

Headteacher's Welcome

Dear all,

I hope you've all had a lovely weekend enjoying the sunshine!

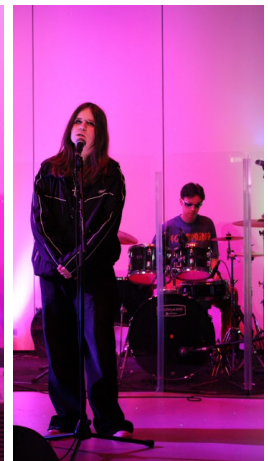
As we approach the end of another term, we have loads to update you on in what has been a very busy few weeks! More from me at the end.

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

SwaleStock 2026

The **photos** from this year's annual SwaleStock are in!

The event brought together student performers from schools across **Swale Academies Trust** who showcased their **musical skills and creativity**. Our Year 7 students enjoyed participating as the audience on the day too, encouraging student musicians throughout their performances.





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Student Parliament Meeting

On Wednesday 11th, our **Student Parliament** held its very first sitting at the beginning of what we hope will be an integral element of our Student Leadership team.

Elected representatives from each Tutor Group met with our **Head Students** to discuss the matters raised to them by their fellow tutees. A very productive session followed, where **Student MPs** also signed the **Student Leadership Charter** and nominated a **Minister for each Year Group** who, alongside the Head Students, would represent their Year Group in the **Cabinet Meeting** with the Headteacher.



We were incredibly impressed with the maturity and professionalism with which our Student MPs conducted this meeting, which was run entirely by students, with a professional agenda and official minutes. Some excellent ideas were shared on how we can continue to improve the school and it was fantastic to see students from every year group getting the opportunity to present their views and engage in respectful discussion.

At last week's Cabinet Meeting, the Head Students and Year Group Ministers raised a number of issues and suggestions with me, which I will be taking to the Senior Leadership Team meeting this evening tonight to discuss and then provide a response. An excellent example of democracy in action at our school - a huge well done to all involved!

Red Nose Day

Last week we raised £650 for Comic Relief! Thank you to everyone who contributed to the cake sale. We had some amazing bakes and raised a lot of money for the charities that Comic Relief support. Well done to all the students who baked their own cakes.

First Place went to Milly, Second Place to Jessie and Leo and Third place to Kaitlyn and Megan. Congratulations to you all!



Term 4 House Assemblies

This term's **House assemblies** will be taking place on **Thursday 26th March** where we will once again be celebrating the **achievements** and **successes** in our individual House communities.

We look forward to reflecting the positives of last term.





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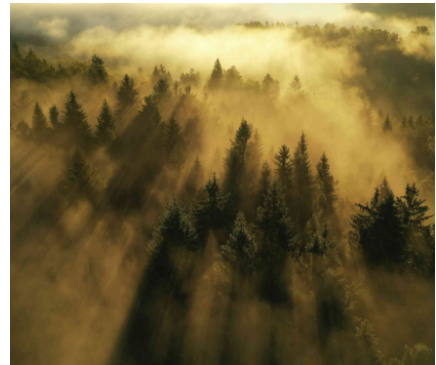
Meopham School - Norway Expedition 2027

We're going to Norway!

Last week, students in Year 8, 9, 10 & 12 attended assemblies about an exciting expedition to **Norway** taking place in **2027**.



Meopham School is working with **World Challenge** to make this trip happen. Parents and carers of students in these year groups have received a letter about how to **sign up to express their interest** and for a Zoom meeting taking place on Tuesday 24th March.



Jekyll & Hyde Theatre Trip

Fifty **Year 8 students** visited the **Woodville Theatre** in Gravesend last Tuesday 17th to see a production of **The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde**. The show was cleverly narrated by an actor playing the author Stevenson himself, with a brilliant cast, who brought this Victorian story of the duality of mankind to life. Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive and we are grateful to Mrs Briscoe, Mrs Fisher and Mr Okito for running the trip.

Key Messages

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

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.



