

Sackville News

Friday 12th February 2021



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Dear Parents and Carers

We have made it through **half a term of remote learning!** Staff here have been struck by **how well classes have progressed through their schemes of work**, and report they are at least where they would expect to be at this time of year.

None of this would have been possible without the help and support of parents and carers. I know this is not always easy; the gentle reminder to check the calendar for live lessons can become another nag on top of plates left around the kitchen and untidy bedrooms. So, a **huge thank-you from us** for your time and support alongside everything else you have to do.



The current live-lesson statistics are certainly very impressive. Up until Wednesday of this week there had been a staggering **87,974 student-attendances at live lessons since Christmas.** This shows both that we are delivering the online sessions, and that you are getting the students to join in. **The learning is happening!**

These figures might have been more impressive still were it not for an internet outage at school last Friday, which meant that those in school were unable to complete their live provision. Year 13 student **Tallulah Treadaway** (left) rescued her Spanish lesson by taking over from Ms Spearman, who continued to follow her own slides using mobile data!

It has continued to be a pleasure to have some of the **children of critical workers in the school.** We hope this has allowed some of the vital work done by their parents to run more smoothly. Here you can see the students hard at work in their



live lessons in a repurposed drama room.



Even at break and lunchtime this snowy week, when the energy and excitement of the students seems to have multiplied their number threefold, the school feels very empty. Perhaps particularly so now: in a normal year this would have been **show week.**

I always say that our shows make me the proudest headteacher in the land. Perhaps the absence of a show makes me feel that even more. So as a bit of cheer at the end of this cold week, here are some pictures of some of our recent performances.



Joseph – 2020



Back to the Eighties - 2019



Fame 2017



Our House 2016



Hairspray, 2015



Peter Pan, 2014

If you are missing the joy of musical theatre, Ms Warran has put together a recommended list of shows currently on streaming services. You can see this on page 3. She also has a challenge and a competition for you.

All of us fervently hope that as many students as possible can return on 8th March. We are expecting an announcement from the government around 22nd February, and as soon as we know anything, we will share our plans with you. One date we have now firmed up – **year 11 virtual parents' evening will be on Thursday 25th March**. I hope the students will have been back for nearly three weeks by then, so teachers will have something meaningful to say about the return to school, as well as remote learning. There will still be time to put into action those **final pieces of advice to maximise success in the final written assessments in May**.

For now, I wish you all a safe and relaxing half-term break.

Julian Grant
Headteacher

Revise with the Life Skills Company

Local partnership *The Life Skills Company* are offering a revision workshop over Zoom on **February 15th** at 7pm. Meg and Steve have many years' experience working with young people in UK schools, and have worked with Sackville for over a decade.

The workshop costs £15. To book your place go to <https://thelifeskillscompany.com/how-to-revise>

How to Revise
Live & online workshop
Revise effectively & enjoyably

The Life Skills Company

Missing Musical Theatre?

Ms Warran has put together a list of musical entertainment available on streaming services.

A good starting point, and not just because it is free, is the BBC's [The Greatest Show](#). This features show stoppers from many recent West end and Broadway musicals. Loads of great shows are available on streaming services.

- Disney +**
 Hamilton
 Frozen 2
 High School Musical (series)
 The Sound of Music
 Into the Woods
 Mary Poppins
 Sister Act

- Amazon Prime**
 Hairspray
 Sweeney Todd
 Cats
 Jesus Christ Superstar
 Little Shop of Horrors
 Guys and Dolls
 Les Miserables
 A Chorus Line
 Billy Elliot (Live)
 Rent
 Chicago
 Grease
 Oliver
 Hamilton: One Shot to Broadway (documentary)

- Netflix**
 Annie
 West Side Story
 Dream Girls
 Funny Girl
 La La Land
 Prince of Egypt
 Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

If you are up for a **half-term challenge**, our drama department would love you to try to **recreate your favourite scene from a musical** and send in a picture to Ms Warran (hwarran@mysackville.co.uk). We'll be sharing these on our drama Instagram page!

Looking forward to seeing some creative efforts!

Year 11 sixth form options

The closure has slightly delayed our coursing process this year. It is now finished, and parental letters will be mailed out the first week back after half term.



Arrgh ... half term, more time at home with the kids ...



This half-term may feel more like Groundhog Day than a real break!

So it might be a good time to take a look at the [emotional wellbeing section](#) of our website. It's full of great ideas to stay balanced as we navigate this latest lockdown.

The good people over at [Pobble](#) have curated one hundred

activities for youngsters **that don't require a screen**. This (left) is just one of four posters of ideas.



However strange next week might be ... at least it is a break from home-schooling!

Thanks again to [Adrienne Hedger](#) for this dose of humour.

Whatever you get up to, we hope that the week is a safe, healthy and peaceful one.

