

Meopham School

EXCELLENCE TOGETHER



Welcome

My name is Ethan Roberts and I am very proud to be the new Headteacher at Meopham School. I know there is nothing more important to you than your child's welfare and their future. This is why, as a school, we take this responsibility incredibly seriously, and do all we can to ensure our children go on to lead successful and happy lives.

Meopham School is a warm and fully-inclusive community set in a beautiful rural setting in the historic village of Meopham. We strive to ensure all young people are nurtured to become aspirational and resilient in all areas of life. Students are encouraged to become responsible, confident and articulate young adults who go on to successful futures.

Schools thrive when there are high standards and expectations in every aspect of school life, whether that be the quality of the lessons, the calibre of the staff or the conduct of the students. Our role as educators is to show care and compassion to our students. Sometimes, this comes in the form of holding students to high standards and ensuring these standards are consistently met. Will our young people sometimes get it wrong? Of course they will; we are all human. However, the important thing is learning from mistakes, and changing your behaviour as a result. We will have no qualms about holding to these high standards – because your children are worth it.

At Meopham School, we have a broad, enriching and engaging curriculum which allows all students to find what they are excellent at and fuels their passion. We have a wealth of enrichment opportunities available outside of the classroom too - from sporting competitions, to trips abroad, to careers-focused experiences at both universities and in industry - to ensure our students have the well-rounded education that prepares them for the modern world. Whether it is our teachers who deliver fantastic teaching and learning day-in, day-out or our associate staff who ensure our students have all of the pastoral and careers support they require, we have an excellent team of professionals all dedicated to the academic, social and moral development of our students.

A school is a place that should deliver outstanding learning, but it is also much more than that. We are a community; the success of a young person depends on parents, carers, staff, governors and students all working together, as a team, because we all believe in the same cause: providing the excellent education that every child deserves.

It is a real privilege to lead our school. I warmly invite you to come along and see for yourselves.



Ethan Roberts, Headteacher.



Vision & Values

Meopham School is on the brink of an incredible journey, with our new £9M building having just been opened, offering eight new English classrooms, a Photography lab, a DT & Art suite and a fully equipped Performing Arts studio. We are also in the midst of developing an exciting new vision for the school's future and an innovative School Improvement Plan.

But we are not an inward-facing school. The vision is not just ours to set. We are serious about our role as a pillar of the community, which is why we are including all stakeholders - our staff, our governors, our parents and carers, our local Meopham community and, of course, our students - in this process. We want a school vision that speaks to all those that rely on our school to be a pillar of excellence; a school vision that determines a future of which we can all be proud.

We look forward to announcing our new vision, mission and values for the school in January 2025.

'Leaders have high aspirations for pupils and make sure that all experience effective teaching.' (Ofsted 2023)





Choosing Meopham

Meopham School is a school like no other.

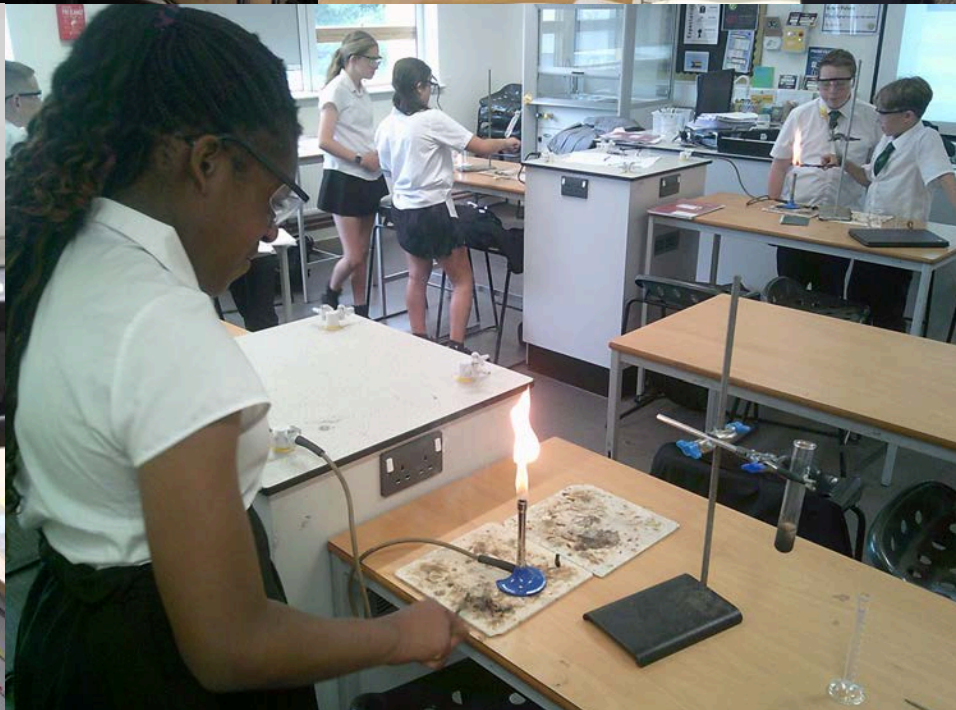
We are a strong and connected school community, based in a beautiful rural setting, where each individual is well-known and supported.

