



Sackville School

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

Sackville News

Friday 10 February 2023

Dear Families

There is always a lovely buzz of excitement around the school during the final week of this half term, affectionately known as 'show week'. We have certainly felt it this week as **Grease mania** has caught hold after two faultless performances on Wednesday and Thursday evening. Today we welcome in students from **Estcots, the Meads and Ashurst Wood primary schools**, to see a matinee performance, before the grand finale this evening.

I would like to wish all the cast and crew the very best for today's performances and very well deserved break over half term. Special thanks should also go to the staff who will be coming in at the start of their holiday to help dismantle the set and get the hall ready for the start of the new term.

When I reflect back on this relatively short half term, what resonates with me is that **sense of community we are so proud of here at Sackville**. Seeing how the Year 9s pulled together for their mass charity project, and how our new push on rewards and recognition has really taken off and getting buy-in from students and staff are two such examples. Our school production is of course another fine example with almost 10% of the student population having been involved.

More importantly than numbers though, it is seeing the mix of ages, abilities and experience that have worked together to create something so amazing that both impresses and inspires me. This year we had on stage some students for whom school can be difficult sometimes, yet they have shown resilience and determination to succeed. For many others this show has been their very first experience of being part of a school production, working alongside and learning from more seasoned students who have been involved every year or perform outside of school including our very own 'Danny' **Charlie Stripp**, who has performed in the West End. All of those students have worked in harmony to create something so memorable not only for themselves but for the team and the wider **community** as a whole.

Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support and I wish you all a well deserved half term break.

Jo Meloni, Headteacher

Milo Jumps to the Top of the UK U13 Ranking Table



Milo recently took part in the **Vault Manchester** competition, held in Manchester athletics stadium, which is right next to the Etihad Manchester City Football Stadium.

He jumped 2.76 meters, 4 cm short of his personal best and narrowly missed out at a new personal best of 2.91m.

This jump ensured that Milo stayed at the top of the U13 ranking table in the UK.

His next competition is in Lyon - France, in March, where he sincerely hopes to set a new personal best! What an incredible achievement. Huge congratulations Milo, amazing and we wish you the best of luck in Lyon!

Year 9 Trip to Hollywood Bowl, Crawley

On Monday 30 January, we took 188 year 9s on a bowling trip to Hollywood Bowl in Crawley.

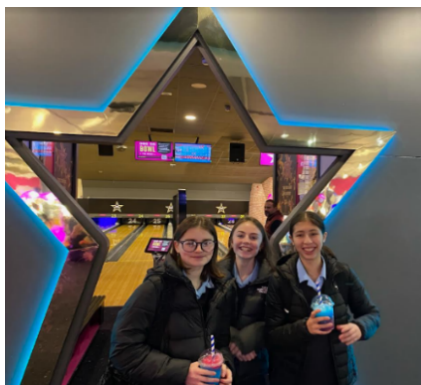
Students bowled, ate, made use of the arcade and were a genuine pleasure to be around. As always, there were a few highlights:

- Mr Jones beating Mr Davies twice at pool.
- Immi winning over 3000 tickets in the arcade and trading them in for a pair of wireless headphones.
- Rose 'winning' in her bowling group - although there may have been some ethical lines blurred here.
- Finlay's excellent bowling technique.



We were truly privileged to take these students out for the afternoon and we very much hope that we are able to do something similar soon to celebrate the daily excellence of our wonderful students.

Mr J Pearson,
Leader of Year 9



Year 9- First Give



Since the beginning of the school year, during tutor time, year 9 have been working alongside **First Give**. **First Give** is a charity that aims to inspire young people to make a positive change about a social issue in their local community. Each tutor group identified a social issue in East Grinstead and picked a charity that focuses on that particular issue to support through social action.

In 9LSH, we decided that the social issue we wanted to focus on was mental health. We researched local charities and as a tutor group picked to support **Jigsaw South East**. Jigsaw South East carries out the incredibly important work of supporting young people and their families who are facing the loss of a loved one. We are currently carrying out social action to raise awareness and funds to donate towards this excellent cause.

Additionally, students from all tutor groups are also working on presentations about their social action to give to a panel of judges. The winning tutor group will then be awarded £1000.00 towards their chosen charity! Good luck to everyone taking part!

Miss L Smith, Form Tutor



<https://www.jigsawsoutheast.org.uk>

..... and First Give the Final.....

Wow. Our students are amazing.

All ten year 9 tutor groups took part in our First Give Final. This created a real buzz and we could not be prouder of the presenting groups.

First Give is a programme where each tutor group researched and chose a charity to represent, engaged in fundraising and social action for their charity and, finally, pitched their chosen charity in the hope of winning the coveted £1000.00 donation. Along the way, each tutor group raised much-needed donations for their charities.

