

Sackville News

14th February 2020



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Dear Parents

As headteacher of our community, it is with immense sadness that I begin this edition of Sackville News paying tribute to two remarkable people who have recently passed away.



Former student Annie Dilek passed away on Monday 27th January and it is an understatement to say that she was an inspiration to all those around her. To use the words of one comment on her Facebook page: **this was the bravest young woman in the world.**

For over a year Annie had been increasingly unwell, but not once did she complain, and never did she put herself before others. Annie was still socialising and joking with her wide circle of friends who were with her right to the very end.

Our thoughts are especially with her mother and father, and her brothers Rodi and Shane. For her very many friends she has left a space that can never be filled.

What remains are some wonderful memories. Annie's sunny disposition never left her, and the love which the whole Sackville community held for her was obvious every time she visited the school. One enduring memory will certainly be the trip to **Ashdown House Hotel** with her closest friends and the sixth form staff, where she enjoyed a high-tea full of laughter and fun, most of which originated from Annie herself.



For those of us who knew her, each will have many special recollections.

I am also sorry to have to share the news that **Dot Barden**, one of Sackville's true characters, has passed away.



For generations of Sackville students **Dot was Sackville**; it is difficult to imagine our community without her vibrant contributions. She was still teaching – Latin – right up to 2014, making the subject come alive with her lurid tales of Roman excess, and by arriving to lessons in a toga. To the many she taught English such exploits are vivid memories. One of her former students has written on Facebook: **"The best teacher I ever had. I loved English because of Mrs Barden"**.

No-one would disagree with this. At Sackville too we would say she was the best teacher we ever had. Her legacy in generations of Sussex students and staff will never fade.

On the day of her funeral, we were pleased to hold an **event at Sackville** to honour the amazing contribution that Dot made to the school. A lot of **ex-students, colleagues** and **friends** attended to celebrate her extraordinary life.

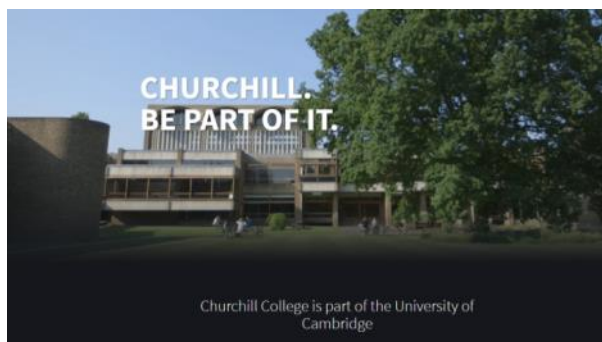


Many were seeing each other for the first time in years, and their old school canteen was once again alive with their memories of their time at Sackville and just what Dot had meant to them. A moving eulogy was given by **Dot's son Calvin**. This was followed by an appreciation of her grandmother by **Letty**, Dot's eldest grandchild. In both of these speeches the energy and subversive humour of Dot came to the fore, making it all the more clear how important she was to everyone who knew her, and just how much she will be missed. A highlight of the evening was the reading of one of Dot's own poems by another granddaughter, **Cerys**, who is in year 8 at Sackville.

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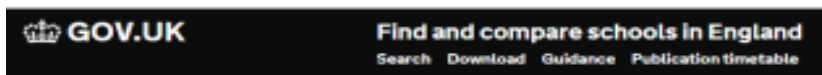
Students in year 10 received a taste of life at **Cambridge University** after hearing a talk from **Dr Matt Bullimore** on Tuesday 4th February. Dr Bullimore is a regular visitor to Sackville and talked of the need to try to get the best GCSE grades possible, and that with these behind you anyone is in a position to apply for a place at Cambridge or another of our prestigious universities.



On Thursday 6th, a minivan full of **year 12 students visited Dr Bullimore at**

Churchill College, Cambridge to get a taste of life in the university, talk to existing students and staff, and to be given further advice on how to secure a place in one of our most competitive institutions. These students will commence their applications later this year.

2020 has seen **Sackville achieve four offers at Oxford and Cambridge**, and we hope to be able to continue this success rate in coming years.



Such success can only be achieved with **strong academic progress and good teaching**. We are pleased that the publication that week of the [official school performance tables](#) showed both are in place at Sackville, with our GCSE students' results once again **significantly above average**. Our ranking is very high in the locality and, indeed, in West Sussex. Not only do the tables show the strong progress that our students make here; they also show that we stand out as having one of the highest **Ebac (English baccalaureate) entry figures** in the county, meaning that the vast majority of our students study a language, history or geography, two sciences and English and maths as a minimum – and achieve very well in doing so. This sets them up for good futures.



