

Sackville News



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24th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I mentioned in the video message last week that over the Easter holiday we received the very sad news that James McMillan had passed away.

James joined Sackville as a teacher of computer science in September 2013. His calm unflappable presence and his subject knowledge were key to his many students achieving success. James always made himself available outside lessons, and most evenings there were students in his room improving their skills in one of the several programming languages in which he was fluent.

James also got involved in the extra-curricular life of the school, most memorably on World Challenge trips. This picture, from 2017, shows James on the right during the trip to China, Vietnam and Laos. Throughout his illness, James displayed remarkable dignity and bravery, and even at the very end was able to share jokes with his visitors.

James will be missed by us all, and our thoughts are with his partner and family at this time.



We heard this week that **Mrs Margaret Joslin** reached the end of her long and distinguished life in March. Mrs Joslin was the widow of former Sackville Headteacher Bernard Joslin. Those of you who have attended events such as our school shows and EGGSFest may have noticed Mrs Joslin right at the front thoroughly enjoying the student performances. Recently at EGGSFest she has climbed onto the stage to present the **Bernard Joslin Award for Services to Music at Sackville**. She is pictured here giving the award to **Tia Bartlett** in 2018.

Mrs Joslin's enthusiasm and love for our community will not be forgotten.

I am delighted that the **school's strong exam performance** has once again been recognised by the **SSAT** (the school, students and teachers network). We have achieved **five such awards since 2015** which is really marvellous. It is once again testament to the hard work of the students and teachers, and the excellent support from parents and carers.

Sackville School is one of the highest performers in England, winning national award

Sackville School has been recognised nationally by receiving a prestigious award for their outstanding key stage 4 results last year. The award is based on 2019 data provided by the Department for Education and Ofsted, and for the school's commitment to collaboration, analysed by SSAT, the Schools, Students and Teachers network.

Sackville School was found to be among the best performing non-selective secondary schools in the country, receiving an award for being in DfE Band 2 for student progress at key stage 4.

The SSAT Educational Outcomes database compares all state-funded schools in England and the highest performing schools in a range of key measures are awarded SSAT Educational Outcomes Awards.

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said:

"Congratulations to Sackville School on winning an SSAT Educational Outcomes award. This success is down to the superb learning and teaching, outstanding support and inspirational leadership of students, staff, parents and governors. You have made a huge difference to the lives of the young people in your school. Thank you."



Our previous strong performances also provide a reliable foundation for the **current grading exercise we are undertaking for years 11 to 13**. You may be aware that as an examination centre we have to produce **suggested grades for all of our students** based on how we think they would have performed had the exam season gone ahead this summer. We also have to place students in **rank order**. This vital work is going on now, and will be subject to a rigorous checking exercise before I sign off the grade files and send them to exam boards.

We are also performing this process for the **year 10 religious studies (BV) exam**, as it looks like the

current thinking is to allow these students to receive grades this summer in the same way as year 11s.

We are now at the end of the first week back after Easter and I know students are hard at work engaging with the remote learning being set by our staff. **Tutors** are also starting to call home to see how the students are doing, and are focussing at first on those who are in danger of falling behind with their learning.

Our usual monitoring grades are currently suspended, but we are replacing them with a new **remote learning monitoring schedule**. Students' engagement with remote learning and the quality of their submitted work will be monitored, and grade sheets will be emailed to parents and carers. We begin collecting data for years 10 and 12 next week, and they will be issued on Monday 4th May.

In the current circumstances we have decided to follow advice and **cancel Curriculum Enhancement Week** this year, with bookings **moved forward to next year**. We will write giving more details on this later.

The current uncertainties also mean we are reviewing the arrangements for the **transition of year 6 students to Sackville**. We are keen to try to make the move from primary school as smooth as possible for these students but will have to work within whatever constraints there are at the time.

Thank you once again to **Mrs Pope, her son Joss, Mr Martin and Mr Treen** for coming in on the day our plastic order arrived in order to make **face visors for the**



Queen Victoria Hospital in town. **'Together we achieve'** on the grandest scale! They are now also going to be making equipment for **Care Outlook** on Monday of next week. **All of this was featured on BBC Radio Sussex on Sunday 19th April** – do listen to [Mr Treen's interview](#).

Finally, as we might expect discussion is beginning in the media about the reopening of schools. Please rest assured that as soon as the government reaches any decision on this, we will inform you of how this impacts Sackville straight away.

Thank-you once again for all of your support and do stay safe and healthy.

Julian Grant
Headteacher

Free School Meals

The government is continuing to provide lunch vouchers for students who are eligible for **free school meals**. If you feel you may be eligible for free meals, you can still make an application through the [West Sussex website](#).

School trips

In the current uncertain situation, we are looking closely at all forthcoming trips. This involves extensive discussion with operators and sometimes insurance companies.

We will contact those involved particular trips as decisions are made throughout this term.

The 2.6 Challenge

We have been alerted to this by **Young Epilepsy**. This challenge has been organised by a group of charities affected by the coronavirus.

People of all ages are taking on The 2.6 Challenge with a host of activities – from walking, running or cycling 2.6 miles, juggling for 2.6 minutes, or holding online workouts with 26 friends. The ideas and options are endless!

The only requirement is that you must follow Government guidelines on exercise and social distancing.

Young Epilepsy would ask you to take the following five steps if you want to take part.

1. Dream up your 2.6 challenge
2. Head to twopointsixchallenge.co.uk and select either 'donate now' – to donate £2.60, £26 or whatever you can afford, or 'fundraise now' to set up your own fundraising page to get sponsored for your challenge.
3. Ask all of your friends and family to sponsor you
4. Complete your challenge
5. Share a photo or video of your challenge on social media tagging us @YoungEpilepsy and using the hashtag #TwoPointSixChallenge





DID YOU KNOW?



Our train tracks and overhead line are **NEVER SWITCHED OFF.**



The stopping distance of a train with the emergency brakes on is the length of **20 Premier League football pitches** 2000 metres.



Throwing items at trains or placing objects on track the maximum sentence given can be **life in prison.**



No one is authorised to cross a level crossing on a red light **not even the emergency services.**



A average train weighs over **400 tons** which is equal to **80 large elephants.**



If you trespass on the railway and get caught the maximum fine is **£1000.**



In England and Wales you are criminally responsible and could be **imprisoned from the age of 10.**



Yellow line on a platform is to **warn you** that trains can pass at high speed and create air turbulence - **never cross the yellow line** until your train has come into the station and stopped.

When at a train station or travelling on trains always be aware of your surroundings