



Meopham School

Tenacity • Respect • Unity • Excellence

14.10.26

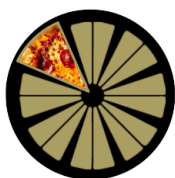
Headteacher's Newsletter

Headteacher's Welcome

Hello everyone and welcome to another edition of our newsletter! We have had a very busy but very enjoyable first term at Meopham, and we're looking forward to sharing with you all of the great things that have been going on!

Headteacher Commendations

Mr McQuillan (Deputy Headteacher)



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

Thursday 15th October:

Brian A, Lewis P (Y10) - Excellence in English

Emilie F (Y7) - Excellence in Geography

Bella R (Y11) - Unity in Catering

Louis W (Y11) - Unity in Catering

Chloe F (Y8) - Excellence in English

Molly T (Y9) - Excellence in English

Isabelle M, Freya S, Jessie W, Peyton P-H, Ethan V (Y7) - Excellence in English

Ibby T (Y11) - Excellence in English



Parker K and Alivia G (Y8) - Tenacity in English

Millie H (Y8) - Respect in English

Caitlin B (Y13) - Excellence in Media Studies

Thursday 8th October

Henry B and Destiny W (Y10) - Tenacity in English

Lochie W (Y10) - Excellence in English

Ausaja K (Y13) - Unity in History

Martha P, Arabella R, Olivia N (Y12) - Unity in History

All students on this list are 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 28.09.26

Mrs Parrott - for her work coordinating the conduct and detentions system, communicating with students, parents and staff, and going above and beyond to help out and resolve issues.

Week beginning 05.10.26

Mrs Greenwood - for being so proactive in supporting enrichment activities around the school, for organising and training the tour guides for Open Evening, and arranging the World Challenge trip to Norway

Week beginning 12.10.26

Ms Letocart - for always providing high challenge lessons, meaning students are highly engaged in lessons, and for being such a committed member of staff for the school.

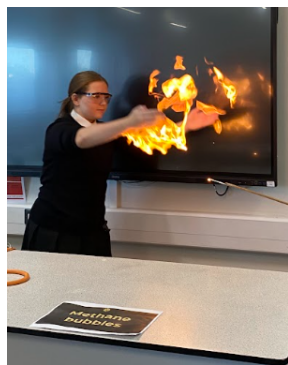
If you would ever like to personally nominate staff or share any other positive news, you can do so via the Positive News form on our communication portal:

<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)



Earlier this month, we were so incredibly proud to welcome almost **1000 visitors** to our annual Open Evening. It was a fantastic evening that showcased our school community at its very best.

The entire school looked exceptional, with every department putting on an outstanding range of engaging activities, live demonstrations, and interactive displays. We were overwhelmed by the wonderful feedback from prospective parents and visitors, with comments including *"it feels like home"* and *"the evening has blown us away."*

A special mention must go to our **student guides and helpers**, who received huge praise from our guests throughout the night. Their pride, polite manner, and enthusiasm made them the ultimate ambassadors for our school.

For families wanting to see our school in action during a normal learning day, we offered **26 guided tours across three weeks**, providing a firsthand look at our calm, purposeful, and high-achieving environment.

A heartfelt thank you to all staff, students, and families who contributed to making the evening such a resounding success!

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

As our upcoming mock examinations approach, establishing structured revision routines early is essential for students to feel calm, focused, and prepared. Mock exams serve as a vital stepping stone, giving students the chance to test effective revision strategies, refine their exam technique, get used to exam conditions, and identify areas for further support.

To guide our students through this period, we are highlighting key evidence-based techniques from our whole-school revision campaign. This week's focus is **Revision Tip #2: 7 Ways to Overcome Procrastination**.

Procrastination is often the single biggest hurdle when beginning revision. Our guide offers seven practical strategies to help students build momentum and take control of their learning.

By implementing these small, daily habits now, students can approach their mock examinations with confidence and resilience.

Further details regarding times and dates of the mock examinations will be shared with students and parents this week.

Meopham School **7 Ways to Overcome Procrastination** **#Revision Tip 2**

- 1 Do the Task for just a Few Minutes**
Use the Zeigarnik effect – once you start something your brain remains alert until you finish it.
- 2 Do the Hard Tasks First**
Doing the hard tasks whilst your brain is still fresh means you are less likely to give up on them or procrastinate.
- 3 Believe in Your Ability**
You can do it, just implement the skills and strategies you have learnt to self-regulate.
- 4 Manage Your Environment**
Control it, don't let it control you. Get rid of distractions, especially that lovely beguiling phone of yours.
- 5 Set Yourself Short Deadlines**
Impending deadlines get you going. So go ahead and set yourself short deadlines.
- 6 Model Success**
Who do you know that has done this task well? What did they do? Copy what they did.
- 7 Make the Task Harder**
Sounds counterintuitive but it can make the task more interesting.



Year 7 Bayeux Tapestry screening - Mrs Romney (Deputy Headteacher)

To enrich our Year 7 History curriculum, we are excited to hold a special **live screening of the Bayeux Tapestry** on the **14th October**, the 960th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

This interactive screening will bring medieval history off the page, allowing our Year 7 students to examine the world famous 70-metre embroidered masterpiece in detail as they explore the dramatic events of the battle and the Norman Conquest. It promises to be a memorable experience that directly supports their learning in class.