As many parents will know, this week has been an incredibly special one with the staging of **this year's school show 'Joseph'** over three nights. The show has been really **fantastic!** So many students and staff were involved – a great cross section of our community – and the audience support from families, governors and supporters in the locality was excellent. We were very pleased to host the **mayor, Danny Favor**, at the first night performance.

In addition to the marvellous cast, orchestra, technical and stage crews, I would like to offer a special thanks to **Ms Warran, the show director**, and **Mr Heatley, the musical director**, for their outstanding work and leadership throughout.





A number of our **A level photography students** recently entered their work for the **Rotary International Young Photographer of the Year** competition. Each student selected three images to present to a panel of judges, who looked at a range of submissions from local schools. **East Grinstead Meridian Rotary Club** chose three photographs by our **Year 12 student Robyn Shenton** (two of which are shown here) to put forward to the **regional finals**. We are



really proud of Robyn and the powerful images she created in the first term of her A level course. Students **Rosie Sands, Emma Ogleshorpe, Frida Love, Luke Slater** and **Holly Atkinson** were all awarded a certificate of participation and we would like to thank EG Meridian Rotary Club for providing this encouraging experience for them.

The last week in January was a big one for our **school debaters**. This crack team of public speakers has been honed to perfection



by **Mrs Stuart** in after school sessions. On Wednesday January 29th three of our year 13 debaters went to **Sevenoaks School** to take part in the **English Speaking Union Debating Competition**. In their debate they had to oppose the motion that *This house regrets the commercialisation of Pride*. All three spoke eloquently and effectively and were able to rebut the points made by their opponents from Caterham School. These were all things that the adjudicator commended. We are delighted to say that **Imogen Gaines, Ellie Smith** and **Aminah Rahman** will as a result **go through to the next round**. The girls had had time to prepare their speeches in advance, a luxury they

did not have on Saturday February 1st when they were accompanied by four of our most persuasive **year 10s** at the **South East Regional Heat** of the **Cambridge Schools' Debating Competition**. In this competition the students paired up and debated alongside two students from another school who they have never met. Opposing them are a further four students from different schools again. The students have only 15 minutes to prepare their responses to such motions as *This house would ban extremist political parties*, or *This house would not prosecute crimes committed out of economic necessity*. Our students did extremely well, as **one of only two comprehensive schools in the heat**, coming first in several of their group debates. In the end this was not enough to go through to the next round, with all four places taken by public schools with long-established debating traditions. A special well-done nonetheless to Aminah, Ellie and Imogen, and our amazing year 10s **Lao Lufu, Suzie McMillan, Sam Baker** and **Michael Panayiotou**.



Last month, Year 8s enjoyed a de-timetabled day as we welcomed a range of important visitors including **magistrates, JPs** and **police officers**, led by **Frankie Sulke, CBE**. The day, called **Your Life You Choose** included a **courtroom simulation**, a **conversation with serving police officers**, a **workshop on sentencing**, and an hour with a **former prisoner**.

The students and their tutors were enormously positive about the day, with the corridors ablaze with conversation as the students went from session to session.

Five one-hour sessions demanded and exemplary attitude from our students and we are delighted that this was recognised by our visitors. We were told:-

"Your pupils were an absolute credit to you all. They engaged actively, were curious, interested and interesting. They were respectful of each



I would like to thank the team of visitors who made this possible, and **Ms Vance** for her essential in-school organising work.

Parents may remember from the last edition of Sackville News that **year 8 Spanish students** visited the **British Film Institute** at the beginning of term. It has since been the turn of our **year 8 French and German students** to do the same when they showed off their considerable language skills over two days last week.

Many students volunteered to have time on the microphone, in a **hall full of students from many different schools**, and everyone was a perfect ambassador for Sackville.



Thank you to all of the students for their hard work, and to the **Modern Foreign Languages department** for organising the trips.

Our year 10 students who are progressing most strongly against their **minimum expected grades** were treated to a celebration breakfast by **Mrs Sands, Mrs Newcomb** and me on Thursday 30th January.

A great deal of hard work is needed to be scoring more than half a grade above expectation in every subject, which is the minimum each of these students is achieving. Many are more than a grade above.



Well done to all of them – this is a perfect springboard for that second Beliefs and Values mock GCSE exam after half-term.

Our **year 13s** have recently completed **mock examinations** and our **year 11s** soon commence their second set after half term. I am **full of admiration and respect** for the fine way our young people approach these challenges and the support you give them as parents. We will stand by them every step of the way!

As ever, it has been a pleasure to catch up with so many of you at our **parents' evenings** this term and I look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming **year 13, year 8 (options)** and **year 11** meetings over the next half term. The **home-school partnership** at Sackville is very special and something that I **greatly treasure**; thank you!

