



Part of the festivity included our **LRC holding their very own 'Big Reveal'** of their central resource trolley which was carefully wrapped up in November to build anticipation! Year 7 and 8 students watched as it was uncovered and witnessed the fantastic '12 days of Christmas' display you can see above, bottom row.

In total there were 18 entries with **Mr Roberts' science lab** gaining the overall prize. Well done to **Mr Collins and his tutor group** who won the best **Key Stage 4** room, with **Ms Halford's tutor group** taking the **Key Stage 3** prize. Other prizes included:-

- Best Adult Office:** Main Office
- Ho, Ho, Ho, Comedy Award:** Finance Office
- Best Individual Display:** SSU (window)
- Most Imaginative Display:** LRC (12 days of Christmas)
- Best Winter Wonderland:** Y7/8 offices

The day after this judging saw the annual **Support Staff Tea**. To mark the annual '**Stars in our Schools Day**' the school leadership team were delighted to **serve afternoon tea to all of our support staff**. They were treated to home-made sausage rolls followed by an authentic cream tea. I was also delighted to distribute prizes for the winners of the 'Big Reveal'.



The main purpose of the event was to **mark the fantastic work that this amazing group of people undertake**, day-in, day-out. It takes a full team of people to make Sackville a safe place in which students can thrive, and in so many ways our non-teaching staff are our unsung heroes. Without them, nothing that we do would be possible – so thank-you.

Special thanks go to my PA, **Mrs Rowlingson** who did the lion's share of the baking once again!

I am also very grateful to the students who provided the **musical entertainment** throughout the afternoon; **Mia Boothe, Matthew Botten, Sam Baker, Thomas Salter, Tom Trounson, Ella Straszynski and Nicole Noakes**.



The festive spirit has **continued** with our **Christmas dinners**, our **carol service**, and our **end of term assemblies**.

The school **Christmas dinners** are always very special and this year there were more students than ever who signed up for them. The food was magnificent and student musicians provided great accompaniment.





The penultimate day of term sees another of our traditions taking place: the **6th form Christmas dinner**. It is rare that we get the chance to bring together everyone in our large 6th form and this makes it all the more special.

Our **year 8s** have been particularly committed to **Christmas fund raising**, having run a **Christmas Fair** and a **candy cane sale** where people could pay to send a message attached to a candy cane to someone in the school! All of this raised further funds for the year group's charity, **Friends of Lindi**.



The carol service at **St. Swithun's** is a well-established Sackville tradition with **singing** from **our choir** and the **community choir** together with **readings** given by a number of **year 7 students**. This year's event did not fail to bring cheer and joy to the congregation and we were delighted to be joined by many people associated with the school's past as well as, of course, our parents. The **mince pies and wine served by the governors** at the end went down a treat, as usual!



The **end of term assemblies** (pictures below) are a brave attempt to bring together everyone in years 7 to 11 (in two gatherings) and it works really well. Students are treated to **festive thoughts from Mr Roberts**, **dancing by the staff** and much besides! It is a good occasion to wish them well for Christmas and the New Year. You can read Mr Roberts' message at the end of the newsletter.



Our students have been as busy as ever over the past few weeks, with **year 11 sitting their GCSE mock examinations** over a two week period. We were impressed by how they conducted themselves and they received their results at a **special assembly** yesterday. I was also pleased to give them all a **Sackville pen** with my best wishes!



Supporting those upon whom difficult times have fallen is always important in our community.

On Monday 9th December, two car-fuls of Sackville donations were taken to the **East Grinstead Foodbank**. Pictured here are **Archie** and **Freddie Mabey**, whose mother Mags Donovan kindly did the trips from school to the foodbank.

The wonderful hamper with which they are pictured was brought in by **Layla Ahmet** in year 11.

I would like to thank **everyone** who donated so generously, **Mr Endersby and the school charity team** for organising the collection, and of course **Ms Donovan** for transporting all of the donated food.



I am delighted to share that year 10 Modern Foreign Languages stars **Dilyn Arro, Matei Cumpatescu** and **Reece Dickenson** teamed up with students from **Reed's school** to win the **first prize** in the recent **Business Language Champions** event.



