other, ensuring our corridors and classrooms remain the calm, purposeful spaces our visitors praised this week.

**Unity:** We are at our strongest when we work together. By supporting one another and following our shared school routines, we ensure that every student, in every classroom, can succeed without distraction.

**Excellence:** We continue to work for excellence in every piece of work and every interaction. It is this commitment to high standards that will turn the "promise" of spring into the successes of summer.

Thank you for your continued support in reinforcing these values at home. Together, we can ensure this final push toward the summer is our most successful yet.

Mrs Romney

Deputy Headteacher