Every single pitch and student performance was exemplary, the band who provided the entertainment were fantastic and the support of parents/carers and family in attendance was wonderful.

In a tight race and tough decision, the judges decided to award the runner-up spots to FLD and BDS (who all adorned orange in some way to represent their chosen MS charity) and the winning place to THR. Individual awards were presented to Immi and James.

Once we receive the £1000.00 cheque from First Give, we will go with our winning group, Giselle, Sophie, Summer and Pippa, to donate it to the deserving Disability Access East Grinstead.

Our students are a real credit to the local area and have passionately engaged in relevant social issues at a very difficult time. We are so proud of them.



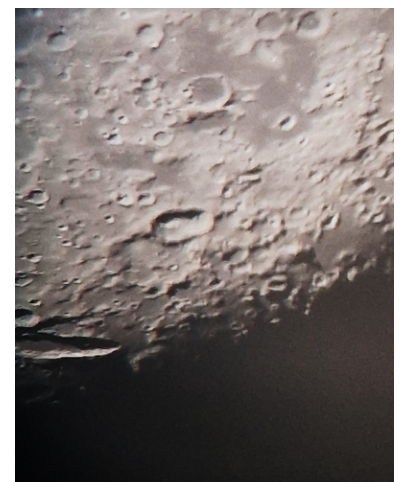
Mr J Pearson, Leader of Year 9

February Observatory Evening

After a cloudy start we were delighted that the weather improved enough for our guests to observe the Moon and Mars. We had around 40 guests (including some cubs) which made a really vibrant evening.

As always, guests were thrilled with views of the heavily cratered surface of the moon and some took incredible photos on their phones, as shown here. Thanks to Kerry for sharing these with us.

Unfortunately, the thin cloud and moonlight prevented a view of "the green comet" - maybe you'll have better luck! See you in March!



Mr Steve Bush

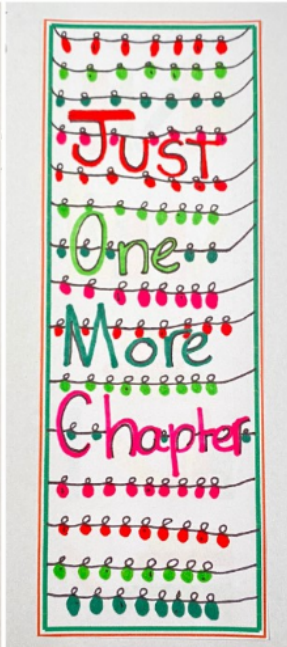
Bookmark Competition!

Recently we judged and decided on the 'Best Bookmark Competition' that we recently ran. There were some fantastic entries using computer programmes, pencil and even some hand painted designs. The level of entries was extremely high and we had a heated debate trying to decide on our winners. Eventually, we came to an agreement, but it was a hotly contested competition. I am sure you will agree our chosen winners are deserving of the praise and discourse that their awesome work produced. Our winner will receive 10 professionally printed copies of their bookmark and a book voucher to spend. All runners up will be given a sweet treat prize and a certificate to celebrate their excellent achievement. Well done everyone!

1st Place: Cecily in Yr 7



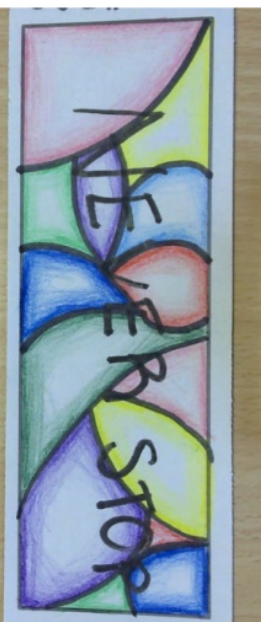
2nd Place: Elijah in Yr 7



3rd Place: Tomos in Yr 7



Special Mention: Rebecca Yr 8, Elijah Yr 8 & Rosa Yr 8



PE DEPARTMENT

U14 Hockey WINNERS

Sackville U14 Boys Hockey beat Skinner's 10-0! Some great goals and assists! Scorers Lewys 3, George 3, James, Finley, Charlie and Morris! Well done.



Year 7 Basketball WINNERS

Year 7 boys completed a stunning comeback against St Paul's. Trailing the first quarter by 8 points, the boys sealed the win in the fourth quarter 22-18.

A resilient performance from all involved, working as a team. POM Toby for driving towards the basket for lay ups. Well done team!

U15 Hockey WINNERS

A fantastic win Sackville 6, Worth 0!

We completely dominated the game with Jack in charge of midfield Morris clearing up any attacks. George and Dylan leading our Goal scorers George 2, Lewys 2 and Dylan 3 (2 from short corners). well done boys.



