

Families' Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 5 December 2022

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Families

December seems to have come around very quickly but it is business as usual for us this week, with a little added sparkle with the arrival of our Christmas trees kindly donated by Mr Keenor one of our ex-parents and our **Big Reveal** competitions that saw **tutors groups** and some staff decorating tutor bases and offices to help get into the festive spirit. As I walked around the school with Mr Feist on Thursday, I was genuinely impressed by the creativity, **kindness and teamwork shown by the groups who took part**. Such a wonderfully community spirited Sackville tradition that I am sure will live on for many years to come.

Our debating teams have been hard at work again this week. This time competing against Chailey, Imberhorne, Uckfield and Dorothy Springer school in Brighton in the first round of the online **ESU Churchill Public Speaking competition**. We were delighted that the team made up of Elizabeth, Emily and Aadi came out as overall winners and we look forward to hearing how they get on in the next round in January.

We were delighted to have so many **Year 12** students and their parents/carers attend our **Meet the Tutor evening** last night. Presentations included a focus on **attendance** and **study leave**, alongside an aspect of their **SMSC/Learning for Life** curriculum which on this occasion centred around vaping and where to get support. It also gave us a good opportunity to share with families our new and unique **L.I.F.E programme** in the Sixth Form that helps to engage and capture all of the other things that our Sixth Form can get involved in that compliments their academic studies. Activities such as mentoring, coaching, learning a new skill, doing charity work and volunteering. It is great to see so many of them already getting involved.

This morning we welcomed in Mims Davis MP as she presented framed certificates to two students in **Year 7** who had entered the **parliamentary Mid Sussex Christmas Card design competition**. Congratulations to Phoebe and va who came 3rd and Highly Commended respectively.

Finally I wanted to say well done to our Year 13 students who have been sitting their mock exams this week. Well done and good luck to those who are still going next week with Art, Health and Social care and photography.

Have a lovely weekend.

Jo Meloni Headteacher



This week's value is such an important one. Particularly for our young people who face daily challenges both academically and socially. So many of them have shown they have this in buckets, particularly over the past few years. These words from Winston Churchill might provide a starting point for a discussion this week.

"Success is not final,
Failure is not fatal,
It is the courage to continue that counts".

Key Dates

Wednesday 7 December Observatory Evening – 7.00pm-9.00pm

Tuesday 13 December

Year 7 Celebration Assembly – 8.55am – 7EWY,7FSH,7HMY,7KHL and 7RHN

Wednesday 14 December

Year 7 Celebration Assembly – 9.05am – JEMA,7KPY,7SCT,7SDT and 7SSG

Thursday 15 December Carol Service – St Swithun's Church

Friday 16 December Last Day of Term

Friday 10 February Year's 7 to 9 – Influenza Vaccination Programme

Remember you can see the full parents' calendar here

Hot Chocolate with the Head



This week we had Zack, James, Louis, Lillie and Jasmine nominated for Hot Chocolate Friday and we had a great start to the day discussing how they had been doing and the reasons for their nominations. They were all shining examples of the qualities so many of our students have such as kindness, respect, teamwork, resilience and a spirit of community we all value so much and form part of our Sackville Way #SWAY.. We discovered that Louie in Year 11 shared a desire to be a pilot that Zack in Year 7 once had. He went on to explain the many benefits of joining the cadets to Zack. Just one of the many conversations that may never have taken place if they had not been chatting over a hot chocolate on a cold December morning. Well done to each of them.



Extra-Curricular Clubs

We offer a wide range of after school activities at Sackville. You can browse through all the clubs <u>HERE.</u>
If you have any questions regarding a particular activity, please contact the member of staff who is running the club.

Year Group / Department Notices

Santa's coming...Well not quite....

but a present has been delivered and will be opened on Thursday 8 December at 1.30 pm.

KS3 students are welcome to come along to help unwrap the present and maybe win what's inside!

On Thursday....

