



Meopham School

Tenacity • Respect • Unity • Excellence

13.07.26

Headteacher's Newsletter

Headteacher's Welcome

Hello and welcome to another edition of the Headteacher's Newsletter. Whilst we have a week and a half to go, this is our last edition of the school year, so plenty to update you on about what is going to be a very action-packed and fun-filled end to the school year!

Cultural Capital

A message from Miss Hodd (Assistant Headteacher)

End of Year House Assemblies

As we approach the end of the academic year, students will meet twice more in their Houses. All will attend **House assemblies on Tuesday 21st July** to celebrate the highlights and individual achievements of students this year. All students and staff will again come together on the last day of term where the **total House points** per House and **House Cup winners will be revealed!**



Sports Day - Tuesday 14th July

On Tuesday, all students and staff participated in our much anticipated **Sports Day**.

This year, students **represented their House**, competing against each other in a variety of events including; **track and field races, team games** and **alternative games** for everyone to participate in.

With lots of House points on offer, **it was all to play for!** It was great to have another year of celebrating our students' **sporting achievements, records being broken** and seeing our students Get involved in the **community spirit**.



Meopham School Summer Fete - Thursday 16th July

An exciting reminder that this Thursday, we are hosting our first **Meopham School Summer Fete** as a reward for all of our students. It will be 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. We are asking for a £10 contribution for each student, which covers the cost of the BBQ food, ice cream, slushies as well as the prizes and events we have on offer for students. **There will be normal lessons until 12.00pm**, and after that everyone will be going to the field for what we are sure will be a fun-filled afternoon!



Meopham's Got Talent - Summer Fete

As part of this year's Summer Fete, Mr Knight is hosting **Meopham's Got Talent**. If students want to get involved to showcase their talent, there's **no need to audition**, just **see Mr Knight** before the event for more information.



Colour Run - Thursday 23rd July

On Thursday 23rd July, we will be holding our first **Inter-House Charity Colour Run**.

Key information

When: After lunch during afternoon lessons

What to wear: Non-uniform, white t-shirt, clothes that you don't mind getting colours on

Cost: Entry fee will be £3 per student to cover the cost of the event and raise money for our House charities



Artwork for the Meopham Community

This year, Year 7 and 8 students created this artwork for **Meopham Medical Centre**.

Students spent a number of weeks creating this large scale collage during **Mrs Nicolau's weekly lunch time Doodle Club**. The piece is inspired by the **natural landscape** that can be seen from the windows in our school building and required teamwork and collaboration.

Staff at the Medical Centre said how pleased they were that **members of the community can now enjoy the artwork created by students at Meopham School**.



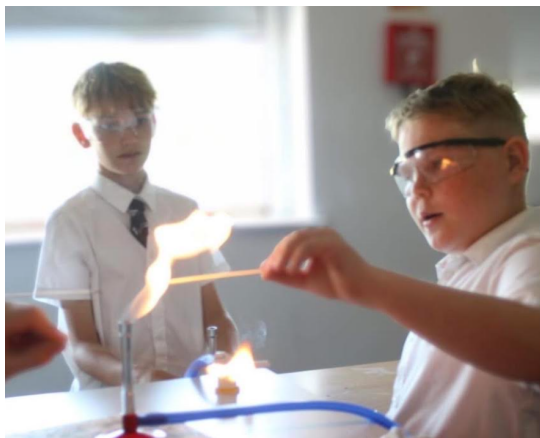


Transition

On Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd July we welcomed our new Year 7 students for their Transition days.

Transitioning to secondary school is a major milestone—especially for the many students joining us as the sole representatives from their primary schools—but our new cohort stepped up to the challenge with incredible courage and tenacity.

Over the course of their visit, our new students truly became a part of our school community. They experienced the fast pace of secondary school life, including:



High-Energy Lessons & Science Spark: Students stepped into our labs and classrooms, conducting hands-on science experiments and getting a real taste of the exciting curriculum awaiting them in September.

Tutor Time & Building Bonds: Students spent invaluable time with their new Form Tutors and classmates, easing those first-day nerves and starting friendships that will last a lifetime.

Our First "House Teas": During our Transition Evening, while parents met with school leaders, students gathered in their new Houses for squash, cake, and brilliant icebreaker activities. It was wonderful to watch our House Leaders help everyone feel at home.

The Transition House Cup!

