



Meopham School

Tenacity • Respect • Unity • Excellence

21.09.26

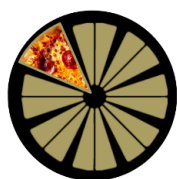
Headteacher's Newsletter

Headteacher's Welcome

Hello and welcome back to another year at Meopham School! We hope everyone had a lovely summer. It's been a fantastic start to the term already, and we're very excited to update you on all the great things that we have going on over the next few weeks and months. A special welcome to all of our families of students who have just joined us in Year 7 and 12 - it has been lovely getting to know all of our new students and they have made an excellent start to their time at Meopham School. Plenty more exciting things to come!

Headteacher Commendations

Mr McQuillan (Deputy 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 10th September:

Harley J (Year 7) - For demonstrating excellence in English. (Excellence)

George K (Year 7) - For demonstrating tenacity in English. (Tenacity)

Max B, Isabella B (Year 9) - For excellent tenacity in Music - improving keyboard skills. (Tenacity)

Annabel T, Aurelia L, Luke S, Ella C (Year 7) - For demonstrating respect and excellence in History. Creating an amazing poster on Caroline Norton and the reforms



she introduced to improve the lives of women in Victorian England. (Respect and Excellence)

Phoebe G, Bella F (Year 7) - For demonstrating excellence in English by writing the winning poem for the mystery door challenge. (Excellence)

Ana F, Anabella S, Tyler H - (Year 7) - In Geography, conducted excellent fieldwork and evaluated to a high standard. (Excellence)

Charlie G (Year 10) - Fantastic unity and excellent help with school photographs. (Unity and Excellence)

Scarlett G (Year 10) - For demonstrating tenacity in English by showing the most improvement. (Tenacity)

Tuesday 22nd September:

Alfie C (Year 8), Zayne W (Year 10) - Excellent participation in English. (Excellence)

Leighton Y (Year 9) - Great participation and helpful in English. (Unity)

Olivia D (Year 13) - Exceptional first assessment. (Excellence)

Frankie B (Year 9) - Always respectful and helpful. (Respect)

Theo O (Year 9) - Always focused, respectful and helpful. (Respect)

Louis B (Year 9) - Diligent. (Excellence)

Jenson B (Year 10) - Tries his hardest in English. (Tenacity)

Rafferty A (Year 7) - Excellent work. (Excellence)

Oscar H (Year 7) - Excellent work. (Excellence)

Jad K (Year 11) - Working hard in Science. (Tenacity)

Florence C (Year 9) - Working hard in Science. (Tenacity)

All students on this list will be invited to Headteacher Commendation **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 07.09.26

Mrs Warren - finalised the timetable, setting, and curriculum arrangements over the summer in readiness for the start of the new term. Mrs Warren is also our Examinations Officer, and so was very busy supporting students, parents and staff on the results days for both Year 13 and Year 11.



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Week beginning 14.09.26

Miss Shergold - fantastic work to support our new Year 12s and the induction process, including coordinating the summer learning, welcome packs, and registration via Kent Choices.

Week beginning 21.09.26

Mr Payne - brilliant proactive work with students and families in his new year group.

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

Open Evening: Thursday 1st October - Mrs Romney (Deputy Headteacher)

Our annual Open Evening is such an exciting event for the school, and this year takes place on **Thursday 1st October**. The event itself runs from 4.30pm - 8pm, with Headteacher talks at 5pm, 6pm and 7pm.

If you have a child in Year 5 or 6, or know others who do, more information can be found on our website:

<https://www.meophamschool.org.uk/>

To support the preparation for the evening, **students will be dismissed at the end of period 3 (12.25pm)**. We know that many students eagerly volunteer their time to act as ambassadors and tour guides on the evening, and we are keen for as many as possible to do so. If students wish to attend the event they must see Mrs Greenwood to ensure permission forms and key information can be shared. A reminder also that the day after Open Evening, **Friday 2nd October**, is a Staff Development Day, and therefore **no students will be in school**.

