











## Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Dear Parents and Carers** 

As I begin writing this, my last Sackville News, it is certainly hard to imagine that I will not be doing so again after Christmas! Sharing news with you all in this regular format has been a real pleasure, and I would particularly like to thank Adrian de Souza for his fine work in supporting me every step of the way.

I have always preferred communicating in this way rather than via formal letters; after all, we are focussed on our students in our daily work and it seemed logical, therefore, that we should also be in our newsletters — and there is certainly always so much to share and celebrate! The personal touch of this news being written to you directly by the head and deputy headteacher has also been of the utmost importance to me. So, I hope you have enjoyed it and I know that there will be so many more great achievements to read about long after I have gone!

I hope you will have had a chance to watch my <u>farewell video message</u> to you. Again, I wanted to speak to you personally because I owe each and every one of you a great deal. It has been such a privilege and joy to lead Sackville; I will simply never forget the 2013-21 era of my life. Your kindness has made a profound impression on me, and your children are, indeed, "simply the best"! I have so enjoyed their company every single day and have continually felt immense pride in them. Being supported by a truly wonderful parental body is, of course, absolutely key and I have enjoyed your company too!

I feel that we have achieved a lot together - not just academically, but also by everyone contributing in their own way to what is such a special, vibrant, supportive, and happy community. I have no doubt that these characteristics will continue to thrive under the school's new headteacher, Jo Meloni, to whom I offer my most sincere good wishes.

I fully intend to keep in touch with Sackville and hopefully return to support its many wonderful events. I will, of course, always be very pleased to hear anyone's news – I know Kate Rowlingson would happily forward me any messages from the Sackville Secretary account!

### Phased return to school and mass testing in January

Please see page 6



Our students have certainly been busy again making the most of the opportunities afforded by the relative lack of restrictions this term. At the top of the school, congratulations to our fantastic Biology competitors for their achievements in the National Intermediate Biology Challenge. Out of the class of 18 A Level students, seven gained amongst the highest awards in the country. Well done to Leah Bush, Sophie Payton, Hannah Plumb and Lily Meredith for achieving the Highly Commended award and particular recognition should go to Hannah Sisley, Lucas Ryan and Issy Carrick for achieving the Bronze award. We are thrilled to continue to provide these types of opportunities to our science students to

appreciation and awareness of the subject.

STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and maths) are a real strength of the school, and so it was great to have two engineers from the **Royal BAM Group** talk to our budding engineers on Wednesday November 25th. This was a really eye-opening session for our students, who simply were not aware of the vast array of opportunities available in the engineering industry.

Feedback from the students included:



"I found it vastly informative to have BAM come talk to our engineering class. It has lit an interest in potential career opportunities in the engineering world"

"The meeting taught me about opportunities that BAM provides for apprenticeships and university degrees, with all expenses such as transportation covered, showing BAM's dedication for the new generation of potential engineers.

This week, **Ms Woolley** for led a session on the benefits of girls studying maths A level. Our year 11 girls were focussed and inspired. These was great support from year 12 students **Alex I** 

inspired. There was great support from year 13 students Alex Lucas, Phoebe Smith and Sophie Taylor.





The performing arts are also extremely strong, as anyone who was lucky enough to get a ticket for our Winter Concert would agree. The sheer variety of performance is what always impresses. From the Samba Band to classical piano and violin, to pop music and songs from the school show, there was something for everyone and the evening flew by, whether there in person or watching our inaugural live feed.

Some of our musicians spent Monday lunchtime this week entertaining members of the East Grinstead Visually Impaired



Club. A spokesperson for the club said

It was the perfect combination of pieces and players. Everyone was very impressed with the students and the way they so musically delivered their programme without even a hint of fuss. They loved it and felt like they'd been to a gig - for the first time in years for most of them!

Live stream was great. We were all logged on

Family & grandparents, from work and home dotted everywhere - Plymouth, London, Byfleet and Bromley!

It worked really well as did the winter concert!

Thank-you to our

musicians and to Mr Heatley for bringing this festive cheer to the community.

We have had two recent theatre performances form our sixth formers. First, our BTEC Performing Arts students got to showcase their considerable talents. Nathan Jones, Olivia Ody, Amelia Fraser, Nicole Noakes, Elli-Mae Taylor and Alice Martin presented musical and dance numbers from a huge range of musical theatre shows, including Chicago, Dear Evan Hansen, Mamma Mia, Les Miserables, Hamilton, My Fair Lady and Wicked.

