



02 November 2023

Dear Families

Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term. I hope that you enjoyed a pleasant, albeit rather wet half term (that has kept on giving so far this week), and that our students have also had a well deserved rest.

We have a lot to look forward to this term and I have included some key dates at the bottom of this letter. Please note in particular a slightly later start on Friday 10 November 2023 for students. However students in year 12 taking their GCSE maths examination should still arrive at the usual time.

I am pleased to report that we have made two new appointments to our Senior Leadership Team this term. Mr James Collett, who joined us in September has been promoted to Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Teaching and Learning and brings with him a vast amount of senior leadership experience from previous schools. Mr Patrick Quigley will join us in January, also as Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for aspects of Teaching and Learning and our Personal Development curriculum. They are both looking forward to starting their roles and getting to know members of our Sackville community.

Consultation Evenings

As you know, since the Covid pandemic Sackville, like all other schools, moved all Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings online. These have taken place with some success and have a number of advantages over in person meetings at school. However, we have become increasingly aware that the system does have its drawbacks and we are missing some of the advantages that face to face discussions can bring. To that end, after having undertaken a review with staff and our families focus group, we have decided to trial a return to face to face appointments. For the current academic year, **Year 13, Year 11 and Year 7 Consultation evenings will be in person at school**. All other year groups appointments will remain using the online system for this academic year. We will review this again in the summer term in readiness for September 2024 onwards.

Culture for Learning

This week sees training time for staff focused on developments to our Culture for Learning policy. In particular, we will be having a focus on how we clarify our high expectations with students and how we can ensure greater consistency of expectations for them as they move throughout the school. Tomorrow you will receive a letter from Deputy Headteacher Mr Street, sharing with you some of this work and to give you a better understanding of how we put our Culture for Learning policy into practice. As with any of these things, it is important to note that the very vast majority of our students exhibit exemplary behaviour and, it is the rewards and recognition part of that policy that is most relevant to them.

Uniform

As the colder days start to draw in, can I please remind all families of the following uniform expectations:

- School jumpers - the only jumpers students are able to wear in school are their Sackville school jumpers. Any other jumpers or hoodies worn in school will be confiscated until the end of the day. Coats are not a replacement for a school jumper. Jumpers are an essential part of our school uniform so if your child has grown out of theirs please arrange for a new one to be purchased or contact your Community Team if your child may have difficulty getting one in the short term.

- Leggings - These are not part of our school uniform and should not be worn. Students should either wear a skirt with black tights, or school trousers.
- Skirts - These should be a reasonable length.

Finally, thank you for your cooperation with the slightly later start this morning. Staff and students were able to make it in safely and we will be asking everyone to head straight home as soon as they can at the end of the day as more wind and rain is forecasted this afternoon.

We will be open at the usual time tomorrow, Friday 3 November 2023.

Yours sincerely



Jo Meloni
Headteacher

Key dates this half term:

Monday 6 November - Year 11 mock examinations begin
 Thursday 9 November - Sixth Form Opening Evening 5.30pm-7.30pm
 Friday 10 November - Late start. Students should arrive by 09.20am (except year 12 GCSE maths exam students)
 Thursday 16 November - Year 13 Consultation Evening (in person)
 Thursday 23 November - Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening (in person)
 Wednesday 29 November - Winter Concert 6.00pm start
 Thursday 30 November - Year 11 Consultation Evening (in person)
 Tuesday 5 December - Gymnastics and Dance display 6.00pm start
 Thursday 7 December - Year 8 Consultation Evening (online)
 Monday 11 December - Year 13 A Level Art/Photography mock examination week
 Wednesday 13 December - Christmas Carol Service
 Friday 15 December - Last day of term and early finish at 12:30pm
 FESTIVE HOLIDAY
 Tuesday 2 January - School closed for INSET Day
 Wednesday 3 January - All students return to school