We are also running **Open Morning tours** as we have done in previous years. These take place on Monday 28th - Wednesday 30th September, Monday 5th - Friday 9th October, and Monday 12th - Wednesday 14th October at 9am and 11.30am. More information can again be found on our website, and they can be booked by following this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1991043577939?aff=oddtcreator>



Meopham
School

Where Academic Ambition Meets Village Community

Year 7 Entry September 2027

Open Evening

Thursday 1st October 2026
4.30pm - 8pm
Presentations @ 5pm, 6pm, 7pm
No booking required

Open Morning Tours

Monday 28th September - Wednesday 30th September
Monday 5th October - Friday 9th October
Monday 12th October - Wednesday 14th October
Visit our website to book an Open Morning tour

Grammar Stream available for selected students



01474 814 646 www.meophamschool.org.uk
Wrotham Road Meopham Kent DA13 0AH





Mock Examinations - Year 11 and 13 - Mrs Romney (Deputy Headteacher)

Over the next few weeks students in Year 11 and 13 will be starting their preparation for the first round of mock exams. These are a crucial part of their preparation towards their public exams next summer, and help with both revision and retention of key information, and understanding the process of formal examinations.

We know that this can be a difficult time for students, and whilst we fully believe in the benefits of providing opportunities for students to practice working in formal examination conditions, we also understand the importance of helping students to navigate their way through this, teaching them the skills they need along the way. Therefore we will be working with students on developing effective revision techniques, but also want to support parents in understanding the ways in which you can support your children best. As such, we will be sharing tips and suggestions with parents as well as students.



Revision is best when it is:

- Focused on a specific topic or subject;
- Little and often - revisiting things you have previously covered and setting realistic time limits can help keep things manageable;
- Active not passive - flashcards and quizzes are far more effective than reading through notes;
- Free from distractions - use a quiet space, and turn off the phone or tv...

If students are worried about their examinations, or want support, please tell them to speak to either Mrs Romney, Ms Bland or Mr Whittle.

Working Together for Your Child's Online Safety - Mrs Clements (Lead DSL)

At Meopham School, we are committed to working in partnership with you to keep your child safe both inside and outside of school. While mobile phones are strictly not permitted for use during the school day, we recognise that young people are increasingly active on social media and digital platforms outside of school hours.

To support our students in navigating the digital world responsibly, we are inviting all parents and carers to support our school community by signing our **Social Media Pledge**.

Why Your Support Matters

Monitoring social media is a key parental responsibility. While the current minimum age for most social media platforms is 13, the general recommendation for safe engagement is 16 and this will become a legal requirement by Spring 2027. Recent UK Government legislation and Department for Education updates to *Keeping Children Safe in Education* emphasise the



critical need to protect young people from online risks—such as cyberbullying, harmful content, and unmonitored contact from strangers. Furthermore, national guidance highlights that managing out-of-school online activity requires direct parental oversight and boundary-setting at home.

By signing the pledge, you join us in actively supervising your child's online accounts and ensuring that social media remains out of the school day.

Sign the Social Media Pledge

Together, we can create a safer, more focused environment for our young people. Please take a moment to review the attached guide and complete the pledge:

👉 [Sign our social media pledge here](#)

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in keeping our students safe, healthy, and focused on their education.

Site update - Mr McQuillan (Deputy Headteacher)

The Trust continues to invest in improvements to the site and general school environment. You may have seen that the work to install new fencing and barriers near the bus-stop areas has now been completed.

Our student council provided feedback about the Key Stage 4 queuing systems at break and lunchtimes. We have installed a new queuing system in the quad area - similar to those found at theme parks - which is less crowded and safer for our students. This seems to be working well.

Finally, following ongoing feedback from students, we have secured funding from the Trust to refurbish the toilets in the Dodmore building. This work will take place during one of the holiday closure periods this year, and will make these areas more pleasant for our students.

Parking, picking-up and dropping off students - Mr McQuillan (Deputy Headteacher)

Could we politely remind parents / carers that the designated pick-up and drop off point is behind the GP practice. **Dropping off on the roundabout is unsafe and we have had further near-misses. Please do not park in the staff car park or the side road to the leisure centre at the end of the school day.**

Meopham Veterinary Hospital have also asked us to remind parents / carers that their car park is private property and should not be used as a pick-up point.



