

# Sackville News

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Without doubt the highlight of this week has been the **return of our year 10 students**. After 87 days, this was a giant step forwards. Of course we don't know how things will run in the autumn, but we do know that our year 10s are not only ready to return to school, but are eager to learn. The students came in with a **magnificent attitude** this week, and the teachers were full of praise for the efforts they showed in their four lessons of maths, English, science and either history or geography.



**Real students are in real classrooms** and we fervently hope this is the beginning of the return to normality. At present, we are welcoming the maximum number of students for the maximum number of teaching sessions possible under current government restrictions, with both years 10 and 12 to provide for on our site. We are really looking forward to being able to increase this once

permitted. **Safety** will always remain of paramount importance. We also have some fifty students (children of key workers) in school every day and they are receiving specialist teaching provision.

Students were naturally cautious about a return to school, and I want to acknowledge the **vital work done by you, the parents and carers, in preparing them for this**.

Next week it is the turn of **year 12 students**, who will have a 90-minute session with each of their subjects in preparation for their **progression exams** the week after.

Sackville has gone above and beyond and it really shows!!

Remote learning continues apace and I am delighted with the **growing number of live lessons being offered**. Even if contact is virtual, students seem to value seeing and hearing their teachers and peers online. We are holding another **virtual parental focus group at 4pm on Monday**, and we would love to hear your views about the in-school and out-of-school provision. We will also be addressing the issue of transition for year 6 pupils. If you wish to join, please email Mr Street, [pstreet@sackvilleschool.org.uk](mailto:pstreet@sackvilleschool.org.uk). Mr Bush and Mr de Souza will also be present.

Students are also working very hard on the tasks set via Show My Homework. **Miss Bishop's year 8 geography students** have been making **weather monitoring equipment**. That rain gauge will have been perfect for this week's storms. Students have also made barometers, temperature stations, weather vanes and cloud cover measurers.



Spare a thought tomorrow for **Jamie Young in year 10**: he and a few socially distancing friends and family are cycling from the Royal Marsden Hospital in Sutton to the Alex's Children's Hospital in Brighton, a **distance of over 70km**.

They are raising money for the **Teenage Cancer Trust** to mark the anniversary of Jamie's successful treatment for cancer.

Jamie has set up a [fundraising page](#) and although he has smashed his initial target, wants to raise every penny he can for this excellent charity which over the years has supported a number of Sackville students in very difficult circumstances.



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She so enjoyed being back at school. Everyone was so friendly and helpful. She felt safe at all times and said her lessons were really productive.



I mentioned last week how we were donating a lot of food from our canteen to **Taylor-Made Dreams**, who had supported Annie Dilek through her cancer earlier this year. Our donation was generously acknowledged on social media.

Last week I also wrote about the **Black Lives Matter** movement and how this was having a profound impact on many of our current and former students. This week I have been sent a very good resource for parents with activities and tips for approaching the subject with young people. You can find the document [here](#).

Finally, I would like to thank the **East Grinstead Memorial Estate** which, following the submission of a bid by the school, has granted us nearly £5000 to place three **permanent outdoor table tennis tables** in the area between the technology block and the



sports hall.

Helpfully, table tennis is a game you can still play socially distanced!

We look forward to the students honing their skills over lunchtimes, and for once **finding someone who can take on Mr Hayden!**

With best wishes for a relaxing weekend and a healthy week ahead.

Julian Grant

Headteacher