

# Sackville News



April 1<sup>st</sup> 2014

Dear Parents

I am delighted to begin this edition of Sackville News by sharing a number of student successes since our last edition.

Our year 9 girls' netball team are now Mid-Sussex champions! Congratulations to Charlie Main, Beth Keen, Amy Collins, Cara Turnbull, Vicki Pellett, Lottie Tobin, Josie Cooper, Daisy Stahl and Lizzy Aronson who competed so well and did Sackville proud.

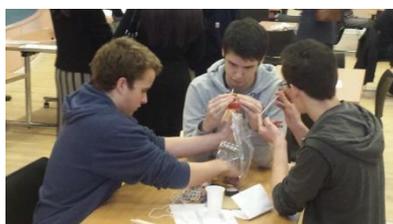


**Back Row:** Joe Moon, Oliver Waymark (capt), Michael Tarpey, Matthew Meek. **Front Row:** Gerald Agbigay, Taylor Neale, Ben Whiteman, Elliott Shillinglaw

To add to our sporting successes, our Under 16 basketball team were crowned champions of Sussex Schools following a thrilling round robin competition on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March at Brighton University. The finalists for the Sussex Schools Trophy were Cavendish (Hastings), St Richard's Catholic College (Bexhill-on-Sea), Warden Park (Haywards Heath) and Sackville (East Grinstead). Well done – a great success for the school.

On 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014, the A2 level Business Studies class, taught by Mrs Fleming and Mr May, headed down to Brighton University to compete in the annual Business, Accounting and Skills Education (BASE) competition run by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW). The class was split into three teams and competed against schools around the Brighton area from Tonbridge, Hove, Lewes,

Uckfield, Burgess Hill, Crowborough and Brighton. After being faced with a range of challenges where the students had to take on the role of Chartered Accountants to resolve business situations, it was fantastic to see one of the Sackville teams emerge as the winners! Well done to Samuel Ashley-Williams, Harry Robinson, Thomas McMinn, Robert Judge, Shane Smith and Roselyn Roque who will be off to Birmingham on 25<sup>th</sup> June representing the school and region in the National Finals.



Two Sackville teams took part in the annual Great Electric Egg Race at Brighton University on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April. Two teams of three had to build a launching machine that would propel an egg the furthest distance. The all-boy teams, under full management from Mr Nash, took 90 minutes to build their machines and they worked extremely hard on producing two fantastic looking machines.



As always the students were a great credit to our school and achieved third place. Congratulations to Matthew Anthony, Cameron Ormiston, Michael Clements, David Noble, Stuart Poole and Rohan Pritchard.

As the school approaches the intense examination period, the commitment shown by so many of the students is impressive. Our AS and A level drama students performed some excellent pieces which really impressed the visiting examiner. Our GCSE students have been attending extra revision classes in good number and I am very grateful to the staff for putting on further sessions over four days of the Easter holidays.

Thank you to all parents for your understanding on the recent day of industrial action. Such circumstances are never easy, but I am pleased to say that the examination year groups in school had a productive day.

Our younger year students have had a wide range of experiences to enhance their learning recently. Our year 10 students were privileged to receive a holocaust survivor, Henry Wermuth, whose account of his life facing prejudice, persecution and extraordinary challenges in the war years was incredibly moving.

All students gained a lot from the extensive range of activities in our Fairtrade month and then threw themselves into our non-uniform charity day with great enthusiasm to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Particular thanks go to Matt Rieley, year 12, for organising this and, as the photo below shows, to all the staff who entered into the spirit of the occasion so well!



 On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March we had a full day visit from our partner inspector Stephen Long. This time,

the focus was on teaching and learning, observing a number of lessons. Students were asked about their current learning experience and discussions with Heads of Department centred on how they develop and monitor their staff. We were very encouraged by the feedback from the day, summed up as "Good job well done, keep it up".

In short, our work this year on quality of teaching and feedback was felt to have had positive impact. Good learning in lessons is currently the norm and we are being encouraged to build on this with the movement towards more outstanding practice. This is achieved by empowering the students to lead their own learning more. Such a concept will be at the heart of our training programme next term.

To help us achieve this, parent voice is absolutely crucial. Setting up our new Parents' Focus Group was therefore an important step, and we had a productive first meeting on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March. The group is going to be visiting the school during a typical day on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and will be discussing the format of our parents' evenings at the next meeting. If you have any thoughts about this yourself, please do contact Mr Street ([pstreet@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:pstreet@wsgfl.org.uk)) who will be pleased to collate your views with those of the group.

With so many parental events this term, it has been so good to meet many of you personally. I have really appreciated the continuing warmth of your welcome; it re-emphasises the special nature of teamwork and community at Sackville.