An intrepid group of **14 GCSE language learners** travelled to the school in Cobham to attend the event on Thursday December 5th. They were divided into multilingual groups and worked with students from other schools on a number of marketing tasks using **German, French** and **Spanish**. These included a **radio jingle**, a **flyer**, a **slogan** and a **mock-up of a stall**. Some were required to **book accommodation** in the target language and at all stages they had to overcome any reticence and collaborate with new acquaintances to build **teamwork, communication** and **language** skills. A special mention must go to **Matthew Botten** who was a member of a winning team in one of the sub-categories.

The willingness and enthusiasm of all to get involved typified the Sackville ethos and the students were a credit to the school.

Thank you to **Mr Green** for organising the trip and accompanying the students.

Sackville staff have also been excelling themselves of late! **Mrs Stromfield**, our curriculum leader for science, gave **two presentations in November to the PiXL National Science Conference in London**. The **first** presentation explained how Sackville teaches science students to **decode exam questions**, working out what the question is asking. The science department really focusses on this between the two year 11 sets of mocks. The **second** more general presentation ran through the **strategies we have in place to help students with all aspects of exam questions**, including how we enable learning of **command words** and how we write up our **practicals** to help with how the exam questions are framed.



Our **science results have been consistently well above national expectations**, which is why Mrs Stromfield was invited to present.

Leadership is by no means exclusive to the staff of this school. We are currently very focused on developing our students' leadership skills in many different ways, not least through our **Junior Leadership Team** and the associated **impact groups**.

On Tuesday December 10th, Sackville hosted the **inaugural student leadership conference** for our 'soft federation' of schools. We were delighted to invite delegates from **Downlands** and **Imberhorne** and, alongside our students, they took time to discuss what makes a good leader, and who in **today's world they view as exceptional leaders**. Each school then went on to **present** the work of their student council, junior leadership team and focus groups. There was then time for **discussion** and the **sharing of ideas** about how student leadership could be improved in each school. The group agreed to meet again next year to see how their ideas are progressing.



Mr Endersby who organised the event said *'It was a real pleasure to work with such inspirational and confident young people who really are the future leaders of our communities.'* Thank you to him and to **Mrs Pritchard** (Imberhorne) and **Mrs Cutress** (Downlands) for bringing their students over.



Staying with the theme of young leadership, I was delighted to award our first cohort of **student mental health first aiders** with their certificates over a celebratory breakfast on Monday December 9th.

Youth **Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)** courses are for everyone who works with, lives with or supports young people aged 8-18. Our qualified trainer, **Mrs Nibloe** has taught the students the skills and confidence to spot the signs of mental health issues in a young person, offer first aid and guide them towards the support they need. In doing so, they will be able to speed up a young person's recovery and stop a mental health

issue from getting worse. Head of Sixth Form **Mrs Valentine** is keen to get our newly trained first aiders to **support others within the school** as soon as possible.

Pictured here are Mrs Nibloe, Mrs Barden, **Emily Ford**, **Treya Lufu**, **Neeve Theobald-Smith**, **Kiera Ellis**, **Katie Cooper**, **Megan Stratford**, Mrs Valentine and Mr Grant.



Treya has been busy of late! Last week she was presented with the **Cadogan Award for Resilience** from the **British Dyslexia Association**, at a prestigious awards dinner at Twickenham rugby stadium.

Treya shared a table with ex Wales rugby international **Lee Byrne** who was able to talk about his experiences of being dyslexic. He also mentioned how nervous he was about having to speak in front of the large audience. Hearing such a successful person as Lee saying this gave Treya the courage she needed when it was her turn to address

the 170 people present. During her speech Treya confidently talked about her **journey through school**, and **thanked the teachers who helped her**.

Finally she says *"If you have dyslexia, you are not dumb – it's a gift! You are smart, just in a different way."*

Well done Treya – if anyone ever deserved this award it is you.



