

Headteacher's Welcome

Hello and welcome to another edition of the Meopham School Newsletter. It has been a jam-packed few weeks at the school and - as ever- there is plenty to update you on below! But first, a little note about our staff!

Each week, our staff nominate fellow colleagues who they feel are doing amazing work within our school community. Someone recently pointed out that whilst we celebrate this amongst our staff, we never let our parents and carers know about it! Therefore, moving forward, we will include our Staff Members of the Week in each of our newsletters, so you get to know our amazing staff a little better.

Our Staff Member(s) of the Week over the last two weeks went to...

Mrs Turner, our Year 10 Pastoral Support Manager, who has been at Meopham School for **3 years**. Mrs Turner was nominated because she is always on-hand to support our young people and is always willing to go above and beyond to help others!

Ms Letocart, our Curriculum Leader for Modern Foreign Language, who has been at Meopham school for **10 years**. Ms Letocart was nominated for her excellent lesson planning and consistently high standards, both with her students and in all aspects of her work.

Mr Brannan, the school's IT Manager. Mr Brannan only started with the school this academic year, but he has had an incredible impact already and has been working hard to ensure all of our students receive the best IT provision possible!

Well done to these amazing staff - more to be announced in the next newsletter!

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

A visit from our MP Dr Lauren Sullivan

Last week, some of our Student Leaders and Year 12 Politics students had the opportunity to meet with our **Local MP Dr Lauren Sullivan** to discuss their opinions on the impact **social media** has on young people.

Their discussions will help to inform the **government's decision** on how social media restrictions will be put in place for those under the age of 16.

All students contributed **positively** and **professionally** to the discussions. A big well done to...

Sabegh C (Head Boy)

Japjeet D (Cabinet Minister)

Sienna S (Cabinet Minister)



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Freddie S (Cabinet Minister)
Jack H (Cabinet Minister)
Praise U (Cabinet Minister)
Will H (Cabinet Minister)
Oli A (Student MP)
Samuel C (House Captain)
Katie F (Student Voice)
All Year 12 Politics students



Term 5 Student Voice Meeting

This term, our **Student Voice representatives** took part in discussions and completed a survey about **mental health** and **support** in school.

Student feedback is essential to ensure we shape a **supportive school environment** that reflects their needs. Thanks to everyone in our Student Voice team who took part!



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** (27th April - 8th May). Well done to the **WALMER** students who demonstrated the most **Tenacity, Respect, Unity and Excellence!**



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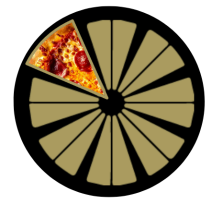
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Headteacher Commendations - Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)

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



Thursday 14th May:

Vihaan T, Rui W & Sheldon N (Year 9) - Excellent effort and final score in the end of module assessment in French.

Emily R & Teddi D-M (Year 9) - Phenomenal work in English, using initiative to look back at previous work to analyse Romeo and Juliet at a GCSE level.

Beau S & Lizzy P (Year 8) - Consistent and focussed rehearsal in a recent Music lesson.

McAuley D (Year 8) - Showing strong unity and excellent support to his partner when developing understanding of a performance piece.

Nicholas F (Year 8) - Excellent dedication and good start to his Music work.

Braxton L (Year 8) - Excellent focus in a recent Music lesson.

Kian U-B (Year 8) - Kian demonstrated strong unity towards another student during the lesson.

Niamh D & Evelyn C (Year 9) - Fantastic commitment to development of keyboard skills as well as excellent collaboration when rehearsing.

Louis A (Year 9) - Excellent focus and tenacity in his recent Music lesson.

Thursday 21st May:

Luca F (Year 9) - Since joining Luca has shown commitment to his studies in Music. He is attentive to tips on how to improve and applies these to his rehearsals with focus.

Beau S (Year 9) - Wrote an excellent PEEL paragraph evaluating the idea that accepting suffering as inevitable leads to happiness.

Florence C (Year 8) - Florence wrote an excellent piece of creative English writing to describe an image. Great use of interesting words and techniques to engage the reader, well done Florence.

Casey B (Year 8) - Demonstrating unity and kindness in a recent English lesson.

Annabelle S (Year 7) - Showing strong tenacity in English.

Kelaiah T, Ana R, Olivia O (Year 7) - Being positive and showing unity by supporting and encouraging a new student in English lessons.

Eliza K (Year 10) - Absolutely excellent results in Year 10 Literature exam, including full marks in one paper. This is a testament to Eliza's hard work and tenacity all year.