Year 7 Induction - Mrs Romney (Deputy Headteacher)



We have been so proud of how well our new Year 7 students have settled in, and risen to the challenge of adapting to 'big school'. It is no easy feat to get yourself to school, navigate a new, and much bigger school environment, and get to know new students and staff; but they have taken it all in their stride.

To support this process, and as an opportunity to get to know new people whilst developing their skills of Unity and Tenacity, Year 7 took part in an **induction challenge**; they had to build the tallest structure possible using only spaghetti and marshmallows. It was fantastic to see them working together to overcome challenges, and finding solutions by collaborating with others. It was also their first House competition, with **Chilham** taking the win on this occasion.

Teaching and Learning Tips

A message from Mrs Romney, Deputy Headteacher

Teaching & Learning Focus: 'All Access, High Challenge'

At Meopham School, we believe there should be no ceiling on what our students can achieve. This term, our whole-school Teaching and Learning focus is **'All Access, High Challenge'** - our commitment to delivering an ambitious, fully inclusive education for every single child.

Here is what this looks like in your child's lessons every day:



Promoting 'HOTS' over 'MOTS' (Higher-Order Thinking Skills vs. 'More of the Same'): True challenge isn't about giving students a longer stack of repetitive worksheets ("More of the Same"). Instead, every lesson encourages students to stretch their brains through

Higher-Order Thinking Skill: asking them to analyse, evaluate, debate, and solve complex problems.

Scaffolding Up, Not Dumbing Down: "All Access" means we never lower our expectations or simplify big ideas. Instead, we **"scaffold up"** - providing students with the tools, visual models, sentence frameworks, and step-by-step support they need so everyone can reach their learning goals.

Knowing Our Learners: Teachers use **Class Profiles** and seating plans to ensure every student - especially those with Special Educational Needs (SEND) or specific learning requirements - receives the exact strategies they need to feel supported, confident, and successful in class.

How you can support at home:

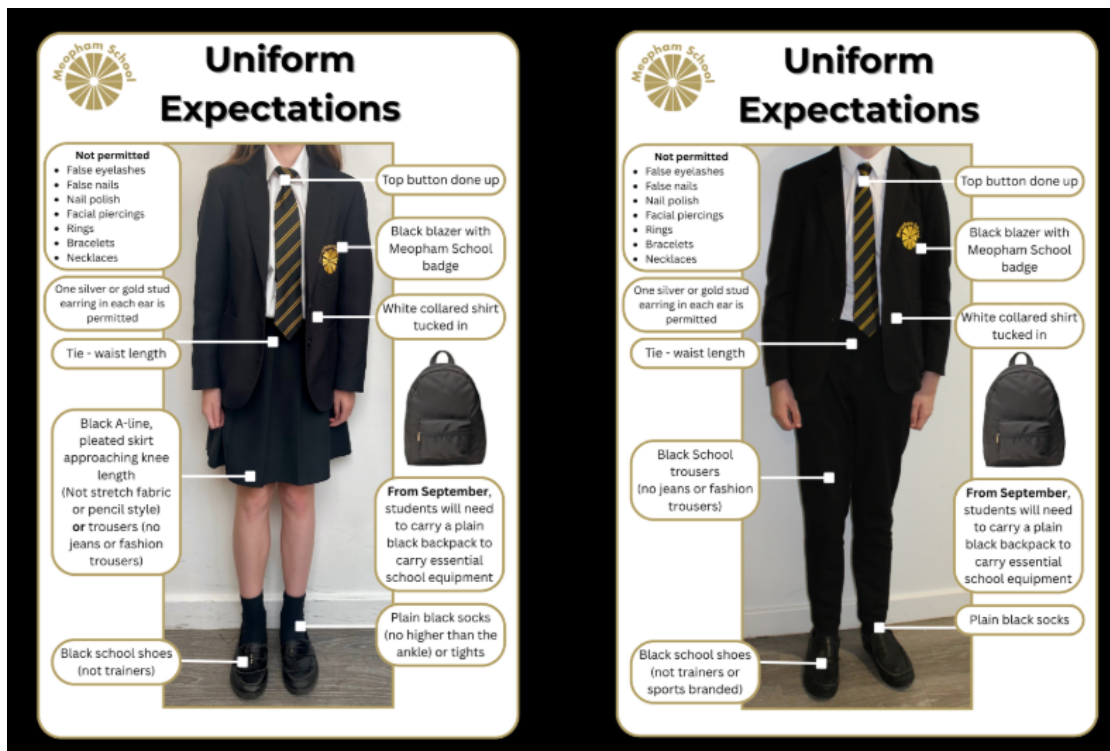
Ask your child: *"What made you think really hard in school today?"* or *"What was the most challenging problem you solved?"*

We look forward to seeing our students rise to the challenge this term!



