



# Sackville School

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE



Headteacher: Ms Jo Meloni BA (Hons) NPQH

# Families' Bulletin

## Monday 8 January 2024 to Friday 12 January 2024

### HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Families

I trust this bulletin finds you well and that amidst the 'busyness' of Christmas, there was time for some relaxation and reflection.

Students have settled back in well to the routines of school and I am looking forward to seeing them all in assemblies over the next fortnight where we will be both reflecting on last term and taking the opportunity to focus on the one ahead through our school value of ambition.

I know far too well from personal experience that New Year's resolutions often wane! What we strive to do with students is develop a culture whereby they frequently set small, achievable personal goals that collectively and throughout the year help them to achieve their ambitions and potential. I look forward to hearing about some of their goals and ambitions next week.

One of those goals for some students is of course the school show and we are really looking forward to coming together ready for Show Week, commencing Monday 5 February. Watch this space for 'Sister Act' ticket information coming soon.

Have a good weekend,

**Ms Jo Meloni**  
Headteacher

### Key Dates

Tuesday 16 January  
Thursday 18 January  
Thursday 18 January  
Thursday 1 February  
Friday 2 February  
Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February

GCSE Art Information Evening  
Year 10 Dance trip – Edward Scissorhands  
Sixth form Meet the Tutors and Information Eve – 5.30pm to 6.30pm  
Year 7 Consultation Evening – 4.00pm to 7.00pm  
Year 8 HPV Vaccinations  
Half Term Holiday

### Spring 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:

[Spring Term Timetable](#)

We are pleased to offer more after school curricular activities in Maths, they are shown below.

Monday - M04 Chess Club 2:50 - 3:45pm (all years)

Monday - M07 Homework support 2:50 - 3:45 (years 7 - 10)

Thursday - M07 Homework support 2:50 - 3:45 (year 7 - 10)

Thursday - M04 Maths Challenge Club (year 7 - 10 invite only)

Regards

**Mr T Hasler**

**Maths Department**

### Find it Out Thursday

This is a chance for students to explore different professions and learn from people that are in that industry.

Each week a different professional comes in to talk to students about the different aspects of their job, how they entered that industry, the skills and qualifications required and the different routes available to students thinking of joining that sector. Students have the opportunity to ask those in the know and get first-hand information.

Students are able to sign up for one talk each half term so please encourage them to sign up and take advantage of this opportunity.

Speakers for this half term are:-

Professional Chef - 11.01.24

RAF - 01.02.24

Paramedic - 08.02.24

Estate Agent - Date to be confirmed

Please use this [link](#) to sign up for the talks

**Mrs H Smith**

**Futures Leader**





## TEACHING COULD BE THE ANSWER!

Are you a relative or family friend just starting your career or thinking of making a career change?

Are you looking for a secure, rewarding, and life-giving profession?

Bosco Sussex Teacher Training are recruiting applicants to train in a range of primary and secondary subjects. Our event is designed for anyone who has a degree and is interested in teaching, it offers a great opportunity to get all your questions about teaching and teacher training answered. We are looking for recent graduates, career changers or those wanting to re-start their working career to share their knowledge, skills and experiences with young people in our communities.

- Talk to experts about how to get into teaching
- Find out about courses and entry requirements
- Meet others like you considering a career in teaching
- Find out about bursaries, scholarships and funding available for teacher training

Teaching remains a valuable and fulfilling profession. We are looking for those with the drive and resilience to really make a difference to young people's lives.

We will support you with high quality placements in primary and secondary schools in our partnership of over 30 schools across Sussex, which are recognised for excellent academic outcomes and secure prospects for employment.

**If this sounds appealing and is of interest to you?**

**We are holding an information event via Teams on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 between 6 and 7pm.**

Topic: Get into Teaching with Bosco Teacher Training –Graham Jones  
Time: January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 06:00 PM London

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 312 712 637 78  
Passcode: VHboJe

For general information about our offer and for an up to date list of places, please see our website <https://www.boscocet.org.uk/train-to-teach/>

*If you intend to attend the event, please contact **Theresa Cashman** at [tcashman@sphcs.co.uk](mailto:tcashman@sphcs.co.uk) so we can plan the event accordingly.*

## Spotlight on Digital Learning

### Online Gaming

#### Beyond the Buzz: Keeping Your Teen Gamer Safe in the Online Headset Jungle

Headphones strapped on, thumbs flying across controllers, our teens disappear into vibrant online worlds. While online gaming offers undeniable social and cognitive benefits, for parents, the headsets can feel like opaque barriers, leaving us with lingering questions: who are they talking to? What are they playing? And are they safe?



Fear not, fellow guardians! Let us shed some light on the potential dangers lurking in the virtual shadows and equip you with three actionable steps to protect your young adventurers.

#### Dangers in the Headset:

1. **Cyberbullying and harassment:** In the anonymity of online avatars, negativity thrives. Cruel taunts, exclusion, and even threats can leave lasting emotional scars.
2. **Inappropriate content:** From gory violence and sexualized themes to hate speech and gambling, some games blur the line between entertainment and harmful exposure.
3. **Predatory behaviour:** Online predators can exploit naiveté, manipulating teens for personal gain or worse.
4. **Excessive spending:** In-game purchases and loot boxes can quickly drain wallets, fostering unhealthy spending habits.
5. **Addiction:** The immersive nature of online games can become dangerously addictive, neglecting real-world responsibilities and relationships.