Our sixth formers have also been busy in other ways: on the first Saturday in December our **year 12 Young Enterprise** students, **'Sackville1'**, took part in the **small business fair at Horsham**. The students have created a book called **'20 things to do before you're 20'** designed to help young people get away from their devices, try new experiences and meet new people.

The stall was manned by **Girish Babajee**, **Dan Bowdery**, **Dan Carney**, **Sadie Pakhomoff-Roberts** and **Ronnie Parr** who all wrapped up warm as they sold copies to the Christmas shoppers. The day was a success and the students got a first look at their competitors' products too as another **six school companies** were in attendance.

The end of term is always a time of celebration at Sackville. Our year 8 students were eagerly waiting to find out who has won this term's prize for **attendance** and for **achievement points**. **Mr Thompson** was able to put an end to the suspense announcing in the year 8 assembly that the winners for best attendance are **8LST**. The most achievement points meanwhile belong to **8JSN**.

Pictured here are **Noemi Molnar** and **Shaye Harvey** (8JSN) **Logan Foster** and **Louise Harrington** (8LST).



In addition to this, a **celebration breakfast** was held for year 8 students who achieved top **Attitude to Learning** scores. Under the canopy, with hot chocolate to manage the cold, the students received their certificates with good cheer!



Sackville students took part in their **mock general election** on Wednesday 11th December, to avoid clashing with the first instalment of the school Christmas dinner. The votes were counted on election day by our year 13 politics students – and the results were very close! The **Conservatives** won **three** year groups (9, 10 and 11), the **Greens** won **two** (7 and the sixth form), and the **Liberal Democrats** won in year 8. Overall the Conservatives won the largest share of the votes, 26.6%, followed by the Liberal Democrats on 25.5% and the Greens and Labour tied on 23.9%.

Thank you to all of the students who voted, and to **Mr Morris** and Ms Vance for organising the ballot.



Each year we send a selection of our top chemists to the national Top of the Bench competition. This year **Tom Salter** and **Grace Kolter** (year 9) **Matthew Botten** (year 10, pictured) and **Sophie Taylor** (year 11, pictured) represented Sackville.

The students are really put through their paces in this competition, with a practical section followed by some seriously testing multiple choice questions. We didn't quite make the top two, who go through to the next round, but our competitors were strongly commended.

Well done to our team and thank you to **Mr Groves** and **Mr Langford** for organising the trip.

Our year 7s have celebrated the end of term with **interform indoor sports competitions** and **celebration assemblies** with many **parents** in attendance.



In the **sports hall athletics interform** events over Monday and Tuesday 10th and 11th December, each half of the year competed whilst the other half was in the end of term celebration assembly. After two days of competition, the winners were **7MTE** with **7SKN** as runners up.



Well done to all of the competitors, and a **special thanks** to our **great year 10 sports leaders** (pictured) who made the competition happen.



We were delighted to welcome a **large number of parents and carers** to our two year 7 **end of term celebration assemblies**.

Students were **rewarded** for their efforts in their first term at Sackville. Each tutor group also took it in turn to present their own view of how the first term had gone.

We think **this year 7 has made an outstanding start to their life at secondary school**, and are looking forward to working with them over the next few years.



As I write, many of our year 9s are enjoying the Christmas markets trip to Germany. An action packed trip of course involves plenty of **classroom based activities**, but the bulk of each day is spent on excursions.

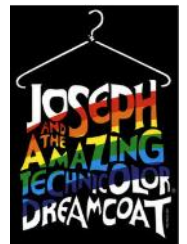
These have included a visit to the **Christmas markets in Aachen**, shopping visits to various **Christmas markets in Cologne**, an introduction to the history of chocolate at the must visit **Chocolate museum** with its freestanding chocolate fountain, and a tour of the **magnificent Kölner Dom** that survived much of the Allied bombing during the Second World War.

Students will also have the opportunity to spend the day at the **Phantasialand theme park**; another popular tourist destination.



At the end of this action-packed few weeks, we were delighted to host a visit from **West Sussex Music**, who performed a number of classical pieces to an audience of younger students. If students wish to have instrumental or singing lessons at school they can apply through the West Sussex Music website www.westsussexmusic.co.uk.

