

Sackville News

9th February 2018



'I really enjoyed speaking to and debating with the young people at the excellent Sackville School in East Grinstead. The delightful students were engaged and well informed. I thought their questions were excellent.'

Dear Parents,

I would like to begin this edition of Sackville news with this very positive feedback from **Sir Nicholas Soames, MP for Mid Sussex**, who visited our school on Friday 2nd February to share with our sixth form his extensive experience of parliamentary debating.



Sir Nicholas began by giving tips on public speaking and debating, before **opening up the floor to questions**. These ranged from our unwritten constitution to commons debates about cloudy apple juice, and covered Donald Trump, the Irish border and defence expenditure in between. At the end Sir Nicholas was thanked with a very warm round of applause.

I would like to thank Sir Nicholas for giving up his time, and thank our debating team of **John Hollins** and **Melissa Turner** (who jointly compered the afternoon), supported by Lucy Phipps, Aminah Rahman, Lily Kendrick, Isabelle Goddard and Imogen Gaines. I am grateful to the staff who worked hard to organise and run the event, not least **Mrs Valentine** and **Mrs**

Fleming. I could not have felt more proud of our school that afternoon!

Whilst on the topic of sixth form, I am delighted that recently released **government data** confirms that **our year 13 class of 2017 was our most successful ever**. Progress in the sixth form was **significantly above the national average** for the **fifth year running** and this year was **fourth in the county**. The positive progress made in the sixth form follows that year group's spectacular results at GCSE back in 2015. What this means is that our students achieved **two whole grades higher in their A levels** than students from similar starting points in an average school. By way of example, **BBC grades gained at Sackville** compared to CCC grades provide a significant difference in performance, giving a lot more choice at university or apprenticeship level.



Members of Y13 2016-17 opening the redecorated 6th form Bistro

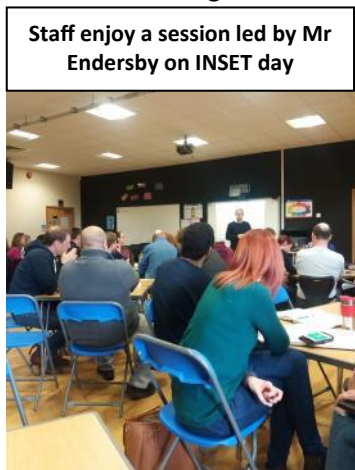
At GCSE this year our overall performance was in the top 40% of schools nationally, and **particularly pleasing was the progress of the students classified by the government as 'disadvantaged'**. At Sackville the performance of these students was in the **top 25% nationally**, and was the **fifth best in the county**.

Overall these figures are testament to the hard work of students, parents and teachers, who together have made 2017 another memorable year for the school.

Our **inset days** always play a key part in **further strengthening the quality of teaching and learning** and the last two such days were no exception. Staff were reflecting and planning throughout and the work of the teaching research groups progressed well. We were also very pleased to welcome Shirley Clarke who gave an inspirational talk on **growth mindset**.



Last week, I was very pleased to host a celebration breakfast for many **year 8** students who recently achieved particularly **high attitude to learning** scores – well done to them.



Staff enjoy a session led by Mr Endersby on INSET day

On the sporting front, three Sackville students have qualified for the **National Schools' Trampoline Finals** in Belfast in March. **Oscar Morgan** came **2nd** in the Under 14s out of a field of 11. This



was as a result of his hours of practice at Synergy Sports Academy under the coaching of Lynda Munday. **Jordi Crowther** qualified in **3rd** place, behind last year's National Finals winner. This is the second time in consecutive years that Jordi will represent Sackville at the finals having placed 2nd in 2017 in Newcastle. Jordi also trains with Synergy at Kings Leisure Centre. **Heidi Crowther**, also in a group of 12, placed **1st** to become **Zonal Under 19 Girls' Elite Champion**. She goes to Belfast with another of her club training partners from Sky High Trampoline Club, coached by Stella Jackson. Last year, Heidi finished 3rd in the National Finals. For all three

performers this is a **remarkable achievement**. Individually, they put in many hours of practice and competition beyond school; yet they are all incredibly **proud of representing Sackville**.



