

Meopham Monthly



Cover Art by Albie Bourne

Meopham School Student Magazine
Issue 28: FEBRUARY 2025



Welcome

Welcome to the February issue of The Meopham Monthly. This issue features updates and pictures from the latest events around school, interviews, short stories, our popular Wellbeing Corner and poetry by our amazing cleaner, Pat Roberts.

If you would like to submit a short story, article, poem, photos or anything else for our future issues, please contact the team at MSS-magazine@swale.at or come along on a Thursday lunchtime in to EN4.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

Cognitive Oracy
Goals - in pictures



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With thanks to everyone who contributed this month:

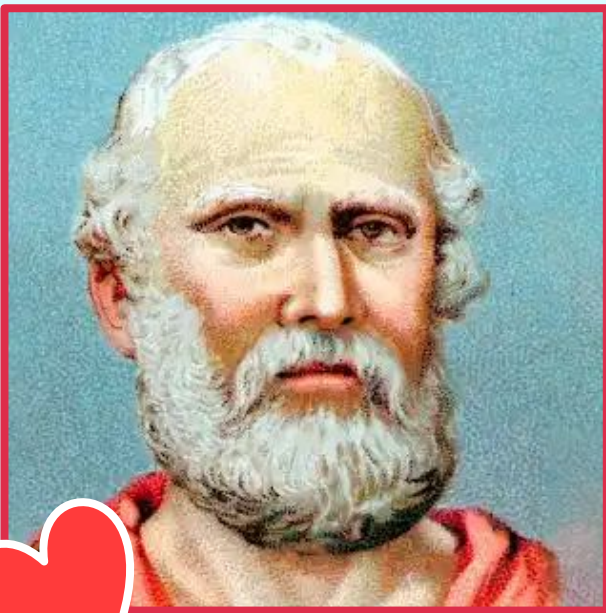
Albie Bourne (Yr10)	Jack Hollis (Yr9)
Mia Colledge (Yr9)	Maciej Jabłonowski (Yr 7)
Gracie Cooke (Yr)	DG Kneif (Yr7)
Charlie Dalton (Yr7)	Poppy Palmer (Yr13)
Dilpreet Dhesi (Yr9)	Pat Roberts
Isla Eloie (Yr7)	Amelia Rogers (Yr9)
Lola Gardner (Yr9)	Archie Scanlan (Yr9)
Miss Garnett	Izzy Stewart (Yr10)
Charlotte Gorton (Yr9)	Bebe Stokes (Yr10)
Theo Haydon (Yr10)	Mrs Williamson
Miss Hodd	Molly Turner (Yr7)
James Holden (Yr7)	

Philosophers of Love



By: Jack Hollis (Year 9)

Love has existed for as long as we have and along the way different thinkers have changed our perceptions and ideas around it. We dive into the ideas of history's biggest love birds...



Plato was a firm believer in the power that love had to help get the best out of life.

Plato created four guidelines that would allow humans to achieve 'Eudaimonia' meaning to 'flourish' and live the best life possible. One of these guidelines was to 'Love Wisely'. By loving wisely Plato meant that we should place our love in somebody who was willing to work towards creating the best versions of ourselves. He believed this form of productive love would create a society of well rounded people who could live the best version of their lives because any personal flaws could be worked on.



Some 500 years later would be the creation of the very well known 'Valentine's Day'. Its history dates back to the Roman Era originating with a certain Priest Valentine...

In 260 AD, Roman Emperor Claudius II banned marriage. He believed that married men made bad soldiers and would reduce Rome's military might. Valentine strongly disagreed with restricting love. He allowed couples to marry by organising weddings in secret. When the Emperor's guard discovered his secret wedding, he was arrested, imprisoned and sentenced to death. Whilst imprisoned, Valentine fell in love with the jailer's daughter. On the day of his execution, he left her a letter confessing his love and signed it: 'Love your Valentine'.



Interview with the Band: 4Bloom

Interview by: Jack Hollis &
Lola Gardner (Year 9)

We chatted to band members from the Year 9/10 band 4Bloom to find out about how they got together, their interests and their inspiration.

How did you get together?

Izzy: I have a passion for music and it gave me confidence to perform and start a band. So far we have had school performances such as the Christmas Cracker and Summer Sizzler. Whenever we perform, we get a massive adrenaline rush. I really wanted to make something out of my talent.

