



Friday 16 December 2022

Dear Families

I would like to welcome everyone to our end of term Sackville News in which you will find many examples of the amazing opportunities given to our students. We show samples of students' classwork, clubs, competitions, and charity work. One thing I love about our school is that there is always so much going on for students to get involved in and those who get do, get so much out of it.

There is an exciting item below that shows how we have been working with our student voice group to help in the development of our new rewards and recognition policy. More on this in the new year but I think involving students in projects such as this is really important, and we look forward to rolling it out more widely next term.

There is some wonderful work from our Year 7 Poet visit, our budding chefs and chemists who competed incredibly well against local independent schools. We have also had debating success, amazing musical performances not to mention the brilliant sporting opportunities.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter, perhaps over a mince pie or two as you prepare for what we hope is a happy, healthy and joyous festive break.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back Tuesday 3 January.

Buon Natale tutti

Jo Meloni

Staff Farewells

I know you will join us in wishing a fond farewell to the following colleagues who are moving on to pastures new.

- Josh Belcher Business Studies Teacher
- Jenny Boyd English Intervention
- Jane Hodgkiss Curriculum Team Leader Drama
- Karen Lindsay 1:1 Teacher
- Babs Walker Learning Support Assistant
- Josh Watson PE Teacher and Deputy Head Sixth Form

We thank them all for the dedication they have given to our school and our students and wish them well in their new ventures.

Jo Meloni



Student Voice

Student Voice meetings were held this half-term to get the views of our young people about the new **Rewards & Recognition policy**, which is based around our school values.

Different key stage meetings were held and we were ably supported in both meetings by our year 13 Student Leaders. There were some great suggestions from students about what we should be looking to recognise across the school, as well as potential rewards that they would value. There are lots of ideas that we can take away and hopefully make a real difference with.



Ex-Sackville art student Gabi Straszynski



Over the half term, ex Sackville art student **Gabi** won second prize in the schools category at the annual Lingfield Art Show. The exhibition was on over half term at the Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre where work was displayed by artists of all ages (including Dame Judi Dench). This included students from Oxted School and Sackville. We also had a painting by **Alannah** and photography work by **Eleanor** on display. We are planning to continue entering work every year.

Year 7 Student Reviews and Poems from the recent Poet Workshop

Review and Poem by Alice:

On Tuesday 18 October Form 7KPY walked to the Drama/PE Block. Once all of the forms that were having him that day were inside he introduced himself as Mark Grist.



Mark told us that he was a poet, rapper and a battle rapper. A battle rapper is someone who is a rapper who goes into a battle with the other person and they have to see which rap is better.

Once he had explained to us what he does, he read out a rap and we had to see how many games there were in the rap. It was a mini-competition. The group in the corner won and they got to pick if we heard a pain and suffering poem or a happy poem they picked a pain and suffering poem. Mark read out a poem about when he was a child and he had a bad habit. He would drink the stuff out of condiment bottles.

When it was period 5, we had our workshop. At first, we asked loads and loads of questions. Next, he read us a poem called: A-Z of Coronavirus.

After that, we got a turn of writing out our own poems. We had to think of 12 things and put them into columns 3, which were either a source of:

- Love
- Frustration or
- Memorable moments

After putting our ideas into the columns we had a go at making our own poems with some of us trying to use rhyme. I did a rhyming poem about how I hate the colour pink. We didn't get to finish it in time, but we got to finish it the next day, in class. Overall, I loved having Mark Grist coming in. He was really fun and amazing. Hopefully the year 7s will get to experience it next year.

I HATE THE COLOUR PINK!!

I hate the colour PINK!
It's the colour of the bathroom sink

I hate the colour PINK!
It's all around me
I'm swirling around
I try to blink
But it gets brighter



The walls give me a wink
I'm shocked
I think they are trying to give me a hint

I hate the colour PINK!

My mum brought me a pen and PINK!
I hate the colour PINK!
I came home from school
And my mum had dyed my dog PINK!
She gives me a lick
My blood turns a hot PINK!

Review and Poem by Leah:

On Tuesday the 18 October, a poet named Mark Grist came into school to show us all about what he does. Mark Grist raps and creates poems. In P01 at the start of the day he did an assembly. In the 5 period we went to D05 so he could talk to us as a form.

