

# Sackville News

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021



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Dear Parents and Carers

It has been another busy week at school with our year 13/14 students sitting their **online mock exams** and displaying their usual excellent attitude. More than 100 of them have applied through *UCAS* for a university place this year. Others are looking for a head start applying for an apprenticeship or job, and so these exams are especially important to them.



I am, of course, aware of the understandable **uncertainty that our exam year students feel about this summer** through **feedback from the phone calls our pastoral teams are making**. Full guidance is a few weeks away, but the government has published a [consultation document](#) about the process to which **parents, carers and students are invited to respond**. What we know so far is that the Department for Education proposes the following:-

- students will be **assessed by their schools** in a period beginning in **May into early June**
- exam boards will provide some **national tests** to be sat in school at this time and be marked by teachers, to aid with the process of generating a school-assessed grade
- these **national tests will only be part of the evidence** used by schools to generate the school-assessed grades
- schools would submit grades to the exam boards by **mid-June**
- external **quality assurance** by the exam boards will be ongoing throughout June
- results would be issued to students in **early July**
- appeals** could be submitted immediately following the issue of results and would **first be considered by schools**

Whilst this gives us some idea of the destination ahead in the summer, how we get there depends crucially on when and how schools are reopened in the spring. There are, however, a few things we can say at this point to give some certainty to our year 10s, 11s and 13/14s. **The year 10 and 11 mock exams scheduled for February 22 – March 4 will not take place**. Instead, **the final written assessment year 10, 11 and 13 students complete will be after the Easter holiday**, and are likely to be the nationally provided tests for most subjects as described above.

This means that, for now, **the most important thing** for students is to **continue to attend lessons**, to **complete the work** set and to **participate as much as possible**, thereby showing us all just what they can do! And I am delighted to say that this is exactly what Sackville teachers are telling me our wonderful students are doing.

As soon as the results of the government consultation are known, we will work with you all to ensure that our students have the opportunity of **getting the best grades of which they are capable**. Along the way, we will ensure that communication with these year groups is clear and appropriately timed.



I know our teachers are working very hard to make online learning as rich as possible for our students, and that with the normal curriculum being followed, our students should be very well placed come April and May. **The number of live lessons delivered is now well into the thousands**. This week, we launched a [questionnaire](#) asking you to **evaluate our remote learning provision**, and if you have yet to complete this we are keeping it open until after the weekend. Preliminary findings are encouraging, and these will be shared with our **Parents' Focus Group** on Monday. We will share the overall findings in next week's newsletter.

I am delighted that our year **11 school debaters** have been able to continue competing. Earlier this week they found themselves in their most daunting *Zoom* call this year, up against sixth formers from Brighton and Ardingly colleges. Though they did not go through this time, they learned a lot and were commended by the judges. As a result they were invited to a **live coaching session** with the **Oxford University Debating Team** on Wednesday, joining over two hundred participants from all over the world. Thank you to **Mrs Stuart** for organising, and well done to **Lao Lufu, Suzie McMillan** and **Michael Panayiotou**.



Finally, I would like to draw your attention to our website where you can see the video for year 12 student **Jamie Bland's** latest single, *Balloon*. Self-penned and performed, this song will not surprise anyone who has heard the excellent Jamie sing at our winter and spring concerts.

We have made it through another week together, and we are a week closer to getting our community back together in person. Thank-you once again for your continued support.

With best wishes.

