

Meopham Monthly



Cover Art by Isla Eloie

Meopham School Student Magazine
Issue 27: JANUARY 2025



Welcome

Hello! Welcome to the January issue of The Meopham Monthly. This issue features updates and pictures from the latest events around school, reviews, articles, 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!



Contents

Welcome and News	2
Contents and Contributors	3
Careers Fair	4
Christmas Cracker Review	5
Mr McQuillan's Musings	6-7
Film Review	8
Films in 2025	9
Corner of Wonder	10
The Great Debate	11
Tongue Twisters & Lewis Hamilton News	12
Did you know? & Food Bank Update	13
Puzzle Time	14
Wellbeing Corner	15
Pat's Poem	16

With thanks to everyone who contributed this month:

Kaya Akyuz (Yr9)
Nshira Ansah (Yr 9)
Mia Colledge (Yr9)
Gracie Cooke (Yr)
Charlie Dalton (Yr7)
Dilpreet Dhesi (Yr9)
Isla Eloie (Yr7)
Lola Gardner (Yr9)
Miss Garnett
Charlotte Gorton (Yr9)
Mrs Greenwood
Theo Haydon (Yr10)

Jack Hollis (Yr9)
Mr McQuillan
Poppy Palmer (Yr13)
Pat Roberts
Amelia Rogers (Yr9)
Leticia Santos (Yr7)
Archie Scanlan (Yr9)
Rory Sels (Yr7)
Freddie Sherlock (Yr8)
Kyran Standen (Yr9)
Mrs Williamson
Molly Turner (Yr7)

Careers Fair

**By: Kyran Standen (Year 9)
& Theo Haydon (Year 10)**

“My favourite thing at the careers fair was the special effects stand, because they told us how they created the effects safely without burning their hands.”

Theo

“My favourite part of the careers fair was seeing all the stands, but Hadlow College caught my eye. Thanks to Ms Bishop and all the people coming to the school site to talk to us.”

Kyran



Army



Food Standards Agency



Police



Special Effects



Hadlow College

Christmas Cracker

**By: Year 9
Editorial Team**

This year's Christmas Cracker including many amazing performances from students across the school.

Memorable performances included the Year 9/10 band, including Julia, Izzy, Cam and Kristie, who performed 'Zombie' by the Cranberries, with Julia's fantastic singing. They performed with such confidence and were a real inspiration for younger students.

A sleepover inspired dance from the Dance Club, run by Mrs Greenwood, was one highlight, and there were confident solo performances from students including Nshira Ansah, Bethany Lawson, Lola Gardner and Amelia Rogers.



Thank you to Mr Knight and all of the staff who supported us with this event.

Mr McQuillan's Musings

Happy New Year!

January is the start of the new year and often a time when we reflect on what we were able to achieve in the old year and what we might be able to accomplish in the new year. You may have set yourself some new year resolutions and by the time you are reading this, may have already broken some of them. I certainly have...

Many cultures have January as the start of a new year, possibly because in the depth of the cold winter, with the days at their shortest, we look forward to the longer and warmer days ahead.

Interestingly, **January was named after the Roman god Janus**, who was the god of beginnings. Julius Caesar introduced the first calendar with 12 months for the year - before this the year had ten months. This is why October is the now the tenth month (despite Oct being latin for eight - think of octagon with its eight sides) and why.



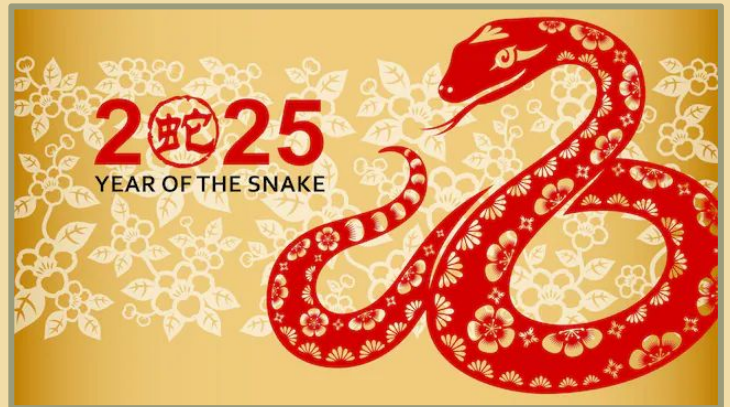
December is the twelfth month (despite Dec being greek for ten - think of decagon with its ten sides).

