

Sackville News



February 11 2014

Dear Parents

This is proving to be a busy and fruitful term when we continue to sharpen our practice and plan the best learning experiences for our students as we can. On Thursday 30th January we had an excellent **staff training day** focusing on teaching in our classrooms and how best we can maximise the quality and effectiveness of the learning experience. Teams of Sackville staff have been working on key aspects of this since September, including questioning, feedback, meeting different needs and literacy. These staff led workshops which were both inspiring and creative. Indeed, one member of staff commented afterwards:



"I just want to say how useful I found today. I think it was the best INSET day I've had since starting at Sackville, so thank you to all who ran the workshops. I picked up some great ideas."



Staff, a representative sample of students and the Governors' Curriculum Committee are evaluating the impact of this training by assessing 'before and after'. All have teaching and learning logbooks for the collection of ideas and the recording of impact. The outcomes are sure to be interesting and will build on the 'Sackville Standards' described in the last issue of Sackville News. A further programme of targeted whole staff training sessions is being put together to ensure that developments are embedded.

It has been good to welcome more **parents of prospective students** to the school this term. Many Year 5 families are looking at what we have to offer as they begin their preparations for choosing a secondary school. One such parent recently commented:

"Thanks so much for arranging our tour of Sackville today, we thoroughly enjoyed it, it's a really lovely school. Please pass on our thanks to the 2 students who showed us around, they were lovely and did a great job; they should be proud of themselves."

It has been so good to meet more of you as the **parents evening** cycle reaches full swing at this time of the year. The Year 9 and Year 13 evenings with subject teachers had a definite buzz of positivity which was great to see.

I am delighted to report some great achievements outside the classroom over the past two weeks. On the weekend of the 1st/2nd February, Sackville submitted no fewer than 11 teams for the **Charlton Chase Elite Night Navigation event**, set on the South Downs near Chichester. In this rigorous activity, two of our teams came in **both first and second place**, which was magnificent! They were competing against a very large number of teams, many of which were from private schools, and they did themselves and Sackville proud. Details of this appear later in Sackville News.



In addition to this, one of our year 12 students, Henry Rogers, has reached the **final of the Gatwick Diamond Start Up Talent competition** with his Blacksmith Business—a great achievement.

No less than **53 of our Year 9 students** received special certificates and a Celebration Breakfast on Monday 10th February in recognition of excellent attitudes to learning during the Autumn Term. It was a real pleasure to share this success with them. There is more on this later in Sackville News.

This term has seen some **staffing updates** related to maternity cover and senior internal appointments.

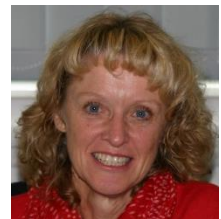
We are delighted to have been joined by **Miss Dalby** this term, who will be teaching **Miss Lloyd's** Languages classes when she commences her maternity leave at half term. This overlap has been of great help to ensure that there is a smooth transition for the students at an important time in the school year.

We welcomed **Mrs Richards** back from maternity leave this month to resume her responsibility as Head of Girls' PE. Very grateful thanks go to **Miss Jones** and **Mrs Sands** for running the department so well over the past few months – they have done a great job and will continue to make their valuable contribution to the life of the school.

Mrs Leeves returned from maternity leave last month to re-join the English and Drama departments – we are very pleased to have her back with us.

Mrs Thomas, one of our Learning Support Assistants who contributed a great deal towards the development of literacy, left us for pastures new at the end of last term and we have three Learning Support Assistants commencing with us this term: **Miss Taylor**, **Mr Grosselle** and **Mrs Roth**.

Changes are afoot for the senior leadership structure of the school as well. I am excited to announce the appointment of **Mrs Beeney** who will be working with the Senior Leadership Team on many key aspects of school leadership and management. Mrs Beeney has extensive experience as a Head of Maths, as a Director of Year 11 and as an Assistant Headteacher and, I believe, will be a real asset to Sackville. She lives locally and both of her children attended this school. I have worked with Mrs Beeney in the past and know well her high standards and dedication to increasing the life chances of young people.



