

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



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

Our ref: SDI/JC

21 July 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a very busy and successful academic year 2016-17. I hope that you have been able to follow us on **Facebook** and **Twitter** recently, and that you have had the opportunity to look at our Website and our Teaching and Learning Blog. You will be able to follow the sporting and cultural achievements of some of our pupils, and news of many recent events in school. I would also like to remind you of some key information ahead of the new term.

Uniform

Many visitors have recently commented 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. As ever, with the summer holidays approaching this is a time when parents will be looking to buy uniform for next year. However, it is perhaps time to ask parents to please check our uniform requirements before any purchase. 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.

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 (reverse) 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. 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.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN A RURAL SETTING

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.

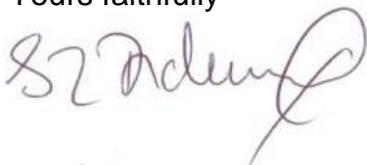
Term dates

The new term begins for Years 7, 11 and 12 on Wednesday, 30th August 2017. Years 8, 9, 10 and 13 return to school on Thursday 31st August 2017.

I will be writing during the summer to update you with the examination results.

I wish you all a fantastic and well-deserved summer break.

Yours faithfully



Mrs S Dickinson
Headteacher

2017 – 2018 Academic Year

(Revised 10.7.17)

Dates for the academic year of 2017 – 2018	
Term 1	
Term 1 Starts:	Tuesday 29 August 2017
Staff Development Day:	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
Term 2	
Term 2 Starts:	Monday 30 October 2017
Term 2 Ends:	Wednesday 20 December 2017
Holiday:	Thursday 21 December 2017 to Wednesday 3 January 2018
Term 3	
Term 3 Starts:	Thursday 4 January 2018
Term 3 Ends:	Thursday 8 February 2018
Staff Development Day:	Friday 9 February 2018 <i>(new date which replaces 24th November 2017)</i>
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:	Monday 2 July 2018 Wednesday 25 July 2018
*Swalefest	

Meopham School Uniform

Authorised seller of Meopham School uniform:

The Sewing Shop (Uniform and PE Kit)

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.

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 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

Black, sensible school shoes – Trainers or trainer derivatives are NOT permitted.

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

Trainers are only for sporting activities at breaks and lunchtimes.

Short plain 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.

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.

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, nail, hair 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.

PE Kit

Available from
The Sewing Shop
4 Echo Square, Gravesend. Telephone 01474 536700
or you can purchase online at www.the-sewing-shop.co.uk

Compulsory	Optional
<p>Black T-shirt with school logo and house colours</p> <p>Black jumper with school logo and house colours</p> <p>Items which can be bought anywhere, but are also stocked in the Sewing Shop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plain black shorts or plain black joggers• Plain black football socks• Trainers• Football boots)• Shin pads) Winter months only• Gum shield)	<p>Black waterproof jacket with school logo and house colour. This is optional, however if students want to wear a jacket when outside in the cold they can only wear this one.</p>

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.

School Equipment

Equipment

All students should attend school ready to learn. This includes having the correct equipment. All these items are available at Student Services for 10p per item. (ruler 20p)

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 crutches in school. Parents are advised to 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

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.

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.