Meanwhile, our **year 10 sports leaders** have been hard at work leading a **year 5 and 6 basketball festival**. Many thanks go to **Theo Judge, James Young, Harvey Byatt, Harvey Snashfold, Tom Mooney, Elliott Broomfield, Finley Lee-Fisher** and **Nathan Randall**, all of whom were commended by the visiting teachers and were in fact mistaken for sixth formers. Excellent school ambassadors indeed!



On 1st February, year 12/13 Health and Social groups hosted the **Alzheimer's Society**. The organisers came to the lesson accompanied by three Alzheimer's sufferers. The students learnt about the care and support there is in the community and how easy it is to access, as well as about the work of Alzheimer's UK. Our students led a lively question and answer session after the presentation. We are very grateful to Alzheimer's UK for giving us their time

and expertise and to our visitors who were courageous enough to face a group of teenagers and explain so candidly about their condition.



The 2018 **Performing Arts and Dance Showcase** by our year 11 students was a fantastic evening. We have become accustomed over the years to a stunningly high standard of performances; this year's matched any that have gone before with over twenty performances. Themed around **emotions**, the programme ranged from professionally delivered monologues through dance duets to ensemble pieces from West End musicals. A full house left the show in high spirits, knowing both that they had enjoyed an evening of first rate entertainment and that this excellent troupe of young people had taken a significant step towards a fantastic final grade in their qualifications. I would like to thank all of the performers, friends and parents who attended, and of course **Mrs Nibloe**, **Ms Warran** and the returning **Mrs Beasley**.



Finally, I would also like to congratulate many of our students who have put themselves up for high academic challenges recently. A large number sat the testing **national intermediate maths challenge** earlier this month, kindly organised by **Mrs Mangan** and **Mr Hatton**. Also, our sixth form chemists entered the **Royal Society of Chemistry's UK Chemistry Olympiad 2018**, kindly supported by **Dr Morley**. This challenge helps students develop problem solving skills and apply familiar knowledge in new and interesting contexts.

I am full of admiration for all of these brave participants!

I hope everyone enjoys a good half term break.

Best wishes,

Julian Grant
Headteacher

Sackville News Teaching and Learning Update February 2018

Mr Feist writes:-

Our new Continuing Professional Development (CPD) model for all teachers

We have adapted how we run CPD this year. Last summer term, staff got to select a research group on an area of teaching they wished to develop.

The groups' focus lasts for the full school year. The foci are:

- Improving differentiation for Gifted and More Able students led by Mrs Stuart

- Improving differentiation for SEND students led by Mrs Sands
- Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education led by Ms Vance
- Assessment led by Mrs Fleming
- Developing higher order thinking skills led by Mrs Tingley
- Improving student motivation led by Mrs Stromfield
- Boys: improving their engagement and achievement led by Mrs Rogers
- PiXL Edge principles: educating the whole child by Miss Garrison
- Promoting independent learning, fostering resilience and stamina in students led by Mr Endersby

The groups last met again on our INSET day last month where they reviewed their progress and are planning observations of each other's lessons this term.

Sixth form tutors engaged in a session on 'British Values' on INSET day



Staff training for all middle leaders

Through us being an SSAT Leading Edge school, we have been accredited as a training provider of their National Award for Middle Leaders course. (We are the only West Sussex school accredited to deliver this.)

Mr Grant and I have run the first three of five training sessions for all of our middle leaders; vision and values in October, developing your leadership approach in November and building a high performance team in January.

The next two sessions are:

- Leading your team day to day, 20th February
- Leading and managing innovation and change, 24th April

A further 5 modules will be delivered in 2018-2019.