Bebe: I was encouraged to join by Izzy when the band wanted to expand. She thought my personality would add a lot to the band. So far I have only performed once and that was at the Christmas Cracker. We performed 'Zombie' by the Cranberries. I really enjoyed it!

Why did you form a band?

Izzy: We all really love music and performing so being in a band gave us the chance to do that. We all have our different roles: Julia is amazing on vocals, Cam, and I do the guitars, Bebe on bass and it all comes together perfectly.



How did you learn to play?

Bebe: Izzy kindly taught me how to play bass, so now I am confident and skilled enough to perform. The band have been so supportive. **Mr Knight** has been incredibly helpful and inspiring; he is so passionate about music and the band, it is infectious!

Ophelia's Diary

Dear Diary,

I've always known I was adopted as a baby. I was adopted by a really nice family and I'm doing really well in school. Everything is great...or was. I feel like my life is turning upside down and I don't know how to tell anyone. Allow me to explain.

When I got home from school on a Tuesday evening, I said hello to Ashley (my adoptive mum) and went up to my room. As usual, I had picked up the post and sat on my bed going through it. That was my job for the family: I went through the post for everyone and gave everyone their letters. I lay down on my pink and grey bedsheets and looked at the names on the letters. Nothing caught my eye at first - a letter for Ashley and a few letters for Mark (my adoptive dad). Suddenly, I saw a letter that said my name, "Ophelia Brown." The letter was sealed inside a brown envelope and was smaller than a normal letter. I stared at my name for a few minutes. It was rare that I got a letter addressed to myself and, even if I did, it was from school or a friend. But this was different. This letter came from Switzerland. I couldn't recall having any friends who lived there, let alone anyone I knew! I held my breath and slowly started to break the seal. Inside was a folded piece of paper. This is what it said:

Dear Ophelia Brown,

My name is Brian Wright and I have been searching for my long lost daughter for 12 years now and I believe you might be her. I'm sure you are confused right now but if you hear the full story, I'm sure you'll understand.

My wife gave birth to a child on the 13th of October 2012 (which I believe is your birthday) and sadly passed away while giving birth. At the time, I was on a business trip in Australia and as soon as I heard the news, I knew I had to get back home so I could take care of my newborn child. I wasn't able to get a flight until a week later due to how busy the flights were. I tried to complain but couldn't get a flight that departed sooner. When I got back, the hospital had already put my child into care and I wasn't able to find the family who adopted her.

After researching for many years, I think you are my biological daughter. In a couple of weeks I am coming to England. Please write back and tell me if you are comfortable if we get a DNA test. I won't force you to, but it will mean a lot to me. If you are my biological daughter, I would love for you to come back to Switzerland with me. Please reply soon.

Kind regards,

Brian Wright

continued...

A Short Story by: Isla Eloie (Year 7)

I read the letter multiple times. At first I didn't believe it, but the more I read it, the more I believed.

Suddenly, Ashley called me down to dinner. I wasn't sure if I could show her the letter. She called me a second time and I started to panic: what would she say about it? Would she approve? I couldn't decide what was best, so I hid it under my pillow. Finally, I picked up the other letters and walked downstairs into the kitchen.

On the next Tuesday afternoon when I had arrived home from school, I found even more letters addressed to me. I was confused. I never got this many letters. Like before, I opened them and read them. What I read from each letter surprised me. In all of the letters, people were writing to me to say that they thought I was their daughter. This carried on throughout the week and I got lots of letters from lots of different places! I got two from Kent, two from Wales (where I currently live), three from Birmingham, one from America, one from the Netherlands, as well as the one from Switzerland.

Although I probably should have, I didn't tell anyone. I tried to tell my closest friend from school, but she thought I was joking around. Out of everyone, I thought she would understand the most, but now I have no one to turn to. I'm still not sure about telling Ashley or Mark and I can't think of anyone else who I could tell in the meantime.

It is now Sunday evening and I am sitting on my bed writing my weekly diary. I have received 10 letters in total and who knows if there are more coming. At first I tried to reply to the letters but I've stopped now. What if I am their biological daughter? Even if I did find them, would I go with them? Would I leave Ashley and Mark? As I am writing this, I have already been called downstairs for dinner three times so I think it'll be best if I go now. I'll update next week.

