

The Malling School
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THE
MALLING
SCHOOL

Headteacher: John Vennart BSc, PGCE

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July 2025
JVe/KTr

Dear Parents and Carers

END OF TERM 6 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM MR VENNART

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful staff, pupils, parents, and carers for their ongoing support this academic year. I am extremely proud of our whole school community that continues to grow closer going from strength to strength. I hope you all have a safe and restful summer.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 2nd September – Year 12 registration only (no other students in school)

Wednesday 3rd September – Year 7 only to attend (no other students in school)

Thursday 4th September – Whole school returns

STAFFING UPDATES

As we come to the end of the summer term, we want to take a moment to thank you for all your support throughout this academic year. Together, we are helping to shape not just the academic success of our students, but also their well-being, safety, and personal development. That shared commitment really matters, and it's something we never take for granted.

We truly value the partnership we have with our families. It's through this ongoing collaboration and shared care for your children, that we are able to do what we do every day. So, thank you – for your encouragement, communication, and trust across the year.

Looking ahead to September, we wanted to share with you the pastoral team for your child's year group. These are the updated teams for September 2025, so for example, if your child is currently in Year 7, you'll find them listed under the Year 8 pastoral team below.



You'll find the key staff members for each year group clearly laid out, along with the email address you can use to contact the team if needed.

Year 7 Pastoral Team

- **Pastoral Leader:** Sarah Withers
- **Assistant Pastoral Leader:** Harry Legg
- **Guidance Manager:** Megan Wines
- **Email:** Year7PastoralTeam@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk

Year 8 Pastoral Team

- **Pastoral Leader:** Lucy Platt
- **Assistant Pastoral Leader:** Leah Vennart
- **Guidance Manager:** Shelley Taylor
- **Email:** Year8PastoralTeam@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk

Year 9 Pastoral Team

- **Pastoral Leader:** Abbie Miller
- **Assistant Pastoral Leader:** Ben Mills
- **Guidance Manager:** Sally Evans
- **Email:** Year9PastoralTeam@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk

Year 10 Pastoral Team

- **Pastoral Leader:** Joe Burden
- **Assistant Pastoral Leader:** Laura Swire
- **Guidance Manager:** Mitzi Richardson
- **Email:** Year10PastoralTeam@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk

Year 11 Pastoral Team

- **Pastoral Leader:** Leigh-Anne Cook
- **Raising Standards Lead:** Cristina Shirley
- **Guidance Manager:** Sue Newlyn
- **Email:** Year11PastoralTeam@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk

Sixth Form Pastoral Team

- **Assistant Headteacher (Sixth Form):** Fiona Turner
- **Pastoral Leader:** Caroline Barnes
- **Guidance Manager:** Pauline McCarthy
- **Email:** SixthFormPastoralTeam@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk



Assistant Headteacher - Inclusion and SENCO

This term, we are celebrating the successful appointment of **Ms Claudia Graham** as **Assistant Headteacher, SENCO, and Leader of Inclusion** at The Malling School. Many of you will already know Ms Graham through her outstanding work as SENCO. She has worked closely with students and families throughout her time here, building strong relationships and ensuring that support is personalised and effective. Her passion for inclusive education has been evident in everything she does.

In her new role, Ms Graham will continue to work directly with families and students, while also leading the strategic development of inclusion across the school. We are excited to have her stepping into this leadership role and know that her vision and commitment will continue to enhance the support we offer all learners.

- Email: Claudia.Graham@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk

CELEBRATING OUR INCREDIBLE IB RESULTS

We are delighted to share the news that our students have achieved *our best IB results yet!* These outstanding outcomes reflect the hard work, dedication, and determination shown throughout their IB journey.

We are incredibly proud of all our Year 13 pupils and would like to congratulate them on their impressive successes. We wish them all the best as they move on to exciting new opportunities, having met the entry requirements for a wide range of universities and apprenticeships.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our exceptional teachers for their unwavering support and to our parents for their continued encouragement throughout the year.

