

Julian Grant – Courier column – July 2015

Summertime success at Sackville!

The exams have now finally drawn to a close and many students have begun a period of well-earned rest, punctuated by highlights such as the **Proms** at the Felbridge Hotel for our year 11s and at the East Grinstead Sports Club for our sixth formers.

Life for hard working school staff continues at a pace with many other opportunities being offered to expand the horizons of our students. Readers may have noticed our website front page continually changing with the latest news! Planning for our **Curriculum Enhancement Week**, a week of activities and challenges beyond the classroom towards the end of term, is well under way and we have held two **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) days** for both year 8 and year 9, the former following a theme of 'Keep calm and carry on; STEM in the disaster zone' and the latter's theme being 'The make-up of an elite athlete'.

Celebrating achievement along the way is always important, with **special awards assemblies, celebration breakfasts and teas** for students in the younger years. Our **Brunel Awards evening** also rewarded the fine achievements of Sackville's young scientists.

Year 10 have taken their **mock GCSE examinations** recently and several went on the **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh** expedition just after this, to be followed by our sixth formers' **Silver Duke of Edinburgh** practice expedition. Not to be outdone, some of our staff undertook a **charity cycle race to and from Paris** last weekend!



In addition, we have had **sports days** for all year groups, evening **drama performances**, our band playing at **Proms in the Park** at East Court, a **music trip to the Rhineland** in July, preparations for a **trip to Malawi** in the summer and, maybe to top it all, our '**Eggsfest**' **open air concert** on 8th July which promises to be spectacular! We will be welcoming hundreds of year 5 local primary school and Imberhorne students to join us in what is becoming an annual treat.

We are currently **welcoming our new parents** whose children are joining Sackville in September. We have held individual interviews with them and students joined us for **three days of induction** with all parents invited for a welcome evening together with the new tutors.



One of the nicest aspects of being a Headteacher is the regular sense of feeling immense pride in what the young people in the school are achieving. Our students excelled in the recent **county athletics championships** and **regional athletics finals**, often achieving personal bests at high national standards. We also hosted the **area year 9 rounders tournament** with several mid-Sussex schools taking part.

Students can, of course, reveal their talents in many different ways as shown by the approach of our sixth form students to their **work experience placements at Chailey Heritage School** this month. Chailey Heritage provides education and care for young people with complex physical disabilities and health needs. Several staff visited them (including guests from

our partner school in Hamburg as they are setting up work experience placements also) and I was privileged to spend a morning there myself.



Two large parties of students have recently returned from **trips to Barcelona and Madrid**, where in each case they spent a week sampling the language and culture of the region and enjoying the cities.

All of this underlines just how fantastic it is to work in a large and successful secondary school like Sackville. I know I chose the right career!