

Sackville News

Friday 3rd July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Like last week, my first photo today is of **Mr Bush**, in the same room but this time teaching **performing arts**. This was a lively and informative session on the different roles required to get a show from the storyboard to the theatre.

This lesson was part of our in-school **options provision for our year 10s**. Our teachers are reporting that the students have made strong progress in their live lessons and remote learning, and we are therefore glad that the **government announcement** yesterday suggested that students will be expected to continue with the **full range of subjects** when they return in September.

In the light of this new advice, we are now busy planning as much as we can for the **full return of students in the autumn**. Of course, the situation could rapidly change in the next two months, but for now we are building a programme around the key governmental requirements. These are based primarily on **reducing mixing of students and minimising movement around the school site**, alongside social distancing if possible. As such year groups are likely to be kept apart in separate protective **'bubbles'** in separate geographical areas of the school.

Of course, we are in the early stages of planning at this point, and such long-range guidance inevitably leaves some questions unanswered. However I want to reassure the whole school community that we will continue to work to ensure students have a COVID-secure return in eight weeks' time. We will of course keep everyone updated as our plans develop. I'm afraid to say this will inevitably mean a **Sackville News special** at the end of August with final details of the return!

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Thursday 13 th August	A level and level 3 vocational results day. Students will receive their results by email shortly after 8am (the earliest we are now allowed to release them). Mrs Valentine and the sixth form staff will be in school to support students with progression to university . Students will be able to collect printed results sheets and they will, of course need to observe social distancing rules.
Thursday 20 th August	GCSE and level 2 vocational results day. Students will receive results by email shortly after 8am. Staff will be available to support students with questions about progression to year 12. Students will be able to collect printed results sheets and they will, of course need to observe social distancing rules.
Tuesday 1 st September	Year 12 and 13 enrolment. For many students this will have already been completed virtually using a sign-up form. Students wanting to discuss choices will be able to come in and talk to subject leaders. Students new to Sackville will come in on this day.
Wednesday 2 nd September	INSET Day with only staff in school.
Thursday 3 rd September	School begins for years 7 and 12. Year 7s have missed their transition days this year, and though they are all having a Zoom meeting with their tutor and Mr Endersby next week, a day in school largely on their own will allow a proper induction programme. We will also be able to focus well on our year 12 students as they will enjoy a full induction day for the sixth form following the disruptions they have faced with the examination season.
Friday 4 th September	Students in years 8-11 and 13 return.
Thursday 17 th September	Normal school day. This would under normal circumstances have been open evening, and the students would have had a shortened day of teaching. Instead they will have five full lessons.
Friday 18 th September	This will be a school open day in lieu of the INSET day scheduled for today. This means that students will not, as previously planned, be in school unless they are supporting as guides. We are conscious of our duty to allow future students and their parents and carers to see the school in a safe and secure manner and this seems both the optimum and the least disruptive way of achieving this, especially by foregoing the INSET day.



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All of this is a lot of information to take in and I am afraid that the coming months will doubtless see more!

If you need to relax after reading this far, then do head over to *Spotify* and listen to year 11 student **Amber Titchener's** latest single, Jigsaw. It's had thousands of streams already.

Amber was asked on Monday 29th June to do a broadcast for **LIVE NATION UK**, as part of their **#itsfiveoclocksomewhere** series.

You can catch some of the session [here](#).

I wonder if any students would be interested in taking part in the **Young Innovators Challenge**? Run by *InvestIN*, an organisation that creates work experience placements for students, entrants are invited to propose one big idea to transform virtual learning in any school activity. For each entry, *InvestIN* will make a donation to The Childhood Trust's 'Champions for Children' charity, which supports vulnerable children affected by the Covid-19 outbreak.



The entry can be via video or a piece of text. I think a number of students must have some ideas to **make our world of virtual learning better**, and we could all be using them before too long should we have to once again employ 'blended learning' in the autumn.

Next week we are looking forward to the first of our twenty 'end-of-term' wellbeing sessions for years 7-10, which continue into the last week of term. It will be wonderful to see the students in years 7-9 again, most of whom have not set foot in school since March. There will be photos of smiling faces in next week's Sackville News!

In the meantime all at Sackville wish you a safe and healthy week.

Julian Grant
Headteacher

Reaching Families Empowering families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities

Preparing your Child for Returning to School

Jane Cross will be delivering this free workshop via Zoom looking at how to prepare your child for returning to school.

Wednesday 8th July
10.30am – 12.00pm

Covering many issues including the changes children may see around school, government guidelines and law, communication with and expectations from school, transitioning to a new setting and anxieties that children and parent-carers may be experiencing.

Email admin@reachingfamilies.org.uk to book

www.reachingfamilies.org.uk

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