The end of a school term does bring with it some sad goodbyes to colleagues and we wish **Mrs Beasley** and **Mrs McFarlane** well as they embark on new ventures. Whilst Mrs McFarlane, Head of Sociology, is embarking upon a **well-earned retirement** after many years of dedicated service to the school, Mrs Beasley is moving to the **Weald of Kent School** as **Assistant Headteacher**. We are all so grateful for Mrs Beasley's inspirational leadership of drama and for the outstanding school shows performed over the years. Our show for February, **Joseph and his amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**, is well under way with its presentations under the **excellent leadership of Ms Warran**.



Finally, it just remains for me to wish everyone a very joyful and peaceful festive season and a happy new year.

Best wishes,

Julian Grant
Headteacher

Year 12 Galaxy Project

Mr Bush writes:-

With tremendous good timing the skies cleared after a dreadful week of weather to allow year 12 Physics students to visit the Sussex Community Observatory in Chelwood Gate on Friday. The telescope is owned and run by the University of Sussex and we have developed a project with them to enable Physics students to learn how to use a large, computer controlled telescope to image galaxies. Their results will allow them to measure the number of stars they contain and how their colour varies across the disc.



Students star-hopped to NGC 7331, an unbarred spiral galaxy 40 million light years away and discovered by William Herschel in 1784. Once digital images were obtained, students processed them to draw out fine detail, reducing "noise" and increasing "signal". One of the first images is below, showing dust lanes in the galaxy and other galaxies in this group too.



We were also treated to a flyby of the International Space Station and a glimpse of Saturn and its largest moon Titan.

Thanks to Dr Mike Hardiman, Mr Keeble and Mrs James for their support both on the night and over the last three years this project has been running.

LRC Report

Mrs Rose writes:-

November saw both a new library monitor and the Book Sale in the LRC. **Rebecca Shephard, 9DGN** (right), became the LRC's latest **library monitor** to complete her training and has been extremely helpful during lunch and break lending, returning and preparing books. Rebecca is an asset to the Library.



The **Book Sale** was to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust by selling; old stock, donated books not needed and some new books. This, together with a **competition** to guess the number of words in the Harry Potter series of books, raised £86.20. **Stefan Doggett, 8MJN**, won the complete set of Harry Potter books guessing the nearest to the correct answer of 1,084,625 words! Well done!

As December approached the LRC started to get ready for the **“Big Reveal”** taking place on 2nd December.



Year 7 and 8 students were invited in to unwrap the present left by Santa! At break time students came to the LRC to join in the fun before the present was unwrapped. There was a seasonal game of “pin the nose on Rudolf” followed by dot to dot and a word search competition. (Won by **Sophia Powell 7MTE**)

As the excitement mounted and the time came to unwrap the present there were about 70 students trying to see what was inside! At the end the students were given a Christmas chocolate, and an exhausted Mrs Rose had a cup of tea!

Thank you to **Mrs Watkinson, Bailey and Rebecca** for helping with this event, I couldn't have done it without you.



Sackville's very own Santa aka **Mr Roberts** kindly gave his time to read Christmas poems and stories in the LRC at lunchtime during the last week of term.

This is a regular Christmas tradition and always goes down well with students of all ages, causing much laughter and giggling!

However you choose to celebrate the Christmas holiday period, I hope that you have a joyful and peaceful time.



Youth Mental Health First Aid training

Mrs Nibloe writes:-

A first for me, training members of our sixth form in Mental Health First Aid! It was a privilege to spend two days with a group of students from years 12 through to 14. They were incredibly insightful, open and honest and each gave their all to the two day's training. It was refreshing to hear what their generation's perceptions and communications around mental health are. I learnt a lot from the students' knowledge and experiences of social media (good alongside not so). The two days served as a timely reminder of my age,



the students didn't always understand my humour, apparently they don't know who Debbie McGee or Paul Daniels are. But, thankfully, my Chuckle Brothers reference worked as a replacement.



I feel honoured that these students feel mental health is important enough to take two days out of their studies and work commitments to help provide support for members of the Sackville community. I am really looking forward to delivering this again to more sixth form students.

