

Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome back to our fortnightly newsletter where we tell you all about the exciting things happening at Meopham School. We hope everyone has been enjoying the beautiful weather, which always makes our school site look especially beautiful!

I wanted to start this newsletter by welcoming some fantastic new additions to our staff team, who are already having an incredible impact at Meopham School:

Ms Gillham joins us as **Head of Humanities**, having a number of years experience as a subject leader across several schools in Kent.

Ms Prince has joined us as our interim **Head of Business**, and is also taking on some other key responsibilities within the school. Ms Prince has a number of years of teaching experience and has had a huge impact on our students already, particularly in Key Stages Four and Five!

Ms Willmott recently joined our attendance team as one of the school's full-time **Attendance Officers**, and has already been having an incredible impact in her new role.

Mr Young (Site Manager) and **Ms Ward (Deputy Site Manager)** comprise our new leadership within our site team, and already have big plans on how to further improve and develop our school site - some exciting projects lay ahead!

Ms Hyder is an exciting addition as our new **Careers Lead and Librarian**, and will be fundamental in supporting our students with Post-16 and Post-18 destinations, Work Experience placements and one-to-one careers advice.

Mr D. Smith was recently promoted to the role of **Literacy Lead** within the school, overseeing the school's literacy strategy and promoting a love of reading across the entire curriculum.

Ms Shergold began with us last term but has already helped oversee a number of positive changes within our Sixth Form as our new **Sixth Form/SEND Administration Officer and Assistant Exams Officer**.

Mrs Packham also joined us permanently as **Exams Manager** over the course of last term and has made a superb start to the role, supporting our young people to ensure their exams run smoothly and effectively.

As you can see - a lot of new talent has come into the school, and we are so excited by all these fantastic appointments! The wealth of new ideas, energy and enthusiasm this cohort of staff are providing is already helping to drive the school forward and continue our journey to excellence. They have made a brilliant start and we are very happy to be welcoming them into our school community.



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

International Show Jumping Competition

A huge congratulations to **Beau** in **Year 11**, who proudly **represented Great Britain** at an **International Show Jumping** competition in Spain earlier this month. Competing against 50 riders from across the world, Beau delivered an outstanding performance, securing 5th place overall and finishing as the **highest-placed British rider in her class**.



This is an exceptional achievement and a testament to Beau's dedication, skill, and hard work. Well done, Beau — we can't wait to see what you accomplish next.



Enrichment Programme Term 5 & 6

Here is the updated **Enrichment Programme** for the rest of the year, with **over 30 clubs available!** Students are welcome and encouraged to attend lunchtime and/or after school clubs to **broaden their school experiences** outside the classroom. Posters are up around the school for students to have a look at what's on offer for **Term 5 & 6**.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME TERM 5 & 6			
Monday			
Pride Club	Lunchtime	Hums 7	Miss Williams
Debating Society	Lunchtime	English 6	Mr Roberts
Mindfulness Art	Lunchtime	Art 2	Miss Hodd
Year 11 Revision	Lunchtime	English 9	Miss Bland & Mrs Hartley
Homework Club	Lunchtime	Oasis	Oasis Staff
Cricket Club	Afterschool	Leisure Centre*	Mr Goldsmith & Mr Smith
Tuesday			
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 Kealy
Football Club (Year 8)	Lunchtime	Leisure Centre*	Mr Payne
Year 11 Revision	Lunchtime	English 9	Miss Bland & Mrs Hartley
Homework Club	Lunchtime	Oasis	Oasis Staff
Rounders	Afterschool	Sports Hall*	Miss Broad
Photography Club	Afterschool	IT2	Miss Kerr
Games Club Board Games, Table Top Games & Trading Card Games	Afterschool	Hums 4	Mr Obbard
History Club	Afterschool	Hums 7	Miss Williams
Wednesday			
Doodle Club	Lunchtime	Art 3	Mrs Nicolaou
Year 11 Revision	Lunchtime	English 9	Miss Bland & Mrs Hartley
Homework Club	Lunchtime	Oasis	Oasis Staff
Carnegie Book Club	Lunchtime	English 5	Mrs Briscoe
Year 10 Book Club	Lunchtime	English 5	Mrs Williamson
KSS Football Club	Afterschool	Field*	Gillingham FC
Thursday			
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	Miss Bland & Mrs Hartley
Homework Club	Lunchtime	Oasis	Oasis Staff
Dance Club	Afterschool	PA Room (Dodmore)	Mrs Greenwood
Friday			
Equation Invasion	Lunchtime	Maths 8	Mr Hicks
Football Club (Year 7)	Lunchtime	Leisure Centre*	Mr Wood
Year 11 Revision	Lunchtime	English 9	Miss Bland & Mrs Hartley
Homework Club	Lunchtime	Oasis	Oasis Staff