Uniform Expectations

A message from Mr Andrew Wood, Assistant Headteacher



Uniform expectations and standards have been very positive lately; this has seen a really enthusiastic start to the beginning of the school year for the vast majority of the school community.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported our students with these high standards consistently. The students have looked incredibly smart and this has had a positive impact on conduct and learning.

Student Photos

A message from Mr Andrew Wood, Assistant Headteacher

Just a reminder that students from Years 7 through to 10 and 6th form will have their student photos taken on Wednesday, 23rd September in the Killick Hall.

A timetable will be shared with the students during form time on Monday and Tuesday of this week. They will be accompanied by their teachers throughout the day.





Sixth Form

A message from Mrs Hartley, Senior Assistant Headteacher

Welcome Back

A warm welcome to all our new **Year 12 students** as they begin their Sixth Form journey, and welcome back to our **Year 13 students** as they start their final year with us. We look forward to supporting all students in **achieving their goals** and making the most of the opportunities available this year.

UCAS Applications

Year 13 students are reminded that the internal deadline for uploading **personal statements** to the **UCAS Hub** is **10 October**. Meeting this deadline will ensure applications can be reviewed and processed in good time before submission.

Study Time

It has been fantastic to see so many students making effective use of their **study periods**. Independent study is a key part of Sixth Form life and helps students **consolidate learning**, develop good **study habits** and prepare successfully for **examinations** and **future progression**.

Signing In and Out

Students are reminded of the importance of using the **sign-in app** each morning on arrival and every time they leave and return to site during the day. This is a vital **safeguarding procedure** which helps us ensure that all students can be accounted for throughout the school day.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance and punctuality continue to be **closely monitored**. Tutors are beginning to have discussions with students whose attendance or punctuality falls below our **expectations**, as **regular attendance** and being on time are **essential for academic success**.

Professional Dress Code

It has been great to see students returning looking smart and **ready to learn**. Students should continue to be mindful of our **professional dress code expectations**. Where standards are repeatedly not met, sanctions will be applied in line with our **Sixth Form procedures**.

Premier League Football Visit

On Sunday, 42 of our students had the fantastic opportunity to attend **Fulham vs Manchester United** at Craven Cottage. For many of the students, this was their **first ever experience of Premier League football**, making it a particularly memorable occasion.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere, excitement and experience of watching a live Premier League match, which finished **1-1**. Even the Manchester United fans sitting in the Fulham end managed to enjoy themselves!



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It was brilliant to see the students enjoying the occasion, creating memories and experiencing the excitement of live football together. A fantastic day was had by all!



Message from the ParentPay Group

Dear Parent/Carer,

Keeping your child's account topped up has never been easier.

With ParentPay's Auto Top-Up feature, you can set up automatic payments on a weekly or monthly schedule (or when their meal balance gets low) that works for your household budget. Once set up, your chosen amount will be added automatically, helping to ensure your child always has funds available for school meals.

That means no last-minute top-ups, no unexpected low-balance surprises, and confidence that your child can access school meals daily.

Why use Auto Top-Up?

Peace of mind for you: Auto Top-Up helps reduce the risk of low balances and last-minute payments, giving you one less thing to think about during busy weeks.

Confidence for your child: By keeping meal funds available, Auto Top-Up helps ensure your child can access meals without interruption throughout the school term.

Set up Auto Top-Up in 3 simple steps

1. Choose when to top up

Select a weekly or monthly schedule or choose to top up when your balance falls below a set amount.

2. Choose your top-up amount

Decide how much you'd like ParentPay to add to your child's account each time.

3. Relax – we'll do the rest

Your account will be topped up automatically, helping to ensure funds are available for meals when they're needed.

To get started, log in to ParentPay and set up an Auto Top-Up schedule today.