Evie B (Year 10) - Evie has gone above and beyond in Maths to prepare for the mocks with her independent learning. Her hard work paid off and she achieved exceptionally well.



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Charlotte W (Year 7) - Charlotte has been working hard consistently in Maths. She achieved her highest score so far and the highest in the class for the end of topic test, which is to be celebrated. Brilliant demonstration of tenacity.

Tyler H (Year 7) - Won the 200 word writing competition in the library!

Reggie C & Kai A (Year 7) - Excellent french paragraph, including reasons, opinions, hobbies, connectives, intensifiers and details of family members.

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 7-9 KS3 Examinations - Mrs Z Romney - Deputy Headteacher

Key Stage 3 (KS3) students will be completing assessments in all subjects over the coming few weeks. Core subjects will be completed in examination halls, utilising Trust agreed assessment papers. For all other subjects, these will be completed in class, and are decided by the department. In addition, all students in Year 7-9 will be completing reading tests throughout this window. The plan for the assessments can be seen here.

Year	Core	Non core	Reading Tests
9	18/5 p5-6 En 19/5 p5-6 Mm (1) 21/5 p5-6 Sc 22/5 p1-2 Mm (2)	1/6 - 12/6	19/6/26
8	8/6 p5-6 En 10/6 p5-6 Mm (1) 11/6 p5-6 Sc 17/6 p5-6 Mm (2)	18/5 - 5/6	18/6/26
7	18/6 p5-6 En 19/6 p5-6 Mm (1) 22/6 p5-6 Sc 23/6 p5-6 Mm (2)	1/6 - 12/6	17/6/26

GCSE Pod - Mrs Z Romney - Deputy Headteacher

Earlier this academic year students were introduced to GCSE Pod, an online platform which provides a range of resources to support student learning and understanding. **All students have been provided access to this resource for free!**

Whilst primarily designed to support home learning, students also have access to thousands of resources to support revision and retrieval of key information to support the build up to their examinations. Despite its name, GCSE Pod has a wealth of resources to support students in both **Key Stage 4 (Year 10-11)** and **Key Stage 3 (Year 7-9)**.

Your child has already been provided with log in details to access the platform, but please also see below an overview of how to access the system, and some of the key features available.

How do you get it?

When your school has informed you that you have been registered with GCSEPod, you need to confirm some personal details so that you can access the site:

- 1 Go to www.gcsepod.com and click Login
- 2 Click 'I'm new to GCSEPod' and select 'Student'
- 3 Enter your name, dob and type in your school name. The school's name should appear in the dropdown menu. Click to confirm
- 4 Create a username and password

If you're having trouble finding your school, double check that you've entered the correct date of birth and full name as it appears on the school's register. Some schools are known by a shorter version of their name so make sure you're typing the full, official school name.

Our content is delivered in an easy-to-digest format to ensure learning sticks.

- ✓ One website, accessible anywhere & everywhere
- ✓ Over 7,500+ Pods
- ✓ Content produced specifically for mobile devices, tablets & PC's
- ✓ Designed to squeeze exactly the right knowledge needed for exam success into short 3-5 minute chunks
- ✓ Helps with learning, homework & revision

Playlists

Create a new playlist, give it a name, add some Pods and save. Just like you would with Spotify! Watch the playlist online to brush up on your knowledge or download it and take it out and about with you on your mobile device.

Check & Challenge

Test your knowledge by completing our topic quizzes. Receive instant feedback on your answer with helpful tips to help you understand why it's right or wrong. Complete Check & Challenges as many times as you want to see your progress improve and win more diamonds!

My Exam Playlists

Keep yourself organised by viewing a list of your upcoming exams in subject or date order. View an exam playlist to see all the Pods relevant to that exam, select the areas you find tricky and download to watch on the way to school.

Homework

View homework set by your teacher, watch Pods and answer questions to help test your knowledge on a topic. Watch automatically created boosted playlists to fill any knowledge gaps once your assignment has been marked.

Learning Activities

Choose from a range of activities to enhance your learning and cement the knowledge you've learned from our Pods. Perfect for creating your own revision materials!

Webinars

Attend our fun and interactive student webinars, full of useful tips and tricks to make learning and revision fun and less stressful.

Wellbeing Assemblies - Mental Health Awareness Week

This week, we are joining the national conversation for Mental Health Awareness Week. While this week provides a vital opportunity to spotlight emotional wellbeing, we want to reassure our students and families that our commitment to supporting young people's mental health is a priority all year round. Whether a student is facing a small worry or a significant challenge, we have a robust network of reporting systems and support services ready to help.