The assembly was very good. He shared a few raps and poems with us and one was about something that he did when he was younger. He told us about him and what he used to do.



When we did the workshop we got to ask him any questions and we got to listen to some more of his poems. One of the poems was about Covid from letters A to Z.

Once he shared some things about him with us, we got on with planning our poems about either something we love, or something that frustrates us or one of our memories. This is my poem:

MY DOG

My dog is amazing,
She is cuter than ever,
And kind whenever,
She can be as quiet as a mouse,
But sometimes as loud as a lion,
She is never unfriendly,
So she is always friendly,
She loves everyone she sees,
She's as loving as can be.



Review and Poem by Maria:

Mark Grist is an ex-English teacher from Peterborough in East Anglia but now he is a poet/rapper. He came to our school for 2 days to teach us how to rap and become a poet.

The morning before the workshop he came and did an assembly with us about himself. He told us a rap/poem about how when he was 7 he drank vinegar and the forbidden mouthwash and ended putting bleach in it!



After lunch we went to D05 where Mark was waiting for us. After we all sat down

Ms Wernham handed us a piece of lined paper each as Mark explained that during the workshop if we got any ideas for a rap or poem to write it down.

Then the actual workshop started and Mark asked us if we wanted a poem or a rap - we chose rap - then Mark said: 'Do you want it about lovely things or about pain and suffering?' We chose pain and suffering!

So he told us about a little childhood memory about his Grandad. He then starts a rap from A to Z about Lockdown, after he did all that he told us that we were going to write of our own poems.

My favourite part from all of it was that Mark let me write a poem about shoes!

Shoes

Shoes, I love shoes.
They can be red, they can be blue.
They can even belong in a Zoo.
Don't worry, I won't bite,
Just give me shoes,
And we will be alright!
I love shoes, what a wonderful thing,
They're one in a zillion,
And hey that's coming from me.



I love shoes
Shoes galore; like 123 and ABC,
I love shoes as you can see,
Red, orange, blue and green,
Are amazing - can't you see?
I love shoes can you blame me?
I'll take any shoes from,
Irregular to regular,
From Adidas to Nike,
From Vans to Converse,
Well, if you haven't noticed yet,
I love shoes that's all bye.

Poem by Jennifer

I wake up every day and for one thing only,

We're hurting our friend earth and staying in buildings that are so homely.

We don't realise the darkness that lurks outside,

Those shadows will jump out and will no longer hide.

We're bait in a cage of greenhouse gases,

Waiting to die in tragic masses.

So please help the world, it needs its changes,

Or we'll all be burning rages.

The Members of Parliament are definitely going nowhere,

We must strike out, so politics beware!

We must reach out for the bright stars,

Or soon we'll be living on Mars.

Look up in the air, it's full of pollution,



So now it's time for a new revolution.

Strike, strike and strike again,
So ecosystems' energy will regain.
I write this to reach out to others,
And ones that are Earth lovers.
We don't know about the dangerous danger,
And it seems like Earth is a stranger.
Every night I can hear the world cry,
So saving the world is my only why.
Thank you, thank you for reading my story,
Hope you don't think it was too gory.

Sci-Fi Poem by Kelsey:

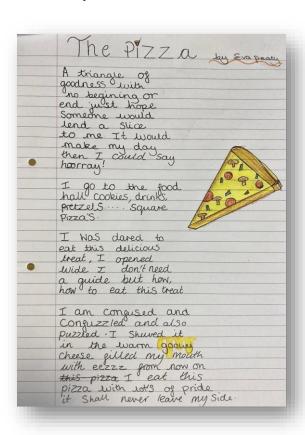
Star Wars is confusing, Luke really kissed his sister, Then she hopped away with His best friend, as her mister!

"I am your father," he boomed, with a cough, Luke could not believe this, his hand...cut off.

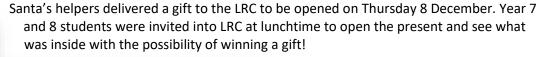
Poem about Family by Joe:

The God in my house, my Mum.
The Gorilla she is sometimes,
My brother is the son of a Demon,
The framer of the Pepsi can,
The writer of the Wall of Names,
And somehow my life was never the same,
The mattress, the cover,
But me and my brother,
Are as bad as each other.

