

Sackville News

Friday 26th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,


This week it was the turn of year 12 to come into school for some **face-to-face contact with their teachers**. The typical student received **three ninety-minute lessons** with their subject teachers. As with year 10s last week, often these lessons were **team-taught by more than one teacher**. It was ideal preparation for the **progression exams next week**, all of which start at 9.00am, and we have been delighted with the very high level of attendance.

We are being very careful to **observe every government guideline** on the reintroduction of students in order to make the school **COVID-safe**, and students remain two-metres apart on our school site.


On Monday, **Mr Street** hosted our second **virtual parental focus group** and the return of students to the school was a central discussion point. Parents reported that their **children had been very positive about the return**, and appreciated the work that everyone had put in to make all of this happen. **Mr Bush** made it clear that whatever announcements were to come from Westminster, we would maintain the practices used over the last two weeks for the remainder of the term.

The following day the government made it clear that **schools will return for all students in September**. As usual, **Mr Hatton** has worked his wonders to ensure we have a **timetable ready to run** and we are beginning to plan for a full school in two months' time. We await **full guidance for schools** (due to be published **next week**) and we will then update you with any key information in due course.

Sackville Live Teaching, June 2020



1524 live lessons
13312 participants



Another key discussion point for the parental focus group was our **live lesson provision**. I am very pleased with how we have managed to ramp up our provision over the last few weeks to keep students engaged with their learning; I am absolutely **delighted by the way the students have participated**. What I am struck by when I talk to teachers is how students are **academically really well-placed to return in September**. Many teachers say their classes are **at least as far ahead as similar**

classes were this time last year. As the **figures above** show, **everybody** has been working very hard at this!

The final big issue that the parental focus group discussed was **student welfare**. Mr Street talked about our increasing number of **mental health first aiders** (MHFA), overseen by **Mrs Nibloe** who herself is a MHFA trainer. We also have a **school counsellor** (Mrs Taylor) and an **emotional literacy support advisor** (Mrs Knock). In addition, our **pastoral support team** are trained to deal with student health and well-being.

Of course we are aware that the one key thing that could be done to **support students' wellbeing would be to welcome all of them into school as soon as we safely can**. With the gradual exit from the lockdown, we are going to look carefully at new government guidance to see if there is a way that all **students from years 7-9 can visit school before the end of term**. We are making plans for the last week and a half of term which we will certainly implement if we are allowed to. Watch this space!

I would like to add my personal thanks to those parents who gave up time to be part of our focus group last Monday.

Last week I mentioned that **Jamie Young** in year 10 was due to complete a charity cycle ride on Saturday in aid of the **Teenage Cancer Trust**. Those who know Jamie will not be surprised to know he took this **challenge in his stride**.

In the pictures on the next page you can see him returning from a training ride, leaving the **Royal Marsden in Sutton**, cresting the mighty **Ditchling Beacon**, and arriving outside the **Sussex County Hospital** in Brighton – itself at the top of another significant hill.

Jamie's **original target was £150**, and he has comprehensively smashed that particular goal with the same quiet dignity and resilience with which he has confronted other the obstacles he has faced over the last couple of years.

A total distance cycled of 82km (over 50 miles), much of it into a stiff headwind, is a remarkable achievement by this remarkable young man.



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It's not too late to add to his fundraising total. Please click [here](#) for his page.

It just remains for me to thank you all for your continuing support over this extraordinary term

Julian Grant

Headteacher