

Sackville News

Friday 15th January 2021



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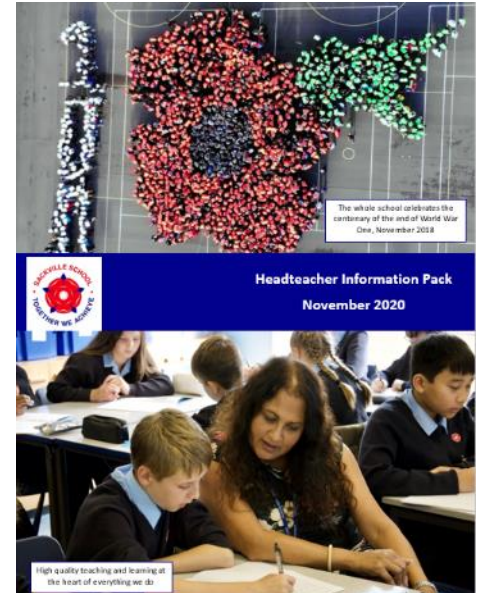
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Dear Parents and Carers

The whole community continues to work very hard to ensure that learning and support for all is the best it can be. These are certainly unprecedented times.

In light of the current situation and in discussion with Tim Humphrey, our Chair of Governors, I have offered to **stay on as Headteacher at Sackville until Christmas 2021** and this offer has been accepted. This means you are stuck with me for another term!

In all seriousness, the careful planning of my departure and appointment of successor was not on the basis of a second lockdown occurring. I believe that, right now, the school would benefit from as much stability as possible and we cannot possibly hold interviews as intended in February; I feel it remains essential for staff to have the chance to meet with candidates as a key part of the process. For any serving headteachers to be able to give the necessary full term's notice of resignation from their post, a September start means the interviews having to take place by Easter at the latest and we are not in a position to guarantee that. By pushing things back a term, we now have the whole of the summer to complete the process. I am sure you all realise how much I love it here so this new plan sits perfectly well with me – I obviously hope you feel the same! With the deadline for applications passing this week, the candidates have now all been informed, as have the staff.



We are two weeks into the closure, and **engagement levels with remote learning are very high**. I would once again like to thank all parents and carers for their support. Students should be getting plenty of live teaching as well as some lessons for which work is set. We are now suggesting to our teachers that the live input into a KS3 and 4 lesson lasts between 20 and 30 minutes, with work set for the remainder of the lesson. Students can complete this work outside the lesson time to allow a break from the screen during the day. Teaching and work set for years 7-10 should amount to about five hours per day, as we don't want students spending much longer than that on their screens – for school work at least. Of course in the exam years there may be more work set, and students will naturally also be revising.

Please **mute your mic**
Please **switch off your video**



We will send out a **questionnaire early next week** which will allow you to give us fuller more quantifiable **feedback on our remote learning provision**.

This week we got results for several of our year 13 students' **extended project qualifications**. This qualification, which demands considerable self-motivation and discipline, requires students to choose and research a topic of their own choosing. It often also brings grade reductions in university offers. Eight students achieved grades ranging from A* to B. Congratulations to **Amy Attwater, Bethan Maidment, Alex Flude, Megan Green, Ben Kenward, Lauren Scrivener, Megan Stratford**.

And so to our year **10 parents' evening last night**. I was just delivering snacks to staff at about 4pm, feeling pleased with how smoothly everything was going, when it would seem every other school in the country came on line and the SchoolCloud servers keeled over. I expect the second Thursday in term is a popular day for parents' evening. This is the first time their system has failed, and having scaled this product up from almost nothing within six months, a few glitches might be expected. Even our Gmail accounts have been struggling during this closure.



We have rescheduled the consultation to **Thursday February 4th**, and will move the year 8 parents' evening from that day. In some ways this is an advantage, as we will be able to feedback on how year 10 students have engaged with remote learning.

I would like to thank our parents for their patience yesterday. We feel confident it will not happen again.

With best wishes for the coming week.

Julian Grant, Headteacher



FOODBANK and Covid-19

We want to continue to provide our services and we want to keep both you, and our volunteers, safe.

We would be grateful for your support and understanding, whilst we continue to supply emergency food to those who need it most in these uncertain times.