Well done to all – your achievements are truly inspiring, and we wish you every success for the future!



YEAR 12 MOCK INTERVIEWS

We recently held a highly successful Year 12 Mock Interview Morning, giving students the opportunity to experience realistic, one-to-one interviews with a wide range of professionals. We were delighted to welcome volunteers from Bellway Homes, Morgan Law, Kent County Council, ASK Apprenticeships, Kent Police, Waitrose, Nordoff and Robbins, and several other organisations. Their support and feedback provided invaluable insight for our students, helping to build their confidence, communication skills and readiness for future applications. Events like this play an important role in preparing our students for life beyond school and reflect the



continued development of meaningful employer engagement within our careers programme.

YEAR 8 – WHAT'S MY CAREER?

During the summer term, Year 8 students took part in an exciting new careers event, piloted for the first time this year. The event was designed to highlight the importance of lifelong learning and adaptability in a world of work which is changing so rapidly. Nine inspiring visitors from a wide range of professions kicked off the session with a brief introduction before rotating around student teams in the main hall. Students were encouraged to ask questions and work together to guess each visitor's job role – sparking curiosity, employing their speaking and listening skills and practicing teamwork throughout.

Our guests brought their careers to life with fascinating stories and props, including a model of a spine, a brain, a microphone transmitter and even a prison officer's kit belt. These hands-on elements helped students connect with each profession in a memorable and engaging way.

The fast-paced format kept everyone involved and energised and the diversity of careers represented meant that every student found something to relate to or be inspired by.

We are proud to say that feedback from students, staff and visitors was overwhelmingly positive — with many already asking if the event will take place again next year!

We'd like to thank all our visitors for generously giving their time, and staff who supported the event on the day. We look forward to building on this success in the future.

SIXTH FORM PARIS TRIP

From Tuesday 24th to Friday 27th June, we had the absolute pleasure of taking our wonderful Year 13 students on a truly memorable trip to Paris, as a special way to mark the end of their incredible seven-year journey at The Malling School.

The days were filled with unforgettable experiences, including visits to iconic landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, Stade de France, Notre Dame, Montparnasse Tower, Sacré-Cœur, and a relaxing cruise along the River Seine. Students also had time to explore the beautiful city at their own pace and enjoy some of the local cuisine. What made the trip truly special, though, was the group of young people we were fortunate enough to share it with. Each and every student represented The Malling School with pride, maturity and kindness. Their behaviour was exemplary throughout, and they received compliments everywhere we went.

We are immensely proud of them, not just as students, but as the thoughtful, responsible and confident young adults they have become. It was a joy to see them celebrate this important milestone together and we are so grateful for the memories we shared.



We hope to see them all again soon and wish them every success as they take their next steps.



LOCAL STUDENTS SHINE IN NATIONAL CHARITY AWARDS, RAISING OVER £2,000 FOR EDUCATION PROJECTS ABROAD

A team of dedicated students from The Malling School have been recognised on the national stage for their outstanding contribution to the Wings of Hope Achievement Awards (WOHAA), a charitable initiative aimed at supporting education in underprivileged areas of the world, including India and Malawi.

The team, aptly named Hope's Advocates, raised an impressive £2,217 through a series of creative and community-focused fundraising events. Their efforts placed them 4th nationally on the WOHAA leaderboard, out of hundreds of teams across the UK.

WOHAA, the flagship programme of the Wings of Hope charity, invites young people across the UK to take part in a "children helping children" initiative. Participants are encouraged to develop entrepreneurial and teamwork skills, by setting fundraising goals and engaging with their communities. Hope's Advocates chose the prestigious Gold tier of the programme, which required each member to raise at least £500 and organise a community event.

