

Meopham School

A Member of Swale Academies Trust

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SDI

18th December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

New Build Update

We are becoming increasingly excited about moving into our new school building. This is scheduled to take place on **Monday 26th February 2018**.

As I am sure you can imagine, relocating an entire school is a massive operational undertaking. We are working closely with our contractors, Kier, to ensure that the move happens smoothly with minimal disruption to learning.

I am also including here the content of my letter dated 16th November so that the information is all in one place. *“In order to facilitate a safe and efficient move into our new school buildings I have been advised by Kier that it will be necessary for the school to **partially close to pupils from Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February 2018**. During this week, the school will be **open to students in Years 10-13 only**. Students will be taught in our existing school buildings and will follow their existing timetable. During the transition week there will be no access to ICT for either pupils or staff, as the school server will have been removed to the new school building to prepare for our first day in the new school. The school telephone system, which is dependent on the server for its operation, will also be out of use during this week. We will provide you with details of a mobile telephone number should you need to contact the school in an emergency during this time.*

We plan to be fully open to all students on Monday 26th February. Our school day will begin at the usual time at 8.40am.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. I understand that these arrangements may cause some considerable inconvenience. However, the decision to close is one that is required by our contractors. It is not a decision that has been taken lightly.

We very much look forward to welcoming you and your children into our exciting new school.”

Uniform

Many visitors comment on how smartly dressed our students look and I am always pleased to see the great pride so many of them take in their appearance. Things to particularly bear in mind are:

Footwear: Trainers of any description are not acceptable school footwear. All students are required to wear formal school shoes. We have had a number of enquiries as to whether a certain brand of shoe (Kickers) are acceptable given that they have a small red branding tag on them rather than being wholly and entirely black. I would like to confirm that Kicker school shoes are acceptable. They are robust school shoes for both girls and boys.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN A RURAL SETTING

Skirts: Should be black and of a suitable length (ie to the knee). They should not be of a close fitted design or made from Lycra or similar stretchy fabric.

Trousers: These should be school trousers and not fashion trousers. We do not allow trousers that are very tight to the leg, or have studded pockets (or any other styling that resemble that of jeans).

Blouses: These should be of a fitted, open-neck (revere) design and are intended to be worn outside the skirt.

Jewellery: The school has a no jewellery rule which includes any form of earring or stud. Please do not allow your son/daughter to have their ears pierced in the holiday, as the piercing will not have time to heal before we return on 4th January 2018. We do not make a concession for students who have recently had their ears pierced who believe they should be allowed to wear earrings until the piercing has healed. Such a concession would introduce ambiguity and risk being unfair to those students who do conform. Therefore, if any students are considering getting their ears pierced they would be advised to do so at the very start of the summer holidays to allow any necessary healing to take place before they return to school when they will not be allowed to wear earrings or studs.

Hairstyles: We do have clear guidance about what are acceptable student hairstyles at Meopham School. The aim is to avoid the fickle extremes of fashion which are a distraction from the orderly working environment that your sons and daughters have worked so hard to create. In the interests of fairness to all, a line has to be drawn about what is allowed in a way which is as unambiguous and clear cut as possible.

In terms of prevailing boys' fashions our view is that there should be no line or sharp variation in hair length. Hair colour should be mono-tonal and natural looking. Once again, I would urge parents to ensure that hair styles for the start of the new term are appropriate. The start of summer holiday would be the point where students can safely experiment with styles which will have grown out by the end of August.

PE kit

You can now purchase the Meopham School PE kit at The Sewing Shop. We have a new PE kit with just two items carrying the Meopham School logo. The rest of the kit may be purchased in a store of your choice, making the kit more cost effective.

Social Media

You may have noticed that Meopham has been in the news a lot recently. Miss Smith is presenting as much of the school's news as possible via social media. Please look out for and "follow" the latest news stories on the school's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Website, and the Teaching and Learning blog.

School Website

I would like to remind you that our Meopham School website www.meopham.kent.sch.uk is updated regularly with news and information.