The changes in the way we operate are as follows:

- We are no longer conducting face-to-face sessions so you need to contact us via phone or email in all cases. We are moving to a Pick-Up system where you can collect by car without entering the building
- Access to the foodbank is by referral. A list of the agencies who can issue you with a voucher can be found on our website - or please contact us for further information. Many agencies can now issue e-vouchers which are sent directly to us.
- Please call the number below and leave a clear message, with your name and number and we will call you back, take your details and discuss your circumstances to determine what you need
- If you cannot leave your home to pick-up, we will deliver to you, We'll ring or knock then step back to maintain distance
- Signposting, support and advice, will be via phone at this time

Call 0785 6864251

alternatively, you can contact us by E-mail at

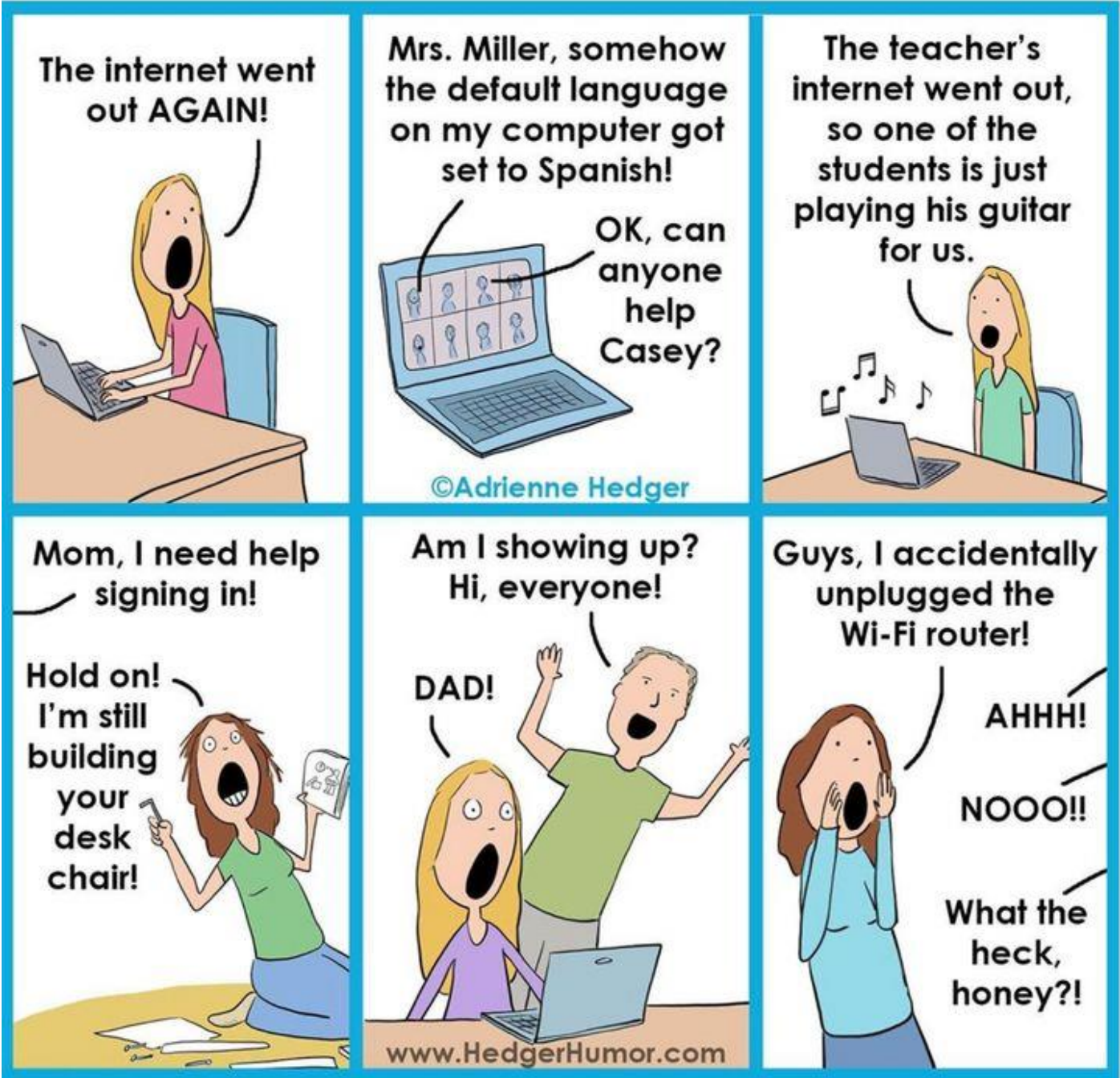
crisis@eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk



We are having to make these changes to our service due to the effect of government regulations regarding self-isolation, social distancing & hygiene practices.

Thank you for your understanding Please stay safe

Scenes from Schooling At My House



[Thanks again to the Huffington Post](https://www.huffpost.com)