To round off the experience, students threw themselves into an energetic inter-house community competition, working together to earn points for their new Houses. We are delighted to announce that **Hever House** emerged as the overall champions of the week!



We were also incredibly proud to award **over 80 individual certificates** to students who went above and beyond, demonstrating our core values of tenacity, respect, unity, and excellence.



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:

Friday 17th July:

Harley L (Year 10) - For demonstrating tenacity during his work experience week including helping others and showing enthusiasm throughout.

Amelia R (Year 10) - Stepping up and volunteering as a Student Helper.

Oscar S-R (Year 8) - Showing tenacity/most improved in English lessons.

Daisy D (Year 8) - For always demonstrating respect in English.

Violet N (Year 8) - Tenacity in English.

Sienna B & Sienna S (Year 8) - Creating an excellent visual display about Antiseptics in a History lesson.

Isabella N, Autumn P & Lily C (Year 8) - Excellence in English.

Jamie D, Ovidiu D, Teleola M & Harrison A (Year 8) - For creating an excellent visual display about John Snow in a History lesson.

Thursday 23rd July:

Tanu G (Year 8) - Creating an excellent visual display about John Snow and his cure of Cholera in History.

Tyler H (Year 7) - Showing tenacity in English.

Archie S (Year 10) - For demonstrating excellence in English lessons.

Lola G & Dolly D (Year 10) - acting as Student Leaders to support the Year 8 Parents and Carers Evening.

Katie F (Year 7) - For demonstrating respect towards the school environment, Katie spent her lunchtime litter picking on the field.

Zeek M, Jack B-D & Oscar D (Year 7) - For creating an excellent poster about Mary Prince and her struggle to help slaves across the world.

Aston H (Year 10) - Excellent work and effort in Science recently.

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 Members of the Week

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!

Week beginning 29.6.26: Mrs Harris - who always goes above and beyond, attending multiple key school events in recent weeks.

Week beginning 6.7.26: Mrs Eaton - who organised the Year 5 Science Fairs, welcoming over 150 primary students to experience science lessons with our staff.

We also want to say a huge congratulations to Mrs Kaur who has successfully completed her two year Early Careers Teacher induction period!

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/msscsm/home> We love celebrating our staff, so let us know if there is someone who deserves a special thank you!

Key Messages

Results Days 2026 - Mrs Romney, Deputy Headteacher

We are looking forward to celebrating success with our students on the Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 results days.

Year 13 students will receive their results on **Thursday 13th August**.

Year 11 students will receive their results on **Thursday 20th August**.

Students will be able to collect results between **8am and 10am** in the **Killick Hall**.

Further details have been sent separately to parents and students in these year groups.



Start of Term arrangements; September 2026 - Mrs Romney, Deputy Headteacher



Whilst I am sure September is far from your mind, we wanted to remind you of the key dates and arrangements for the start of term in September.

Tuesday 1st September is a Staff Development Day, and therefore no students should attend school.

Wednesday 2nd September is the first day of school for our new **Year 7** students, giving them an opportunity to orientate themselves and meet key staff. They should be at school by **8.30am**, and should come to the Killick Hall for an assembly at the start of the day.

On this date we also have our **Year 12** enrolment, which will take place between **11.30am** and **1.30pm** in the Dodmore Hall.

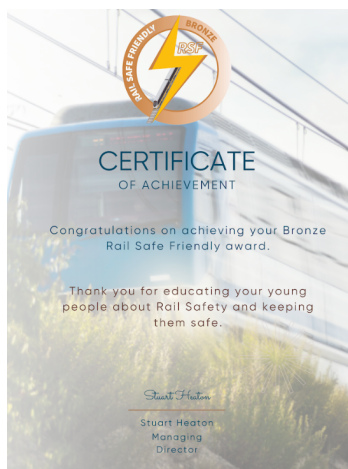
Thursday 3rd September is the first day of term for all other students. All students should be at school by **8.30am**, and will go to their tutor group at the start of the day.

More details and an overview calendar for 2026-27 will be sent out separately, and our school website will be updated with key dates and events over the summer holidays.

Rail Safety - Mrs Romney, Deputy Headteacher

We are very proud to announce that we have achieved a bronze award for the work completed around rail safety with students this term.

We have also been asked to share the information below with parents;





Discover our FREE rail safety videos and keep your children safe by visiting railsafefriendly.com

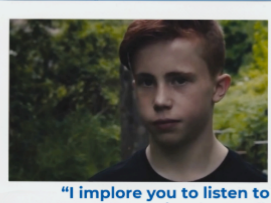
THE RAIL SAFE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

The Rail Safe Friendly programme has educated over **3 million young people** on the dangers of the railways.



