

Meopham School

A Member of Swale Academies Trust

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA
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Our ref: SDI/JC

18th October 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to share with you the news that Meopham School has been confirmed this week as the highest performing High School in Kent (2016 Provisional DfE Performance Tables). We have also out-performed all the schools in Gravesham, achieving a higher Progress 8 figure (the new Performance Table measure which is used to rank schools) than even our local grammar schools. Indeed, our results places us in the top 5% of schools nationally. We are truly “the best of the best”.

Our Progress 8 score of **0.48** is extremely positive. Progress 8 is a new secondary accountability measure aimed at measuring the progress of pupils across a selected set of 8 subjects. It is a type of value added measure, meaning that pupils’ results are compared to the actual achievements of other pupils with the same prior attainment. The minimum expected Progress 8 score (the “floor standard”) set by the Government is -0.5, with the national average set at 0. Our Progress 8 figure of +0.48 means that the average achievement of our pupils is **half a grade better per subject than the national average of pupils with the same prior attainment**. This, together with the fact that **74% of students achieved a C grade or above in both English and Maths**, places us securely above the national average. I would like to encourage you to take a look for yourselves online at the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables>.

So how have we achieved such incredible results? We’ve achieved them by focusing on the basics, and by focusing on them relentlessly. Standards of planning, teaching and marking are extremely high. We are a great team. The staff know our students very well and do everything in their power to work with them, and you, to ensure their success. Our students are proud of their school, and rightly so. Our Open Evening was so successful that I had to deliver a third (unscheduled) presentation; the roads to Meopham were so busy with parents wanting to see our success that the Wrotham Road was blocked for a considerable time. Our Open Week has had to run into a second week – parents are literally queuing up to see our school at work during the day. And when they come, they see a traditional school with a genuinely strong family ethos. They see a school where the students are actively engaged in their learning, where students are polite and courteous at all times, and where standards of uniform are high. Our students, your children, are, indeed, our very best ambassadors. They are a credit to us all.

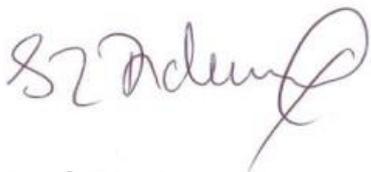
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ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN A RURAL SETTING

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our parents, for your ongoing support. You, too, have played a considerable part in our success. I thank you for sending your children into school wearing their correct uniform, and wearing it with pride. I thank you for your support in ensuring that they are here on time. And I thank you for doing everything you can to ensure that our pupil attendance is above the national average. It is you who send them in when they don't feel their best, telling them to "see how you get on". And it is you who choose to take your holidays during school holidays rather than in term time. These seemingly small actions make a huge difference to the outcomes of our students. This success is truly a Meopham family effort.

Let's continue to work together to ensure that we build on this fantastic success. Meopham School is a small school with huge ambitions. Together, we're making such a difference to the lives of our young people. Well done to everyone!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S Dickinson', written in a light grey or blue ink.

Mrs S Dickinson
Headteacher

Meopham School

2016 – 2017 Academic Year

Term 1

Term 1 Starts: Tuesday 30 August 2016
Years 7, 11 and 12 start date Wednesday 31st August 2016
Years 8, 9, 10 and 13 start date Thursday 1st September 2016

Term 1 Ends: Tuesday 18 October 2016
Staff Development Day: Tuesday 30 August 2016
Holiday: Wednesday 19 October 2016 to Friday 28 October 2016

Term 2

Term 2 Starts: Monday 31 October 2016
Term 2 Ends: Tuesday 20 December 2016
Staff Development Day: Friday 25th November 2016
Holiday: Wednesday 21 December 2016 to Tuesday 3 January 2017

Term 3

Term 3 Starts: Wednesday 4 January 2017
Term 3 Ends: Friday 10 February 2017
Holiday: Monday 13 February 2017 to Friday 17 February 2017

Term 4

Term 4 Starts: Monday 20 February 2017
Term 4 Ends: Friday 31 March 2017
Holiday: Monday 3 April 2017 to Monday 17 April 2017