Over the course of their campaign, the team held 10 fundraisers, including bake sales, quiz nights, a boot fair and a 20,000-step sponsored walk in honour of the charity's 20th anniversary. They also partnered with the West Malling Community Choir, who selected Wings of Hope as the beneficiary of their Christmas concert. In addition to fundraising, the team organised two community service events: a local litter pick and volunteering to improve outdoor areas at a preschool.

Their efforts earned them a place in the semi-finals, held at the House of Lords, where they presented their work to a panel of high-profile judges. Their presentation included a cinematic murder mystery-style video, creatively produced with the help of talented friends. The team advanced to the finals at London Business School, where they were awarded the prize for Best Presentation.



SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY – A TRIP TO GAIN UNDERSTANDING:

On the afternoon of the 25th June, Year 12 Anthropology students visited Clock House Farm's main site in Coxheath, for a guided tour exploring seasonal farm work and rural community life. We were welcomed by Stephen, who introduced us to the farm and gave us a valuable insight into the daily realities of seasonal agricultural work.

The visit began with an overview of the farm's role in the production of soft fruits, particularly strawberries. We learned about the importance of seasonal labour and how the farm supports hundreds of workers from across Europe and beyond. Stephen then led us to the trial site, where experimental growing techniques are tested, before showing us around the on-site accommodation.

We saw the shared living facilities including kitchens, laundry rooms, and recreational spaces such as a games room. These gave us a real sense of how the farm creates a temporary but close-knit community. This raised questions we had been discussing in class, such as: How does the farm support the wellbeing of its workers and help create a sense of belonging among people far from home?

Strawberry picking gave us a small taste of the physical demands of farm work. We learned that the strawberries are grown above hip height to help reduce back pain—an important measure to protect workers' health. And were lucky enough to each keep a punnet of strawberries we picked to take home!

Throughout the visit, students also explored how UK farming compares with agricultural communities we've studied in the United States. Discussing the cultural and structural differences in how workers live.

We returned to school with a deeper understanding of the human side of food production and how farms like Clock House build communities around seasonal work.



EXPLORING CAREERS AT HMP MAIDSTONE

On 21st January our Year 12 students visited HMP Maidstone, where they learned about the day-to-day running of the prison and the variety of careers involved in the criminal justice system. The visit provided valuable insights into roles ranging from prison officers to rehabilitation specialists, giving students a real-world perspective on working within this challenging environment.



OFFICE EXPERIENCE DAY AT WHITEHEAD MONCKTON SOLICITORS

Year 10 and Year 12 students had the opportunity to participate in an office experience day at Whitehead Monckton Solicitors. Working in teams, they tackled a practical task designed to mirror real-life legal work while exploring the diverse careers available within the law sector. The day offered an excellent chance to understand different routes into legal professions and develop essential teamwork skills.



APPRENTICESHIP FAIR AT MAIDSTONE LEISURE CENTRE

At Maidstone Leisure Centre, our students attended a local apprenticeship fair, meeting employers and training providers from a range of industries. This event was a great way for students to discover apprenticeship opportunities close to home and learn how to navigate their next steps in education and employment.



UNIVERSITY AND APPRENTICESHIP FAIR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

Year 12 and 13 students visited the University of Kent for a combined university and apprenticeship fair. The event featured representatives from numerous universities and apprenticeship schemes, allowing students to explore a wide variety of pathways beyond sixth form and gather essential information for their future plans.



CAREERS TALK WITH DR. LUCY WAINWRIGHT

We were delighted to welcome Dr. Lucy Wainwright, a freelance research psychologist with extensive experience working in prisons and the criminal justice system. Dr. Wainwright shared fascinating insights into her career and the field of psychology, inspiring students to consider future opportunities in psychology and social research. Her talk helped broaden students' understanding of how psychology can make a real difference in society.

FILM INDUSTRY INSIGHTS FROM DIRECTOR KENNY EVANS

Award-winning film director Kenny Evans visited to share his career journey in the film industry, including his work directing music videos. His engaging talk gave students a behind-the-scenes look at the creative and technical aspects of filmmaking, inspiring those interested in pursuing careers in media and the arts.