I'll be back in touch again later this year.

Did you know that the government can offer additional funding for students who have a **parent serving in the regular armed forces** or who is on **full commitment as part of the full time reserve service**?

If this applies to your child and we do not know about us please contact Mrs Nibloe on <mailto:hnibloe@sackvilleschool.org.uk>

Sports news

The rain has been relentless, but so have the fixtures ...



26th November: **U14 girls' hockey** travelled to Brighton College one player light. First half was lost 1-6, but the second half won 2-0. Player of the Match **Emma Smyth**. Well done to **Emma, Freya Ohta** and **Olivia Hadfield** for their continued efforts and progress.

26th November: **U13 boys' football** beat The Burgess Hill Academy 3-0. Two goals from **Ryan Hill** and one from **Jay Richardson**.



28th November: **U14 netball** vs Tanbridge House. A team won 12-5, B Team lost 5-9. Players of the Match were **Katrina Mutimba** and **Eleni Lucas**.

28th November: **U15 basketball** lost 17-41 to Imberhorne. Player of the Match **Will Bramwell** for his strong work throughout the match and holding the ball up well in the key.



28th November: **KS4 Badminton tournament** girls got the bronze medal, boys came 4th.



27th November: **U13 netball** vs Millais, **As** lost 3-6 whilst **Bs** won 8-5. Players of the Match **Darcey Healiss** and **Poppy Furbank**

2nd December: **U14 girls' football** lost 0-9 to a sensational Warden Park team

3rd December: **U14 boys' football** vs Lingfield College **As** lost 1-2, with a goal from **Jed Defriend** on his debut. Great performances in central defence by **George Sutton** and **Theo Dawson**. **Bs** won 4-1 with a late flurry of goals.

3rd December: **U15 basketball** beat Weald 54-4

3 December: **U12 girls football** both A and B teams lost to Imberhorne. Players of the match **Evie Horrod** and **Cerys Dennis**

3rd December: **U12 boys' football** beat Oriel 6-3. Hat trick for **Dylan Lingard** and one each for **Mason Saunders**, **Harvey Sizer-Flanders** and **Josh Francillia**. Special mention too to **Jay Foreman** for his superb composure at centre-back

3rd December: **U14 boys' rugby** beat Bennett Memorial 31-0. Three tries from **Louis Smith**, and one each for **Oscar Bushell** and **Ben Iljin**. **Theo Price** and **Sammy Lane** with conversions.

4th December: **U13 boys' rugby** beat Imberhorne 5 tries to 4. **Benjamin Darch** got four tries, and **Ollie Hodge** one.

5th December: **U15 boys' football** beat Lingfield 5-0. Two goals each for **Harvey Burgess** and **James Knott** and one from **Joseph Walker**

5th December: **U12 boys' football** lost 0-4 to Oathall, despite hitting the woodwork four times



5th December: **U15B boys' football** beat Lingfield 7-2.

December 5th: **U13 boys' football** lost 1-6 to Oriel. Fin Carrick with the goal, and good performances from **Teddy Pilate** and

5th December: **U12 boys' rugby** beat Beacon 9-1. Tries from **Benjamin Darch** (3), **Tristan Simpson** (2), **Josh Hirdes**, **Charlie**

Max Hamilton	Seal, Darcy O’Ryan-Bristow and Logan Sewell
6 th December: U14 boys’ hockey beat Oathall 3-0, with goals from Freddie Mabey and Alex Nuth (2). Player of the Match George Sutton	10 th December: U14 boys’ football lost 1-4 to Oriel. Another great goal from Jed Defriend . Great Debut in goal from Jonathan Funnell and a superb performance from Max Aubrey in defence
12 th December: U12 boys’ football won yesterday’s cup game against St Paul’s 9-3. Scorers Harvey Sizer-Flanders (2), Titu Mendy Mendy (2), Dylan Vince (2), Riley Butcher , Dylan Lingard and Mason Saunders	12 th December: U14 boys’ rugby lost 0-54 to St Philp Howard. Players of the Match Jed Defriend and Louis Smith
12 th December: U13 netball A and B lost to Imberhorne. Players of the Match Poppy Furbank and Noemi Molnar	12 th December: U14 basketball won 23-20 vs Michael Hall. Player of the Match Will Bramwell .
13 th December: Hockey first XI lost to Oathall 0-1. Players of the Match Ollie Kebbell and Olly Ally . Special mention to James Knott who made two great saves.	



