

Headteacher's Welcome

Hello everyone and welcome back to another term at Meopham School! I trust everyone took a well-earned break over the holidays and had the opportunity to enjoy some of the (admittedly limited) sunshine over the past few weeks. We are straight back into the thick of things up at school, with lots going on over the next term to update you on.

Cultural Capital a message from Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)

Swale Dance Fever - 26th March 2026

Year 8 students from Dance Club attended the annual **Swale Dance Fever** event at **The Turing School** and took home the award for '**Best Moment**' for their *Annie* inspired performance.

The girls demonstrated great **tenacity** and bravely took to the stage after committing to months of rehearsals.

An amazing achievement, well done Isla, Daisy, Elleora, Violet, Molly and Evie!



House Assemblies & Chosen Charity Event

Last term, **House Captains** and **Deputy House Captains** for each House met to discuss how Meopham School could raise money for each House's **chosen charity** through an **Inter-House Competition**.

Students decided that they would like to organise a **Colour Run for the whole school (including staff!)** to get involved in. This was announced to students during our Term 4 House Assemblies and **student leaders** will spend some time over this term **organising the event**.

Chosen Charities:

- Chilham:** Young Lives Foundation
- Hever:** The Ellenor Hospice
- Scotney:** Charlie's Promise
- Walmer:** Elliott Holmes Memorial Fund

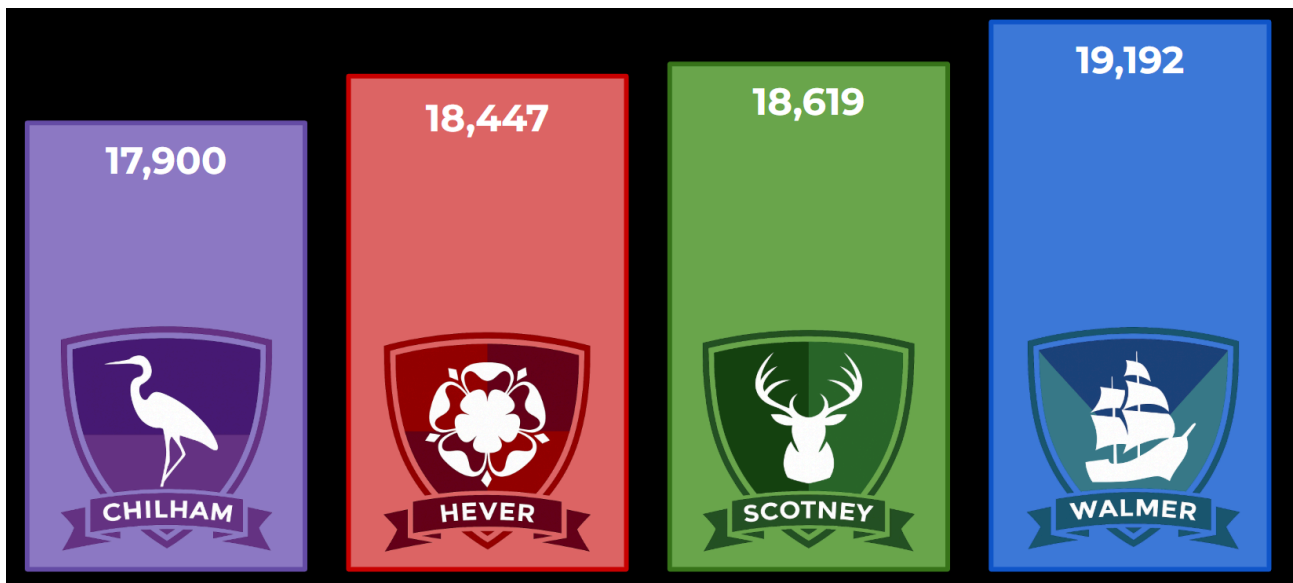


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House Points Running Total:

Students across Meopham School have been working hard to achieve **House Points** for **Tenacity, Respect, Unity** and **Excellence** this year. Below is the running total of points per House, demonstrating our students' incredible efforts to show our **TRUE values** both inside and outside the classroom.

