



Meopham School

Tenacity • Respect • Unity • Excellence

29.6.26

Headteacher's Newsletter

Headteacher's Welcome

Hello and welcome to our new-look fortnightly newsletter! We hope everyone has been enjoying the sunshine whilst also managing to stay cool in the recent hot weather. We appreciate that this time of year, temperatures can get very high, but our students showed brilliant tenacity last week in the way they continued with their learning and ensured they didn't miss out on some excellent opportunities, like the Y10s on Work Experience and Y7, who pressed ahead with their exciting trip to Canterbury.

There is absolutely loads going on at school over the next few weeks, as we enter the last month of the school year, so plenty to look forward to and get involved with as we enjoy our amazing grounds, which are so beautiful this time of year!

Cultural Capital

A message from Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)

TRUE Awards, Summer Sizzler and Annual Art Exhibition

A huge well done to everyone involved in this year's annual **TRUE Awards, Summer Sizzler and Art Exhibition**. We saw an incredible display of the talent we have across our performing and creative arts, and it was fantastic to see so many of our students showcasing their incredible skills and achievements.



It was particularly impressive considering that - when it was clear the weather was turning - this evening was transformed from an outdoor event to an indoor event in the space of about 45 minutes!

Thank you to all those who attended, we hope you enjoyed the **musical performances, artwork on display** and of course, watching your child receive their award for displaying our TRUE values, Tenacity, Respect, Excellence and Unity this year.





Gravesham Big Sing

We are incredibly proud of five of our fantastic students who recently represented our school at the **Gravesham Big Sing**.

It was a whirlwind, music-filled day. Our students spent the daytime rehearsing intensely alongside peers from schools across the region. They then returned in the evening to deliver a spectacular live performance, accompanied by a brilliant live band from Gravesend Grammar for Boys.

A huge congratulations to our students, who received special commendations for their:

- **Patience and Hard Work:** Staying focused and energised through a demanding day of rehearsals.
- **Leadership:** Being absolutely instrumental in helping younger students from our local feeder primary schools hold their harmony parts during the complex pieces.

They were outstanding ambassadors for our school, showing not just musical talent, but wonderful leadership and community spirit. Well done, team!





Youth Voice Day - Wednesday 24th June

Last week, five of our students joined other schools to take part in a **Youth Voice** event in Gravesend.

Students discussed important topics such as; the impact of **social media**, the world of work and **future opportunities**, **mental health** and **wellbeing**, and access to **youth spaces and centres**.

A huge well done to **Katie, Japjeet, Aidan, Deji and Freddie** for representing the views of young people at Meopham School. An extra shout out is necessary for all five students for taking the time to attend this event during the staff development day! This is a true testament to the importance of events like these and goes to show the **value in listening to the voices of our young people**.



House Assemblies - Sports Day Preparation!

House assemblies this term were dedicated to preparation of the much anticipated **Sports Day 2026**. Students and staff gathered in their **Houses** to sign up for a variety of individual and team races and games.

Students also had the opportunity to **share ideas** about the types of events they would like to see at this year's event to encourage **participation by all**. We are looking forward to finding out **which House will be victorious** at this year's Sports Day.





TRUE Values Weeks

The remaining four weeks of this academic year will focus on our **TRUE values**. Students will be given further opportunities to demonstrate these values and **earn extra House points** for the school value of the week.

At the end of each week, a group of students who have earned the most points for each House will be **invited to an end of week celebration**.

This week, we will focus on **Tenacity** and next week will be all about **Respect**. Students will receive more information in assemblies and Tutor times over the coming weeks.

Tenacity Week:
29th June - 3rd July

Respect Week:
6th - 10th July

Unity Week:
13th - 17th July

Excellence Week:
20th-24th July

House Point Running Total



21,762



22,398



22,421



23,206

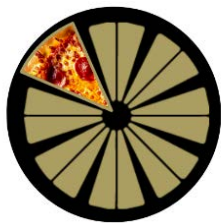
Things are heating up as we approach the final stages of our House tournament! A reminder that - this week - **Year 9 and 10 students** who **achieve 100% attendance** will receive **triple points**, which could go a long way to securing their House's place on the trip to Thorpe Park in September!

Of course, big events like our upcoming **inter-House Sports Day** (14th July) will also have a big impact on the points awarded, so there is still everything to play for!



Headteacher Commendations

Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)



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

Thursday 2nd July:

Frankie B & Jorgie M (Year 8) - Both students completed their Geography fieldwork to an excellent standard. Their write ups were detailed and explained the methods, conclusions and evaluations effectively. .

Molly W (Year 10) - For always being engaged in her Science lessons, asking lots of questions and demonstrating excellence.

Kida B (Year 7) - For always being responsible, volunteering to help out in Tutor Time and for having the most positive House points in the class.