Last Sunday, **Rebekah Tyler** (pictured on the right here) competed in the under-20 South of England Indoor Pentathlon at the Lee Valley Stadium.

She ended up gaining the bronze medal – a fantastic platform for the rest of the season ahead.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM

The second hand uniform shop is now in place – **most items only £1 each**

We have shirts, skirts, trousers and PE kits all waiting for a new home!

Please visit reception to ask to see the stock or ask your child to visit at lunchtimes.

We ask that you are patient if Reception is busy at the time you visit.

Is your child now too big for the shirt you bought 6 weeks ago? Please give it a new home at the second hand shop, all clothes donations to reception gratefully received.

New WSCC ‘Road Safety’ Facebook Page

Julie Finn from West Sussex County Council writes:-

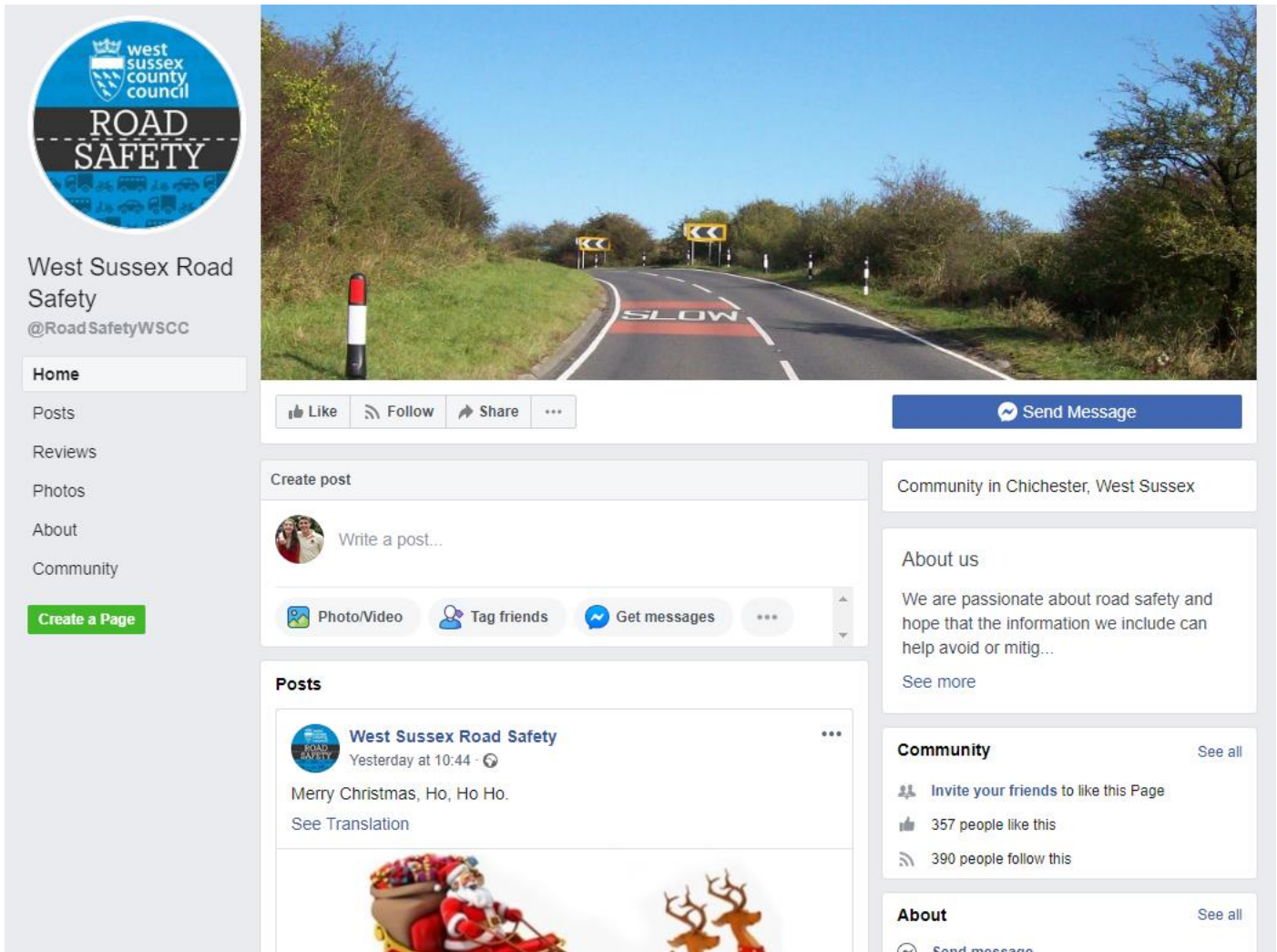
The Road Safety Team at West Sussex County Council have set up a new Facebook page to help deliver important Road Safety messages to its residents, as well as the wider public who also use the roads of West Sussex.