With best wishes for the half term break.



Julian Grant
Headteacher

Sports news

23rd January: **Year 8 netball** got off to a good start in the league, beating Burgess Hill 6-3 and The Weald 5-3, but lost to Imberhorne 1-4. Player of the Match **Eden Kosifou**.



27th January: **U15 girls' cricket** came third at Hurstpierpoint tournament. A summer full of promise awaits!

27th January: **Rugby first XV** beat Bennett Memorial 27-20 thanks to a great second half performance. Player of the Match **Jack Morrison**.

28th January: **U14 boys' hockey** lost 1-3 to Skinners. Goal scored by **Alex Nuth**. Players of the Match Rhys Hunt and George Sutton for sterling work in midfield.

28th January: **U12 boys' rugby** lost 5-6 to Oriol. Superb second

28th January: **U13 basketball** beat Oathall 46-10. cricket

half comeback not quite enough to overturn three try deficit at half-time. Try scorers **Ben Darch** (3), **Tristan Simpson** and **Dexter Matthews**. Great performances from **Darcy O’Ryan Bristow**, **Logan Sewell**, **Kai Rhodes** and **Titu Mendy Mendy**.



29th January: **U14B netball** lost 9-10 to Michael Hall. Player of the Match. Player of the Match **Lauren Burchett**.

29th January: **U12 boys’ rugby** beat Worth 3-1. Two tries from **Ben Darch** and one from **Tristan Simpson**. Player of the Match **Darcy O’Ryan Bristow**.

29th January: **U15 boys’ football** beat Oriel 2-0 with goals from **Matt Nicholson** and **Harvey Burgess**. Player of the Match **Matei Cumpatescu**.

29th January: **U13 netball** lost 5-8 to Downlands, beat Downlands B 11-6, lost 6-8 to Tanbridge in a very close game. Players of the Match **Poppy Furbank**, **Ella McKenzie**, **Eden Kosifou**.



31st January: **U15 (mainly) boys’ hockey** beat Oriel 1-0 with a goal from **Jake Hodges** who was also Player of the Match alongside **Rhys Hunt**.

31st January: **U13 basketball** beat The Weald 18-4, lost to Forest 14-16, and lost to Tanbridge House 12-14. The team were unlucky to lose two very tight games. Players of the Match **Freddie Mabey** and **Ryan Taylor**.

February 3rd: **U14 boys’ hockey** lost 1-7 to Lingfield A team, with a goal from **Tom Walsh**. Player of the Match **George Sutton**.

February 3rd: **U12 boys’ rugby** beat Bohunt 4-2, with **Tristan Simpson** Player of the Match.

February 5th: **U14 boys’ rugby** beat Oriel 50-10. Tries from **Oscar Read** (2), **Matt Crenel** (2), **Max Aubrey**, **John McDonald**, **George Sutton**, **Connor Madden**. Player of the Match **Oscar Staples**.



February 5th: **U16 netball end of season tournament**: came second overall after a close final game against Millais.



February 5th: **U12 basketball** won 16-10 against The Weald. Player of the Match **Marcus Jussing-Powell** for both scoring and rebounds.



February 5th: **U14 boys' hockey** tournament at Eastbourne College: lost three and drew one against some challenging private school opponents.



February 5th: **U13 netball** beat Warden Park 8-6, lost 3-4 to Millais and beat St Paul's 11-6. Players of the Matches **Bella Kilkenny, Poppy Furbank** and **Ella McKenzie**.



February 6th: **U13 girls' football** lost 2-3 to ?. **Harriet Fanner** and **Katie Smyth** were excellent in midfield, **Poppy Furbank** and **Daisy Titchener** made some great runs, and **Noemi Molnar** was brilliant in goal. **Daisy** got both goals, with **Poppy** and **Daisy** Players of the Match.



February 7th: **U13 girls' cricket** enjoyed a successful tournament as a warm-up to the summer. Batsman of the Day **Jess Walker**. Bowler was **Katie Smyth** and fielder **Bella Kilkenny**. Well done also to debutants **Nattie Lane** and **Chloe Dawson** who both made important fielding and batting contributions.

February 6th: **U13 basketball** beat The Burgess Hill Academy 22-21, with **Freddie Mabey** Player of the Match

February 6th: **First XI hockey** lost 0-5 to Claremont. Player of the Match **Tom Mooney** for his first ever game in goal!



February 10th: **U14 netball** lost 10-22 to Lingfield College.
Katrina Mutimba Player of the Match.

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.

Please can we ask that parents do not park in Warburton Close and obstruct access to Littlefair Care Home when dropping-off or picking students up?