We have invested heavily in school facilities: our first building was constructed in 2018 and our second in 2024. Over £23 million has been spent, creating an outstanding school environment in which our students can learn and grow.

We believe in integrity and compassion in all we do. We instil the values of kindness and care in our young people which ensures we have a positive environment where all are supported. We have a zero tolerance approach to bullying. That doesn't mean that bullying doesn't exist - it does in any school - but whenever bullying does happen, we deal with it swiftly and firmly and ensure all of our young people get the support they need.

We believe in resilience. Life is hard, and we all face set-backs. We all face failure. At Meopham School, it's okay to sometimes fail, providing you learn to dust yourself off, get back up and try again. This is a safe environment where students can learn the skills of resilience and perseverance they'll require in later life.

We also believe in being aspirational. When you're a student at Meopham School, no one can tell you that you're not capable of something. There is nothing wrong with dreaming big and we will encourage students to stretch themselves to be the very best they can be. If being aspirational to a student means applying to the top universities, then we will help them achieve that. If aspiration to another is getting their passes in key subjects, we will help with that too. If, in a student's current situation, being aspirational means having the strength to get through each day and face their challenges, then we are here for them too.



'Leaders have carefully constructed a curriculum that sequences the knowledge and skills that all pupils need to know, including for pupils with SEND.' (Ofsted 2023)

Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to meet the needs of today's students, and to help them thrive amidst the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow. As well as studying the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science, students will learn a Modern Foreign Language, as well as History, Geography, and a range of creative subjects including Art, Drama, Dance, Music, PE, IT, and Design Technology. The essential core skills of literacy, oracy and numeracy are woven through lessons across the curriculum.

We believe that students need to develop a strong character as well as focusing on their traditional subjects, and so to support our academic provision we have also developed a Personal Development curriculum, which includes PSICHE, RE, Citizenship and Careers Education.

Outcomes

We have the highest of aspirations for all students at Meopham School, and this contributes towards the achievement of very strong outcomes.

In the summer of 2024 we saw continued positive outcomes for our growing Sixth Form, in both A level and Vocational courses, with over 97% of our students going on to either university, apprenticeships or employment.

At GCSE level Meopham School is the top performing school within Swale Academies Trust, and students make very good progress from their starting points. We are very proud that some of our best performing subjects are the core areas of English, Maths and Science.

In English 76% of our students achieved a grade 4 or higher, with 59% achieving at least a grade 5.

In Maths 74% of our students achieved a grade 4 or higher, with 51% achieving at least a grade 5.

Overall 68% of our students achieved a grade 4 or higher in both English and Maths, with 40% achieving at least a grade 5 in both subjects.



'My daughter has a brilliant rapport with all teachers at the school. This is a great contribution to her achieving above her targets. Thank you!' (Parent)

FIRE

At Meopham School we understand that every child is unique and so we tailor teaching to help all students reach their full potential. Our aim is to ensure each student makes the greatest possible progress from their own individual starting point.

We believe effective teaching and learning is built around four underlying principles: **Feedback, Inclusivity, Retrieval and Engagement (FIRE).**

Feedback - we believe in the importance of providing high quality diagnostic feedback to students in a variety of ways. This might be 'in the moment' in lessons, or through more structured written feedback.

Our assessment of students' work is centred on identifying the "what went wells" and the "even better ifs". We expect students to take an active part in their assessment, giving guidance and time to improve and refine their work following feedback from their teachers.