I am also pleased to announce that, following a rigorous interview process involving many of our staff and governors, two of our current senior staff will assume roles as **Deputy Headteachers** from Easter. They will work alongside Mr Feist, who has shown extraordinary commitment as sole Deputy since I arrived and to whom I am very grateful. **Mr de Souza** will be the school's Raising Standards Leader, focused on the careful tracking of progress of all students at every stage in the school and ensuring that appropriate intervention is as tight and of as high a quality as it can be. I am sure that parents will be pleased to hear that oversight of our 6th form will remain within his role. **Mr Street** will be in charge of student provision: the curriculum we offer at all stages, the staffing related to that, and overseeing our extensive student support/care system in the school to ensure that it is of the best and most consistent quality possible. **Mr Feist** will focus on the crucial areas of teaching and learning, appraisal and staff professional development, all of which link to achieving the optimum classroom experience for our students.



As I write this news, the school is gearing up for what I am sure is going to be a fabulous series of performances of **Peter Pan**. The next issue of Sackville News will include a full report and photographs of this very special event. Students and staff are working tirelessly to ensure three great nights of entertainment for us all.

I hope all families enjoy a good half term break, hopefully with kinder weather than we have experienced of late! I look forward to seeing many of you at the **Year 8 Options Fair on Tuesday 25th February** and

at the many parents' consultation evenings taking place in February and March. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me via my PA, Miss Denman, if you have anything you would like to discuss.

Best wishes.
Julian Grant

Leading Space Education – Crawley Down visit

We were recently delighted to welcome around 60 pupils and their parents from Crawley Down Primary School who were learning about the Earth in space. After discovering just how far away the moon really is, they used marbles, flour and coffee powder to investigate what factors affect the shape and size of craters. They compared these with those on the moon, spotting similarities and differences. The children were even able to hold a real piece of the moon!

Finally, pupils were shown our observatory and learnt how the dome and telescope move together to view the stars and planets. Here are some of their comments:

Andrew Burns Class 11

"Looking inside the observatory was so cool and looking through the massive telescope was amazing!"

Holly Atkinson Class 10



"Seeing the roof spin was cool and I loved seeing the sky above."

Lucy Kolter Class 10

"I liked doing the experiment and getting covered in flour! I learnt the bigger the object the bigger the crater."



Elliott Vincent Class 11 and Ben Hayes Class 10

"The teacher was really interesting while the roof moving made us feel like we were spinning. We'd go again!"

It was great to have such excited students and we look forward to welcoming them to our observatory open evening on 5th March from 7-9pm.

Report by Mr Bush

The second week back after half term, March 1st – 8th, is **Astronomy Week**. So what better time to brush up on our space trivia and enter our prize quiz?

Print these pages, write your answers next to each question and add your name and form. Post it in the box in Reception for a chance to win!

Round 1 - Famous Firsts

- A. Who was the first man on the moon?
- B. Who was the first woman in space?
- C. What was the first satellite in space?
- D. What was the first planet to be discovered with a telescope?
- E. What was the first spacecraft to leave the solar system?

Round 2 - What's that moon?

Which planets are orbited by the following moons?

- A. Ganymede
- B. Titan
- C. Phobos
- D. Triton
- E. Miranda

Round 3 - Space Discoveries

- A. Who discovered the comet that orbits the Earth every 76 years?
- B. Who discovered the dwarf planet Pluto?
- C. Who discovered the phases of Venus?
- D. Who discovered orange soil on the moon?
- E. Who or what discovered the fountains of Enceladus?



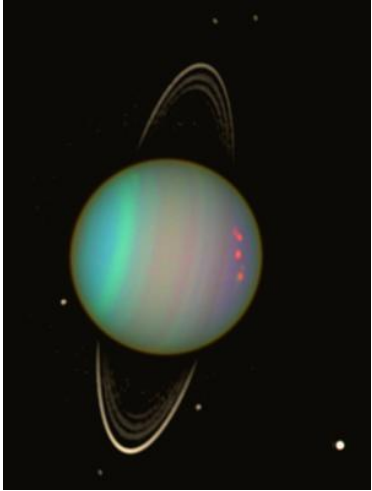



Round 4 - Sackville Observatory (Google "Facebook Sackville Observatory" for help!)

- A. When was the observatory built?
- B. What is the observatory made from?
- C. What size of telescope is installed?
- D. The bench outside the observatory is dedicated to which local astronomer?
- E. On what day of March is the observatory open evening?

Round 5 – Picture round

Name the following astronomical objects or phenomena:

<p>A.</p> 	<p>B.</p> 
<p>Object:</p> <p>C.</p> 	<p>Object:</p> <p>D.</p> 
<p>Object:</p>	<p>Object:</p>

Student name: _____

Form: _____

Please print and return to the box in reception. The students with the highest score will win, or be placed into a box from which the winners will be drawn at random.