CRIMINOLOGY WORKSHOP

On Monday the 2nd June, Year 12 students had the unique opportunity to dive into the thrilling world of criminology with an immersive **Crime Scene to Courtroom** experience—right here at school!

The day kicked off with a dramatic 999 emergency call reporting an alleged murder. From there, students transformed into detectives, carefully examining the crime scene and piecing together clues based on a real-life case. Guided by an experienced investigator with real-world knowledge of murder investigations and legal studies, students put theory into practice through hands-on activities and critical decision-making.

As the investigation intensified, students learned about the law, the judicial system, and courtroom procedures before stepping into the shoes of lawyers, witnesses, and jurors in a gripping mock trial. With Nekita Meek and Eden Gale as the prosecuting lawyers, Yasmine Guest and Andre Silva as the defence attorneys and Sam Holder as the jury foreperson. The defendant, played by John Corr, had a standout moment when he revealed adultery, which dramatically shifted the courtroom tension. This revelation led to the defendant being found not guilty of the crime of murder—a thrilling twist that kept everyone on the edge of their seats. Meanwhile, the role of the defendant's girlfriend, portrayed by Reece Greaves, delivered a powerful performance as she discovered the betrayal, adding emotional depth to the trial.



PE DEPARTMENT – SUMMER TERM HIGHLIGHTS

It has been another exciting and action-packed term for our PE department, with students showing great determination, sportsmanship, and teamwork across a variety of competitions. Here's a round-up of our recent results and achievements:

Football Highlights

• Under 16 Girls Football:

Our U16 girls made it all the way to the *Maidstone League Final*, where they faced The Lenham School. It was a tightly contested match, but despite a strong defensive performance, the team narrowly lost 1-0. We are incredibly proud of their journey to the final – an outstanding effort!

• Year 7 Boys Football:

The Year 7 boys battled hard in their *Maidstone Semi-Final* against the School of Science and Technology. Despite a valiant effort and two well-earned goals, the match ended 5-2. The boys have shown excellent promise and will surely come back even stronger next season.

Athletics Update

Our athletics teams have been competing fiercely this term, with some impressive individual results across the board in the inter-school standings:

• Year 7:

- Boys – 4th place (all out of approx. 15 teams)
- Girls – 5th place

• Year 8:

- Boys – 5th place
- Girls – 3rd place

• Year 9:

- Boys – 5th place
- Girls – 12th place

• Year 10:

- Boys – 9th place
- Girls – 7th place

These results are a testament to the students' hard work and commitment in training and competitions. Special congratulations to the Year 8 girls for securing a fantastic 3rd place finish!

Year 9 Rounders Team

Our Year 9 girls' rounders team have had a successful run in their recent tournament, picking up several victories along the way. Their teamwork and enthusiasm have been a real highlight, and we are thrilled with their progress this season.

A huge thank you to all students who took part in competitions this term and to the staff and parents supporting from the sidelines. We look forward to more sporting success in the coming weeks!



SPORTS AWARDS EVENING 2025

Sports Awards 2025 was another amazing night at The Malling School. This year has seen some incredible achievements made by our students and we would like to say a big thank you to all our parents and students who attended the evening. We were able to celebrate the fantastic skill and talent they all show within Football, Netball, Athletics, Rounders, Rugby, Cheerleading, and much more.





SPORTS DAY

We celebrated our annual Sports Day in true Malling School style, with energy, enthusiasm, and excellence throughout!

Our students were incredible, showing teamwork, resilience, and all the values that define The Malling School Way. It was a brilliant way to round off a fantastic year.







A TRIUMPHANT PERFORMANCE: THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Our school production of *The Sound of Music* hit all the right notes and was nothing short of a triumph. Months of hard work, dedication and passion from our incredible Performing Arts team and students culminated in what many have called one of our favourite things, the best show we have ever staged.