The Pizza by Eva:



Report from the LRC by Mrs Tracy Rose





There were other activities including pin the nose on Rudolph and colouring in a Christmas card. A Word Search competition was also drawn on the day, which had run all week., so there was much excitement. Over 50 students attended the event and 27 prizes were given out to the lucky ticket holders, drawn at random, who helped open the

present. **Olivia** in year 7 won first prize of the teddy bear for the word search competition. And everyone left with a chocolate!

On Friday we were lucky enough to have Mr Roberts come to the LRC to do some Christmas readings. Again year 7 and 8 students were invited to this and allowed to eat their lunch while listening to Mr Roberts witty ditties! This has become a traditional Christmas event and enjoyed by all who listen.

Have a restful Christmas break and a happy new year.

Year 9 STEM Competition

On 17 November year 9 students took part in the Engineering Tomorrow competition, with schools across the South East of England and the USA taking part.

Students were set a challenge by NASA Engineer Betsy Fortman, on the principles of engineering and a design and make challenge, designing a bridge with minimal materials, whilst also looking aesthetically pleasing. Students then began creating designs and then building their bridge using kits provided by Gatwick Airport. Our students were

incredibly passionate and dedicated to working in small groups to show off their creativity and making skills. The whole event finished off with our students testing their bridges by placing a load onto it. The



pictures below show how successful they were. During this time students, via the live link, explained their designs to Betsy and other engineers and were commended on the designs and the load they were able to hold!

Chemistry Competition - Top of the Bench

On 7 December, Sackville took a team to the Top of the Bench competition, held at Woldingham School. This is an annual chemistry competition for KS4 students to show off their chemistry knowledge. They each perform a practical task and then complete a multiple choice test and we compete against other local schools (these are mostly private schools).

This year our team consisted of Joseph, Emilie (both year 9), Lilian (Year 10) and Aadi (Year 11).

On the day we came sixth (2 points behind joint third). The team competed fantastically, with all 4 of them contributing to our final score. They represented the school fantastically and should be very proud of their performance.







Year 10 Rotary Young Chef

The first round of the annual Rotary Young Chef competition took place on Thursday 24 November. Eight students in year 10 from Sackville and Imberhorne competed to produce a two course meal for two people for £15.00. The ingredients had to be healthy and seasonal where possible and presented well.

Students had 90 minutes to make the food before it was judged by professional chefs on a range of criteria including range of skills and flavour. Students taking part from Sackville included **Darcy, Xander, Melissa and Pippa**. All students worked extremely hard and produced some very impressive work. The winners were both from Imberhorne and went through to the next round. Well done! All your dishes were delicious!





Summer vegetable rose tart, hasselback potatoes, strawberry cheesecake.

by Melissa

Bruschetta, homemade pasta with pancetta and mushrooms.

by Xander









Bruschetta, pork meatballs and tomato sauce. **by Pippa**

Aroncini filled with mozzarella and pomegranate reduction, gnocchi with blue cheese and basil. **by Darcy**



Senior Girls' Swim Squad

Congratulations to our senior girls' swim squad, they absolutely smashed it at the national schools' finals at the London aquatic centre. They qualified in 13th place, becoming Sussex champions! They then placed 10th in the heats and went on to finish 8th in the finals. Improving their times in every race, even from short course to long course, to become the top state school in the country for the 50m freestyle. Proud is an understatement. Well done to **Abbey, Rachel, Lillie & Chloe.**



Year 7 Boys and Girls Cross Country Runners

We finally had confirmation that our Year 7 boys cross country runners, from their race at The Weald, are Mid Sussex champions **Y** and the Year 7 girls also finished in 2nd place!!





Superb running from our Year 7's, Well done to all involved.

Pilates and Karate for the Year 11 Girls

Thank you to Lauren and Jacey Cashman who led taster sessions for Pilates and Karate for the year 11 girls.

<u>The Spirit, Mind and Body studio</u> is in the high street in East Grinstead. The girls enjoyed the challenge of testing their core strength and balance. A great way to de-stress. Check out the website and give it a go!

Water Polo Success for James!



Congratulations to **James** for his part in a recent water polo tournament where Sussex came second overall, having beaten Surrey 11-1 in their last game!