*meet at the main changing rooms for PE clubs

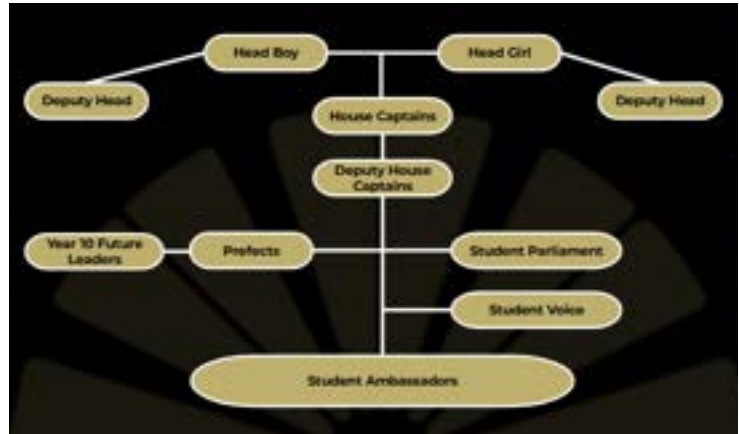
Student Leadership Meetings

This term is a busy one for our **Student Leaders**, with charity events to plan and important topics to discuss and debate. The **meetings taking place over the next two weeks** are as follows:

Student Voice - Tuesday 28th April.
Period 3 with Miss Hodd

House Captains & Deputy House Captains - Wednesday 29th April, Period 3 with Mrs Greenwood

Year 10 Future Leaders - Tuesday 5th May, Period 3 with Miss Hodd



House Points Update:

Students across Meopham School have been working hard to achieve **House Points** for **our TRUE values** this year. 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!**

Here are the totals of **House points achieved in the last fortnight** (13th - 24th April). Well done to the **HEVER** students who demonstrated the most **Tenacity, Respect, Unity and Excellence!**



789



833



798



803

Headteacher Commendations - Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)

Students who have demonstrated exceptional examples of our **TRUE values** and have nominated for **Headteacher Commendations** for the next two weeks are:

Thursday 30th April:

Alfie C (Year 7) - Demonstrating excellence and tenacity during his involvement in the Year 13 Sports assessment.

Ellenor W & Joshua T (Year 9)- Excellent knowledge on the key aspects of climate change in Geography.

Violet N & Daniel B (Year 8) - Completing challenging tasks in programming.



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Harrison L (Year 11) - Excellent revision demonstrated in English.
Reggie C, Leia S, Skye I & Mollie Q (Year 7) - Demonstrating diligence in English.
Reuben M (Year 8) - Always studious in English lessons.
Katie F (Year 7) & Kian U-B (Year 8) - Being a stand out student helper last week.
Carlton S (Year 8) - Excellent Bollywood dancing and choreography.

Thursday 7th May:

Jacob C (Year 7) - Excellent work in IT, showing the development of coaching skills as he supports his peers with more advanced techniques.
Freddie F (Year 7) - Continually showing tenacity and trying his absolute best in IT lessons week in, week out.
Mercedes P (Year 7) - Showing unity by creating outcomes with her peer in Catering.
Lacie S (Year 7) - Demonstrating resilience when making bread in Catering lessons.
Amelie D-K & Isla E (Year 8) - Working hard to produce high quality work in Personal Development lessons,
Billy M (Year 9) - Excellent focus in Geography lessons.
Francesca B (Year 10) - Going above and beyond to help another student with the recording of their final production piece, Francesca performed as a session singer for another student's work. Great demonstration of tenacity and unity.
Henry B (Year 8) - For always being helpful during Tutor time, displaying strong leadership quality and looking out for others.
Lethu M (Year 7) - Excellent work as a 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 Domino's pizza and their certificates.

