

Meopham School

A Member of Swale Academies Trust

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5th April 2019

All parents/carers

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of a very busy and successful term I thought you might like to hear about some initiatives led by our subject leaders to promote active learning.

Pi Day

This term's Mathematics highlight was Pi day. All students from Year 7-10 took part in the day to celebrate Pi (14.3.19 or as the Americans write it 3.14.19). All students had a week to create a project that was based around Pi for homework. These projects showed off students' talents in a curriculum areas, from the winner writing her own song and performing it in front of staff, to pies being made with variety of fillings, Pi symbols being crafted out of wood and other materials, posters, bags, engraving, pastries, cookies, 3D models...the list is endless. Students were able to embrace their own talents and create something that was unique and developed Character.



All day, in every lesson, students took part in Pi activities, including reciting the digits of Pi in French, circle drawings in Art, Pi Poems in English, Pi skylines in DT, Pi songs in Music, and Dance interpretations of the Pi song. It was a day to celebrate maths in all aspects of school life.

Staff and students had a really positive day that was enjoyed by all and we are looking forward to next year being even bigger and better!

(Mrs Abbott)

World Book Day

On 7 March, for World Book Day this year, students were treated to a "Story-In-A-Day". The school's celebrations were themed around Pulitzer Prize Winner Ray Bradbury, including a specially planned English lesson for the occasion. During each lesson, students heard the next section of Bradbury's short story 'The Veldt' and were able to discuss the ominous message it presents about technology and our use of it. In addition, a series of Literacy assemblies followed

World Book Day where teachers from across the curriculum shared their love of reading with students, reading out excerpts from their favourite books.

On 22 March, students in Years 7-9 participated in a Speaking and Listening day based on the topic of Mental Health and Wellbeing. All subjects across the curriculum delivered lessons on topics such as meditation, mindfulness and the effect of social media on mental health in teenagers. The day was highly successful and all students enjoyed the experience.

(Mrs Wrighton)

Modern Foreign Languages

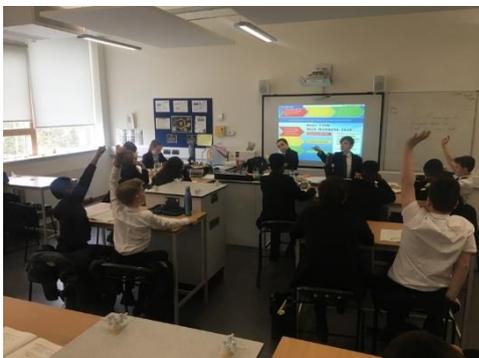
This term the enrichment activity for MFL was aimed at Year 8 students. All Year 8 students were given the opportunity to learn Spanish for a week ahead of their option choices. Students found that the skills they have developed while learning French were easily adaptable to start learning Spanish. They were, therefore, able to progress quickly throughout the week and produce full sentences about what activities they like or dislike doing. Students have enjoyed the lessons and trying a new language.

(Miss Letocart)

Science

Students in Science have been starting to show their own teaching skills. Every time there is a completion of a test paper, a number of nominated students become the teacher for the lesson, where they share their answers (and the correct ones) to help other students improve and reflect on their own answers.

Furthermore, the Science Department at Meopham has been adding a variety of enrichment skills to improve the creativity and scientific prowess of its students. Students have been given the ingredients to create their own machine that represents how light travels. This led students to progress further, creating machines that are relevant to the double helix of DNA!





WHO DID IT?

The Science Department prepared a forensics afternoon for a selected group of Year 8s that allowed students to apply a number of scientific skills to work out who the murderer was in a crime scene. Students had to work through a booklet, collating evidence to finally conclude their murder investigations!



(Mrs Flynn)

Creative Arts

This term the Creative Arts and Technology Faculty had the opportunity to work with some peripatetic teachers and experience a variety of different musical instruments. Students were involved in trying out the Tuba, Flute and Guitar as part of the careers day activities.

In Art, students developed their expressive skills while painting in response to music as part of the mindfulness speaking and listening day.

Year 9 Drama class are looking forward to their first Assessment Performance on Thursday. They have been working on *Blood Brothers* for several months and are excited to present their work to a live audience.

Year 7 and 8 Design and Technology students have been exploring the design process this term culminating in a final design which they are now making. Year 8 focusing on Bug Hotels and Year 7 Monsters.



(Mrs Curtis)

Sixth Form

This term has seen the creation of the new Sixth Form Library and Resource Area. We are thankful to the local community for all their donations. This new area was designed to enrich the working environment of the students and to help inspire them to raise their aspirations. The library is filled with books on Law, Crime, Construction, History and the classics like War and Peace.

Year 13 students are working hard in the final push towards their A Level examinations. Many of them have secured University places or apprenticeships.