U14 Netball Squad

Mrs Richards took the U14 netball squad to their final league matches. They played some excellent netball resulting in a win against St Paul's 9-4, a close loss to Oathall 6-9 and then a final win against Millais 6-2. This was the last of their league matches making it a total of 4 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss. Now just to wait for the other results to find out our final league position. PoM Gigi (G1), Rachel (G2) & Chloe (G3).



U16 Boys Hockey Squad



Mr Currie took the U16 Boys Hockey squad to EGSC to play Oathall and they won 4-1 . First half was dominated with great movement from **Dylan** at centre forward as he created chances to score for **Matty** and a hatrick for **Freddie**. Second half saw Oathall come back in the game but **Darragh** snuffed out most of their attacks. Special mention to **Ethan** and **Archie** who played superbly! Man of the Match went to Freddie. Well done lads!

U13 Rugby Squad

Mr Beaver took the U13 rugby squad to Worth to play in a tough match, in very slippery conditions. Unfortunately, they came away with a 35-10 defeat despite dominating possession for long periods. 2 tries from Bailey and Man of the Match went to **Declan** for his superb leadership qualities. Well done lads



U12 Football League Fixture



Mr Watson welcomed St Paul's to play an U12 football league fixture. Despite the freezing conditions, and only having 8 girls available due to illness, they went on to win 5-3. The girls battled hard to come back from 0-2 to clinch the victory! Goals from **Stevie**, **Mya and Niamh**. Player of the Match went to **Connie** for never giving up! Well done girls another win in the bag.

Jumping into the Grassroots Championships

Ruby and Scarlett competed in the first schools' competition for Sackville!! There were 40-45 competitors per class - Ruby was 3rd and Scarlett 6th in the individuals with both of them Qualifying for Grassroots championships. Then they took on the jumping pairs and won!!

The pair of them were absolutely BRILLIANT!! Well done girls



To keep up to date on all we have been up to, please follow us on Instagram page @sackvillepeandsport.

Kind regards, PE Department

Sixth Form Information Evening

We held a very successful sixth form information evening on the 8 November. The hall was full for both of the



presentations. Ms Meloni, Mrs Valentine, Mr Watson and Mr Cowlin were joined by **Leo and Hannah**, two of our fantastic year 13 students, to give important information and details about enrolling into the sixth form in September 2023.

Our current year 11 parents and students, along with prospective parents and students from other



schools, had the opportunity to visit the various subject areas and talk to subject teachers about studying A level and vocational subjects at level 3.

To see all the subjects we offer in the sixth form please visit our online prospectus HERE.

Year 13 Law

Year 13 Law students took part in a seminar with Dr Matthew Stubbins, Head of Law at Canterbury Christchurch University this week where they considered the current winter for discontent, increase in strikes and how this links to current legal issues. The session aims were to inform prospective law degree students about the links between contemporary issues in Law and Society. The students really enjoyed taking part in a university style tutorial and gaining more insight into how universities work.



Sixth Form Student Delivers an Assembly Masterclass!



Year 12 was treated to a great assembly prepared and delivered by one of our year 13 students, **Lao**. Following on from Black History Month, Lao taught us not only about the American civil rights activist and the original Black Panther, Fred Hampton, but also gave students and teachers alike an absolute masterclass in public speaking. Thank you Lao!

Year 12 Students meet David Dein MBE



We were thrilled to host David Dein MBE when he came to speak to our year 12 students. David is the former Vice Chairman of both Arsenal Football Club and

the Football Association and was the driving force behind the creation of the FA Premier League in 1992.

He delivered an inspiring talk to the students with energy and humour. His positivity and enthusiasm kept the attention of all the students (even those who don't particularly like football!), and he gave them some great advice about how to be successful, make a good impression and take advantage of every opportunity.



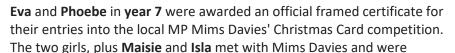
According to the students, the greatest take away from David was the Motto of the Turtle: you won't get anywhere if you don't stick your neck out!

Thank you David for a fantastic and memorable morning.

