

# Meopham School

A Member of Swale Academies Trust

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA  
Headteacher: Mrs S Dickinson BA (Hons) NPQH  
Tel: 01474 814646  
Fax: 01474 813083  
Our ref: SDI/JC



Wrotham Road Meopham Kent DA13 0AH  
Email: meopham@meopham.kent.sch.uk  
Website: www.meopham.kent.sch.uk

12<sup>th</sup> October 2017

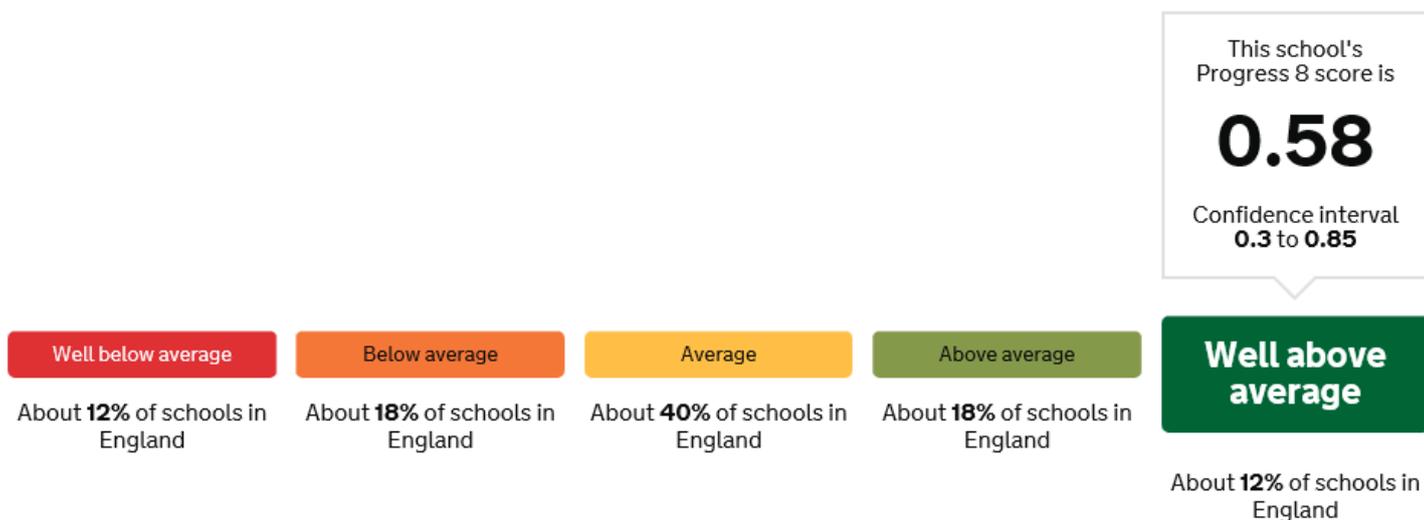
Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to share with you today's news that Meopham School has been confirmed for the second year running as the highest performing High School in Kent (2017 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 place us in the top 12% of schools nationally. We are truly "the best of the best".

Our Progress 8 score of **0.58** 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 +0.58 means that the average achievement of our pupils is over **half a grade better per subject than the national average of pupils with the same prior attainment**. This, together with the fact that **61% of students achieved a grade 4 or above in both English and Maths**, places us securely above the national average:

## 2017 DfE Performance Tables

### Progress 8 score for Meopham School



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.

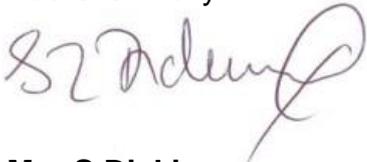
### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN A RURAL SETTING

Our Open Evening was so successful that I had to deliver a third (unscheduled) presentation. Our Open Week has had parents 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.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'S Dickinson', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

**Mrs S Dickinson**  
**Headteacher**

Please see attached term dates

**2017 – 2018 Academic Year**  
**(Revised 10.7.17)**

Dates for the academic year of 2017 – 2018	
<b>Term 1</b>	
Term 1 Starts:	Tuesday 29 August 2017
<i>Staff Development Day:</i>	The new term begins for Years 7, 11 and 12 on Wednesday, 30 August 2017. Years 8, 9, 10 and 13 return to school on Thursday 31st August 2017.
Term 1 Ends:	Friday 13 October 2017
Holiday:	Monday 16 October 2017 to Friday 27 October 2017
<b>Term 2</b>	
Term 2 Starts:	Monday 30 October 2017
Term 2 Ends:	Wednesday 20 December 2017 Students go home at 12.20 p.m.
Holiday:	Thursday 21 December 2017 to Wednesday 3 January 2018
<b>Term 3</b>	
Term 3 Starts:	Thursday 4 January 2018
Term 3 Ends:	Thursday 8 February 2018
<i>Staff Development Day:</i>	Friday 9 February 2018
Holiday:	Monday 12 February 2018 to Friday 16 February 2018
<b>Term 4</b>	
Term 4 Starts:	Monday 19 February 2018
Term 4 Ends:	Thursday 29 March 2018*
Holiday:	Friday 30 March 2018 to Friday 13 April 2018
<b>Term 5</b>	
Term 5 Starts:	Monday 16 April 2018
Term 5 Ends:	Friday 25 May 2018
<i>Bank Holiday:</i>	Monday 7 May 2018
Holiday:	Monday 28 May 2018 to Friday 1 June 2018
<b>Term 6</b>	
Term 6 Starts:	Monday 4 June 2018
Term 6 Ends:	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July Students go home at 12.20 p.m.
<i>Staff Development Days:</i>	Monday 2 July 2018 Wednesday 25 July 2018
<b>*Swalefest</b>	