

# Meopham School

A Member of Swale Academies Trust

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Our ref:SDI/JC

29 March 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of a very busy and successful term there are a few important points to share with you.

## Official Opening of the New School

The new multi-million pound Meopham School building was officially opened on 27th March 2018 by George Jessel, The High Sheriff of Kent, who arrived in full ceremonial Court Dress. Please access our school Social Media accounts for pictures of the day!

The building has taken over three years to complete, and has cost in excess of £14 million pounds. It was completed as part of the Government's Priority Schools Building Programme and funded by the Educational Funding Agency. Our students can now work in a wonderfully modern learning environment, but within traditional classroom spaces. The new school has a state-of-the-art air monitoring system to ensure that the environment is kept at the optimal temperature and air quality to maximise learning in every classroom. The school has also invested in the very latest touchscreen projectors for every teaching space. We have all waited such a long time for our new school to be built and we are really looking forward to sharing our new learning spaces with you when you come to our open week tours during the week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018. I am sure that you will be very impressed.

## Attendance

I am concerned that our overall attendance figures have been dropping over the past few weeks. Good attendance is vital if students are to achieve high quality outcomes. I do understand that there are rare occasions where a student is so unwell that they have to stay at home. However, I would ask you to support us in challenging your child to come into school, even if they do not feel completely well. Sometimes they do feel much better once they arrive. If a child really is too poorly to remain in school we will always telephone you to collect them.

In school, we are doing everything we can to work with the students to further improve. We have a number of competitions and initiatives run by tutors during form time to increase positive peer pressure. Where, for example, an entire form has maintained a 100% attendance record we allow them to have a free non-uniform day at the end of the following week. We will also be re-installing hospital-style hygienic hand rub at stations around the school to reduce the risk of infection. I have also asked form tutors to liaise directly with you when your child is absent from school. This is in addition to the monitoring of attendance which is completed by our Attendance Officer. Our attendance target of 96.2% is an ambitious one, but one I firmly believe we can achieve with your support.

## Uniform

The vast majority of students look incredibly smart in their uniforms, and are proud of their business-like appearance. As we move towards the summer months, I would like to remind parents about our expected standards of school uniform. For example, while skirts should be of a suitable length, they also should not be of Lycra or a similar stretchy material. As you are aware, trainers of any description are not acceptable school footwear. We would like to thank parents for their continued support in ensuring that students are wearing formal work shoes. Students are also expected to wear their blazers to and from school.

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ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN A RURAL SETTING

We would also like to remind you that our official supplier of uniform is The Sewing Shop, Echo Square, Gravesend.

### **Year 11 and Year 13 Easter Revision Classes**

We have put in place a number of measures already to ensure all our Year 11 and Year 13 students have the best possible chance of success in the summer public examinations. We will be repeating our well-attended and successful programme of Easter revision classes. In the past, students have enjoyed the more relaxed and informal atmosphere of these revision classes which have, in turn, deepened their understanding and knowledge. I look forward to hearing about their success.

### **Train to Teach at Meopham School**

Have you ever considered a career in teaching? Meopham School firmly believes that the way to secure top quality teaching staff is to grow our own. To this end, we are always seeking to hear from graduates who are passionate about developing young people's minds. If you are interested in finding out about this opportunity, please contact Elizabeth Frost, School Direct Leader, by e-mail [SchoolDirect@westlands.kent.sch.uk](mailto:SchoolDirect@westlands.kent.sch.uk) or telephone on 07496 972 623.

### **Communication with Parents, and Social Media**

We are using ParentMail PMX to communicate with parents. Please ensure that you sign up to this free service so that you keep up to date with news and messages from us. Please follow the email link sent to the email address you have given to us.

We also keep our website up-to-date.

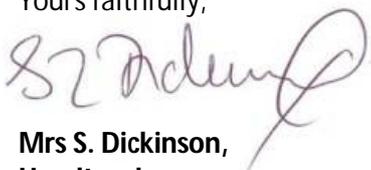
Please look out for Meopham School on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Miss Smith keeps this regularly updated with our latest news.

### **Parent View – Ofsted Questionnaire**

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of Ofsted Parent View, which can be viewed at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>, or via the Meopham School Website Parent tab, Ofsted Parent View – external. We are proud of our school and our students, and would encourage you to complete this “official” online questionnaire as it will assist those outside of the school in evaluating our overall effectiveness.

I would finally like to wish all students, staff, parents and carers within the Meopham School community best wishes for a restful Easter break. Term 5 begins for students on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

Yours faithfully,



**Mrs S. Dickinson,  
Headteacher**