Taking on such a beloved and demanding musical was no small feat, but our students climbed every mountain with talent, grace and determination. Their performances were exceptional, with breathtaking vocals and heartfelt acting that brought the story to life and left audiences spellbound.

This production did not just showcase talent, it exemplified our school value of **determination**. From weeks of rehearsal to showtime, our students gave it their all and made us incredibly proud.

A huge thank you to the Performing Arts team for their tireless commitment, and to every student involved for making this a performance to remember.







ART EXHIBITION

Over the past two years our Art, 3D Design, Textiles and Photography GCSE pupils have worked incredibly hard to produce some exceptional artwork. Their dedication to the subject is evident in their project work and the amazing outcomes produced. We ended the year with a wonderful exhibition created and curated by Ms Fay and some of our Year 11 pupils who gave up their spare time to support the presentation of the exhibition.

On Monday 7th July we were joined by the families of our GCSE pupils, who shared in this joyous experience in a special gallery open evening.

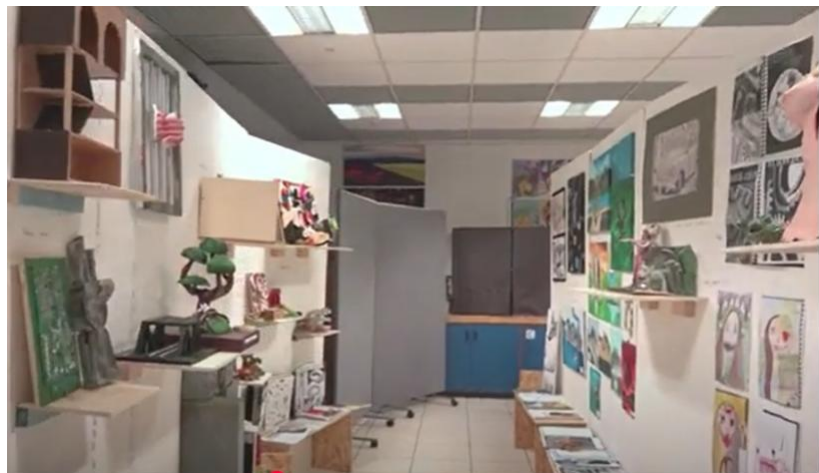
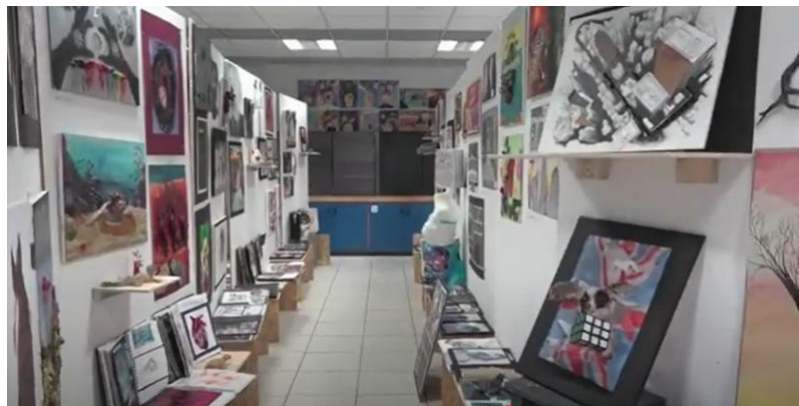
Our KS3 pupils also enjoyed the opportunity to visit the exhibition all last week, completing work based on the work exhibited. These pupils were able to appreciate the gallery experience and learn from our current GCSE pupils.

The exhibit itself is testament to the fantastic effort of all pupils and their successes.



A special thank you goes out to Ms Fay, Mr Thomas, Elsie Fay, Jack Brooks, Tianna Waterworth, Ruby Tullett Taylor and Freya Reddick.

Well done everyone on your achievements, you've all worked extremely hard!



Wishing you a safe and restful summer from all at The Malling School!

Yours sincerely

John Vennart
Headteacher