For an hour the audience was transported from the tribulations of this winter to another world. Thank-you and well done.

This week, our year 12 drama students produced a really thought-provoking interpretation of Kafka's Metamorphosis. This difficult piece was presented in the style of Steven Berkoff.





Well done to **Charlotte Carter-Johnson**, **Rebekah Whyton** and **Anna Lee**. For Charlotte (left) this was her first ever drama performance – though you would not have known it!

In sport our students continue to impress. First, congratulations to **Charlotte Hedley** and **Rose Wyartt** in year 8, who have just returned from an overnight fixture in Bristol with Crawley Storm's U14 premier team. A few months ago, they had hardly picked up a basketball, now they both regularly get onto the scoreboard with a team that plays in the **National League**.

The trip to Bristol resulted in a narrow loss for Storm, but the girls are confident of revenge on home turf later this season.



Evie Stone in year 10 continues to set impressive new benchmarks. Earlier this month she returned from Portugal with a team bronze medal in the 2021 TeamGym Europeans.

It's been challenging to get prepared for the event this year, as the normal schoolholiday training camps had to





be rescheduled for term time. This means Evie has schoolwork to catch up on, but we know with the dedication she shows this will present no more than a small bump in the

road to her.

Congratulations, and we look forward to hearing of much future success!

**Hannah Plumb** in year 13 recently made her debut for Lewes FC Women (she is no 22 in this picture). She not only shares Jack Grealish's taste for headbands, but kicks the ball as hard as him too. One to watch for the future!



Maybe our next generation of sportsman are in the group of students from **Estcots** who have been visiting us over lunchtimes to be put through their paces by our **wonderful team of year 10 sports leaders**, led by **Mrs Currie**.

Thank-you to the entire team for giving these young pupils such a positive experience in Sackville.



Liked by jojumaluha and 134 others

lewesfowomen A Tough Loss on our fourth outing to Bristol... more



We are so fortunate to have been able to run some trips this term. On Friday 3 December, **Ms Porter** and **Mr Roberts** took **Year 13 Sociology & Law** students on an insider-tour of the **Royal Courts of Justice in London**, led by a former crime journalist. Students saw the legal costume display –

including the judge's infamous 'black cap', worn when passing death sentences – an original transcript

of Guy Fawkes' trial (in Latin!) and the 'Bear Garden', nicknamed by Queen Victoria.

The group then moved on to the Old Bailey and heard details of its fascinating history, as well as the famous trials and gruesome executions that have taken place there. Finally, there was even an opportunity to observe **live criminal trials**, when students had the chance to see the criminal courts in action.

Thank-you to Ms Porter and Mr Roberts, and to the students for their excellent attitude throughout.

Meanwhile, our **Year 13 tourism** students travelled to Brighton on December 9th to **deliver a day tour** as part of their Unit 4 assessment. Students did a superb job of planning and delivering their itinerary and fun was definitely had by all! Highlights included skating on the temporary rink in front of Brighton Pavilion, and a session of pop-up crazy golf.



Our sixth-form diversity and equality group have been busy. During the week of December 6-10, they gave two superb assemblies to years 7, 8, 12 and 13. Millie Brown and Izzy



White presented to the sixth form about the dangers of drink spiking. Meanwhile, Isaac Mahoney gave an anti-bullying LBGT assembly to years 7 and 8.

It is great to see our students taking the lead – young people pay so much more attention to their peers!

Congratulations to **Max Goddard**, who has been awarded the **Sir Patrick Moore Award**. Max has been to almost every open evening for several years and now leads observing sessions from the dome independently. His knowledge and enthusiasm is surely similar to that of the young Sir Patrick and it was a pleasure to present him with a book about the planets and the

award itself, a 4.5 billion year old meteorite. Thank you for your incredible contribution to our school, Max.

Of course, **Christmas** plays an increasingly large part in school life as the term draws to a close. The start is marked by the arrival of **Graham Keenor** with two **enormous Christmas trees** for Reception

and the front of the school. Graham's son Paul, an ex-student and reserve fireman, tragically died in a car crash in 2015 when



responding to an emergency call-out.