VidLearn

We continue our collaboration with the VidLearn company. The VidLearn video suite in Science lab A2.4 is now in its second full year of recording Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 Science and Maths lessons for their online Subject Knowledge Enhancement courses for teacher training institutions across the UK to use. This year, eleven of our staff are using this lab.

The company is delighted with the quality of the lessons which provide us with an invaluable bank of teaching resources. Both faculties have used examples from the recordings in their department meetings to share effective practice. Staff can view back their lesson within 24 hours of recording allowing them to reflect on what they do in glorious HD!

Geography and MFL staff are now getting involved in an expansion of the project, possibly looking at VidLearn installing a second room in the school.

Alzheimer's UK visit to HSC group

Mrs Valentine writes:-

Year 12/13 Health and Social groups hosted Alzheimers UK in to their lesson on Thursday 1st February. The organisers (Tim Wilkins and Sarah Edgar) came to our lesson, accompanied by three Alzheimer's sufferers (Dave, Alan and Brenda).



We learnt about the care and support there is in the community and how easy it is to access, as well as about the work of Alzheimer's UK. Dave, Alan and Brenda spoke candidly and openly about their condition, its effects and their day to day lives, whilst Tim and Sarah spoke to our students about their work and its importance. Our students led a lively question and answer session after the presentation. We are very grateful to Alzheimer's UK for giving us their time and expertise and letting us have this privileged insight. We would like to pass on our thanks as well to the students who asked the questions and to Dave, Alan and Brenda who were courageous enough to face a group of teenagers and explain so candidly about their condition. The visit has helped our students not only expand their knowledge but also complete an all-important module of their course.

Chemistry Olympiad 2018

Dr Morley writes:-

Following the impressive performance by our Key Stage 4 chemists in the 'Top of the Bench' competition it is the turn of our A level chemists in the 2018 UK Chemistry Olympiad. This is a prestigious competition, organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry, which recognises the very best A level chemistry students in the country. It culminates in an international competition in which 4 chemists will represent the UK in the International Olympiad which takes place in July in Bratislava and Prague, Slovakia and Czech Republic.

Six of our A level chemistry students entered the Olympiad which commenced with a 2 hour written paper in school last month. The papers have now been marked and submitted to the RSC, and we await news as to whether any have been selected for the next stage. This involves the UK's top 30 chemists from the written paper being invited to a residential weekend in April. The four chemists for the international competition will be selected at this weekend.

All six students deserve huge credit for entering the competition. The two hour written paper was much more difficult than anything they will face in their A level chemistry exams, and they will all benefit from the experience even if they don't get through to the residential weekend. To recognise their achievement they were all invited to tea and cakes with Mr Grant on 7th February (picture page 2)!

Sackville will support the event again next year so look out for news of the 2019 UK Chemistry Olympiad.

BTEC performing arts and dance showcase

Mrs Nibloe writes:-

On the evening of Wednesday 31st January our year 11 BTEC Performing Arts and Dance classes put on their final show. This is a huge undertaking for the students as they are responsible for organising everything from the pieces within the show, plotting the lighting, marketing the evening, backstage work to being on the door welcoming the paying customers.

Despite some nerves from both teachers(!) and students the evening was a great success. The audience were treated to an evening of song, dance, acting and live music. The numbers within the show were based around the theme emotions. Some pieces were from more recent productions such as Hamilton and The Greatest Showman and others were from old favourites like the musical 13. It really was great to see our students shine and excel and it felt like a fitting end to the course. They are all now busy beaver away at the written element of the unit which, for most, isn't quite as exciting or glamorous as the performance itself.

See picture on page 3.