Our Year 12 students have been doing an outstanding job as Character mentors, working with the younger students, often leading form time discussion and imparting invaluable knowledge. Recently our Year 12 students fulfilled a work experience placement, which they had to source themselves and apply with a covering letter and CV. We were thrilled to see so many of our students securing placements with national companies. In this current climate it is crucial students stand out from the crowd to give themselves the best possible chance for when they leave us after Sixth Form. A number of our students went above and beyond this year, one student moved to Cardiff to carry out his placement at a top Finance company. Other placements included: The A&E Department at Maidstone NHS, Martin Tolhurst Solicitors, Foskers Ferrari, United Living and The Bank of England.

We have built some excellent links with local businesses who have provided our students with support for life after Sixth Form, helping them with their CV writing skills, apprenticeship applications and interview skills. If you would like to be one of our Sixth Form business partners then please contact us.

(Miss Vik)

Physical Education

One of our Year 10 pupils, Libby, has won another Gold medal in Boxing! We are very proud of her achievements. Libby's ambitions are to be part of the GB team.

Our Year 8 boys' football team have shown excellent teamwork and resilience and have made it into the semi-finals.

Our Year 7 and 8 netball teams have done extremely well this year winning most of their games through determination and strong teamwork.

Abbe and Maddison achieved places in District for Cross Country.

And finally, our Health and Social Care classes both Level 2 and Level 3 have been achieving Distinctions in their exams. The highest we have seen!

(Miss Miles)

There are a number of additional items to share with you.

Year 11 and Year 13 Easter Revision Classes

We have put in place a number of measures already to ensure all our Year 11 and Year 13 students have the best possible chance of success in the summer public examinations. We will be repeating our well-attended and successful programme of Easter revision classes. In the past, students have enjoyed the more relaxed and informal atmosphere of these revision classes which have, in turn, deepened their understanding and knowledge. I look forward to hearing about their success.

Uniform

As we move into the warmer summer months, I thought it would be useful to remind you of our expectations in terms of uniform. On the whole, students at Meopham School wear their uniform with pride. The boys are smartly dressed with shirts firmly buttoned to the top, ties tied correctly with the logo just below the knot, and shirts tucked in. Formal shoes (not trainers) are worn by all. For girls, skirts are worn to the knee (or just above) with open neck fitted school blouses which are designed to be worn untucked. Jumpers, if worn, should not be tucked into skirts.

Please can I remind parents that Meopham School branded uniform should only be purchased from The Sewing Shop (Echo Square, Gravesend). Please be warned that there are a number of other outlets in Gravesend who also claim to stock our official uniform. These stockists are not official suppliers of our uniform. There have been a number of issues with the quality of clothing purchased here. Please can I urge you to only buy Meopham branded uniform available from The Sewing Shop.

Attendance

I am concerned that our overall attendance figures have been dropping over the past few weeks. Good attendance is vital if students are to achieve high quality outcomes. I do understand that there are rare occasions where a student is so unwell that they have to stay at home. However, I would ask you to support us in challenging your child to come into school, even if they do not feel completely well. Sometimes they do feel much better once they arrive. If a child really is too poorly to remain in school we will always telephone you to collect them.

In school, we are doing everything we can to work with the students to further improve. We have a number of competitions and initiatives run by tutors during form time to increase positive peer pressure. Where, for example, an entire form has maintained a 100% attendance record we allow them to have a free non-uniform day at the end of the following week. We have installed hospital-style hygienic hand rub at stations around the school to reduce the risk of infection. I have also asked form tutors to liaise directly with you when your child is absent from school. This is in addition to the monitoring of attendance which is completed by our Attendance Officer. Our attendance target of 96.4% is an ambitious one, but one I firmly believe we can achieve with your support.

Communication with Parents, and Social Media

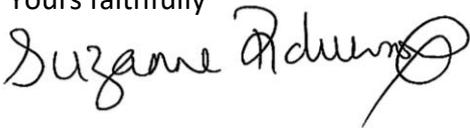
We are using ParentMail PMX to communicate with parents. Please ensure that you sign up to this free service so that you keep up to date with news and messages from us.

We also keep our website up-to-date.

Please look out for Meopham School on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Miss Smith keeps this regularly updated with our latest news.

I would finally like to thank you, as parents, for your ongoing support of the school. You play a key part in our success. I wish all students, staff, parents and carers best wishes for a restful Easter break. Term 5 begins for students on Tuesday, 23rd April 2019.

Yours faithfully



Mrs S. Dickinson
Headteacher

Term 5

Term 5 Starts:	Tuesday 23 April 2019
Term 5 Ends:	Friday 24 May 2019
Holiday:	Monday 27 May 2019 to Friday 31 May 2019

Term 6

Term 6 Starts:	Monday 3 June 2019
Term 6 Ends:	Wednesday 23 July 2019 at 12.20
Staff Development Days:	Thursday, 27th June 2019
	Friday 28 June 2019
	Wednesday 24 July 2019