

Sackville News

12th July 2018



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Dear Parents,

As the end of the school year draws closer, we are enjoying a variety of events at Sackville which are very much a reflection of the vibrant community that we are.

Our year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students have **finally finished all of their exams** and our year 9s have also sat their first formal mock exam in Beliefs and Values. **Congratulations to all of our students** for their tremendous hard work and cheerful resilience throughout.

Our year 11s and year 13s celebrated in style with **Proms at the High Rocks Hotel** in Tunbridge Wells. Both were great occasions which included a sit down meal accompanied by humorous speeches and awards. Staff and students together enjoyed wonderful evenings. I was delighted to see so many **year 11 parents** for our prom reception here at school as well; it kept me busy serving the drinks!



East Grinstead
Meridian Rotary

Many students in these year groups displayed their work at the **Rotary Arts and Crafts exhibition at St. Swithun's Church** earlier this month and I was privileged to attend a **prize giving ceremony** there on Monday 2nd July where our students picked up no less than **7 out of the 8 awards** presented! Visitors to the church had voted for their favourite pieces throughout the festival and we were overwhelmed by the outcome for Sackville. What a marvellous tribute to the following students and their teachers:-





The three winning works are pictured here



Many thanks are due to the **Rotary Club** and the **church** for all the hard work they put into this special event for the town.



The recent high temperatures were managed very well by our **year 10** students who undertook their **Duke of Edinburgh bronze assessment expedition** last weekend. Aably organised by **Mr Langford**, the students negotiated steep walks over the South Downs with heavy rucksacks, stopping overnight at the campsite at Wick Street Farm. Radios were allowed to tune into



England v. Sweden! The students finished on Sunday at Halland and did themselves proud. I am very grateful to all the staff who accompanied them.



Parents may remember that many of our students performed extremely well in the Junior maths challenge competition earlier this year. Two of them, **Matthew Botten** and **Tom Salter**, progressed to the **Junior Olympiad** level and I am delighted to share that Tom achieved a **Bronze medal** which is a first for Sackville! Matthew only just missed a bronze so they both did extraordinarily well.

Isaac Kilpatrick-Harrap has recently volunteered his services at **Chailey Heritage School** and had an excellent day. The staff of the school were over the moon about his attitude and composure, helping young children to have PE sessions on adapted bikes and also supporting them in a craft session. They want him to return regularly and he will be featuring in their newsletter as well as ours! This is yet another fine example of community outreach from our superb students.



Our **three day transition programme for year 6** has now taken place and they have started to become familiar with many aspects of Sackville life. I am deeply grateful to **Mrs Brown, Mrs Farrant, Mrs Tocher and Mr Thompson** for their excellent organisation and care shown across the whole period. So many staff contributed to its success in different ways and our **year**

9 performing arts students even laid on a show for them.

We also had the pleasure of greeting the **new intake parents** on the first evening for what was a very productive and supportive session. It was nice to see so many of these parents returning as **year 11 parents the following night to our 6th form induction evening** which was also most informative and ably led by **Mr Whitehead** and **Mrs Valentine**. Judging by the turnout, we are hoping for a very healthy sized sixth form next year.



Our fifth **Eggsfest extravaganza** was arguably the best ever this year! We had perfect weather for this open air concert with hundreds of students taking part from Sackville and our local primary schools. It is a true community event in every sense, with a magnificent turnout from parents and families. Primary and secondary school pupils performed throughout the evening with a fabulous massed choirs' finale!

There are so many people to thank for making all of this possible and I would particularly like to express sincere appreciation to **Mr Heatley** whose leadership of the event was inspirational. As one parent commented:

"My son was there with Halsford Park and had an absolute ball. He has never wanted to sing before so this was a fabulous experience for him."

Several of our staff supported by cooking burgers, parking cars and much else. I would like to mention particularly a group of our **support staff** who were selling cakes on the evening to raise money for the **Harambee project**, sponsoring **Kenyan children's education**. They even produced a **recipe book** that was on sale on the night and **continues to be so, from Reception, at £3 per copy**. It contains a mouth-watering range of recipes from Sackville staff, so do make sure your child buys one to bring home!



We were delighted that **Mrs Joslin**, widow of former Sackville headteacher **Bernard Joslin**, was able to attend and present the **Bernard Joslin Award** for contribution to music to **Tia Bartlett**. This was so well deserved!



Our staff enjoyed their **final INSET day of the year** earlier this month. It began with **each of our ten teaching and learning groups presenting the results of their research this year**. We had input about **engaging boys, motivation, Bloom's taxonomy, PiXL Edge and more**. We know this will have an impact on our classroom practice over the coming years.



As we approach the end of term, it is always time to say **fond farewells to colleagues** who will be leaving us. In conjunction with this, I am delighted to say that we had a successful recruitment period and will continue to be **fully staffed with strong specialist practitioners** as we look ahead to 2018/19 which is wonderful news. Sackville seems an attractive option to potential applicants and our staffing remains pleasingly stable given these turbulent times in education. Also, many of the colleagues below have achieved significant promotions about which I am delighted. Hopefully the Sackville years served them well in preparation!