Ophelia Brown

Want to know what happens next in Isla's story?
Let us know and send your questions to mss-magazine@swale.at

Gallery



**Sculptures by Miss Hodd's Year 10 3D Art Class
Inspired by Henry Moore**

London Tour

**By Charlie Dalton
(Year 7)**

Take a tour of London! You can see Big Ben, Tower Bridge, Trafalgar Square, the London Eye, Battersea Power Station, Victoria, Leicester Square, Oxford Circus, Piccadilly Circus and Buckingham Palace. You can travel on the London underground, bus, overground trains, DLR, coaches and even tour buses!



Minecraft Review

By DG K (Year 7)



Minecraft is a game which I would recommend to all ages, including adults, because it is adventurous and you can do whatever you like: build, craft and destroy. I have been playing Minecraft for 6 years and I have started to progressively get better. I prefer Survival mode because you need to collect blocks before you build and then you can try to beat the game.

There's a Minecraft Movie coming out on 4th April and I'm looking forward to it because I think it might help me improve my Minecraft experience.

I hope that you can enjoy it too!



New Switch!

**By: Archie Scanlan
(Year 9)**

On 16th January 2025, Nintendo released a trailer for the successor to the Switch, The Nintendo Switch 2. This new console was revealed to have magnetic Joy-Cons, an all new black colourway with red accents on the right Joy-Con, and blue accents on the left Joy-Con.



There is an 8 inch screen for the new console, and is rumoured to be as powerful as the Playstation 4 Pro! The new kickstand spans all of the back of the console and there is also backwards compatibility for older Switch games, as well as Switch 2 exclusive games. Along with the release of the Switch 2 will be Mario Kart 9 as the launch title.

What are you most excited for with the new console?

Death at Dinner

Part 1

The grand dining room of the Lion-Heart mansion was awash with soft candlelight. Shadows danced along the oak-paneled walls, casting an eerie glow over the glittering silverware and porcelain plates arranged to perfection. Duchess Ophelia Lion-Heart, regal in a deep emerald gown, presided at the head of the table.

Her sharp eyes darted over her guests, as if she were silently dissecting each of their intentions. Her husband, Duke Weasel Lion-Heart, sat stiffly to her right. His usually charming demeanor seemed dampened tonight, his forced smile betraying an unease that hung in the air like an invisible weight.

Beetle Lion-Heart, Duke Weasel's younger brother, lounged casually across from the Duchess, his usual smug grin plastered across his face. There was a certain air of arrogance about him, as if he enjoyed being the centre of attention. But beneath his smirk, his eyes kept wandering to Ron, the butler who moved gracefully between the table and the kitchen, pouring wine and clearing dishes. Beetle's glances weren't casual, they lingered just a second too long.

Ron, for his part, kept his expression neutral, but the slightest twitch of his lips gave away more than he intended. There was something between him and Beetle, though they both seemed desperate to keep it hidden from prying eyes.

At the far end of the table, Mr. and Mrs. Jones, the couple invited out of mere social obligation, sipped their wine in silence. They were painfully ordinary: a middle-aged pair with little to say but much to observe. While their presence added little to the conversation, their wide-eyed glances caught every small tension in the room.

Bailey and Diana, a quiet and unassuming pair of friends, sat side by side. Their clothing, far simpler than the others at the table, suggested they didn't entirely belong in such a luxurious setting. Bailey, with her sharp features, studied the room intently as if trying to puzzle out a mystery. Diana, though more relaxed, subtly observed everyone as well, her gaze flitting between the guests when she thought no one was watching.

The dinner had progressed without incident—until now.

continued...

A Mystery Story by: Amelia R & Dilpreet D (Year 9)

As dessert was served, a sudden tension crackled in the air. Beetle raised his glass for a toast, his voice dripping with false charm. “To family,” he said, smirking at the Duchess, “And all the secrets we keep.”

The toast was met with silence, save for the faint sound of Ron’s footsteps retreating to the kitchen. Ophelia’s eyes narrowed, and Weasel cleared his throat, though he said nothing.

And then the lights went out.

A sharp gasp broke the silence, followed by the clatter of silverware against plates. Someone muttered a curse under their breath. Darkness enveloped the room, heavy and absolute, as the guests froze in confusion.

“What’s going on?” Mrs. Jones whispered, her voice trembling.

The sound of hurried footsteps echoed faintly, though it was impossible to tell who was moving.

Then it happened.