Unfortunately Julius's calendar didn't quite match the actual time it takes the earth to orbit the sun (a solar year) - it was a day out every 129 years! **A new calendar was therefore introduced by Pope Gregory in 1582** and this is the 'Gregorian' calendar we use today. It is amazing to think that the Roman and Medieval scientists were able to map out time in this way, and at first being only a day out, without access to computers, calculators and satellites.

Although most countries now follow this 'new' calendar and the year is 2025 for us, many other countries, cultures and religions have their own calendars that measure time differently. **In the Islamic Calendar the year is 1446; in the Hebrew calendar the year is 5785; and the Persian Calendar puts the current year at 1403.** I suppose it depends on when you start counting from!

Continued...

The Chinese new year is the 29th January this year. This is a calendar that is based on the lunar, or moon, phases rather than just the earth's orbit of the sun. This new year event is a big celebration in China and countries with large Chinese populations; this year is the Year of the Snake (if you or anyone you know was born in 1977, 1989, 2001 or



2013 then your Chinese zodiac animal is a Snake). Apparently snakes demonstrate wisdom, charm and are deep thinkers and this should be a good year for you.

Finally, **did you know that time slows down the faster you move?** Although for centuries we believed that time was a constant - the idea that everything in the universe and everybody in it follows the same time-clock - this changed when Albert Einstein proposed that time is relative. This means we all experience time differently depending on the effects of gravity, motion and speed of objects.

I am not a Scientist (or a Science teacher) and if I am being honest with you, I did not work as hard in my Science lessons as I should have when I was at school. This means that I can't pretend to fully understand why this is the case. However, scientists tell us that speed and gravity (like that caused by the earth) bends space-time. Amazingly, this is why scientists also say that the astronauts who spend time on the international space station actually age very slightly lower than the rest of us who remain here on earth!

I will finish up by saying that however we measure time, whether we believe in Chinese zodiac animals (or not), or if you understand why time can speed up or slow down, we do know that **time is precious and we should use it carefully.**

I doubt any of us will look back when we are old and say 'I wish I had spent more time on Tik-Tok, Instagram or Whatsapp'.

I hope you have a very good year, and you use your time wisely.

Film Reviews

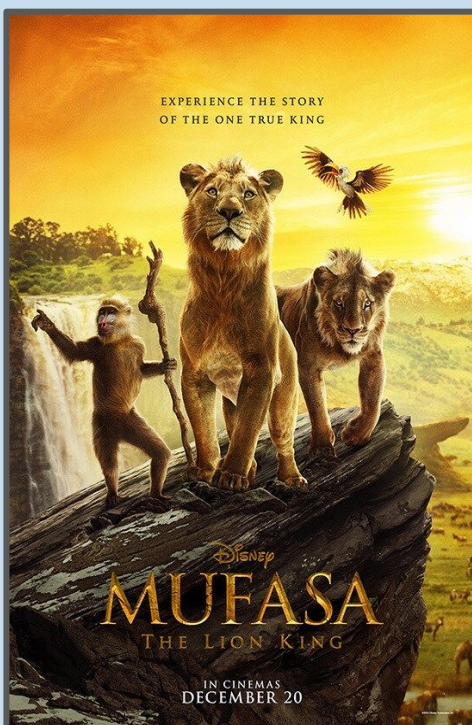
By: Archie Scanlan & Nshira Ansah (Year 9)

Sonic the Hedgehog 3



Sonic the Hedgehog 3 is an absolutely wonderful experience. It had a really good beginning; the movie is about Sonic, Tails, and Knuckles have to save the world again when they face their newest enemy, Shadow the hedgehog. He is as fast as Sonic, and more powerful than Knuckles. To defeat him they need to team up with Dr. Robotnik. Can they do it? You need to see the movie for yourself if you want to know (I'm not giving spoilers!) Highly recommended.