Teaching and Learning Tips

A message from Mrs Romney, Deputy Headteacher

Our Teaching and Learning vision is built around four core pillars—**Plan, Teach, Feedback, and Culture & Ethos**—and supported by ten key teaching principles. This term, our whole-school focus is '**All-Access, High-Challenge**'. We believe that every single student is capable of high-level, ambitious thinking. Rather than lowering expectations or simplifying complex concepts, our teachers keep standards high for everyone while providing the structured support needed so every child can tackle the toughest tasks. This ensures we do not place ceilings on what our students can achieve.

Modelling: Showing What Excellence Looks Like

To help students master complex concepts, teachers explicitly demonstrate "what a successful answer looks like" before students begin independent work. Across our classrooms, you will see:

- **Live Visualiser Modelling:** Teachers use visualisers to read texts with the class, modelling live annotations and showing students how to construct extended, analytical responses.
- **Model Answers & Student Exemplars:** Classes dissect model answers together, and students frequently model writing techniques or demonstrate problem-solving steps for their peers.

Scaffolding: Building the Ladders to Success

Scaffolding provides the temporary tools and frameworks students need to approach demanding work with confidence. Key strategies include:

- **Mini-Whiteboards & Sentence Starters:** Students use mini-whiteboards for quick planning and low-stakes checks, alongside sentence frames that help them structure sophisticated written answers.
- **Success Criteria & Checklists:** Before starting extended writing or multi-step tasks, teachers break down the exact success criteria so students have a clear roadmap to follow.



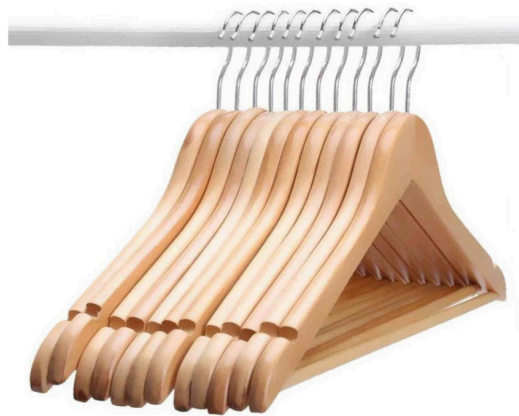
- **Explicit Vocabulary Teaching:** Exercise books feature dedicated glossaries of specialist vocabulary. Teachers explicitly teach these terms so students learn to speak and write like subject experts.

Combined with our **Calm, Supportive, and Purposeful** classroom atmosphere and a minimum of **10 minutes of independent deliberate practice** in every lesson, these techniques empower our students to take ownership of their learning and achieve excellence.

Unused Hangers plea

A message from Mr Andrew Wood, Assistant Headteacher

In order to support our performing arts students, if you have any unused hangers you can donate, please can they be brought in to reception- Thank you for your ongoing support.



Conduct Focus

A message from Mr Andrew Wood, Assistant Headteacher

Our main focus this week is to help the students with a few key areas to help they make as many "*marginal gains*" as they can and be as consistent as they can.

- Ensuring uniform is reaching the highest standards to help prepare students for their futures- high uniform standards spread a strong message of excellence around a school.
- Attendance to school- students have been spoken to recently about setting targets to try and improve their attendance, "*every % counts*".
- Punctuality to lessons, again to prepare for later life, our students know how important the starts of lessons are, "*every minute counts*"



Sixth Form

A message from Mrs Hartley, Senior Assistant Headteacher

Upcoming Event for Year 12 Students

We are in the process of organising a **University & Apprenticeship Event** at Chelmsford City Racecourse on **12th November**. Students will be able to access a wide range of universities and employers, including **Russell Group** and **red brick institutions**, as well as **apprenticeship providers** representing both local and national UK companies. More details will be sent out soon.

Attendance Spotlight

Consistent attendance is directly linked to **academic success** and **post-18 opportunities**. Here is how our tutor groups performed over the recent period:

12A: 92% | **12B:** 94%

13C: 89% | **13D:** 83%

A big **thank you** to all parents and carers for your ongoing support in encouraging daily **attendance** and **punctuality**.

We kindly ask for your continued help in pushing these numbers higher - particularly for our **Year 13** form groups as they head into a crucial term.

Year 13 Mock Exams

Year 13 mock exams begin on **Monday 9th November**. These assessments are crucial for tracking progress, helping teachers tailor future support, and refining final grade predictions.



How students can manage their preparation:

- **Active Revision:** Working through past papers, flashcards, and summary notes rather than just re-reading textbooks.
- **Timed Practice:** Completing exam questions under timed conditions to build speed and exam stamina.
- **Targeting Weak Spots:** Focusing study time on topics they find most challenging.
- **Focus on wellbeing:** Prioritising good sleep, healthy meals, and scheduled breaks to protect their mental wellbeing and manage stress.

Moving Forward

A huge thank you to all of our amazing young people that supported at our recent Open Evening. The families who visited were so impressed with the maturity and helpfulness of our students, and you all did a fantastic job making our Year 6 students - who were understandably a little nervous - feel very welcomed into the school.

As Year 11 and 13 embark upon their mock exams over the next few weeks, I want to wish them all the best of luck, and say a huge well done to those who have committed to coming into school during the break to benefit from the **Holiday Learning Programme**. This is an incredible show of tenacity, and it will pay off in the long-run!

In the meantime, if I don't speak to you before the half-term, have a lovely break, and we'll write to you all again in November!

All the best,

Mr Roberts
Headteacher