

Sackville News

29th April 2016



Dear Parents,

With Easter well behind us now, we are all settled into the busy summer season. Examinations inevitably somewhat dominate proceedings for many, and it is not long now before our year 11s sit their first GCSE this year, English Language. Timetables have been re-written for the examinations period to ensure that relevant preparatory lessons take place at the correct time and our well established pre-exam briefing breakfasts will recommence in full swing. Our sixth form students are also preparing hard for their A and AS level examinations which commence next month.



I am very pleased to inform parents that Sackville has been invited to become a **Leading Edge School** by the SSAT, a well-known national educational network. This is in recognition of student progress and achievement and is testament to the high standing enjoyed by the school. We have also received **two specific awards** from the SSAT for our **GCSE** results. At **A level**, the recently published **Oxford Analytics report** on the progress of students from GCSE to A level places us, once again, **significantly above the national average**. This continues an established pattern for several years and, bearing in mind our inclusive approach to sixth form entry, is really great news. The recent and sudden announcement about the closure of Haywards Heath sixth form college is very sad indeed and we are committed to doing all we can to help accommodate any students affected by this.

There is, of course, so much more going on given the breadth of life at Sackville and it has already been great to see much achieved and enjoyed.



Our **Duke of Edinburgh Award** ventures are going well with a year 12 Silver preparation weekend in the Ashdown Forest during the first weekend of term in what wasn't the best of

weather conditions! Heavy rain and frosty mornings fortunately haven't deterred them from looking forward to the challenge of the real expedition in the New Forest in July.

At the beginning of term we received the results of the **Biology Challenge** entered by many of our students and we were delighted by the large number achieving the **gold award**. A break time celebration of juice and cookies was held in my office and I was very impressed with their enthusiasm.



Last week, we were treated to two excellent performances at the school, very different in nature. Firstly, we were pleased to welcome primary school children from across the locality to the annual **East Grinstead Primary Dance Show** held in our hall. The variety and the talent were fantastic from children of such a

young age, with schools such as Fairway Infants in Copthorne participating alongside many older children from junior years. Well done to all!



The following evening saw the **A level drama examination performance** which was an incredibly high standard. It was an intense and action packed 30 minutes of theatre set in a dystopian near-future in which people are controlled by technology through their mobile devices. If the audience reaction is a guide, these students should be getting high marks come the summer.

Last year our **A2 drama results were the seventh best in the country** given the students' starting points, and it looks like they might well be again.

Our **U16 rugby team** have been impressive throughout their time at Sackville and, in their last game together, they won a sportingly contested fixture against Imberhorne to capture the **Newman Memorial Cup**. Both teams played in a friendly yet competitive way as befits the fixture. This time Sackville ran out winners – a fitting finale for their rugby careers at school. We hope they continue to play as they get older as the boys have real talent.



The summer term always presents much challenge with examinations but also much joy with events like the y11 and y13 **proms**, the marvellous outdoor **Eggsfest** concert and **Curriculum Enhancement Week**. We also welcome our **new parents and students** to individual appointments, a parents' evening with the new tutors and a 3 day induction programme. Sackville now has a **waiting list** for places and it is heartening for the school to feel so sought after.

Of course, achieving any of this and facing with confidence the hurdles ahead would never be possible without such excellent students and supportive parents. Thank you.

Best wishes

Julian Grant
Headteacher

Well done to Chloe Newbury and Ellie Barnard whose cake sale raised over £100 for research into Breast Cancer!

School uniform



Mr Street writes:-

It has been a cold and wintery start to the summer term but this has not stopped the subject of summer uniform being discussed with the school's student voice representatives. In previous years students have been allowed to remove ties in the summer term, but it was acknowledged by the group that this often meant that our students did not look as smart in the summer as they do at other times of the year.

Therefore the decision has been made to keep our high standard of uniform all year round, meaning boys will continue to wear their ties through the summer term.

Whilst on the topic of uniform, it is important to remind all students and their parents that black jeans, blue leggings and skin tight trousers are not part of the Sackville School uniform and should not be worn to school. Year teams do have a good supply of uniform and are more than happy to provide uniform on a temporary basis to those students who do not attend school in the correct uniform. We also have an extensive range of second hand uniform which can be purchased at discount prices from the school's reception area.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the school with its high expectations on uniform and sharing our belief that students should be proud of their appearance and being part of the Sackville community.

Let's hope May brings some better weather.

News from science

There has been a lot going on in science since the last edition of Sackville News!

Biology Challenge

As Mr Grant has written, many of our year 9 and 10 students took part in the 2016 **Biology Challenge** at the beginning of March. This is an annual competition run by the **Society of Biology** which tests students' knowledge of biology based on the academic syllabus as well as rewarding those who take a wider interest: reading books, magazines, watching nature programmes, news and media etc.

