

Headteacher's Welcome

I hope everyone has had a lovely weekend, as it finally seems as if Spring has sprung! (Apologies: I've probably jinxed it!) Lots of great stuff has been going on at school in the last week or so, and lots more to do before we reach the Easter break! More at the end of the newsletter.

Cultural Capital a message from Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)

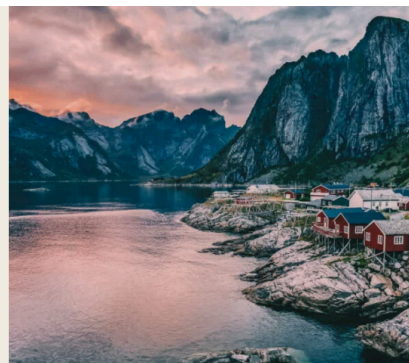
World Challenge - International School Trip 2027

We are excited to announce that Meopham School will be working with **World Challenge** to launch an **international trip** to students (Year 8 and above).

Students in **Year 8, 9, 10** and **12** will attend **assemblies this Thursday** where the trip location will be announced and other information about the trip will be shared with students.

We are sure that working with **World Challenge** will offer our students incredible opportunities to **explore, discover** and **unlock new experiences**.

We will of course share more information about this international trip with parents and carers soon. For more information about World Challenge and the experiences they offer, visit their **website** : <https://weareworldchallenge.com/uk/> or **Instagram page**: <https://www.instagram.com/weareworldchallenge/>



Student Parliament - a message from Headteacher, Ethan Roberts

Well done to our Student MPs who met for our very first sitting of our Student Parliament last Wednesday. A special thanks to Megan, Sabegh, Millie and Ava - our Head and Deputy Head Students - for chairing the meeting, as well as to Mrs Greenwood for overseeing the organisation.

This was a professional event, with an agreed agenda, minutes taken and nominations made to elect the Minister for each year group. A school Parliamentary system is a fantastic way to promote British values within our school, teaching our students the importance of democracy and the rule of law.

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I will be meeting with the Year Ministers and the Head Students for our Cabinet Meeting tomorrow, and will be taking their suggestions to the Senior Leadership Team next week. I will update you on my grilling next week!

Debating Society

A well done to the participants within our debate last week:

“This House would make cigarettes and vapes illegal.”

Next week's debate is:

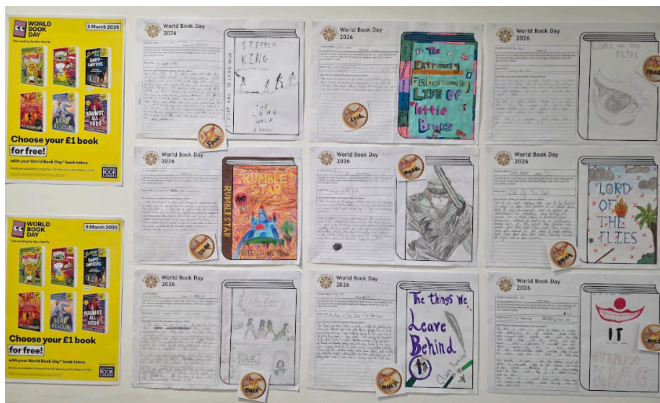
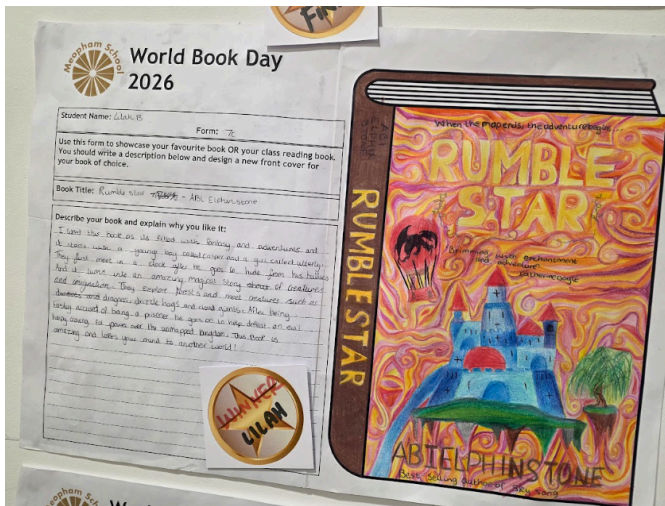
“This House would end gun ownership.”

All students and staff are more than welcome to get involved in **English 8** each Monday!

World Book Day - a message from Curriculum Leader for English, Mrs Williamson

Well done to all of the year 7 students who took part in the **World Book Day Event** on Thursday 5th March at the North School. They participated in a range of workshops with the author Ben Crystal.

Well done also to all of the students who submitted a book cover design for our **World Book Day competition**. Congratulations to the winning entries, which showcased titles from Lord of the Flies and Little Women to Lottie Brooks and horror by Stephen King.



Key Messages


Wellbeing survey for parents and carers - Mrs Romney, Deputy Headteacher

We are committed to supporting your child's wellbeing, and would value your feedback to help us improve. We are therefore inviting all parents and carers to complete a short survey about our school's approach to wellbeing and mental health. Your views will help us understand what we do well, and where there are areas for development.