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How to Speak Up

If a student needs to share a concern, they can use any of the following channels:

- In-Person: Speak to any member of staff, including Teachers, Heads of Year, Pastoral Support Managers (PSM), or the Safeguarding Team.
- The Worry Box: Drop a confidential note in the box located just outside the Safeguarding Office.
- SafeText: Contact the school via the SafeText phone at 07391377270. This is monitored by Mrs. Jarvis before and after school until 4:30 pm.
- Online Wellbeing Form: Available anytime via the school [website](#).

Support Services Available

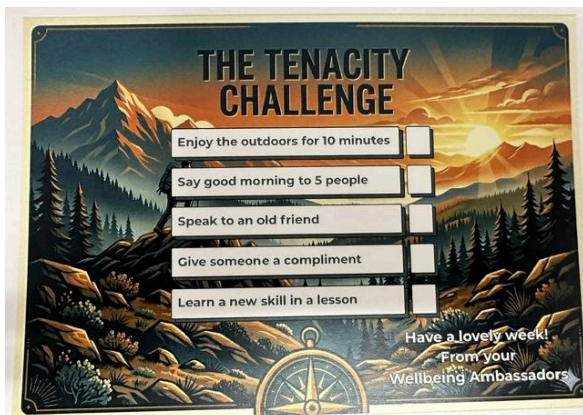
We are proud to offer a variety of internal and external support options tailored to student needs:

Daily Support: Wellbeing support, PSM check-ins, and Calm Club with Miss Pritchard.

Specialist Support: Online counselling through Kooth, In school counselling and the NHS Emotional Wellbeing Team (both accessible via referral).

Development: Specific interventions and signposting to online support groups.

To mark this week specifically, students are also participating in the Tenacity Challenge. This initiative is designed to help students develop their "TRUE" value of Tenacity, building the resilience and strength they need to navigate life's ups and downs.

A purple and blue poster for 'Meopham School SAFE TEXT PHONE' with the number '07391 377 270'. It features a photo of Mrs. Jarvis and text: 'If you need any support before or after school, ring or text the Safe Text Phone and Mrs Jarvis will reply'. It also mentions the 'Worry Box' and provides instructions: 'If you need support or want to raise a concern during the school day please use the Worry Box located outside of the Safeguarding Office'. Icons include a mailbox, a 'REPORT IT' button, and a smartphone.

Public Buses to School - Mr. A. Wood, Assistant Headteacher (KS3 Conduct)

A small number of students have not been meeting our high standards on public buses to and from school recently. As a school, we are committed to supporting local bus companies to ensure the highest standards of conduct from all of our students.

What conduct do we expect?

- Respect shown to everyone;
- Calm and orderly approach, both when queuing and on the bus itself;
- A thank you to our bus drivers - politeness costs nothing!

What does the school do to support conduct on the buses?

- Posters with the safe text number are provided on each bus. Students are encouraged to save it to their phone and report any concerns, which are picked up by our Designated Safeguarding team directly;
- Student lists are kept of everyone who takes specific buses, to ensure staff are aware of everyone's travel arrangements;
- Leadership will periodically do checks on buses and liaise daily with bus drivers to discuss student conduct.

What happens if a student falls below our high standards of conduct on the bus?

- The school will sanction in the same manner that incidents in school would be addressed;
- The school will work with the bus company to discuss a possible ban, resulting in a student having to find alternative means of transport.

Of course, the school does not have ownership over our buses as they are public, however as a school we remain committed to supporting bus companies to ensure everyone can enjoy a pleasant journey to and from school. Thank you all for your support with this.

Kenward Trust Assemblies- Andrew Wood- Assistant Headteacher KS3 Conduct

On Tuesday, 19th May, the Kenward Trust are coming into the school to deliver an exciting social responsibility assembly to all year groups- except Year 11 due to their exams.

These assemblies and workshops will give the students an exciting opportunity to learn from external charities about specific life skills that align with our TRUE values.

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

Have you ever noticed how your child can be an expert on a topic on Tuesday, but by the following Monday, it seems to have vanished into thin air?

As frustrating as that can be, it's actually a perfectly natural scientific phenomenon known as the '**Forgetting Curve**'. This week, we wanted to share a little bit of the "science of learning" behind our teaching philosophy and how we are working to ensure that the knowledge our students gain in class stays with them for the long term.

What is the Forgetting Curve?