Our students have performed amazingly well, with more of the top awards than ever before. There were 13 Gold awards, 20 Silver and 19 Bronze, plus many more highly commended and commended certificates.

Special mention must go to year 10 students Tommy Rose, John Hollins, Imogen Booth, Melissa Turner and Benjamin Sweetman, our top 5 scorers. However after a bumper year, all those who certificated should feel immensely proud of their achievements. We clearly have a lot of talented biologists at Sackville!

Full list of Gold awards

Lauren Atkinson
Sky Reef Bollom
Imogen Booth
Elizabeth Bray
Nuhazet Cano Diaz

John Hollins
Alice Holman
Zoe Karl
Tatyana Koleva
Tommy Rose

Samuel Saxton
Benjamin Sweetman
Marnie Trewern
Melissa Turner

Science club use chocolate to model box girders

The Year 7 Science Club has been hard at work looking at the physics of bridges – using bars of chocolate! First they looked at the mass that a single bar of chocolate could support. Then a box girder was made with four bars, and they tested to see if it could take four times the mass. The single bar had broken with a mass of 367 grammes, whilst the box girder didn't fail until a mass of in excess of 2,500 grammes was loaded upon it – far more than four times what one bar could hold.

Students discussed the reasons why the box girder was so much stronger – and then they ate the chocolate!

Who knows, in seven years' time some of these students might be studying civil engineering at university (then they'll know it's all down to the second moment of area!).



Nick Barham at the Big Bang Fair

You may remember from the last Sackville News that Nick was '**Highly Commended**' in the Science and Maths Stream of the **National Science and Engineering Competition**. Well, we now have a photo of him receiving his award.

The presentation was part of the Big Bang Fair, and Nick got his award for his project modelling the discovery of exoplanets. Another one to watch in the future!



News from the Art Department

Townscape 2016

Art teacher Mrs Buckley and a number of Sackville students are at the centre of 'Townscape 2016'.

Townscape 2016 comprises two exhibitions showing simultaneously in town centre venues. At the town museum, a team of professional artists, who call themselves 'Example' will present eight individual responses to the collection. The resulting exhibition includes sculpture, printmaking, photography, painting and stitch.



Artists have been into schools and asked teachers to select students who would benefit from some professional mentoring. Participation in Saturday workshops and a 'night at the museum' has led to students generating their own images which reflect aspects of local history. The resulting student exhibition at the town library mirrors the artists' project.



'It's a great way of getting submerged in the history of the town' said year 12 student Ellen Stocken '...exploring qualities that serve as an inspiration.'

Family and adult workshops will follow on from the main exhibitions, which launch in May and June. This allows many more members of the public to reframe history, through drawing objects from the collection.

Real businesspeople come and visit business students

Mr May writes:-

Last month the **BTEC year 9 business class** were involved in a workshop (set up by the charity **FutureFirst**) run by speakers from Asda, Brakes, Allied Bakeries and Sainsbury's.

The speakers introduced themselves and worked on a range of employability skills. The students experienced the impact of first impressions and the link between education and work. The visitors described their professional backgrounds and how they have moved into their current role. Students were able to evaluate their own skills.

Decision making, confidence and good communication skills were all cited as important aspects when employers consider applications and interview candidates.

The experience provided all of the students with the opportunity to experience the demands of working life and what employers look for in job seekers. The students visibly grew in confidence as the session progressed.

A typical reaction from the students was that of Issey Payne, who found the session really useful. "I really liked the fact that one employer told me how he gave a job to someone who had not done well on her entry test, but who had a really lively personality. That made me feel very positive!"



Year 12 business BTEC take part in real market research

Last month our level 3 BTEC students also enjoyed interacting with real world businesspeople, as year 12 student James Light writes:-

Last week, two representatives from a market research company called **Oxyinsight** came to Sackville to see what their target audience like to read. They also asked many questions such as why we like to read and how we like to read.

We researched into Penguin Platform, with which they aim to provide people ages 16-19 with a place to discover stories and give an insight into reading.

One of the most interesting things was researching Penguin Platform's social media campaigns on Instagram, Twitter and their website. As we were their target audience they looked at us to evaluate what was good and bad about these. They will use the evaluation we provided in the real board meeting with Penguin Random House, the company that owns Penguin Platform.

A few very lucky students (including me!) from the class will have an opportunity to go and take part in the real board meeting that discusses the findings with the directors of the company in London.

Sussex Overland Hike

Prior to the Easter holidays, Lea Wellbelove took part in the Sussex Scouts Overland Hike as part of the 1st Hartfield Scout Troop. Lea has written about her fantastic experiences and results that she achieved as part of her group that competed in this event.