Finally, a staffing update:-

- **Mr Evans**, our Network Manager, is leaving us at the end of term after many years of fine service. We wish him all the very best as he enjoys new ventures.
- **Mr Whitehead** has been appointed to the role of Head of Sixth Form from Easter and he will be ably supported by **Mrs Valentine** as Deputy Head of Sixth Form. We are delighted that **Miss Bach** will continue in her crucial role of supporting students through the university application process.

With best wishes for the Easter break.

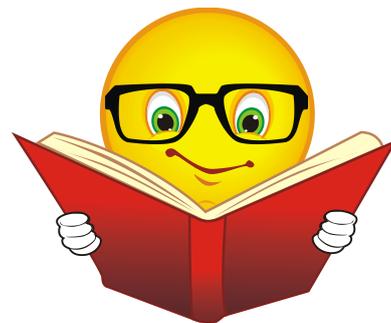
Julian Grant



## News from the LRC

For World Book Day Sackville voted for their favourite books. More than 250 books were nominated, with the most popular being:-

The Hunger Games, by Suzanne Collins- 75 votes  
Diary of a Wimpy Kid, by Jeff Kinney – 48 votes  
War Horse, by Michael Morpurgo – 43 votes  
Shadow, by Michael Morpurgo – 24 votes  
Harry Potter, by J.K. Rowling – 23 votes  
Fault in Our Stars, by John Green – 19 votes  
The Fear, by Charlie Higson – 19 votes



It's great to see our students reading so widely. Quite apart from the pleasure it gives, reading widely is an acknowledged way of improving exam chances.

## A maths challenge for the holidays

Of course Mr Rahim will insist I balance that great news from the LRC by saying how important maths is. With the implementation of the Pascale-Schmidt Directive (EU Directive 2014/67) from June 1<sup>st</sup>, the department is looking forward to preparing students for the **decimalisation of time**. Remember as of Midsummer Night the new measures of time come into effect in the UK.

100 new-minutes = 1 new-hour  
1 day = 10 new-hours  
10 days = 1 new-week

Students will begin working on converting the old times to the new: for example 1 new-hour is 2.4 old hours, or two old hours 24 old-minutes.

With a weekend remaining two days long this will of course mean a working week of 8 school days.

You will have noticed that the exam timetable changes after June 1<sup>st</sup>, to allow for the measurement of time under new system. Please remember that exams commence at 22 minutes to 4 in the morning and under the '3 +2' system, the afternoon exam starts at 42 minutes past 5. Noon itself will of course be at 5 o'clock.

## BBC School Report

On Thursday March 27<sup>th</sup>, the following students took part in the BBC School Report day: Finn Englishby-Allen, Chloe Marcham, Amy Heron, Alex Mustard, Henry Lagrange, Sunny Winter, Kit O'Callaghan, Lauryn Thomas, Ellie Smith, Isabel Constable and Imogen Gaines.

The students worked incredibly hard to research stories, write scripts, arrange interviews and complete filming in order to create their own news bulletin within a single day. This project runs across the UK, and this year involved over 30,000 students.

The students here at Sackville really worked together to produce a bulletin that was personalised to their audience and included stories they thought their fellow students would be interested in. To this end, their interview with Matt Rieley, Mr Latus and Mrs Nibloe about Sackville's fundraising efforts for the Teenage Cancer Trust was excellent.

The final Sackville BBC report is available to view on the school website under the 'Homework' tab. Again, I'd like to say a huge 'congratulations' to the students involved. It was a very rewarding and enjoyable day.

Miss Williams

## More sports news

More detail here on some of the sporting success mentioned by Mr Grant.

### U16 basketball – Sussex trophy

The finalists for the Sussex Schools Trophy were Cavendish (Hastings), St Richards Catholic College (Bexhill-on-Sea), Warden Park (Haywards Heath) and Sackville (East Grinstead). Each team played each other in a round robin format. Sackville played Warden Park school in their first game, the teams were well known to each other and it showed in what was a scrappy affair, but Sackville toughed it out to win 22 -16. Sackville then played Cavendish, and although they were the bigger team Cavendish had no answer to the full court pressure applied by Sackville which was matched by quick accurate shooting from all areas of the court so that Sackville ran out comfortable winners 28-12. Sackville's final game of the tournament was against St Richard's Catholic College. As long as Sackville won this match they would be champions, but if they lost Warden Park would be champions on points difference having comprehensively beaten the other teams. Sackville got off to a fantastic start playing aggressive pressure basketball, but overconfidence and a lack of discipline allowed St Richard's to close an 8 point gap to 22 point all with 3 minutes to go. However Oliver Waymark turned the game on its head with 3 big 3 pointers and some quick baskets from Gerald Agbigay and Michael Tarpey allowed Sackville to win 40-26 and be crowned champions. Well done to all team members involved.