Youth Mental Health First Aid training

Mrs Nibloe writes:-

You may remember that in June's edition of Sackville News I wrote to inform you of the first round of training of Mental Health First Aid for staff at Sackville. It is with real pleasure that I now write to inform you that the second round of staff completed their training at the tail end of January. Once again despite the hard hitting and thorough nature of course content the delegates were engaged and already quite passionate about the subject matter. It was lovely to feel that everyone in the room was on board with what is an important area in today's society. Absolutely everyone on the course gained new knowledge or skills and one of them commented as follows:



MHFA England

"Wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the way you delivered the course. It was so interesting and informative. I intend to put the knowledge and skills that I've learnt to good use. So inspiring!"

I am once again looking forward to delivering this training to more Sackville staff and into the wider community. Hopefully with this training the young people in and around our school will get the help and support through what can be one of the most challenging times. Watch this space!

Sports news

Even the snow can't stop them!



A highlight at present is the performance of our youngest rugby team, the U12s. Both the A and B teams managed to beat local rivals Imberhorne and the traditionally powerful Christ's Hospital.

This was followed up with a victory at the Mid-Sussex Tournament.

The artificial surface at the sports club has allowed hockey to continue apace. Our First XI beat Lingfield College 4-1, with goals from George Cave, Tom Knowles (2) and Matt Conrathe. Sam Akehurst was judged player of the match for his tireless work and accurate passing.



The U13 team have also played since the last newsletter, losing 1-5 against Oathall (who have their own artificial surface to practise on).



Our netball teams have been active too. The U13s beat Burgess Hill 10-0, drew 4-4 with Imberhorne but lost 2-4 to the Weald. Stand-out performances this time from Ella Kessell and Seren Foulds.

Last but not least, our U16s had their end of season tournament, coming third with every game being very closely contested. For five years these young athletes have had their pictures in Sackville News. Well done – you have made the school proud!

Support, believe, foster

Could you, or someone you know, support a child who is going through a difficult time in their lives?

As a West Sussex foster carer you will benefit from local support and training as well as a competitive fostering allowance.

The County Council would be especially keen to hear from people who have childcare experience (either personal or professional) or those who could support older children, sibling groups or children with additional needs.

A series of local information events is taking place; dates and times below:

- 20th February, Burgess Hill Town Council, 6.30-8.30pm
- 27th February, Felpham Community College, 6.30-8.30pm
- 21st March, Southwick Community Centre, 6.30-8.30pm
- 27th March, County Hall North, Horsham, 6.30-8.30pm

You can also call the Fostering Recruitment Team on **0330 222 7775** or visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/fostering

Change a life – adopt a local child

Have you, or has someone you know, been thinking about adoption?

There are currently many children in foster care in West Sussex, waiting for a new adoptive family. West Sussex County Council's Adoption Team is keen to hear from you and answer any questions you may have.

The children waiting for adoption have had a difficult start in life; there is a need for adoptive families from all backgrounds to match the needs of these children.

The County Council is particularly keen to hear people with a medical or caring background and who would consider adopting a child with learning needs or medical conditions, such as Foetal Alcohol Syndrome.

Find out more at a local information session, dates of which can be found at www.westsussex.gov.uk/adoption or call the team for an informal chat on **0330 222 7777**.

ANNUAL LIONS' SPONSORED SWIM

Saturday 3rd March at Kings Centre after 6 pm

The PE department needs **volunteers to swim in relay teams of 5 or 6** to raise sponsorship money for both the Lions and the PE department at Sackville. The money is used to buy additional items to enhance our PE provision.

Please see Mr Currie for a sponsorship form.

Help us raise egg-stra!

DONATE

Text QVHC18 £2 £5 or
£10 to 70070 to donate to
QVH Charity and make a
difference today.

This Easter we are raising money to improve our waiting and play areas for our children's services at the Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead.

Can you help?



Sponsored
Easter
challenge



Run an
Easter
cake
sale



Host an egg
painting
competition



Organise an
Easter
crafternoon



For more information about how to get involved
please call us on 01342 414170 or visit our website
www.supportqvh.org



Reg. charity no. 1056120