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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>

Tuancy Sweeps - Mrs Davies - Lane (Assistant headteacher)

We have seen a large proportion of our students arriving to lessons on time which is excellent which means they are not missing out on vital learning time. This week we will be running **Tuancy Sweeps** where any student not in their lesson **by the last warning tannoy** will be taken to the hall and issued a C4. If they are out of lesson but have a teacher lanyard or a perfectly valid reason then of course they will not be sanctioned. Please check your **MCAS app** to see if your child has been late to lessons which will be **indicated pink on their timetable**.

Sporting Fixtures

Netball - Year 8 and 10 Vs Wilmington

Our Year 8s and Year 10s played fantastic games of Netball on Thursday afternoon. Our Year 10 team played first, taking a great 'attack' approach on our opposing team. By half time, our scores were very close with a 5-3 lead by Willmington. Our final Year 10 game score was **12-6** to Willmington. The Year 8 match was then played, with a well-chosen 'defensive' approach from Meopham. The overall Year 8 game score was **10-1** to Willmington. Willmington had chosen a player of the match for both games, with **Amelie D** for our Year 8 team and **Mia C** for our Year 10 team. Both played a leading role within their games, showing dedication and determination.

Netball - Year 9/10 Vs St Georges

Our Year 9/10 team also played this week against St George's on Tuesday. Unfortunately we were a player down but we had the tenacity to keep going. The team forgot about the score and kept fighting right up until the end whistle and we finally scored in the last quarter with a smashing goal from **Rosie J**. Our player of the match goes to **Evie W** for adapting positions from attack to defence confidently and with determination to support our GK and GD.

Football - Year 9 - North West District Cup

On Monday 16th March, the Year 9 boys represented Meopham in the North West Kent District Cup semi-final. Although the team were **narrowly defeated 2-1**, it was a fantastic achievement to reach this stage of the competition. **Alfie M** scored a brilliant goal for Meopham, and **Stanley S** was deservedly named **Man of the Match** for his outstanding performance.

The boys played with real determination and skill, pushing a very strong side who had recently competed in the Kent District final. The team should be incredibly proud of how well they performed.

Football - Year 10 Vs Ebbsfleet Academy



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The team secured a dominant **9-2 victory** through a performance defined by maturity and total control. From the first whistle to the last, every single player executed their role perfectly, winning their battles and dominating every inch of the pitch. While it was a complete team effort, **Leo A** stole the show with a sensational **5-goal haul**, leading the charge in a match where the team simply outclassed the opposition in every department.

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:

Fred S & Finley W (Year 10) - Excellent homework projects and presentations to the whole class on the historical context of Macbeth. Great tenacity and confidence shown.

George W, Leo R, Jack BD & Oscar D (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 involved. Year 13 students were especially grateful for the smooth running of their exams as a result of the boys' engagement.

Belle W (Year 11) - Excellence in all aspects of Belle's work and attitude to learning. Achieved a L2D in her mock now striving for Level 2 Distinction * overall.

Neneh SJ & Lily C (Year 8) - Demonstrating tenacity and focus in English lessons.

Autumn P, Asiya S & Daisy D (Year 8) - For diligence in English.

James T (Year 9) - Consistently excellent work in English. Great assessment this week showing very good improvements.

Ethan F (Year 10) - Highest in the class for a Macbeth assessment 26/30. Always works exceptionally hard and deserves a treat!

Kai W (Year 7) - For being an excellent Reception Helper last week.

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 we often tell students that if a lesson feels "easy," they might not actually be learning as much as they think. This may sound surprising, but it is a core part of our Teaching & Learning vision. We want to encourage what we call **"Desirable Difficulties."**

What are "Desirable Difficulties"?

Coined by researcher Robert Bjork, this concept suggests that making the learning process slightly more challenging actually helps knowledge "stick" better in the long-term memory. If students simply re-read notes or listen to a teacher, they might feel like they understand it in the moment (Performance), but they often forget it by the next day (Learning).

By introducing "difficulties"—such as quizzes that force them to remember old topics or giving them 10 minutes of silent, independent practice—we are building stronger mental pathways.