I would like to wish **Mrs Rogers** and **Ms Rawsthorne** all the best as they commence their maternity leaves to have their first children. We look forward to hearing their news!

The following staff will be departing at the end of term with our grateful thanks and very best wishes for the future:-

Mrs Ashman (English) and **Mrs Webb** (chemistry) will both be retiring this summer after many years of distinguished service to the school and its students. **Mrs Grace** (Textiles) will also be retiring, have been here since 2014, and is to begin a new life in France. **Ms Flatman** (Economics/Business Studies), following long service at Sackville, is leaving at the end of the academic year to take up a promoted post of Head of Economics and Politics at Burgess Hill School. **Miss Hilaly** (maths and year leader of y10) has decided to take a change of career and will be joining Virgin Atlantic Airways this autumn. Her year group will miss her! **Mr Stromfield** (leader of key stage 4 maths) is joining Millais School in September in the promoted post of Director of Maths; a post for which he is very well qualified. **Ms Owens** (Food Studies) is joining a specialist behavioural school in Sussex in the promoted position of Head of Food.

The following staff have been here for a shorter amount of time than those above and are also moving to pastures new this summer. We thank them and wish them well:-

Mrs Rowe (media), **Mr Malik** (computing), **Mr Connellan** (history) and **Miss McCaffrey** (geography).

Finally, I would like to wish **Miss P. Woolley** (study supervisor) all the best as she commences her university studies.

We now await the excitement of **Curriculum Enhancement Week** which I am sure will go very well. Students are undertaking a variety of activities including their year group **Sports Days**, to which **parents are very welcome**. We are also hosting a **conference of some 40 Ofsted senior inspectors** next Friday which should be interesting! Our staff will have an opportunity to give presentations to them and partake in discussions concerning the curriculum and student progress. It is the first time nationally that such a conference has been held in a school and it is therefore quite a privilege to be selected for this.

With best wishes,

Julian Grant
Headteacher

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.

LRC News

Mrs Rose writes:-

Since October last year **Sackville's Reading Group** has been following the "**Amazing Book Awards**" (ABA) which is a Sussex based book award set up in 2011. It is unique in that only the students choose the shortlist, and only the students choose the winners. There is no adult vote.

This year the award ceremony was on Friday 22nd June at Shoreham Academy. Over 300 students, families and librarians joined the authors of this year's shortlist to find out who had been voted top by the students. I was there and could feel the anticipation and buzz of excitement. The three authors that were there all gave an excellent talk and read extracts from their new books! Coming to the close of the evening the winners were announced, Bronze, Silver and Gold winners. An ear splitting round of applause came for the Gold winner, Penny Joelson – "I Have No Secrets". This was certainly Sackville's Reading Group's number one choice and we're glad it was the overall winner.



I Have No Secrets - *Jemma has cerebral palsy and has no secrets of her own as she cannot move or talk but she can see and hear. She is told a deadly secret which she can't tell anyone but wishes she could...*

The Reading Group thought it was; "engaging, eye opening, great plot, insightful, cleverly written, really sympathize with Jemma's plight".

The Reading Group meets every Tuesday morning at registration and we discuss not only the ABA progress through the year but also what the students have enjoyed reading and help me decide what to buy for the library. We do other activities and games over a chocolate finger or two!

We have finished now for this year but will start again with year 8 and 9 students next October. To register your interest please come to the LRC and find out more.

As the end of term approaches we also had a "mad monitors' tea party" based on "Alice in Wonderland". This was a celebration for our library monitors and trainees who help run the LRC at lunchtime. It is an



opportunity to say "Thank You" for all the help the monitors give. It was an extra special occasion as **John Roberts**, who is in year 11 and sitting his GCSE exams, has now finished as a library monitor. John has been helping since year 7. He has been a reliable and supportive member of the monitor team. Hopefully, he will be back in year 12 and we will be able to persuade him to come back as a senior monitor!



The beautiful hat I'm wearing was made by **Anna Lee 8 JSA** (or should I say Anna's mum?). Thank you, it was mad!

Huge congratulations to: -

Hannah Collins who has just gained a **first class honours degree in law**, from Liverpool Hope University.
Ben Howson who has gained a **first class honours degree in maths and statistics** from Coventry University.
Kieran Barnes has won the **South East Skill Build for carpentry**, an award run by the Construction Industry Training Board.



Well done to both these students from class of 2015.

I'd love to hear any more news of our former students: adesouza@sackvilleschool.org.uk

A Midsummer Night's Theme!