A gunshot shattered the uneasy quiet, followed immediately by a blood-curdling scream. The guests froze in place, their eyes darting wildly in the dark. Suddenly, a towering bookshelf at the edge of the dining room began to teeter, its contents spilling onto the floor with a thunderous crash.

“Get down!” Bailey shouted instinctively as the room descended into chaos, though no one seemed to notice her urgency amidst the panic.

Before anyone could react, another gunshot rang out, louder and closer this time. The sound echoed through the mansion, leaving an unsettling silence in its wake.

Someone was dead.

- **Who was it?**
- **Why did the lights go out?**

These questions will be answered in the next issue... or will they?



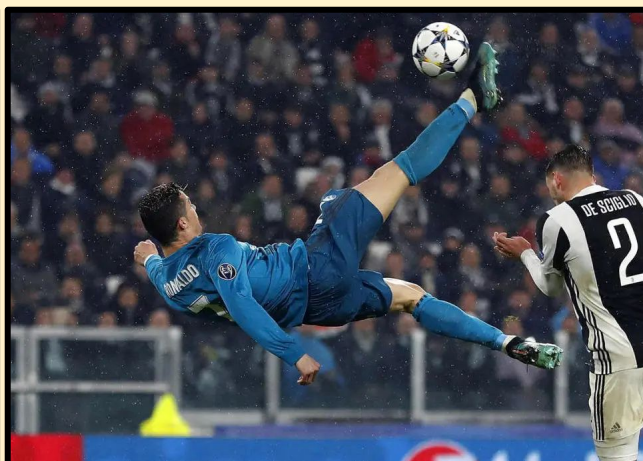
Autobiography of Cristiano Ronaldo

By: James Holden (Year 7)

Ronaldo is a legendary football player, scoring a great 921 goals for his club and country. He plays for Portugal and Al-Nassr FC. Loads of people love him but he is still trying to win the World Cup to officially be the greatest player ever. He has won 33 trophies and 5 ballon d'or. He has scored 236 goals for Manchester United, 451 goals for Real Madrid and he 64 goals for Al- Nassr. He is currently 40 years old and he said he will retire when he is in the World Cup final with Argentina, if Ronaldo scores a hat-trick (3 goals in one game) and his rival Lionel Messi scores a hat-trick too and it goes to penalties and Portugal win the World Cup! Ronaldo's idol was Luis Figo. Figo was also a legendary player; they both are Portuguese and won many trophies.

Stats

- ★ Cristiano Ronaldo dos Santos Aveiro GOIH ComM is a Portuguese professional footballer who plays as a forward for and captains both the Saudi Pro League club Al Nassr and the Portugal national team.
- ★ Born: 5 February 1985 (age 40 years)
- ★ Current teams: Al-Nassr FC (#7 / Forward), Portugal national football team (#7 / Forward)
- ★ Dates joined: 2023 (Al-Nassr FC), 2021 (Manchester United F.C.)
- ★ Children: Angel dos Santos Aveiro
- ★ Height: 1.87 m
- ★ Salary: 200 million EUR (2024)



Places to Visit

By : Maciej Jabłonowski (Year 7)

If you like travelling, you might enjoy visiting these countries:



Germany

Germany is a really good and fun place to go. They have various fun places to go to like Phantasialand and Berlin.



Poland

You can go to some various different places in Poland, including theme parks like Hossoland and Energylandia.



Interview with Local Police Officers

By Jack Hollis (Year 9)



Interview with Kent Police Officers:



PC Andy Simpson - School Officer (Right)

PC Paul Trevatt - Police Constable (Left)

What do you love about your job?

PC Trevatt: Every day is different, you don't know what's around the corner. I really like that element of mystery.

PC Simpson: I totally agree. I love the fact this isn't a boring office job. For me personally, as a School Officer, I love knowing that at the end of the day I have helped kids to make positive choices.

Why did you become Police Officers?

PC Trevatt: To be honest I always liked the glamour of being a Police Officer. Whenever I saw police cars zooming past, with their sirens on as a kid, I just thought 'I really want to be them'.

PC Simpson: I wanted to just do a bit of good and help people out.

What are some misconceptions about the police that you want clear up?

PC Trevatt: Our job is often perceived as really dangerous but in reality we have a great team and support so very rarely do situations become dangerous.

PC Simpson: A lot of people think we go into situations all guns blazing, but in most cases we can end whatever is going on by showing respect to the person we are trying to deal with.