Term 5

Term 5 Starts: Tuesday 18 April 2017
Term 5 Ends: Friday 26 May 2017
Staff Development Day: Friday 28 April 2017
Holiday: Monday 29 May 2017 to Friday 2 June 2017

Term 6

Term 6 Starts: Monday 5 June 2017
Term 6 Ends: Monday 24 July 2017
Staff Development Days: Monday 3 July 2017
Monday 24 July 2017

Meopham School

2017 – 2018 Academic Year

Dates for the academic year of 2017 – 2018

Term 1

Term 1 Starts: Tuesday 29 August 2017
Years 7, 11 and 12 start date Wednesday 30th August 2017
Years 8, 9, 10 and 13 start date Thursday 31st August 2017

Term 1 Ends: Friday 13 October 2017

Staff Development Day: Tuesday 29 August 2017

Holiday: Monday 16 October 2017 to Friday 27 October 2017

Term 2

Term 2 Starts: Monday 30 October 2017

Term 2 Ends: Wednesday 20 December 2017

Staff Development Day: Friday 24 November 2017

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

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: Friday 29 June 2018

Wednesday 25 July 2018

A further Staff Development Day is yet to be confirmed

Meopham School Uniform

Authorised sellers of Meopham School uniform are:

- **Longfield Wools**
St George's Centre, Gravesend. Telephone 01474 351190
or you can purchase on-line at www.longfieldwools.co.uk
- **The Sewing Shop**
4 Echo Square, Gravesend. Telephone 01474 536700
or you can purchase on-line at www.the-sewing-shop.co.uk

School Tie - To be worn by boys only

Meopham School tie in House colours. Also available from Pastoral.

Trousers/Skirt

Plain black straight trousers

(No jeans or fashion trousers; metal belts and tabs are unsafe).

Black skirts should be a sensible length for school wear i.e. to the knee.

Skirts and trousers should NOT be tight, or stretch material

Shirts

Boys

White, full length, long/short sleeve with a collar. To be worn tucked in with the school House tie.

Shirts

Girls

Plain white, fitted, open neck v-necked, short length blouse. To be worn untucked and without a tie.

(Fashion blouses e.g. with pleats, puff sleeves, empire line, unfitted, rounded collars, are not acceptable alternatives).

School Blazer

Boys - black, with House badge embroidered on to the pocket.

Girls – black, fitted with House badge embroidered on to the pocket.

It is a washable garment and can be drip-dried.

School Sweater (Optional)

This is a black v-neck sweater, with House edging, and is the only garment allowed if pupils want an extra garment for warmth.

Sleeveless version also available.

Footwear

Plain, black, sensible school shoes – Trainers or trainer derivatives are NOT permitted

(no boots for girls or heavy boots for boys).

Trainers are only for breaks and lunchtimes

Short plain black socks or tights (flesh or dark).

Coats

Coats are weatherproof outer garments to be worn over the top of the blazer.

Hoodies and sweatshirts are not part of the school uniform and are not acceptable.

Hair and Jewellery

No jewellery is to be worn by students. This includes all earrings and tongue piercings.

Simple functional bobbles (ie elastic bands used for pony tails) are allowed for those who need to tie back long hair, but fashion hair accessories are not acceptable.

Hair must be of natural colour and not multi tonal.

Hair styles must be smart and appropriate for school.

In particular students must avoid extreme or sharp variations in hair length for fashion effects
and no shorter than a Grade 2

Boys are expected to be clean shaven at school

Make-up

No make-up is to be worn by Key Stage 3 pupils. **Unobtrusive** make-up is accepted in the Upper School.

Nail varnish, false nails, hair extensions or eyelash extensions are not permitted

School bags

A suitable school bag is one which is large enough to carry A4 text books, exercise books, and equipment for school.

If in doubt about the suitability of any item please consult with the school before making your purchase.

At Meopham School, we believe that Physical Education is an essential part of a child's overall development. We believe that a student's appearance matters and has an effect on achievement. We have therefore, adopted a strict dress code.

