

# Meopham School

A Member of Swale Academies Trust

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA  
Headteacher: Mrs S Dickinson BA (Hons)  
Tel: 01474 814646  
Fax: 01474 813083



Wrotham Road Meopham Kent DA13 0AH  
Email: [meopham@meopham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:meopham@meopham.kent.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.meopham.kent.sch.uk](http://www.meopham.kent.sch.uk)

Our ref: SDI/JC

22 July 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a very busy and successful academic year 2014-15. I am delighted to report that we have seen a significant increase in our attendance this year, which is now 94.9%. I would like to thank parents for their support in achieving this figure, and I look forward to continuing to work together with you next year to achieve (or, indeed, exceed) the 96% target I have set for the school.

## Uniform

Many visitors have commented on how smartly dressed our students look and I am always pleased to see the great pride so many of them take in their appearance. As ever with the summer holidays approaching, this is a time when parents will be looking to buy uniform for next year. However, it is perhaps time to ask parents to please check our uniform requirements before any purchase. Things to particularly bear in mind are:

**Footwear:** Trainers of any description are not acceptable school footwear. All students are required to wear formal school shoes. We have had a number of enquiries as to whether a certain brand of shoe (Kickers) are acceptable given that they have a small red branding tag on them rather than being wholly and entirely black. Kicker school shoes are acceptable.

**Skirts:** Should be black and of a suitable length (ie to the knee). They should not be of a close fitted design or made from Lycra or similar stretchy fabric.

**Trousers:** These should be school trousers and not fashion trousers. We do not allow trousers that are very tight to the leg, or have studded pockets (or any other styling that resemble that of jeans).

**Blouses:** These should be of a fitted, open-neck (revere) design and are intended to be worn outside the skirt.

**Jewellery:** The school has a no jewellery rule which includes any form of earring or stud. We do not make a concession for students who have recently had their ears pierced who believe they should be allowed to wear earrings until the piercing has healed. Such a concession would introduce ambiguity and risk being unfair to those students who do conform. Therefore, if any students are considering getting their ears pierced they would be advised to do so at the very start of the summer holidays to allow any necessary healing to take place before they return to school when they will not be allowed to wear earrings or studs.

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**Hairstyles:** We do have clear guidance about what are acceptable student hairstyles at Meopham School. The aim is to avoid the fickle extremes of fashion which are a distraction from the orderly working environment that your sons and daughters have worked so hard to create. In the interests of fairness to all a line has to be drawn about what is allowed in a way which is as unambiguous and clear cut as possible. In terms of prevailing boys' fashions our line is that there should be no line or sharp variation in hair length. Hair colour should be monotonal and natural looking. Once again I would urge parents to ensure that hair styles for the start of the new term are appropriate. The start of summer holiday would be the point where students can safely experiment with styles which will have grown out by the end of August.

## Term dates

The new term begins for Years 7, 11 and 12 on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015. Years 8, 9, 10 and 13 return to school on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015.

I will be writing during the summer to update you with the examination results.

I wish you all a fantastic and well-deserved summer break.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Dickinson', written in a cursive style.

Mrs S Dickinson  
Headteacher