

# Sackville News

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016



Dear Parents



We have now settled into the new year well and are very much looking forward to the **annual school production** which, this year, is “**Our House**”. Tickets are on sale in the LRC and it is sure to be a sell out so do buy early! The rehearsals are in full swing, the stage has been extended and the anticipation is building...

I often mention the importance of our **community links** and, on this note, it has been great to welcome **Joan Martin** and **Martin Langner** from **Chailey Heritage School** to receive a fund raising cheque of £1100 from Sackville.

They also delivered a very interesting assembly to sixth form students about how bespoke engineering projects are significantly helping students with severe needs at the school.



We are delighted that increasing numbers of our students are

undertaking placements at Chailey Heritage, contributing a great deal and at the same time gaining a very special experience.

I am sure that many parents will already be aware that our Head of Science, **Steve Bush**, has been awarded the **2016 Patrick Moore medal by the Royal Astronomical Society**. This is a magnificent national award and is very well deserved. The medal is awarded for a particularly noteworthy contribution to astronomy or geophysics by secondary school teachers. The society’s **citation** stated:

*“During his tenure **results have risen steadily in all areas of science**. Mr Bush has **transformed the school’s approach to space science and astronomy** and the school is now recognised as one of only a few in the UK as a **“Leader in Space Education”**. Students have been able to attend extracurricular classes that lead to the award of **GCSE Astronomy** for students of all abilities. Mr Bush captures their enthusiasm and work tirelessly to help them gain the qualification.*



*Sackville has also hosted a number of **“Star Gazing” live parties** as part of the BBC’s initiative, using the school’s **20-cm reflecting telescope**. This is housed in its own **observatory** situated in the school grounds. Each event was attended by over 300 visitors. This facility, instigated and developed by Mr Bush is also regularly used by **various community groups**. Local youth groups, schools and others have all have viewed the stars and planets from the Sackville Observatory under Mr Bush’s guidance. He also led a group of prize-winners on a trip to **Virgin’s spaceport** in New Mexico.”*

Needless to say, I am delighted for the school and particularly for Steve!

This week, many of our sixth formers have been on a **study trip to Hamburg and Berlin** and several have undertaken **work placements** there. I was very pleased to accompany the trip and enjoy rich experiences of German history, culture and business as well as extremely good company!

Our school links are strong and it was good to visit our **partner school** and celebrate **10 years** of working together so effectively. Seeing our students undertaking their placements first hand was fantastic and I am sure they will be eager to share their experiences after they return this weekend.



Our sixth formers will be sitting their pre-public exams shortly, so 'good luck' to everyone!

Best wishes,

Julian Grant  
Headteacher

## National performance tables for schools

On Thursday, the **full 2015 national performance tables for schools** were finally published by the government and, as anticipated from the early release of certain data, we are delighted to confirm that **Sackville has, indeed, done extremely well.**

The full tables enable us to see how we have performed **compared to all other non-selective secondary schools** and below are some additional highlights not previously shared. We are a **'top 10' school in West Sussex** in all key measures!

At the headline attainment figure of **% achieving at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths at a C+ grade** we are:-

- ✓ the **top school** within a **10 mile radius**;
- ✓ **5<sup>th</sup>** out of the **55 most similar schools nationally** in terms of ability of intake;
- ✓ **6<sup>th</sup>** within a **15 mile radius**.

In terms of **value added progress**, we are:-

- ✓ **2<sup>nd</sup>** within a **10 mile radius** for all students (0.8 behind the top);
- ✓ the **top school** within a **10 mile radius** for progress of students with **above average ability** on entry;
- ✓ the **top school** within a **10 mile radius** for progress of students with **average ability** on entry;
- ✓ **3<sup>rd</sup>** within a **10 mile radius** for progress of students with **less than average ability** on entry;
- ✓ **6<sup>th</sup>** within a **15 mile radius** for all students.



**Well done** to all students, parents, teachers and support staff who worked so hard to achieve this success.

# School Improvement - The journey from good to outstanding - Subject Reviews

Mr Hayden writes:-

## What are Subject Reviews?

They are an **evidenced-based approach** that enables Sackville School to answer the question "how do you know what the quality of teaching and learning within the school is like?"