The survey covers:

- How your child enjoys school;
- Communication about wellbeing support;
- Relationships within the school community;
- The school environment and culture.

You can see the questions which will be asked in the document below:

 [Bounce-Together-School-wellbeing-survey-for-parents-and-carers.pdf](#)

The survey only takes about 5 minutes to complete, and all responses are anonymous. The deadline for completion is Friday 27th March.

Please click the link below to complete the survey

<https://app.bouncetogether.co.uk/shrt/RVC53G2MBX>

Easter Holiday dates

A reminder of our Easter holiday dates. These 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

Sporting Fixtures

Netball - Year 7 Vs Saint George's

Huge congratulations to our Year 7 Netball team for their tenacious performance against St George's! The girls showed brilliant leadership by designing their own pre-match warm-ups and played two intense back-to-back games with a 'never give up' attitude. **Leia** was the standout star, earning **Player of the Match** from both schools for her brilliant movement and teamwork. While the victories went to the visitors, the Meopham girls won on effort and sportsmanship!

Netball - Year 8 & 9/10 Vs St John's

Monday our year 8s and 9/10s played away against St John's. Both teams were tenacious and determined from the start with only 6 players on each team. Despite being a player down, our yr9/10s put up a good fight. Our defence, Beth B and Lullabelle M was strong and fearless and never giving up, with 2 unbelievable goals from Bettie F as our goal shooter. The team worked incredibly hard and should be proud that we played against a whole team of year 10s and we had half a team of year 9s *and* a player down to only lose 5-2. Our year 8s also showed great tenacity throughout their game, unfortunately losing 11-2.



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Netball - Year 8 & 9 Vs Dartford Science Technology College

On Tuesday our year 8s and 9s played against Dartford Science Technology College again with determination. Our 9s are strong and fearless and fought back time after time, unfortunately missing out on the win by only 1 goal. Our player of the match goes to Sophie W! Our year 8s also showed tenacity being a player down but kept going until the end, finishing the game with a great goal by Amelie D. Unfortunately another loss for the year 8 team but they remain determined.

Mr A Wood- Assistant Headteacher- KS3 conduct

Line ups have been hugely successful this week and overall we have been really impressed with the uniform standards, please do remember we want the standards remaining high all the way through the school day.

Hands off approach- our students highest levels of sanctions are from physicality so staff will be using common language of "hands off" to try and support the learners not allowing situations to escalate following overly physical situations

Truancy Sweeps - Mrs Davies -Lane (Assistant Headteacher)

As we know the majority of students always do the right thing and arrive to their lessons in plenty of time which is really positive but there are the minority that are still arriving late. On the week of the **23rd March** we will be introducing **Truancy Sweeps**.

The reason for this is that as a school we value the importance of students being on time for their lessons so that they are ready for learning. This will set them up for the world of work and understand that being punctual is so important.

Students will need to arrive at their lessons in time for the last tannoy and not be circulating the corridors. After this point students will unfortunately be issued with **C4 detention** for truancy and escorted to the hall where they will remain for that lesson.

Students are always provided 5 minutes transition time between each lesson to ensure they can be punctual, so it's very important they are in lessons by the final tannoy!

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:



Milly D & Anu P (Year 13) - Being excellent student mentors with their allocated young person, demonstrating support while being positive, punctual and committed.

Freya L & Liliemae M (Year 9) - Consistently showing excellent engagement in History lessons with a good standard of exercise book presentation maintained.

Riley B (Year 9) - Demonstrating excellent programming skills in Computing.

Dylan C & Sally I (Year 10) - Excellent homework projects and presentations to the whole class on the historic context of *Macbeth*. Great tenacity and confidence shown.

Harley C (Year 9) - Insightful commentary on the differences between a bystander, perpetrator and resister in a discussion in Philosophy.

Sam R (Year 9) - For completing a high standard of work about the Holocaust in a Philosophy lesson.

Thomas P, Harley M & Elliot B (Year 7) - Students were involved in supporting Year 13 exams last week where Year 13 students taught a group of Year 7 students a PE lesson. Students and staff praised the professionalism and positive behaviour of all students



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involved. Year 13 students were especially grateful for the smooth running of their exams as a result of the boys' engagement.

George S (Year 11) - Demonstrating tenacity to solve complex programming tasks.

Layla H (Year 11) - Excellent engagement in lessons with strong notes that supported her L2D in her mock exam. Layla is striving for an overall grade of Level 2 Distinction*.

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

Assessment is about much more than just end-of-term tests or grades, and therefore we use a method called **Assessment for Learning (AfL)**. This means that every single lesson contains "checkpoints" where teachers find out exactly what a student knows, or how well they understand, so that they can adapt their teaching to help students improve right then and there.

We use several key strategies to make sure no student is left behind:

Retrieval Practice: We start every lesson by checking what students remember from previous weeks. This allows teachers to see immediately if they need to recap a topic before moving on to something new.