Then it's time for our **Big Reveal**. Each year more and more staff decorate their rooms and Mr Feist and I have to judge the best. This time the **attendance office** were the overall winners with a room decorated as Santa's post office. The tutor rooms of 7MTY, 8CHD, and 8HGS were also awarded a prize for originality and creativity.



Meanwhile our **year 12 students**, under the leadership of **Mr Watson**, helped the **Rotary Club** with their **Christmas Collection** around the Woodbury Avenue area.

Here's what the Rotary Club had to say:

I have just paid in your collection which came to £439.73. Congratulations that is our **best collection so far this year**. Can you thank all you students for their invaluable help, on our behalf?

Well done all!

Our **sixth form business students** hosted a Christmas market on Wednesday, showcasing their entrepreneurial skills and providing goods and services for the rest of the school as well. It even looks like Santa made a visit! **Taylor Tucker** and **Reece Dickenson** raised £67 for *Shelter* cleaning staff cars.



This week we had our school **Christmas lunch** on Tuesday, with a record number of students enjoying fine fare in a takeaway bag. The food provided by our canteen was superb – it's a shame the jokes in the crackers were not up to the same standard.



Here you can see **Mr Roberts** getting ready to hand out the meals. Mr Roberts is a fixture of every Sackville Christmas, and his reading forms a focus of our special assemblies. You can read his Christmas message later in the newsletter.

On Thursday our **sixth formers** enjoyed a Christmas lunch in the hall. It was my opportunity to say goodbye to them, but not before the senior students had read out a very amusing poem about my time at Sackville!

On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week we had our **year 7 celebration assemblies**. Students were presented with **certificates** to mark the end of term, and for specific achievement in subject areas.



Sackville News, Friday December 17th, 2021, page 4

Our musicians provided entertainment and parents were able to join via live stream (once again COVID getting in the way of the full experience).



Perhaps the centrepiece of our community Christmas is our annual **Carol Service** at **St Swithun's**. Numbers were limited this year but those present will attest to the standard of the occasion, with excellent readings by our year 7s and our sixth form band reproducing Christmas classics flawlessly.

Our **Christmas jumper day** and **final assemblies** of term bring 2021 to a close. These like so much else were adjusted to be within year group bubbles. This meant that year 7 could not have a live assembly, and were only able to enjoy Mr Roberts' message virtually. They had other activities led by Mr Endersby, including a **true or false** quiz, won by Morris Kane of 7AMS. He received his prize from Frosty the Snowman (bottom right in the picture!).

As usual at the end of term some staff sadly leave us. **Ms Lindridge** leaves her post in the science department and we wish her the very best. **Mr Madden**, our PE technician, is leaving this Christmas. That job title does not really do justice to what he has done for the school, and very many of our students have benefitted from his coaching skills as well as his



work keeping the PE department running smoothly. **Mr Rahim** is departing after more than a decade as our leader of maths. Anyone who has been taught by him will know what a big hole he is going to leave. He too departs with all our best wishes.

And so my time at the helm comes to an end. Sackville is such a vibrant school in a special community. I am going to miss it more than I can put into words.

With heartfelt best wishes to you all.

Julian

# Mr Roberts' Christmas Message 2021

It is always a great privilege for me to able to be here and speak with you for a few minutes at this time of the year.

Last year, with the great help of cameraman Joe Astley who is with me again this year, thank you Joe, I recorded my message around the school. I was looking at the provisions we had to have in place for Coronavirus. During the last weeks of that term lots of staff and students were absent. I spoke of uncertainty apart from knowing that Mr Grant would not be here for Christmas 2021. Well, I was wrong even there, if it is just for a few more hours. There is no doubt you and I will reflect on the sense of community to which Julian Grant has led us.

Last year, I spoke about the signs around the school which said "be kind, wear a mask" and when people said Stay Safe, they meant it. This year, with more absences and more uncertainty, I want to focus on the message of being kind.

One of my abiding memories of my Christmases was my dad's insistence on listening to the King's College Carol Service every Christmas Eve.

While watching and listening to that Service last year, I was inspired by a poem written by Howard Thurman; in that moment, that poem brought everything together for me. He wrote:

### The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

As if to confirm the meaning of that poem, there was the Salvation Army campaign about working with homeless people. It spoke of Christmas as a time of comfort and joy and, for so many of us who have what we need and more, it is indeed a time of comfort and joy in the company of loving family and friends. For those out on the streets, for those who have lost dignity, for those who have lost hope, it is far from comfortable or joyous.