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attack.
Very

U15 Cricket - Sussex Schools Cricket Tournament

Our U15 squad played some superb indoor cricket, with strong batting and superb fielding. They battled well against Roedean, who went on to win the tournament, and narrowly lost by just 1 run to Downlands. PoM was Chloe for her great all round play, with special mention to Gigi for her superb captaincy role. Well done girls.



Equestrian Team



During the Christmas holidays our equestrian team were busy competing at the show jumping event in Duckhurst, Kent. Ruby, Scarlett and Mia represented Sackville and came 3rd in the teams!! Mia then absolutely smashed it to get 3rd in the individual round at 70cm. The classes were big and the quality of jumping was high so they were all nervous, but they still came up trumps! They have now all qualified again for the grassroots championship. Congratulations girls, we're very proud of you all.

U16 Basketball

Congratulations to the U16 basketball squad who came 2nd in the Mid-Sussex tournament today. Some great play all across the court, but for her outstanding drives towards the basket and super defence play, the player of the tournament was Rose!



for

U13 Netball WINNERS



Well done to the U13 netball team effort and commitment at the Lingfield College netball tournament today, some great play and shooting, especially in the last game, winning 6-2. Thank you to [@lingfieldsport](#) for having us, and a big thank you to Miss Swain for taking her first Sackville fixture!

Sussex Schools Cross Country- Junior Boys

Over 250 runners took part in treacherous conditions and the freezing cold!! Many congratulations to Finley who came 17th and was selected for the county! Also a big well done to Eddie 71st, Woody 122nd, Morris 180th, Will 187th, and Cadan 217th and finally to Albi who came 71st in Inter boys with over 200 runners taking part. You all did brilliantly!



U12 Football WINNERS



The U12's won their league match against The Weald 11-1. A great performance from all of the **girls** but PoM went to Olivia, aka Gazza, for her great positional wing play. Well done girls!

U12 Netball v Imberhorne

We drew 13-13 some excellent shooting and lovely interceptions made for a very close game. POM went to Izzy!



U16 Netball Tournament WINNERS



Superb effort from all involved 🙌

The girls worked so hard for each other and gave one another great support on and off the ball. They played 6 matches, won 5 and drew 1. Shooting was on fire, the defence was solid and the mid court worked tirelessly throughout. PoM = the whole squad



U14 Girls Football Team WINNERS

Congratulations to the U14 girls football team for winning 1-0 against Imberhorne. Great play by all the team and continued challenges throughout the game. PoM Lauren and Naomi.



U12 Boys Rugby v Worth

Drew 6 tries all!

What an amazing game played by 2 cracking teams! The game swung one way then the other. Lots of improvement by the Sackville team with some excellent debuts as well. Try scorer's Leighton, Charlie, Joe, Mason and Marcos x2 on debut!

To keep up to date on all the sporting events, please follow us on our Instagram page @sackvillepeandsport. Kind regards, PE Staff



Stunning success for Sackville Debaters

Congratulations to our senior debating team who achieved **maximum marks** in round two of the Rotary 'Youth Debates' competition on Thursday 9 February.

The team debated whether it would ever be possible for a machine to think like a human. **Suzie** chaired the argument with humour and aplomb, whilst **Lao** argued that 'strong AI' would never be possible, backing his argument skilfully with references from science and philosophy.

Taking the opposite view, **Michael** suggested if a machine appeared to think like us, that would be enough, since that is the standard we apply to other humans.

Our debaters were up against an equally impressive team of young students from **Duke of Kent School** in Surrey, who were also interested in discussing technology, debating the notion that overall IT was causing more harm than good.

The rotary judging panel declared it was the hardest decision they had ever had to make, suggesting in the end that both teams go through to round three in Dorking in March.

Congratulations to the excellent debaters – I'm sure I have not fully done justice to the complexity of their arguments here!

Good luck for round 3.

Mr Adrian de Souza



HEAD OF SCIENCE SNAPS UP PHOTOGRAPHER AWARD!

We are proud to announce that our Head of Science, Janina Stromfield, has been awarded a certificate of achievement as a finalist by the Royal Photographic Society (RPS) for her entry entitled 'The Great Big Glacier Melt'. Many congratulations.

"Combining my passion for photography and science has resulted in an award from the Royal Photographic Society. I am thrilled to be a finalist in the first year of the women in science photographer of the year competition. I am even more pleased that it is a photo that is close to my heart, climate change is something that we all know is hugely damaging and hopefully this photograph may highlight this plight even more ensuring people think more about changes they can make."