#### Top Online Games and Concerns:

1. **Fortnite:** Intense violence, cartoonish depictions of weapons, and in-app purchases fuel concerns.
2. **Grand Theft Auto:** Graphic violence, mature themes like drug use and prostitution, and open-world freedom raise alarms.
3. **Minecraft:** While seemingly harmless, online servers can expose users to cyberbullying and inappropriate content.
4. **Roblox:** User-generated content presents risks of encountering unsafe materials and interacting with strangers.
5. **PUBG Mobile:** Graphic violence, intense competition, and addictive gameplay pose potential dangers.

#### Three Actions for Safe Gaming:

1. **Talk openly and honestly:** Open communication is key. Discuss online safety, appropriate behaviour, and the types of games they play. Encourage open play without the headset to allow you to hear the conversations they are having.

2. Set boundaries and time limits: Establish clear rules on gaming duration, spending limits, and headset usage in shared spaces.
3. Stay informed and involved: Familiarise yourself with the games your teen plays. Check age ratings, reviews, and online communities to understand potential pitfalls.
4. Utilise parental control apps and platform settings to filter content, monitor activity, and limit screen time.

Remember, though, these tools are not fool proof and open communication remains crucial.

Let us empower our teens to game safely and reap the positive benefits of the online gaming world, together.

**Mr Vallally-Godfrey**  
**Online Safety Lead**

## Health and Wellbeing

In early December I had the pleasure of spending the day with 15 of our year 12s. I trained them in Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), the last time I trained our sixth form students was pre-Covid. It felt like a long time coming and it was really nice to be in a position to deliver this amazing course again. These 15 students are now skilled in being able to provide first aid and emergency assistance to members of our community who may be experiencing ill mental health. The students were engaged throughout and posed poignant questions and I found that I learnt a lot from what they shared too.

I have a long waiting list of sixth formers who want to complete this training and I am looking forward to the next cohort later this term.

**Mrs H Nibloe**



We were delighted to present some of our year 12 students with the Mental Health First Aid Certificates in the year 12 assembly today. These students worked hard with Mrs Nibloe for this important certificated qualification and are now well placed to support students in the all-important area of mental health. The sixth form team would like to thank Mrs Nibloe for facilitating this.

**Mrs H Valentine**  
**Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form**



### National Apprenticeship Week Thales Crawley Insight Event – 6 February 2024

Would you like to learn more about the Thales apprenticeships? If so, join us for the Crawley Insight Event on Tuesday 6 February.

The Crawley Thales UK Insight evening will give you the opportunity to learn about our different business areas and what our apprenticeship programmes can offer you. Come and meet some of our current apprentices and find out what it is really like to be an apprentice at Thales. Our Early Careers team will also be there to give you advice on the application process and assessment centres and answer any questions you may have.

This event is for anyone interested in an apprenticeship with Thales, either ready to apply now for our September 2024 intake, or for future years.

Entrance is by invitation only, and we are only able to accept ticket requests from a school email address.

The following time slots will be available:

- Session One 17.00 – 17.45
- Session Two 18.00 – 18.45
- Session Three 19.00 – 19.45

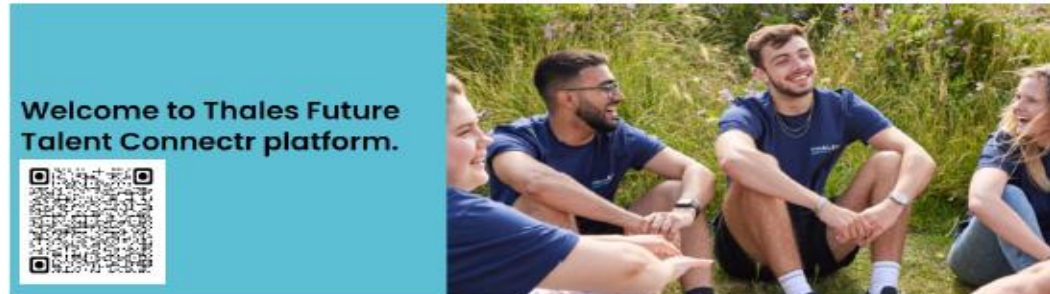
To register for tickets please follow the link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thales-crawley-national-apprenticeship-week-insight-event-6-february-2024-tickets-789076397747?aff=oddtcreator>

This event is by invitation only. Spaces are restricted so tickets will be issued on a first come first served basis. For any enquiries please contact [suppearlycar@uk.thalesgroup.com](mailto:suppearlycar@uk.thalesgroup.com)

Due to our strict security requirements, all attendees must be registered in advance, have photo id, only arrive during the designated time slot and only register for one slot. We will also be operating a no bags policy on the night.

We have a range of apprenticeship roles available, for more details and to apply, please follow the link [Thales Apprentice Roles 2024](#).

For more information about roles this year or future years, we have a graduate and apprentice future talent platform, where our future talent can engage with digital buddies and access information about Thales. Buddies will be able to offer insights on our roles, share information on what it's like to work at Thales and help develop their skills and knowledge on how to make a good application, as well as how to best perform at an assessment centre. To register scan the QR code



## Current Vacancies

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, or enquire by contacting the Headteacher's PA, Katie Dawson on [kdawson@sackvilleschool.org.uk](mailto:kdawson@sackvilleschool.org.uk)

- [Study Supervisor](#)
- [IT Technician](#)
- [Science Technician](#)
- [Cleaners](#)
- [Invigilators](#)
- [Community Pastoral Assistant](#)

## 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 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.