In her speech on Christmas Day 2020, the Queen said:

"Let the light of Christmas, the spirit of selflessness, love and, above all, hope guide us in the times ahead."

In 2022, may our Sackville Community be guided by the light of Christmas, by a spirit of selflessness, love, and hope. When we return to school in January, having had our time of comfort and joy, let each of us think what we can do, not for ourselves, but for someone else. May we enter the new year doing the work of Christmas, looking out for one another, rebuilding relationships, bringing peace and making music in our hearts.

Finally, and as ever, may I wish each and every one of you a blessed, peaceful and an especially joyful Christmas.

Stay safe, be kind and Happy Christmas everyone!

# Plan for the return to school in January 2022

Mr Bush writes:-

The Department for Education recently published guidance outlining how schools should plan for the return of students in the new year. Schools must plan for students to undertake **just one lateral flow test (LFT)** upon return before continuing twice weekly testing, which should have continued at home throughout the holidays. The process will be very similar to that undertaken in March and September and will involve a **staggered start.** 

A schedule for **students** follows with priority given to exam year groups, particularly given the forthcoming mock exams for year 13. We will then invite younger students to attend ahead of y9 and 10 which we hope helps with childcare. Please note that students who have tested positive for Covid **after 5th October 2021 should not attend.** 

Most teachers will **deliver live lessons** to classes of students who are remaining at home for the whole day as outlined below. In some cases, for example when staff are helping with LFTs, this will not be possible in which case work will be set on **Google classroom**. **Live lessons are likely to last about 30 minutes**, with independent work set for the rest of the hour. Students attending on a test day will **not** have formal teaching.

Finally, it probably goes without saying that this is dependent on the national situation which may change. If so, we will update plans accordingly and share them via email and our website.

Thank you once again for your support in these challenging times.

Year Group	Tuesday 04/01/22	Wednesday 05/01/22	Thursday 06/01/22	
7	Students join online lessons from home	Covid Test in school Return home	In school	
8	Students join online lessons from home	Covid Test in school Return home	In school	
9	Students join online lessons from home	Students join online lessons from home	Covid Test in school Return home	
10	Students join online lessons from home	Students join online lessons from home	Covid Test in school Return home	
11	Covid Test in school Return home, no lessons	In school	In school	
12 & 13	Covid Test in school Return home, no lessons	In school	In school	

## Schedule for student testing:

Time	Tuesday 4th January 2022	Time	Wednesday 5th January 2022	Time	Thursday 6th January 2022
8:30	12/13AHN	8:30	7JBV	8:30	9CHD
8:40	12/13MBD	8:40	7KOR	8:40	9EWS
8:50	12/13ACR	8:50	7AMS	8:50	9HWN
9:00	12/13ADT	9:00	7JBK	9:00	9KPE
9:15	12/13GSE	9:15	7JMR	9:15	9МТЕ

Time	Tuesday 4th January 2022	Time	Wednesday 5th January 2022	Time	Thursday 6th January 2022
9:25	12/13SHK	9:25	7DPT	9:25	9OSE
9:35	12/13LBE	9:35	7MTY	9:35	9SKN
9:45	12/13MBH	9:45	7MLE(BPY)	9:45	9ЈВН
10:00	12/13RLN	10:00	7VSR	10:00	9SWB
10:10	12/13SRS	10:10	7ACE	10:10	9ZAA
10:20	12/13MPR	10:20	8SJT	10:20	10SBP
10:30	11SDT	10:40	8HGS	10:40	10ADN
10:45	11LRS	10:50	8JHS	10:50	10HGN
11:00	11LMD	11:00	8JCK	11:00	10LWM
11:15	11EWE	11:15	8FLD	11:15	10LST
11:30	11IGN	11:25	8PWX	11:25	10MHY
11:45	11JDY	11:35	8RSH	11:35	10MJN
12:00	11EGN	11:45	8TMT	11:45	100BO
12:15	11DGN	12:00	8THR	12:00	10RWN
12:30	11AVE	12:10	8BDS	12:10	10SOL
12:45	11KHL				

### **Further vaccines**

It is likely that I will be contacting you in the new year with information about the second COVID jab for students aged 11-16.

In the meantime, students in years 7 to 11 who missed the **nasal flu vaccine** earlier this year can still get the treatment.