Julian Grant  
Headteacher

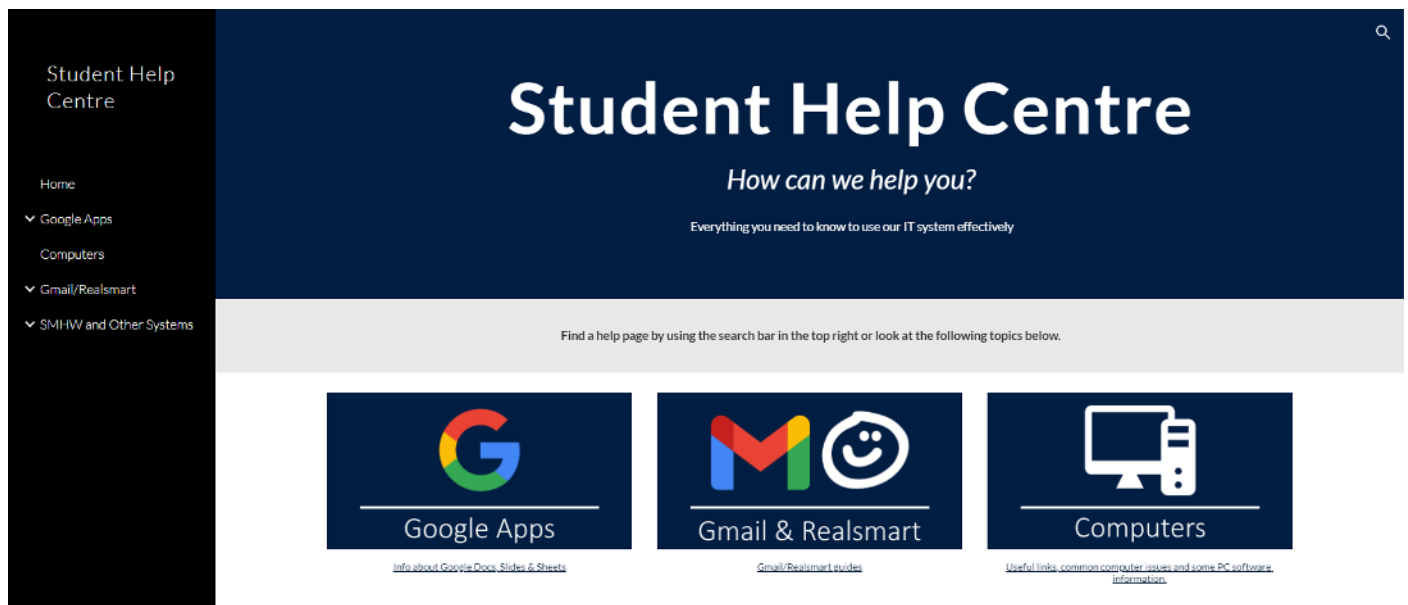
Please could you let us know if your child tests positive for COVID even during the lockdown? It is of great assistance to our PSAs in supporting home learning, and Public Health England use this information to track the development of the virus.

Please email us on [covidabsence@sackvilleschool.org.uk](mailto:covidabsence@sackvilleschool.org.uk)

## Student Help Centre

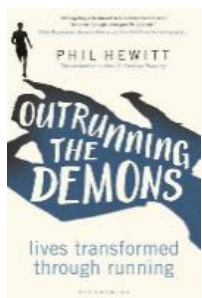
There are an increasing number of support materials for students accessing remote education on our VLE which you can access [here](#).

These include for example guides on [accessing live lesson details](#) through the Google Calendar.



The screenshot shows the Student Help Centre website. On the left is a dark sidebar with the text 'Student Help Centre' and a list of menu items: 'Home', 'Google Apps', 'Computers', 'Gmail/Realsmart', and 'SMI HW and Other Systems'. The main content area has a dark blue header with the title 'Student Help Centre' and the subtitle 'How can we help you?'. Below this is a search bar and a list of topic buttons: 'Google Apps', 'Gmail & Realsmart', and 'Computers'. Each button has a corresponding icon and a small link below it.

## Letter from the East Grinstead Bookshop



Dear Sackville,

Can you help?

We are **The Bookshop** here on East Grinstead's High Street and have had to close our doors due to the current lockdown.

To keep our **very popular events** running, we have taken them 'online', and to that end we are hosting a Zoom Event with Phil Hewitt, author of bestseller 'Outrunning the Demons', on **Thursday**

**28 January 7-8pm**, celebrating the massive mental health benefits of running.



We are hoping that this event might be of interest to the Sackville community.

Please click [here](#) for the event link.