Mufasa: The Lion King



Mufasa: The Lion King is the backstory of how Mufasa travelled to find a land that his Mother told him about. So Mufasa, along with his adoptive brother Taka, Rafiki, Sarabi and Zazu, go on a grand adventure.

If you enjoyed The Lion King, you're sure to enjoy this new prequel.

Films in 2025

**By: Leticia Santos
(Year 7)**

Dog Man

Set to hit the UK cinemas in February 2025! The first **Dog Man** book was published in 2016, and now the beloved series is being brought to life on the big screen.



A Minecraft Movie

The trailer for a live-action **Minecraft** movie starring Jack Black and Jason Momoa has been released. The film — which is based on the best-selling video game of all time — is set to arrive in cinemas in April 2025. The first ever Minecraft game was made in May 2009.



Corner of Wonder

By: Jack Hollis (Year 9)

Quote of the Month:
"Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder" - Plato

Is all beauty equal?

What makes something beautiful?

Can anything be beautiful?

What is beauty?

Do we all see beauty in the same way?



The Great Debate

By: Jack Hollis (Year 9)

SHOULD STUDENTS BE ABLE TO CHOOSE WHAT SUBJECTS THEY STUDY?

In this article we will argue both sides and at the end you can decide which side you agree with...

For - Students should be able to choose what subjects they study as students would be more inclined to try their hardest in subjects that they are interested in. It seems illogical for students to be studying subjects that they do not wish to pursue. This would benefit students who like less popular subjects as they would be able to work free of distractions from peers who do not wish to be there. Overall, this would have a massively positive effect on students' behaviour, concentration and lesson satisfaction.

Against - Students should not be able choose what subjects they study as it would result in them being underprepared for employment and the wider world in general. If students choose their subjects, they would likely exclude core subjects believing them to be irrelevant; whilst algebra and poetry annotation might not seem essential, both English and Maths are invaluable in the real world. Employers would choose to hire students who had studied Maths and English because these base skills are so important. This would leave former students out of employment and financially unstable.

Tongue Twisters

By: Isla Eloie (Year 7)

If two witches were watching two
watches, which witch would watch which
watch?

Three fleas and a fly flew up in a flue,
Said the flea "Let us fly!"
Said the fly "Let us flee!"
So they flew through the flaw in the flue

How much wood would a woodchuck
chuck if a woodchuck could chuck
wood?

He would chuck, yes he would,
As much as he could as a woodchuck
would if a woodchuck could chuck
wood.

How can clams cram in clean cream
cans?

Betty Botter had some butter,
But she said the butter's bitter,
If I put it in my batter it would make my batter bitter,
If I had some better butter, it would make my batter better,
So t'was Betty Botter bought some better butter
to make her bitter butter better

Lewis Hamilton News

By: Charlie Dalton (Year 7)

Lewis Hamilton is an F1 Driver for Mercedes but is changing to Ferrari in Formula 1. Lewis Hamilton is an F1 driver in car number 44 and has spent the past few years with Mercedes since George Russell started Mercedes from Williams racing number 63. In 2007 Lewis Hamilton claimed a first F1 Victory for Mercedes. In 2016 Valtteri Bottas was an F1 Driver for Mercedes but he changed to Alfa Romeo in 2023 in Number 77.



Did you know...?