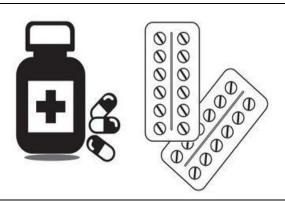
Sussex NHS have asked us to share the following with you.

If you have already completed a **consent form** and your child missed the flu vaccination in school, you will have received a separate email with clinic booking instructions and do not need to complete another form.

However, if your child did not receive the flu vaccination, and you would like them to be vaccinated, it's not too late. We have clinics in the local area until February 2022. Please ensure prior to booking a clinic that you complete an online consent form if you have not already done so.

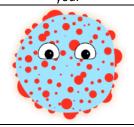
	1. <b>Visit</b> the following web address: www.susseximmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu			
How do I consent /	2. <b>Enter and confirm</b> your preferred email address – you will receive a confirmation email			
refuse to my child	following submission of the consent form.			
having these	3. Enter the school code: SX126089			
vaccinations?	4. <b>Complete and submit the consent form</b> , indicating your choice of consent - Please ensure you			
	provide the child's registered			
	1. Click the link in automated email you will receive on submission of your completed consent			
How do I book an	form(s) to book an appointment at one of our Community Catch up Clinics, for your child to			
appointment for my	receive the vaccination(s) – You will require your booking reference number which can be found in			
child to be vaccinated?	the email.			
	2. Arrange for an adult to accompany your child to their clinic appointment.			

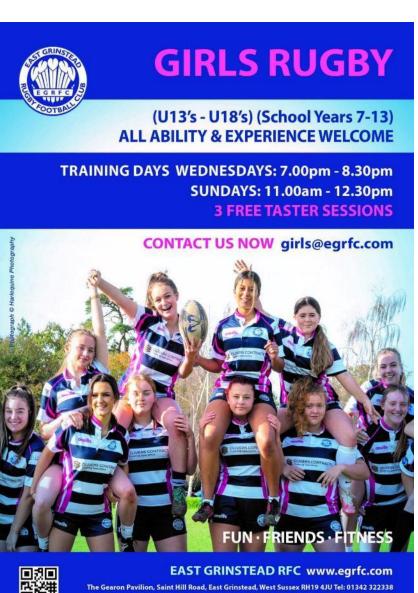
# Sackville News - Half termly medical reminders



In order to keep the more vulnerable members of our school community safe, a reminder to inform the school if your child contracts any of the following: Chickenpox, Shingles, Measles or Mumps. Please call the relevant year office, thank you in advance

To ensure that we continue to support students when they are unwell, we need to make sure our records are up-to-date. As a school we will continue to administer adhoc medication as per the consent slip you have completed. If you wish for this to change, please contact the relevant year team. Should your child be diagnosed with any new medical condition please contact us. In addition, should your child's medical condition change (i.e., they no longer need to use their inhaler) please contact their year team. We will continue to provide the support and medical assistance you have already agreed to unless we hear from





🚪 EGRFC Women and girls 💹 @RugbyEGRFC 🧐 @women\_egrfc

the law to ride an currently against e-scooter on a or pavement Because it's public road

# Sussex Safer Roads

PARTNERSHIP

www.SussexSaferRoads.gov.uk





SussexSaferRoadsPartnership

especially as you can get them from many We understand that ouying an e-scooter can be tempting, popular retailers.

# current law is clear However, the

can be used is on private land. road, cycle lane or pavement. The only place an e-scooter can't ride it on a UK public You can buy one but you

# Why is this?

Personal Light Electric Vehicles to the same legal requirements, as motor vehicles and subject (PLEVs), so they are treated E-scooters are classified as such as:

- MOT
- Licensing
- Insurance Tax

number plates, signalling ability and don't always have visible ear lights, they can't be used As e-scooters do not have egally on the roads.

# by Sussex Police? I've been stopped What happens if

Sussex Safer Roads Partnership with the public to make sure the environmentally friendly modes and Sussex Police understand of transport. We want to work oads are safe for everyone. the public's support for

with a view to making them legal The UK Government is currently taking part in 'Future Transport Zone' trials for e-scooter hire, to use on the roads.

moment, Sussex are not part apply to take part, but at the All local authorities can of the trials. Section 59 of the Police Reform also have the powers to seize Act allows police to give road vehicles - please make sure you keep your e-scooter on users a warning if they are private land so this doesn't reported to have used their annoyance. Sussex Police vehicle in a manner which causes alarm, distress or nappen to you.