Key Messages

Year 10 Work Experience - Mrs Romney, Deputy Headteacher

In Term 6 our Year 10 students will be completing a week of work experience. We believe in equipping our students with a range of skills and opportunities to prepare them for adult life, and the work experience placement is a vital component of this.

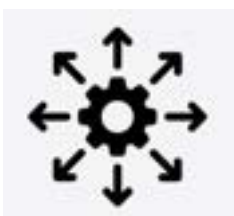


Students need to source their own placements, and record this information within **our online careers platform - Unifrog**. This then allows us to complete checks to ensure their safety.

Some of our students have yet to confirm their placements. The deadline for this has been extended to **Friday 15th May**. If students (or parents) need any support with this, they can contact our new Careers Advisor Miss Hyder (melanie.hyder@swale.at).

In addition, **if you, or someone you know, would be in a position to offer a work experience placement, we would be very keen to hear from you! If you are interested in finding out more, or are able to offer a placement, please contact Miss Hyder on the email address above.**

Year 9 Options - Mrs Romney, Deputy Headteacher



Our Year 9 students have now selected their Options choices for study in Key Stage Four, and we are working through these to confirm their final courses with them as soon as possible. A big well

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done to all students who have completed assessments in subjects such as Triple Science, Business and Sociology, so that we can ensure we have students on the courses which are most suitable for them. The behaviour and attitude of students was exemplary, and they should be very proud of themselves for the way they navigated these.

Destinations and Next Steps - Mrs Romney, Deputy Headteacher

Parent Pathways have produced a guide for parents of students in Years 10-13 when considering their next steps. Produced by the teams behind Whatuni and The Complete University Guide, this free termly newsletter gives you clear, trusted guidance at every stage, from early research through to results day.

If you would like to sign up to receive this please follow this [link](#).

Those who sign up will also be entered into a draw to win travel and accommodation costs for a parent and child to attend a University open event.

Mr A Wood- Assistant Headteacher KS3 Conduct:



Lost property will now be based in **RECEPTION**. Please take any lost property to reception and this is where you can now collect anything you have mislaid.

