Dear Parents

As I was writing the last edition of Sackville News, we were about to launch into our school show week, presenting Hairspray over four evenings plus a matinee for local primary schools.

I am sure I reflect the feelings of the packed audiences when I say that the performances were of a stunning standard.

Congratulations to the many involved – nearly 200 students, a large number of staff and great support from our parents. The quality of the orchestra was the highest I have ever heard in a school show and the cast – which doubled-up over the four nights – was magnificent. Our young people displayed levels of confidence and discipline way beyond their years and they were led superbly by Mrs Beasley and Mr Nicholson.

Here is an extract from an article written by one of the cast, Michael Turnbull:

“This year’s school production at Sackville was Hairspray and we enjoyed a fabulous four nights of shows.

Set in 1960s Baltimore, Tracy Turnblad, a slightly overweight teen, desperately wants to dance and sing on The Corny Collins Show – the local TV channel. Ahead of her time, she also endeavours to make integration the new frontier, and put a stop to all discrimination on television. After being cruelly rejected by the producer, Velma Von Tussle, she eventually secures her place on the show and becomes an extraordinary teen idol, whilst winning the heart of the irresistible Link Larkin.

Twelve per cent of the school’s large student population took part, with a double cast for all of the main parts. The fine performances reflected four months of careful preparation, with producer Mrs Beasley saying, “I couldn’t be more proud of you all”. The orchestra were also amazing.

I think I speak for the entire cast when I say I have really enjoyed doing this production, and on behalf of everyone I would like to say a massive thank you to Mrs Beasley, the crew, costumes, prop department and the rest of the cast for making this production incredible.”

We received very positive coverage in East Grinstead online (thank you to the Editor, Geraldine Durrant, for coming along) as well as in The Courier. The Town Mayor, Nick Hodges, came along with his family and thoroughly enjoyed the evening, tweeting his delight afterwards! Many parents wrote in to express their appreciation and admiration; I have chosen one example here:
“Just had to congratulate you all on such an amazing and professional production. We were stunned by the whole set-up; orchestra, lighting, costumes, set, front of house, refreshments…. I have never seen such attention to detail in a school production. I can appreciate the difficulties faced when rehearsing after a full day teaching/studying and having to work within a budget. But none of that showed! All those involved shone and you should be very proud as they will take that with them in life! Question is.....how do you follow that?! Good luck, we look forward to next year!”

There have been many other rich activities taking place and achievements made over the past few weeks, some of which are outlined below.

- **Abby Beswick** winning the category ‘Sporting moment of the year’ in the East Grinstead Courier Sports Awards, celebrated at The Harlequin Theatre, Redhill.

- Our Sixth Form team coming runners up in the **Sussex University Business Challenge**, where they made the most money.

- A very successful and moving trip to **Krakow and Auschwitz** during half term. The trip went really well and the students were a credit to the school. Our tour guides commented positively on the students' conduct, interest, enthusiasm and sensitivity.

- **Rhian Gillah** and **Conor Haskins** reaching the final of the **Young Start-up Talent Competition** sponsored by major and small local businesses.

- Sixth form **mock examinations** and second set of mock examinations for year 11. All students conducted themselves excellently and we are now able to sharpen our intervention and support for them based on the outcomes. This week there is a **parents’ evening with year 12 and year 13 subject teachers** and a **second year 11 parents’ evening with subject teachers** will be held at the end of this month. I am grateful for the tremendous commitment shown by the staff to enable this to happen and, of course, for the continually excellent engagement of our parents in their children’s learning.

- **Year 7 fair trade and global inequality day** which was very successful and thought provoking. We were delighted to be joined by two members of the East Grinstead Fair Trade Association all week.

Year 8 students and their parents have been undertaking GCSE options choices over recent times, culminating in our **Options Evening held on Thursday 26th February**. This time, we opened the whole school so that parents could see the subjects offered in their own environments. This was accompanied by a rolling series of talks outlining the coursing process. We received a lot of positive feedback about this new method and will be pleased to hear from year 8 parents with any further comments.

Finally, I am very pleased to share some good news with you all about our **expected intake numbers for year 7 in September 2015**. The figure looks tremendous, a real vote of confidence in the school from our locality. Given that the year 6 (primary) numbers from which we draw have been lower of late, the uptake is fantastic. We still have a few places remaining, but not many!