# Autism and Social Communication Team

# **ASCSURE**

A.S.C. Strategies, Understanding, Realisation and Emotional wellbeing

A course for parents of a child with autism



# ASCSURE—Exploring Autism and strategies to promote positive behaviour and relationships

Are you a parent/carer of a child or young person, aged 9-16 years, who has autism and have not attended an ASCSURE course before?

The ASCSURE course is an excellent source of information for those new to Autism or for those requiring a little more indepth knowledge. The course is free of charge to families of children in West Sussex maintained schools, at this time.

#### Course aims:

- to give a broad and balanced view of how autism and social communication difficulties may impact on the child/young person's life and that of the family
- to explore key practical strategies that can support autistic children
- to provide a forum for families to share their experiences and expertise together

#### Course outline:

The six recorded sessions will be focused on both theoretical and practical aspects of autism and the resulting strengths and challenges. There will be opportunities to participate in discussions and ask questions in group sessions on a weekly basis.

### Applications to be received by 19th January 2021



In order for participants to fully benefit from this course we ask that they attend **all** sessions.

Topics covered in ASCSURE course by session:

- Session 1: Autism: What does it mean?

  Develop understanding of autism, discuss experiences of getting a diagnosis and identify how autism can affect
- Session 2: Communication: Develop understanding of communication difficulties and strategies to improve communication and interaction skills for the autistic child/young person (CYP).
- · Session 3: Sensory Needs

Consider how sensory information and sensory experiences may be processed differently by autistic CYP, share strategies to help with sensory needs

· Session 4: Anxiety

families

Improve understanding of the signs of distress that autistic children may display and consider approaches to support self-regulation.

· Session 5: Socialisation

Explore the difficulties autistic CYP may have with socialising and developing relationships including siblings and strategies to develop their understanding of others and social situations and interactions

• Session 6: Adolescence and Independence Consider ways to encourage independence and manage adolescence

Session No.	Topic	Team Member	When to watch recorded session (From- to)	Discussion Group Date. (Invitation to be received for a virtual session)	Discussion Topic and Questions for online group sessions.
WEEK 1	Autism: What does it mean?	Rachel	27 <sup>th</sup> January -3rd February	3rd February 12-1.00 Rachel & Sasha	Autism: What does it mean?
WEEK 2	Communication and bonus session on visuals	Christine & Barbara	3rd February- 10 <sup>th</sup> February	10 <sup>th</sup> February 12-1.00 Rachel & Sasha	Communication
WEEK 3	Sensory	Helen and Christine	10 <sup>th</sup> February- 17 <sup>th</sup> February	17 <sup>th</sup> February 12-1.00 Rachel & Sasha	Sensory
WEEK 4	Anxiety	Rachel, Jessica and Sasha	17 <sup>th</sup> February- 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 12-1.00 Rachel & Sasha	Anxiety
WEEK 5	Socialisation	Sasha, Becky, Sharon	3 <sup>rd</sup> March-10 <sup>th</sup> March	10 <sup>th</sup> March 12-1.00 Rachel & Sasha	Socialisation
WEEK 6	Adolescence and Independence	Jane and Katherine	10 <sup>th</sup> March - 17 <sup>th</sup> March	17 <sup>th</sup> March 12-1.00 Rachel & Sasha	Adolescence

For an application form and further details please contact:

Email: Jessica.bubb@westsussex.gov.uk

Tel: 0330 222 8607

Applications need to be received by 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022

# Do you want to become a scout leader?

Mark Scholfield of Mid Sussex Scouts has got in touch:-

My name is Mark Scholfield, I am District Commissioner for Mid Sussex Scouts, I got your email from the website.

As a voluntary organisation, we are always in need of more adult helpers to assist with Scouting in Mid Sussex and I wanted to reach out and ask if you would mind publicising Scouting in your educational newsletter.

We have massively long waiting lists for young people, but not enough adults to allow us to reduce those waiting lists. So if you could help us by promoting the fact that we're looking for adult helpers, that would be amazing. No experience is necessary as full training can be provided. All the information about how to join can be found on our website here:-

https://midsussexdistrictscouts.com/become-a-volunteer

Or anyone can just email me at <a href="mailto:dc@midsussexdistrictscouts.com">dc@midsussexdistrictscouts.com</a> to find out more information.