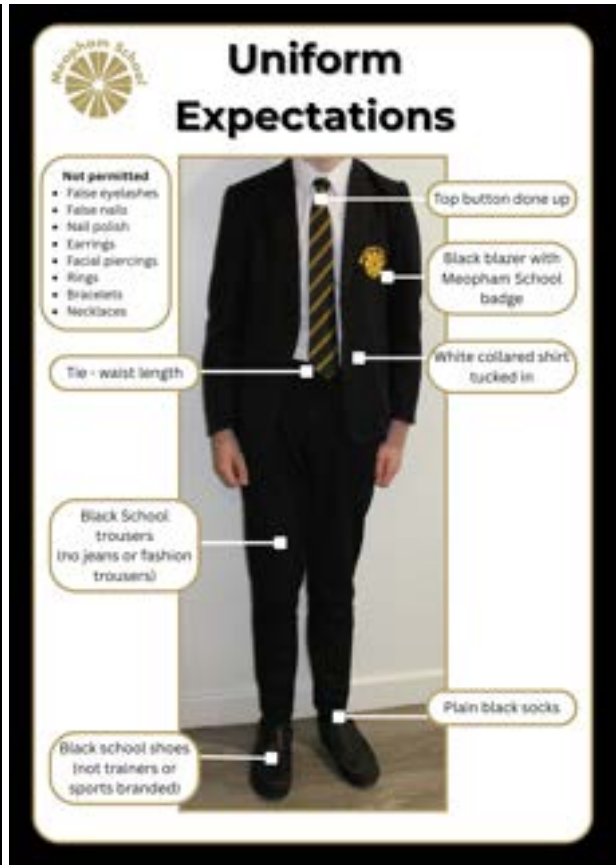
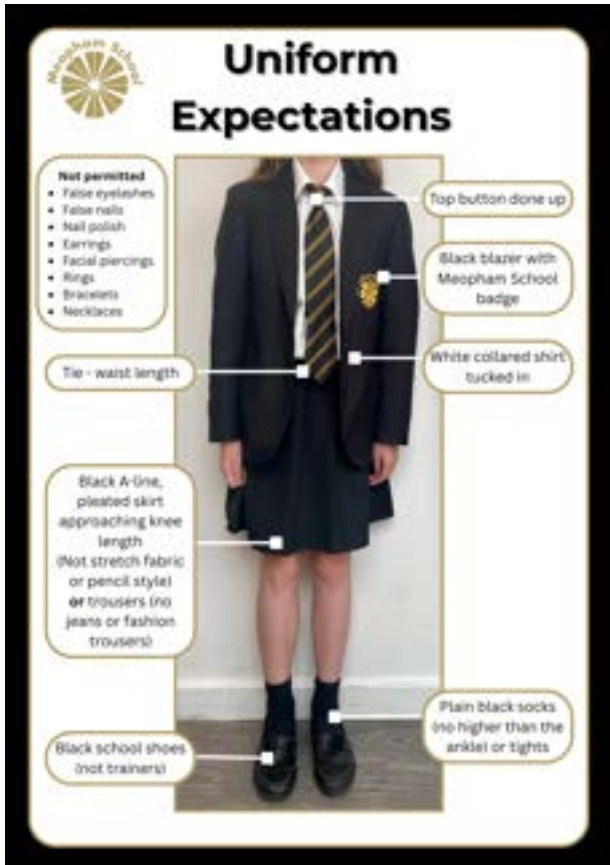
Uniform: Dressing for Excellence and Professionalism - Mr. A. Wood, Assistant Headteacher (KS3 Conduct)

At Meopham School, we believe that how our students present themselves to the world is a direct reflection of our shared commitment to **Excellence**. In a recent assembly, we explored the legacy of Sir Alex Ferguson's Manchester United—a team where high standards of presentation were never just about the suits the players wore to matches; they were about a professional mindset, mutual **Respect**, and the **Tenacity** to be the best.

By upholding the highest expectations for our uniform, we are helping our students build an “immortal reputation” for professionalism and pride. Uniformity fosters a powerful sense of **Unity**, reminding us that we are working together for a common cause: securing excellent futures for every student.

To maintain these high standards, we ask for your continued support. We have noticed a recent dip in standards regarding footwear. Specifically, please ensure your child wears **school-appropriate black ankle socks**. Long socks and those with sports branding are not permitted.

Small details like these are the building blocks of the discipline required for future employment. Let's work together to ensure our students look as professional as the futures they are working toward.



Socks that are not permitted:



More information will follow regarding measures being put in place to raise the standard of uniform across the school.

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. This week we will continue our impactful mentoring programme with the **Young Lives Foundation** and, to add to this,

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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.

As part of the GFC package, they will be delivering a **FREE KS3 Football Club every Wednesday with Gillingham FC** - so please encourage all KS3 Boys and Girls to attend **from 3.15-4.15pm**.





**Kent and Medway
Mental Health**
NHS Trust

Parent Workshop

Less Stress Guide to Exams 07/05/2026—17:00—18:00pm

[Less Stress Guide to Exams | Join meeting in Teams | Microsoft Teams](#)



Understanding the Amazing Teenage Brain

18/05/2026—18:00—20:00pm

[Understanding The Amazing Teenage Brain | Join meeting in Teams | Microsoft Teams](#)



Understanding Neurodiversity

29/06/2026 17:30—19:30pm

[Understanding Neurodiversity | Join meeting in Teams | Microsoft Teams](#)



Co-regulation in Conversations and Conflict

15/06/2026—17:30—19:30pm

[Co-Regulation in Conversations and Conflict | Join meeting in Teams | Microsoft Teams](#)



EMOTIONAL WELLBEING TEAM KENT
EMOTIONAL SUPPORT
MEDWAY

Please call for more information 0300 300 1955

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

Ever walked into a room and completely forgotten why? We've all been there! For our students, avoiding that "blank" feeling in the exam hall is one of our top priorities. We are teaching students that memory isn't just something you **have**; it's a muscle you **build**.