In the late 19th century, psychologist Hermann Ebbinghaus discovered that humans start losing newly learned information almost immediately. In fact, without a conscious effort to remember it, we can lose up to 70% of what we've learned within just 24 hours. If we only teach a topic once, we are essentially pouring water into a leaky bucket. To stop the leak, we have to "interrupt" the forgetting process.

At Meopham, we don't just "teach and move on." Our Teaching and Learning Philosophy is specifically designed to tackle this curve through two main strategies:

Spaced Retrieval: You may have noticed your child's lessons often start with a quick quiz on something they learned three weeks—or even three months—ago. By "retrieving" that information just as it's about to be forgotten, the memory becomes significantly stronger.

Deliberate Practice: We dedicate time in every lesson to silent, independent work. This isn't just "busy work"; it's a targeted activity where students practice the exact skills they found difficult in their recent assessments.

"Brain Ache" is a Good Sign!

We often tell our students that if learning feels "easy," it's probably not sticking. True learning requires **tenacity**. We call this a "Desirable Difficulty." When a student has to work hard to remember a fact or solve a problem, they are physically re-wiring their brain to hold onto that information.

How Can You Help at Home?

You can help us "beat the curve" with these simple 5-minute habits:

The "One Week Later" Quiz: Ask your child to explain one thing they learned *last week*, not just today.

Encourage the Struggle: If they say, "I can't remember," don't give them the answer immediately. Give them a "clue" and let their brain do the hard work of finding the memory.

Flashcards: If they use flashcards, encourage them to put the ones they know well at the back of the pile and the ones they find hard at the front.

By working in **unity**, we can ensure that our students aren't just "covering" the curriculum, but truly mastering it.

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

As our Year 11 students begin their first full week of the GCSE summer exam season, **we would like to extend a massive thank you to all the parents and carers who took the time to write motivational letters to their children.**

On Friday, we held a special pre-exam assembly where students were given the opportunity to open and read your messages. There was a truly wonderful "buzz" in the hall as they shared these personal words of encouragement, and it was clear from the smiles and the atmosphere that they were genuinely thrilled to receive them.

Thank you for partnering with us to support our students' well-being as well as their academic success. Your words have made a significant difference.

The Year 11 Raising Team

Year 11 and 13 Exams

Well done to **Year 11s** who started some of their exams last week. You have stayed calm and have come prepared for your exams. Good luck for the rest of your exams, with the first **English Literature** and **Maths** exams starting this week. Please continue to bring the correct equipment, especially calculators to the exams where these are allowed.

Good luck to **Year 13s** who start their first exams this week, with **Health and Social Care** on Monday. Other exams include **Sport, Business, Media** and **Psychology**. You have worked hard over the last two years preparing for these exams. Stay calm and showcase what you know.

Sixth Form Attendance

We are pleased to report a significant **improvement** in Sixth Form attendance this term. This positive shift reflects the **commitment** our students are showing towards their studies and future pathways. We are grateful for the **support from families** for working with us. Your support has played an important role in the positive shift in Sixth Form attendance.



Sixth Form Study

Our Sixth Form students have been showing real **focus** as we move deeper into the exam season. It has been brilliant to see them using **study spaces** so purposefully and supporting one another in their revision.

Year 12 UCAS Trip

As a reminder, parents and carers are required to complete the permission form for the upcoming **UCAS Maidstone trip** on **Tuesday 2nd June**. Students must also sign up to confirm their attendance and get their **individual ticket** required for the event. Thank you for your support in helping us organise this smoothly.



Message from Wombwell Park Youth Connect

A community-based boxing and multisport programme aimed at encouraging young people to stay active, build confidence, and develop positive social connections. The programme combines structured boxing activities with a variety of engaging sports and games, all delivered in a safe and inclusive environment. It is suitable for a wide range of abilities and is particularly beneficial for students who are looking for from additional physical activity or confidence-building opportunities outside of school.



SPORT ON YOUR DOORSTEP

WOMBWELL PARK YOUTH CONNECT

BOXING & MULTISPORT PROGRAMME

WHEN: Every Monday – 4.30pm
WHERE: Wombwell Park, Mitchell Avenue, Gravesend, DA11 8AU

BOXING FITNESS | FOOTBALL | GAMES | MENTAL WELLBEING

REGISTER ON ARRIVAL #doorstepsport

Email info@sportonyourdoorstep.co.uk for more info or to access our supportive community.

Breaking down barriers to play sport.



Moving Forward

That's it for another newsletter - look out for our new-look newsletter at the start of Term 6!

In the meantime, we wish the very best of luck to all of our students currently taking their final exams - we know they will make us proud!

Kind regards,



Mr Roberts
Headteacher