



# Families' Bulletin

Monday 20 November to Friday 24 November 2023

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

It has been another very busy week this week including the first of our return to face to face **consultation evenings** for some of our year groups this year. It was the turn of year 13 last night and I cannot tell you how wonderful it was to hear the positive feedback and conversations between student, parent/carer and teachers. With year 13 mocks after Christmas I know this will be hugely valuable. There was also a really strong turnout and for me personally and our teachers who are within the first 3 years of their career, the very first opportunity to meet parents in person and build those all important relationships.



At the start of the week we welcomed in a team of 6 visitors from other schools who conducted a collaborative review of our school. The main focus of the review was on leadership at all levels and the quality of our provision in terms of the curriculum, teaching and learning, student outcomes and behaviour. The team that was made up senior leaders from other schools,

Headteachers (including a serving Ofsted inspector) were really complimentary with what they saw and the staff and students they interacted with.

This review was part of the work we are doing with a national network of schools called Challenge Partners which we have recently joined. The idea being that we each provide valuable feedback, challenge and professional dialogue to each other. The review team were particularly supportive of the recent changes made to the curriculum and our new communities system. They could see the benefits both current and for the future. Some of my senior team will be going out to be part of review teams at other schools providing valuable CPD for them, which they can bring back to the benefit of Sackville. Mr Street did his first one last week and is already considering ideas that we can implement to support our young people. We may not be perfect, but we do have a good understanding of our strengths and what we need to develop next. We are not a school that stands still and we are always seeking ways to improve. Those 1% differences that collectively can make a big impact.

In other news this week we have had over 200 primary school children taking part in indoor sports led by the brilliant Suzanne Currie and a team of 41 student **Sports Leaders** without whom these events would not be such a success. They are real ambassadors to the school modelling our values of **Community, Teamwork, Positivity** and probably quite a bit of **Resilience** working with 200 excited primary school children in one hall!

Finally, our year 7 have had a fantastic opportunity to listen to and learn from renowned poet, rapper and author Mark Gist. Mark has become a regular visitor to the school and we welcome his expertise and his inspirational work with students. I look forward to reading some of their own finished poems next week.

Have a lovely weekend.



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

## Key Dates

Thursday 23 November  
Wednesday 29 November  
Thursday 30 November  
Friday 1 December  
Tuesday 12 December

**Year 7** 'Meet the Tutor' 4.00pm-7.00pm (face to face)  
Winter Concert – 6.00pm – 8.00pm  
**Year 11** Consultation Evening – 4pm to 7pm (face to face)  
**Year 11** into Year 12 Taster Day  
Carol Concert - St Swithun's

## Extra-Curriculum Enrichment

### 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](#)

## Spotlight on Online Safety

This week in form time students have been looking at a range of dangers they may face online. Year 7 have looked at cyber bullying and its impacts, years 8 and 9 focussed on online tools that can be used for the radicalisation of young people and years 10 and 11 focussed on sexting and the legalities around sharing inappropriate content online. What has been striking is the number of students who have actively come to find me to openly discuss these topics. It's been refreshing to hear the views of so many members of our community and to discuss in depth with them the dangers of using the internet.

We watched a range of videos on YouTube, and I have linked them below for you to watch should you wish and to discuss at home with your son/daughter. In this spotlight on online safety I am going to focus on radicalisation. In the UK we have seen a significant rise in online gangs used to coerce users into sharing their data or radicalise them into adopting their organisations strong views. Radicalisation, often, rarely happens instantly, it's a process over time where the terrorist organisation builds trust and a relationship with a young person. Currently, those most at threat are 13-15 years old and from the white ethnicity group. That's because in today's world, the terrorists we are talking about are domestic terrorists, adopting far right views or ideologies.

In school we teach and adopt the Fundamental British Values or Core British Values and they include respect for the rule of law, individual liberty, democracy, and mutual respect for and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. They link really well to our Sackville values and in a nutshell ensure every member of our country has individual liberty, the freedom to be who they want to be. The Fundamental British Values focus heavily on freedom without the harm of others and without the persecution of others.

Action Counters Terrorism is a government organisation trying to minimise radicalisation online. Their website, which can be found [here](#), goes through signs to look out for and things you can do to limit the possibility of your child finding content online that doesn't meet with your family values or the Fundamental British Values we teach at Sackville. I would recommend you having a look at the site and having a read, especially focusing on the social media channels you know your child uses.

If you want to watch the videos that students have seen in form this week you can watch Year 7's [here](#), Year 8 and 9's [here](#) and Year 10 and 11's [here](#).