SCAN ME

DON'T LET YOUR CHILDREN BECOME THE NEXT STATISTIC



"I implore you to listen to Harrison's story"

Simon Frazer, Principal, Guilsborough Academy

According to the ORR Report , April 23 - March 24 on UK railways:			According to Rail Safe Friendly , July 25:		
12	58%	42%	120+	11,000+	20,000+
people died in accidents while trespassing	were struck by a train or tram	were electrocuted	companies support the programme	schools in the UK have engaged	UK schools still need to be reached

Teaching and Learning Tips

A message from Mrs Romney, Deputy Headteacher

As we reach the end of another fantastic academic year, we want to take a moment to share and celebrate the incredible progress our students have made in their classrooms. At Meopham, our daily mission is driven by our core values of **Respect, Tenacity, and Excellence**. This year, our teachers and students have worked in close **Unity** to raise the bar for what happens in every single lesson.

Here is a look at what we have focused on behind the scenes this year, and the real impact it is having on your child's education:

1. High-Energy Lesson Endings

This year, we placed a major focus on how lessons finish. We introduced the "Stand-Up Plenary". This has helped transform the energy at the end of lessons, finishing with calm, focused, and purposeful learning. It gives teachers an instant snapshot of exactly what students have understood, allowing them to adapt the next lesson to fill any gaps.

2. Quality Feedback

We shifted our focus from how teachers mark books, to how students *respond* to feedback in class. We have spent time ensuring that when teachers provide guidance, students are given dedicated time to physically update their work, correct misconceptions, and tackle higher-level



challenges. Our recent school-wide book reviews have shown pride and progress. Students are no longer just looking at a teacher's comment and moving on; they are actively taking ownership of their mistakes, showing true **Tenacity** as they master difficult concepts.

3. Retrieval practice

To help students retain knowledge over time, we have embedded "Retrieval Practice" into our daily routines, designed to recall information from last week, last term, or even last year. This method forces the brain to work hard to pull information out of long-term memory. As a result, our students are becoming more confident at recalling key facts, complex formulas, and high-level vocabulary, reducing exam anxiety and building long-term academic independence.

Thank You for Your Partnership

Behind every successful student is a supportive home, and your partnership has been invaluable. We want to wish all of our families a safe, happy, and restful summer break, and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, refreshed and ready to reach even higher levels of **Excellence**!

Uniform Expectations

A message from Mrs Davies-Lane, Assistant Headteacher

As a reminder of our key dates and guidance regarding uniform I have added the letter that was sent out last week. If you are unsure about uniform expectations, please see the letter below:

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

London Broncos visit

A message from Mr Andrew Wood, Assistant Headteacher

On Thursday, 2nd July Meopham School were lucky to be visited by the London Broncos Rugby League Team who came to the school and delivered some brilliant Rugby League coaching but also the session involved a lot of social responsibility and life skills including sportsmanship, leadership and linked so closely with our school TRUE values. The team also gave away tickets for the two games they have played recently at the Kufflink Stadium and won both games. Well done to the Broncos!





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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

The New Late Gate

A message from Mr Andrew Wood, Assistant Headteacher

From Monday, we have opened a new late gate. This is for students that arrive past 8.40am- the gate will be the entrance into the Killick Building opposite Busy Bee's Nursery.



Moving Forward

As we approach the end of another successful year, I've been reflecting on all of the wonderful memories we have made this year with our students, and all of their incredible achievements. Whether it's overcoming something they have found difficult, helping others in tough times, supporting or representing our school community or achieving excellent feats in lessons, House events or other activities, we are proud of each and every one of our students this year. As a school, we have had some amazing highs this year, and we've also faced tough times, but I am so proud of all of our young people, and the rest of our school community too.



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Educating young people for a living is such a privilege: you get to help students learn and grow, and see them developing into these wonderful young adults, their futures ahead of them, ready to go out into the world and make an incredible difference. We have loved sharing this with our students this year, and we can't wait to do it all again in 2026-2027.

Thank you to all of you, our parents and carers, for your support this year. We are a team, and we could not do this job without you. I hope you have a lovely summer, and we look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Oh and of course, it goes without saying - COME ON ENGLAND! IT'S COMING HOME!



Take care,

Mr Roberts
Headteacher