Most people think learning is about putting information into the brain. However, cognitive science tells us that **long-term learning** actually happens when we practice pulling information out. We move away from passive "revision" (like re-reading highlighted notes) and focus on **Retrieval Practice**. Every time a student has to remember a fact or formula without looking at their book, they are performing "mental weightlifting." This creates a "Desirable Difficulty"—if the work feels a little bit hard, it means the knowledge is "sticking." As we build towards the summer, students in every year group will be completing exams, so this is an important skill to develop from Year 7 onwards.

Our Teaching & Learning vision ensures that retrieval isn't left to chance:

The First 5 Minutes: Every lesson starts with a retrieval quiz. We don't just quiz what was learned yesterday; we reach back to topics from months ago to ensure they stay fresh.

Targeted Practice: Teachers identify the specific "knowledge gaps" for each class, then focus specifically on retrieving and applying that missing information.

Modeling Excellence: We use visualisers to show students what "Gold Standard" work looks like, helping them move from a "good" answer to an "excellent" one.

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

Summer Examinations

With the summer exam season just a few weeks away, our students have been working with real focus in their lessons. Teachers have been guiding them through targeted revision, exam-style practice, and personalised feedback to help strengthen their understanding and build confidence.

Exam countdown:

Year 11 - 5 days until BTEC Digital IT exam and 14 days until the first English Literature exam.

Year 13 - 14 days until BTEC Health and Social Care exam

Sixth Form Safe Driving Talk

Last week, our Year 12 and 13 students took part in a **Safe Driving Awareness session** led by an experienced Forensic Collision Investigator. Drawing on many years of frontline expertise, he spoke about safe driving habits, risk awareness, and the

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real-world consequences of dangerous driving.

The session was intentionally hard-hitting, and it prompted thoughtful reflection among students about the responsibilities that come with being behind the wheel. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide such an important and impactful learning experience.

Year 12 and 13 Attendance

Students have been reminded to **sign in and out of the 'Sign in' app every time they enter and leave the school site.** It is very important for safeguarding that we know where they are during the school day. The Sixth Form Team is monitoring attendance and punctuality to lessons carefully and will be meeting students whose attendance falls below our expectations.

Year 12 UCAS Trip - Maidstone

Year 12s will be attending an essential **UCAS trip** on **Tuesday 2nd June** to Maidstone Event Centre. This is an excellent opportunity for students to explore different options for their next steps after Sixth Form. Even if they are not planning on going to university, there will be a chance to speak to people about apprenticeships and going into employment. Letters will be sent out in the next week with more information.

Year 11 Prom 2026

Students have the exciting opportunity to attend this year's Prom at the beautiful Redlibbets Golf Course. This special event offers a chance to celebrate the end of a busy exam season and to reflect on the friendships, memories, and achievements of the past five years.

There is still time for students to sign up and secure their place at what promises to be a memorable evening!



Year 11 and 13 Leavers Hoodies

We are in the process of setting up an online shop where you can purchase a Leavers Hoodie for your child who is leaving Year 11 or 13 this year. This will be a wonderful keepsake for students to have to remember their fond times at Meopham School. Letters will be sent out soon to explain how the hoodies can be purchased.

Moving Forward

A huge thank you to those parents and carers who have already been into school as part of the face-to-face meetings I am running this term. We have already had some excellent feedback, particularly in relation to ensuring as many of our students benefit from the range of trips and other extracurricular activities we have running in school, as well as some ideas on how parents and carers can be more involved with these! There will be more information coming about this soon, so watch this space!

As many of you will know, our Year 11 and Year 13 students are now entering exam season, and of course we are wishing them all the very best of luck. There will still be plenty of support going on in school for all of them over the next couple of months - we are with them every step of the way and know they will do us proud.

Speak to you all in a fortnight's time. Until then, have a wonderful couple of weeks and enjoy the sunshine!

Kind regards,



Mr Roberts

Headteacher