Our star prize is a real piece of the Moon, boxed for you to keep!
Runners up prizes include books, posters and space chocolate!

Good luck!

Monday 3rd February – Peer Mentoring Training

A group of year 10 students took part in a training course aimed at becoming Mentors in our own school environment. The course, and future programme, was called “Peer Support” and 16 eager students took part in many team building and scenario events. They tackled each part extremely well and they threw themselves into it in the typical “Sackville” way.



The programme was run by West Sussex Peer Support group and was excellently delivered by Peter Seadon-Jones. The students struck up a great relationship with him and showed why Sackville is so great at these types of courses.

The highlight of the day was the construction of a paper tower. The guys worked in teams of 4 or 5s and they all offered something different; the winner actually being a small tower that offered stability rather than flair.

Star of the show was Matt Abel, who was constantly used as Peter’s fall guy and played the role well however they were all stars in their own right.

The full list of wonderful attendees was; Matt Abel, Saskia Harris, Sophie Shuttleworth, Connor Bradford, Hannah Karpel, Beth Parr, Amber Walton, Steven Sayell, Lia Raymond, Olivia Jackson, Elle Cavill, Fine Minns, Emma Sizer, Alice Coxall and James Light.

Watch out for the “Peer Support” scheme when it is launched. It is in safe hands with these students.

Year 9 Celebration breakfast Monday 10th February



Although it is not usually encouraged, here was a good reason to miss eating breakfast at home! A handful of students were selected to enjoy a celebratory breakfast for their ‘Outstanding Attitude to Learning’ with Mr Grant our Headteacher, as a reward for their efforts.

We were all given a certificate to mark this special occasion, with Danish pastries washed down with orange juice. Once we had finished our refreshments we were given a motivational speech by Mr Latus and Mr Grant which was very stimulating.

After this we had a group photo of us all holding our certificates with pride. This was a great incentive to keep up our efforts and attitude in our lessons. Our thanks and appreciation goes to Mr Grant, our Head of Year Mr Latus, and the teachers who have helped and encouraged us through the year so far.

We appreciate the recognition in this way and on behalf of all the students a big ‘Thank You’
Daisy Young 9AVE

- The unstoppable Mr Latus is also of course the moving force behind the Charlton Chase! See next page.

Following the uniform article published at the beginning of this year, we have acquired some black plimsolls for pupils that have problems such as wet shoes, lost shoes or broken shoes. Obviously if there is a medical reason, such as ingrowing toenails we will make some allowances.

We would like to be of as much help as possible with our uniform and I have been asked if there would be any need to stock a supply of these plimsolls in the school shop. If you feel this may help you please do get in contact.

Miss Jakubowska

33rd annual Charlton Chase elite night navigation event – 1/2nd February 2014

'When the going gets tough, the tough of Sackville get going!'

The 2014 Charlton Chase Elite Night Navigation event, set on the South Downs at Seaford College near Chichester on the night of 1st/2nd February, saw eleven Sackville teams competing in a field of over 100 teams, many of which were from private schools.

The incessant rain of late ensured that the ground conditions encountered by the 44 Sackville students were particularly treacherous. Underfoot, paths were cratered with puddles and awash with thick mud. The arduous nature of the event, difficult terrain, weather, (cold with rain showers) combined with tiredness caused numerous other teams to retire, but Sackville were not ones to give up!

The event was, as always, both physically and mentally demanding and the teams of 4 (aged between 15 and 21) walked for over 8 hours, 'criss-crossing' the Downs between checkpoints, where a variety of challenges were undertaken and points gained. No two routes were the same and teams walked at least 25km and far further if they made errors in navigation in their search for manned and un-manned check points and markers.

Throughout Saturday night and Sunday morning, managers were kept up to date with the progress of every team as information, radioed from checkpoints, was entered onto computer and projected onto the wall of the main hall of the college. As daylight broke, ten of the eleven Sackville teams returned to the college under 'their own steam', tired but triumphant, despite being covered in mud and having very sore feet. Upon their return, all walkers were treated to a full cooked breakfast.

In the Novice (non-competitive) event there were 14 young teams, each supervised by an adult. The three Sackville novice teams accompanied by Miss Jakubowska, Mr Johnson and Mr Wilcox all completed the event, put in good first time performances and are keen to return next year.