Christmas Cracker show -11th and 12th December 2017

Meopham School has always had a reputation for excellence in the performing arts. It is heartening to see so many students participating in what is becoming an annual tradition. It is always a very popular and well

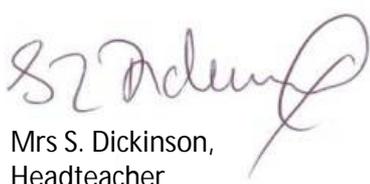
attended event. Our Christmas Cracker Show this year took place on Monday and Tuesday 11th and 12th December. Many thanks to Mr Knight, Mrs Curtis and the Creative Arts faculty for all their efforts in producing such an amazing performance.

Next term

The school opens to students on Thursday, 4th January 2018 and all students are expected back in at the normal time for lessons to start at 8.40 am.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the Meopham School family a restful holiday and every possible success in 2018.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs S. Dickinson,
Headteacher

Term Dates 2017 – 2018

Holiday:	Thursday 21 December 2017 to Wednesday 3 January 2018
Term 3	
Term 3 Starts:	Thursday 4 January 2018
Term 3 Ends:	Friday 9 February 2018
Holiday:	Monday 12 February 2018 to Friday 16 February 2018
Term 4	
Term 4 Starts:	Monday 19 February 2018 Partial closure - wb 19th February 2018 – open to Years 10,11,12 and 13 only
	Monday 26 th February all years return at 8.40 a.m. into the new school building.
Term 4 Ends:	Thursday 29 March 2018*
Holiday:	Friday 30 March 2018 to Friday 13 April 2018
Term 5	
Term 5 Starts:	Monday 16 April 2018
Term 5 Ends:	Friday 25 May 2018
Bank Holiday:	Monday 7 May 2018
Holiday:	Monday 28 May 2018 to Friday 1 June 2018
Term 6	
Term 6 Starts:	Monday 4 June 2018
Term 6 Ends:	Wednesday 25 July 2018
Staff Development Days:	Monday 2 July 2018 Wednesday 25 July 2018
*Swalefest	

MEOPHAM SCHOOL NEWS

December 2017

By **Chloe Smith**

Open Events



Since September the school has been buzzing with different events. Open Evening in September was a huge success with record numbers of families attending. The field was full of cars and our tour guides were rushed off their feet bringing around curious prospective pupils. The Open Mornings that followed were just as successful with approaching three hundred families visiting the school during the week and seeing what our students get up to in their classrooms.



Sporting Activities

The Sports faculty have also had a busy term with plenty of events on. Year 7 Football had a series of wins in their matches; Year 8 Netball have played some incredible games and Year 9 Netball have demonstrated incredible resilience this term. In addition there have also been inter-school Cross Country and Athletics competitions featuring students from all year groups and several podium finishes for our students.



Visit by Bishop Given from Kondoa and Tanzania

We have had some special visitors to the school this term as well, including an international visitor from Kondoa and Tanzania. Bishop Given visited during October while travelling through different Kent parishes. He came to talk with Mrs Dickinson and learn how education works differently here in the UK. The Bishop was incredibly impressed with our school and the progress of our new building and took several ideas back to share with his community back in Kondoa.

Fundraising

In terms of fundraising this term, we have had two main events. The staff took on the sixth form in a charity netball match and raised £90 for



Children In Need. The Sixth Form put up a good fight but were unable to compete with the teamwork of the staff team.



There was also a Christmas Jumper Day, which although not as well supported as it has been in other years, featured some amazing festive clothing. We raised £100.73 for Save The Children.

By Tom Knight

Christmas Cracker



Finally, this year's Christmas Cracker was another fun filled and fabulous affair with performances and contributions from all year groups throughout the school. Many of the performers had never performed on stage before, but based on their feedback we are pretty sure you will see them performing in the future.



We are looking forward to performing in our new school hall next year but as this was the last performance in what has been our "performing home" for a number of years; there was a tinge of sadness. Thankfully, the performers lifted our spirits and I think they showed every single one of us that we have a lot of exciting performances to look forward to!