- There will be chocolate given out to those who help unwrap.
- Free word search competition to enter. Win Christmas treats.
- Pin the nose on Rudolf.
- As well as win what's inside!

Come along and join in the festive fun in the LRC!

Thursday 8th December at 1.30 pm Sharp!

LRC - KS3 Students



Year Groups 7, 8 and 9 – Influenza Vaccination Programme - February 2023

The Department of Education and NHS England have extended the flu vaccination programme to include students in year groups 7 to 9. Therefore, the vaccination team will be attending school on Friday 10 February 2023, to administer flu vaccination via a nasal spray. For those year groups affected, this programme will also run alongside the HPV vaccination, which is scheduled to take place on the same day, Friday 10 February. Full details and consent forms will be forwarded to you nearer the time but please make a note of the date.

Mrs Sharon Hill Welfare Officer

Wellbeing



December is here and with it can come all sorts of preparations for the upcoming religious days and festivities. I want to share with you National Tree Dressing Day - when I first read about it, I thought it was all about putting decorations onto our Christmas trees. But, it is, in fact, something altogether different......

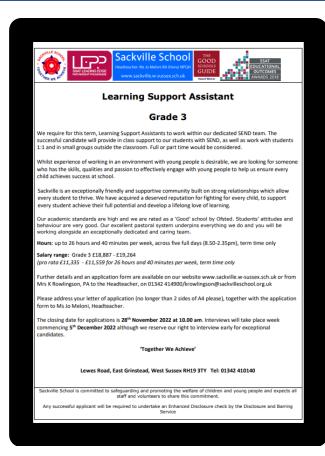
National Tree Dressing Day began in 1990 and is based around different customs that happen across the year, the idea is to pull these beliefs and practices together. Trees have held spiritual importance for centuries, Celts used to dip cloth into water from a holy well and tie them onto a 'clootie tree'. Way before this, in Japan, it was common to decorate trees or bamboo with strips of paper with wishes and poems written on, these are called Tanzaku . The tradition is called Tanabata (Star Festival) and takes place in August each year. There are similar traditions within Buddhism and Hinduism, tying ribbons around tree trunks of Bodhi trees to honour Buddha and Raksha Bandhan, when coloured strings are tied onto trees and plants to ask nature to protect loved ones.

This year, National Tree Dressing Day falls this weekend (the first in December), it is a chance for local communities to come together and celebrate their leafy residents, to say *thank you* for all that they provide us. I invite you to pay homage and give thanks to the trees and shrubs in your garden, neighbourhood or local green space and wrap some ribbon or cloth on it. Perhaps trying something around or on a tree in your local park or street is outside of your comfort zone. In this case, maybe if you have a Christmas tree you could hold onto the sentiments of gratitude and good health to all as you decorate it. Perhaps, next time you pass a tree you could take a moment to acknowledge all that it gives you and us in the wider community.

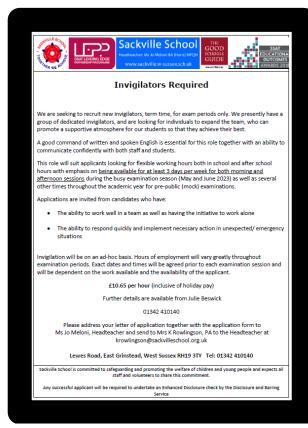


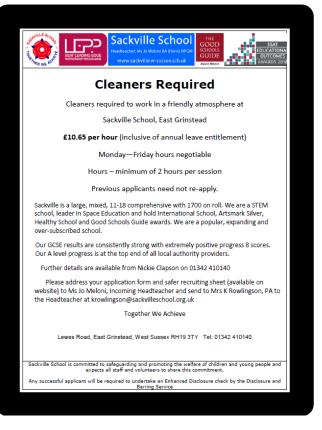
Hannah Nibloe

Vacancies









Please follow the appropriate link to view any current vacancies within <u>teaching</u> and <u>support staff</u> areas of the school.