Students in the **House with the most points** at the end of the year will have the opportunity to attend a rewards trip to **Thorpe Park** in **September!**



Key Messages

Exciting programmes for Terms 5 and 6 - Mr A Wood- Assistant Headteacher Conduct and Welfare



As a school, we have been working hard to procure some excellent additional provisions to support our young people within the school. Therefore, in terms 5 and 6, we will continue our impactful mentoring programme with the Young Lives Foundation and, to add to this, we will also be working with **Gillingham Football Club** and **The Kenwood Trust** to deliver different social responsibility programmes and workshops.

These organisations will be working closely with us to offer the young people at Meopham School valuable skills and programmes to support both their social and academic development.

Sporting Fixtures

Year 7 Football Vs St George's

Meopham travelled to league leaders St George's on Tuesday for a must-win clash — and the team delivered a statement performance.

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With intensity, teamwork and real attacking quality, Meopham dominated the game and secured **a brilliant 7-3 victory** to take the top spot.

Harley M led the charge with a superb hat-trick, showcasing his finishing and composure. Jimmy B made an outstanding debut, scoring twice and making an immediate impact. Tiger T and Zeek M added a goal each, rounding off a confident and clinical team display.

A fantastic result and another outstanding performance from the Year 7 team — proving once again the talent, determination and teamwork running through the squad.



Sixth Form Football Vs NTC

Our Sixth Form football team (supported by a talented group of Year 11s) put on a magnificent display against NTC this past Wednesday. Despite facing a physically strong outfit, the boys secured **a comfortable 3-1 victory**.

The match was defined by Meopham's exceptional defensive prowess, which provided the foundation for our success. This tenacity was epitomised by Lewis MW, who was deservedly voted Player of the Match by his teammates for a commanding performance in goal.

The scoring opened early in the first half when, somewhat against the run of play, Ollie M picked up the ball outside the box and struck it sweetly with his left foot, beating the keeper to give us a 1-0 lead. We soon doubled our advantage following a dangerous free-kick delivered from the halfway line by Jake O. His cross caused absolute chaos in the NTC penalty area, eventually forcing a defender to turn the ball into his own net.

NTC fought back in the second half, narrowing the gap with a goal from a long throw-in. However, conceding only served to motivate the squad. The boys worked harder for one another to see out the game and regain control. The win was finally sealed when Jack M drove into the box and was brought down for a penalty. Oscar R stepped up with immense confidence to dispatch the finish, with a celebration to match.

Overall, it was a fantastic team performance and the boys thoroughly deserved their win.

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:



Oliver A (Year 9) - Demonstrating excellence by producing consistently good quality dishes in Catering.

Thomas A (Year 9) - Excellent presentation on London's population in Geography.



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Abi S (Year 11) - For producing excellent work to a high standard and a relentless effort to succeed in Business Studies.

Nethra I (Year 9) - Showing tenacity in Science, recently getting the highest mark in her Term 3 assessment. Keep up the excellent work.

Archie S (Year 10) - Demonstrating tenacity in recent English lessons.

Owen L & Ethan L (Year 8) - Tenacity in English.

Kayden M (Year 8) - Excellent effort in Music, developing his ukulele skills confidently and consistently in lessons.

Archie W & Ife O (Year 13) - Outstanding coursework in Health and Social Care.

Leia S (Year 7) - Demonstrating tenacity in English.

Lucas T (Year 7) - Excellent effort in English lessons.

Zac B (Year 10) - Excellent video assessment for his BTEC Sport coursework.

Annabelle V (Year 9) - Excellent work in Science and achieving consistently high marks.

All students on this list will be invited to Headteacher Commendation on **Thursday at 12:30pm in Mr Roberts' office** for Domino's pizza and their certificates.

