



# Families' Bulletin

Monday 25 September to Friday 29 September 2023

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear families

It is a relatively short week this week with an early closure for Open Evening today and our second INSET day of the year tomorrow. There is always a lovely buzz around the school at this time of year when we prepare to speak to potential new students and their families and we are so grateful for the support of so many students who have put their name down to come and be guides and help out this evening. That teamwork and sense of community is so evident on days like today.

We have updated our short school video which you might like to take a look at and will be available on our school website from tomorrow.

At this time of year, we also spend a lot of time looking over the summer exam results when I meet with the Curriculum Team Leaders from every subject. We are also joined by some of our governors as part of their monitoring processes. It has been a real pleasure to spend time with colleagues in these meetings not only because it gives us the opportunity to celebrate the many successes from the summer but to see their commitment and dedication to learning from them and seeing how we can continually adapt our curriculum, teaching and assessments to support our current students. Marginal gains is a phrase we often use with our students and the same goes for when I speak to staff. What can we each do to make those small 1% gains for the benefit of our students?

We are all looking forward to a positive year, one more year on from the disruption of Covid. We cannot wait to see all of our students grow, for some that means building up their resilience and with all our support, developing their goals and ambitions for the future.

Finally, we also had our first Families Focus Group meeting of the year and it was great to see so many new faces. We had some really engaging and positive discussions particularly around assessment which we will feed back into our planning. We will publish the dates for future meetings in next week's bulletin so that if you would like to come and join us you are able to plan ahead.

Have a good weekend.

**Ms Jo Meloni**  
**Headteacher**

## Key Dates

Friday 22 September	INSET Day
Friday 29 September	<b>Year 7</b> Activity Evening – 4.00pm – 8.00pm
Monday 2 October	<b>Year 11</b> Geography Trip to London
Thursday 5 October	<b>Year 8</b> Information Evening – 5.30pm - 6.30pm
Thursday 12 October	<b>Year 10</b> Consultation Evening – 4.00pm – 7.30pm
Thursday 19 – Friday 20 October	<b>Year 10 and 11 GCSE</b> – Rock Climbing
Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October	Half-Term Holiday
Thursday 9 November	<b>Sixth Form Open Evening</b> – 5.30pm - 7.30pm
Monday 20 November	<b>Year 7</b> 'Meet the Tutor' – time TBC
Wednesday 29 November	Winter Concert – 6.00pm – 8.00pm

## Spotlight on E-Safety

In this week's Online Safety Spotlight, I'll attempt to explain what a VPN is and why you should be cautious when using them in your home.

A virtual private network (VPN) is a way of creating a secure connection between a device e.g. your laptop and a computer network, or between two networks. Now, every time that we access the internet we essentially make these connections. However, there are rules and protocols in place as a UK citizen to protect us, limit our exposure to inappropriate content and to ensure national security.

Often, students mention using a VPN to access content they otherwise are restricted from, or to anonymously download content. This poses concerns, naturally, as the very nature of covertly finding content that we are otherwise not meant to opens the door to a wealth of issues on our devices and networks.

A VPN used in this way is essentially a back door. It spoofs the address of another user in a less restricted country to allow the user in the country anonymous access to data.

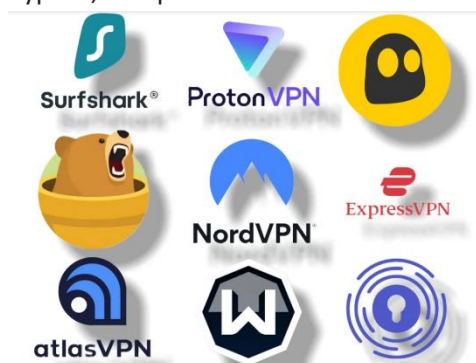
However, there are some things to be cautious of:

1. They aren't anonymous. IP (internet protocol) tracers make finding the original IP easier than ever. The registered owner of that device is liable and can be prosecuted or be removed from their ISP (internet Service Provider) if their activity is illegal.
2. VPN's nearly always require the removal of all defences such as firewalls and anti-virus. This opens up the device and network
3. Accessing illegal or otherwise prohibited content is a criminal offence.

So, why are they even there? Why do large companies use them? Well, because all of the above is a negative version of their primary structure and nature. They were invented for fast, secure, encrypted, and private communications. A Virtual Private Network between user A and point B. So they are exceptionally useful when used legitimately and lawfully in protecting data from unwanted eyes!

If you have any concerns about your child using a VPN or want more information, please don't hesitate to email me.

**Mr A Vallally-Godfrey, Wider SLT eSafety Lead**



### Autumn Term Timetable

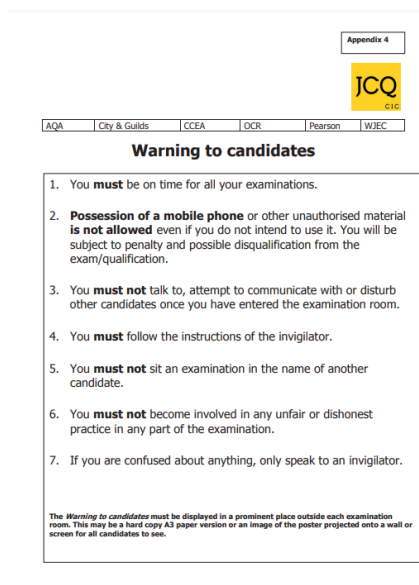
We offer a wide range of after school activities at Sackville. You can browse through all the clubs, by year group, via this link: [Extra-Curricular Enrichment - Autumn Term 2023](#)

## School Notices

### For the Attention of Students and Families of all Exam Year Groups

At the beginning of the new school year we are obliged to inform students and families, within the exam year groups, about the updated Exam Board Guidelines and Regulations. Below, you will see a list containing links to the documents as well as two exam room posters. In order not to jeopardise students' hard work, particular attention should be paid to malpractice, plagiarism and the use of artificial intelligence (AI). A link to these documents can also be found [here](#) on our school website.