The process involves **observations** by the Leadership Team which look at the quality of the teaching and learning across a series of lessons (usually across all the key stages) as well as looking at the **progress of the students in that class over a period of time**. It also considers the **learning environment** that has been established within that classroom looking at the **relationship between the teacher and the students** as well as the relationship between students themselves to promote learning.

The judgements made are based using **OFSTED criteria** but also take into account **exam reviews** (i.e. analysis of previous exam results against national outcomes), previous subject reviews and discussions with the **Student Voice** team thereby enabling the Leadership Team to identify holistic progress that a subject/department is making. It then provides a platform for discussion with curriculum team leaders about suggested actions to consider over the academic year/next observation cycle.

We are currently about to start a **6th form review** which will look specifically at the provision of teaching and learning for Key Stage 5.... Watch this space!

## Observatory news

Mr Bush writes:-



It was fantastic to welcome so many people to the observatory on Tuesday 19th January which was crystal clear although freezing cold, with ice in the floor and ceiling of the observatory by the end of the session.

The **moon** dominated the sky and over **60 students, parents and their families** came along to view its majestic craters, mountains and "seas". The brightness washed out other targets, but we were able to view a host of constellations and individual stars; **Betelgeuse** seemed the favourite!

Thanks to **Steve Pond, Pete Hill** and **Luke Panayi** who brought their own 'scopes along too, reducing queuing times. We are grateful to **Luke Holman** (year 8) and **Sandra Valdiande** for sending the stunning photos they took - hope you enjoy them.

Our next scheduled evening is on Wednesday 10th February.

Luke Holman (Year 8)



Sandra



## UFOs spotted over Sackville ...

Whilst our observatory users have busily been capturing breath-taking images of known celestial objects, our **year 7s** have been completing a creative writing unit in **English** themed around **unidentified flying objects** (UFOs). For **homework**, students in Mrs Carrick's class made **model UFOs** and a highly enjoyable lesson was spent creating photos of them over the school field using their phones. Luckily all had gone by the time of Mr Bush's observatory session.



## Year 8 students make patterns with computer code

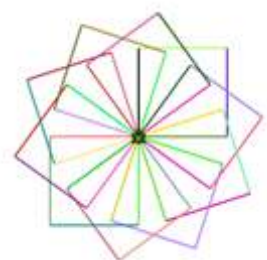


Meanwhile, **year 8 computing** students have recently been learning how to program using 'Small Basic'. This text-based language teaches students all the important fundamentals of coding. Students have used the 'turtle graphics' features of the program to draw shapes. Using this, students write commands controlling where the turtle moves on the screen.



Here you can see how they have used the key concept of **repetition** to make the computer execute lines of code a number of times. Below, Amy has used a '**nested loop**' (one loop inside another) to draw a four-sided shape ten times, turning 36° after each one.

```
Turtle.Speed = 3000
For w = 1 To 10
  For x = 1 To 4
    Turtle.Move(100)
    Turtle.Turn(90)
    GraphicsWindow.PenColor = GraphicsWindow.GetRandomColor()
  EndFor
  Turtle.Turn(36)
EndFor
```



Small Basic is free, and an excellent way to start coding. You can get it [here](#).

## AS Law and Politics trip to Westminster

Mrs Fleming writes:-

On the 15<sup>th</sup> December twenty **AS Law and Politics students** visited the **Houses of Parliament** for a tour and workshop on making laws.

The students were able to visit the House of Lords and other rooms in the Palace. They also took part in a **'passing laws'** workshop where they debated the motion **'all seventeen year olds should get free driving lessons'**.

The proposed bill was narrowly defeated by a margin of one in the group. The students then visited the **Supreme Court** where they received a tour of the court rooms and considered some of the important issues that had been recently heard by the Justices of the Supreme Court.