Teaching and Learning Tips - a message from Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Romney

I'm sure we've all had that moment where we walk into a room and completely forget why we're there. For students, the "room" is often an exam hall, and the stakes are much higher! This is why we believe in teaching our students that memory isn't just something you *have*, it's a muscle you *build*. To beat the "Forgetting Curve," we have moved away from traditional "revision" (simply re-reading notes) towards a much more powerful technique: **Retrieval Practice**.

What is Retrieval Practice?

Most people think learning is about putting information *into* your brain. Retrieval practice is the opposite: it's the act of **pulling information out**. Every time a student has to remember a fact or a formula without looking at their book, this struggle actually strengthens the memory and makes it easier to recall during pressured situations such as the summer exams.

How We Use This in School

We don't leave memory to chance. We have built retrieval into the fabric of every day:

Retrieval practice: Every lesson starts with a retrieval activity. This isn't just about yesterday's work; we often reach back to topics from months ago to ensure they stay fresh.

Data-Driven Retrieval: Teachers know exactly which "knowledge gaps" students have from their previous assessments. We use opportunities for independent learning to specifically retrieve the information that the data shows is the weakest.

Desirable Difficulties: We encourage students to embrace the difficulties. If an activity feels easy, they aren't learning. If they have to work for the answer, the knowledge is sticking.



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How You Can Help at Home

The best way to help your child isn't to quiz them on things they *just* learned, but to ask them about things they learned **three weeks ago**.

"Dinner Table Brain Dump": Ask them to write down five things they remember about a specific topic without using their phone or books.

Flashcard Challenges: If they have flashcards, don't let them just read the front and back. Hide the back and make them say the answer out loud before they check.

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

Easter Revision Sessions

Well done to all Year 11 and 13 students who attended the revision sessions over the Easter holidays. It was an excellent opportunity for students to gain extra knowledge and essential exam skills in readiness for their exams starting this term. Thank you to all teachers for running sessions!

Countdown to the exams

Year 11: 18 days (BTEC Digital Information Technology exam) and **28 days** until the **English Literature** exam

Year 13: 28 days (BTEC Health and Social Care exam)

Year 13

We were delighted to welcome in families to our Year 13 Parent/Carer Evening before half term, which gave teachers the opportunity to share information on progress and next steps in readiness for the student's summer exams starting this term. Some great discussions were had and we are raring to go for the final push this term!

Year 12 and 13 Achievement Assembly

We were very excited to be able to award lots of rewards to students, as nominated by their teachers. It was amazing to see comments such as 'we're seeing a great improvement in their studies' and 'they help other students'. Well done Year 12 and 13 - keep it up!

Study habit #3

10-3-2 Reset - Start each study session with a purposeful **ten-minute** planning session. Focus on your study in **three** focused blocks (20-25 minutes each). Take a 2 minute break in between each block. At the end of each session, take **two** minutes to write down what your next steps for learning are.

Moving Forward

As we begin what is always the crucial term for our Year 11 and 13 students - as we help them to prepare for their final exams - I want to wish all of our students the very best of luck. We are very proud of everything they have achieved over their five or seven years with us, and we know - whatever happens - they can hold their heads high in the knowledge they have tried their very hardest.

Of course, we are going to be with them every step of the way. We understand exam season can be stressful, but a reminder to everyone that exams are not life-and-death, and there is no reason for anyone to worry. Yes, if you do well in your exams, it is a very good thing and will certainly help you take those next steps quicker, but if one or two don't go as well as you hope, there are always further opportunities to try again. That being said, we encourage all of our students to grasp this opportunity with both hands, work hard over the next term, and ensure they are in the very best position to shine during May and June. Either way, we are committed to securing an excellent future for each and every one of them.

A reminder that, should you wish, I am available for 30-minute face-to-face meetings with parents and carers every Thursday morning this term, should you wish to provide any feedback to the school or offer suggestions. You can request a meeting here: [Headteacher Feedback Meetings](#).

This term, we will be trialling sending these newsletters fortnightly to reduce the volume of communication being sent out, so I will speak to you all again in two week's time.

For now, have a lovely week; I look forward to a great term ahead!

Take care,



Mr Roberts

Headteacher