Daisy B (Year 7) - Daisy has engaged proactively with her learning in History, has been enthusiastic in her contributions to class discussions and has used her knowledge to create a high quality imaginative diary entry at the end of the week.

Callum S (Year 7) - Showing tenacity in all Spanish lessons and excellence in writing assessment

David V (Year 7) - Completing an excellent writing assessment in Spanish.

Megan Y, Enya W, Ana R (Year 7), Louis B & Leticia S (Year 8) - Taking part in the Gravesham Big Sing event, demonstrating tenacity and excellence.

Thursday 9th July:

Riley M-B & Albie M (Year 8) - Tasked with creating their own political party, they produced an excellent poster and persuasive speech that clearly presented his party's policies and why they are important.

Ben F (Year 7) - For being an excellent Reception Helper last week.

Kyle O & James H (Year 8) - Demonstrating excellent participation in English lessons.

Xakani W (Year 8) - Excellent French work, demonstrating tenacity by answering difficult questions.

George K Year 7) - Excellent answers and level of completed work in Spanish.



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.

Staff Member of the Weeks

As you know, each week members of the school community vote for their staff member of the week - someone who has gone above and beyond for our school, and deserves a shout-out!

Last week, our Staff Members of the Week were **Mrs Porter-Clarke**, who has taught English at Meopham for **3 years** and **Mrs Williamson**, our Head of English who has been with Meopham for **7 years**. Both were nominated for their fantastic support of the English department and their relentlessly positive attitude around the school. Well done guys!

This week's Staff Member of the Week goes to **Ms Hyder**, the school's new Careers Advisor and Library Coordinator. Ms Hyder has had an incredible impact on the school in the short time she has been here so far, organising for all of our Y10 students to go out on **Work Experience** last week, as well as putting in place all the amazing plans for our careers provision from 2026-2027 onwards. Exciting things ahead!

If you would ever like to personally nominate staff or share any other positive news, you can do so via the Positive News form on our communication portal:

<https://sites.google.com/swale.at/msscoms/home> We love celebrating our staff, so let us know if there is someone who deserves a special thank you!

Key Messages

Transition Events; July 2026 (Mrs Romney, Deputy Headteacher)

Over the next few weeks we are very excited to be hosting a number of events to support the transition of our incoming Year 6 students.

All Year 6 students will be in school on **Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd July**. This will be an opportunity for them to experience life as a Year 7 student, and meet key students and staff to help them feel more prepared for September. We also have our **Transition Evening** on **Thursday 2nd July**, where parents and carers will find out more about Meopham School in the build up to September.

Also, for the first time ever, we will also be holding **House Teas** for students. This is going to be a wonderful opportunity for our new Y7s to sit down with some staff and other students - across a range of year groups - from their Houses, enjoy a bit of cake and a drink, and start to feel part of our Meopham school community from the get-go. A big thank you to all of our older students who have agreed to participate and make our new students feel welcome!



Finally, we are hosting our **Year 5 Science Days** on **Tuesday 7th** and **Wednesday 8th July**, alongside **Open Morning Tours** running from **Monday 6th to Friday 10th July**.

If you know of any parents of students in Year 5 who would like to book a tour of the school please share this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1990029831797?aff=oddtcreator>

Teaching and Learning Tips

A message from Mrs Romney, Deputy Headteacher

Have you ever watched an Olympic gymnast perform a flawless routine, only to stumble on the dismount? In education, the end of a lesson is just like that dismount. If the final five minutes of a lesson are not focused, valuable learning time can be lost.

This term, our whole-school Teaching & Learning focus is all about "sticking the landing." We have returned our attention to **Assessment for Learning**, specifically tightening our end-of-lesson routines and **verbal plenaries**.

Across the school, we utilise a formal, structured routine to close our lessons:

- When the teacher signals the end of the main task, students pack away their materials and **stand silently behind their chairs**.
- Standing up instantly changes the energy in the room. It signals to the brain that the lesson isn't over yet and prevents students from coasting or hiding at the back of the classroom.
- While standing, the teacher coordinates the plenary activity. This might involve holding up fingers to answer a multiple-choice hinge question, reacting to true or false statements, or participating in quick-fire quiz questions.

This is an incredible diagnostic tool for our teachers. By scanning a room of standing students, a teacher can see in less than ten seconds who completely understood the lesson and who might have a lingering misconception. This allows them to immediately adapt their planning for the next lesson.

Uniform Expectations

A message from Mrs Davies-Lane, Assistant Headteacher

Over the last week we have seen some really hot weather and students have adapted really well to this by wearing their smart Meopham PE kits. As you know, now that the weather is returning to normal temperatures, we are operating our normal summer uniform again i.e. all items except a school blazer.