As I sign off, we are waiting for our **Ofsted inspection** call any day. Staff, students, parents and governors have given their all and are ready to show with confidence what we have to offer!

With best wishes,

Julian Grant
Headteacher
Developments in teaching and learning - Subject Reviews
Report by Mr Feist, Deputy Headteacher

Since the beginning of term, we have started to carry out our annual Subject Reviews. These involve the Senior Leadership Team visiting the lessons of all teachers in a certain subject over the space of a week to check the quality of learning and the progress of students.

The observer looks at the lesson plan, inspects the books of the class to check the frequency and quality of marking, reviews the class progress over time via a data progress sheet and speaks with the students about their experiences.

This year we have not only done joint observations with the Curriculum Leader, but also with any post holder in the subject, for example the leader of a Key Stage. This means that as many staff as possible are trained in lesson observations so that they can continue to have productive conversations with their team about their strengths as teachers and the areas that need further development.

We have completed the reviews for English, Maths and Science and all subjects will be completed by the end of the summer term. The subjects receive feedback and the action points from the report then informs their Subject Improvement Plan. The review findings are also shared with the Governors so the link Governor can discuss the outcomes with their Curriculum Leader.

We are finding that marking is far more frequent and the quality of teacher comments is improving, that lessons are increasingly well planned to meet the needs of the individuals in the class and that data is showing classes are making good progress over time. We will continue to work on the quality of student responses to our marking as they self-review their work using their green pens and increasing the range of differentiation strategies we use to stretch and challenge everyone.

Year 8 Options
Report by Mr Street, Deputy Headteacher

Last Thursday’s Year 8 Options Evening received much positive feedback from students and parents alike.

The Year 8 Options Evening is rightly a key event in every Year 8 student’s diary but probably takes on more significance this year due to the proposed national changes to KS4 courses, particularly GCSEs.

Options time always means difficult decisions for our students and their parents: What subjects do I continue? What do I drop and how will this impact my future education and career path? In addition to these all too familiar questions this year’s cohort have to deal with increased content of the new GCSEs, linear courses and a reduction in controlled assessment. If this was not enough, even the GCSE grading system is changing from the familiar A*-G to a new 9 down to 1 system.

Help was at hand on Tuesday 24th February when students partook in a Year 8 options morning providing them with the opportunity to research KS4 course and careers options, but most importantly the opportunity to discuss their thoughts with their form tutor. This was then followed up by Thursday’s Options Evening which allowed students and their parents to quiz subject leaders and teaching staff about the courses on offer.

One key message from that evening that I would like reiterate is to keep your options open by choosing a broad and balanced curriculum. I would also highly recommend at least two technical qualifications which are continually assessed throughout the course allowing students to improve and re-submit work and remove some of the pressure from the end of Year 11.

Finally all option forms should have been returned to tutors by Monday 2nd March 2015 and option choices will be confirmed by letter in the summer term.
Sackville students succeed again in ‘Young Start-Up Talent’
Mr Whitehead writes:-

We were delighted to learn that for the third year running, Sackville sixth form students had made it to the Young Start-Up Talent final this year. After producing last year’s winner, we had high hopes that we could make it two in a row but sadly it was not to be.

Rhian Gillah and Conor Haskins, with their fantastic theatrical prosthetic make-up company really wowed the judges at this "Dragons’ Den" type competition, which has a top prize of £50,000 business investment, plus mentoring, from a range of top local, national and international companies.

The students, at 16, were by some way the youngest competitors. To have got this far from the massive number of entrants is a fantastic achievement and we wish them every success with their business in the future. For Rhian this commitment came at the same time as playing Edna Turnblad in Hairspray. Rhian is pictured here at the front with Conor.

“We got our son’s report and wanted to give you and your team of teachers a high five. Sackville seems to have performed a small miracle on him - whatever and however you do it at Sackville it clearly works – thank you!”

Mother of year 7 student

Modern foreign languages – it’s all about the food it seems!