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Linking to our TRUE Values

Our commitment to "Desirable Difficulties" is rooted directly in our school's **TRUE** values:

Tenacity: We want students to have the grit to sit with a difficult problem rather than asking for the answer immediately. This "productive struggle" is where the best learning happens.

Unity: By normalising "struggle" in the classroom, we create a culture where getting things wrong is just a step on the path to getting them right.

How You Can Help at Home

When your child says they are "stuck" on their revision or home learning, encourage them to stay with it for five more minutes before helping. Remind them that the "brain ache" they feel is actually the sound of their memory getting stronger!

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

Year 13

A reminder of the **Year 13 Parent/Carer Evening this Wednesday**. We hope to see many of you here to discuss next steps for your child before they enter their exams next term.

Easter Revision

The schedule for **Easter revision sessions** has been sent out for Year 11 and 13; we are looking forward to seeing lots of students in for the final push before the exams start next term!

Sixth Form Attendance

We are closely monitoring the Year 12 and 13 attendance to school and to lessons. **Sixth Form students should be signing in and out using the Sign In app on their phones.** If they are having any problems, please ask them to see a member of the Sixth Form Team. It is important we know where students are for their own safety.

Countdowns to the exams

Year 11: 39 days (BTEC Information Technology)

Year 13: 49 days (BTEC Health and Social Care)

"Weekly Wins" Week 5

The Easter Launch - Create a realistic revision timetable. 3 hours a day keeps the knowledge sticky for May. Sign up to Easter Revision and take advantage of the 'expert' time.

Study Habit #2

Spaced Practice - break your study sessions into short, repeated sessions. Spread these out over longer periods, rather than cramming all at once.

Cake Sale

Thank you to all students that made or bought cakes for our cake sale last Friday. It was great to see so many students waiting to buy some and to raise money for Comic Relief.

Well done to Milly in Year 13 for the fabulous cakes she made.



Elliot Holmes Memorial Fund

As you know, the school is linked with the excellent Elliot Holmes Memorial Fund, a local charity which ensures young people can access counselling services if needed. They currently have a number of personal challenges listed on their events page that may be of interest to some of our older students who are keen to support fundraising efforts:

www.ehmf.org.uk/events

Furthermore, for any parents/carers who may be interested, the EHMF are also hosting a Summer Soul Garden Party event in Meopham this July. Details are below:



EHMF SUMMER SOUL GARDEN PARTY
26th July 2026 • 2pm until 7pm
Nurstead Court, Nr. Meopham

Limited ticket availability, book today!

Join us for a Sunday afternoon of soul classics, great atmosphere and summer vibes at the stunning Nurstead Court, nr. Meopham.

Set within the beautiful grounds of this Grade I listed manor house, surrounded by 300 acres of Kent countryside, this is the perfect setting for our **Summer Soul Garden Party**.

All proceeds provide rapid, direct access to face-to face mental health counselling for young people in Gravesham

Plenty of Free parking onsite.



Tickets
£12

Advance ticket sales only
www.ehmf.org.uk/events

Elliott Holmes Memorial Fund
EHMF
Mental Health Support For Young People
www.ehmf.org.uk

Moving Forward

After another busy and successful term, we want to say a huge well done to all of our students for their amazing achievements over term 4. There is so much to be proud of - to name but a few: the excellent performances at our recent **SwaleStock**; the stunning **9-2 victory** from our **Y10 boys football team**; the excellent show of leadership by our **Student Parliament**; the fantastic book cover contributions to **World Book Day**; the outstanding **£650** raised at our **Cake Sale for Comic Relief** or indeed the fantastic work we see our students engaging in every day during lessons.

The energy and enthusiasm around the school has been palpable, and it is wonderful to see so many students getting involved in the wider life of the school.

Of course, term 5 brings further opportunities, and in particular we will be thinking of our Year 11 and 13 students, who will be embarking upon their GCSE, A-Level and Level 2 and 3 exams. It is both completely natural and understandable that our students may be feeling a little nervous, but we are sure that - if they continue to show the tenacity and dedication they have demonstrated all year - they are bound to make us proud. And of course, we will be with them every step of the way.



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I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break and I look forward to welcoming you all back in April!

Take care,

Mr Roberts