As a reminder of our key dates regarding uniform I have added the letter that was sent out last week:

<https://www.meophamschool.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=770&type=pdf>



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London Broncos visit

A message from Mr Andrew Wood, Assistant Headteacher



We are very lucky to be working alongside the London Broncos and have arranged for a **coach** to visit and deliver some **sessions** with our students! These will take place on **Thursday, 2nd July** for some lucky Y7 and Y8 students.

Students who take part in the coaching sessions will also receive some **free tickets** to go and watch the **London Broncos** play their upcoming fixtures at **Ebbsfleet** on the **4th and 11th July** against Hunslet and Doncaster at Kuflink Stadium. Adults will need to pay for their ticket to accompany your child but the child ticket will be free.

Spaces still available so please sign up:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfIY1LwePe1niA8e_ke6a5Q7dVqxivO47eGI8S_xixMoxqj5A/viewform?usp=header

Gillingham Football Club - Wednesdays after school

A message from Mr Andrew Wood, Assistant Headteacher

As part of our partnership with Gillingham Football Club, we are proud to be able to offer a **FREE KS3 Football Club every Wednesday** with Gillingham FC coaches - so please encourage all KS3 Boys and Girls to attend from **3.15-4.15pm!**



GILLINGHAM FC

FOUNDATION



Raising Standards and Sixth Form

A message from Mrs Hartley, Senior Assistant Headteacher

Year 12 UCAS

Year 12 students have now been issued with their **UCAS Hub log-ins**, giving them access to a wide range of tools to help them explore courses, universities and apprenticeships. On **Monday 13th July**, we will be welcoming ambassadors from the **University of Kent** into school. They will be delivering sessions on how to approach the UCAS application, how to research courses effectively, and what makes a strong personal statement. We will also be arranging an **information evening** for parents and carers on this day. A letter will be sent home this week.

Year 12 Exams

Year 12 exams began last week and continue for the rest of this week. These assessments are an important opportunity for students to consolidate their learning, identify strengths, and highlight areas to focus on as they move into Year 13. We encourage all students to maintain a **consistent study routine** throughout the exam window — reviewing class notes, practising past questions, and seeking support from teachers where needed.



Celebrating Our Year 11 and Year 13 Leavers

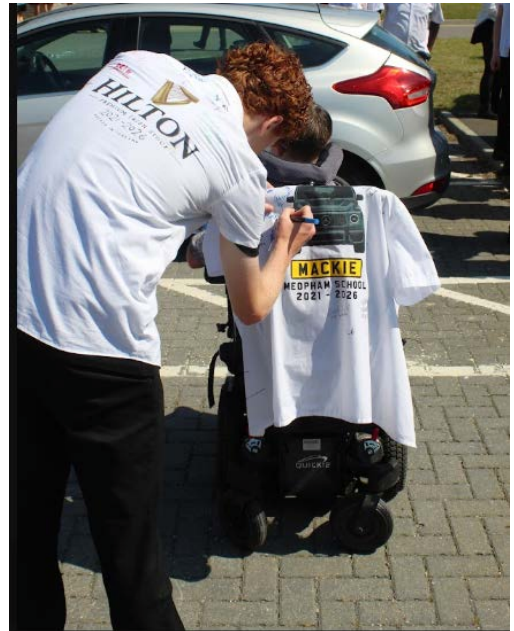
It has been a wonderful few weeks celebrating the achievements of our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they completed their exams and prepared to move on to their next steps.

Year 13 enjoyed a sunny **Celebration BBQ**, giving staff the chance to congratulate them in person and wish them well for the future. Students also received their **Yearbooks**, filled with messages from teachers and peers — a lovely keepsake marking their time with us.

Year 11 had their **leavers' assembly** last week, complete with videos from staff, reflections on their journey, and plenty of well-deserved applause. They also received their **leavers' hoodies**, and individual photos were taken earlier in the week. They also enjoyed their **Prom**, a celebration of five years of memories that marked the end of exams and the beginning of their new adventures.

We are incredibly proud of both year groups and wish them every success in the exciting paths ahead.









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Community Messages

Please see a message below from Meopham Medical Centre about an upcoming Community Health & Wellbeing Day.



Moving Forward - Meopham School Summer Fete

As we approach the end of the school year, we wanted to do something that all of our students can enjoy as a bit of a reward, as well as taking advantage of the beautiful natural surroundings of our school. This time of year, it really does bring it home just how lucky we are to be centred in the heart of one of the most picturesque villages in the country, and it is safe to say that our school site has to be one of the best in the country!

