

Meopham School

A Member of Swale Academies Trust

Headteacher: Mr E Roberts BA Hons. PGCE NPQH



Wrotham Road Meopham Kent DA13 0AH

Tel: 01474 814646

Website: www.meophamschool.org.uk

20th September 2024

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you've had a good week. Another busy one at Meopham School, but lots to celebrate and lots more to do.

Congratulations

A huge well done to our **Year 10 boys football team**, who delivered an impressive 3-0 win against Waterfront UTC in Round 1 of the Kent Cup this week. Commiserations to our **Year 9 boys**, who despite a valiant effort in the second half to get back in the game, lost 5-3 to Cornwallis. The beauty of sport is that it teaches us that important skill of resilience - to never give up in the face of adversity - and I'm proud that our Year 9s demonstrated that in droves.

Also congratulations to **Noah S** in Year 10, who we were delighted to hear has been selected for the GB foundation pathway for cycling. An incredibly impressive achievement, with only 16 children selected nationally.

On the academic front, a well-deserved bursary has been awarded to one of our former Y13s **Olivia H** from the London Institute of Banking and Finance for receiving an A grade in her Diploma in Financial Studies. We wish her well as she moves on to what we are sure will be an illustrious and exciting career.

Nut Free School - a message from our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Miss Hodd

An important reminder for all parents/carers that we are nut free school and food containing nuts must not be packed for students to eat while on the school site. At Meopham School, we have a number of students with nut allergies, some of which are airborne. Students with nut allergies could develop a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. Please be mindful of this when packing food for your child to take into school.

Vision, Mission and Values - Parent and Carer Survey

As you know, we are currently undertaking an extensive self review of all aspects of school life, with the intention to develop a new School Improvement Plan that takes our school from strength to strength. Our ambition is to become the best non-selective school in Kent.

The first stage of any improvement journey is listening. That's why we want to hear from all the different groups within our school community, to learn what is important to you, and what you want to see for the school's future.

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With this in mind, I would be grateful if you would provide your views in this short survey:

<https://forms.gle/rTdvLt2iSibpX8NLA>

The more views we can gather, the more informed we will be for shaping the future direction of our school, so I implore you all to get involved. Positive or otherwise, we welcome all feedback, so let us know how you think we could improve, but also let us know what you feel is positive about the school - because we want to make sure we keep the good stuff good!

Of course, we will also be conducting a survey with our students soon, and I will share a summary of the results of all surveys - staff, parents/carers, students, governors - in due course.

Uniform

We continue to drive for the highest standards of uniform within the school and I have been very impressed with the presentation of the very large majority of students.

Please do remind your children that blazers must be worn in the corridors at all times and coats and jackets that are not school uniform must be removed as they enter the school building. Some may question why this rule is necessary but it is a safeguarding measure (we want to be able to quickly and confidently identify all of our students) and contributes to the smart, professional environment we wish to maintain within the school. We did provide students with a two-week amnesty to get accustomed to these expectations, but from next week, Standards Cards will be signed wherever these uniform expectations are not met.

Punctuality

Ensuring students arrive on time to lessons is crucial if they are to have a sure start to their learning. I am very impressed with the way most students get to their lessons promptly and are ready to learn, six periods a day. There are a small number of students, however, who need to ensure they are not arriving late to lessons. Furthermore, as resilience is a key value we want to instil in our students, we are clear that students are not permitted to leave lessons, except in very exceptional circumstances, which are decided by the teacher of that lesson and for which the school has processes in place. We will sanction any students that are out of lessons and are not following these processes. Some may think this harsh, but I want staff focusing their attention on delivering a fantastic education to your youngsters, not distracted by querying why students are out of lesson. I am pleased to say our superb Culture and Standards team have been vigilant this week in ensuring students are where they should be: in lessons learning.

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Open Evening

As you may know, our Year 6 Open Evening is coming up soon on 10th October. We are looking forward to sharing all of the wonderful things about our school with prospective students. As part of this, a large number of our current students will be involved in providing tours and helping out in subjects across the school. We have been absolutely delighted with the huge number of students that have volunteered to be involved and we know they will be absolutely brilliant! Communication providing more details will follow.

As we approach the end of the week, I always find it is a good time to reflect. My stand-out memory from this week was when some of our Year 7 students came to show me the fantastic pencil cases they had been making in their Design and Technology lesson, beaming with pride and keen to tell me all about what they had been learning. It's wonderful to see - from the very start of school - that they take pride in their achievements and know that Meopham School is a place where they can be a success.

That's why - as a team of staff and parents/carers - we do the important job of raising children.

Have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E Roberts', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Roberts
Headteacher