Kind regards,



Moving Forward

As we embark on another school year, we look forward to building on the success of 25-26. The culmination of this was certainly over the summer on our results days, where we saw some incredible achievements:

This year's cohort achieved particularly well, with **a substantial rise in the number of grade 9s** achieved by students across the school and **increases in the number of students achieving grade 6 and above in English**, aligning with the school's goal to ensure students pursue A-Level study or other ambitious Level 3 qualification routes at post-16.

We are incredibly proud of students for their success, a **record-number of whom are now looking forward to progressing onto their A Levels and Level 3 qualifications at the school, which has expanded its Sixth Form in recent years.**

Some of the individual standout achievements include:

- **Gracie**, who successfully achieved **six grade 9s** in English Literature, English Language, History, Combined Science and Art, **two grade 8s** in Maths and Statistics and a **grade 6** in French.



- **Ella**, who achieved **four grade 9s** in English Literature, English Language and combined Science, a **Distinction*** in Sport, **two grade 8s** in Maths and Geography and a **grade 7** in French.





- **Raymond**, who achieved **four grade 9s** in Maths, Combined Science and History, a **Distinction*** in Sport, a **grade 8** in Statistics, **grades 7 and 6** in English Literature and English Language as well as a **Merit** in IT.



- **George**, who achieved **four grade 9s** in Maths, Computer Science and Combined Science, **grade 8** in Statistics and **grade 6s** in English Language and Geography.
- **Layla**, who achieved **three grade 9s** in English Literature, English Language and History, **two Distinctions** in Sport and Business, **two grade 7s** in Combined Science and **grade 6** in Maths.
- **Evie**, who achieved **two grade 9s** in Combined Science, a **Distinction*** in Sport, **three grade 8s** in English Literature, History and Maths, a **grade 7** in Spanish and a **grade 6** in English Language.
- **Amelia**, who has a very exciting football scholarship at **Brighton and Hove Albion FC**.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 students and everything they have achieved. Today is a chance to celebrate not only their results, but also the determination, maturity and tenacity they have shown throughout their GCSE studies.

These outcomes reflect a huge amount of hard work from students, supported by our dedicated staff and their families. We are excited to see what they go on to do next, whether that is continuing into our sixth form in September or taking up new opportunities beyond Meopham. We look forward to cheering them on as they begin the next stage of their journey!

Key Stage 5 (KS5) - 2026

Students have achieved great A Level and Level 3 results, which reflect the hard work and commitment shown throughout the past two years of their studies.

The school is delighted to have overseen another year of huge improvement in student progress, with **A Level results rising for the third year in a row**. The school also achieved excellent **B Tec results**, with a **pass rate of 100%**.



The school is delighted that **90% of students who applied to university have secured their first-choice place!**

Many individual subjects performed strongly, including sport and health and social care, where **100% of students achieved a Merit grade or higher.**

Alongside the success of the wider Sixth Form cohort, there were a number of impressive individual achievements. These include:

- **Ava**, who successfully achieved **two As** in Sociology and Criminology, and a **Distinction** in Sport. She has secured a place to study at the **University of Nottingham.**



- **Oscar**, who achieved **two Distinction** grades in sport and business and a **Merit** in Health and Social Care. He is going on to study **Sport Management at Canterbury Christchurch University.**



- Anupama, who is going on to study **Clinical Psychology** at the **University of Plymouth.**



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We are incredibly proud of our sixth form students and the results they celebrated this August. They have shown real focus, ambition and tenacity throughout their post-16 studies, and it is wonderful to see their efforts rewarded.

These achievements are a credit to our students, as well as to the staff and families who have supported them along the way. We are excited to see them move on to a wide range of next steps, from university and apprenticeships to employment and further training, and we wish them every success for the future.

Now, with our Open Evening around the corner, it is the turn of our younger students to take centre stage so we can celebrate everything that is excellent about them too! We're looking forward to what I'm sure will be a fantastic evening, and I want to thank parents and carers in advance for allowing students to come back for the evening and help lead a range of activities and tours for all those youngsters who are excited to take their first steps towards secondary school!

In the meantime, I hope you have a lovely week - we'll speak to you all again soon!

All the best,

Mr Roberts
Headteacher