If you would like to discuss anything at all, please feel free to reach out by emailing me on [onlinesafety@sackvilleschool.co.uk](mailto:onlinesafety@sackvilleschool.co.uk)

**Mr A Vallally-Godfrey**  
**Wider SLT & Online Safety Lead**

## Find it out Thursday!

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 those 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.

### Review of the Child Education Psychologist held last week

*On Thursday 2nd October, we met with an educational psychologist and the experience was wholly interesting. We found that as a profession, an ed psych is in charge of analysing a child's mental/social ability in order to work together with the school and the parents to provide suitable support to ensure the child's full potential is reached. Examples of what an ed psych may look for includes: cognitive ability and/or behaviour, physical health and relationships. We also had the opportunity to ask the psychologist targeted questions to explore the profession more in depth including her own personal experiences in the position. She gave a wealth of information on what the job would entail. For example, she stated that she doesn't always work with the child directly and instead reads a report or she directly observes the child and determines what they require. We were incredibly impressed by the process she shared. While the job involves a lot of paperwork, no two cases are the same making it a diverse and fulfilling long time job, unfortunately also stating that it's an incredibly competitive profession in terms of slots.*

Written by two **Year 12** students.

### Later this term:

A historian and documentary presenter - 23 November

Veterinary nurse - 30th November

Army - 7th December

Please encourage your child to explore any career paths that they are interested in, to sign up and use these opportunities to start investigating different opportunities. They can sign up by using this [Link](#).

**Mrs H Smith**  
**Futures Leader**

## School Notices

### Parent Governor Elections

The deadline for nominations for the parent governor election is coming up next week. If you are thinking of standing for election as a parent governor please email the Clerk to Governors Helen Rodgers [hrodgers@sackvilleschool.org.uk](mailto:hrodgers@sackvilleschool.org.uk) with your completed nomination form by 9am on Thursday 23rd November.

**Mrs H Rodgers**

**Clerk to the Governors**

### Winter Concert

**Tickets** are on sale via this link, [Ticketsource](#). They are priced at £5.00 each and free for under 5s.

**Mr A Webb**

**Curriculum Team Leader for Music**

### Big Reveal

This Saturday (18th) in the high street, the 'big reveal' will be taking place. Please come along and show your support and vote for us.

Thank you.



**Ms S Stirling**

**Curriculum Team Leader for Art & Photography**

## Advent Service

Our annual advent service, held in St Swithun's Church, will be held on Tuesday 12th December at 18:00. All students in our extra-curricular groups will be invited to attend and perform. Rehearsals will take place during the school day in the weeks leading up to the service. Please look out for the sign up form, and rehearsal schedule to follow. It's not too late for students to join one of our groups if they wish to participate!

**Mr A Webb**

**Curriculum Team Leader for Music**

## Flu Vaccinations

As a reminder to families you should have received an invitation to consent to the flu spray for your child from year 7-11. If you have a question regarding this please call the vaccination team on 01273 696011 ext 2043

**Mrs S Hill**

**Welfare Officer**

## Hot Chocolate Friday

I was joined this week by another group of fantastic students. Ethan, Maizie, Louis, Liv, Emily and Piers. We spent some time hearing about their achievements. In particular we all wished Emily well at the start of her exciting journey playing rugby for the Saracens U18 rugby team. She is working hard managing her A Levels and playing Rugby 4 times a week. Such a great example of a student with drive and ambition to achieve her goals.



## Current Vacancies

We will shortly be advertising for the following positions. If you or anyone you know may be interested in any of these roles you can make an early enquiry by contacting the Headteacher's PA, Katie Dawson on [kdawson@sackvilleschool.org.uk](mailto:kdawson@sackvilleschool.org.uk)

- **Teacher of Spanish**
- **Administration and Communications Officer**
- **HR Officer**



## Wellbeing



### ‘Eat the rainbow’

As the weather gets colder and wetter (if that is possible!), our bodies start to crave comfort. One of the ways we seek this is through what we eat and I can only imagine that this is where the phrase "comfort eating" comes from. If you are anything like me, you are regularly reaching for ready-made, sugary carb heavy food (aka chocolate!). This is a reminder for (me) and you to eat the rainbow.

I am going to focus this week on **red**, red food contains antioxidants, anthocyanins, ellagic acid and astaxanthin. The health benefits are to help reduce cholesterol and blood pressure as well as protecting against cardiovascular disease. Some red foods you could look to include either cooked or raw are: cherries, cranberries, red apples, red grapes, red peppers, tomatoes and watermelons.

Next week, we'll be looking at the orange part of the rainbow.



**Mrs H Nibloe**

### 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 community 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 community office, thank you in advance.