On the 19th and 20th March I took part in the Overland Hike, a Scout competition that has been running since 1968. It takes place each year in a different location on the South Downs and requires a team of four to hike a total of 40 kilometres over the two days, carrying all our kit and staying overnight at a campsite. The route is kept a secret, but we are given grid references so we could navigate from one checkpoint to another, completing various incidents (tasks) at each one to gather points. The maximum amount of points a team can score over the entire weekend is 700 and incidents ranged from saving a person from an icy pond to fire lighting, the solar system and washing symbols!

The Overland Hike is a test of Scouting skills and general knowledge, teamwork, initiative and endurance. We trained for three months, going out every weekend on the hills of the South Downs, learning to navigate in all conditions, including night time and building up our physical strength. For any scout, completing the Overland itself is a massive achievement and over the past five years I have seen both success and failures. I quickly learnt from older scouts the need for acquiring mental strength, and this, along with having a great team that you can rely on, has helped me complete this huge challenge twice.



This year the competition started at Lavant in West Sussex, in weather conditions that were ideal for hiking. After walking 25 kilometres on the first day we had to pitch our tents and cook our evening meal – chicken wrapped in pancetta with vegetable couscous followed by Bakewell tart and chocolate sauce. After a cold night we had an early start, leaving at 7am to walk the remaining 15 km. Out of 24 scout teams that started, my team, 1st Hartfield Scout Troop, were the overall winners with a total of 617 points! Not to mention coming 3rd in points overall, beating all the other scout teams and all but two explorer teams. The Overland is a great experience which teaches many things and I severely encourage anyone involved in the scouting community to go out and have a crack at it. Who knows what could happen?

Matt Cox Pavilion Fundraising



'Team Coxy' are busy raising the six-figure sum needed to build the pavilion at Edenbridge Cricket Club in memory of Matt, who passed away last summer.

It's difficult to do justice to the variety of activities already completed and planned for the future. More than £30,000 has already been secured, much of it by former Sackville students motivated by the desire to honour an exceptional member of their own community.

[More details can be found by clicking here.](#)

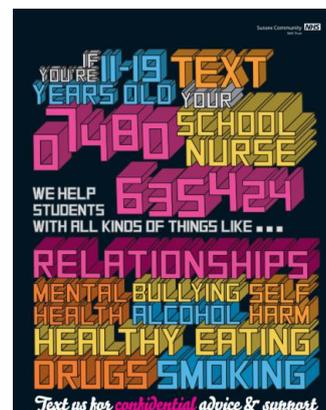
Worth mentioning specifically is the **Sackville against Edenbridge cricket game on Sunday 10th July at Blossoms Park** in the town. Here a number of former Sackville students will take on an Edenbridge team led by Matt's father, and we hope a lot of money will be raised along the way.

Our very own **Mr Maywood** is busy finalising the details of a **charity cycle ride** for Sackville staff and friends in the foothills of the Alps which we hope will also raise a decent four-figure sum for Team Coxy.

Chat Health

Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust is pleased to announce the launch a new way for young people to get advice and support about health related issues. **ChatHealth** is an award-winning school nurse messaging service for young people aged 11-19 years and will be available Monday to Friday from 9am to 4.30pm (automatic bounce-backs respond to incoming messages out of hours). A secure "app" will be introduced later this year, enabling students to speak with a nurse by instant messages on smartphones after logging-in with a username and password. The aim is to further improve access to healthcare for young people and to continue improving the quality and safety of the service. Young people have helped develop the promotional material which we will be using to advertise the service in our school.

The text number is 07480635424 (West Sussex School Nursing Service). The service is available now so please share with all students and staff.



Weir Wood Sailing Club

Priory Road
Forest Row
East Sussex
RH18 5HT

Directions:

A22 from East Grinstead at Forest Row, turn right at the church into Priory Road. After half a mile turn right to Weir Wood Reservoir and follow signs to the sailing club.

For more information

commodore@wwsc.org.uk

Weir Wood Sailing Club 



Open Day Saturday 7th May

Gates open at 11.00am – 4.00pm • Come along and join in the fun!



www.wwsc.org.uk

Open to everyone! You will have a chance to have a trial sail, there will be Sailing demonstrations, racing, dinghy displays, model yacht racing, an all day BBQ and much more!

- Taster sail with a qualified RYA instructor
- Discount on membership (if you join on the day)
- RYA courses
- Dinghy displays
- Club racing
- Oppy club for kids
- Food & drink available
- Coastal cruising



East Grinstead U3A

Singing for Pleasure Choir

Conductor: Tom Scratchley Accompanied by: Kim Retallick

presents a

MAY CONCERT



Friday 20th May 2-4pm

Jubilee Community Centre, Charlwoods Road, RH19 2HL

Admission £5.00 (includes refreshments)



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