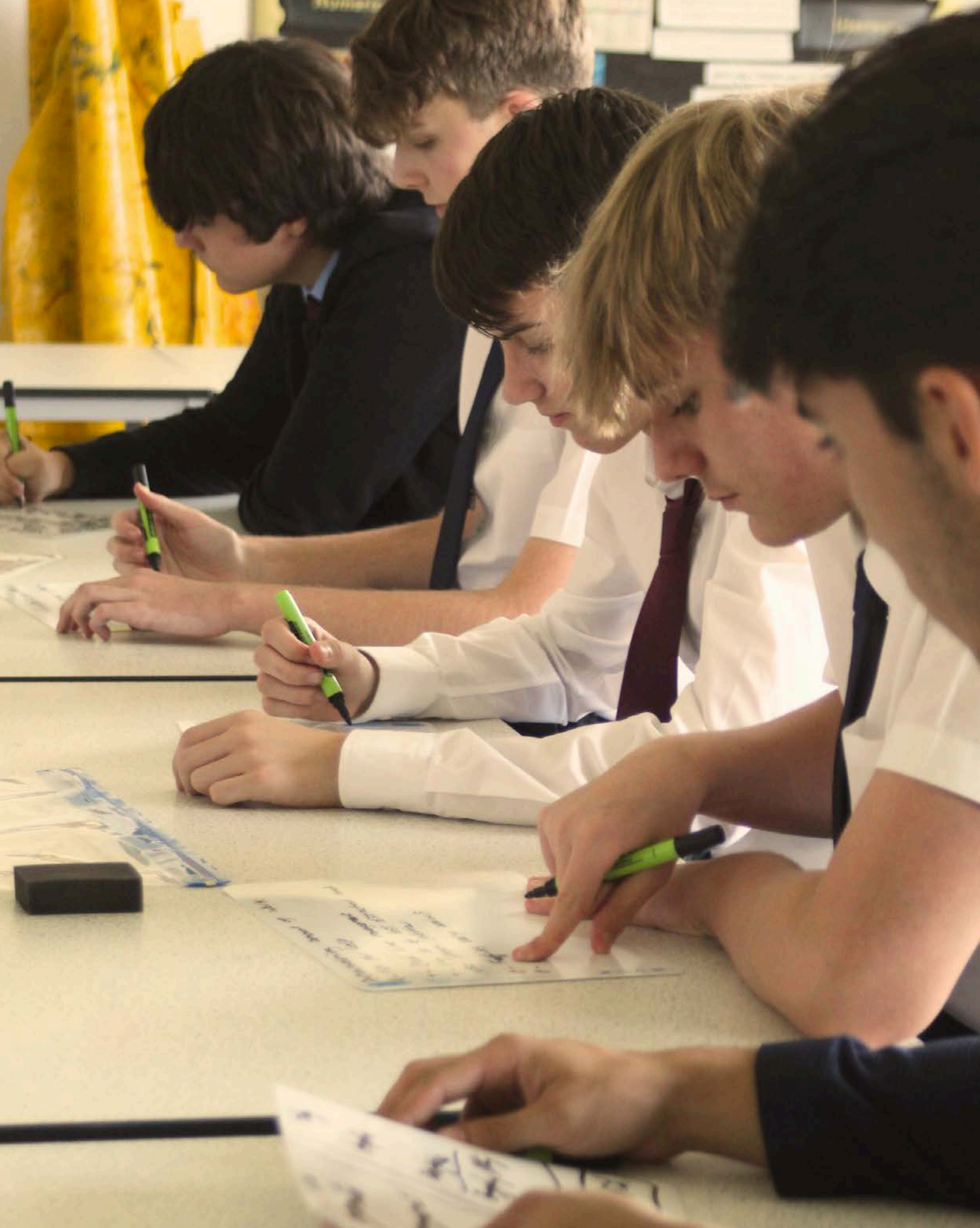
Inclusivity - we want to ensure all students can actively engage in their lessons, and make progress in line with their ability. Teachers employ a range of strategies to ensure activities are inclusive for all. Where extra support is needed, adaptations will be made to lessons to enable this.

Retrieval - there is a limit to the amount of information we can hold at any given time, and therefore we deliberately teach students how to retain and retrieve information so that they can remember it over time. Opportunities for retrieving prior knowledge take place in every single lesson.

Engagement - students learn best when they are actively engaged in their learning, and as such our curriculum is built around activities which will support this. We want Meopham students to become self-aware learners. We foster a sense of resilience and self-reflection to ensure that our students are active "drivers" of their own learning, rather than passive "passengers."

'Leaders identify well the needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). These pupils are supported well through the adaptations that teachers make for them in lessons.'
(Ofsted 2023)





'They treat our child as an individual, helping and encouraging him as he progresses on his learning journey.' (Parent)



'Being in a production kick started my ambition to be a dancer.' (Student)
'I gained so much confidence from it.' (Student)

Enrichment

Extra-curricular enrichment activities such as clubs, trips and visits play a crucial role in developing well rounded students. We have an extensive enrichment program which promotes social interaction, fosters life skills and enhances academic performance.