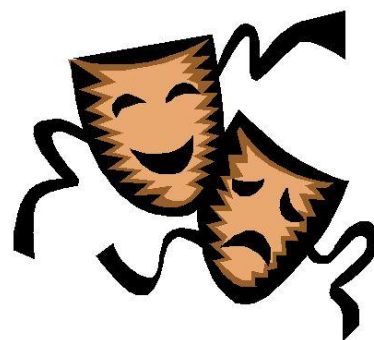


## Year 11 Performing Arts Showcase

Amber-Lily Curl (year 11) writes:-

Come along to the final opportunity to see our year 11s perform; it will be the last time you can see us. There will be lots of different numbers involving singing, dancing and acting and sometimes even all three!

This extravaganza is Wednesday 27th January in the main hall starting at 5.30pm. Tickets are an absolute bargain at £2 for adults and £1 for concessions. They are available on the door or from the Drama office in advance. We look forward to entertaining you one last time!



## Sports News

### Boys' results

Rugby					
U15	Sackville (Tries Oscar Arro 2, Jack Howcroft)	15	10	Imberhorne	
U15 County Cup	Sackville	5	40	Seaford College	
U13	Sackville B (Tries Jamie Waghorn, Tom Mooney)	10	5	Warden Park	
	Sackville (Tries Harvey Byatt 3, conversions James Young 2)	19	24	Dorothy Stringer	
U12	Sackville A	0	20	Warden Park	
	Sackville B (Try Ben Bartlett)	5	35	Warden Park	
Soccer					
U15	Sackville (Reece Donohoe)	1	6	Uckfield	
U14	Sackville	3	3	Oathall	
Hockey					
First XI	Sackville (Nick Martin, Lucas Day, Adam Farren)	3	5	Notre Dame	
U16	Sackville (Connor Dickson)	1	0	Hurstpierpoint	
	Sackville	0	5	Eastbourne College	
	Sackville	0	3	Buckswood	
	Sackville	2	1	Chichester High School for Boys	

	(Adam Farren, Josh Bryant)			
U14	Sackville	0	7	Ardingly
	Sackville (Matt Tomkinson 2, Adam Harris 2, Will Thomas, Kirk Foulds 2)	7	0	Notre Dame
<b>Basketball</b>				
U13	Sackville	19	51	Warden Park

## Girls reports

### U14 Girls Hockey Match vs Oathall

Miss Offler writes:-

Sackville's U14 girls team played a fiercely contested game against Oathall at the East Grinstead Hockey Club. In the first half Sackville's defence were pushed, with Lucy Rogers making some key saves. Oathall continued to try and battle though and managed to find the back of the net twice. Despite being 0-2 down, Sackville managed to keep Oathall at bay for the rest of the first half with the help of Hannah Green and Mimi Ward making some excellent clearances.

The second half saw Sackville start a lot more focused, attacking back at Oathall's defence as Bethan Healiss and Issy Bull made some fantastic runs up the pitch. Despite their efforts, Oathall managed to keep the ball out and broke away to slip two more goals past our defence. Sackville made significant improvements throughout the second half with a much stronger attacking mindset, which we will look forward to taking into our next match. Well done to all the girls that took part.

The team: Lucy Rogers, Mimi Ward, Lea Wellbelove, Hannah Green, Bethan Healiss, Jodie Southon, Abi Bramwell, Issy Bull, Jade Edgar, Lauren Mansi, Eleanor Canepa-Anson, Natasha Smyth.

Thank-you for all the donations at the **Carol Service** in December.  
Nearly £200 was raised for the **Teenage Cancer Trust**.

Please note the **LRC** closes at 3pm on Friday this term.

Don't forget the latest fantastic Sackville Production!



**SACKVILLE SCHOOL PRESENTS**

**OUR HOUSE**  
A LONDON LOVE STORY  
NW1  
Book by Tim Firth

**Music & Lyrics by MADNESS**



**WED 10TH FEBRUARY @6.30pm**  
**THU 11TH FEBRUARY @6.30pm**  
**FRI 12TH FEBRUARY @7.30pm**

**Main Hall, Sackville School**  
**Tickets available from the LRC**  
**Adults £8, Concessions £6**

Several Sackville students are also involved in this one.

**Bullfrog Productions**  
Proudly Present

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN  
**CHARLIE BROWN**



PERFORMANCES  
SATURDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2016  
AT 2PM & 6PM  
AT CHEQUER MEAD, EAST GRINSTEAD

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