By creating this Facebook page, the Road Safety team will be able to support their partner’s campaigns happening throughout the country, write specifically about seasonally related topics, provide advice to support all modes of transport and much more – essentially delivering a whole wealth of important and much needed Road Safety information. Ultimately, the aim is to help reduce the Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI’s) statistics on the roads of West Sussex (and beyond), as well as reducing all incidents and injuries which occur on a daily basis, by delivering as much information and advice as possible.

If you are interested in keeping up to date with Road Safety topics, or have any questions you wish to ask, please go to <https://www.facebook.com/RoadSafetyWSCC> and follow this page! Thank you for your support.

Keep safe on the roads.

County Road Safety Team
West Sussex County Council



And finally ... to get your appetites ready for the festive season, here is a picture of what our year 9 and 10 hospitality students produced this week ...



Have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year

Mr Roberts' Christmas Message

This year when I started to write about Christmas I thought back to the moments when I have seen both adults and students finding life pretty tough. I was thinking about it when my year 11 class were around and Olivia suggested I should remember and speak about the people and the times which had made me smile.

Of course, there has been a lot to smile about this last year; I never forget that the reason for this season is to celebrate the birth of a child and I have my very new granddaughter to love and cherish alongside my grandson.

The ladies in the office decided that my ridiculous collection of Christmas Jumpers should be recorded for posterity and so these have given rise to a smile or two as well.

Inevitably, there have been times when I didn't want to smile. In May my Aunt died, she was the last of my mum's six brothers and sisters so there are no more of that generation.

Unfortunately, one of her sons couldn't go to the funeral due to treatment for cancer and last week I attended his funeral.

It was sad but with my large family, I was able to celebrate the lives those two had lived and start building their legacy with memories of them and of their children and grandchildren they have left behind and in whom they will live on. And then, back on a smiley note, having met up again the whole big family are planning a party for us all to be together in the spring next year, and that will be a good and happy time.

That is where the heart of my message comes from this year. In school especially, we spend so much time preparing for what is to come in the future, worrying about tests, exams, homework, and marking so that sometimes we lose sight of what is happening here and now. We can think too much of the destination, forgetting that wherever we think we are going well, actually, we may never get there; my cousin was just two years older than me. So I really want us to take time to enjoy the present, the here and now, grasping all those opportunities we can which may cause a smile.

Lola, Jess and Maddie in year 9 have helped me smile through a very long term by encouraging me to Tik Tok! I really don't understand what happens with these but if it makes anyone smile then it can't be a really bad thing.

As you look forward to the good times you hope for next week, enjoy and savour them, build memories of each happy moment when you open a gift or enjoy a meal together, those smiley moments, so that when you find life is a bit tough, you can recall that there have been times of real love and laughter before and realise that there will be lots more of them again, just around the corner.

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

Jim Roberts

Christmas 2019