"Checks for Understanding": You might hear your child talk about "Cold Calling" or using mini-whiteboards. These techniques allow teachers to check the pulse of the whole class, ensuring every student—not just the ones with their hands up—is following the lesson.

The "Independent 10": By giving students 10 minutes of silent, independent work, teachers can circulate the room to look at students' work and give "live" feedback on the spot.

Self-Correction: We encourage students to use a different colored pen to mark their own work against a model answer. This helps them take ownership of their mistakes and understand exactly what "Excellence" looks like.

Our approach to assessment is designed to help students live out our school values every day:

Tenacity: Having the courage to get things wrong and using feedback to get them right the next time.

Excellence: Using our "Success Criteria" to push themselves to produce their very best work.

Unity: Working as a whole class to close "knowledge gaps" so that everyone can succeed together.

By using these daily checks, we ensure that learning is a constant conversation between the teacher and the student, rather than something that only happens at the end of a unit.

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

Year 11

We had our second Year 11 Parent/Carer evening last week, which gave teachers the opportunity to share information on progress and next steps in readiness for the



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student's summer exams starting next term.

The schedule for **Easter revision sessions** was sent out last week; we hope to see many students attend these sessions as these are a great opportunity to boost their exam skills.

Year 11s have been issued with a **revision loyalty card**, where they will have one stamp for every after-school and lunch time revision session they attend in the lead up to their exams. There will be house points for every 7 sessions they attend, with a prize for completing their whole card.

Year 11 Sixth Form interviews continue this week and next. All Year 11 students who have applied to our Sixth Form will be invited to an interview by the end of this term. **We have now had an incredible 155 applications to our Sixth Form!**

Countdown to the first exam (BTEC Information Technology): 46 days

Year 12

We reiterated the importance of good study habits to Year 12s this week, and were pleased to see many students taking this on board and working hard during their study periods. We are going to provide many useful resources for the students to use during their study time.

There will be a fantastic **UCAS event** on **2nd June** - students have been asked to register and book onto this event this week. This will be a great opportunity to meet over 100 universities and colleges to find out more about university and apprenticeship choices and applications. More information to come out soon.

Year 13

The schedule for Easter revision sessions was sent out last week; we hope to see many students attend these sessions as these are a great opportunity to boost their exam skills.

Year 13 Parent/Carer Evening is on **Wednesday 25th March**; booking will be live from Wednesday 18th March. We hope to see many of you here to discuss next steps for your child before they enter their exams next term.

Countdown to the first exam (BTEC Health and Social Care): 56 days

"Weekly Wins" Week 4

Intervention and Impact - Attend one extra after-school session or **lunch revision session** in classroom **English 9** this week. One hour of expert help can fix a month of confusion.

Study Habit #1:

Deliberate Practice - Focus on what you don't know (not what you do know!). Make a list of the topics for each subject you are not confident with and start revising these by making flashcards or mind maps.

Moving Forward

Feedback from our school community is always so important in ensuring we are continuously improving and delivering the best possible education for our young people. Recently, we have been collating lots more feedback from our students via our **Student Voice** team as well as our **Student Parliament**, and it has been great to hear their suggestions and ideas for changes we can make to our school.

We've also been really happy to gather more feedback from our staff, and it is encouraging to hear that over the last year staff have noted a **steady improvement in school improvement, student safety and behaviour, staff optimism and the quality of Teaching and Learning.**

We've also been pleased by the comments from our **governors** in recent visits, which **highlighted the high levels of student conduct and engagement in well-taught lessons.**

All of this has also helped to contribute to a huge **1.4% increase in our attendance** compared to this time last year (in attendance terms, 1.4% is a lot!) This isn't about the figures; it's about what they tell us about our school. We are a school on the up, where students are keener to be here each and every day, looking forward to the variety of enrichment opportunities on offer, excellent lessons in store and a school that they know will support and champion them.

However, your voice is important too! It has been great to chat with plenty of parents/carers at Parent/Carer Evenings over the last few terms, but some have fed back that they wish there were opportunities to meet me face-to-face for a chat about school matters or to provide some feedback.

Of course, it is not always possible for me to meet parents and carers directly regarding a specific issue, as I am rightly focused on driving school improvement for your children and the effective day-to-day running of the school.

However, I do want to have the opportunity to engage with parents and carers more, wherever possible. With this in mind from Term 5, I will hold a **weekly Headteacher coffee morning on Thursdays from 8.40am-9.40am.** Parents and carers are welcome to book 15 or 30 minute slots to discuss school matters with me, or provide some suggestions or feedback on the school. More information will follow on how to book this.

Furthermore, we have plenty of avenues to provide feedback to the school via our communication portal (found here: <https://sites.google.com/swale.at/msscoms/home>)

This portal includes a **School Feedback Form** as well as a **Positive News Form.** On our School Feedback Form, we have received no entries since it was launched in January! It would be great to hear from more parents and carers, through a method where you can quickly and easily share anything you would like us to consider or work on as a school. I'll also be providing a parent/carers survey to all families in the next few weeks, to ensure we are regularly taking the opportunity to listen and reflect on how we support our school community.

In the meantime, I hope everyone has a great week!

Take care,

Mr Roberts