With all this in mind, we thought: *why go somewhere else with our students, when we have such a beautiful summer setting all around us?*

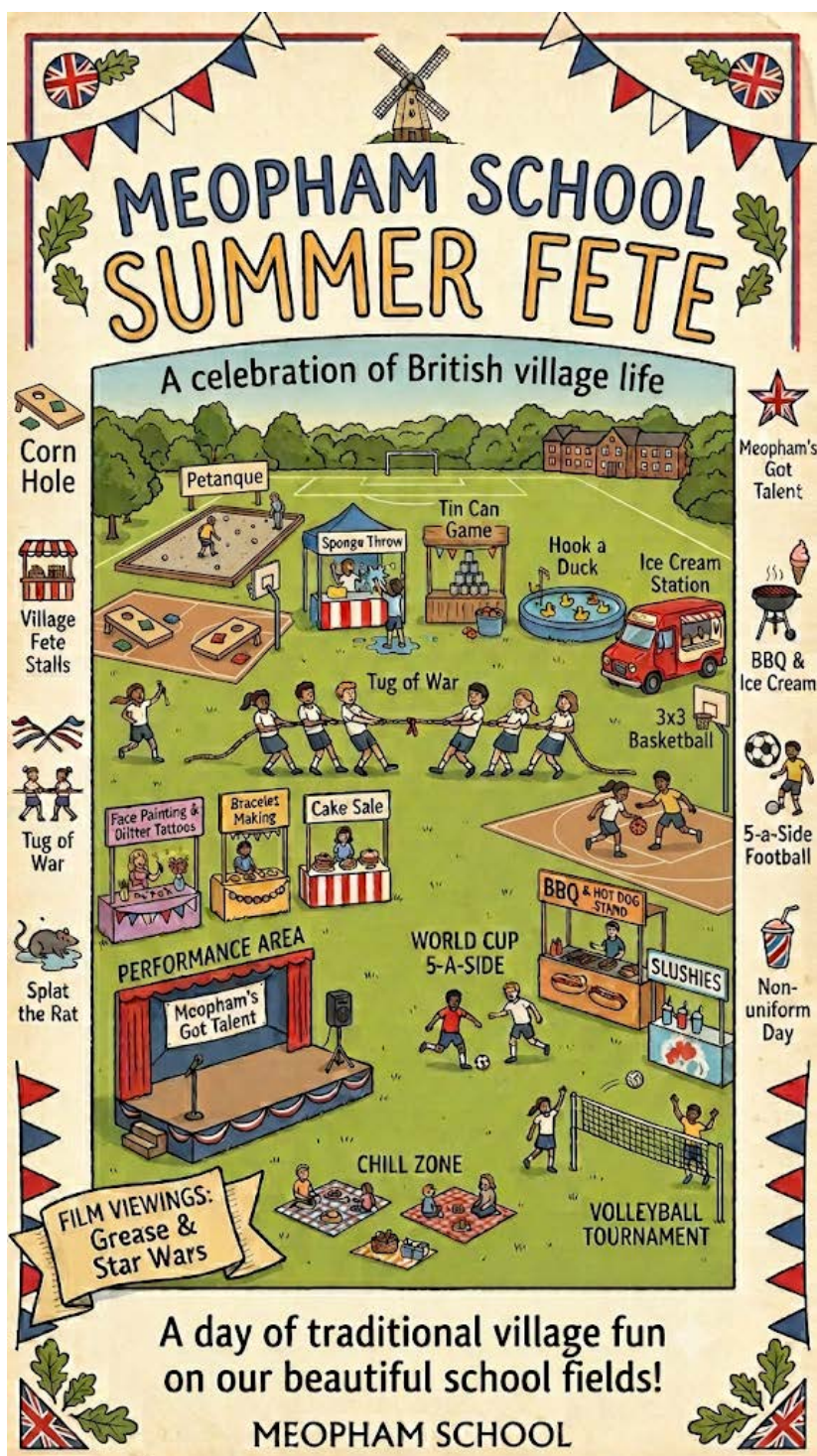


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So we decided to start what we hope will be a new annual tradition. On **Thursday 16th July**, we are arranging a **Meopham School Summer Fete**, an afternoon where our students can enjoy the sunshine and take part in a wide variety of traditional village fete-style activities, let their hair down and have a bit of a laugh with the entire school community.

All staff and students will be involved, with staff members already volunteering to put on a range of fun activities, some of which are provided below:





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More details on this exciting rewards event for students will follow. Unfortunately, we can't invite all parents and carers on the day, however if you would be keen to volunteer your time to help support the event, or if you have your own ideas of fun activities you would like to offer, then please feel free to get in touch via the survey below:

[Meopham School - Thursday 16th July - Summer Fete Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

We hope that this will provide a fun conclusion to the school year, where we all get to enjoy some time together as a community. In the meantime, let's hope England keep winning and the weather stays sunny!

Have a lovely week,

Mr Roberts
Headteacher