Year 8 Spanish Fast Track Students visit La Farola
Mr Bolton writes:-

Year 8 Spanish fast track students spent an extended lunch time in La Farola on Thursday, sampling tapas from an extensive menu. Dishes included olives, cured ham, Russian salad, Manchego cheese, fried squid rings, meatballs, chicken in rice, spicy pork kebabs and patatas bravas. Students were adventurous, dipping into previously untried dishes and all left with their plates cleared and their stomachs full! The meal complemented studies which students have undertaken recently in class and the visit will be followed up by Señorita Valdiande, our Spanish assistant, when she works with small groups of students.

The food and the service in La Farola were excellent and we hope to visit again with other year 8 students later this year. As so often happens, Sackville students were complimented by members of the public on their outstanding conduct. It was a joy to take them out.
Meanwhile German students learn how to set up a restaurant in Germany
Mrs Valentine writes:

Year 9 German learners are enjoying their project on setting up their own German restaurant. This involves choosing a German speaking town for the restaurant, researching key information about the town, planning sample menus with costings and price and producing advertising and marketing information. Earlier this week we made some of our own German food. The group worked in small teams and cooked their own mini chocolate gateaux. All students entered into the activity very well. Elias Neale, Sam Ford, Woody Piper, Jenny Brockbank and Molly Kemmish worked particularly effectively, producing some very nice cakes. We hope you enjoy our photos! Thank you to Mrs Smeaton and Food Tech for the use of their rooms and equipment.

Not to be outdone, geographers bake cakes ...
As part of their Restless Earth studies year 8 students have been making volcano cakes to consolidate their knowledge of the inner workings of these fascinating landforms. Others have been making papier maché models that erupt with the help of vinegar and bicarbonate of soda ...

"It is wonderful that both my girls have settled well into Sackville and are being given many memorable and happy experiences."

Mother of year 7 and 10 students
Sackville finds out about Fairtrade
Mr Morris writes:-

Students in Year 7 took a day away from their ordinary lessons on 25th February, to find out more about Fairtrade. The event, which was timed to coincide with Fairtrade Fortnight, saw all of the students take part in a Fairtrade ‘trading game’, where they learnt about unfair trading practices and how these issues can be addressed. Each form was also allocated a Fairtrade product to research – from tea to flowers, and chocolate to gold – and they then presented their findings back to the whole year group at the end of the day. The event was concluded with a call to all students to think more about Fairtrade and see if they can try to make fairer purchasing choices in the future. The rest of the school didn’t miss out, as members of Fairtrade East Grinstead were on site each lunchtime with a selection of Fairtrade chocolate and snacks to enjoy.

Sackville’s powerful 70th anniversary trip to Auschwitz
Mr Morris writes:-

During half-term, 30 students and staff from Sackville travelled to Krakow, Poland for the school’s biennial Beliefs & Values department trip. The most powerful day of the trip was the guided tour of the Nazi concentration and extermination camps – Auschwitz and Birkenau. This was particularly pertinent this year, 70 years on from the liberation of these camps at the end of the Second World War.

Students had already had a tour of the old Jewish Quarter, where they learnt about the Holocaust, and the expulsion of the Jewish population from Krakow during the war. At Auschwitz and Birkenau they were able to see first-hand the buildings in which prisoners were kept and the remains of the gas chambers. All were affected by the stories of those who had travelled to the camps believing they were to start a new life, only to perish at the hands of the Nazis. At the Birkenau memorial to those who died, the Sackville group lit a candle and observed a moment’s silence: An act of remembrance and also of hope for the future; that those who went on the trip might tell others what they learnt, and that such atrocities will never happen again.

This is always a very important trip for Sackville. Again this year our students were a credit to the school – engaging with everything they experienced, and clearly demonstrating their empathy and sensitivity.

Other highlights of the trip included a visit to the Wieliczka salt mine, and a tour of the historic old town of Krakow.

Follow Sackville on Twitter
Tired of waiting three weeks for Sackville News? We can understand. Why not follow us on Twitter for more regular updates? @Sackville_EG. If you don’t have a Twitter account you can view our tweets here: http://www.sackville.w-sussex.sch.uk/new/?page_id=25816
Can you help us with a small piece of woodland?