Art

The new Art Mural is coming along very nicely. Our **year 7 and 8 art club** students have been doing a fantastic job on Monday's after school in art club. The year 13 art scholars are planning to do the finishing touches in the New Year before they move on to planning a mural for The Bistro in the sixth form centre.





congratulated on their fantastic efforts and creative ability. The four students were also awarded a prize from the art department to ensure they continue to engage in the subject and future competitions. Well done to them all. Don't forget to enter next year for a chance of winning and having your card professionally printed and sent out!











Trip to Pinewood Studios

In a galaxy far, far away...Sackville's Film students spent Friday 18 November visiting the home of British film making, Pinewood Studios. Wha? Huh? You may ask, well it's where they've shot every Bond film since 1962, it's the home to the Star Wars productions, the Carry On series, was where they shot Mary Poppins Returns, Black Widow, The Red Shoes, and my fifth favourite film of all time: the 1982 SAS thriller, Who Dares Wins and so many more. It's also home to the world's largest sound stage (the famous 007 Albert R. Broccoli stage). Kenneth Branagh is currently shooting the new Poirot film there, and has been the centre of British film production since 1936...so it's a big deal.

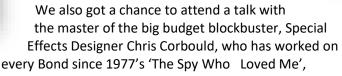


Friday's event was a Future's Festival aimed at showcasing the many and varied career paths open to students interested in working in the film industry – from logistics to make-up and from production design to shooting and editing.

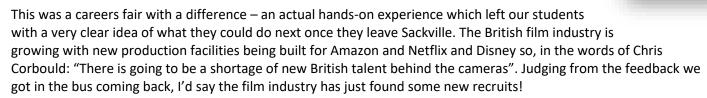




All the big companies were there: Disney,
LucasFilm, Industrial Light & Magic alongside
smaller production companies like Canyon
Media and our students had the opportunity to
rub shoulders with industry professionals, got to
play around with cameras, dolly's, jibs,
green screen and much more besides while
at the same time meeting a vast array of
Stormtroopers, Tie-fighter pilots,
Chewbacca and even the Evil Emperor (I
held a door open for him and he said thank
you. You can kind of forgive an evil Sith
Lord for destroying Alderaan if they have
good manners!)



Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy, 'Inception' and more besides.



Mr Graeme Scarfe, Curriculum Leader of Film & Digital Media (and Bond geek!)











Sackville Sixth Form updates by Helen Valentine

So – where do I begin with our busy sixth form life this half term? The second half of the autumn term was launched with one of our big events of the academic year - our **year 11 into 12 open evening**. Mr Watson and I were delighted to address a packed hall of parents and students, all keen to know what Sackville Sixth Form has to offer. We are delighted that so many of our current yr11 have applied for a place in our sixth form and look forward to welcoming them next September.



We enjoyed our 'Meet the Tutor' information evening for year 12 - again a packed hall and many thanks to

those who attended. Parents and students were treated to presentations by myself, Mr Dupoy, Mr Batsford and Mr Coomber and then had the opportunity to mingle and meet individual form tutors. For information on what was covered, please click HERE.



In bitterly cold weather, some year 12 students worked with Mr Watson and Mr de Souza and East Grinstead Rotary Club collecting in Stuart Way on Santa's Sleigh. They went in full Christmas attire with Mr Watson dressing up as Santa! A grand total of £436.00 was collected.

I would like to thank the **student leadership body** for both their time and expertise. Leo, Hannah, Armina, Stalla and **Anna** have all impressed with their commitment to public service both within the school community and in the wider community. Many of you will have seen Anna and Leo at the East Grinstead Remembrance day parade and laying of the wreath. Suzie and Armina contributed to the 11th November Remembrance events in school by leading the school in reading. The student leadership team were once again in action at the carol service at St Swithuns on Thursday evening this week. The Winter Concert saw year 12 students take on their first taste of student leadership with Lola, Tallulah, Sophia, Elodie and Lillie welcoming and looking after guests, as well as doing a fantastic job with their collecting tins - we look forward to their front of house services at next term's show.



Mr Watson has been busy **training student mentors** - it is important to us to ensure we offer peer support to our students and our older students are in a fantastic position to offer this help.

