

Sackville News

16th April 2015



Dear Parents



In this special issue of Sackville News, I am pleased to inform you that our recent Ofsted inspection report is now published and available to read [here](#):-

If you would like a printed copy they are available at Reception.

I am sure that you will be as delighted as I am to see that Sackville is now confirmed as a 'Good' school and there is no doubt that the report reads very well. We were described as "**well on the way to outstanding**" by the Lead Inspector which was wonderful to hear, and this is reflected in the report by the statement that, "**The school's capacity to improve further is secure**".

You will probably be aware that the criteria for achieving a 'Good' Ofsted judgement is considerably more challenging than it used to be, so gaining this within two years of the last inspection is no mean feat and a great tribute to all in the Sackville community.

The school was judged 'Good' in **all five key areas**:-

- Leadership and management;
- Behaviour and safety of pupils;
- Quality of teaching;
- Achievement of pupils;
- Sixth form provision.

In short, the report commends the school for high morale, excellent relationships and its swift and decisive improvements since the last inspection, noting the successful addressing of the action areas. The **teaching staff** were praised for their consistently strong quality of classroom delivery, their enthusiasm, their good understanding of student needs, their effective, thorough marking and feedback and their subject expertise.

The **students**, once again, demonstrated their excellent, polite behaviour:-

"Students behave well, are polite and welcoming and proud of their school. They enjoy learning. In the great majority of lessons, students' behaviour is exemplary and they work very sensibly in pairs or groups and study hard. Students' learning is often outstanding because teachers know them well and challenge them at just the right level."

I am very pleased that the competency and essential contribution of our **support staff** were specifically recognised. Our **Governors** were seen as having developed rapidly into a strong body which is dedicated to the school and holds its leadership effectively to account.

As expected, our improved **examination results** were singled out as of great importance, with our position in the top third of schools nationally for student progress highlighted at the start of the report.

Strong communication was a feature of the report, with the website seen as informative and clear and Sackville News referred to as a lively newsletter!

Whilst all of this is extremely positive, we recognise the areas identified for our next stage of improvement. What is pleasing is that our own self-evaluation had already identified these areas for development; the inspection team saw this as particularly significant.

To summarise, these areas are:

- narrowing the gap further between the progress of disadvantaged students and others
- focusing on a consistent delivery of numeracy across all subjects, to match the effective work done on literacy
- ensuring that the provision and outcomes for students who are retaking English and maths GCSE in the sixth form is sufficiently strong
- ensuring that the correction of spelling, punctuation and grammar is meticulous throughout the school
- building further on the successful current personal, social, health and citizenship programme in the senior years of the school by looking at more opportunities for provision

We will be incorporating these points into our new improvement plan. By any standards, they reveal that Sackville was not far from an outstanding judgement.

I am sure that parents will already have seen the positive results of your responses on the 'Parent View' online survey which took place during the inspection. We were obviously very heartened by this as well as by the many encouraging emails that we received at the time.

We should rightly celebrate this report and, of course, focus with confidence on the many students shortly sitting examinations this term. I am hugely grateful for the support I have been given since joining Sackville as headteacher; when I was appointed I knew that it was a privilege and in many ways I feel that even more so now.

This report is an achievement by the whole community, so well done to you all!

With best wishes

Julian Grant



Students celebrate with copies of the report this morning

As editor of Sackville News I would not be able to let this edition go to print without adding something further to what Julian Grant has written above.

None of the changes which are making Sackville such a good school for all of our children would have happened without his leadership. This is not a pitch for a pay-rise; both parental and staff surveys showed levels of support for the Headteacher which the lead inspector described as 'highly unusual'.

We have great support staff and teaching staff at Sackville and it is indeed a privilege to work here. But it is also right that you know the view of the inspection team of the person at the top.

Adrian de Souza