Emergency services need round-the-clock access to the home.

Manty thanks!

Juno goes to Tanzania

Juno Phitidis writes:-

Between March and June I will be joining a long running **VSO/ICS** project in a rural community in North West Tanzania.

The aim of the project is to help young people recognise and achieve their ambitions, whether that is improving their employability skills and supporting them to access decent work or helping young people from marginalised communities to access education and health services that are right for them.

Part of my commitment is to raise funds for the project, both to build my own confidence and to raise awareness for the incredible work that VSO/ICS is doing. That is why I've organised this fundraising event. Tickets are available from Juno, Naomi or by making a £15 donation per person on my [Just Giving](#) page.

If you are unable to attend the event but would still like to make a contribution, please also use my page:

<http://www.justgiving.com/juno-phitidis>

*I am extremely grateful to **Noah Francis Johnson**, Folkadelix, Stuart Goodwin, Michael Hoelters and Tia as well as all the other performers who have generously offered their talent and time to help me reach my goal and take a stand against poverty. It really does feel like a community effort and it would have been impossible to do it without their help.*

To read more about this vital work, please visit the VSO website: <http://www.vsointernational.org/fighting-poverty>

**A TASTE OF
TANZANIA**
FUNDRAISER

HOSTED BY STUART GOODWIN AND JUNO PHITIDIS
WITH PERFORMANCES FROM
NOAH FRANCIS JOHNSON
FOLKADELIX
TIA AND MICHAEL
+ MORE

£15 INCL. A VEGGIE DISH
SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY @ 19:30

FOOD • **RAFFLE** • DRINKS

VSO **ICS** international citizen service

TICKETS ON **JustGiving** SEARCH "JUNO" **Freshfield Hall RH18 5ES**

If your child is going to be absent from school, please can you ensure that the school is contacted by 9.00am on **each day of absence**. Please report the absence to the appropriate [year assistant](#).

Wanted: Volunteer Summer Workshop Assistant

We are looking for enthusiastic people, 18 and over, who would like to work alongside our workshop leaders to help deliver this year's summer programme of Musical Theatre, Drama, Dance, Circus Skills and Fashion. Taking place 22nd-24th & 27th-31st July 9:30-3:30.

For more information or to apply candidates can contact us on 01342 836785 or email us at info@bloominarts.org.uk www.bloominarts.org.uk

There will be high demand for these coveted places.

"A year ago, I responded to a poster like this and I enjoyed the summer workshop so much that here I am a year later helping with the dance company every week. I felt apprehensive at first, but with a group of people who are so welcoming, from staff to participants, it was easy to settle in." Grace.



Bloomin Arts offers opportunities for people with learning disabilities to enjoy, develop skills, perform and work in the arts. Charity number: 11145645

Bloomin Arts: 5A Shawlands Court, New Chapel Road, Lingfield, Surrey, RH17 6BL

The Application Deadline is Friday 6th March 2020

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OPEN TRIAL SESSIONS SATURDAY MORNINGS
AT ORIEL SCHOOL FROM 10AM - 11AM.
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CDGFC.GIRLS@GMAIL.COM



ACTIVE YOUTH FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

Starting Wednesday 5th February
Wednesdays 4pm - 5.30pm

A parent led active session for 10 - 14 year olds with disabilities.

Come along and take part in a different range of sports and activities each week, including: racket sports, football, basketball, netball, bouncing castle, crafts and Wii sports

Suitable for ages 10 - 14 year olds

Cost: £3.20 per person per session

For further information ask at reception or contact the team on

01342 321210 or info@egsc.org.uk

Everyone's welcome

egsc.org.uk

f [EGSportsClub](#) @EastGrinsteadSC

*February
Half Term
Programme*

What's on at East Grinstead Sports Club

Find out more at reception or at head to egsc.org.uk
£1 entry for all sessions

Monday 17th February

Badminton & Table Tennis
3pm - 6pm



Tuesday 18th February

Circus & Magic Workshop
12.30pm - 3.30pm



Table Tennis & Squash
3pm - 6pm

Wednesday 19th February

Under 5's Activity Session
1pm - 3pm



Parent Led Active Youth Session
4pm - 5.30pm

Thursday 20th February

Badminton & Table Tennis
12pm - 3.30pm



Zoolab (exotic animals)
1pm - 3.30pm

Friday 21st February

Table Tennis & Squash
9am - 11am & 1pm - 4pm



Magic/Story Telling
1pm - 4pm

Tel: 01342 321210 Email: info@egsc.org.uk
f [EGSportsClub](#) @EastGrinsteadSC

*Please note - time limits for activities may apply depending on numbers