Next year we are running the Forest School Programme for the first time. The programme operates a strict ‘leave no trace’ policy and prepares students for a qualification in countryside management. If you think you can help, or if you want more information, please contact Mr Maccaolite on bmaccaolite@wsgfl.org.uk

Photography Students go to London

Ms Buckley writes: -

Sackville School photography students recently took a trip to Tate Modern and the Photographers’ Gallery in London to gather material and information for their exam projects. Students explored and recorded the work of photographers at the highly regarded ‘Time, Conflict and Photography’ exhibition. Gathering resources and taking their own photographs, they considered images displayed in a variety of different formats.

Visits to galleries for primary research are an essential part of courses in art and photography. They allow students to discover how artists and photographers use scale, subject matter, viewpoint and lighting to create their work. This helps the students develop their own techniques and ideas.

Sponsorship requests

A parent and a former student are fundraising and would love some sponsorship.

Nicky Pumford, mother of James and Rosie, is running a marathon for St Catherine’s Hospice, a cause for which we have raised money at school in the past. She says:-

As many of you know and for those that don’t, I am thrilled to be running in this year’s London Marathon on 26/4/15 and raising money for a local charity, St Catherine’s Hospice.

Many of you will see me pounding the streets of East Grinstead and The Worth Way in the mornings and evenings to ensure I am fully prepared for this race and therefore I would be extremely grateful if you could sponsor me and help me on my journey of raising money for this wonderful charity.

Donating to my JustGiving page is easy - just follow this link and click donate:

www.justgiving.com/nicky-pumford

Thank you very much in advance, it means a lot to me.

Former student Guy Parr is aiming to complete the RideLondon 100 mile bike ride. He writes:-

In August I’m completing (or at least aiming to complete) the RideLondon 100 mile bike ride and raising money for Make-A-Wish. I’ve just started to get a few sponsorships and it would be great if any of the parents, staff etc. of the school would be able to add to this. The address for my JustGiving page is given below:

https://www.justgiving.com/Guy-Parr

If you feel I’m asking for a mention a little early and would be better served to do it nearer the time (as it is almost 6 months away) then that is fine, I’ll get into contact again a bit further down the line.

Thanks and all the best.
VE Day
70th Anniversary Street Party!
High Street East Grinstead Sunday 10th May 4pm – 9pm

Concord Big Band
The Spinettes
Adam the Magic Music Man

01342 335055  01342 410121  @eastcourtlive  www.eastcourtlive.co.uk
Road will be closed 1.30pm to 10.30pm Parking in High Street suspended from 12pm

FREE ENTRY

With Thanks to
HOUSE in the Eden Centre is a drop in centre for 11-19 year olds.
Full of activities and trips including

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<tr>
<th>Upcoming Events:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 13 March</strong></td>
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<td>Go-Karting @Team Sport Crawley,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leaving Eden Centre, Edenbridge 6pm returning 10:30pm. £10 only. Limited Spaces.</td>
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<td><strong>ALREADY FULLY BOOKED</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Saturday 21 March</strong> – Urban Elements</td>
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<td>A mixed street art event/open day in HOUSE 12-5pm, which will include street dance, graffiti arts and music workshops and a BBQ, Free entry, Burgers &amp; Hotdogs £1. Free entry for all ages. Everyone is invited.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 27 - Sunday 29 March</strong></td>
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<td>Youth Forum Residential at Bewl Outdoor Centre, Kent. Team building &amp; Team Challenges. Free to members of the youth forum. Looking for 3 or 4 new members.</td>
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<td>Contact Keith Rowell to join or for more details on 07786624943 or <a href="mailto:keith.rowell@westkentextra.org">keith.rowell@westkentextra.org</a></td>
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**Address:**
The Eden Centre,
Four Elms Road,
Edenbridge,
Kent,
TN8 6BY

**Facebook:**
HOUSE in the Eden Centre
Edenbridge Youth Work Consortium
@HOUSEedencentre

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SECOND HAND UNIFORM

The second hand uniform shop is now in place – all items £1 each.....

We have shirts, skirts, trousers and PE kits all waiting for a new home!

Please visit reception to ask to see the stock or ask your child to visit at lunchtimes.

We ask that you are patient if reception is busy at the time you visit.

Is your child now too big for the shirt you bought 6 weeks ago? Please give it a new home at the second hand shop, all clothes donations to reception gratefully received.

Janina Jakubowska
jjakubowska@wsgfl.org.uk