



Deputy Headteacher's Welcome

Dear parents & carers,

As we come to the end of Term 2, we would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly special and festive term. The school has been filled with excitement as students took part in a range of Christmas activities, from a Christmas Quiz to celebrations that brought everyone together. It has been wonderful to see so much joy, laughter, and togetherness across the school community.

This term also comes with a very sad goodbye as we say farewell to Samantha, who is leaving us after 10 years at the school. Samantha has been here so long that it feels strange even writing this. Many of us can't imagine school without her. She has supported so many students with patience, kindness, and genuine care, always taking the time to listen and help wherever she can.

Samantha has brought so much of herself into school life. From her love of reading, starting up the much loved reading café on event days, sharing journaling ideas, crocheting something amazing, to the way she makes creative writing lessons so fun - letting students write part of a story, crumple the piece of paper, throw it somewhere in the room, and then pick up each other's papers to continue the story - she has filled school days with energy, laughter, and inspiration. Her calm, thoughtful presence has been a huge support to both students and staff, and the school won't quite feel the same without her.

We are so grateful for everything she has given over the last 10 years, and while we're sad to see her go, we wish her all the very best in her next steps. She will be missed more than she probably realises - and the reading café (and creative writing lessons!) certainly won't be quite as fun without her!

Thank you to our students, staff, and parents for another fantastic term. We wish you all a restful break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new term.

Danielle Atterbury
Deputy Headteacher

Diary Dates

06/01/2026 - Term 3 starts
14/01/2026 - Larkin Farm sessions
will commence

Birthday wishes

05/01 - Danielle
25/01 - Natalie
27/01 - Poppy

Happy Birthday to you all.

Notices

Term 3 - MidKent College Carousel
will be Art & Design

Larkin Farm

Please ensure your child comes to school on Thursdays dressed appropriately for the farm activities. In case of bad weather, students will need to wear walking boots or wellies and waterproof clothing to stay dry and comfortable. To prevent cross-contamination and the spread of disease, kindly send students with a change of footwear and clothes for after the session.

Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Jo Higgins - Proprietor DSL
Carrie Myhill - Lead DSL
Danielle Atterbury - Deputy DSL

NSPCC: 0800 800 5000
safeguarding@blueskiesschool.co.uk

Highlights Reel - Term 2

MidKent College carousel - Term 2 - Hair & Beauty



This term students gained hands-on practical experience on how to shampoo, condition and style hair. They were practicing on mannequins first before working with real clients, students Kian and Lily, who were happy to have their hair washed and styled (using blow dryer and hair straightener) under professional supervision of a MidKent college tutor. They learnt new hair terminology “**Effleurage**” which is a gentle stroking movement used in hairdressing to relax the scalp and distribute shampoo/conditioner evenly. It involves long, light strokes with the palms of the hands, ensuring that the product reaches the hair and scalp. This massage technique is beneficial for hair growth and scalp health. Well done to all the students who attended and participated in these college sessions.

Bluewater trip - Friday 5th December 2025

Students visited Bluewater shopping centre to buy lovely Christmas presents for their family members. They used effective communication skills when purchasing the gifts and their own lunches. It was great to see so many of you who attended and enjoyed the trip.

Bluewater trip - Thursday 18th December 2025

To celebrate the festive season, students travelled to Bluewater to enjoy the outdoor undercover ice rink where they were able to practice their skating skills with their school friends, followed by a lovely lunch.

Highlights Reel - Term 2

Stratus Class

Stratus have completed their mock exams this term as they prepare for their final term of learning before their GCSEs. Students have approached the exams with focus and determination, showing real maturity and readiness for the next stage of their studies.

Cirrus Class

Cirrus have successfully completed their first Entry Level Certificate modules in both maths and science this term. Students have shown curiosity, perseverance, and growing confidence in their learning, and it has been fantastic to see their enthusiasm for tackling new challenges.

Alto Class

Alto have also completed some mock exams and are making excellent progress in their GCSE courses. In addition to their academic work, students had the opportunity to go swimming for their PE lessons, developing teamwork, confidence, and fitness while having fun.

Polite Reminder

A gentle reminder to parents and carers that cooking contributions are £2.50 per lesson, which helps cover the cost of ingredients and resources. If your student also joins us for Friday lunch, there is an additional £3.50 charge each week.

Payments should be made in cash and brought into school - thank you for your continued support in helping us provide these valuable practical learning experiences.

Attendance Highlights

A huge well done to Kane and Thomas for achieving 100% attendance this term! Your dedication and commitment are fantastic examples for everyone.

We would also like to celebrate those students who have made great improvements in their attendance since Term 1: Lily, Kydman, Kian, Poppie-Mai, and Amelia. Your effort and consistency are really paying off — keep up the great work!

 **MERRY CHRISTMAS** 

May this season be full of light and laughter for you and your family. 

Highlights Reel - Term 2

Dear parents & carers,

Medway Foodbank asked us to share this information with our school community. Please share it if you know someone who might find this information useful.

Christmas 2025 – Medway Foodbank

Office and Warehouse – Last day is 24th December and reopens on Tuesday 6th January.

Open Doors (Chatham Evangelical Church) – Last session – Wednesday 17th December. Reopens Wednesday 7th January.

St Nicholas (Strood) – Last session – Tuesday 23rd December. Reopens Tuesday 6th January.

All Saints (Chatham) – Last session – Friday 19th December. Reopens Monday 5th January.

St Justus (Rochester) – Last session – Tuesday 16th December. Reopens Tuesday 6th January.

St Mark's (Gillingham) – Closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Open on Saturday 27th December and 3rd January as usual.

Twydall – Last session – Tuesday 23rd December. Reopens Friday 2nd January.

Mid Kent College – Last session – Wednesday 17th December. Reopens Wednesday 7th January.

The Net – Last session – Thursday 18th December. Reopens Thursday 8th January.

The Harvest Centre – Last session – Thursday 18th December. Reopens Thursday 8th January.