There have also been some great **individual achievements** - congratulations to **Abbey, Rachel, Lillie and Chloe** on their swimming competition success, finishing 8th in the National Schools finals to become the top state school in the country for the 50m freestyle. Also to our **Oxbridge applicants** on lodging applications to gain interviews and to all our individual university applicants. The offers are rolling in from a wide range of universities for a wide range of subjects. To date we have secured offers from Bristol, Birmingham, York, Southampton, Sheffield, Loughborough, Nottingham to name but a few.



Finally - last but by no means least - I would like to **thank Mr Watson** who leaves us to take up another position in a different school - it has been an absolute pleasure to work with Mr Watson in the sixth form for the past few years; he has always, unquestionably, had the students interest at heart and always acts in their best interest. Some of us have known Mr Watson considerably longer than this though, with staff members having taught him as an 11 year old at Sackville - one member of the sixth form team even taught him in year 6 at Estcots! Thank you for all your work.

The Carol Service

The Carol Service was a festive splendour of delight. Elsie sang the first verse of Once in Royal David's City beautifully followed by several performances from our Sackville musicians. A special well done to **Elsie**, **Erin**, **Raff**, **Penny**, **Matthew and Maud** for performing their individual items. Also a thoroughly deserved well done to the choir for their perfect renditions of Angels Among Us and Oh Holy Night led by **Anna**.

A collection of £230.36 was also raised and will be donated to the Chailey Heritage Foundation.

Merry Christmas everyone.

Mr Tom Heatley, Curriculum Team Leader of Music







A Christmas Message

Well, here we are again at the end of another Autumn term, looking forward to the holidays and looking forward to Christmas. Once more it is my privilege to say a few words about the reason for the season.

This time of year is the season of Good Tidings, not just good news but when we wish each other well, with tidings of comfort and joy, as we wish each other a Merry or Happy Christmas.

For just a moment, I want to explore what it means in our hearts as we offer that greeting?

Most of us will have those things we always like to do at this time, our Christmas Traditions. My traditions include watching Love Actually and at least one version of A Christmas Carol; I have already seen Love Actually, so one ticked off.

Love Actually features a pop singer singing "Christmas is all around us".

Christmas has been all around us for weeks already and, for sure, it must all be about something because despite the Football World Cup, we see it in in the shops, on the TV and Radio, and everywhere you look in and around peoples' houses and our school. Something happens at this time.

I haven't seen A Christmas Carol yet this year but that story centres around Ebeneezer Scrooge who perhaps reminds us of those people who say "Oh, I can't stand Christmas" or "It's all too commercial" or "It's just for the kids" or even "It's all too much faff and fuss about nothing". Such people can be a bit like Mr Scrooge, who was a thoroughly unpleasant man but also a pitiful one; one who was hard hearted and unkind to others. Nevertheless, we should remember he did change very much for the better.

Fred, his nephew invited Scrooge to dinner every year and every year Scrooge refused. Fred still asked each year in the hope that one day things might change and sure enough, they did change and something did happen for Scrooge that Christmas; he did turn up and room was made for him at the for dinner table.

In the Christmas story we think of a travelling family with a soon to be born child for whom there was no room. I believe it is not just a Christian duty but the duty of each and every one of us at Sackville to be kind to one another, even if some others may seem bad, unkind or just plain nasty, their ways are not a reason for us not to love them or to be kind to them.

I am well aware that there have been times when I have been unkind this year. I remember them all too well and I regret them. Kindness should come naturally to us and be the guiding force that makes us truly want everyone to have a Happy Christmas. Kindness isn't part of our school tradition because Mr Street thinks it's a cool and trendy idea. It is there because it is the true spirit of this community. For the vast majority of each of us, for most of the time, looking out for one another, sending and thinking kindly thoughts, helping whenever and wherever we can, is our way of life.

Now it's Christmas and as I said, something happens at this time. This time, I am asking you to open your hearts; for all of us to make generous room for others in our lives, to welcome them, to be kind because that is the way we are.

My prayer for this year and into the next is that when we wish each other a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year, we mean it and we do so with love and kindness in our hearts, that we really do wish good things, for peace and joy, for those whom we greet, that we make room, space and time for all people.

So as ever, be thankful for all that you have; remember those who have little or nothing, be kind to one and all.

And as always, may I wish each and every one of you a peaceful and joyful time; take time to think of those for whom it will not be filled with love and kindness. To you all, a very happy and blessed Christmas. Happy Christmas.

Jim Roberts