As Sackville teams in the Standard event returned in the early hours of Sunday morning it became apparent that many had performed well. Gradually, it became clear that a dwindling number of other teams still walking and yet to return to Seaford College were likely to incur significant time penalties and a Sackville win began to appear more and more likely. However, it wasn't until the very last teams checked-in, that it became apparent that the Sackville 'D' team of Kieran Barnes, George Crawley, Nick Humphries and Thomas Marrable had won the event, with the Sackville 'B' team of Michael Clements, Scott Latham, Jake Griffiths-Ellis and Rohan Pritchard coming second – an incredible achievement!

This is the 4th time Sackville has won the event, the last time being in 2010.

Mr Latus (Team manager, Year 9 Team Leader)



The picture here shows the winning team being presented with the trophy on February 6th at County Hall in Chichester.



Pictured left to right: Headteacher Julian Grant, Nick Humphries, Thomas Marrable, Kieran Barnes, Michael Clements, George Crawley, Scott Latham, Jake Griffiths-Ellis, Rohan Pritchard

Welcome to 'The House of Fun'!

Local drama school Act One Beginners is currently rehearsing for their production of Our House - The Musical. This is an exciting, energetic and hilarious show including a soundtrack of hit songs from the band Madness, such as - 'Our House', 'Baggy Trousers' and 'It Must Be Love'. For those of you who aren't familiar with the musical. Our House is about a boy called Joe Casey and the consequences of the decision he is faced with on the day of 16th birthday, after being caught breaking into a house in his hometown of Camden, London - Does he... 'Run and make the escape of a criminal' OR 'Stay and surrender like an honest man'?



The show has a brilliantly talented cast including Sackville 6th Formers Hannah Collins, Alex Haynes, Jack Burchett and Sarah Bentley. It would be great to see lots of Sackville staff and student coming to support us - I promise it'll be worth it! We'd like to invite you to come and watch the show at the Chequer Mead Theatre on -

Thursday 20th February - 7.30pm
Friday 21st February - 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Saturday 22nd February - 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Tickets are now available from the Chequer Mead Box Office.

Children and Students - £11, Adults - £14

Election of Parent Governor

Following the request for nominations for the role of parent governor at Sackville School, I am pleased to announce that Mr **Peter Hannaford** will continue in his role as parent governor. Mr Hannaford has two children in the school in years 9 and 11.

In his statement Mr Hannaford stated "I would like to continue as parent governor at Sackville, maintaining continuity and building upon the work and experience gained during my first term."

I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Mr Hannaford on his re-appointment to the governing body.

Mrs Helen Rodgers
Clerk to the Governors

Miss Mundy returns to Rwanda



You may remember from the last issue that students in years 10 and 12 had raised money for a young man called Innocent who lives in the same building in Rwanda as Miss Mundy, our erstwhile teacher of geography. Here is a photo of Innocent with the sleeping bag purchased with funds raised. You can see it has improved his bedding enormously. He packs it up every morning to try to stop insects taking residence – something which seems to be a constant problem.

Meanwhile, Miss Mundy and her fiancé have had to get used to life in Rwanda again after returning to the UK for the Christmas break.

Sackville students play with the London Philharmonic

Three Sackville students, Emma Cook in year 11, and Daya Grace and Freya Talbot in year 10, got the chance to play with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.



If you are reading this online, click on the picture opposite, and you will hear them play part of the Lord of the Rings Film soundtrack.

A spokesman for the LPO said "I have to say I've never worked with a group of young performers who've been so professional, patient, and also great fun. And the standard of their musicianship was fantastic. I really hope they've gained a lot from the experience and that they'll keep playing and listening, and I hope we might be able to work with you again in the future."

Sam Howes update



You will undoubtedly be aware of Sam's remarkable achievements at West Ham United. A week or two back he managed to produce a performance brilliant even by his stellar standards.

Playing against a Spurs side containing international players, Sam was awarded 'man of the match'.

Click on the picture to read the full story!

A bright future ahead indeed.

Sackville School is keen to create a small parents' focus group (5/6 Parents) who can meet on a termly basis to bounce ideas around and discuss new initiatives with in the school. If you would like to be considered for this group could you please email me at pstreet@wsgfl.org.uk by Friday 28th February 2014.

I wish you a relaxing half term

Mr Street