How can you become a Police Officer?

PC Trevatt: You can apply to one of our training academies, where you get all the information and training that you need to become a Police Officer. You will spend two years supervised on the beat and then you can apply for other opportunities in policing.

PC Simpson: The opportunities are truly endless. Like me you can become a School Officer, but you could become anything from a court officer to a helicopter pilot. It is truly a great career to get into.

Did you know...?

By: Molly Turner (Year 7)

- Did you know that a fear of chickens is called ALEKTOROPHOBIA?
- Did you know that the oldest (recorded) rabbit was around 18 years old?
- Did you know that the oldest guinea pig (recorded) was around 15 years old?



- Did you know that the biggest bunny (recorded) was around 4ft 4in tall and weighed around 3 ½ stone?
- Did you know that Queen Elizabeth I owned around 10 or more guinea pigs?
- Did you know that a duck beak is called a 'bill'?
- Did you know that Harriet the hen laid the worlds biggest egg, recorded, measuring around 9.1 inches in diameter?
- Did you know that flamingos are actually born grey but their diet contains a natural pink dye?
- Did you know that the smallest monkey is about as tall as a toothbrush?
- Did you know that the skin of a golden poison dart frog contains enough toxic to kill up to 100 people?
- Did you know that the world's lightest mammal-the bumblebee bat-weighs about as much as 2 M&M's?

PUZZLE TIME!

**By: Mia Colledge,
Charlotte Gorton &
Gracie Cooke (Year 9)**

Magic Squares

4	9	2
3	5	?
8	1	6

2	7	?
9	5	1
4	?	8

?	1	8
7	5	?
?	9	4

?	1	?
3	?	7
4	?	2

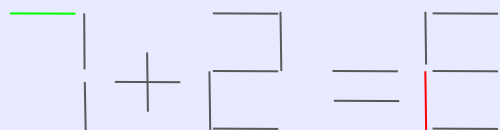
Last issue answers:

Code crackers:

1. 019
2. 831
3. 253
4. 746
5. 233
6. 678
7. 980
8. 384

Last issue answer:

Stick equation:



A stick figure equation: 7 + 2 = 9. The number 7 is formed by 6 sticks (top, bottom, left, right, and two vertical), with the top horizontal stick highlighted in green. The number 2 is formed by 5 sticks (top, bottom, left, right, and a vertical), with the top horizontal stick highlighted in blue. The number 9 is formed by 8 sticks (top, bottom, left, right, and two vertical), with the top horizontal stick highlighted in red.

Wellbeing Corner

By: Miss Garnett

Sparkle Jars

Draw an empty jar like the one in the picture. This is your Sparkle Jar and it's waiting to be filled with all the things that make you happy!

Take a moment to think about what makes you smile or feel good. This could be:

- Things you love doing (eg playing with friends, painting, sport)
- Happy memories
- People who make you feel loved or proud
- Small things that bring you joy (eg sunshine, a hug, your favourite snack)



Decorate your jar with joy:

You can draw pictures inside the jar to show what makes you happy or write words or short sentences.

Here are some prompts to help you:



Take time to reflect:

Once your jar is full of joy, look at everything you've added. How does it feel to see all of the things that make you happy? Keep this somewhere safe and, when you're feeling sad, look back at your jar to remind yourself of the good things in your life.

Pat's Poems

Pat Roberts has worked as a cleaner at Meopham School for over 20 years! She is also a keen poet.

Personality Plus?

Would you want to change the person
before you that you see?

I know me.

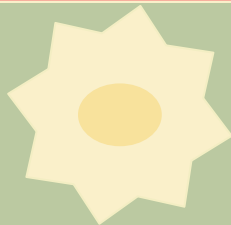
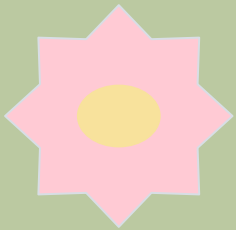
Better the Devil you know than the one
you don't, or so they say.

I like this version.

I would not change a thing,
I am mobile and versatile.

Who knows what tomorrow will bring!
I can tell you now what conspired,
a trip to the dentist an extraction required.

Tomorrow is another day.
I hope all is well down your way.



If you have a poem or any other contribution for the magazine, hand it in to your English teacher or Mrs Williamson, or come along on a Thursday lunchtime to EN4.