We have a wealth of enrichment opportunities available - from sporting competitions, to trips abroad, to careers-focused experiences at both universities and in industry - to ensure our students have the well-rounded education that prepares them for the modern world. As part of the Swale Academies Trust, we have a rich programme of competitive and creative events involving the trust's schools from all over Kent and Sussex, including SwaleStock - our inter-school music festival; SwaleFeast - our inter-school catering competition, which we are the proud reigning champions of - and Swale Dance Fest.

Our unique offering gives students the opportunity to explore interests beyond the classroom curriculum, whilst developing leadership skills, teamwork and resilience. Participating in extracurricular experiences can improve wellbeing and develop a sense of belonging and community.

We encourage all of our students to participate in at least one regular extra curricular activity; these opportunities prepare young people for future personal and professional success, enriching their educational journey along the way.





Student Leadership

Student leadership takes centre stage at Meopham School. We know it empowers students to take initiative, make important decisions and influence positive change in their school. All students are welcome to get involved with leadership opportunities through roles such as: School Councillor, Student Leader, Environmental Champion, Sports Leader and Form Captain. When our students engage in leadership activities they are able to learn the importance of responsibility, accountability and the value of contributing to a wider community. Leadership opportunities extend from Year 7 all the way through to Sixth Form; our Sixth Form Head Students, Deputy Head Students and Assistant Head Students work collaboratively to support the younger year groups in their leadership efforts.





ESCAPE

BOOKS ARE LIKE SLICES
YOU CAN OPEN THEM AND
JOIN THEM TOGETHER.
PLACE THEM IN THE
WORLD.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES
& APPRENTICESHIPS

NO EATING OR
DRINKING IN
LIBRARY

NIGHT
ANIMALS

WEIRDEST
SUPERHERO

STIG STIG STIG

Student Support

At Meopham School we work tirelessly to ensure our students feel safe and happy. We know that when students feel confident in themselves, they are more likely to thrive. Our specialist Team Around the Child ensures that every child is well cared for and develops as an individual. Our tutors, supported by the pastoral team, pick up any problems quickly and address them decisively. This helps our students to feel safe, respected and free to learn.

'Leaders have re-established clear behaviour systems to ensure that pupils behave well. This has had a demonstrably positive effect on behaviour in the school; and leaders continue to embed this practice to ensure behaviour is of a consistently high standard across the school.' - Ofsted 2023



'My son feels safe and well respected by staff and students. He speaks well of staff telling us they are friendly, helpful and supportive.' (Parent)



'Across subjects, staff have strong subject knowledge and give clear explanations of lesson content. This was especially evident in teaching in the Sixth Form.' (Ofsted 2023)

Sixth Form

Meopham Sixth Form offers a range of qualifications and experiences that provide a comprehensive post-GCSE education.

Meopham is a growing Sixth Form and a close-knit community. Teachers are able to get to know their students well, planning lessons to challenge and support everyone.

Our focus is not solely on academic achievements; we believe enrichment is a vital part of the Sixth Form. We offer a wide variety of out-of-classroom experiences and careers opportunities. We also run a range of leadership programmes; our students support the wider school community and work together to develop the student experience.

We recognise that the choices our students face in the Sixth Form have life long significance. Providing high quality information, advice and guidance on next educational steps and careers is our key priority.

Students can enjoy the facilities of the Sixth Form learning spaces between lessons, developing their study skills through the digital resources, texts and a focused library that enables students to read around topics being studied. The spaces are arranged to be multifunctional to enable students to study privately, in groups, as well as to socialise with their peers.

We have high aspirations for the growth of our Sixth Form and it is our hope that the majority of our Year 7 students will join us for a seven year learning journey.

'Teaching at Meopham Sixth Form is a privilege. Class sizes are small and our students are completely dedicated to their studies.' (Sixth Form Teacher 2024)





'I really enjoyed my transition days at Meopham, the teachers are helpful and I made some new friends.' (Student)

Transition

We expect the move from primary to Meopham School to be an exciting and positive time for students. Our aim is to ensure that the transition into secondary school is smooth and straightforward for our new students and their families.

Before the start of the new academic year, Year 6 students are invited to join us for exciting and informative transition days. During this time, students follow a bespoke programme designed to introduce them fully to life at Meopham school. Our new cohort will experience their first Meopham lessons, be able to ask lots of questions and begin to explore the school facilities. Students also get to meet their tutors, class teachers and year leaders. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the transition period offers an opportunity to meet other students and to begin to build lasting friendships. In term one, families are invited to our Meet the Tutor Evening where there is an opportunity to have a one to one discussion about how each individual child has adjusted to their new school.



'Qualifications and personality open doors initially, but it is strength of character which keeps those doors open and allows our young people to lead happy, successful and healthy lives.'



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