Compulsory	Optional
White T-shirt with school logo Black sweatshirt with school logo Black shorts with school logo Black tracksuit bottoms with school logo Black socks Shin Pads (can be purchased elsewhere) Gum Shields (can be purchased elsewhere) Football boots and trainers (can be purchased elsewhere)	Fleece with school logo Waterproof jacket with school logo

Equipment

All students should attend school ready to learn. This includes having the correct equipment. All these items are available at Pastoral Support for a small cost.

The minimum required is:

2 x Pens 1 x Pencil
1 x Ruler 1 x Eraser

Students on Crutches/in Plaster

We can facilitate students who are in plaster or on crutches in school. Parents must contact Mrs Butler, Attendance Officer on 01474 814646 extn 223 or email attendance@meopham.kent.sch.uk before their child returns to school after an accident.

PRACTICAL SUBJECTS

All pupils must wear aprons to protect their clothing during practical sessions in Design Technology, Catering & Textiles. Aprons are provided for pupils during these lessons.
Long hair must be tied back for practical lessons.

On some occasions, a change of clothing or a protective apron is necessary in Art, Science or Drama. Students are given advance warning of these sessions.

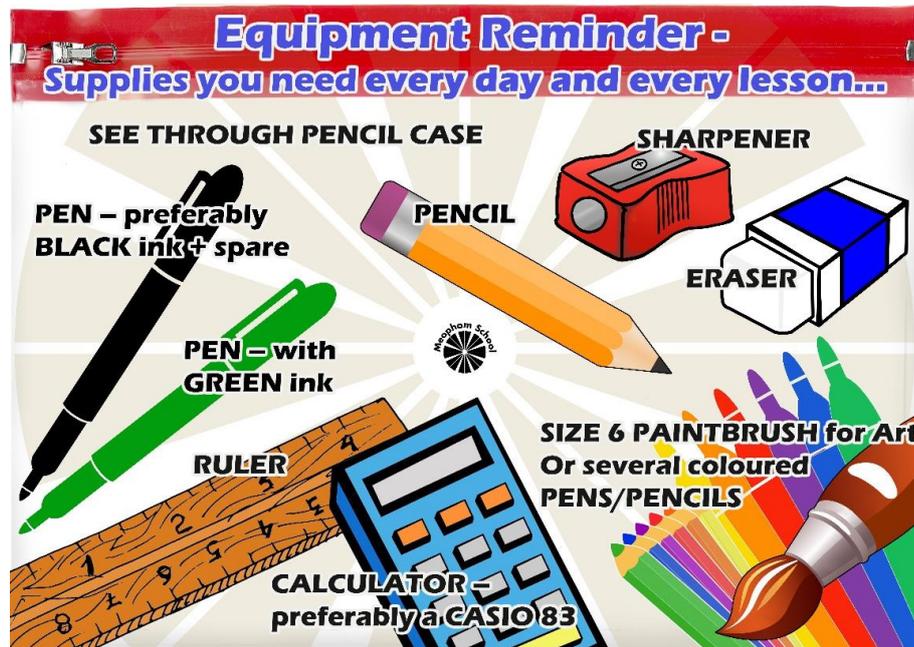
VALUABLES

Most pupils bring small amounts of money for lunch and bus fares for which they take responsibility. A purse or wallet which fits into a pocket is a sensible piece of equipment. P.E. teachers are happy to look after these during lessons.

No other valuables should be brought into school. The school cannot take responsibility for large sums of money or valuable personal possessions. For this reason, pupils should not bring computer games, mp3 or other such items into school.

Mobile phones may be brought to school, but if they are used during lessons or formal times, they will be confiscated and parents will have to collect them.

Equipment



Winter Coats

As the weather draws in a variety of perfectly acceptable winter coats are appearing in daily use. However, it is perhaps timely to issue some clarification about what is an acceptable coat within our uniform expectations. A coat is a weather resistant outer garment. A coat can and should be worn over a blazer, not under a blazer or instead of a blazer and it should not be worn indoors. Hoodies are not coats and are not part of the school uniform and should not be worn.