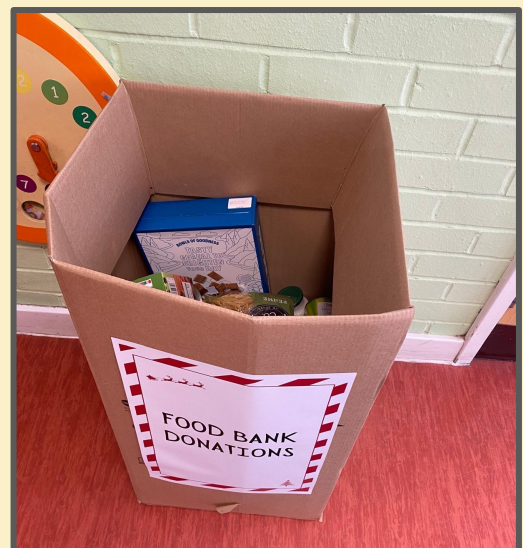
By: Molly Turner (Year 7)

- ★ **Did you know** that atoms are mainly made of empty space, so because we are made of loads of atoms, we're basically made of nothing?!
- ★ Did you know, traveling as fast as we possibly can, it would take over 20 years to travel across the solar system?
- ★ Did you know that us, humans, have 50-60% of DNA that matches a banana?
- ★ Did you know, the military salute comes from knite culture, where the right hand raised to reveal the identity of the wearer by lifting the cap bit?

Food Bank Update

Mrs Greenwood

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Food Bank and Sure Start Children's centre collection. Our deliveries were much appreciated.



PUZZLE TIME!

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

Can you find the missing code hidden beneath the boxes?

010



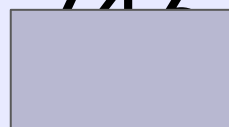
021



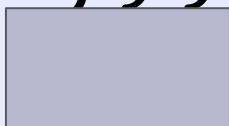
052



746



022



670



000



204



Move one stick to make the equation right.

$$1 + 2 = 3$$

Last issue's answers:

Equations:

1. 70
2. 4.5

Last issue's answers:

Riddles:

1. Seven
2. Wedding ring
3. Envelope
4. 'O'
5. Sunlight
6. Because they are married

Wellbeing Corner

By: Kaya Akyuz (Year 9) & Miss Garnett



Things to remember

Setbacks don't equal failure
You are allowed to set boundaries
You are more than an illness
It's okay to rest
Not everything you think is true

www.miss-mental.com

YOU DON'T HAVE TO
BE POSITIVE OR FEEL
HAPPY ALL THE TIME.
YOU ARE HUMAN,
NOT A ROBOT.

WWW.MISS-MENTAL.COM
@MISS-MENTAL0

Understanding Neurodiversity

The Strengths & Challenges of ASC, ADHD, ADD and DYSLEXIA (to name a few)

From: <https://www.verywellhealth.com/what-does-it-mean-to-be-neurotypical-260047> 06/01/2025

Challenges

- May not engage in verbal communication
- May not express emotions, feelings, or empathy
- May not show interest or response when spoken to
- May speak with an abnormal tone or rhythm
- Difficulty recognising non-verbal cues
- An intense focus on a particular object or subject
- Repetitive movements, like rocking or flapping
- Inability to adapt to a change of routine or focus
- Inability to engage in abstract thought or make belief
- Difficulty engaging in group activities
- Overreaction to specific sounds, sights, textures, tastes, or smells

Strengths

- Ability to focus intensely on a specific topic
- Being honest and straightforward
- Being observant
- Being detail-oriented or goal-focused
- Having exceptional memory skills with facts and figures
- Being good with puzzles and problem-solving
- Having above-average skills in maths, music or art
- Excelling with repetitive tasks
- Ability to work effectively in isolation
- Highly motivated by topics or activities that are of interest
- Having a high degree of accuracy when performing tasks

Pat's Poems

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

Begin Again

Oh calamity! Engines not going,
Won't go, no anchor, moored to a tree,
No lights, unable to see!
No life jacket - jump in there - no way!
You want to live to see another day.

2025 and you're still alive.
Happy New Year and peace and good
Will to all men (what about us women)
Especially those who rescue them.

Coronation Chicken

I miss our Queen and her
messages to the Nation.

In memory of our late Queen over the Christmas vacation,
I will make the recipe made with chicken,
First made for Her Majesty in
Honour of her coronation.

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.