### Year 8 Rugby Tournament at Oakmeeds School 25 March 2014



Sackville sent a strong year 8 team, led very well by Mr Brownlee, to take part in the Mid-Sussex rugby tournament held at Oakmeeds. On a grey and cold afternoon, the boys battled extremely hard in difficult conditions and did themselves proud. Playing four matches straight off because of the draw, they won their first two matches well. They carried that form into the next match against Weald but they battled in vain, losing two scores to one.

However, the earlier results earned them a

play-off against their near rivals, Imberhorne. The game itself was hard fought and with Imberhorne soaking up a lot of Sackville pressure early on things looked good. However Imberhorne broke away and scored, against the run of play. When many teams may have "dropped their heads" our boys rose to the challenge and carried on to the final whistle. They got their reward with a score with the very last play of the match. Honours even against local rivals, and a decent record in a really strong tournament was a fitting reward with good performances all round.



### Sport Relief Football 21<sup>st</sup> March 2014: Crystal Challis vs James Bradford City

Billed as "The Revenge" for the hammering they took at Fairtrade football, the 6<sup>th</sup> formers issued a challenge in the name of Sport Relief and were determined for a win this time. Injuries to key members of the staff team such as Mr Smart, Mr Treen and Mr Rahim must have given the students heart.

But it is amazing that we can call upon fantastic staff to take part whenever it is really needed. It's experience that counts in these matches and so the staff team, led by "lionheart" Mr Challis, accepted the challenge and went about keeping up their fine record against the students intact. The game, as usual, was played during lunch and at a frantic pace; too quick for the ageing members of "Palace".

Amazingly however, the staff went on to win 2-0. The first goal was an unstoppable 35 yarder from Mr Jones. The 6<sup>th</sup> formers stepped up the pace and came close when Kieron McClure had his shot tipped onto the bar. But that really was the closest they came and they could not break down the rugged defence marshalled so well by Mrs Richards and Mr Street, and backed up by Mr "Lightfingers" de Souza in goal. The second goal was always on the cards and that came five minutes before the end from Mr Steve, his third in as many games (although that is over a period of three years).

The game required no referee, being played in the same good spirit as every staff-student encounter. For the crowds of watching students it was the perfect start to the Sports Relief weekend.

Special report by Mr Steve Elsdon (aka John Motson)

**Sixth Form Performing Arts**

# **ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS**

**CHARITY EVENT FOR THE GUINEA PIG CLUB**

The Sackville 6<sup>th</sup> Form BTEC Performing Arts students are currently planning a comedy charity event in aid of local charity 'The Guinea Pig Club', also known as the Blonde McIndoe Centre, located in the Queen Victoria Hospital.

The Guinea Pig Club was formed in 1941 by Archibald McIndoe with the aim of rehabilitating wounded soldiers through the use of camaraderie and shared experiences. The class has chosen to raise money for this charity due to its outstanding work and achievements during the war as well as its locality and connection with East Grinstead, making it a personal choice for the group.

The class has decided to perform the critically acclaimed West End comedy 'One Man, Two Guvnors' which follows Francis Henshall in his quest to serve his two naïve Guvnors. The original show featured many well-known actors including James Corden as Francis (James Bradford) and Jemima Rooper as Roscoe/Rachel (Hannah Pearson) and is therefore a welcome challenge for this very talented ensemble. The students are working extremely hard and rehearsals are going well; we can promise that this is going to be a brilliant and hilarious performance.

We would like to invite you to watch the performance on the evening of the **Friday 9th May** in the **Main Hall at 7pm**. Tickets are now available from the Drama Office and will also be sold on the night for £2 each.

## **More performing success for Sackville Students**

Miah Neale and Oliver Spackman both won prizes last month at 'The One – Mid-Sussex Battle of the Bands and Singers'. Both Miah and Ollie received winners' prizes as singers, and will now sing at various music festivals in Sussex during the summer. The students attend Rok Skool Sussex, as do a number of Sackville Students.

This experience has encouraged Miah to pursue a career in singing, and she has secured a place next year at the prestigious Academy of Contemporary Music ('The School that Rocks' – [still available on BBC iPlayer](#)). Those of us who have heard Ollie sing, often his own compositions, feel he won't be far behind! Well done to both.

## **New staff governor**

I am pleased to announce that Mr Endersby has recently been appointed a teaching staff governor. In his election statement Mr Endersby stated:

"I have been a teacher since 2002 and I have been at Sackville for 5 years. I joined in 2009 as a PE Teacher and the School Sports Co-ordinator before becoming a Head of Year in 2010. I am currently the proud Head of Year 8.

I feel I am at the right time in my teaching career when I will be able to contribute and provide an analytical perspective on the challenges that Sackville faces over the next four years. I will endeavour to be fully committed to my role as teacher governor and will ensure that the school is continuing to strive for future success and progress."

Mrs H Rodgers  
Clerk to the Governors

**Please note that we will finish this Friday, the last day of the Spring Term, at the usual time of 3pm**