- Information for candidates - coursework - 2023-2024 - [https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/IFC-Coursework\\_Assessments\\_2023\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/IFC-Coursework_Assessments_2023_FINAL.pdf)
- Information for candidates - non examination assessments 2023-2024 - [https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/IFC-NE\\_Assessments\\_2023\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/IFC-NE_Assessments_2023_FINAL.pdf)
- Information for candidates - on screen tests 2023-2024 - [https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/IFC-On-Screen\\_Examinations\\_2023\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/IFC-On-Screen_Examinations_2023_FINAL.pdf)
- Information for candidates - written exams 2023-2024 - [https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/IFC-Written\\_Examinations\\_Sep2023\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/IFC-Written_Examinations_Sep2023_FINAL.pdf)
- Preparing to sit exams - [https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/JCQ-Preparing-to-sit-your-exams-2023\\_24.pdf](https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/JCQ-Preparing-to-sit-your-exams-2023_24.pdf)
- Information for Candidates - Privacy notice 2022-2023 - [https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Information-for-candidates-Privacy-Notice\\_21-22.pdf](https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Information-for-candidates-Privacy-Notice_21-22.pdf)
- Information for candidates - social media 2022-2023 - <https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/JCQ-Social-Media-Infographic-v4.pdf>



Many thanks  
Mrs Julie Beswick, Exams Officer

## “Find It out Thursdays”

Your child has the opportunity on Thursday's lesson 5 to come and hear from people in different industries. They can find out from the people that know what that profession is like, ask them questions, start to explore different careers available and consider if they are right for them. We invite a different profession each week and your child is able to sign up for one talk, each half term.



### This Week: Shionagh Kerr - Physiotherapist

If you are interested in discovering more about Physiotherapy and the pathways it can take you, please sign up on the link below for this talk. There are many opportunities within this area and you have the wonderful opportunity to gain knowledge from someone who has experience in this field.

### Coming Up

James Broad - Is kindly coming in to talk to us about 'Careers in Tech'. James has experience in many fields involving IT and is coming in to give students a better understanding of how technology is used in industry. Has worked for companies including Yahoo both in this country and abroad.

We will have more professionals including the Fire Brigade booked so keep an eye out for updates.

Please encourage your child to sign up and use these opportunities to start investigating the different careers that are available to them. Remember this will be the last talk of the year.

**TO SIGN UP FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW:**

['Find it out Thursdays' Reservation Form](#)

Thank you

**Mrs Helen Smith, Futures Leader**

## Current Vacancies

One of the many great features of Sackville School is the fact that many colleagues do stay here a long time. Unfortunately for us, that does mean that we have a number of staff who are reaching retirement now or in the near future, both teaching and support staff. This will result in a number of vacancies becoming available over the coming weeks, months and years.

**If you or someone you know are thinking of joining our team** and are interested in any of the positions below, please follow the corresponding link. If the perfect role isn't listed below, but you know someone who shares our vision and ethos and is interested in joining our team, please do **enquire via the vacancies page on our website** so that we can get in touch if something comes up in the future.

- [Assistant Headteacher](#)
- [Attendance and Welfare Officer](#)
- [Teacher of Maths](#)
- [Study Supervisor](#)
- [School Cleaners](#)

Please follow the appropriate link to view any current vacancies within [teaching](#) and [support staff](#) areas of the school.

## Wellbeing



Wednesday marked **National Fitness Day** this year. It is a UK wide day that aims to encourage people of all ages and abilities to take part in physical activity to promote their fitness. This year's theme is "Your Health is for Life". Maybe you already have a fitness regime that is absolutely locked in each week. Or perhaps, your routine has lapsed or you've never had one. My entry this week is a gentle nudge (if you are after one) to re-engage with a physical activity that you enjoy, maybe even something you loved as a child(!). We are lucky to have a wide variety of sports clubs, leisure centres and open spaces near us. What will you do today and tomorrow that will look after your future self?

Hannah Nibloe



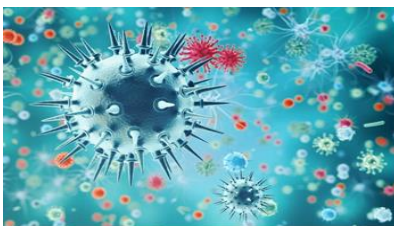
## Medication & Illness

### Medication

To ensure that we continue to support students when they are unwell, we need to make sure our records are up-to-date. As a school we will continue to administer ad-hoc medication as per the consent slip you have completed. If you wish for this to change, please contact the relevant year team. Should your child be diagnosed with any new medical condition please contact us. In addition, should your child's medical condition change (i.e., they no longer need to use their inhaler) please contact their year team.



**We will continue to provide the support and medical assistance you have already agreed to unless we hear from you.**



### Illness

In order to keep the more vulnerable members of our school community safe, a reminder to inform the school if your child contracts any of the following: Chickenpox, Shingles, Measles or Mumps. Please call the relevant year office, thank you in advance.