Stanley Pollard, Mya Macauley, Hannah Gibbon, Zoe Ray and Olivia Bounas write:-

On Thursday 5th July 2018 Ms Wernham's English class 7M2C, walked into their lesson as normal. As they walked into the room they had a sudden shock: all the tables and chairs were around the outside of the room. We then got told that we were going to be acting out the important parts of the Shakespeare play we have been studying called 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', in only one hour!



On the tables were costumes; some were fairies, some were human. Everyone had a different character to be and costumes to match the character they were playing. There were 21 different characters in total. However, the 4 main characters were Helena, Hermia, Lysander and Demetrius. We were given the opportunity to play the character we wished to play, if you did not wish to be a certain character then there was a costume behind us with a name label of the character that we would be playing.



After this we put our costumes on. We all stared at Javier with his curly blonde Helena wig. As we acted out the first scene Theseus gives Hermia three choices which are: listen to her father and marry Demetrius, to become a Nun or be put to death! However, Hermia decides to run away to the forest with her true love, Lysander.



In the second scene in the forest Titania (the Queen of the fairies) is having an argument with Oberon (King of the fairies). The reason for this argument is because Titania has stolen a human boy, but Oberon wants the boy for himself, to be his servant. Their argument is affecting the weather for the humans and causing the crops to die!

A funny moment later on in the play was when Stanley and the fairies had to dance Titania to sleep, with their feather dusters and feather fans. Later on Titania is shocked to find out she was tricked by Oberon and Puck and made to fall in love with a donkey! The play ended with Hermia and Lysander, Helena and Demetrius and Theseus and Hippolyta getting married. A group of workers called the Mechanicals perform the play that they have been rehearsing for the wedding, which is terrible and Puck tells the audience it might have all been a dream.



Once we had finished acting out the play, Ms Wernham wanted to take pictures of the key moments, some of these were: Titania and Oberon fighting over the human boy, fairies dancing Titania to sleep, a fight between the Helena and Hermia and

Lysander and Demetrius and the weddings at the end. We got into freeze frames to show these important moments in the play. All in all it was a really fun lesson because it involved everyone, it was different and it was better than doing writing.



A big welcome to our new year 6 students

Mrs Farrant writes:-

Last week 270 nervously excited year 6 pupils were welcomed through Sackville's doors. Over the next three days they met their **tutors** and **tutor groups**, and sampled a **varied selection of taster lessons**. The year 6s solved riddles in English class, earned their Bunsen Burner licences in Science, tried Drama, History, Tech., Geography, Maths, PE... a sample timetable of Sackville's busy life.

All pupils were **ably looked after by our year 8**, soon to be year 9, Buddies who had successfully applied for the privilege of accompanying our year 6s to and from every lesson. They also showed them the school and took them to the canteen during every break and lunch time.

After the 3 days of assemblies, exciting lessons, lunches and getting to know each other, everyone enjoyed a treasure hunt exploring the school site. The winners all enjoyed a chocolate treat.

Following the final farewell assembly from Mr Grant, Headteacher and Mr Thompson, Year 7 Leader, the tired and by now much more confident year 6s left Sackville through a Buddies' guard of honour who clapped, high fived and cheered them on ready to greet them again in September.



Sports highlights

The season of summer sport is about to reach its climax with our four sports days – please do come and support. Meanwhile, our sportspeople have continued working their way through their frantic fixture lists.

Our year 7s have been busy. The **rounders** team were runners up to Warden Park in the Mid Sussex Tournament. The entire team were awarded 'Player of Tournament' because of their brilliant play.



Their male counterparts made a mammoth 124-2 to beat Lingfield College with two overs to spare – a remarkable total for year 7s. Plier of the Match was Dominic Newman for his brilliant wicket keeping. The B team lost by just five runs, with Ben Freeman doing well with the bat, and Harrison Cowx taking three wickets.



Year 8s (pictured) have a strong boys' **cricket** team. Last month they also beat Lingfield, thanks to Liam Dawes' typically pugnacious 35, and three wickets apiece for Ellis Beynon and Joe Walsh. The B team also won surpassing Lingfield's total with one ball to spare. Max Morgan was player of the match for his 25 runs and two wickets.

The A team are through to the Area Cup final after beating Tanbridge House by 8 wickets, built on quite ridiculous hitting of Liam Dawes, who struck 32 off one over, and Jake Lingard's equally astonishing bowling return of 5 wickets for one run.

Both boys were also on form against Skinners, but still the team still lost against a strong side.

Meanwhile the U13 girls' team came third in a Mid Sussex tournament. Player of the Tournament was Annie Lyons for her bowling, with Emma Smyth, Molly Sutton and Ella Kessell putting in strong performances.

Our U14 boys lost against a strong Warden Park team despite Joe Sheridan's knock of 24, and Caspar Arthur's two wickets.

The U15s were less fortunate against Tanbridge, losing by nine wickets despite Euan Raeside's 32 runs.

The standout result in **athletics** since our last newsletter is that **Sackville won the Mid Sussex Year 7** competition. Well done!