Janina Stromfield



Kindness -A message from Mr Jim Roberts

A few days ago, I was behind an elderly lady with her mobile walking frame at the checkout in my local Co-op store. She seemed to be taking a long time with the cashier to sort herself out but, somewhat to my surprise, for once I wasn't angry or irritated at her slowness or for me being delayed, I just waited patiently for my turn.

The lady put a couple of items into the tray under her walking frame then she picked up a lot of other things, which was most of her shopping, and walked away from the counter. She took the items and put them in the Food Bank donation basket. Then she paid and left with her paper and TV guide. When I got to the counter, I remarked to the guy serving me at her generosity and he replied that she did that most days.

I was more than a little overwhelmed.

I spoke about Kindness at Christmas and it is really the basis of my message every year. I thought this lady's action a very timely reminder of what I said in 2021 when I spoke of the work of Christmas beginning after all the lights and tinsel had been put away.

When we get back to school after half term, it will be Lent. This is a time when people traditionally give something up that they enjoy. I would prefer it, and think it so much more valuable, if we could give away a little kindness each day. Simple actions of kindness don't cost us anything but they will make someone else feel so much better.

Have you been kind today?



Higher Education Fair - Mrs Helen Smith, Futures Leader

Thursday 2 February saw the annual Higher Education fair at Sackville which we are delighted to say was a resounding success. We were lucky enough to have 14 universities from across the UK, three further education colleges and ASK apprenticeships exhibiting and we would like to thank them for making the evening so engaging and informative for our young people.

There was wonderful buzz around the hall with high attendance figures from both students and parents/carers leaving standing room only in the hall. The evening started with a welcome talk from Mrs Valentine, Head of Sixth form followed by a presentation from Sussex University on How to choose a University and course, and finally a presentation by James Brooklyn from ASK on apprenticeships. Students and parents then had the opportunity to talk to visit the exhibitors' stands and were able to ask representatives questions regarding the courses offered at each establishment. This was a wonderful opportunity for our young people to start to think about their future pathways and an ideal opportunity to investigate the routes that are open to them.

We would like to thank all of those involved in making this event such a success.



Sackville Sixth Form – A Message from Mrs Helen Valentine

The spring term for sixth formers is a particularly crucial one. Students in year 12 have settled into their chosen subjects and are fully aware of the demands of sixth form study both in lessons and in independent study. We have been delighted to introduce **supervised study periods for year 12 students**. We thank students and parents for embracing this so positively. I would also like to thank Mrs Bull for her sterling work in managing this new system.

Mrs Bull has now been in situ as our **KS5 attendance and sixth form intervention officer** for half a term and I know students across the year groups are finding her support invaluable.

Our term started with Mr de Souza leading **study skills sessions** for both year 12 and year 13 students in our weekly SMSC sessions. Sixth form tutors then followed this up with form tutor sessions. Our **SMSC programme** goes from strength to strength covering a wide range of issues - this week we welcomed the **NHS education team** to talk with our year 12 students. Staff members have given great assemblies - Mr Bush inspired our students with an assembly on the **quality of resilience** - one of our key Sackville values. Mr Batsford delivered a key assembly on **addiction** and how to seek help.

Following on from our very successful **Higher Education Fair**, year 12s are now busy researching future plans and career pathways, whether that be through an apprenticeship, employment or degree route. For year 13, university offers are coming through thick and fast now - we have offers for our **106 university candidates** from a wide range of universities for a wide range of subjects. Candidates have offers from **Oxford, Bristol, Durham, Exeter, Nottingham, Kings, Cardiff, Swansea, Leeds, Lincoln, Portsmouth and Oxford Brookes** to name but a few. We wish our year 13 students well as they prepare for their second set of mocks next half term and then their final exams.

We are delighted that so many of our KS5 students are involved with Grease, the school show. Whilst it is clear who has acting roles, it is not always so clear that many of our gifted students are giving time to set design, props, costume help, musical accompaniments and lighting and sound. Thank you to those students.

We have a few **notable achievements for students** - it is impossible to name them all but here are a few examples of the achievements of our talented young people. We send our warmest congratulations to them and to the many others who have not always been forthcoming in telling us of their achievements. Recently Theo has taken part in the prestigious national Chemistry Olympiad, Sarah has been part of a gold medal Four Nations winning team for taekwondo, Rachel and Lillie continue with their swimming competitions at a high level, Jamie continues to train with the national youth squad for sailing and Jess has qualified as a ski instructor.

Ten of our year 12/13 students are undertaking a **British Sign Language course** at school - this is a nationally recognised qualification that not only enhances their portfolio of skills but also demonstrates our students' desire and commitment to help others.

We are pleased that so many of our year 11 students are excited about **joining Sackville Sixth Form in September 2023**. We will shortly be releasing details about **taster days and familiarisation events**.

Mrs Helen Valentine
Leader of Sixth Form